Task Force on Sustainability Research
Terms of Reference

As part of the ongoing strategic research planning commitments recognized within the York Strategic Research Plan, *Building on Strength*, the broad area of sustainability research is recognized as an area of considerable opportunity. As an opportunity area identified for development within the Strategic Research Plan, *Public Engagement for a Just and Sustainable World*, it is a research area with a rich cross-disciplinary mix of research strengths, bringing together renowned scholars from a wide range of disciplines to support York’s leading sustainability research programs at York. York continues to be at the forefront of sustainable, collaborative, integrative and solution-oriented research issues of sustainability, broadly defined. As such the Vice-President Research & Innovation (VPRI) is eager to support the growth and development of initiatives to enable the recognition of York University as a Canadian leader in sustainability research.

**Mission**
VPRI is sponsoring an arm’s length interdisciplinary academic taskforce to develop ideas and examine options for building and featuring York University’s research strengths in the area of sustainability. This task force will leverage collegial expertise, solicit broad advice on recommendations towards how York can advance research opportunities in this area.

**Mandate**
The mandate of the Task Force on Sustainability Research is to:
- broadly engage the community with respect to current sustainability research at York
- provide advice on potential strategic opportunities that can bring together and advance the sustainability community
- synthesize feedback and recommendations through a final report to the York community with ideas to help strengthen and grow the concentration of sustainability research at York

**Membership**
Membership to be composed of 10-12 active members reflective of the diverse sustainability research community at York, and may also include additional working group members and external members representative of the broader community. Task Force Chair to be appointed by VPRI.
Meetings
The Task Force on Sustainability Research will meet regularly at the call of the Chair, at times to be determined, for a period of up to 8 months during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Proceedings
The Task Force on Sustainability Research will actively reach out through a diverse range of open and engaged discussions and consultations to solicit an array of input from the York community. Reflecting its advisory capacity, Task Force on Sustainability Research will not be a voting committee. Recommendations will normally be arrived at by consensus. Summary of the community feedback received will be posted on the Taskforce website.

Support
The Task Force on Sustainability Research will be supported by VPRI staff who will
- Schedule and coordinate logistics of Task force meetings and events
- Circulate an agenda and documentation prior to each meeting
- Prepare and distribute minutes after the completion of each meeting
- Capture community feedback
- Provide web support
- Support the writing of the Task force final report