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Brewer eyes location at Cleantech Commons

Karbon Brewing Co. aims to be carbon-negative by 2024 in national first

Examiner Staff

Trent University and Karbon Brewing Co. announced a research collaboration on Wednesday afternoon to develop "carbon-negative" brewing technologies.

The company is exploring tenancy at the Cleantech Commons research park being developed by the university and the city along Pioneer Road at the university in the northeast end of Peterborough.

Karbon Brewing wants to build a 30,000-square-foot research facility at Cleantech Commons that would also feature a brewery and brew pub.

The facility would follow the latest in environmental architecture and follow passive house design principles, which allow for energy efficiency and a reduced environmental footprint, according to a release from the university.

"By collaborating with Trent University, we plan to lead the green revolution in brewing," Stephen Tyson, co-founder of Karbon Brewing, stated in a release.

"Our goal is simple - we want to produce great beer with as little impact on the environment as possible. And we want to spur conversations around climate change. In Trent, we have found a like-minded partner that is passionate about developing innovative solutions

Trent University vice-president Cathy Bruce, research and innovation, left, president and vice-chancellor Leo Groarke, and Karbon Brewing Co. CEO and founder Stephen Tyson make a toast Wednesday after signing a research collaboration deal at the university. CLIFFORD SKARSTEDT EXAMINER

to climate change."

The research deal will also provide curriculum development and offer Trent students hands-on, experiential learning opportunities.

Under the deal, Karbon Brewing will work with some of Trent's researchers in fields such as regenerative agriculture, biology, water quality, chemistry and biomaterials.

Trent students will benefit from internship and placement opportunities through the agreement.

Trent and Karbon Brewing will also explore the development of new courses and certificate programs.

"This unique research collaboration between a university and a brewery will see Trent and Karbon Brewing Co. driving discovery and innovation for brewing sciences," stated Cathy Bruce, vice-president of research and innovation at Trent.

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"Brewing chemistry, water conservation, experiential learning, and curriculum development are all on the Trent-Karbon horizon. From the lab to the marketplace, we see a range of interdisciplinary collaborative opportunities with Karbon. Their approach to green and clean research and development is an excellent match with the expertise and spirit of Trent University."

Karbon Brewing aims to become Canada's first carbon-negative brewery by 2024.

While the concept of carbon neutrality is still new to the brewing industry (normally, the process of producing beer requires large amounts of natural resources and generates significant waste through packaging and consumption), the Karbon team hopes to change that through environmentally sound approaches, and the partnership with Trent, according to a release from Trent.

Karbon Brewing is already a member of the Cleantech Commons Cleantech Innovation Portal, an online network that connects cleantech innovators with commercial developers, city and municipal authorities, infrastructure and other investors and program funders to create opportunities for growth, scaling, funding and commercial success, the release states.