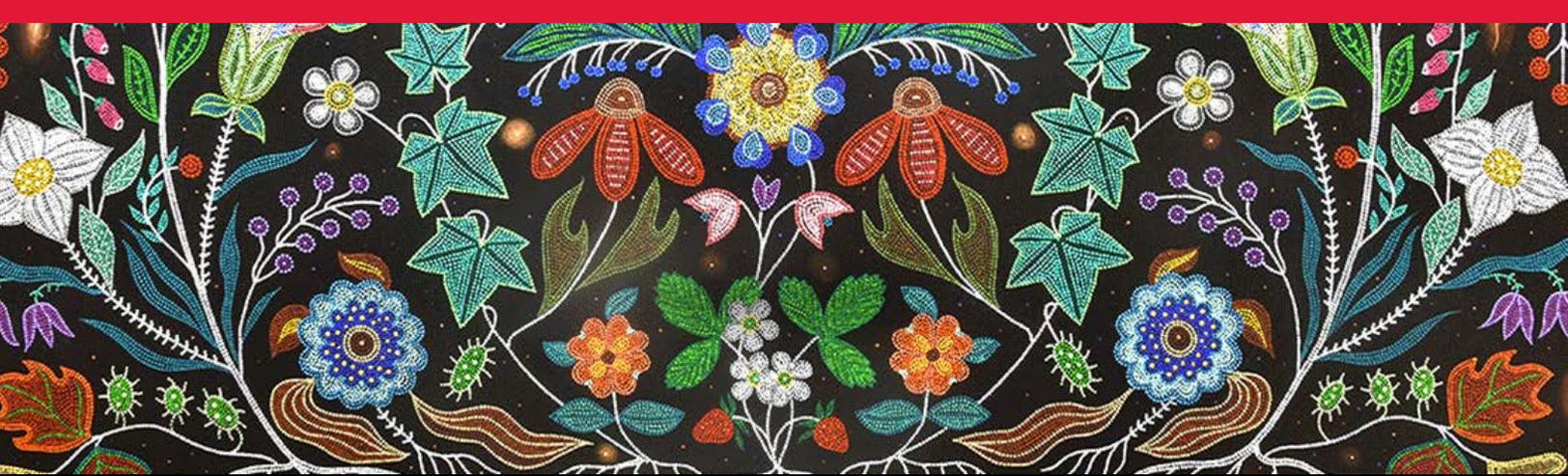


YORK UNIVERSITY  
**SUSTAINABILITY  
REPORT 2021**

YORK   
UNIVERSITÉ  
UNIVERSITY



York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.



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## York U at a Glance

York is a leading international teaching and research university and a driving force for positive change. Empowered by a welcoming and diverse community with a uniquely global perspective, we are preparing our students for their long-term career and personal success.

Home to one of the largest and most diverse student bodies in Canada, our 53,000 students, 8,500 international students, and leading professors are working with 500+ university, industry and NGO partners to tackle pressing issues.

York prepares our students for a meaningful career, long-term success, and the critical knowledge to work toward a better future through leading programs, innovative course design, and experiential opportunities.

Across our multiple campuses locally, including Keele and bilingual Glendon campuses in Toronto, and globally in Hyderabad, India and Costa Rica, we continue to innovate.

We value collaboration, diversity and inclusivity. Together, we can make things right for ourselves, our communities, our planet, and our future

York University was delighted to be recognized for the 9th consecutive year as one of Canada's Greenest Employers, in addition, for the third year in a row, York has earned recognition from Times Higher Education (THE), placing 67th in the world for the Impact Ranking with regards to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

# Message from the President



Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has served not only to highlight and magnify existing socioeconomic and environmental issues, but also to underscore the urgent need to strengthen our international response to threats like climate change, homelessness, and systemic inequalities, and to create a more sustainable world.

At York, the desire to build a more sustainable future underscores all of our teaching, research, and operational activities. Sustainability is one of the foundations of our University Academic Plan 2020–2025: Building a Better Future, and it is embedded within all six of our priorities for action as part of our commitment to addressing the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Guided by both the University Academic Plan and our Sustainability Strategy, we draw on the strengths of our diverse and inclusive community to approach sustainability through a holistic lens of collaboration, innovation, and knowledge mobilization. For example, through our new CIFAL centre, CIFAL York, we are bringing leaders from governments, not-for-profits, and industry together with researchers and educators to address complex global issues in the areas of sustainable development, disaster and emergency management, diversity and inclusion, economic development, global health, and entrepreneurship.

We are also ensuring that sustainable innovation is visible and tangible on our own campuses. Through our new Social Procurement policy, we are leveraging York’s institutional policies and practices to positively impact the social and environmental well-being of our surrounding communities. Through the innovative use of our campus operations, grounds, and buildings as “living labs” — including the groundbreaking Las Nubes Project at our EcoCampus in Costa Rica — we are providing our students with valuable experiential learning opportunities related to ecology, sustainability, indigenous education, arts, health, and conservation. And through our continued efforts to measure and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and ecological footprint of the University and its institutional activities — including the collaborative Green Will

Initiative with the City of Toronto — we are making progress on our ambitious goal of becoming carbon neutral on or before 2049.

These initiatives, and the many others being undertaken as part of our Sustainability Strategy, are continuing to strengthen the University’s international reputation in sustainability. This year, York was named one of Canada’s Greenest Employers for the ninth consecutive time. And for the third year in a row, the University was recognized as a global leader in the Times Higher Education Global Impact Rankings, which rank universities on their work toward addressing the SDGs. This year, York placed 3rd in Canada and 27th in the world for SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, which examines a university’s stewardship of resources and its preservation of community heritage, and 5th in Canada and 24th in the world for SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, which looks at how the University supports and collaborates with other universities in working towards the SDGs.

I am immensely proud of the many ways that colleagues across the University have come together over the past year to respond to the pandemic and the challenges associated with it, while continuing to drive sustainable economic, cultural, social, and environmental change in our local and global communities. I would like to thank the members of the President’s Sustainability Council, as well as our students, staff, faculty members, course directors, and alumni, for their continued contributions to creating a more sustainable world.

Rhonda Lenton  
*President & Vice-Chancellor*

# University Academic Plan - Building a Better Future

Sustainability is one of the core values of York University. In June 2020, York University launched its new academic plan titled “Building a Better Future: York University Academic Plan 2020-2025”. The plan is about coming together to make positive change for our students, our campuses, and our local and global communities. It reflects the significant opportunities that York will embrace over the next five years in advancing our vision to provide a broad socio-demographic of students with access to a high-quality research-intensive University committed to the public good.

The UAP 2020-2025 contains six priorities for action, which are based on the University’s enduring commitment to critical inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge that comes from many differing perspectives and ways of knowing.

The plan responds with a challenge to elevate York’s contributions to the SDGs, which offer a framework for UN member countries to take urgent action in 17 areas that are critical to ensure peace and prosperity for people and the planet. York University’s new UAP serves as a rallying call for students, faculty and staff – a call to bring their expertise from across disciplines to work together to build new tools, develop strategies and solutions to global challenges.

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



- Six Priorities for Action
- Answering the Call:  
A University-Wide Challenge to  
Contribute to the UN  
Sustainable Development Goals

# Campus Sustainability Update



The University's commitment to carbon neutrality was made by President and Vice-Chancellor, Rhonda L. Lenton, following recommendations made by the community and the Carbon Emission Reduction Target Advisory Committee.

The goal of carbon neutrality aligns with the Paris Agreement and the recommendations from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Additionally, it aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) No. 13 – Climate Action and to the University's Academic Plan 2020-2025 University-wide challenge which is focused on creating an impact on the SDGs to create positive change, locally and globally, for our students, the communities we serve, and the world around us.



Through the Ecological Footprint Initiative in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, York University is currently measuring its GHG emissions and the ecological footprint of York University and its institutional activities. This includes scope 1 direct energy emissions, scope 2 emissions purchased from utilities, and scope 3 emissions which includes Transportation (commuting, business travel etc.), and Procurement of Goods and Services.

York University has undertaken a variety of energy management programs over the past 10 years to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Facilities Services Department is currently working on a plan to decarbonize central utilities to achieve our carbon neutral goals by 2049.

Staff in Facilities Services Department are developing an Energy Management Plan to accelerate GHG reductions from the central utilities and deep retrofits to buildings. York U staff have also developed partnerships with other stakeholders such as the City of Toronto Green Will initiative with a target of net-zero emissions.

**23.8M**  
kWh saved since 2015

# Sustainability Champions

The Sustainability Office continues to engage community members as ambassadors and peer leaders to advance the Sustainability Champions program. Sustainability Champions volunteer their time to act as a resource on sustainability across the University. A Sustainability Champion is a student, faculty, or staff member. They are role models, change agents and committed friends of the environment. They are champions of sustainability within their departments and assist with initiatives such as the Sustainable Office Program, sustainability events, campus clean-up days, tree planting, and outreach activities. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there were no on campus activities related to the Office of Sustainability this year.



This past year, all sustainability related engagements and activities were conducted virtually, since most students, faculty, and staff were living, working, and/or learning remotely. Events included: a Community Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, a Red & White Day - Fair Trade Event, Earth Hour, Earth Day, a Student SDG Design Challenge, and miscellaneous events and speaker series.

[!\[\]\(6605b201d6f14d9b3bcb8ab5f274d107\_img.jpg\) Click here to visit the Sustainability Champions Website](#)

## Event and activity highlights

### Earth Week: Plastic Pick-up Social Media Challenge

This year the annual Earth Week celebration was held virtually. From April 19 - 23, leading up to Earth Day on April 22, the celebration centered around the theme, “Restore Our Earth.” In celebration, the Plastic Pick-Up Social Media Challenge was live. Community members posted photos and videos of themselves kicking off a clean-up of trash in their areas and tagged other community members to join in the challenge.



### Red and White Day - Fair Trade Week event

Fair Trade Week is an annual celebration to raise awareness about fair trade products. As part of the celebration, a fair-trade trivia event was organized with a Kahoot trivia quiz and a York University Bookstore prize awarded to the quiz winner. In addition, two guest speakers, Madison Hopper from the Department of Social Science, and John Simoulidis, director of the Green Campus Cooperative, spoke about the impact of Fair Trade on sustainability and equity for producers from developing countries.

### Waste Reduction Week: Movie Viewing

In celebration of Waste Week, Elizabeth McMillan, a Masters in Environmental Studies student at York University, delivered a presentation about Waste Reduction and its importance for sustainable development. After the presentation, there was a viewing of the documentary film, “Just Eat It,” this was followed by a brief discussion about waste reduction and personal sustainable lifestyles.



# Operations

## Zero-Waste

York University's comprehensive, multi-faceted waste management program was established in 1990. The initial goal of this program was a 50% waste reduction by 2000. Having achieved that goal, a more ambitious target of 65% was established and was achieved by 2013. By the end of 2019, 70% of the waste was diverted from landfills.

## Elements of the ZeroWaste program include:

- Hydration Stations
- Kitchenettes equipped with organic waste containers for all food scraps
- Outdoor organic digesters
- Stand-alone garbage bins were replaced with tri-bins for recycling
- Collection of hazardous waste and e-waste such as batteries, small electronics, appliances, ink cartridges and more.

## Custodial Services

ZeroWaste also introduced a University-wide "Green Cleaning" program, which was piloted during 2009 and has now become the benchmark for institutional cleaning. The major elements of the program include certified green cleaning product usage and dispensing, communal waste receptacles, hand dryers in high-use areas, entrance matting, HEPA-filter equipment, and microfiber cloths and mops.

## Bookstore – Fair Trade and Organic Items

The York University Bookstore was the first campus bookstore in Canada to sell certified, fair trade organic clothing through a partnership with the Green Campus Co-Op. Additionally, it sells reusable mugs, bags and other sustainable products.



# Facilities and Green Buildings

Facilities Services Department has incorporated sustainability principles in new buildings and renovations that consider design efficiency, broader use of daylighting, water efficiency, energy conservation and performance, reduction in emissions, materials and resources, green construction practices, indoor environmental quality and site re-naturalization. York's early dedication to sustainable building is evidenced through past achievements and several building design-awards and distinctions. This approach continues to be applied to all new construction. In 2020 the Second Student Centre received its designation as certified LEED Gold.

The Rob and Cheryl McEwen Graduate Study and Research Building at the Schulich School of Business was certified LEED Gold in 2021. This building, which opened in January 2019, is one of the most sustainable university buildings in North America. It features a 30-meter-tall solar chimney, an extensive green roof that includes a range of vegetation; designed to meet Toronto's rigorous green roof standards; rainwater recapture systems with on-site storm-water management; triple-glazed high-performance windows and is bird-friendly.



Two buildings currently under construction, the School of Continuing Studies and phase one of York's Markham Campus, are aiming for the LEED Gold standard. The School of Continuing Studies features a high-performance prismatic façade, composed of photovoltaic panels and glazed openings to bring natural light. The School of Continuing Studies is scheduled to open in the fall of this year, while the Markham Centre Campus will open in Fall 2023.

## Section perspective illustrating integrated social and climate-responsive environmental design:

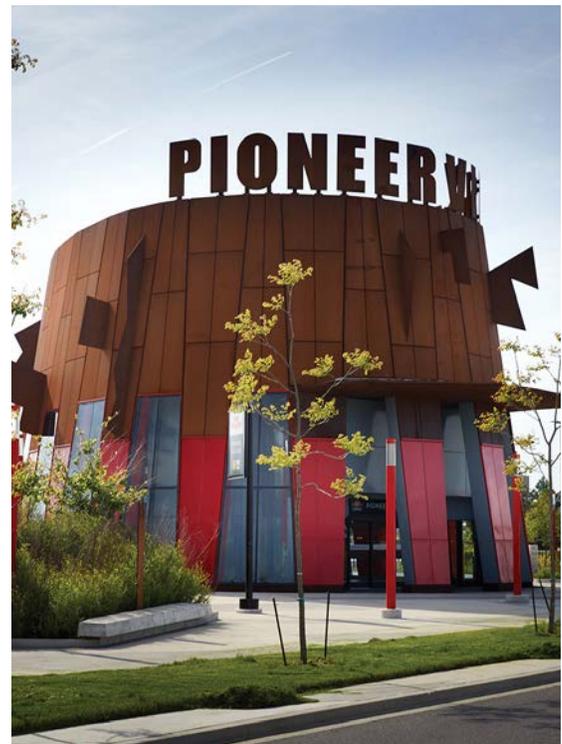
1. Solar chimney rack and pinion awnings for preheat intake and natural ventilation exhaust
2. Solar chimney rack and pinion skylight damper
3. Solar chimney mass wall with intake dampers to Dedicated Outdoor Air System (DOAS)
4. Mechanical space with DOAS
5. Radiant acoustical ceiling panels and baffles
6. Active slab radiant heating and cooling
7. Curtain wall and Inline Fibreglass windows with triple-glazed insulated glass and building automation system controlled operable vents
8. South elevation solar shading devices.



# Transportation

Transportation Services encourage commuting to the University through the use of public transit, carpooling, biking and walking. The goal is to reduce the demand for parking and increase awareness of alternative sustainable methods of transportation. The commuter modal split has been dramatically altered in the past 10 years from the use of predominantly single-occupant vehicles to alternative, sustainable modes of travel. Over 80% of commuters to York use sustainable means of travel on a daily basis.

The Toronto-York Spadina Subway extension built in 2017, has improved transit to and from the Keele campus and has re-distributed TTC buses to several nodes along the subway route, resulting in significantly reduced bus traffic on the campus. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, community members were learning and working remotely, and commuting to York's campuses was considerably reduced.



## Other key initiatives include:

- **Shuttle Services:**

Transportation Services offer free shuttle services between Glendon and Keele campuses and within Keele campus. Due to the pandemic, this service was not operational this past year.

- **Cycling:**

York University features extensive cycling infrastructure on campus such as bike lanes, bike racks and posts, secure storage areas and shower facilities.

- Regenesis offers services in the Community Bike Centre in the Quad, with services like DIY bike repairs and cycling information. Limited services have continued during the pandemic
- Three bicycle repair stations, providing community members with the tools and space to maintain their bikes (installed 2017)
- Bike Share Toronto has installed bike stations at the north and south sides of the York University Subway Station, on Sentinel Road at The Pond Road and at the main entrance to the Glendon Campus



## Parking

To better assist employees with their varying work and family schedules, the Diamond Pool Parking program is a sensible and convenient parking option that makes it possible for York community members to save time and money while providing protection to the environment. To qualify for Diamond Pool Parking, two or more registered vehicle owners, both of whom must be York community members, must form a carpool. A Diamond Pool Permit parking package will be issued to each member, but they will only pay for a single parking package. Diamond Pool Parking is available in all lots on a first come first serve basis.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The University has a solar EV charging station and is in the process of expanding the availability of charging stations across York's campuses.

### York U Fleet

York University is also greening its fleet through a multi-modal approach and utilizes:

- Electric golf carts for goSAFE, Facilities and Parking
- Bikes for Parking Enforcement Officers and Security Officers
- Hybrid and electric vehicles for Security and Fire Prevention





## Membership with SDSN

York University became a member organization of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in Fall 2020. SDSN reports to the UN Secretary General’s office and works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, the private sector, and civil society. SDSN supports its member institutions (universities, research institutes, civil society organizations, and other knowledge centers) around the world, playing a leading role in sustainable development in four ways:

1. as research centers;
2. as key partners in problem-solving alongside government, business, and civil society;
3. as educators; and
4. as social entrepreneurs in solution initiatives.

It is the center for learning, engagement, and action on the Sustainable Development Goals at York University for students. The Hub is guided by a three-step Theory of Change: Youth can become catalysts of change by learning about the SDGs, engaging with and developing a passion for all or some of the SDGs, and implementing the SDGs in the local community.

Members can work toward the SDG Students Program Certificate by completing the eight criteria of the certificate, (see table below).

The SDG Certificate is signed by former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, as well as the current President of SDSN, and the Coordinator for the Youth division. They can achieve these criteria by attending the SDG Hub events, working on SDG Academy online courses, and by engaging with us on various SDG projects at York University.



Althea Reyes, an International Development Studies and Emergency Management student in the Class of 2022, is the inaugural SDG Coordinator that spearheaded the SDG Student Hub (SDG Hub) for this academic year.



As part of its membership with SDSN, York University launched its first Sustainable Development Goals Student Hub (SDG Hub) through the Office of Sustainability. The SDG Hub is a student-driven initiative, targeted towards learning, engaging, and acting on the SDGs, under the SDG Students Program, an initiative of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Youth division.

LEARN ABOUT	ENGAGE WITH	TAKE ACTION
Complete sustainable development in the 21st Century with Ban Ki-moon	Write an Op-Ed on an SDG-related topic in relation to your local community for the SDSN Youth blog	Volunteer 17 hours with an NGO/community organization working on the SDGs
Complete ANY additional SDG Academy course	Attend 2 Education Activities of the SDG Student Hub	Be a part of a Solution, or participate in an Action or Activity of the SDG Student Hub
Complete UN CC: e-Learn’s Introductory e-Course on Climate Change	Attend an SDSN Youth Workplace Live	

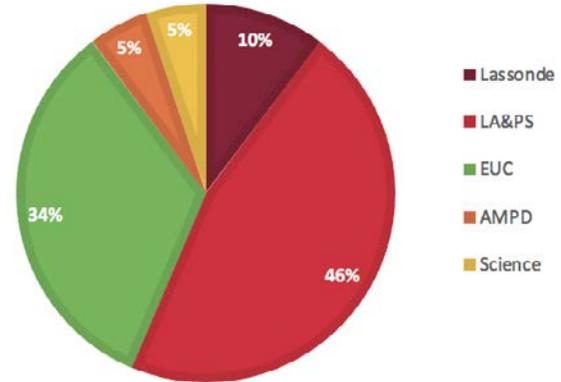


## Event and engagement highlights

### Engagement in numbers

- 31** SDG Student Hub Members
- 8** SDG Student Hub Volunteer Leaders
- 1** SDG Student Hub Coordinator
- 40** Total Involved Students in the SDG Student Hub
- 385** Instagram followers
- 322** Instagram Live views

### Composition of Hub Members by Faculty

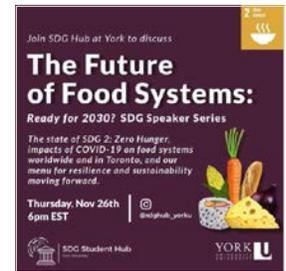


### Ready for 2030: SDG Speaker Series 1: Future of Food Systems

Total participants: 32

The Ready for 2030: SDG Speaker Series is a seminar series held by the SDG Student Hub that focuses on exploring a particular SDG in relation to current global issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The first iteration of the Ready for 2030: SDG Speaker's Series was centered around how to build better, more sustainable, and more resilient global and local food systems with a special focus on local actions in Toronto. Professor Rod MacRae from

the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change spoke about food insecurity in Canada in the context of COVID-19 and a national food policy, tackling food insecurity at its roots, and what that would look like. The partner organization, the Environmental and Urban Change Student Association, shared resources on how to get involved in their volunteer opportunities to take action on such an issue at the local level.



### Climate Solutions Lab Event

Total participants: 12

The Climate Solutions Lab is a solutions hackathon-type event, with an aim to cooperatively design solutions for the climate crisis by making Toronto's low-carbon climate action plan bolder and more aligned with the time pressure to accelerate the shift to a post-carbon economy. Keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Terry, an SDG Action Awardee for his Youth Climate Report project, delivered an inspirational keynote for youth action on the SDGs, in particular climate change.

The participants acted as representatives of one of the following organizations:

- Toronto Climate Action Network
- City of Toronto
- TransformTO, Canada Cleantech Alliance



This event generated proposed solutions by the participant's respective organizations.

[Click here to visit the SDSN Youth website](#)

[Click here to visit the SDSN website](#)

# World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada Partnership

## WWF Canada Living Planet @ Campus Partnership

York University officially partnered with WWF Canada in September of 2019 to form an Official Living Planet @ Campus. In collaboration with WWF Canada, York University can plan student engagement initiatives to support conservation on campus and beyond.



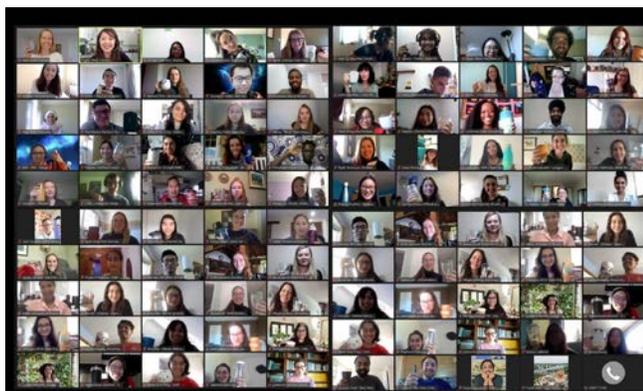
## The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada Living Planet Leader Certification

The Living Planet Leader Certification is a self-guided certification that post-secondary students can pursue to engage with conservation and sustainability actions on campus through their academic, student leadership, and day-to-day sustainable lifestyles, and get recognized for their achievements. Students can easily sign up for the certification on the website of WWF Canada, and record their achievements from the day they start their university education until three months from their graduation date.

There are currently 32 students working on the WWF Living Planet Leader Certification.

## Living Planet Leader Certificate Awardee Highlight

Austin Layng, a Law and Society student from the class of 2021, was awarded the Living Planet Leader Certificate in December of 2020.



## WWF Designing Change for a Living Planet Competition 2021

The Designing Change for a Living Planet Competition is an annual competition that is hosted by WWF. Post-secondary students from across Canada can join and ideate on an innovative conservation action for a particular audience and compete for the grand prize of a WWF grant for their representative university. The conference this year was held virtually on May 29 and 30 and June 5. York University's team, Bumblebee, comprised three students: Althea Reyes (Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies), Gagandeep Singh (Lassonde

School of Engineering), and Angelica Drexler (Glendon Campus). Their concept, **Bee Positive**, aimed to increase the native species in community gardens on campus, connect the links in the campus food chain, and provide research and work opportunities for York University students. Their concept was one of the eight concepts that made it to the final round of the competition. Currently, the students are bringing their concept to life at York through an informal working group.

# Curriculum Highlights



York University has over 500 course offerings across several Faculties that focus on sustainability and the environment. These courses are offered through Environmental Studies, Science (Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Conservation Ecology, Earth and Atmospheric Science), Education, School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design, Geography, Lassonde School of Engineering, Osgoode Hall Law School, Schulich School of Business and Urban Studies.

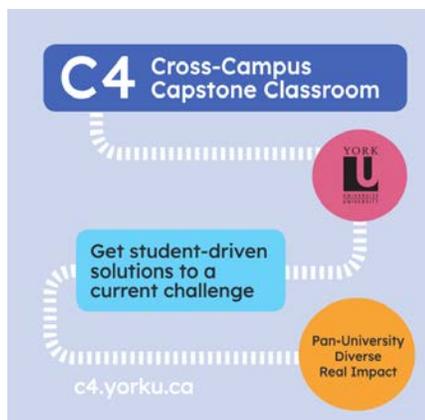
In September 2020, the University announced the establishment of the new Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (EUC). This new Faculty

represents a ‘call to action’ to address some of the most pressing challenges facing people and the planet, such as the climate crisis, degradation of nature, and rapid growth of cities. The new Faculty will serve as a hub of scholarly excellence in critical, innovative knowledge and skills in pursuit of sustainability and justice. Students will be offered programs and experiences to equip them for the workforce and inspire them. We will engage with community partners, industry stakeholders, government officials, academic peers, and the public to ensure that our research and teaching activities offer positive change beyond the University.

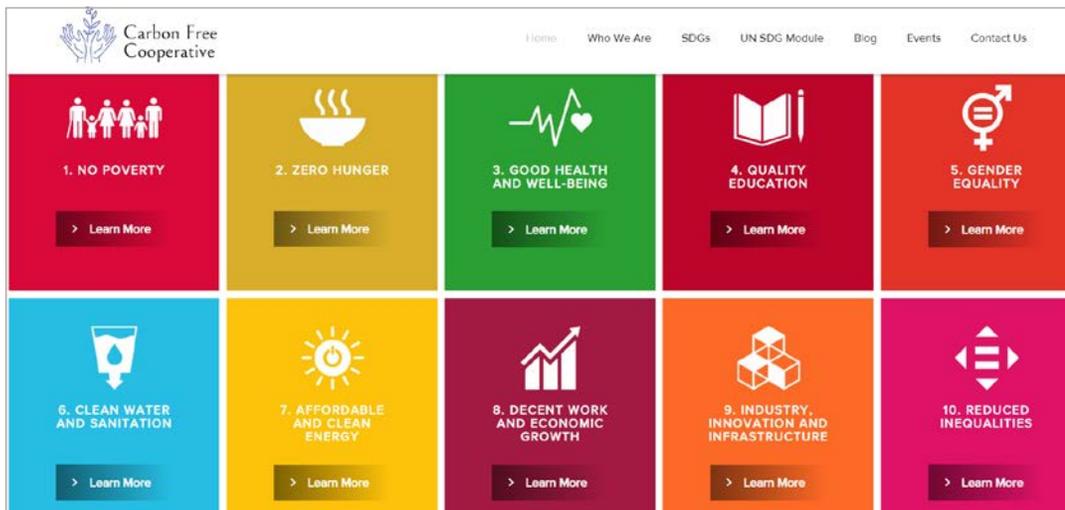
## CHANGEMAKERS FOR A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Climate crisis. Global pandemic. Anti-black racism. The new Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change at York University is a call to action to respond to today’s most pressing challenges facing people and the planet. Discover career paths that will make a better world. Our programs will prepare students with fundamental knowledge, critical thinking skills, hands-on experience, and global perspectives necessary to achieve personal success and make positive change.

Lassonde’s Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science & Technology (BEST) program hosted **UNHack 2020** from November, 20 to 22, 2020. The three-day experiential learning Design Sprint, led by Professor Andrew Maxwell, attracted more than 230 participants. Attendees were able to develop their problem-solving skills in the interactive online event while tackling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



In 2019, York University launched **C4** - the Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom, which brings together third- and fourth-year students from different Faculties into multi-disciplinary teams through experiential learning who are focused on solving pressing, real-world challenges posed by organizations operating in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. In 2020-2021, all the C4 projects were aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.



## C4 Project:

The Office of Sustainability was one of the organizations that made a pitch to the C4 Classroom. The pitch:

**“How might students take the lead on York’s contributions to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals”.**

Students: Codrina Ibanescu, Shahmir Masood, Thomas Hull, Michael Spencer, and Kalki Kaplan, established a group and adopted the name Carbon Free Cooperative.

**The C4 Project’s deliverable was to organize resources through the lens of the SDGs, allowing students and others to access the following information in tandem:**

- educational resources for learning about the SDGs, broadly and individually
- organized volunteer opportunities
- initiatives or other platforms to begin their work in the field.

The goal was to inspire stakeholders and students and to impress upon them that their contribution to life matters. The tone expressed that the SDGs provide not only a valuable opportunity to help the world but also, that working towards these objectives can serve as a powerful tool for professional development, self-development and provide a sense of purpose

The aim is to ensure that the SDGs are implemented both locally and globally. On a practical level, they are collectively co-creating a mobile app and a website (linked below) that serves as an archive and networking platform for students to engage, and stakeholders to connect. This website and mobile app will serve as an archive and living media platform for resources, videos, books/articles on where and how students can become engaged with the SDGs within their own campus and communities, digitally and physically, and will enhance student engagement, sustainability, praxis and research on campus.

### Future Ambition

- Connecting further with partners, non-governmental organizations, and stakeholders to provide students with opportunities to more deeply connect with sustainability, climate action, and the SDGs
- Incorporating land-based learning through Indigenous partnerships, to ensure that students gain the experiential learning experience that they are looking for – all while remaining connected to a digital community that offers membership opportunities, and members-only experiences and benefits
- Bridging sustainability, food sovereignty, art, entrepreneurship, and technology through curricula, and offer online events, masterclass series, trainings, certifications, and more



The Sustainability Innovation Fund (SIF) was launched in 2019 to support projects on the York University campuses that advance the Sustainability Strategy and build a culture of sustainability, while tackling real-world challenges through innovative solutions. This fund creates opportunities for the York University community to actively engage in sustainability initiatives and utilize the campus as a living lab, empowering individuals to be agents of change and take meaningful steps to reduce our impact on the planet.

## In 2020 there were five projects selected to be awarded the Sustainability Innovation Fund:

- Edible Campus: Community and Environmental Engagement Through Sustainability Education (Glendon); Project Lead: Reagan Brown
- GITIGE AAMOOGWIN Fostering crosspollination 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

Due to pandemic restrictions on campus, only one project was completed. A project by professor Lisa Myers which was renamed MIJIM Black and Indigenous Foods in Relations. MIJIM was the 2020-2021 Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change Inaugural Seminar series. It was designed and hosted by Finding Flowers Project's Co-Principal Investigators and EUC Assistant Professor Lisa Myers, and Finding Flowers Project's Research Associate Dana Prieto.



MIIJIM: Food as Relations was a series of seven conversations which was represented by Black, Indigenous and People of Colour food scholars, growers, earthworkers, artists, curators, professors, knowledge keepers, and advocates who gathered virtually across Canada.

**The word miijim is an anishinaabemowin word that broadly means food. In a closer reading of this word with language speaker Jeff Monague from Chimnissing, Lisa Myers learned that miijim also infers an offering and exchange, which inspired Myers to consider the many relations surrounding food. The relational aspect of food became the premise of this series and guided our format as a conversation series as a methodology and approach to engaging our guests.**

MIIJIM was presented via Zoom and YouTube Live between October 6, 2020, and March 16, 2021. The series brought together 22 diverse thinkers and makers to discuss the interconnections between art, earthwork, cultivation, and harvesting experiences that decentre colonial frameworks while thinking through labour and power relations related to food justice in urban and rural communities.

Through this conversation series, Finding Flowers was able to connect with knowledge holders and Elders from across the country and learn more about generative food systems that encompass medicine/food, growing, and cultivation. The series provided a platform to learn valuable teachings that will guide our research team; it also opened this knowledge to the broader public.

The development of this series was partially funded by the Government of Canada New Frontiers of Research Fund. In addition to this funding, MIIJIM received financial support from York University's Sustainability Innovation Fund, EUC Inaugural Seminar Series, and Lisa Myers' Personal Research.

In 2020-2021, the seminars attracted 3232 attendants averaging 300 people per seminar.





## Times Higher Education Global Impact Ranking

For the third year in a row, York University has been ranked highly by the Times Higher Education (THE) global Impact Ranking, which ranks universities on their work towards the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, York placed 11th in Canada and 67th overall against 1,115 post-secondary institutions from 94 different countries.



York ranked in the top 4% globally in two SDGs that closely align with the strategic focus of the University's Academic Plan (2020-2025), including 3rd in Canada and 27th in the world for SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals – which looks at how the University supports and collaborates with other universities in working towards the SDGs and 5th in Canada and 24th in the world for SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities which examines a university's stewardship of resources and its preservation of community heritage.

## Canada's Greenest Employer

York University has received the designation of being one of Canada's Greenest Employers for the ninth consecutive time, a testament to its dedication to sustainability through action, research, education and partnerships. Selected by Mediagroup Canada Inc., the 2021 Canada's Greenest Employers title recognizes organizations who make strides to reduce their ecological footprint, a commitment York has long been a leader in and holds as one of its core values.





## **SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY:**

**Goals, Action, Tracking  
Progress & Alignment to the  
Sustainable Development Goals  
2020-2021**

## Sustainability Strategy – People

<b>Goals</b>	<p><b>PEOPLE</b></p> <p><b>PE1:</b> 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>	<p><b>PEOPLE</b></p> <p><b>PE2:</b> 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>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Communication Strategy, Awareness and Engagement Strategy (2021)</li> <li>• Develop student engagement and experiential learning opportunities (on-going)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division of People Equity and Culture development of Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</li> <li>• Division of People, Equity and Culture Developing Anti-Black Racism Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of Sustainability created in DFA (2018)</li> <li>• 1 FTE created Program Director, Sustainability (2018)</li> <li>• 2 Work Study Student Positions created (2018)</li> <li>• Sustainability incorporated with first year orientation (2019)</li> <li>• Develop Sustainable Event Checklist/Certification (2019)</li> <li>• Implemented WWF Living Planet Leader Certification (2019)</li> <li>• HR embed sustainability in job description as a value statement (2019)</li> <li>• Sustainability orientation for all new employees in the Human Resources New Employee Onboarding Training (2020)</li> <li>• Refreshed Sustainable Office Certification (2020)</li> <li>• Implemented Sustainable Champion Network (2020)</li> <li>• Implemented SDG Student Hub (2020)</li> <li>• Community Forum on the SDGs (2021)</li> <li>• Sustainability/SDG Training Module in Development (2021)</li> <li>• Sustainability Communication Plan Completed (April 2021)</li> <li>• Sustainability/SDG Awareness/Engagement Campaign (April 2021)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Council &amp; Framework (2017)</li> <li>• New Division of People, Equity &amp; Culture created (2019)</li> <li>• Initiating dedicated searches to hire a minimum of six new Black faculty over the next three years (2020)</li> <li>• New Role Special Advisor Addressing Anti-Black Racism in LA&amp;PS (2020)</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Centre for Human Rights Delivering several online training modules on Challenging Unconscious Bias to faculty, staff and students (2020)</li> <li>• Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion Strategy (2021)</li> <li>• The York University Economic &amp; Social Impact Report (2021)</li> <li>• Anti-Black Racism Framework (2021)</li> <li>• A new ORU, the Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Languages (2021)</li> </ul>
<b>Status</b>		
<b>Alignment with SDGs</b>	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;">  <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;">  <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> </div> </div>

**Legend:**



Early development



Ongoing



Significant Progress

*\*Note some actions are integrated within multiple goals.*

## Sustainability Strategy – Knowledge

Goals	KNOWLEDGE	KNOWLEDGE
Goals	<p><b>KN1:</b> York University’s international reputation in sustainability education and research draws students from across Canada and around the world to study here.</p>	<p><b>KN2:</b> York University utilizes its campus operations, grounds and buildings as ‘living labs’ that provide experiential education opportunities to both undergraduate and graduate students.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit to global rankings such as Times Higher Education and AASHE STARS</li> <li>Greenest Employer (on-going)</li> <li>• Identify gaps and areas of improvement from rankings</li> <li>• Fair Trade Campus Certification*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research other institutions and guidelines/ framework</li> <li>• Develop a Campus as a Living Lab Framework</li> <li>• Identify Stakeholders</li> <li>• Establish a working group</li> </ul>
Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Schulich ranked amongst world best in responsible business (2019)</li> <li>• The Youth Climate Report GIS Project recognized by UN with an SDG Action Award (2021)</li> <li>• C&amp;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)</li> <li>• New Faculty of Environmental &amp; Urban Change (2020)</li> <li>• CIFAL York – UN Institute for Training &amp; Research (2020)</li> <li>• York named Canada’s Greenest Employer for the 9th consecutive Year (2021)</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• York U hosted Sustainable &amp; 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</li> <li>• York one out of six founding partners in a new global UNITWIN research network on Education for Sustainable Development (2021)</li> <li>• Disaster &amp; Emergency Management (Bachelor of Disaster Management &amp; Graduate Program in Disaster Management)</li> <li>• Advanced Disaster, Emergency and Rapid Response Simulation (ADERSIM)</li> <li>• Collaboration for Emergency Management, Policy and Preparedness Research (CEMPRR Lab)</li> <li>• Planetary Film Lab for Indigenous Youth</li> <li>• Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YU Experience Hub (2016)</li> <li>• Opening of the Las Nubes EcoCampus in Costa Rica (2016)</li> <li>• Launch of Semester Abroad Program in Costa Rica (2017)</li> <li>• Maloca Community Garden integrated into curriculum in EUC</li> <li>• C4 Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom (2019)</li> <li>• SHAD York in the Lassonde School of Engineering (2019)</li> <li>• Lassonde BEST Lab &amp; UNHack Lassonde (2019)</li> <li>• Various faculty members have partnered with Office of Sustainability to integrate campus sustainability into curriculum and class projects</li> </ul>
Status		
Alignment with SDGs	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="background-color: #c00000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION   </div> <div style="background-color: #0070c0; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS   </div> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS   </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="background-color: #c00000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION   </div> <div style="background-color: #ffc000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES   </div> <div style="background-color: #0070c0; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS   </div> </div>

**Legend:**



Early development



Ongoing



Significant Progress

*\*Note some actions are integrated within multiple goals.*

## Sustainability Strategy – Knowledge (Continued)

<b>Goals</b>	<p><b>KNOWLEDGE</b></p> <p><b>KN3:</b> 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>	<p><b>KNOWLEDGE</b></p> <p><b>KN4:</b> York University is recognized as a world leader in applied sustainability research.</p>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify appropriate stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embed within the York Strategic Research Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community of Practice to integrate SDGs into curriculum (2021)</li> <li>Experimental ESD course with York University English Language Institute to integrate the SDGs into language teaching</li> <li>Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) project</li> <li>SDG Student Hub (part of the global network through the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) 2020)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Research Plan 2018-2023 (Forging a Just and Equitable World)</li> <li>Ecological Footprint Initiative launched in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (2017-2018)</li> <li>No. 1 York’s ranking in social sciences &amp; humanities publications in terms of the % &amp; no. of publications, comprehensive category, 2013-2017 (Research Infosome, 2019)</li> <li>Schulich ranked amongst world best in responsible business (2019)</li> <li>James and Joanne Love Chair in Environmental Engineering at The Lassonde School of Engineering</li> <li>UNESCO Chair on Reorienting Education towards Sustainability delivered more than 30 lectures and keynotes at international UNESCO/UN-related events (2020)</li> <li>New Faculty of Environmental &amp; Urban Change (2020)</li> <li>CIFAL York – UN Institute for Training &amp; Research (2020)</li> <li>York U joined Sustainable Development Solutions Network SDSN (2020) + developed the SDG Student Hub</li> <li>New ORU The Centre for Bee Ecology, Evolution and Conservation (2020)</li> <li>Partner of the new Peel Regional Centre of Expertise in ESD (2020)</li> <li>New ORU The Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Languages (2021)</li> <li>Lassonde School of Engineering research partner in Peel Goods Movement Task Force (2020), Smart Freight Centre activities</li> </ul>
<b>Status</b>		
<b>Alignment with SDGs</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> </div> </div>

**Legend:**



Early development



Ongoing



Significant Progress

*\*Note some actions are integrated within multiple goals.*

## Sustainability Strategy – Knowledge (Continued)

<b>Goals</b>	<p><b>KNOWLEDGE</b></p> <p><b>KN5:</b> York University researchers and staff work together to develop, conduct and apply leading edge research and technology in sustainability initiatives.</p>	<p><b>KNOWLEDGE</b></p> <p><b>KN6:</b> 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>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a strategy for action and implementation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Division of People Equity and Culture development of Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</li> <li>• Division of People, Equity and Culture Developing Anti-Black Racism Strategy &amp; Implementation Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecological Footprint Initiative in the Faculty of Environmental &amp; Urban Change</li> <li>• #IndigenousESD Best Practice Research in 21 countries submitted to UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights</li> <li>• Research in Lassonde School of Engineering (Environment &amp; Climate Change; Infrastructure Development; Intelligence and Interactive Systems; Bioengineering; Space Exploration)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CFIAL York partnership with UNITAR (2021)</li> <li>• UN Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness (2021)</li> <li>• Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Languages (2021)</li> <li>• International Association University Cluster (2020)</li> <li>• The Centre for Bee Ecology, Evolution and Conservation (2020)</li> <li>• UNESCO Chair in Reorientating Education towards Sustainability (partner institutions in 70+ countries)</li> <li>• The Centre of Excellence in Responsible Business (COERB)</li> <li>• International Network of Teacher Education Institutions (INTEI) Network (2019)</li> <li>• UNITWIN (2021)</li> <li>• #IndigenousESD: ESDfor2030 Research Network (2017)</li> <li>• Centre for Research in Earth &amp; Space Sciences</li> <li>• Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research (planetary health, global health and humanitarianism and global health foresighting)</li> </ul>
<b>Status</b>		
<b>Alignment with SDGs</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="background-color: #c00000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION   </div> <div style="background-color: #0072bc; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS   </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS   </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="background-color: #c00000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION   </div> <div style="background-color: #0072bc; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS   </div> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS   </div> </div>

**Legend:**



Early development



Ongoing



Significant Progress

*\*Note some actions are integrated within multiple goals.*

## Sustainability Strategy – Place

<b>Goals</b>	<p><b>PLACE</b></p> <p><b>PL1:</b> York University integrates sustainability into both long-term institutional strategic planning and day-to-day decision-making.</p>	<p><b>PLACE</b></p> <p><b>PL2:</b> As an established institutional value, York 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>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate sustainability in the IRP</li> <li>• Create awareness and education for senior leadership to embed sustainability within operations and decision-making processes</li> <li>• Update Sustainability Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop building standards*</li> <li>• Development of Campus as a Living Lab*</li> </ul>
<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Procurement Policy (2019)</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• Integrated Resource Plan has integrated sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals</li> <li>• Service Excellence and University Service Centre incorporates principles of Sustainability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rob &amp; Cheryl McEwan Graduate Study &amp; Research Building (LEED Gold); unique glass solar chimney drive passive natural ventilation; thermally active building system radiant heating &amp; cooling; energy use is modeled at 71.4 % below Canada’s Model National Energy Code (representing a 67.4% reduction in GHG)</li> </ul>
<b>Status</b>		
<b>Alignment with SDGs</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>

**Legend:**



Early development



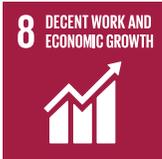
Ongoing



Significant Progress

*\*Note some actions are integrated within multiple goals.*

## Sustainability Strategy – Place (Continued)

<b>Goals</b>	<p><b>PLACE</b></p> <p><b>PL3:</b> York University integrates sustainability into its overall financial plan, integrated resource plans and procurement, and is a responsible investor with respect to sustainability.</p>	<p><b>PLACE</b></p> <p><b>PL4:</b> York University has an ongoing sustainability innovation fund to support sustainability projects on its campuses.</p>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and carry out a responsible investment /sustainable finance strategy</li> <li>• Embed sustainability within the IRP*</li> <li>• Develop a Sustainable Procurement Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a framework and Sustainability Innovation Fund Program</li> <li>• Develop an application and selection process</li> <li>• Award funding</li> <li>• Report on progress</li> </ul>
<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Governors approve Sustainable Investing Strategy through Environmental Social Governance (2018)</li> <li>• Board of Governors approve Social Procurement Policy (2019)</li> <li>• Sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals embedded into the IRP (2020)</li> <li>• Sustainability embedded into Service Excellence and University Services Centre (2020)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Innovation Fund Framework Developed (2019)</li> <li>• Year 1 was launched and awarded funding for 5 projects (2020)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Edible Campus: Community and Environmental Engagement Through Sustainability Education (Glendon); Project Lead: Reagan Brown</li> <li>- GITIGE AAMOGWIN Fostering cross-pollinations and land-based education on Indigenous Food Systems; Project Lead: Professor Lisa Myers</li> <li>- Rez Race to Zero; Project Lead: Steven Prince</li> <li>- Vegetate to Pollinate; Project Lead: Kathryn Robinson</li> <li>- York University Community Composting Centre; Project Lead: John Simoulidis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Projects delayed implementation because of COVID-19</li> <li>• Lessons learnt identified for continuous improvement (2020)</li> </ul>
<b>Status</b>		
<b>Alignment with SDGs</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>

**Legend:**



Early development



Ongoing



Significant Progress

*\*Note some actions are integrated within multiple goals.*

## Sustainability Strategy – Place (Continued)

<b>Goals</b>	<p><b>PLACE</b></p> <p><b>PL5:</b> 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>	<p><b>PLACE</b></p> <p><b>PL6:</b> 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>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set Carbon Emission Reduction Targets (2020)</li> <li>• Develop an Energy Management Plan</li> <li>• Measure Ecological and Emission Footprint</li> <li>• Improve sustainable transportation options</li> <li>• Develop building standards*</li> <li>• Prioritize waste reduction practices</li> <li>• Develop a Green Fleet Strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Landscape Master Plan</li> <li>• Maloca Gardens Plan (EUC)</li> </ul>
<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of the two TTC Subway Stations on Keele Campus (2017)</li> <li>• Community consultation on setting carbon emission targets; recommendations made to the President (2020)</li> <li>• York Community Bike Shop, operated by Regenesis in the Quad</li> <li>• Commitment to Carbon Neutrality 2049 has been achieved and communicated (2020)</li> <li>• Partnership with the City of Toronto Bike Share; two stations installed on Sentinel Road (2020)</li> <li>• Joined City of Toronto Green Will Initiative (2020) partnership to reduce GHG emission</li> <li>• Currently in progress of developing a definition of scope 3 emissions and the boundary of institutional activities (2021)</li> <li>• Facilities developing Energy Management Plan to create a roadmap to reduce emission (2021)</li> <li>• Ecological Footprint Initiative to measure York U’s ecological footprint and emissions (Scope 1, 2, 3)</li> <li>• Community Awareness &amp; Engagement Plan in development to be launched (April 2021)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YUM Famer’s Market in collaboration with Regenesis and Food Services</li> <li>• Facilities utilizes an integrated management of the University landscape through responsible planning, design, development, renovation and maintenance to achieve a sustainable landscape.</li> <li>• Grounds planting native and xeriscape gardens on campus</li> <li>• Maloca Community Garden &amp; Bee Research on Campus</li> <li>• York University Master Plan</li> <li>• Community Engagement Tree Planting Events and Campus Clean Up Events</li> <li>• Human Resources community engagement on well-being (2020)</li> </ul>
<b>Status</b>		
<b>Alignment with SDGs</b>	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="background-color: #f1c40f; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"><b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY </div> <div style="background-color: #f39c12; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"><b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES </div> <div style="background-color: #d35400; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"><b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION </div> <div style="background-color: #27ae60; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="background-color: #27ae60; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"><b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING </div> <div style="background-color: #27ae60; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION </div> <div style="background-color: #27ae60; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND </div> </div>

**Legend:**



Early development



Ongoing



Significant Progress

*\*Note some actions are integrated within multiple goals.*

## Sustainability Strategy – Place (Continued)

<b>Goals</b>	<p><b>PLACE</b></p> <p><b>PL7:</b> 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>	<p><b>PLACE</b></p> <p><b>PL8:</b> 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>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop building and renovation standards*</li> <li>• Develop experiential learning opportunities to integrate campus operations and teaching, learning &amp; research (reflective as per goal of the Campus as a Living Lab) *</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop buildings and renovation standards*</li> </ul>
<b>Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new development and renovations incorporate sustainability measures into the design and construction.</li> <li>• Opening of the Las Nubes EcoCampus in Costa Rica (2017)</li> <li>• Lassonde UNHACK – Design Solutions for a Sustainable Future (Design Thinking) (2019, 2020)</li> <li>• Cross Campus Capstone Classroom C4 (since 2019)</li> <li>• Lassonde BEST Start-Up Experience (2021)</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<p>The most recent new development has met Toronto Green Standards and build/targeted as LEED Gold standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lassonde School of Engineering, LEED Gold (2016)</li> <li>• The Second Student Centre, LEED Gold (2018)</li> <li>• Rob &amp; Cheryl McEwan Graduate &amp; Research Building, LEED Gold (2019)</li> <li>• School of Continuing Studies (under construction), Targeted LEED Gold</li> <li>• Markham Centre Campus (under construction), Targeted LEED Gold</li> </ul>
<b>Status</b>		
<b>Alignment with SDGs</b>	     	     

**Legend:**



Early development



Ongoing



Significant Progress

*\*Note some actions are integrated within multiple goals.*



## A community of changemakers working to create a better future

York believes that our diverse community, excellent learning and research, and commitment to collaboration allows us to address complex global challenges to create positive change in the local and global communities we serve. Our staff, students and faculty are passionate about building a more innovative, just and sustainable world.

## Contact

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