



Sustainability Strategy: Goals, Action, Tracking Progress & Alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals

2020-2021



Legend: Early development





Ongoing



Significant Progress

York University Sustainability Strategy – Progress Report

<p>PEOPLE PE1: The York University community demonstrates a culture of sustainability through individual behaviour and institutional practices, such as dedicating staff and academic positions to pursue sustainability, embedding sustainability in all job descriptions, and changing behaviour and practices through focused training and continuing education for new and incoming staff, faculty and students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Communication Strategy, Awareness and Engagement Strategy (2021) • Develop student engagement and experiential learning opportunities (on-going) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Sustainability created in DFA (2018) • 1 FTE created Program Director, Sustainability (2018) • 2 Work Study Student Positions created (2018) • Sustainability incorporated with first year orientation (2019) • Develop Sustainable Event Checklist/Certification (2019) • Implemented WWF Living Planet Leader Certification (2019) • HR embed sustainability in job description as a value statement (2019) • Sustainability orientation for all new employees in the Human Resources New Employee Onboarding Training (2020) • Refreshed Sustainable Office Certification (2020) • Implemented Sustainable Champion Network (2020) • Implemented SDG Student Hub (2020) • Community Forum on the SDGs (2021) • Sustainability/SDG Training Module in Development (2021) • Sustainability Communication Plan Completed (April 2021) • Sustainability/SDG Awareness/Engagement Campaign (April 2021) 		



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<p>PEOPLE PE2: York University's holistic approach to sustainability includes social sustainability. York is an inclusive and welcoming community that draws strength from inclusivity and diversity and a commitment to equity and social justice. focused training and continuing education for new and incoming staff, faculty and students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division of People Equity and Culture development of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy & Implementation Plan • Division of People, Equity and Culture Developing Anti-Black Racism Strategy & Implementation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Council & Framework (2017) • New Division of People, Equity & Culture created (2019) • Initiating dedicated searches to hire a minimum of six new Black faculty over the next three years (2020) • New Role Special Advisor Addressing Anti-Black Racism in LA&PS (2020) • Developing a post-doctoral Fellows program dedicated to emerging scholars who are Black, Indigenous and People of Colour to foster and build a pool of potential faculty hires for the future (2020) • Centre for Human Rights Delivering a number of online training modules on Challenging Unconscious Bias to faculty, staff and students (2020) • Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy (2021) • The York University Economic & Social Impact Report (2021) • Anti-Black Racism Framework (2021) • A new ORU, the Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Languages (2021) 		
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<p>PEOPLE PE3: Each of York University's campuses is an anchor institution with their surrounding communities. They proactively engage to promote sustainable economic, cultural, social, and environmental opportunities and innovation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an Anchor Institution Framework • Develop and a Social Procurement Policy for approval • Implement the Social Procurement Policy • Implement Employment Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The York University-TD Bank Community Engagement Centre, working to increase access to education and facilitate community-engaged research in the Black Creek neighbourhood (2008) • Anchor Institution & Community Benefits Framework (2017) • Social Procurement Working Group created (2018) • Employment Working Group created to explore volunteerism and improve relationship for hiring from local community (2019) • York U hosted second Anchor Roundtable Stakeholder Meeting (2019) • Social Procurement Policy Approved by the Board of Governors (2019) • Procurement implements Diverse Vendor & Social Enterprise Supplier Network (2020) <p><u>Keele/Glendon Projects:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented hard targets for equity-seeking Apprenticeship hires and local supplier spend on Construction projects • 40 + Multi-Disciplinary Apprentices hired to date across six projects (some local to York Community) • \$150K + in wages paid to apprentices to date • \$250K + spent with local suppliers (local spend requirement on two projects) • Some apprentices have earned as much as 14% of their required jobsite hours for their program on York's projects • York has prepared template letters for GCs to use that allow suppliers to attest to their local and equity-seeking hiring practices <p><u>Markham Centre Campus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a vendor registration portal to receive applications from businesses based in York Region and surrounding areas, that are interested in becoming suppliers to Markham Campus expansion project • York has designed an FAQ for distribution to all sub-contractors with each bid package to ensure a social procurement plan is built into bid responses • Three equity-seeking apprentices hired on the project to date (very early days – project has just begun). Contractor obligated hire minimum of ten during the course of construction 	 
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Ongoing



Significant Progress

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Ongoing



Significant Progress

<p>KNOWLEDGE KN1: York University’s international reputation in sustainability education and research draws students from across Canada and around the world to study here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit to global rankings such as Times Higher Education and AASHE STARS Greenest Employer (on-going) • Identify gaps and areas of improvement from rankings • Fair Trade Campus Certification* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE Times Higher Education Impact Ranking #26 in world in year 1 (2019) and #33 in the world in year 2 (2020) and #67 in the world in year 3 (2021) • Schulich ranked amongst world best in responsible business (2019) • C&PA launched a new brand strategy to reflect a distinct identity in higher education with a brand message “A community of changemakers working to create a better future” (2020) • New Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change (2020) • CIFAL York – UN Institute for Training & Research (2020) • York named Canada’s Greenest Employer for the 9th consecutive Year (2021) • York appointed as SDG 4 Focal Point in the Global Cluster of Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD) hosted by the International Association of Universities (IAU) (2020) • York U hosted Sustainable & Inclusive Internationalization Virtual Conference (2021) as an element of a comprehensive “Sustainable on the Go” Initiative that will focus on sustainability in internationalization, mobility and global outreach themes • York one out of six founding partners in a new global UNITWIN research network on Education for Sustainable Development (2021) • Disaster & Emergency Management Education Program • The Youth Climate Report GIS Project recognized by UN with an SDG Action Award (2021) • Planetary Film Lab for Indigenous Youth 		
<p>KNOWLEDGE KN2: York University utilizes its campus operations, grounds and buildings as ‘living labs’ that provide experiential education opportunities to both undergraduate and graduate students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research other institutions and guidelines/framework • Develop a Campus as a Living Lab Framework • Identify Stakeholders • Establish a working group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YU Experience Hub (2016) • Opening of the Las Nubes EcoCampus in Costa Rica (2016) • Launch of Semester Abroad Program in Costa Rica (2017) • Maloca Community Garden integrated into curriculum in EUC • Launch of the C4 Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom (2019) • SHAD York in the Lassonde School of Engineering (2019) • Lassonde BEST Lab & UNHack Lassonde (2019) 		







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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various faculty members have partnered with Office of Sustainability to integrate campus sustainability into curriculum and class projects 		
<p>KNOWLEDGE KN3: Undergraduate learning outcomes and graduate attributes of York University students include, wherever appropriate, the ability to identify and articulate sustainability challenges facing our world, and to assess, critique, explain and take action to address these problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify appropriate stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early discussions with Teaching Commons and Learning Commons to integrate sustainability/SDGs (2021) Experimental ESD course with York University English Language Institute to integrate the SDGs into language teaching BHER project SDG Student Hub 		
<p>KNOWLEDGE KN4: York University is recognized as a world leader in applied sustainability research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed within the York Strategic Research Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Research Plan 2018-2023 (Forging a Just and Equitable World) Ecological Footprint Initiative launched in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (2017-2018) No. 1 York's ranking in social sciences & humanities publications in terms of the % & no. of publications, comprehensive category, 2013-2017 (Research Infosource, 2019) Schulich ranked amongst world best in responsible business (2019) James and Joanne Love Chair in Environmental Engineering at The Lassonde School of Engineering UNESCO Chair on Reorienting Education towards Sustainability delivered more than 30 lectures and keynotes at international UNESCO/UN-related events (2020) New Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change (2020) CIFAL York – UN Institute for Training & Research (2020) 		










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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York U joined Sustainable Development Solutions Network SDSN (2020) + developed the SDG Student Hub • New ORU The Centre for Bee Ecology, Evolution and Conservation (2020) • Partner of the new Peel Regional Centre of Expertise in ESD (2020) • New ORU The Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Languages (2021) • Lassonde School of Engineering research partner in Peel Goods Movement Task Force (2020), Smart Freight Centre activities 		
<p>KNOWLEDGE KN5: York University researchers and staff work together to develop, conduct and apply leading edge research and technology in sustainability initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategy for action and implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological Footprint Initiative to measure York University's GHG emissions, and the ecological footprint of York University and institutional activities (scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, includes - procurement of goods and services, waste, water and transportation). • #IndigenousESD Best Practice Research in 21 countries submitted to UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples' Rights 		  
<p>KNOWLEDGE KN6: York University will establish a Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) in Sustainability that attracts world class researchers in sustainability and enables York to partner with other institutions and stakeholders around the world in sustainability research and knowledge mobilization.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO Chair in Reorientating Education towards Sustainability (partner institutions in 70+ countries) • International Network of Teacher Education Institutions (INTEI) Network (2019) • International Association University Cluster (2020) • UNITWIN (2021) • #IndigenousESD: ESDfor2030 Research Network (2017) 		  



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<p>PLACE PL1: York University integrates sustainability into both long-term institutional strategic planning and day-to-day decision-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate sustainability in the IRP Create awareness and education for senior leadership to embed sustainability within operations and decision making processes Update Sustainability Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Procurement Policy (2019) York University Academic Plan 2020-2025 Building a Better Future (is about coming together to make positive change for our students, our campuses, and our local and global communities. Six priorities for action and a University-Wide Challenge to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (2020) Integrated Resource Plan has integrated sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals Service Excellence and University Service Centre incorporates principles of Sustainability 		   
<p>PLACE PL2: As an established institutional value, York</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop building standards* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rob & Cheryl McEwan Graduate Study & Research Building (LEED Gold); unique glass solar chimney drive passive natural ventilation; thermally active building system 		






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<p>University makes sustainability visible and tangible on our campuses through intentional design that improves ecological and human well-being, supports experiential education, fosters innovation and demonstrates best practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Campus as a Living Lab* 	<p>radiant heating & cooling; energy use is modeled at 71.4 % below Canada's Model National Energy Code (representing a 67.4% reduction in GHG).</p>		
<p>PLACE PL3: York University integrates sustainability into its overall financial plan, integrated resource plans and procurement, and is a responsible investor with respect to sustainability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and carry out a responsible investment /sustainable finance strategy • Embed sustainability within the IRP* • Develop a Sustainable Procurement Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Governors approve Sustainable Investing Strategy through Environmental Social Governance (2018) • Board of Governors approve Social Procurement Policy (2019) • Sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals embedded into the IRP (2020) • Sustainability embedded into Service Excellence and University Services Centre (2020) 		







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<p>PLACE PL4: York University has an ongoing sustainability innovation fund to support sustainability projects on its campuses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a framework and Sustainability Innovation Fund Program • Develop an application and selection process • Award funding • Report on progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Innovation Fund Framework Developed (2019) • Year 1 was launched and awarded funding for 5 projects (2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Edible Campus: Community and Environmental Engagement Through Sustainability Education (Glendon); Project Lead: Reagan Brown -GITIGE AAMOOGWIN Fostering cross-pollinations and land-based education on Indigenous Food Systems; Project Lead: Professor Lisa Myers -Rez Race to Zero; Project Lead: Steven Prince -Vegetate to Pollinate; Project Lead: Kathryn Robinson -York University Community Composting Centre; Project Lead: John Simoulidis • Projects delayed implementation because of COVID-19 • Lessons learnt identified for continuous improvement (2020) 		
<p>PLACE PL5: York University has a long-term energy strategy and action plan with the goal of minimizing carbon emissions on our campuses. This will be achieved by pursuing integrated strategies in key areas such as energy, transportation, buildings, and operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set Carbon Emission Reduction Targets (2020) • Develop an Energy Management Plan • Measure Ecological and Emission Footprint • Improve sustainable transportation options • Develop building standards* • Prioritize waste reduction practices • Develop a Green Fleet Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the two TTC Subway Stations on Keele Campus (2017) • Community consultation on setting carbon emission targets; recommendations made to the President (2020) • York Community Bike Shop, operated by Regenesys in the Quad • Commitment to Carbon Neutrality 2049 has been achieved and communicated (2020) • Partnership with the City of Toronto Bike Share; two stations installed on Sentinel Road (2020) • Joined City of Toronto Green Will Initiative (2020) partnership to reduce GHG emission • Currently in progress of developing a definition of scope 3 emissions and the boundary of institutional activities (2021) • Facilities developing Energy Management Plan to create a roadmap to reduce emission (2021) • Ecological Footprint Initiative to measure York U's ecological footprint and emissions (Scope 1, 2, 3) • Community Awareness & Engagement Plan in development to be launched (April 2021) 		







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<p>PLACE PL6: York University's campuses are ecologically healthy, and provide accessible and inviting spaces to learn, live, work and play. Valuing and prioritizing open and green spaces allows York University to manage our campuses to generate "co-benefits" that improve ecosystem health as well as human health and well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Landscape Master Plan • Maloca Gardens Plan (EUC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YUM Famer's Market in collaboration with Regenesis and Food Services • Facilities utilizes an integrated management of the University landscape through responsible planning, design, development, renovation and maintenance in order to achieve a sustainable landscape. • Grounds planting native and xeriscape gardens on campus • Maloca Community Garden & Bee Research on Campus • York University Master Plan • Community Engagement Tree Planting Events and Campus Clean Up Events • Human Resources community engagement on well-being (2020) 		
<p>PLACE PL7: Buildings on York campuses and lands held by York University are models of sustainable design and operation in multiple dimensions. Not only do they achieve energy, water and human health sustainability benefits, but they also serve as living labs that support experiential education and research in sustainability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop building and renovation standards* • Develop experiential learning opportunities to integrate campus operations and teaching, learning & research (reflective as per goal of the Campus as a Living Lab)* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new development and renovations incorporate sustainability measures into the design and construction. • Opening of the Las Nubes EcoCampus in Costa Rica (2017) • Lassonde UNHACK – Design Solutions for a Sustainable Future (Design Thinking) (2019, 2020) • Cross Campus Capstone Classroom C4 (since 2019) • Lassonde BEST Start-Up Experience (2021) • Various faculty members have partnered with Office of Sustainability and Facilities Services to integrate campus sustainability into curriculum and class projects, including tours of the Central Utilities Plant 		





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<p>PLACE PL8: All new development, and where possible renovations, on York University campuses are constructed to the highest green building standards and aspire to net positive contributions with respect to energy and utility consumption and other dimensions of sustainability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop buildings and renovation standards* 	<p>The most recent new development have met Toronto Green Standards and build/targeted as LEED Gold standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lassonde School of Engineering, LEED Gold (2016) • The Second Student Centre, LEED Gold (2018) • Rob & Cheryl McEwan Graduate & Research Building, LEED Gold (2019) • School of Continuing Studies (under construction), Targeted LEED Gold • Markham Centre Campus (under construction), Targeted LEED Gold 		
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*note some actions are integrated within multiple goals.



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