

# President's Advisory Committee on the Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability

2023 CECCS Annual Report  
November 2023

# President's Advisory Committee on the Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability

2023 Annual Report

Presentation to Governing Council

John Robinson and Ron Saporta

December 18, 2023



**1st** in the world for sustainability

*QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS: SUSTAINABILITY 2024*



# 2023 At a Glance



**48**

Staff, faculty, and  
student members

**9/9**

Vice-presidential portfolios  
advancing sustainability

**29%**

of Undergrad courses  
with sustainability focus

**5,329**

Experiential Learners

**11**

Inventories and databases

**200%**

Increase in registrations  
at events

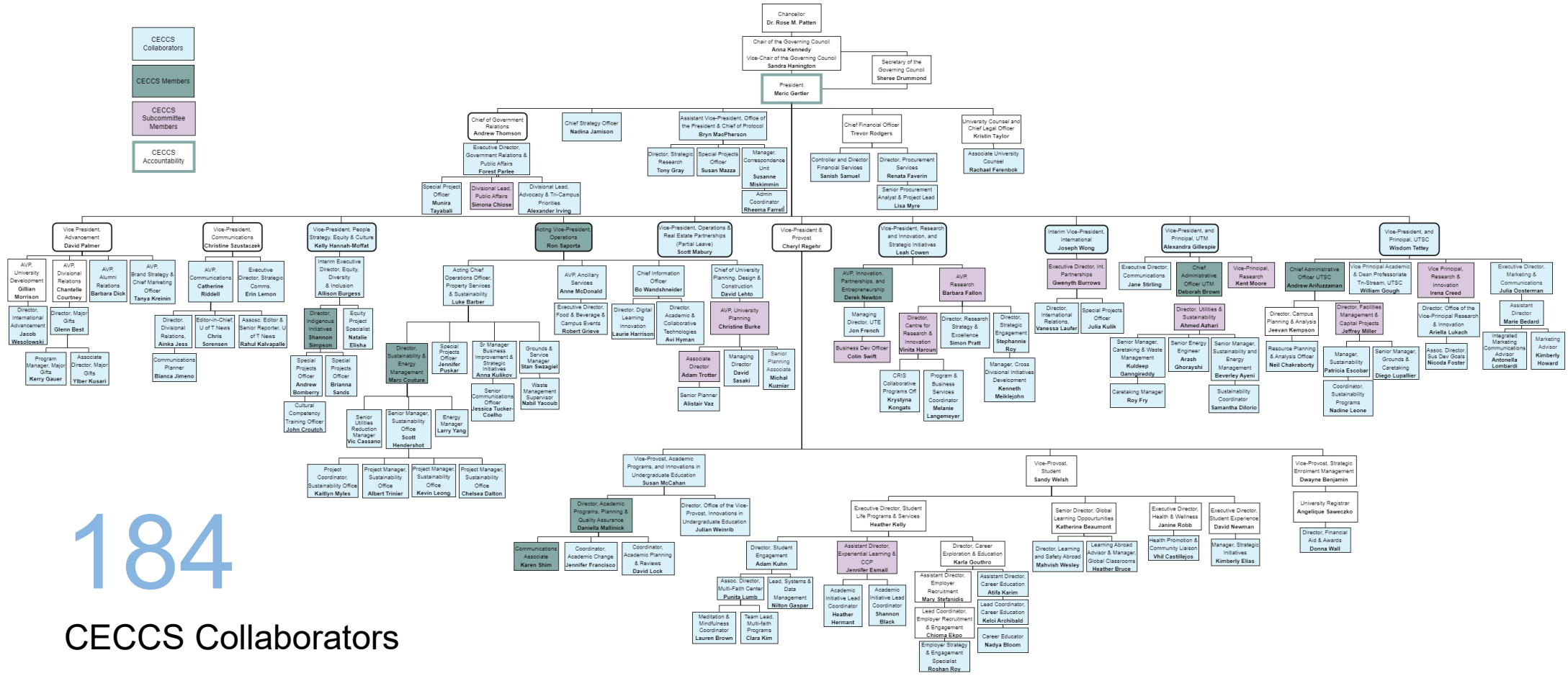
**31%**

Increase in undergraduate  
Scholar program enrolment

**15+**

Global climate networks

# Embedding Sustainability at U of T as of Nov 2023



184

CECCS Collaborators



# CECCS Organizational Framework

2

## Overarching principles

- Regenerative sustainability
- Integration of operational and academic sustainability

4

## Cross-cutting themes

- Campus as living lab
- University as Agent of Change
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Leadership

4

## Subcommittees

- Teaching and Learning
- Research
- Operations
- Engagement and Partnerships





Sustainability  
Pathways  
Program

CoP on  
Sustainability  
Teaching

Emerging  
Principles for  
Sustainability  
Teaching

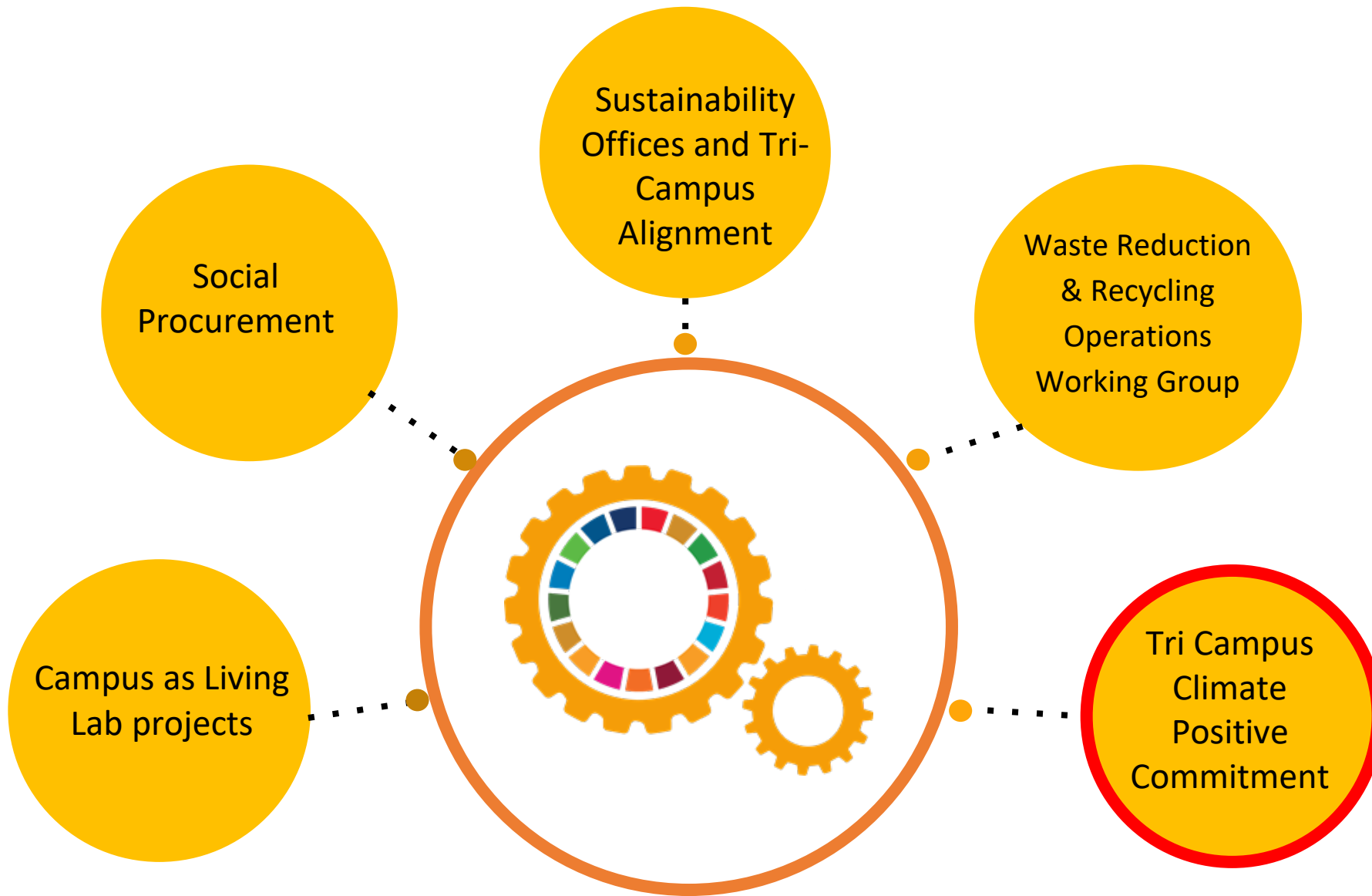


Agent of  
Change  
Workshop

# Teaching and Learning

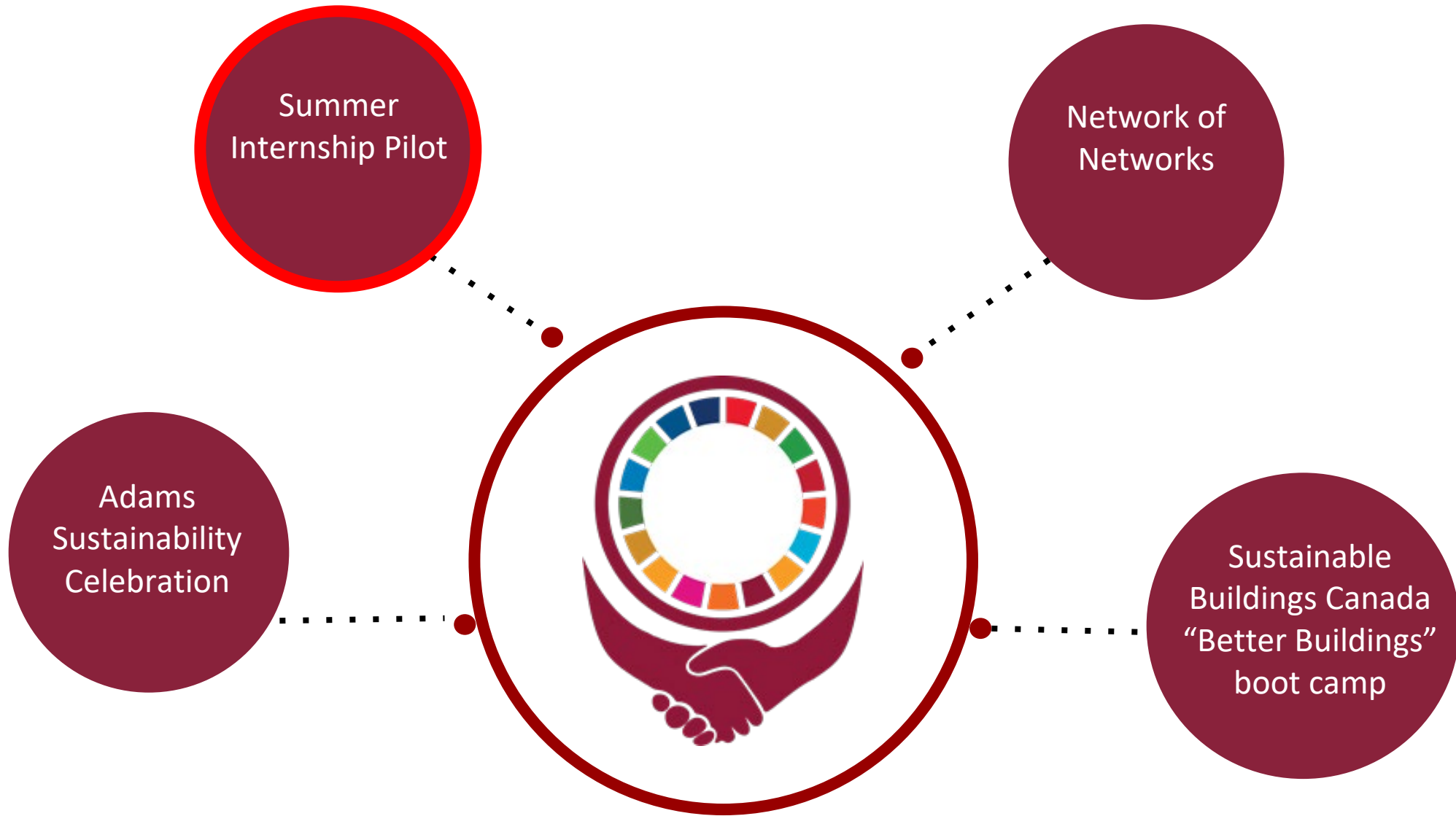


Research



# Operations





# Engagement & Partnerships



# QUESTIONS?

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## CONTACT



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UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

# Integrating Environmental Sustainability in Research



Objective: To investigate what an institutional framework to integrate environmental sustainability in research at the University of Toronto might look like

# Integrating Environmental Sustainability in Research



## Sustainability in Research

- “Environmental Research” as a performance lens of the 2023 QS World Sustainability Rankings
- Attracting and retaining top talent through the SDGs@UofT Scholars Academy and Canada Research Chairs in sustainability-related topics
- “Sustain: Societies, the Environment, and Natural Resources” as one of the themes of 2018–23 ISRP

## Sustainable Research

- Recognizes that all research has an effect on the environment
- Analogous and complementary interventions in the research process:
  - Research Ethics
  - Sex and Gender-Based Analyses (SGBA)
  - Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI)
  - EDI Considerations

# Integrating Environmental Sustainability in Research



## Key Takeaways

1. **Institutional-level commitments** are always the first step
2. **Coordination and broad engagement** with all stakeholders in the research ecosystem is required
3. Sustainable research requires **resources**

## Recommendations

1. **Adopt an explicit institutional commitment** to sustainable research
2. **Advocate to the tri-council funding agencies** to promote and build capacity in sustainable research practices
3. **Build communities of practice and centres of excellence** to promote and mainstream environmentally sustainable research