

# Sustainability Office Updates

Fall 2023

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YORK 



# Agenda for Today

1

Introduction of York's inaugural Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO), Mike Layton

2

Sustainability Priorities & Current Activities

3

Sustainability at York 2023 and beyond

4

Transitioning to new Sustainability Framework

5

New Sustainability Strategy Consultation

6

Sustainability Innovation Fund – Call for proposals

# Sustainability Governance Priorities & Current Activities



## Sustainability Policy

A new policy was approved by the Board of Governors Summer 2023



## Sustainability Strategy

Community consultation process underway to inform the renewal of the strategy



## Sustainability Framework

A new action-oriented framework with a steering committee, taskforce and working groups



## Sustainability Innovation Fund

\$1M funding for sustainability projects



## Awareness, Engagement & Events

Community engagement and programs to inspire and empower action (ie. Training module, events & office certification)



## Living Labs

Faculty, staff and students collaborate on projects to support operations, research and teaching



## Whole-Institution Approach

Embed sustainability into all aspects of the University – operations, teaching and research

# Sustainability Academic Priorities & Current Activities



## York University Academic Plan 2020-2025 - Building a Better Future

Answering the Call: A University-Wide Challenge to Contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals



## 104 Courses with Sustainability Focus

38 (65%) departments have sustainability course offerings with 1,531 graduate and undergraduate courses that are sustainability-inclusive



## Joint programs between faculties

Joint sustainability programs between Environment & Urban Change, Law, Science, Business, Education and Public Health



## Organized Research Units

One Water, Micro mobility (MOVE), York Emergency Mitigation, Centre for Bee Ecology, Centre for Research in Earth and Space Science, City Institute, and more



## Faculty Initiatives

Centre for Excellence in Responsible Business, SDGs in the classroom, CIFAL York – Unitar, Ecological Footprint Initiative, Sustainable Energy Initiative, C4-Capstone challenges, hackathons and more



## Student Engagement

SDG Student Hub, WWF Certification, Student Clubs, Work Study students, Placement students

# Sustainability Operational Priorities & Current Activities



## Energy Management

Roadmap to Net Zero;  
\$2M Funding for Energy Management  
Information System



## Food Services

Local purchasing, reducing waste,  
composting, plant-based, gluten free  
and cultural food diversity



## Waste Management

Eliminating waste on campus and  
moving towards a circular economy.



## Sustainable Transportation

Public transportation network, including  
two subway stations on campus, bike  
share, carpool options and bike repair  
stations



## Procurement

Social Procurement – purchasing from local  
and diverse equity seeking group  
Sustainable Procurement – RFP Contracts



## Green Building

LEED buildings on campus;  
Developing building green standards



## Grounds

Naturalization, biodiversity and  
ecosystem regeneration



## Campus Fleet

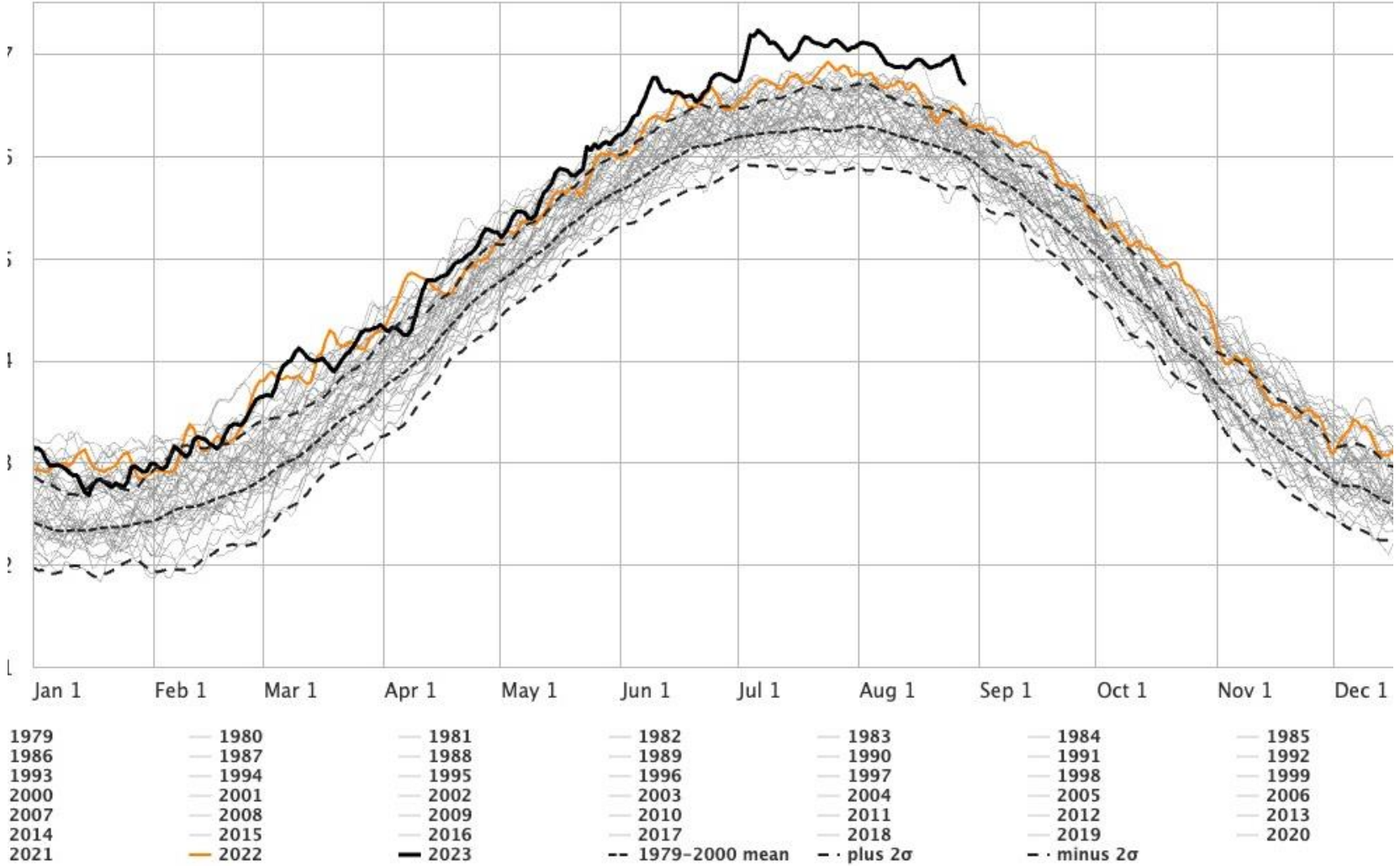
Electrifying campus fleet

A photograph of a man in a grey jacket shouting into a megaphone at a protest. He is holding a black umbrella. In the background, there are other protesters, some holding flags and umbrellas, and city buildings under an overcast sky. The image is set against a solid red background.

# Sustainability at York 2023 and beyond

# 2m Temperature World (90°S–90°N, 0–360°E)

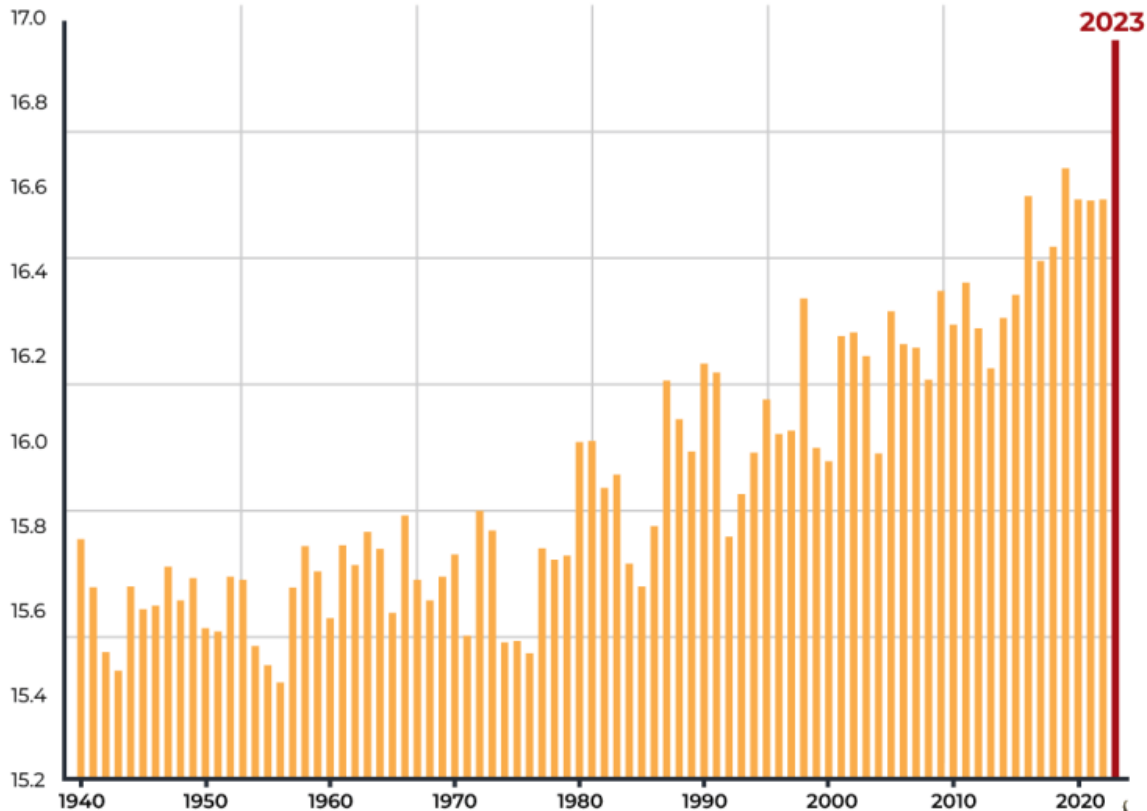
NCEP CFSV2/CFSR | ClimateReanalyzer.org, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine




## WEATHER

# Global surface air temperatures in July

The average global temperature in the first 23 days of July was recorded at 16.95 degrees Celsius (62.51 degrees Fahrenheit), making it the hottest month since 1940.



 Average for first 23 days of July from 1940-2023  
Source: Copernicus/ERAS | July 31, 2023

  
@AJLabs ALJAZEERA

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The consequences are clear, and they are tragic: children swept away by monsoon rains; families running from the flames; workers collapsing in scorching heat.

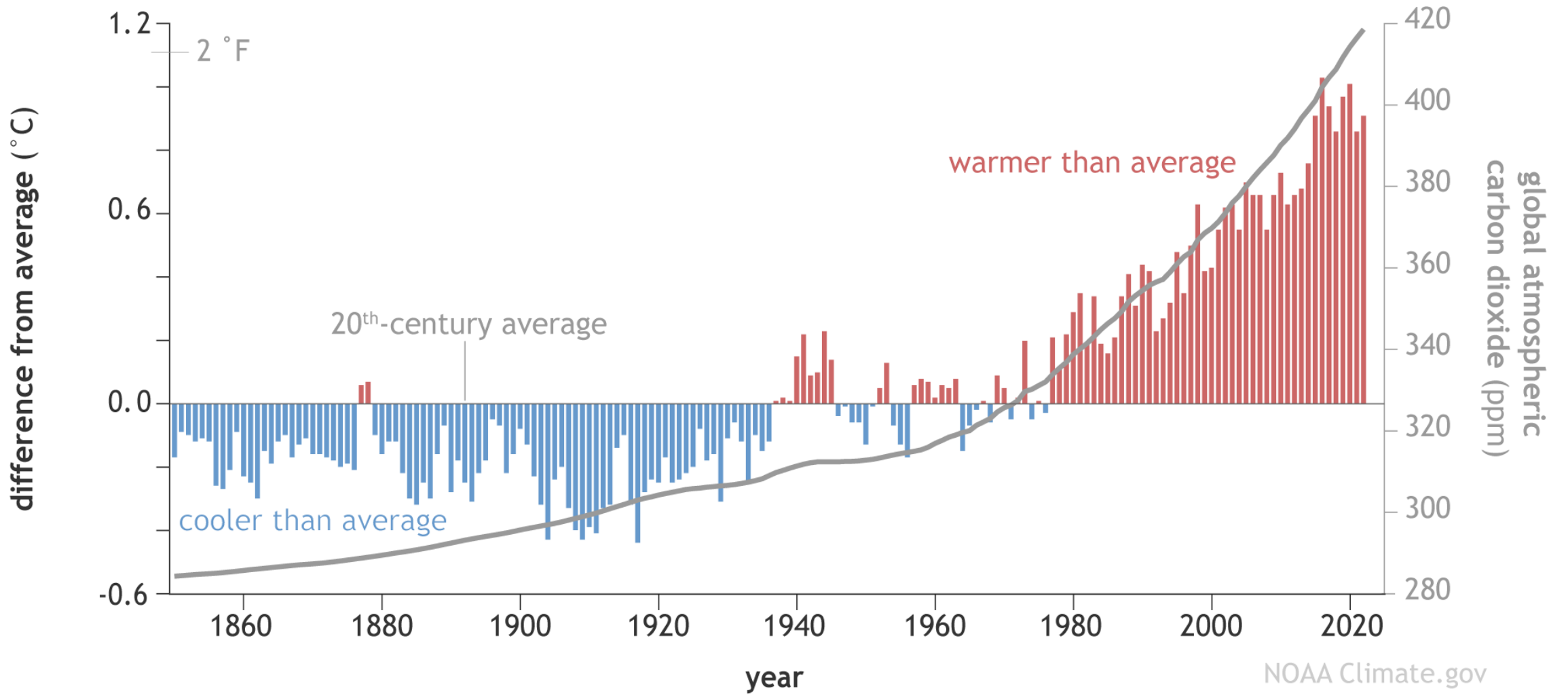
”

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, July 2023

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Yearly global surface temperature and atmospheric carbon dioxide (1850-2022)



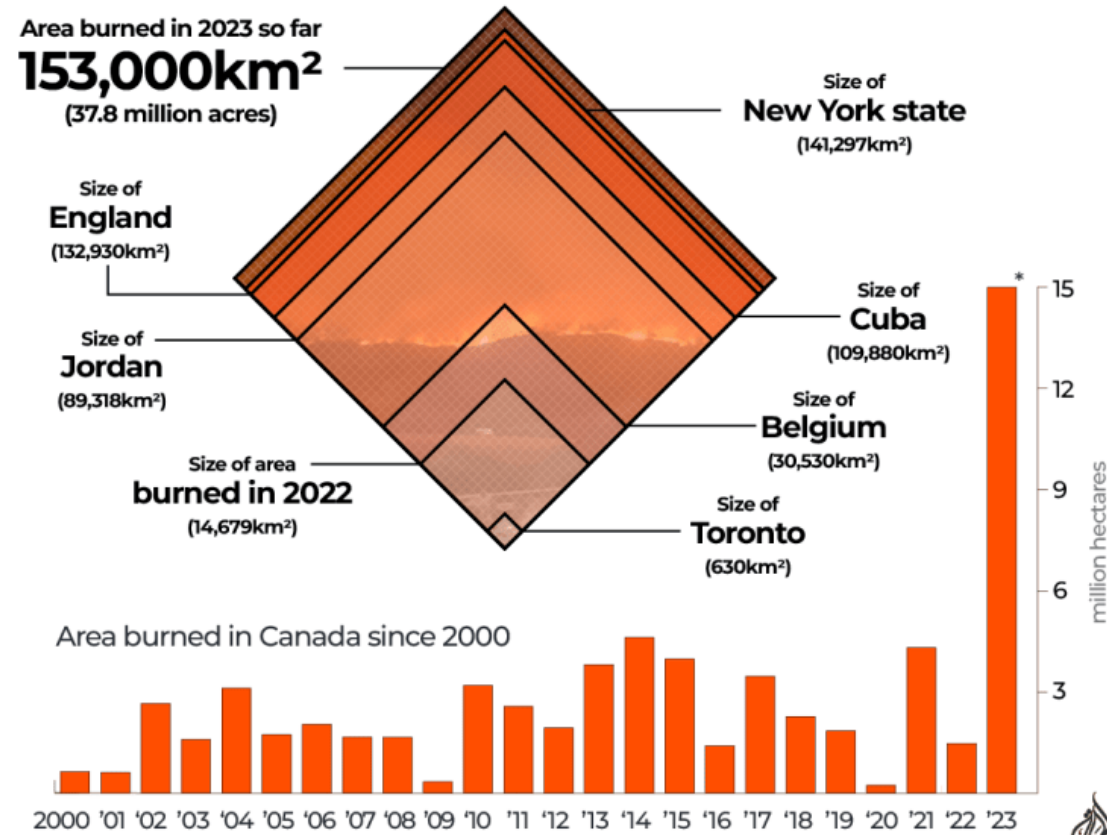
NOAA Climate.gov  
Data: ESRL/ETHZ/NCEI



## WILDFIRES

# How big are Canada's wildfires?

While Canada experiences fires every summer, this year's blazes had scorched 15.3 million hectares by August 21, more than 10 times the area burned in 2022.



\* As of August 21, 2023

Source: Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, World Bank | August 22, 2023

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Source CBC – East Prairie Metis Settlement



**City  
News**

**TORONTO AIR QUALITY AMONG THE WORST IN WORLD**



**SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK  
& PATH FORWARD**

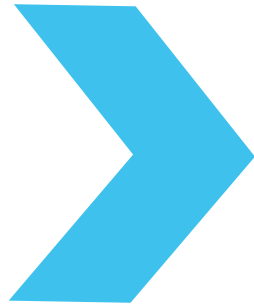
# Proposed Framework

## Level 1 – Working groups

- Action Plans
- Major initiatives
- Advance research, align operations, coordinate initiatives



Communications  
/Reporting



Living Lab

## Level 2 – Taskforce

- Vision/Implement/Shape institution-wide plan
- Make recommendations on new policy and resources
- Award Innovation fund



## Level 3 – Steering Committee

- Lead long-term sustainability vision
- Oversight
- Resource approval



# Transition to Action Oriented Framework

## Proposed Framework

- ENGAGEMENT**
- PSC Members
  - Faculty Councils
  - Operational divisions  
Senior leadership
  - ORUs
  - Research Directors,  
ADR, RO
  - Agencies
  - Student clubs/events



- Level 1 – Working groups**
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  - › Major initiatives
  - › Advance research, align operations,  
coordinate initiatives



Communications  
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Living Lab

- Level 2 – Taskforce**
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Office of Sustainability  
Convenor/Advisor



# Working Groups

Working groups will be composed of community members whose expertise and responsibilities are needed to execute the projects. Membership might be composed of colleagues on a major research project and/or involve staff from one or more offices depending on the scope of the project.



If you are interested in participating in any of the working groups, please let us know.  
Email: [sustainability@yorku.ca](mailto:sustainability@yorku.ca)



# Sustainability Strategy Renewal & Engagement Process

# Engagement Goals



**Create opportunities to engage all YorkU community members on every campus**



**Create an atmosphere for genuine co-creation**



**Promote sustainability as a core principle of YorkU's culture**



**Build awareness, inspire lifelong commitment & catalyze action**

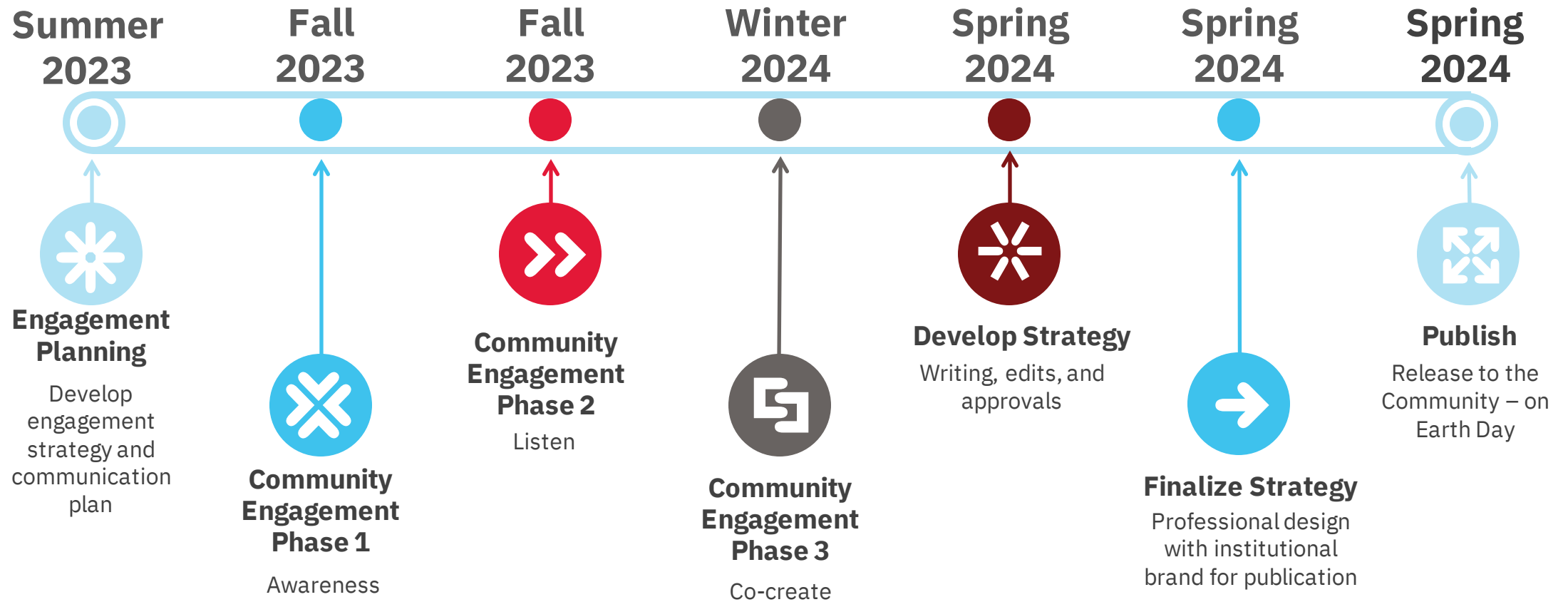


**Meaningful & fun engagement**



**Identify sustainability leaders amongst staff, faculty and students**

# Sustainability Strategy - Community Engagement Proposed Timelines



# Engagement and Consultation Opportunities

## Workshops

### Open House and Workshops

There will be a number of both virtual and in-person opportunity to participate in Open House and Workshops to provide your ideas, feedback and suggestions.

## Survey

### Take an Online Survey

Provide feedback and suggestions through our online survey tool which is available on our website.

## Email

### Email Us!

Send us your feedback, suggestions by [sustainability@yorku.ca](mailto:sustainability@yorku.ca)

## Working Group

### Join a Sustainability Working group!

We will be meeting with thematic working groups to get feedback on specific areas of interest.

# Sustainability Innovation Fund (SIF)

The SIF supports sustainability projects on the York University campuses. The fall 2023 round of the Sustainability Innovation Fund is specifically to support projects that can advance climate action at the University, support our net zero goals, and contribute to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action).

Key Milestones	Timelines
Call for proposals	October 2, 2023
Information Sessions	October 12 & 16, 2023
Application Deadline	November 6, 2023 at 4 p.m.
Review & adjudication process	December 2023
Announcement and Funding to Recipients	January 2024



[www.yorku.ca/sustainability](http://www.yorku.ca/sustainability)

# Stay Connected with the Office of Sustainability



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