



University of Toronto

Office of the Assistant Vice-President, Space and Facilities Planning

FOR INFORMATION

TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Sustainability Office Annual Report

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Planning and Budget Committee is responsible for monitoring planning activities and documents.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Sustainability Office was established by the University's Environmental Protection Advisory Committee in late 2004 with a three year grant from the Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF) and considerable support from various units in the University. The scope of the Office falls within the University's Environmental Protection Policy (<http://www.fs.utoronto.ca/English/Environmental-Protection.html>) and is limited to the St. George campus, excluding the federated colleges.

In response to the mandate of the TAF, the short term mission of the Sustainability Office over the next three years is to substantially reduce the consumption of energy and other resources at the University of Toronto. Over the medium term (four to six years), the Office intends to develop and employ policies and programs to increase energy conservation, green space and reduce waste in all the decisions, practices and procedures of the university. In the long term (seven years and on), the Office aims to create a culture of sustainability at the University of Toronto, which will be reflected in its functions and operations, resulting in tangible environmental, economic and social benefits.

The organizational objectives of the Sustainability Office, described in the introduction, were developed in parallel with the granting application to the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, and as such reflect the goals of that organization. These objectives will be met through projects that fit into one or more of the four strategic priorities of the Sustainability Office:

- Energy conservation;
- Institutional policies and procedures;
- Outreach and engagement; and,
- Curriculum and research.

Overall, the Sustainability Office has established a very strong presence in all areas identified in the University's Stepping Up process, including: enhancing the student experience through highly

successful student engagement; interdisciplinary collaboration with faculty and students in many departments and faculties on campus; linking teaching and research through engagement of large numbers of students in applied research courses; promoting scholarship and education in a highly relevant and timely field and promoting equity and diversity through our very large work-study program, which subsidizes needy students.

More specifically, highlights of the first year of the Office include the engagement of over 100 students on a volunteer basis and the hiring of over 50 staff. The Sustainability Office has many different methods to reach its primary constituents and clients: the University of Toronto community. At the same time, the Office actively pursues relationship development and networking opportunities across Canada and internationally. The transfer of knowledge, technologies, innovations, policies and practices is achieved through the production of internal media, popular media coverage, events and conferences and finally, achievement recognition.

The Office has also enjoyed a large amount of popular media attention, including articles in the Globe and Mail, 24 Hours and numerous community and campus publications, resulting in an excellent reputation both inside and outside the University of Toronto within a very short time. More than \$160,000 has been spent to date on various initiatives, with funding commitments totalling in excess of \$400,000. The Office also has applications pending for a further \$2.1 million to 2009.

Since receiving initial funding from the Toronto Atmospheric Fund and various divisions of the University of Toronto, the Sustainability Office has pursued relationships with private sector partners and all levels of government. This effort has resulted in numerous partnerships which provide cash, in-kind and/or strategic and administrative support.

The Sustainability Office currently receives generous external funding support from: Toronto Atmospheric Fund, EcoAction, Natural Resources Canada, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, City of Toronto Better Buildings Partnership, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Toronto Dominion Friends of the Environment.

At the same time, the Office enjoys a large amount of support from numerous faculties and departments at the University of Toronto, including the:

Faculty of Arts and Science, Faculty of Applied Science, Faculty of Medicine, Centre for Environment, Department of Facilities & Services, Faculty of Forestry, Office of the Vice-President and Provost, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design and the Students' Administrative Council.

The Sustainability Office also has significant partnerships with:

Toronto Hydro, Tridel Corporation, the Clean Air Partnership and Citizens' Environment Watch.

The clients and constituents of the Sustainability Office are identified, served and engaged in the following manner:

Students

through employment, coursework and volunteer programs, and collaboration with other student groups, such as the University of Toronto Environmental Resource Network (UTERN) and the Environmental Students' Union (ENSU) in initiatives which promote energy and resource conservation.

Faculty

through partnerships in research initiatives and the development of curriculum focused on sustainability and by providing ideas and promoting course related projects that will provide research and implementation capacity to the Office. The position of the Sustainability Director as Undergraduate Coordinator of the Centre for Environment facilitates this interdisciplinary collaboration.

Staff and Administration

by developing policies and procedures to ensure that energy and resource conservation are integrated into decision making processes, and to support institutional initiatives which contribute to those goals. The Office is launching an initiative to increase the engagement of staff through the solicitation of their ideas for university-relevant course, research and volunteer projects.

Seven students working with the Sustainability Office were recognized by the federal government through the Energy Innovators program and received recognition at an awards ceremony in Ottawa in February 2005, while more recently one of the interns was awarded the Healthy University Award for significant contributions to the university community, due to her innovative Bike chain project. One of the part-time staff was also awarded the Environmental Protection Advisory committee student award last spring.

The Sustainability Office came into existence due to a grant from the Toronto Atmospheric Fund. Since November 2004, the Office has received over \$185,000 in funding from numerous governmental and private sources. At present, the Office has an operating surplus of approximately \$27,000 and has excellent financial prospects for the future. The Office has expenditures amounting to \$161,902 over the past year, primarily for human resources with a relatively minor share (\$11,000) contributing to the operational costs due to the vast amount of in-kind resources to which the Office has access, especially from the University and the City of Toronto.

	Nov 2004 to April 2005	May 2005 to November 2005	Total
Revenues			
University of Toronto	\$49,228.08	\$3,750.00	\$52,978.08
Municipal	\$76,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$85,000.00
Provincial		\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
Federal		\$36,700.00	\$36,700.00
Total Revenues	\$125,728.08	\$61,950.00	\$187,678.08
Expenditures			
Human Resources	\$67,084.36	\$82,224.40	\$149,308.76
Operations	\$8,667.99	\$2,925.44	\$11,593.43
Total Expenditures	\$75,752.35	\$85,149.84	\$160,902.19

The Sustainability Office has ambitious plans for further student engagement, energy efficient retrofits, behaviour change programs and demonstration projects on campus. Within two years core funding for the office will expire. The cost of operating the Sustainability office has been estimated to be \$140,000.