

president's
sustainability
council



Developing a Strategy for Sustainability @ York

Sustainability @ York

A sustainable university is one that enhances the ecological functioning of its campuses; models knowledgeable, active and responsible global citizens; and does so within an integrated, long-term framework of full-cost economic and environmental accounting

– York University Sustainability Policy, 2011

For the 4th year in a row,

York University
was named one
of Canada's
Greenest
Employers



Energy

The YorkWise Energy Management Program (EMP) continues to generate significant savings for the University and has achieved a **29% reduction in energy use intensity** since its implementation in 2007.

DID YOU KNOW?

York's reduction in energy usage can supply

3,400+

Ontario homes with electricity for a full year.



32,574,346

kWh saved in annual electricity consumption



\$4,537,679

in rebates for reduced emissions



reduced CO₂ emissions by more than

18,000
tonnes



\$4,500,000

saved on utilities per year

29%
reduction in energy use intensity since 2007



Grounds

The principle of sustainability in Grounds operations has been a driving force in the creation of all new landscape designs including:

- low maintenance shrubs
- drought-resistant and native plants
- mulch in planted areas for water retention and weed control
- automatic irrigation controls
- organic fertilizer
- porous hard surface materials such as interlock pavers (which are reusable, offer better durability than asphalt/concrete and improve water infiltration)



Tree Management of York's Urban Forest

The trees on our campuses provide a multitude of benefits by enhancing the landscape, reducing pollution, providing shade, and playing an essential role in the health and well-being of our community. The Tree Management program allows York University to proactively manage our trees on campus through a digitized tree inventory database. The program also includes the management of the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive pest that attacks and kills all species of ash trees. Under this program, all ash trees on our campuses are being assessed and monitored for treatment and preservation. Infected trees that do not respond to treatment are removed and replaced.



DID YOU KNOW?

50% of York's Glendon College campus is covered by forest.

Over **15** hectares in size, the forest is a significant part of the Don River Valley ravine network - a valuable forest ecosystem right in the middle of Canada's largest city.

Infrastructure, New Facilities and Renovations

York has adopted a sustainable building strategy that considers design efficiency, broader use of day lighting, water efficiency, energy conservation and performance, reduction in emissions, materials and resources, green construction practices, indoor environmental quality and site re-naturalization.



York Lions Stadium

The new York Lions Stadium is a legacy project from the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games, and is now a new home for the York Lions sports teams. The stadium was certified LEED Silver in May 2015 by the Canada Green Building Council and is designed to minimize the environmental impact on the surrounding site, as it directly abuts the historic Boyer Woodlot, and the nearby York University Observatory.

15,750
sq.m building
surrounded by an
open green space

Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence

Completed in 2015, the building was designed with the most sustainable engineering principles and practices, and is targeted as a LEED Gold certified facility. The elevated site offers occupants a view of the Black Creek Watershed, as well as the Arboretum and Stong Pond, a storm water management feature created by the University.

DID YOU KNOW?

LED (Light-Emitting Diode) light bulbs use up to 80 percent less energy than traditional light bulbs, and can last more than 25 times longer. York University is expanding the use of LED lighting in new buildings, renovations and outdoor areas.



Food

Sustainable initiatives and practices have been implemented in **75%** of food services locations.



100%
of shell eggs are cage-free



26%
of produce is grown locally



Over **25%**
of Food Services purchases
are either local (Ontario),
Sustainable (Seafood) or Fair Trade
or Rainforest Alliance certified

42%
of coffee and tea
purchases are York's
own Las Nubes, Fair
Trade, or Rainforest
Alliance certified



DID YOU KNOW?

This past year York installed an Urban Cultivator. Helping to reduce the University's carbon footprint, fresh and local herbs and micro greens are grown in this kitchen greenhouse and used for campus food preparation.



Farmers'
Market

Local &
sustainable
food-themed
events

Vegan
Mondays

Lug a Mug
Program offers
25¢ discount
on coffee & tea
purchases

Local
Wednesdays

Eco-takeout
reusable
container
program

Waste

York's multi-faceted waste management and diversion program has helped to achieve a current waste diversion rate of **66%**.

Rethink • Reduce • Reuse • Recycle

3,240,000 kg
waste diverted from landfill

1,677,000 kg
waste sent to landfill

66%
waste diversion rate

Leading the way for a sustainable future

Ranked in top 10th percentile of GreenMetric World University Ranking on sustainability from 2010-2014

Weekly Farmer's Market



More than 30% of Food Services food purchases are local, sustainable or fair trade certified

66% waste diversion rate



YORK
UNIVERSITY

DID YOU KNOW?

Over **12,000 kg** of gently used items have been diverted from landfill since 2012 through the FreeStuff program.

The FreeStuff program encourages students to share unwanted items prior to moving out of residence for the summer. Any remaining items are donated to the Oasis Clothing Bank, while non-perishable foods are donated to the York Federation of Student's Food Bank.



Water



York University has implemented storm water management techniques such as vegetated roofs, rainwater harvesting for irrigation or toilet flushing, permeable pavement, grass swales, bio-swales, surface storage, underground storage in large diameter pipes or tanks, dry ponds, catch basins with sumps and traps, and oil/grit separator units.

10%
reduction in annual
per capita water
consumption
since 2005

200
drinking
fountains

As of
September
2015
York no longer
sells bottled water
on campus

Low-flow
water fixtures
used in
100%
of new buildings
and renovations

72
accessible
water bottle
refill stations

DID YOU KNOW?
Drought-resistant and local plants used in campus landscaping reduces the demand for water.

Transportation

York University's commuter modal split has dramatically improved in the past 10 years away from the use of predominantly single-occupant vehicles towards alternative, more sustainable modes of travel.

450+

members in the York Bicycle User Group



100+

outdoor bike parking spaces

100+

secure bike parking spaces

34



carsharing vehicles on campus
(Zipcar, Student CarShare and AutoShare)

80%



of commuters travel to York by
public transit, walking, cycling,
or carpooling



2,600+ daily bus trips
at the Keele campus (making it one of
the busiest transit hubs in the country)



DID YOU KNOW?

As part of the Sustainable Energy Initiative in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, a new solar electric vehicle charging station opened on the Keele campus in December 2015.

"Van Go"
mobility service
for people
with disabilities

Carpool
ride-matching system
and several
reserved priority
carpool
parking spaces

Construction of
2 new
subway stations
is underway at York,
with completion
expected in
late 2017

Free shuttle services
to the York U
GO Train station,
between Keele and
Glendon campuses,
and the Village



Curriculum and Research

York University has a long history of incorporating sustainability and environmental issues into curriculum.

11 

The number of years York has offered the Environmental Auditing course, where students work in groups to conduct environmental audits across campus. The information is used to improve and enhance sustainability programming on campus.

DID YOU KNOW?

The President's Sustainability Council has a Curriculum Working Group that is open to everyone in the York community. The working group focuses on issues of sustainability education at York, including enhancing opportunities for experiential education in sustainability through on-campus opportunities.

#1

The MBA program at York's Schulich School of Business has been rated the top program in the world in *Corporate Knights'* Better World MBA Ranking, 12 years running.



1968

York launched the Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES), the first of its kind in North America.

Close to

500



course offerings on environment and sustainability.

Research Task Force

The York University Task Force on Sustainability Research was created to evaluate current and emergent research strengths in the area of sustainability, and to recommend structures to support, integrate, cultivate and publicize York's sustainability research.

taskforce.info.yorku.ca



Community Engagement

York University strives to be a leading institution on sustainability in Canada, and this commitment requires a concerted, community-wide effort. There are many ways to get involved, from committees to student clubs to events on campus.

We are always looking for good people and good ideas. If you would like to get involved, or if you have an idea you'd like to share, please send us an email or contact us on social media.



yorku.ca/sustainability
yorku.ca/csbo



sustainability@yorku.ca



[@yusustain](https://twitter.com/yusustain)

DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 30 groups and clubs at York that focus on various aspects of sustainability.

York University hosts a variety of events on sustainability throughout the year, including a Sustainability Fair, Transportation Fair and Bike to York Day

The annual President's Sustainability Leadership Awards recognize sustainability champions at York U

The President's Sustainability Council is made up of students, faculty and staff, who advise the President and administration on advancing sustainability at York. The PSC has a student subcommittee and 4 working groups that are open to all members of the York community

York organizes an annual campus clean-up day in recognition of Earth Day

York organizes an annual Fair Trade Fair to celebrate Fair Trade on campus and beyond

Phases to integrate sustainability at universities

1. Grassroots efforts and ad hoc activities
2. Campus leadership acceptance of the business case for sustainability
 1. centered around enhanced efficiency and institutional reputation
 2. sustainability committee to identify and provide advice
3. A visionary campus leader supportive of stakeholder engagement, a holistic strategic plan and full-cost evaluation practices
4. A fully integrated sustainable campus community focused on systems-thinking and an interdisciplinary cooperation

Krizek, Newport, White & Townsend (2012)

Strategic Planning Process/Timeline

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| PSC & Working Grp meetings | September 2016 – June 2017 |
| Strategic Planning Workshop | 10 February 2017 |
| Faculty Consultations | February – April 2017 |
| Student Focus Group | 6 March 2017 |
| Survey of York Community | February – March 2017 |
| PSC Themed (open) Meetings | March – April, 2017 |
| First Draft of the Plan | April, 2017 |
| Town Hall (Keele) | April, 2017 |
| Town Hall (Glendon) | April, 2017 |
| Second Draft of Plan | Late May, 2017 |

E.g., on February 10 we worked on ...



- **Expressing a long term vision**
- **Identifying aspirational strategic goals**
- **Organizing and prioritizing strategic goals**

The engagement process for developing the strategy

2016-2017

Stage One: Research and Understanding Issues

- Working group meetings
- President's sustainability council meetings
- **Broader engagement: e.g., visioning workshop, consultation meetings**

Feb-Mar 2017

Stage Two: Testing Ideas

- Additional working group meetings
- Additional sustainability council meetings
- Additional broader engagement

Apr/May 2017

Stage Three: Confirming a Strategy

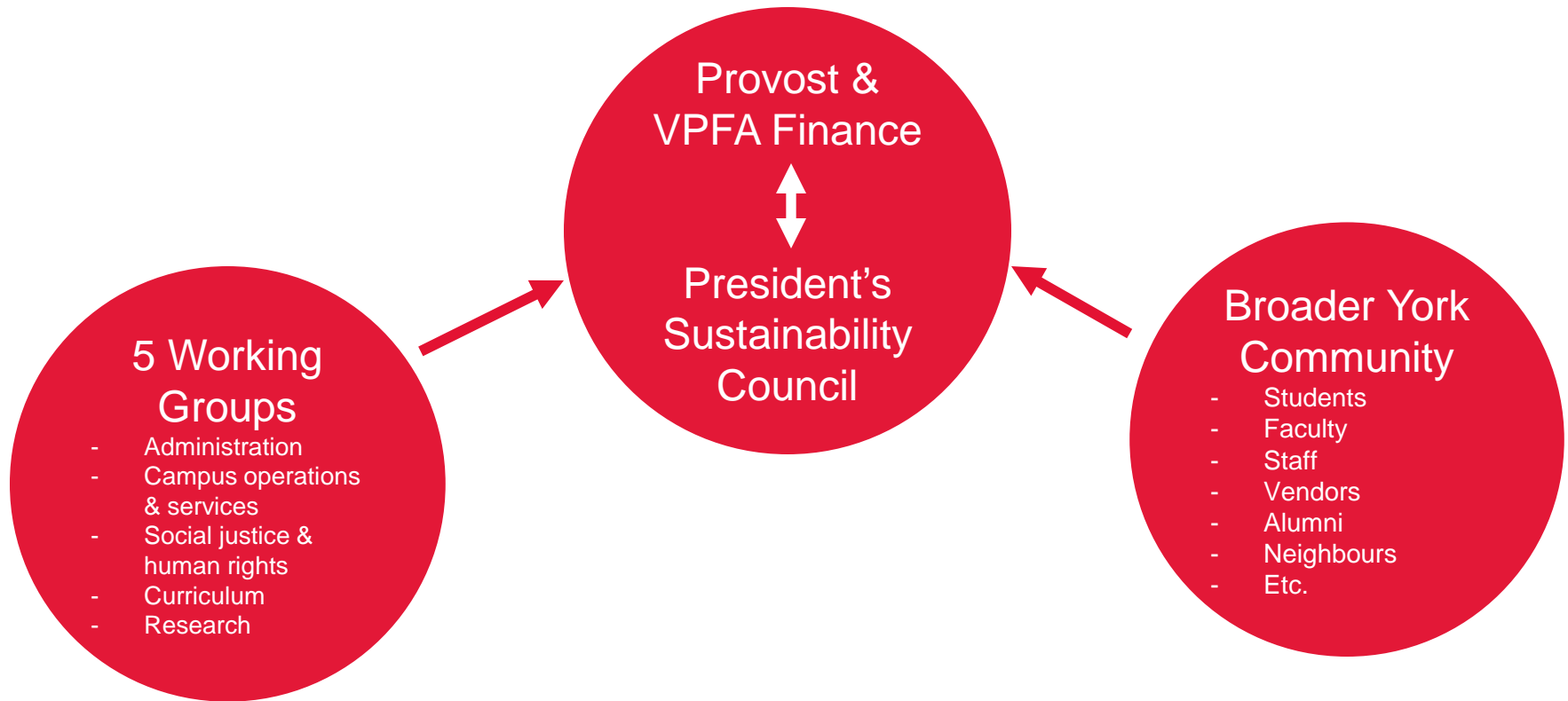
- Additional working group meetings
- Additional sustainability council meetings
- Additional broader engagement

We are here!

**president's
sustainability council**



Who is involved in developing the strategy?



Developing a Sustainability Strategy

- What would you like to see included in the vision for York University's Sustainability Strategy?
- What do you think the “focus areas” of York's Sustainability Strategy should be?
- Based on the discussion so far, what do you think some of the strategic goals and targets could be for the Sustainability Strategy?

www.yorku.ca/sustainability/strategy

