

Sustainability Office Updates

Fall 2023

YORK 



Agenda for Today

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

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Sustainability Priorities & Current Activities

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Sustainability at York 2023 and beyond

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Transitioning to new Sustainability Framework

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New Sustainability Strategy Consultation

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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



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



104 Courses with Sustainability Focus

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



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



Joint programs between faculties

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



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

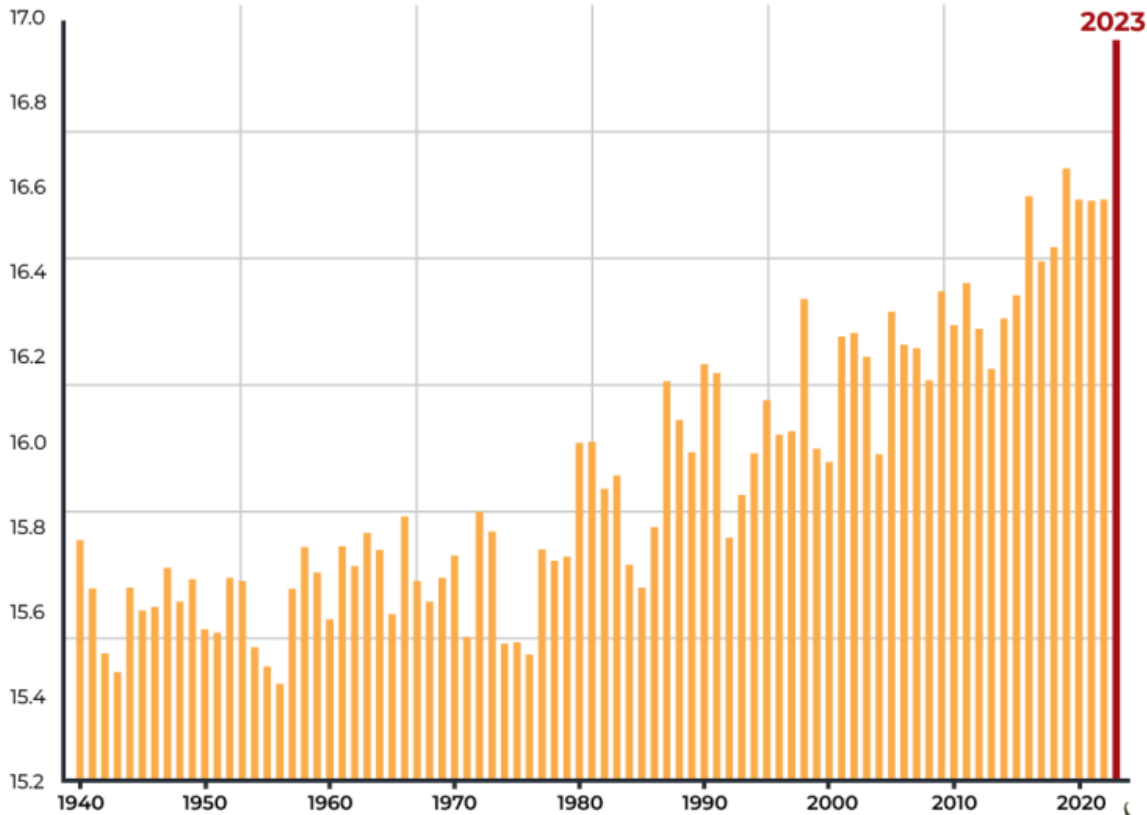
A photograph of a man in a grey jacket shouting into a megaphone at a protest. He is holding a black umbrella. In the background, there are other people, some holding flags and umbrellas, and city buildings under an overcast sky. The image is overlaid with a red background and white text.

Sustainability at York 2023 and beyond

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/ERA5 | July 31, 2023

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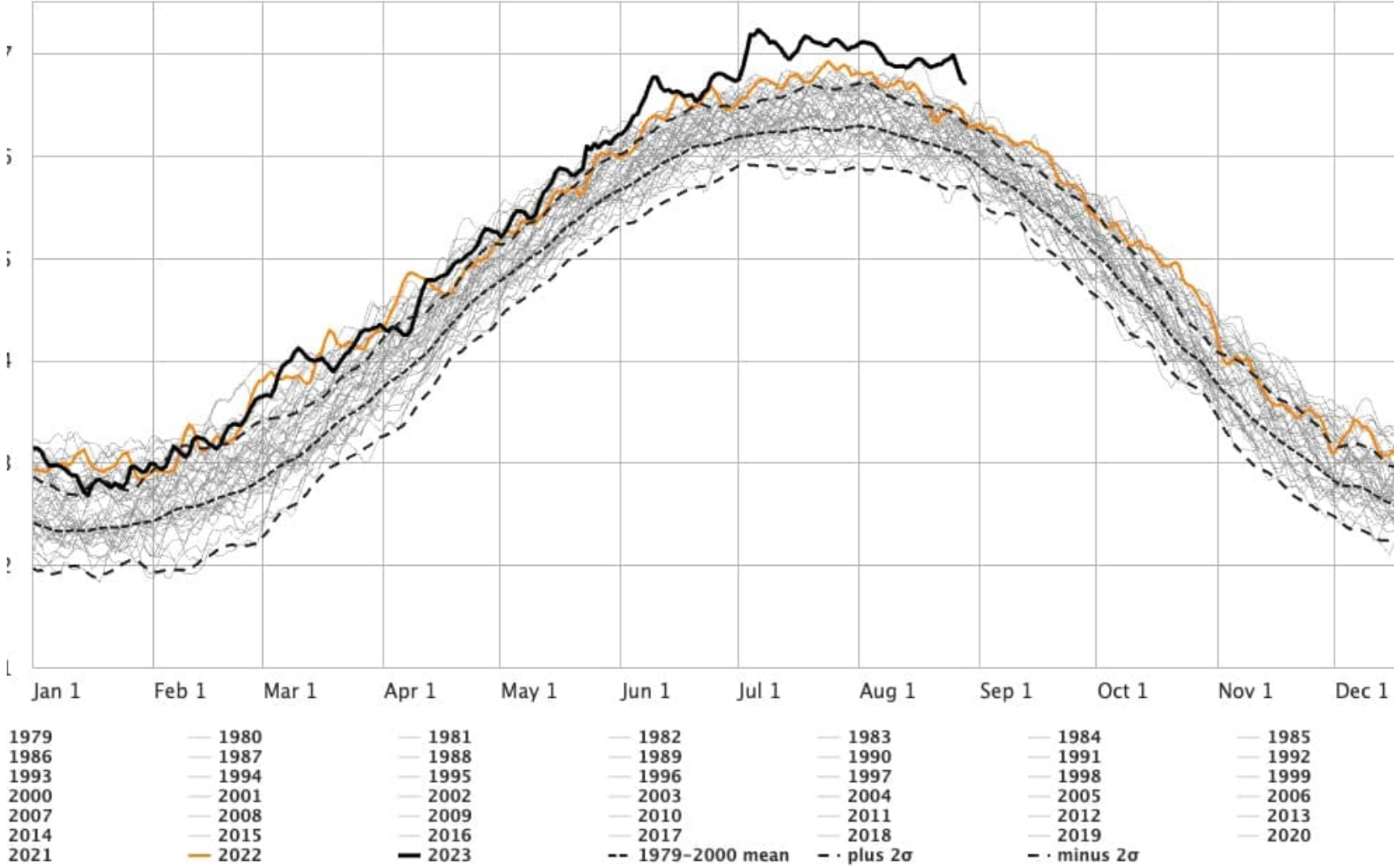
The consequences are clear, and they are tragic: children swept away by monsoon rains; families running from the flames; workers collapsing in scorching heat.

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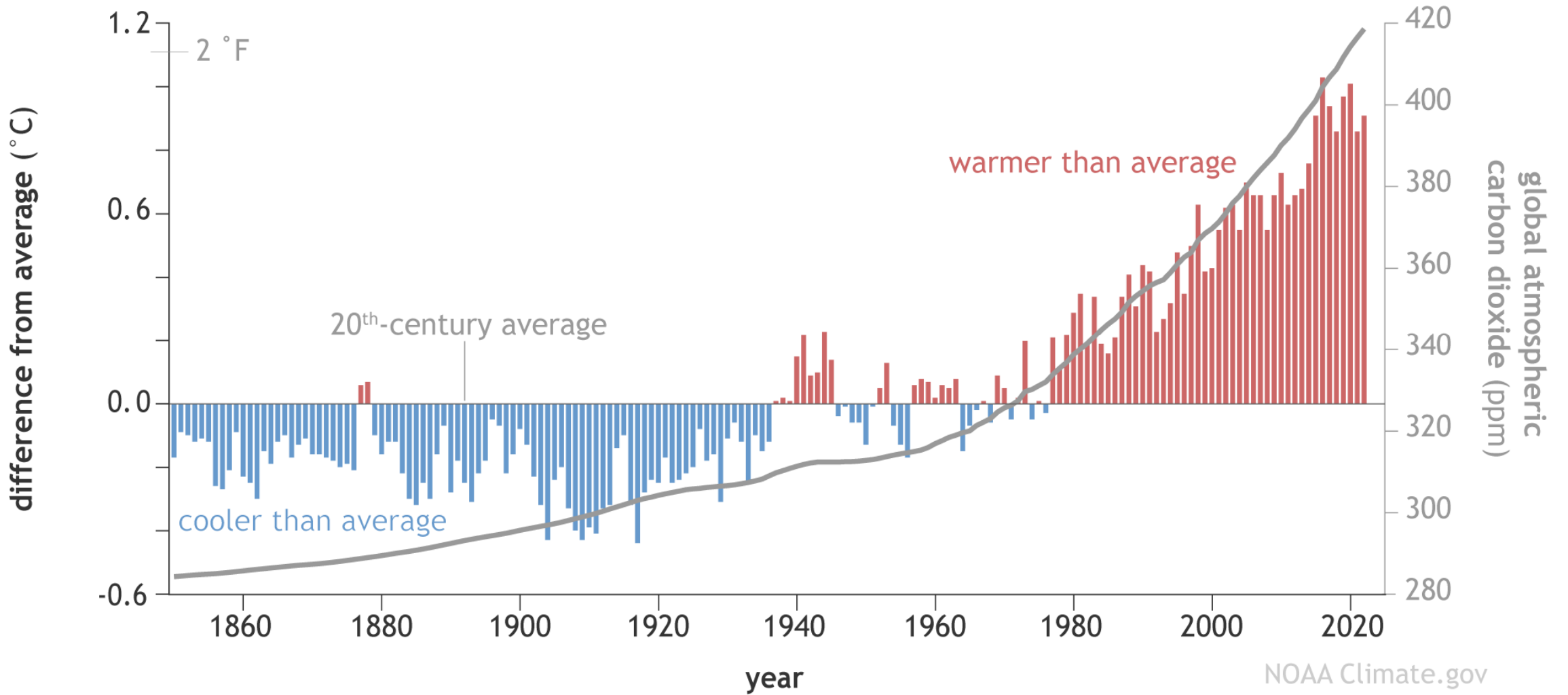
UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, July 2023

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

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



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



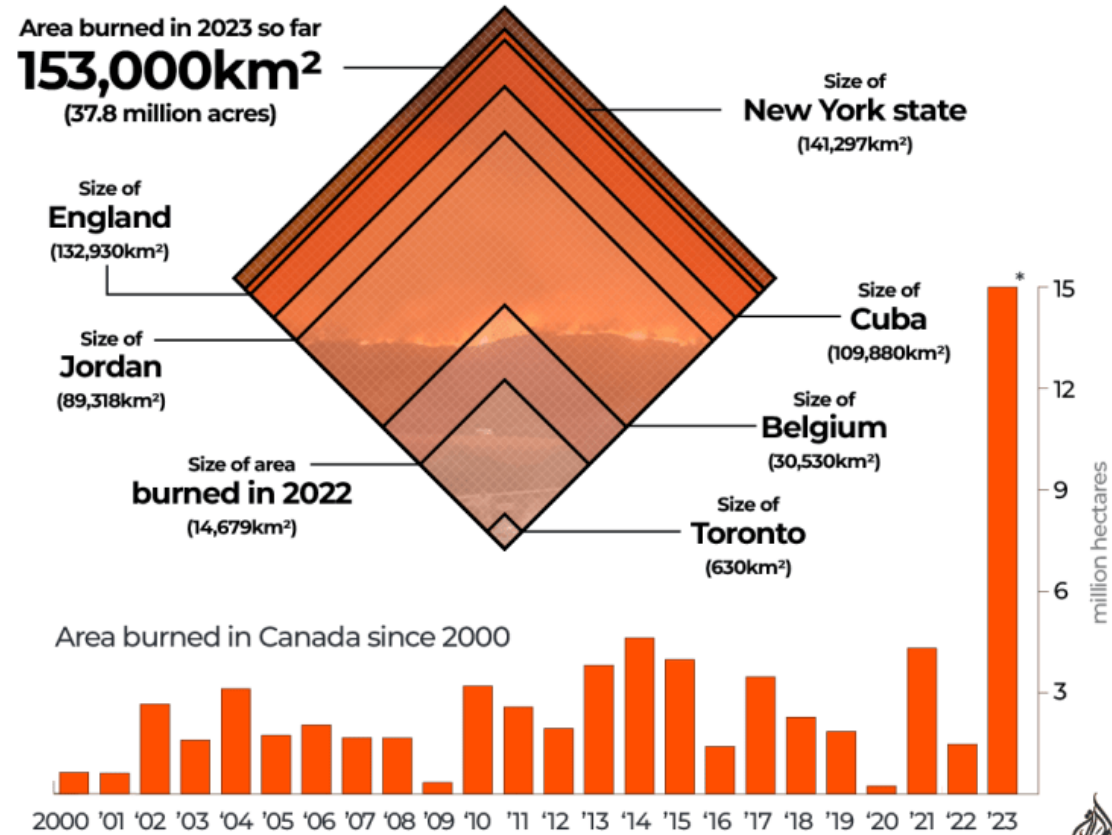
NOAA Climate.gov
Data: ESRL/ETHZ/NCEI



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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**City
News**

TORONTO AIR QUALITY AMONG THE WORST IN WORLD



SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK
& PATH FORWARD

Sustainability Action-Oriented 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

Level 1 – Working groups

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

Level 2 – Taskforce

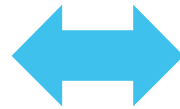
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Level 3 – Steering Committee

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ENGAGEMENT

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



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



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

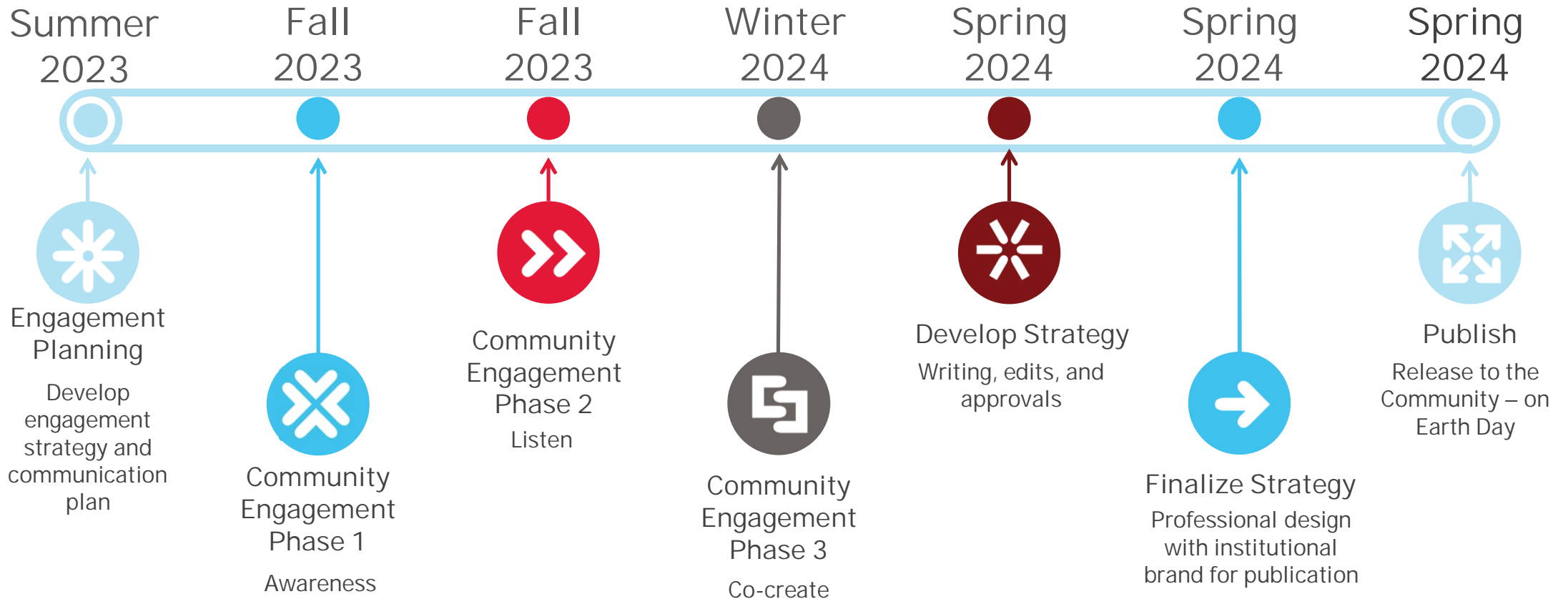


Meaningful & fun engagement

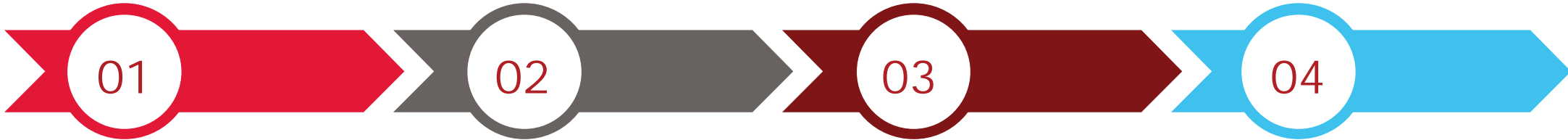


Identify sustainability leaders amongst staff, faculty and students

Sustainability Strategy - Community Engagement Proposed Timelines



Engagement Process



Planning

Develop a robust pan-university engagement & communication plan in consultation with PSC and senior staff

Engagement Goals:
Cultivate an atmosphere of trust exploration, innovation, fun and optimism

Build a comprehensive snapshot of sustainability at York and develop a narrative

Community Engagement Phase 1 & 2
Build Awareness & Listen

Build awareness of sustainability at York and SDGs

Answer the questions
Why get involved
How to get involved

Presentations
Workshop,
Town Hall,
Survey,
MachForm Feedback
Campus interception
Gamification (fun)

Community Engagement Co-create Phase 3

With advisory body and working groups, organize core themes and preliminary action items from Phase 1&2

Report back core themes, respond to questions and outline action items

Here is what we heard?
What needs to be in the strategy?
What needs to be prioritized?

Edit, finalize, approve and publish

Final round of presentations and review

Seek approvals

Release and roll out

Implementation

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

Working Group

Join a Sustainability Working group!

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

Sustainability Strategy Renewal - Community Consultation



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 27 & Nov 1, 2023
Application Deadline	December 1, 2023 at 4 p.m.
Review & adjudication process	December 2023
Announcement and Funding to Recipients	January 2024



www.yorku.ca/sustainability

Stay Connected with the Office of Sustainability



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Sustainability Strategy Renewal - Community Consultation

