

president's  
sustainability  
council



# Developing a Strategy for Sustainability @ York



# Sustainability @ York

A sustainable university is one that enhances the ecological functioning of its campuses; models knowledgeable, active and responsible global citizens; and does so within an integrated, long-term framework of full-cost economic and environmental accounting

– York University Sustainability Policy, 2011

For the 4th year in a row,

**York University**  
was named one  
of Canada's  
Greenest  
Employers



# Energy

The YorkWise Energy Management Program (EMP) continues to generate significant savings for the University and has achieved a **29% reduction in energy use intensity** since its implementation in 2007.

## DID YOU KNOW?

York's reduction in energy usage can supply

**3,400+**

Ontario homes with electricity for a full year.



**32,574,346**

kWh saved in annual electricity consumption



**\$4,537,679**

in rebates for reduced emissions



reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than

**18,000**  
tonnes



**29%**

reduction in energy use intensity since 2007



**\$4,500,000**

saved on utilities per year





# Grounds

The principle of sustainability in Grounds operations has been a driving force in the creation of all new landscape designs including:

- low maintenance shrubs
- drought-resistant and native plants
- mulch in planted areas for water retention and weed control
- automatic irrigation controls
- organic fertilizer
- porous hard surface materials such as interlock pavers (which are reusable, offer better durability than asphalt/concrete and improve water infiltration)



## Tree Management of York's Urban Forest

The trees on our campuses provide a multitude of benefits by enhancing the landscape, reducing pollution, providing shade, and playing an essential role in the health and well-being of our community. The Tree Management program allows York University to proactively manage our trees on campus through a digitized tree inventory database. The program also includes the management of the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive pest that attacks and kills all species of ash trees. Under this program, all ash trees on our campuses are being assessed and monitored for treatment and preservation. Infected trees that do not respond to treatment are removed and replaced.



### DID YOU KNOW?

**50%** of York's Glendon College campus is covered by forest.

Over **15** hectares in size, the forest is a significant part of the Don River Valley ravine network - a valuable forest ecosystem right in the middle of Canada's largest city.



## Infrastructure, New Facilities and Renovations

York has adopted a sustainable building strategy that considers design efficiency, broader use of day lighting, water efficiency, energy conservation and performance, reduction in emissions, materials and resources, green construction practices, indoor environmental quality and site re-naturalization.



### York Lions Stadium

The new York Lions Stadium is a legacy project from the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games, and is now a new home for the York Lions sports teams. The stadium was certified LEED Silver in May 2015 by the Canada Green Building Council and is designed to minimize the environmental impact on the surrounding site, as it directly abuts the historic Boyer Woodlot, and the nearby York University Observatory.

**15,750**  
sq.m building  
surrounded by an  
open green space

### Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence

Completed in 2015, the building was designed with the most sustainable engineering principles and practices, and is targeted as a LEED Gold certified facility. The elevated site offers occupants a view of the Black Creek Watershed, as well as the Arboretum and Stong Pond, a storm water management feature created by the University.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

LED (Light-Emitting Diode) light bulbs use up to 80 percent less energy than traditional light bulbs, and can last more than 25 times longer. York University is expanding the use of LED lighting in new buildings, renovations and outdoor areas.





# Food

Sustainable initiatives and practices have been implemented in **75%** of food services locations.



**100%**  
of shell eggs are cage-free



**26%**  
of produce is grown locally



Over **25%**  
of Food Services purchases  
are either local (Ontario),  
Sustainable (Seafood) or Fair Trade  
or Rainforest Alliance certified

## DID YOU KNOW?

This past year York installed an Urban Cultivator. Helping to reduce the University's carbon footprint, fresh and local herbs and micro greens are grown in this kitchen greenhouse and used for campus food preparation.



**42%**  
of coffee and tea  
purchases are York's  
own Las Nubes, Fair  
Trade, or Rainforest  
Alliance certified



Farmers'  
Market

Local &  
sustainable  
food-themed  
events

Vegan  
Mondays

Lug a Mug  
Program offers  
25¢ discount  
on coffee & tea  
purchases

Local  
Wednesdays

Eco-takeout  
reusable  
container  
program



# Waste

York's multi-faceted waste management and diversion program has helped to achieve a current waste diversion rate of **66%**.

**PAPER PRODUCTS** RECYCLE

**BOTTLES & CANS** RECYCLE

**GARBAGE** RECYCLE

**Leading the way for a sustainable future**

Ranked in top 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of GreenMetric World University Ranking on sustainability from 2010-2014

Weekly Farmer's Market

More than 30% of Food Services food purchases are local, sustainable or fair trade certified

66% waste diversion rate

**YORK U**  
UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF YORK

Rethink • Reduce • Reuse • Recycle

**3,240,000** kg  
waste diverted from landfill

**1,677,000** kg  
waste sent to landfill

**66%**  
waste diversion rate

## DID YOU KNOW?

Over **12,000 kg** of gently used items have been diverted from landfill since 2012 through the FreeStuff program.

The FreeStuff program encourages students to share unwanted items prior to moving out of residence for the summer. Any remaining items are donated to the Oasis Clothing Bank, while non-perishable foods are donated to the York Federation of Student's Food Bank.





# Water

York University has implemented storm water management techniques such as vegetated roofs, rainwater harvesting for irrigation or toilet flushing, permeable pavement, grass swales, bio-swales, surface storage, underground storage in large diameter pipes or tanks, dry ponds, catch basins with sumps and traps, and oil/grit separator units.



**10%**  
reduction in annual  
per capita water  
consumption  
since 2005

**200**  
drinking  
fountains

## DID YOU KNOW?

Drought-resistant and local plants used in campus landscaping reduces the demand for water.

As of  
September  
**2015**  
York no longer  
sells bottled water  
on campus

Low-flow  
water fixtures  
used in  
**100%**  
of new buildings  
and renovations

**72**  
accessible  
water bottle  
refill stations



# Transportation

York University's commuter modal split has dramatically improved in the past 10 years away from the use of predominantly single-occupant vehicles towards alternative, more sustainable modes of travel.

450+

members in the York Bicycle User Group



100+

outdoor bike parking spaces

100+

secure bike parking spaces

34



carsharing vehicles on campus  
(Zipcar, Student CarShare and AutoShare)

80%



of commuters travel to York by  
public transit, walking, cycling,  
or carpooling



2,600+ daily bus trips  
at the Keele campus (making it one of  
the busiest transit hubs in the country)



## DID YOU KNOW?

As part of the Sustainable Energy Initiative in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, a new solar electric vehicle charging station opened on the Keele campus in December 2015.

"Van Go"  
mobility service  
for people  
with disabilities

Carpool  
ride-matching system  
and several  
reserved priority  
carpool  
parking spaces

Construction of  
2 new  
subway stations  
is underway at York,  
with completion  
expected in  
late 2017

Free shuttle services  
to the York U  
GO Train station,  
between Keele and  
Glendon campuses,  
and the Village





# Curriculum and Research

York University has a long history of incorporating sustainability and environmental issues into curriculum.

11 

The number of years York has offered the Environmental Auditing course, where students work in groups to conduct environmental audits across campus. The information is used to improve and enhance sustainability programming on campus.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The President's Sustainability Council has a Curriculum Working Group that is open to everyone in the York community. The working group focuses on issues of sustainability education at York, including enhancing opportunities for experiential education in sustainability through on-campus opportunities.

#1

The MBA program at York's Schulich School of Business has been rated the top program in the world in *Corporate Knights'* Better World MBA Ranking, 12 years running.



1968

York launched the Faculty of Environmental Studies (FES), the first of its kind in North America.

Close to

500



course offerings on environment and sustainability.

## Research Task Force

The York University Task Force on Sustainability Research was created to evaluate current and emergent research strengths in the area of sustainability, and to recommend structures to support, integrate, cultivate and publicize York's sustainability research.

[taskforce.info.yorku.ca](http://taskforce.info.yorku.ca)





# Community Engagement

York University strives to be a leading institution on sustainability in Canada, and this commitment requires a concerted, community-wide effort. There are many ways to get involved, from committees to student clubs to events on campus.

We are always looking for good people and good ideas. If you would like to get involved, or if you have an idea you'd like to share, please send us an email or contact us on social media.



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



[sustainability@yorku.ca](mailto:sustainability@yorku.ca)



[@yusustain](https://twitter.com/yusustain)

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 30 groups and clubs at York that focus on various aspects of sustainability.

York University hosts a variety of events on sustainability throughout the year, including a Sustainability Fair, Transportation Fair and Bike to York Day

The annual President's Sustainability Leadership Awards recognize sustainability champions at York U

The President's Sustainability Council is made up of students, faculty and staff, who advise the President and administration on advancing sustainability at York. The PSC has a student subcommittee and 4 working groups that are open to all members of the York community

York organizes an annual campus clean-up day in recognition of Earth Day

York organizes an annual Fair Trade Fair to celebrate Fair Trade on campus and beyond



# Phases to integrate sustainability at universities

1. Grassroots efforts and ad hoc activities
2. Campus leadership acceptance of the business case for sustainability
  1. centered around enhanced efficiency and institutional reputation
  2. sustainability committee to identify and provide advice
3. A visionary campus leader supportive of stakeholder engagement, a holistic strategic plan and full-cost evaluation practices
4. A fully integrated sustainable campus community focused on systems-thinking and an interdisciplinary cooperation

Krizek, Newport, White & Townsend (2012)



# Strategic Planning Process/Timeline

PSC & Working Grp meetings	September 2016 – June 2017
Strategic Planning Workshop	10 February 2017
Faculty Consultations	February – April 2017
Student Focus Group	6 March 2017
Survey of York Community	March – April 2017
PSC Themed (open) Meetings	March – April, 2017
First Draft of the Plan	April, 2017
Town Hall (Keele)	April, 2017
Town Hall (Glendon)	April, 2017
Second Draft of Plan	Late May, 2017



E.g., on February 10 we worked on ...



- **Expressing a long term vision**
- **Identifying aspirational strategic goals**
- **Organizing and prioritizing strategic goals**



# The engagement process for developing the strategy

2016-2017

## Stage One: Research and Understanding Issues

- Working group meetings
- President's sustainability council meetings
- Broader engagement: e.g., visioning workshop, consultation meetings

Feb-Apr 2017

## Stage Two: Testing Ideas

- Additional working group meetings
- Additional sustainability council meetings
- Additional broader engagement

Apr/May 2017

## Stage Three: Confirming a Strategy

- Additional working group meetings
- Additional sustainability council meetings
- Additional broader engagement

We are here!

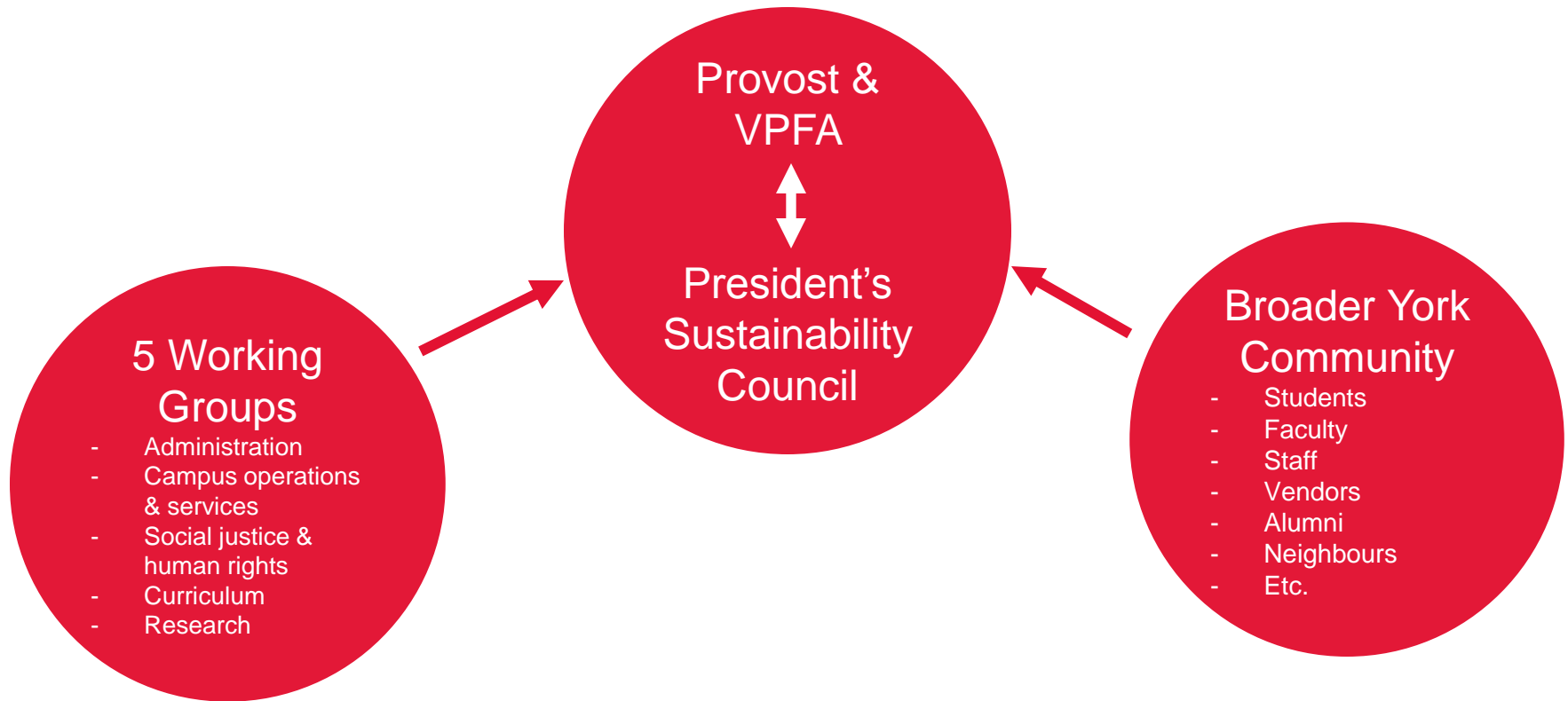


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# Who is involved in developing the strategy?





# Developing a Sustainability Strategy

- What would you like to see included in the vision for York University's Sustainability Strategy?
- What do you think the “focus areas” of York's Sustainability Strategy should be?
- Based on the discussion so far, what do you think some of the strategic goals and targets could be for the Sustainability Strategy?

<http://sustainability.info.yorku.ca/strategy/>

