



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA

Sustainability Strategic Plan Progress Report May 2022-April 2023

Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.



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Message from the VP&P

This report comes at an especially exciting time: the University of Toronto has made a commitment to become Climate Positive across all three campuses. Our campus plays a key role in this success, guided by goals of our ten-year [Sustainability Strategic Plan](#).

UTM has made great progress since publishing this plan in 2020, thanks to the leadership of our faculty, staff, librarians, and students, including members of the [Principal's Sustainability Advisory Committee](#) and Sustainability Working Groups. Our campus is on track to go carbon neutral by 2043 and [climate positive](#) by 2050. We have expanded green projects like our [UTM Farm](#), which uses 99% less water than traditional methods to grow over 13,000 plants for campus eateries. Our community is sharing sustainability insights in teaching and research, marked by the continued success of our [sustainability certificate](#).

These accomplishments reflect our special opportunity – as this city's only comprehensive university campus, on 225 acres of ecologically vital greenbelt – to embed sustainability in everything we do. By embracing sustainability education, leading climate research, and

launching green initiatives, UTM is making a difference that extends beyond campus, into Mississauga, Peel Region, and beyond. I am proud to be part of a community that's leaving the world healthier than we found it – and grateful for the work that makes it possible. Thank you.

So, as we celebrate our accomplishments, we can also look forward to work ahead: sustainability is ongoing. It invites learning and collaboration. And we can all play a crucial role. I am excited for what's next as we build a more sustainable present and future here at UTM.

Yours gratefully,



Ian Orchard
Acting Vice-President and Principal
University of Toronto Mississauga

Message from PSAC Chairs

The Principal's Sustainability Advisory Committee (PSAC) is pleased to present the 2022-2023 Sustainability Strategic Plan Progress Report, reflecting the campus's ongoing commitment to advancing sustainability at UTM. Over the past year, the Campus has witnessed substantial progress in our sustainability initiatives, and this report serves as a recognition of the transformative impact achieved.

In crafting the Sustainability Strategic Plan, PSAC aimed to create a comprehensive framework that underscores the integral role of

sustainability in all aspects of the university. With this mindset, PSAC embarked on a collective journey to drive meaningful change. The progress we have achieved over the past year stands as a testament to the dedication and hard work put forth by the UTM community. The commitment shown by students, faculty, staff, librarians and partners who embraced sustainability as a shared responsibility is humbling. Your enthusiasm and creative contributions are continuously helping to bring the campus's sustainability goals to life, turning aspirations into tangible actions.



Deborah Brown
Chief Administrative Officer
Co-Chair, Principal's Sustainability
Advisory Committee



Nicholas Rule
Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean
Co-Chair, Principal's Sustainability Advisory
Committee

Vision

UTM aims to foster a culture of sustainability necessary to become a world leader in sustainable practice. Our vision of sustainability, as articulated by the Sustainability Pathways Working Group (SPWG), rests on the principle that the biosphere is the foundation for all human activities: the well-being of present and future generations depends on the health of our shared ecosystems. We seek to create a culture that respects the earth and all its inhabitants. Influenced by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), our commitment also encompasses the 17 UN SDGs.

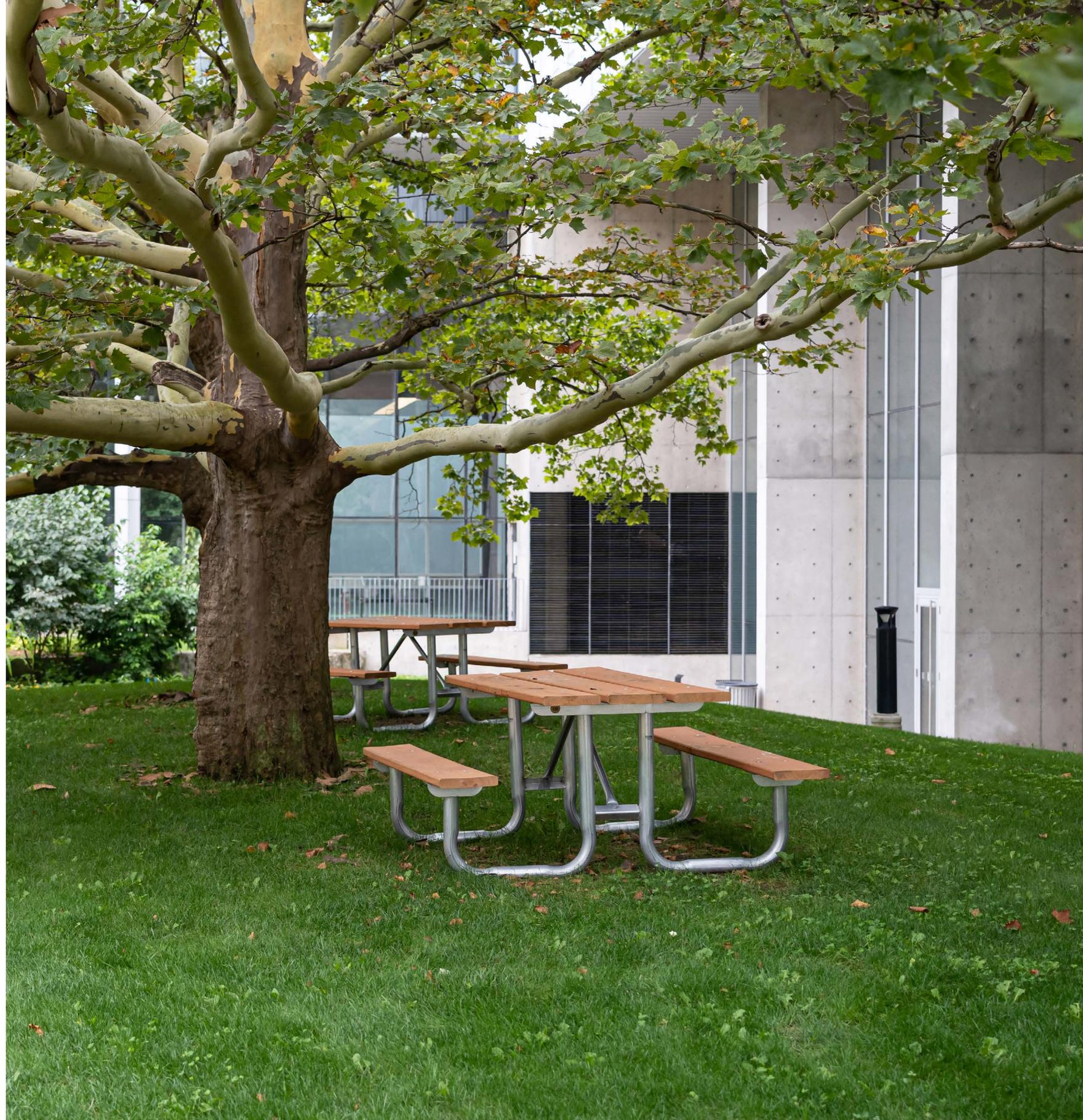
- 1 Academic Programs and Curriculum
- 2 Research
- 3 Campus Engagement
- 4 Civic Engagement
- 5 Human Resources and Infrastructure
 - 5.1-5.4 Facilities and Built Environment
 - 5.5-5.7 Food and Dining
 - 5.8 Procurement
 - 5.9-5.12 Wellness/Well-being
 - 5.13-5.14 Waste
 - 5.15-5.16 Transportation



Introduction

The Sustainability Strategic Plan was created over a period of 11 months, beginning with the establishment of the Principal's Sustainability Advisory Committee (PSAC), a committee comprised of passionate students, faculty, and staff. Five key pillars, 26 goals, and 102 targets emerged to organize the Plan into short-and long-term goals. Each goal remains consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS 2.2) of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

This report summarizes our progress from May 2022-April 2023, building on the previous progress report released last year. UTM has been implementing the 2022 targets, while also “unpausing” some of the 2021 targets that had been delayed due to the pandemic. Additionally, the University of Toronto (U of T) as a whole, has a lot to celebrate from this past fiscal year, including being ranked one of Canada's Greenest Employers for the tenth year in a row, ranking second in the world in the first-ever QS Sustainability Ranking, and establishing a tri-campus waste reduction working group to collaborate on a joint effort to divert and reduce waste. Lastly, UTM is incredibly proud to announce their official commitment to join the St. George (UTSG) campus and become a climate positive campus: www.utm.utoronto.ca/green/home/climate-positive



Our Progress in a Snapshot: Targets



33
Completed



8
Accelerated



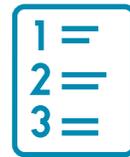
7
Paused



10
In Progress



16
Ongoing



28
Planned

As of April 2023, UTM has made substantial progress with its 10-year Sustainability Strategic Plan, demonstrating the university's commitment to realizing its sustainability goals. The snapshot of our progress, showcased above, reveals the encouraging headway we have made. With the Sustainability Strategic Plan serving as the guiding force, the university is confidently navigating its sustainability journey in harmony with the UN SDGs. Furthermore, UTM is firmly committed to transparency and accountability, upholding its pledge to release a comprehensive yearly progress report. This report will keep the campus community informed about ongoing sustainability efforts, achieved milestones, and the university's pursuit of the Sustainability Strategic Plan's goals. By sharing progress, UTM fosters a sense of shared responsibility and inclusivity, empowering everyone to contribute actively to the sustainability journey.

Advancing Sustainability at UTM



20
2022 PSAC Members



7
of Subcommittees



5
of Pillars



47,720
Total Impressions
SOCIAL MEDIA



135
Instagram Posts
SOCIAL MEDIA



1,651
Online Followers
SOCIAL MEDIA



SILVER
STARS Rating



SILVER
Fair Trade



SECTION 1

Academics, Sustainability Curriculum, and Research

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



Academics, Sustainability Curriculum, and Research

Academic Programs and Curriculum

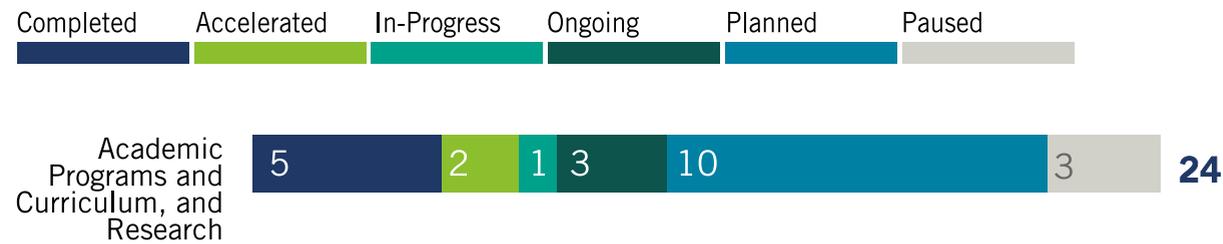
AMBITION

UTM strives to create learning opportunities that afford students the space to explore creative approaches to current systems, to apply critical thinking skills, and to take calculated risks. We aim to offer interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate learning pathways that all students may access, regardless of their degree program.

Research

AMBITION

UTM will become a pioneer for inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research related to sustainability. Our research opportunities will provide a unique academic space to work in multi-disciplinary teams on various sustainability-related issues and their solutions.



The Certificate of Completion in Global Sustainability



In the last Progress Report, the Certificate of Completion in Global Sustainability was highlighted as it launched in fall 2021. The goal of the Certificate is to provide an opportunity for all UTM undergraduate students to have access to an education in global sustainability, which includes all aspects of the planet and human wellbeing covered by the United Nations' 17 UN SDGs. This noncurricular certificate program includes topics spanning poverty, hunger, health, education, gender and social equality, clean water and energy, sustainable consumption, economic growth, climate change, environmental conservation and more.

Since the launch of the program, 447 students have registered, and 283 students have completed the certificate. Given restraints on number of students per section of the module, the program is actively looking for ways to admit more students into the modules, expanding the reach to more students. These 283 students have participated in modules such as:

- International Relations of Sustainability
- Interdisciplinary Perspectives
- Sustainable Consumption
- Environmental Activism
- Leadership in Sustainability
- Carbon-Free Energy
- Circular Economy and Fashion Industry
- Systems Thinking



Campus as a Living Lab (CLL), Community Engaged Learning (CEL), and Mentorship

GOAL 1.2 Assert Leadership in Sustainability Teaching

From May 2022-April 2023 the Sustainability Office participated in academic courses, and civic engagement programs. Two formal mentorship programs were launched: the Sustainability Ambassadors Program and the Waste Ambassadors Program. The Sustainability Office offered two work-study opportunities: a Social Media and Marketing Coordinator, a role dedicated to creating content for the @sustainableutm Instagram page, and a Waste and Material Recovery Coordinator, a role dedicated to leading the Waste Ambassador Program, and supporting campus waste operations. Additionally, UTM participated in SEE@UTM, a high school co-op program through the Peel District School Board (PDSB), where Facilities Management and Planning (FMP) mentored four students, one specifically in sustainability. Lastly, the Office participated in other events such as STEAM Days, and post-secondary career fairs.

UTM CLL/CEL Courses

- ENV332H5: Practicum in Environmental Project Management (Winter 2023)
- JEGY4005: Geography/Environment Science Internship (Fall 2022 – Winter 2023)



Samantha Diiorio, Sustainability Coordinator and Claire Westgate, Manager, External Partnerships and Communication attending Lorne Park Secondary School Career Fair (left). Samantha Diiorio, Sustainability Coordinator with JEGY400 students (right).

SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION



Sustainability Ambassadors volunteering during Sustainability Week

Sustainability Ambassador Program

GOAL 1.2 Assert Leadership in Sustainability Teaching

The Sustainability Ambassador Program, an initiative of the Master of Science in Sustainability Management (MScSM) program, was introduced in the summer of 2022. It offers students a platform to actively engage with their peers and champion sustainability concepts throughout the campus community. The program's initiatives are rooted in the principles of the United Nations' 17 UN SDGs, the Social Change Model of Leadership Development, and the Sustainability Triangle.

By participating in the program, students are given the opportunity to deepen their understanding of sustainability and cultivate their outreach and engagement skills. In its first year, the program successfully recruited 26 students who actively organized and promoted events such as Sustainability Week and worked with youth in the community through 'Let's Talk Sustainability'.



Waste Ambassador brainstorming session (top), Waste Ambassadors volunteering during UTMSU Halloween events (left), Waste Ambassador Training session (middle), Waste Ambassadors tabling in the Davis Meeting Place (right)

Waste Ambassador Program

GOAL 1.2 Assert Leadership in Sustainability Teaching

In addition to the launch of the Sustainability Ambassador program, UTM's Sustainability Office introduced the Waste Ambassador Program in the summer of 2022. This student-led initiative aims to effectively communicate knowledge on waste management to campus stakeholders with the goal of fostering better waste sorting behaviour on campus.

The Waste Ambassador Program provides valuable experience for students passionate about waste management and educational initiatives. Students who sign up to be waste ambassadors receive training in waste sorting on campus and gain foundational knowledge to educate their peers on the importance of proper waste management practices. Throughout the year, waste ambassadors actively participated in various events, including outreach through tabling, bi-weekly patrolling, and litter clean-ups.

20
waste ambassadors
signed up

22
events and bin
patrolling that occurred

147
volunteer hours
contributed

Research

Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Grant

GOAL 2.1 Promote Sustainability Research

UofT Faculty Members - Profs Shashi Kant, Yue Li, Soo Min Toh, Cynthia Goh, and James MacLellan - received a research grant to quantify the Scope 3 emissions of the University of Toronto from the Climate Positive Energy Strategic Research Initiative of the university. The project is titled: Scope 3 Emissions: A Conceptual Accounting Framework and Measurement of Selected Categories of Emissions, Climate Positive Energy Research Initiative U of T. This grant was provided by U of T's Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI) Climate Positive Energy research.

Sustainability Scholars at UTM

GOAL 2.2 Generate Inventory of Sustainability Scholars

The Office of the Vice-Principal, Research (OVPR) created an inventory of faculty at UTM who conduct research in the sustainability field, finding that there are 22 UTM faculty who actively research topics on sustainability. Moreover, the UN SDGs are another research area being explored by UTM Faculty, with 7 UN SDGs being actively researched by 49 Faculty members. The specific UN SDGs include goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, goal 13: Climate Action, goal 14: Life Below Water, goal 15: Life on Land.

22
UTM faculty who actively
research topics on sustainability

SECTION 2

Transforming our Campus



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND

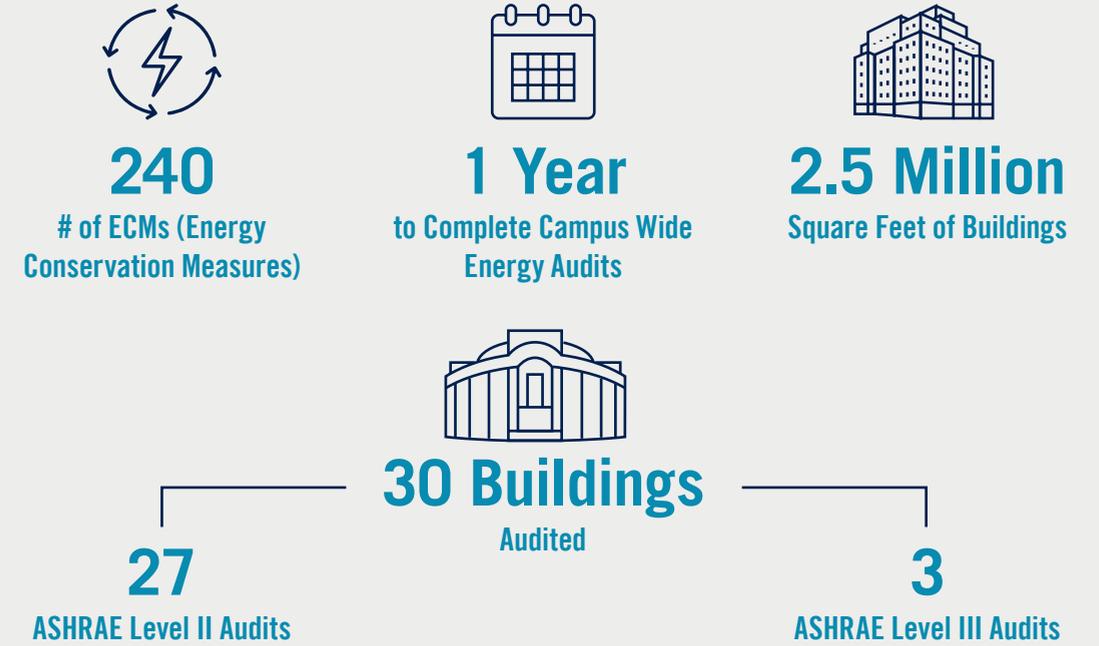


Climate Change and Emissions Update

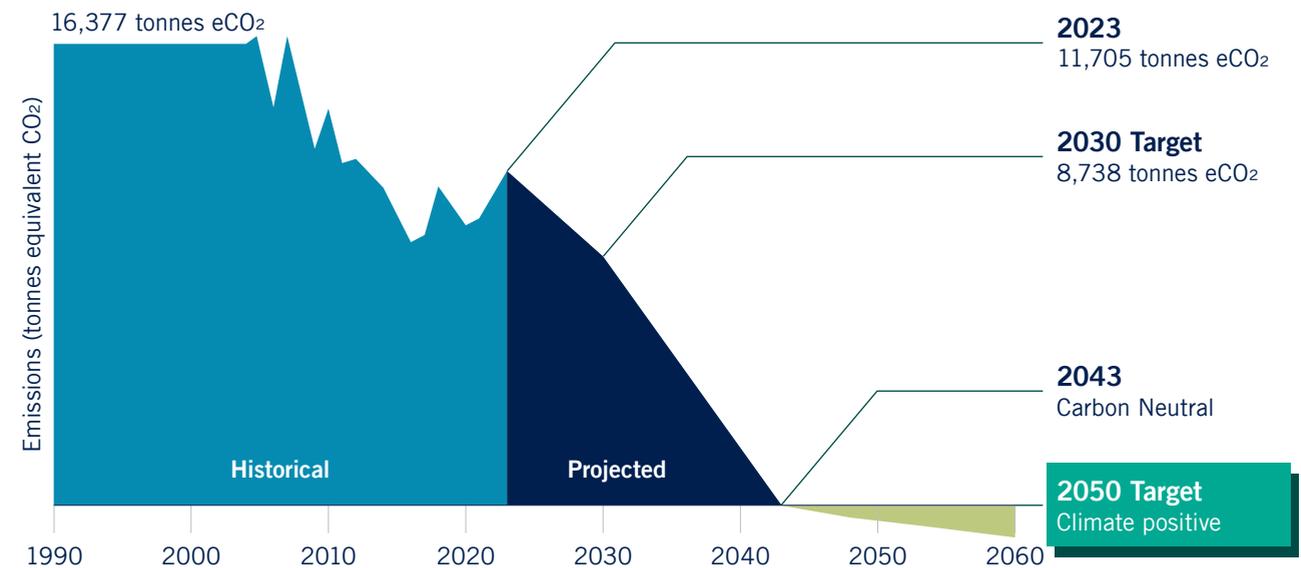


UTM has continued to implement GHG reduction projects that work towards achieving UTM's climate goals. In recent years, while UTM has significantly expanded to accommodate for the increase in students, resulting in more buildings, energy use, and GHGs, the campus has seen a reduction of 28 per cent in GHGs emissions compared to 1990 levels. This is the equivalent of taking approximately 14,000 cars off the road. In March 2023, UTM completed a comprehensive year-long campus-wide energy audit of its 30 buildings, including 27 ASHRAE level II and 3 ASHRAE level III audits. The results from the audits gave UTM a comprehensive look at the systems in the buildings (i.e. lighting, heating and air-conditioning, building envelope) to assess energy consumption and reduce GHG emissions. The audits recommend almost 240 energy conservation measures (ECMs) to be implemented over the next 27 years to achieve UTM's climate goals. UTM is committed to achieve the 2030 (37 per cent from 1990 levels), 2043 (carbon neutral), and 2050 (climate positive) targets. Creating a net positive benefit to the environment is an ambitious goal that the majority of higher education institutions have not yet committed to, which further showcases U of T's serious dedication to leading in the fight against the climate crisis.

Campus Wide Energy Audits



2050 Climate Positive Target, Mississauga Campus

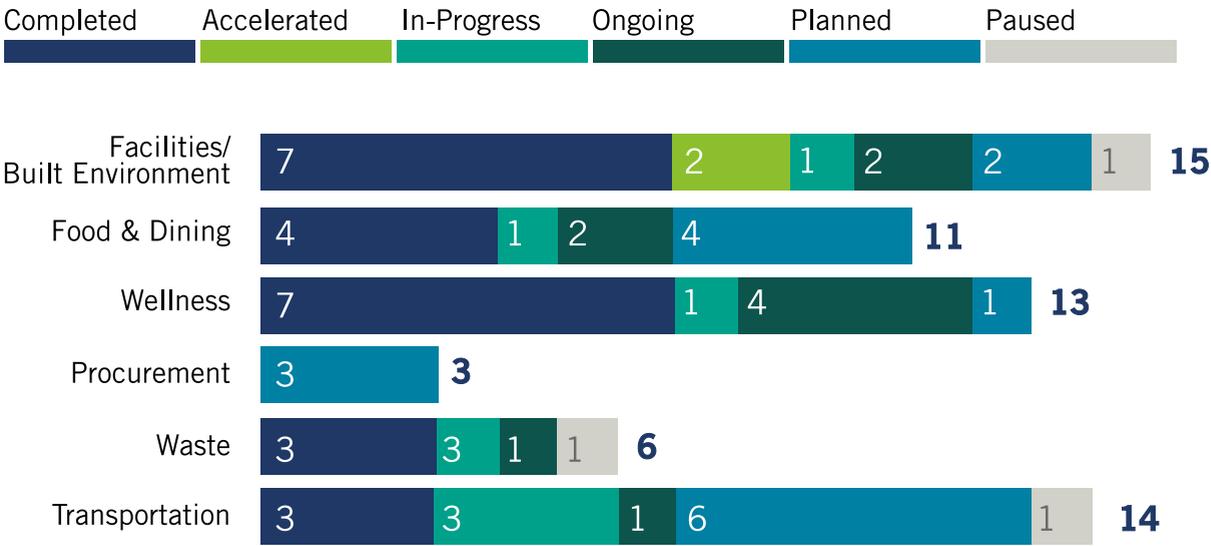




Transforming our Campus

Human Resources & Infrastructure

AMBITION
UTM will build sustainability into human resources and infrastructure management practices



Energy Reduction through Lighting Improvement

GOAL 5.1 UTM will commit to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction

In April 2023, UTM completed a lighting retrofit project for the P8 parking deck located in the north-east corner of campus, in collaboration with UTM’s leading ornithologist to ensure bird nests located in the parking structure would not be impacted. P8 can accommodate 555 vehicles including 6 barrier free spots, 6 EV dual-chargers capable of charging 12 vehicles, and 19 carpool spots. Lighting in this deck consisted of 150W pulse start metal halide (MH) fixtures that were old and less efficient. Additionally, these fixtures were past their life expectancy and finding replacements was becoming a challenge. The parking deck underwent an LED lighting retrofit to upgrade all the lighting in the area. The immediate results were significant, as the new LED lighting is distributed very evenly and makes the parking lot sufficiently brighter. This retrofit also results in energy consumption reduction, the new LED lights are more efficient than the MH lights, which will lead to an anticipated \$80,000 of electricity savings over 10 years. Lastly, this retrofit project will save UTM money on maintenance and replacements costs, where the MH bulbs had to be replaced every 2-3 years, the LED lights will only need to be replaced every 5-10 years, based on current usage.

ATEMI

GOAL 5.3 Implement program in Scope 3 emissions reduction

The ATEMI (Air Travel Emissions Mitigation Initiative) program, introduced by the (UTSG) campus Sustainability Office, is designed to address the issue of air travel emissions resulting from business-related trips undertaken by members of the University’s community. This tri-campus initiative seeks to find a harmonious approach that both reduces air travel emissions and compensates for them when essential travel is unavoidable. The core principle of ATEMI revolves around levying fees on air travel and channelling the collected funds to support various carbon offset projects. These projects include activities such as tree planting, vehicle electrification, and the implementation of carbon capture techniques. It is important to note that the University of Toronto manages these offset projects internally, a measure taken to ensure transparency and alignment with the University’s broader emissions reduction objectives. ATEMI was officially launched in 2023 and adopts a fee structure based on travel distance, with a doubled rate for travel classes above economy.



UTM Grounds staff preparing salt brine solution



UTM Shipping Container Farm managed by Hospitality and Ancillary Services

Reducing Salt Use on Campus

GOAL 5.4 UTM will protect natural habitats on campus

Road salt is one of the leading causes of freshwater salinization in cold climates. Rapid urbanization in cities like Mississauga has meant an increase in roads and other impermeable surfaces (e.g., parking lots) that require winter de-icing. Typically, rock salt is added to these surfaces including important city transit pathways such as roads and walkways to clear snow and ice during and following a storm event. According to Credit Valley Conservation's (CVC)¹ 2023 Watershed Report Card, the most urbanized areas score the lowest, with grades from C to F, and it is shown road salt is the primary contributor to chloride in the watershed. Therefore, UTM is committed to reducing road salt on campus to avoid detrimental consequences to the local ecosystem. During the 2022-2023 winter season, in collaboration with Dr. Rosalind Murray, UTM piloted a brining solution on campus, which has led to a reduction of over 80% use of salt compared to pre-salting (1,760 pounds as opposed to 9,000 pounds).

80%
reduction in salt use

¹ Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) Watershed Report Card (2023) cvc.ca/watershed-report-card

UTM Farm

GOAL 5.7 Support on campus food production

UTM has officially launched its pioneering UTM Farm, situated outside the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre in Parking lot 9 (P9). This initiative took a conventional shipping container and transformed it into an innovative hub for sustainable cultivation. Under the guidance of specialized farmer, Pawel, the UTM Farm efficiently utilizes 36,960 inches of linear growing space and accommodates 8,800 plant sites within its compact 40 x 8 feet dimensions.

Using advanced LED technology and innovative hydroponics, the UTM Farm accelerates plant growth while minimizing water consumption—requiring less than 5 gallons daily to nourish over 13,000 plants. The farm predominantly grows herbs and leafy greens, which are then distributed to campus kitchens, promoting sustainability throughout the community. With anticipated yearly yields ranging from 2 to 6 tons, this initiative plays a crucial role in mitigating the carbon footprint typically associated with large-scale agriculture, extensive packaging, and extensive transportation.



Sustainable Change Office Program participants: Institute for Management and Innovation (IMI) reusable dishware in their office kitchen.
Office of the Registrar with office plants (Top right)

Sustainable Change Programs

GOAL 5.14 UTM will introduce new engagement initiatives for sustainability

Launched at the UTSG campus in April 2022, the Sustainable Change Programs are a suite of self-assessment checklists designed to engage and empower U of T students, staff and faculty to actively follow sustainable practices in five key areas: offices, residences, events, labs and courses. UTM adapted the program to best suit the campus and its unique needs. The Sustainability Office offered a pilot in Fall 2022 for the Sustainable Change Office program, resulting in 10 offices signing up with over 220 individuals participating in the program. Many fantastic initiatives were undertaken by the Team Leads and their departments including: clothing swaps, donating books for office libraries, introducing a 3-1 waste bin with composting in office kitchen areas, eliminating single-use items such as individual milk and creamers, purchasing reusable coffee pods or recycling K-pods through TerraCycle. Some teams also organized nature walks and participated in tree planting events.

The Sustainability Office is incredibly proud of the offices who participated in the program this year and looks forward to launching the remaining suite of Sustainable Change programs in the coming months.

Exploring Alternative Fuel Options for Campus Fleet

GOAL 5.16 Evaluate best alternative fuel options for fleet

As outlined in the “Section 1: Campus as a Living Lab (CLL), Community Engaged Learning (CEL), and Mentorship” section, the Sustainability Office participated in the JEGY4005: Geography/Environment Science Internship, during which one of the students spent their time analyzing UTM’s current fleet of vehicles and determining a path forward to transition to a more sustainable fleet. With the cooperation of the Grounds team, vehicle information was collected, and the student determined the replacement priority based on factors such as age, emissions ranking, and availability of an electric vehicle (EV) alternative. Additionally, through research performed by the student, it was recommended UTM apply for the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP) through Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) in the upcoming year to equip some key staff areas with EV chargers.

Wellness at UTM

GOAL 5.9 UTM will formally recognize the dedicated sustainability work of its community members

GOAL 5.10 UTM will align campus efforts with a Community of Care model

GOAL 5.11 UTM will explore flexible work arrangements

UTM welcomed many in-person events in the 2022-23 academic year, including the Health & Counselling Centre’s (HCC) annual Be Well Fair. The Sustainability Office delivered a workshop called “Being Positive in the Time of the Climate Crisis” where the goal was to engage in meaningful conversation, discuss solutions to cope with climate anxiety, and feel supported by other students. Additionally, the Sustainability Office was happy to recognize staff through the tri-campus Sustainable Action Awards, and UTM’s Principal Sustainability Award nominating Sustainable Change Office program Team Leads. Lastly, due to the pandemic and the shift to fully remote work for most of the U of T community, there was an adoption of Alternative Work Arrangements (AWAs). Formally, the AWAs state: *“The University of Toronto is committed to formalizing requests and opportunities for staff to participate in alternative work arrangements (i.e. remote work setting, hybrid-remote work setting, or differentiation in work hours on a weekly basis) by providing operationally supported, wellness-driven work arrangements.”*

The AWAs have significantly helped foster a positive workplace culture by allowing hybrid and flexible work hours, which not only supports staff mental health and wellness but also boosts productivity.

Goal 5.16

UTM will align long-term strategies with approaches that support environmentally friendly transportation

The UTM Grounds team is among the many departments on campus dedicated to bringing UTM closer to its goal of becoming a world leader in sustainable practices. In 2022, the team took a significant step towards this goal by investing in cutting-edge electric landscaping equipment, which replaced traditional gasoline and diesel-powered tools.

The upgraded equipment includes three electric ride-on zero-turn mowers, string trimmers,

backpack blowers, hedge trimmers, and a small self-propelled mower specially designed for use around residence buildings. By transitioning to electric alternatives, the grounds team is making significant strides toward achieving the target of transitioning 50 percent of the campus fleet to alternative fuel options, thereby substantially reducing UTM's GHG emissions.

Embracing these innovative electric technologies not only reduces the university's carbon footprint but also sets an inspiring example for the entire campus community. As older equipment eventually reaches its end of life, the grounds team remains committed to phasing out as much gasoline and diesel-powered machinery as possible. Their forward-thinking approach involves continuously monitoring the market for newer, more efficient electric equipment to further enhance their sustainability efforts.



Engaging with our Stakeholders and the Community



Our Climate is Changing

Sustainability Office

Celebrating the Sustainable Change Agents of Today and Tomorrow

Are You Prepared?

MScSM
MANAGING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

regeresis

eco

SUSTAINABILITY CREW

Engaging with our Stakeholders and the Community

Campus Engagement

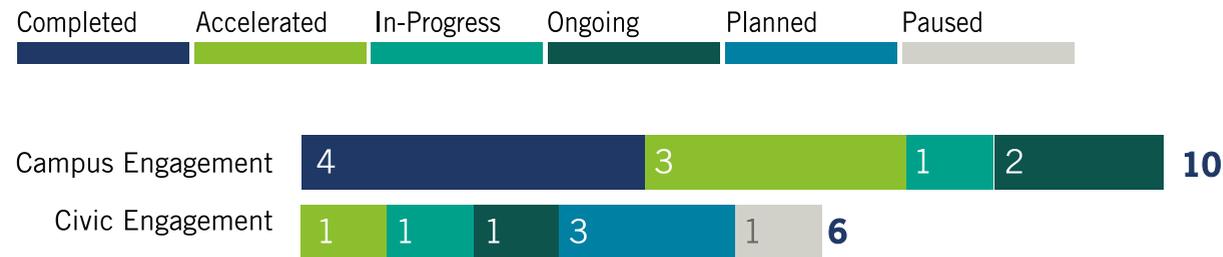
AMBITION

UTM will encourage widespread campus engagement, fostering a culture of sustainability with student, staff, librarian, and faculty-driven activities

Civic Engagement

AMBITION

UTM will establish local and global partnerships in teaching, research, and operations to promote best practices in communal sustainability



City of Mississauga and Sustainability Office staff posing in front of litter picked up at Campus Clean-up event (left). Participants receiving litter pick-up safety talk, and doing a pre-stretch with RAWC staff (right)

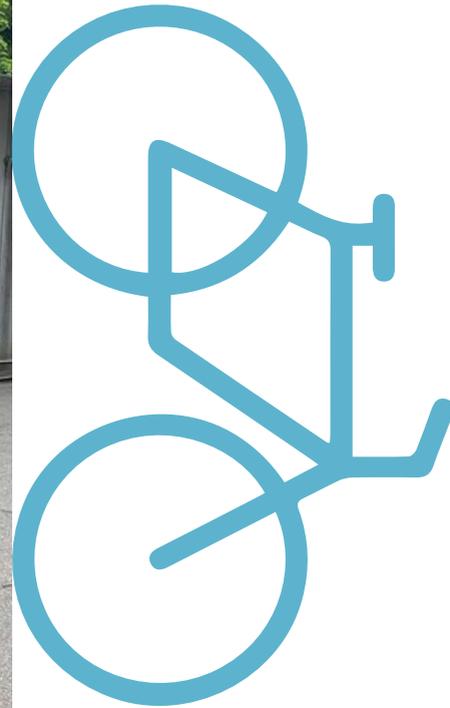
4.54
kg of recyclable materials picked up

68.13
kg of landfill picked up

120
campus clean-up participants

Celebrating Earth Day: Campus Clean-up 2022 & 2023
GOAL 3.2 UTM will develop and strengthen partnerships with internal stakeholders, including the Centre for Student Engagement, the Department of Student Housing and Residence Life, and the Department of Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness

The Sustainability Office in collaboration with the City of Mississauga hosted two campus litter clean-up events, the first in June 2022 to celebrate World Environment Day, and the other to celebrate Earth Day in April 2023. In total, 120 people participated, collecting 68.13 kg of landfill, and 4.54 kg of recyclable materials. These two events were brought to fruition as a collaborative effort with the City of Mississauga, UTM's Grounds team, and the Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness Centre (RAWC). The City provided different coloured bags for pick-up, litter pickers for those with accessibility needs, and a scale to weigh the results. The Grounds members led teams to the clean-up sites and provided safety tips to participants, and lastly, the RAWC led the entire group in a pre-clean-up stretch.



PEYA's Amazing Green Race participants stop at UTM BikeShare to learn how to safety check a bike.

Peel Environmental Youth Alliance (PEYA) Amazing Green Race (AGR)

GOAL 4.2 UTM will develop and strengthen partnerships with external universities, organizations, and committees – locally, nationally, and internationally

The UTM Sustainability Office was happy to participate in PEYA's first in-person Amazing Green Race since the beginning of the pandemic. The AGR is a full day outdoor event where youth (high school to age 30) walk, bike, scoot, or transit across the city completing various environmental challenges. In May 2022, UTM was the last stop of the AGR, where participants were tasked with exploring the campus and identifying some of the sustainability features such as green buildings and performing a safety check at BikeShare. Additionally, PEYA AGR participants had the extra challenge of collecting litter as they traversed the city, and in total they collected 71 lbs of litter!

Orientation Week (0-week) 2022

GOAL 3.2 UTM will develop and strengthen partnerships with internal stakeholders, including the Centre for Student Engagement, the Department of Student Housing and Residence Life, and the Department of Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness

UTM celebrated orientation week in full-force September 2022, being fully in-person since the university went virtual due to the pandemic. The Sustainability Office participated in a number of events between September 6th – 16th including:

- Centre for Student Engagement (CSE) – Resource and Involvement Fair
- U of T Tri-campus Parade/Clubs Fair
- CSE – Shoreline Clean-up at Erindale Park
- Institute for Management and Innovation (IMI) - Welcome BBQ
- City of Mississauga Community Ride at UTM
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU) Campus Clubs Crawl

The Sustainability Office worked with the President's Advisory Committee on the Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability (CECCS), the St. George and Scarbough campus to collaborate on prize giveaways. Additionally, we worked with the Grounds team and UTMSU to distribute outdoor organics bins during the O-week festivities to ensure food waste and other compostable materials had an organics option for disposal.



Orientation Week events including tabling (top left) and participating in the City of Mississauga's Community Bike Ride (bottom left). Organic tote bins distributed across campus (right).

**U of T CECCS Adams Sustainability Celebration - Our Changing Climate:
The Story our Data is Telling Us About Climate in Mississauga**

GOAL 3.2 UTM will develop and strengthen partnerships with internal stakeholders, including the Centre for Student Engagement, the Department of Student Housing and Residence Life, and the Department of Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness

GOAL 4.2 UTM will develop and strengthen partnerships with external universities, organizations, and committees – locally, nationally, and internationally

On November 22nd, 2022, UTM welcomed students, faculty, staff, and community members to campus for “Our Climate is Changing: The Story our Data is Telling Us About Climate in Mississauga” as part of the CECCS annual Adams Sustainability Celebration, where in 2022-23, each U of T campus hosted a signature event. The event included a keynote address from Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) to discuss their story-mapping tool and local climate change in Mississauga. This was followed by a moderated panel with four local community experts. Attendees were encouraged to check out the 14 showcase booths (see list below) to learn how these organizations were taking action to fight climate change. The City of Mississauga and the Sustainability Office organized a “booth bingo game” where participants had to fill out a bingo card by interacting with the booths to enter the prize draw. Overall, the event was a success with 75+ people in attendance, attracting many members from the community.



CECCS staff tabling (top left), Prize for winner of the event prize draw (top right), Shashi Kant, Director, MScSM program facilitating the panel discussion (bottom left), Sustainability Office staff (bottom right)



Keynote address from Yvette Roy Senior Specialist, Ecosystem and Climate Change Strategies, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) at the U of T CECCS Adam’s Sustainability Celebration hosted at UTM.

Booth Showcases:

1. EcoSource	7. Master in Urban Innovation (MUI) program
2. City of Mississauga (Emergency Management section)	8. Peel Community Climate Council (CCC)
3. City of Mississauga (Environment section)	9. Region of Peel
4. CultureLink	10. Student Association of Geography and Environment (SAGE)
5. Department of Geography, Geomatics and the Environment (GGE)	11. U of T CECCS
6. Master in Science in Sustainability Management (MScSM) program	12. UTM Hospitality & Ancillary Department
	13. UTM Sustainability Office
	14. UTM Regenesiis

Event Partners:

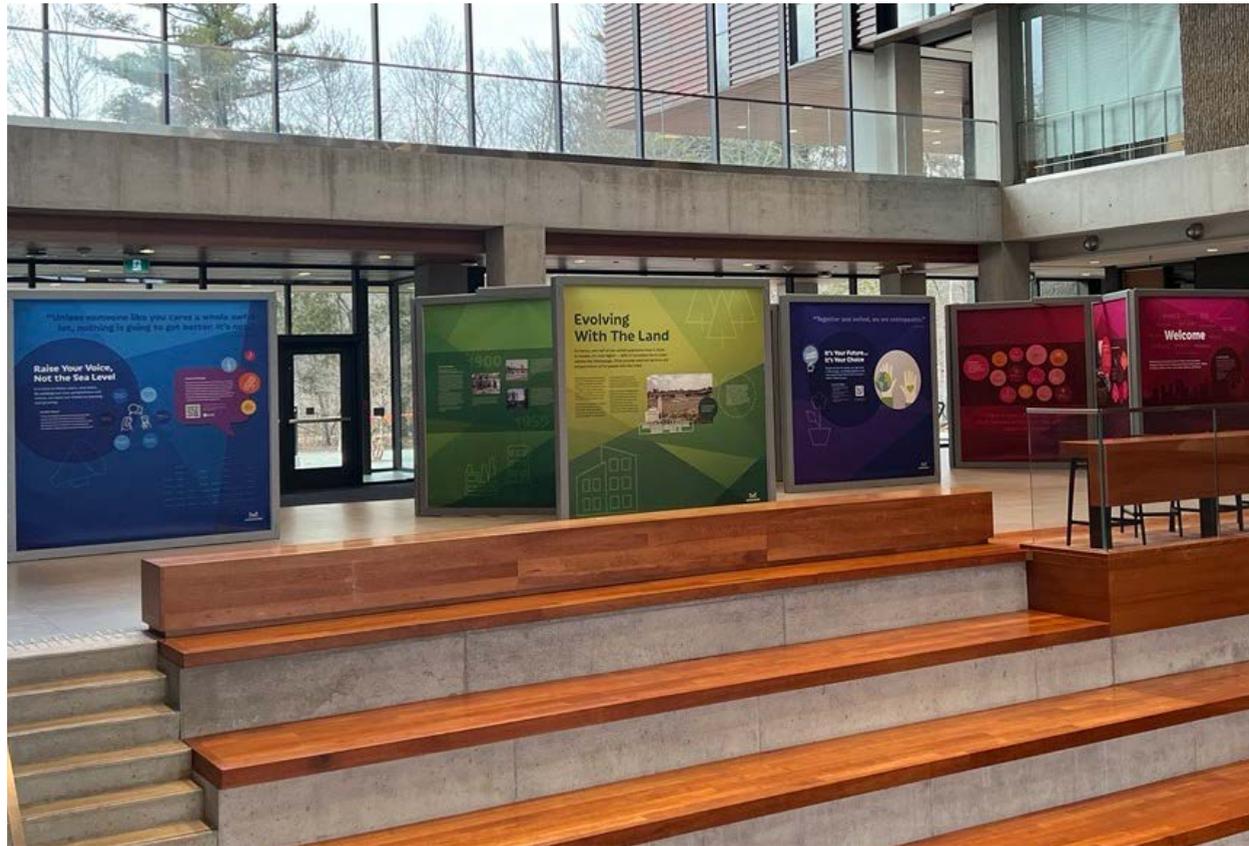
• UTM Sustainability Office	• U of T CECCS
• City of Mississauga (Environment)	• UTM Conference Services

We Are Resilient

GOAL 4.2 UTM will develop and strengthen partnerships with external universities, organizations, and committees – locally, nationally, and internationally

The “We Are Resilient” exhibition by the City of Mississauga made its debut at UTM in the Maanjiwe Nendamowinan building from January 26th to February 17th, 2023. Drawing inspiration from the City’s Climate Change Action Plan, this exhibition tackled the crucial aspects of climate change: mitigation and adaptation. Its primary objective was to educate individuals about fundamental climate change concepts, such as global warming. The exhibition achieved this by utilizing a combination of resident-submitted photographs and stories, alongside insights from scientific experts.

The exhibition prominently featured four key areas: land history, climate science, equity, and resilience. Through thoughtfully designed panels, it effectively communicated practical strategies for individuals to reduce their GHG footprint. Moreover, it demonstrated how people can enhance their resilience towards the impacts of climate change by incorporating simple yet impactful actions into their daily routines.



City of Mississauga’s We Are Resilient exhibition in the Maanjiwe Nendamowinan (MN) Building.



Sustainability Week photos including Sustainability Campus tours (left), a documentary screening of “Just Eat It” (top right) and students modeling their “trashion show” and second-hand outfits (bottom-right)

Sustainability Week 2023

GOAL 3.2 UTM will develop and strengthen partnerships with internal stakeholders, including the Centre for Student Engagement, the Department of Student Housing and Residence Life, and the Department of Recreation, Athletics, and Wellness

From March 13th to 17th, 2023, UTM proudly hosted its fourth annual Sustainability Week in close collaboration with UTMSU, the UTM Sustainability Office, and the MScSM Student Executive Council (MSEC). Guided by the theme “Acknowledge. Align. Act.,” the week underscored the importance of collectively acknowledging the climate crisis and aligning efforts to initiate pivotal changes for our planet’s well-being.

Throughout the week, a diverse range of events were orchestrated to engage participants in meaningful discussions and actions toward sustainability. Some of these events included panels on Love + Sustainability, a session by the City of Mississauga’s Project Neutral, a Freestore by SAGE promoting eco-friendly practices, an initiative by Hospitality and Retail Services allowing students to request OZZI reusable food containers in exchange for a small Fair Trade coffee, Sustainability Campus Tours, the Let’s Get Together Tech Collect and E-Waste Drive, Campus Medicine Walk, and Plant Your Future Panel: Global Sustainable Foods.

Looking Ahead

Plans for May 2023-April 2024

The accomplishments highlighted in this progress report serve as a source of motivation, propelling us forward with renewed purpose. Our commitment remains firm – sustainability must become deeply woven into every facet of the university.

In the upcoming year (2023-2024), we're set to embark on promising initiatives that seamlessly align with our sustainability goals. A significant focus centres around the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). Our Sustainability Strategic Plan is intricately intertwined with the STARS criteria, positioning us for heightened recognition in forthcoming assessments. Building upon the Silver Rating Certification achieved in our 2020 submission, we're eagerly preparing for our next submission in 2024, aiming to reach the esteemed Gold level.

Furthermore, our commitment to infusing sustainability into education remains a priority. Guided by the goal of providing access to sustainability education for all students, regardless

of their degree program, we're actively working towards incorporating a minimum of one "Sustainability Course" within our distribution requirements. This would firmly integrate sustainability principles into our academic framework. Additionally, we're diligently exploring the establishment of a dedicated Research Centre for Transdisciplinary Sustainability to foster collaborative research initiatives that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries. This commitment extends to our graduate students, as we explore tailored sustainability programs designed to enhance their academic journey and support their comprehensive growth.

In addition to highlighting our achievements, we aim for this report to be a source of inspiration, encouraging active participation in sustainable practices. As we look forward, we're eager to roll out new initiatives that will drive us closer to our sustainability targets. Your continued involvement is key in creating a more eco-conscious future for our university and community, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who have contributed to our journey thus far.



PSAC members (2022-2023)

1. Amrita Daniere, Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean; Co-Chair
2. Deborah Brown, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO); Co-Chair
3. Ahmed Azhari, Managing Director - Operations, Sustainability and Asset Management
4. Anita Srinivasan, Director, Academic Planning, Policy and Research
5. Arnav Tandon, MScSM Graduate Student
6. Beverley Ayeni, Senior Manager, Sustainability and Energy Management
7. Chad Nuttall, Assistant Dean of Students and International Initiatives
8. Claire Westgate, Manager, External Partnerships & Communications
9. Damian Maddalena, Assistant Professor, Geography, Geomatics, and Environment
10. Faizan Ahmed, Alumni
11. Jennifer Reid-Burrell, Senior Project Officer
12. Laurel Besco, Assistant Professor, Geography, Geomatics and Environment
13. Linnet Kocheril, Placement & Employer Relations Manager
14. Luke Barber, Executive Director, Digital & Physical Infrastructure
15. Payam Zahedi, Director, Research
16. Robert Gerlai, The John Carlin Roder Distinguished Professor in Behavioural Neuroscience Psychology
17. Samantha Dilorio, Sustainability Coordinator
18. Serenity Schlieffer, Sustainability Coordinator, UTMSU
19. Shashi Kant, MScSM Program Director
20. Vicky Jezierski, Director, Hospitality & Ancillary Services

It is with great sadness UTM announces the loss of two fierce advocates for sustainability in late 2022 and early 2023. Professor Barbara Murck, (Professor, Teaching Stream, Geography, Geomatics, and the Environment), and Rose Mary Craig (Program Coordinator, MScSM program). UTM will be forever grateful for Barb's leadership, commitment, and enthusiasm for the environment. She was instrumental in creating UTM's first Sustainability Strategic Plan and was a valuable PSAC member. Likewise, Rose Mary was instrumental in launching and establishing the MScSM program and inspired many students to pursue education in sustainability. Rose Mary's passion and dedication to sustainability is greatly missed.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved faculty, and staff member, and to honour their legacy we will continue to foster a culture of sustainability at UTM. This report is dedicated to Barb and Rose Mary.



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