



**FOR INFORMATION**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** Governing Council

**SPONSOR:** Meric Gertler, President, University of Toronto  
**CONTACT INFO:** 416-978-4163, [president@utoronto.ca](mailto:president@utoronto.ca)

**PRESENTER:** Ron Saporta, Chief Operating Officer, University of Toronto, Co-Chair, Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability (CECCS)

Professor John Robinson, Presidential Advisor on Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability, Co-Chair, CECCS

Kelechi Nwokeocha, 5<sup>th</sup> year student Environmental Science/Biology, UTSC, Co-Chair, CECCS Student Leadership Subcommittee

**CONTACT INFO:** 437-999-2935 (CECCS Director, K. Facer), [ceccs@utoronto.ca](mailto:ceccs@utoronto.ca)

**DATE:** June 18, 2025 for June 24, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Annual Report: President's Advisory Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability (CECCS)

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Per the Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee will "normally make annual presentations on the Committee's activities on request to the Governing Council."

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. Governing Council (For information)

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

CECCS reports annually to the Governing Council and last reported to the Council on December 18, 2023.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

The 2024-2025 annual report of the President’s Advisory Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability (CECCS) offers a glimpse into the University of Toronto’s leadership in sustainability across teaching and learning, research, operations and student leadership. It also spotlights the U of T community’s progress in working together to advance sustainability in a myriad of ways, both locally and globally.

The achievements of the past year highlight the integral role CECCS has played in embedding sustainability into all aspects of the university since 2017. As part of its renewed and continuing mandate, CECCS moved to a new structure with equal representation from faculty, staff and student members. This ongoing and collaborative work by members and partners contributed to U of T being named the most sustainable university in the world by the QS World University Rankings in both 2024 and 2025.

United under a shared vision to create a more sustainable world, the committee and the broader community’s sustainability efforts are making a difference across the tri-campuses and beyond. Notable impacts from the past year include:

- In **teaching & learning**: the expansion of the Sustainability Pathways Program, including two new certificates in the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering, in addition to the program being shortlisted for a sustainability education literacy prize
- In **research**: the cultivation of community and capacity-building for community-engaged research, specifically transdisciplinary knowledge co-production, as well as a new seed grant in partnership with U of T’s Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care
- In **operations**: the creation of a Campus as a Living Lab working group tasked with CLL programming; advancements in climate positive action plans across the three campuses; and Project Leap receiving a prestigious award at the Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit
- In **student leadership**: the formation of a new student-led subcommittee and subsequent initiatives to improve waste diversion in student residences and reduce paper towel usage in washrooms

Further highlights from CECCS this year include the launch of the Sustainability Catalyst Internship program, a new staff sustainability training workshop, and continued international partnerships through global networks, including the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), the University Coalition on Climate Change (UC3) and the Network of Networks (NoN), co-chaired by U of T.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

N/A (Report for information)

**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability (CECCS) 2024-2025 Annual Report (full report)

CECCS 2024-2025 Annual Report Highlights (webpage preview)



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

2024-25 CECCS Annual Report  
June 2025



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

Committee on the Environment,  
Climate Change & Sustainability

DEFY  
GRAVITY



# Acknowledgements

This report was made possible with the support and contributions of CECCS members and co-authors listed below.

## Report preparation by:

Corey Allen, Ayako Ariga, Kristy Bard, Kristy Facer, Keagan Urbanowicz

## Additional information and support provided by:

Chelsea Dalton, Scott Hendershot, Lisa Myre

## CECCS work-study students during the reporting year:

Ambareen Fatima, Mengyuan Guo, Alexandra Hawkins, Ashleen Kaur, Akshaya Kaliappan, Lila Maerov, Hargun Rekhi, Ziqi Shu, Natalie Su, Siya Wadhwa, Yazan Zamel, Chuang Zhang, Jason Zhang

## CECCS members:

Diego Arreola Fernández, Roger Bulgin, Gwen Burrows, Timothy Chan, Victoria Costa Duarte, Deborah Brown, Barbara Fallon, Hannah Permaul Flores, Harshit Gujral, Marianne Hatzopoulou, Sarah Hives, Hilary Inwood, Zach Lidder, Jeffrey Miller, Kelechi Nwokeocha, Jason Pang, Ito Peng, John Robinson, Ron Saporta, Shannon Simpson, Nicole Spiegelhaar, Imre Szeman, Catherine Thorn

## Cover image:

Ma Moosh Ka Win (Valley Land Trail) at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus (July 26, 2022). Photo by Matthew Dochstader/Paradox Images.



CECCS student member Zach Lidder at a tour of U of T's geoeexchange system. Photo: University of Toronto Communications.

# Statement of Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

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 live and work on this land.



*Aerial view of the Ziibiing Indigenous Landscape project at Hart House Green. Named using the Anishinaabemowin word for "river," Ziibiing marks the path of Taddle Creek, a buried stream running under the St. George campus that served as a gathering place for Indigenous peoples before colonization. Brook McIlroy's Indigenous Design Studio developed the design in consultation with a broad range of Indigenous groups, including U of T community members, Elders, and local First Nations. Photo: David Lee.*

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# A Message from the President



*President Meric Gertler*

Dear reader,

The 2024-25 annual report of the President's Advisory Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability (CECCS) showcases the University of Toronto's sustainability excellence in the higher education sector and our global leadership in realizing a holistic vision to create a more sustainable future.

Across our three campuses, CECCS and the tri-campus community are delivering impact in all areas: integrating sustainability in research, teaching and learning and operations. This report also spotlights some of U of T's most innovative faculty, staff and students who are dedicated to advancing sustainable practices and principles in their classrooms, labs, workplaces, communities and beyond.

In 2024 and 2025, the QS World Rankings recognized U of T as the most sustainable university in the world in part because sustainability is not just something we teach and study – it's what we do. This ardent belief is evident in the pages that follow. From outstanding transdisciplinary research to growing enrolment in the Sustainability Pathways Program to Project Leap winning a climate action award in Washington, D.C., the U of T community's many achievements over the last year demonstrate we are ready for the challenges of tomorrow.

On behalf of the university, I extend congratulations and gratitude to CECCS co-chairs, John Robinson and Ron Saporta, and the entire committee, subcommittees and secretariat, for their stewardship of the university's sustainability efforts. CECCS has helped spark a wide array of sustainability activities across the University of Toronto.

Overseeing the committee's creation in 2017 and its ongoing work has been a source of pride during my time as president. In July, my successor will inherit an advisory committee that is bold, practical and optimistic, committed to working together to transform not only our campuses but the world. With that comes a world of opportunity – one that the U of T community is well-positioned to seize.

**Merik Gertler**  
U of T President



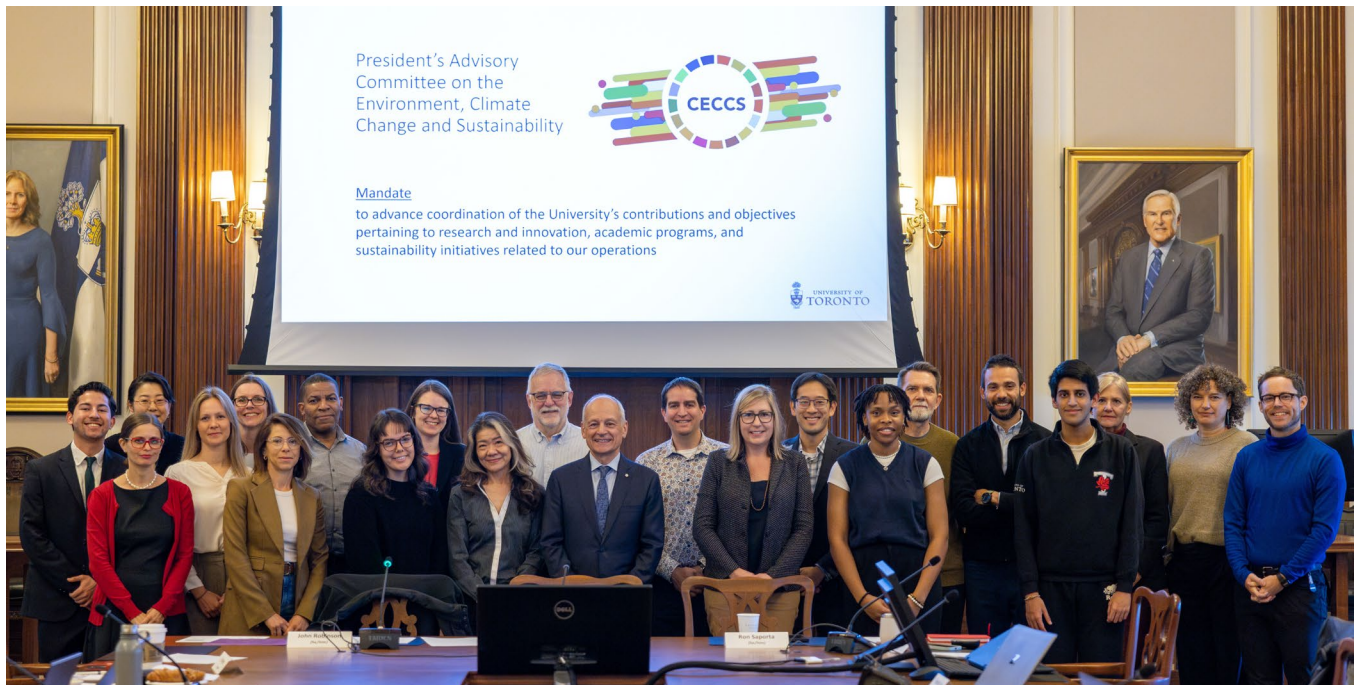
# 1

## Introduction

Since our founding in 2017, the President's Advisory Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability (CECCS) has championed human and environmental well-being, working to unite the U of T community around a shared goal of embedding sustainability throughout the whole institution's academic activities, operations and its relationships with the many communities it serves.

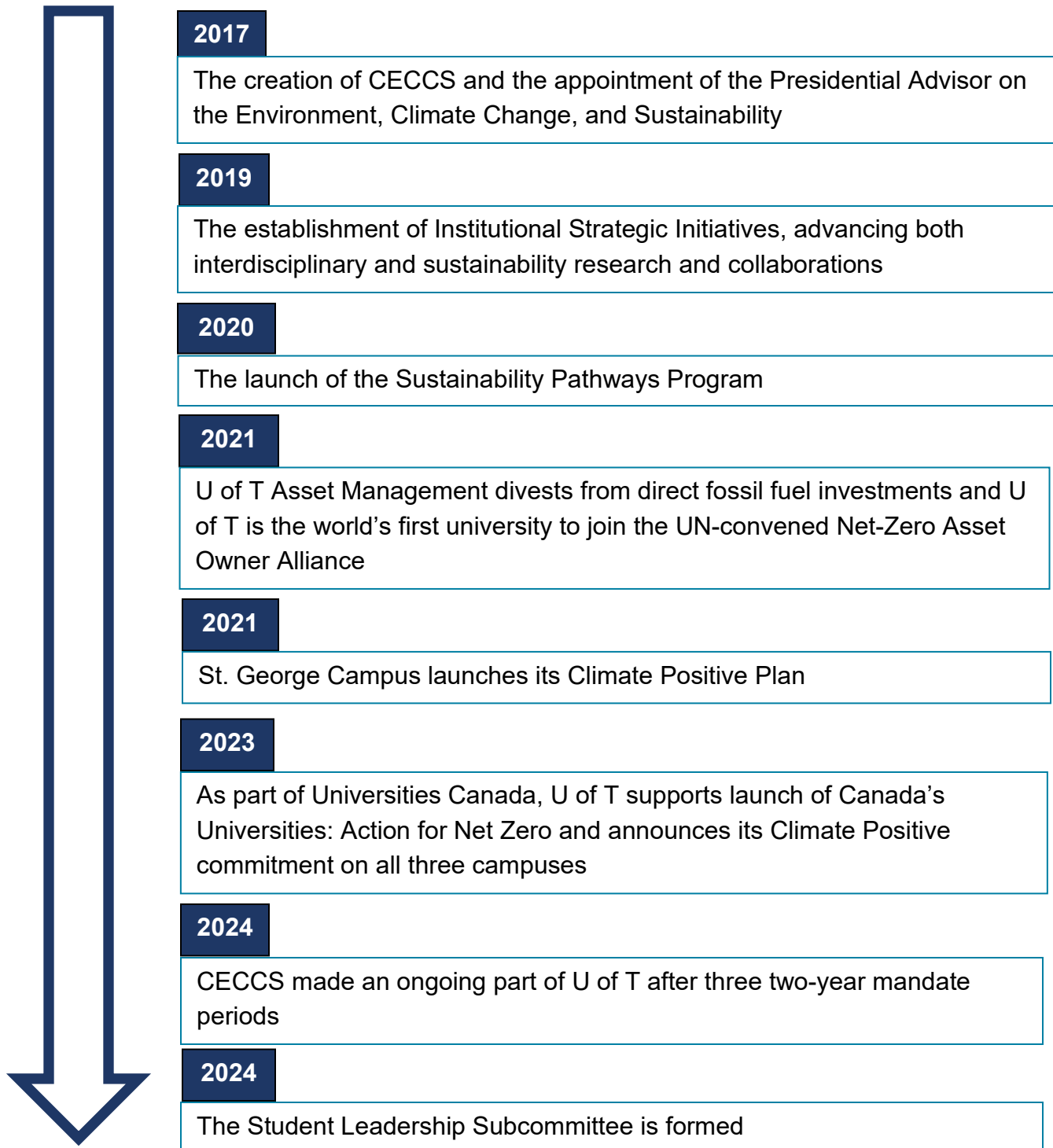
In 2024, the university made CECCS an ongoing part of U of T, marking the beginning of our next chapter, which is detailed in this year's annual report.

This report serves both as a marker of our year-to-year achievements and a celebration of what this committee, its subcommittees and the U of T community can accomplish through collaboration and innovation. It also highlights how CECCS successfully equips the university to apply an institutional lens on sustainability that is positive, holistic and transformative in all areas — while supporting thousands of U of T faculty, staff, students and alumni in catalyzing public good.



President Meric Gertler (centre), pictured with CECCS members and the CECCS secretariat in the Council Chamber at Simcoe Hall (October 2024). Photo: Polina Teif.

## 1.1 Key Sustainability Milestones over the last 8 years



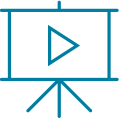
## 1.2 2024-25 at a glance



**8+** years of presidential leadership & progress on institutional sustainability



**924** Sustainability Scholars enrolled across six programs in five divisions



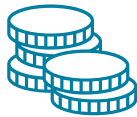
**12,000+** Sustainability Pathways Program video views on social media



**505+** Campus as a Living Lab and Experiential Learning projects with students and partners (shared in our online database)



**86** early-career researchers engaged in transdisciplinary knowledge co-production training and events



**\$14 million** in diverse supplier spending since launch of social procurement portal



**6 million** pounds of landfill waste diverted annually from the tri-campuses



**25+** global university networks collaborating on accelerated climate and biodiversity action as part of the Network of Networks co-chaired by U of T



**#1** in sustainability in the QS World University Rankings (2024 & 2025)



**7:7:7** CECCS is comprised of equal faculty, staff and student membership



# 2

## CECCS Secretariat Activities & Engagement

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L-R: CECCS members Timothy Chan, Kelechi Nwokeocha, and Shannon Simpson at the October 2024 CECCS meeting. Photo: Polina Teif.

### 2.1 A New Era for CECCS

In late July 2024, an updated [Terms of Reference](#) for the Committee was approved by President Meric Gertler and the latest [Call for Nominations](#) for CECCS members was published in the Provost's Digest and elsewhere. In addition to alumni representation, the new committee includes equal numbers of faculty, staff and student members (7:7:7). By the deadline of August 23, a total of 76 nominations and expressions of interest were received from an overwhelmingly accomplished and motivated group that included 12 faculty members, 12 staff, 33 undergraduate and 17 graduate students, plus a postdoctoral fellow and librarian.

After careful review and consideration, the president appointed the members listed below, launching a new phase of work for CECCS as an ongoing part of the U of T landscape after our last (third) mandate period.

We are excited to welcome a diverse set of interests, expertise and leadership in sustainability with our new committee members as follows:

## Faculty

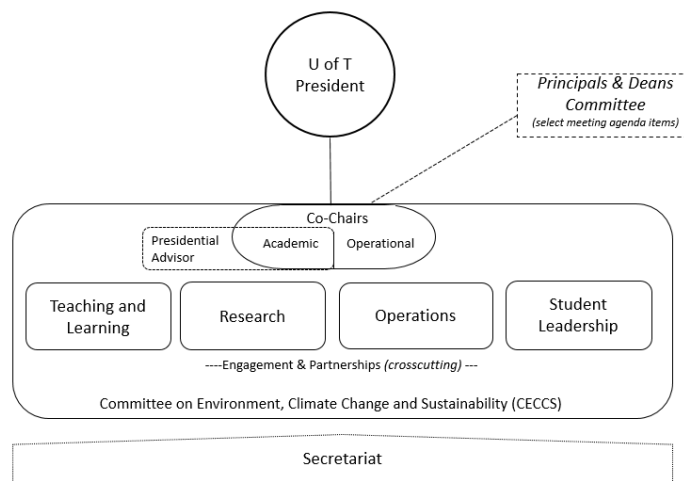
- Timothy Chan, Associate Vice-President and Vice-Provost, Strategic Initiatives; Professor, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering; Engineering (Teaching & Learning Subcommittee Co-Chair)
- Barbara Fallon, Associate Vice-President, Research; Professor, Social Work (Research Subcommittee Co-Chair)
- Marianne Hatzopoulou, Director, Positive Zero Transport Futures; Professor and Chair, Civil & Mineral Engineering; Engineering (Operations Subcommittee Co-Chair)
- Hilary Inwood, Lecturer; Coordinator, Sustainability & Climate Action Network, OISE (Teaching & Learning Subcommittee Co-Chair)
- Ito Peng, Director of the Centre for Global Social Policy; Professor, Sociology/Munk School of Global Affairs; Arts & Science
- Nicole Spiegelhaar, Academic Director, Trinity's Integrated Sustainability Initiative; Assistant Professor, Teaching Steam, School of the Environment; Arts & Science (Campus as a Living Lab Working Group Chair)
- Imre Szeman, Director, Institute for Environment, Conservation & Sustainability; Professor, Human Geography; UTSC campus/Human Geography (Research Subcommittee Co-Chair)

## Staff

- Deborah Brown, Chief Administrative Officer, UTM Campus
- Roger Bulgin, Chief Administrative Officer, Woodsworth; Arts & Science
- Gwen Burrows, Assistant Vice-President, International Engagement & Impact; Office of the Vice-President, International (OVPI)
- Sarah Hives, Senior Planner, Infrastructure Planning; Arts & Science
- Jeffrey Miller, Director, Facilities Management & Capital Projects, UTSC
- Shannon Simpson, Senior Director, Indigenous Initiatives; Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Catherine Thorn, Director, Sustainability & Energy Management; Facilities & Services (Operations Subcommittee Co-Chair)

## Students

- Diego Arreola Fernández, 4<sup>th</sup> year, Environmental Studies, Economics, International Relations
- Victoria Costa Duarte, 1<sup>st</sup> year, PhD in Political Science and Collaborative Specialization in Environmental Studies
- Hannah Permaul Flores, 4<sup>th</sup> year, BSc, Forest Conservation
- Harshit Gujral, 2nd year PhD, Computer Science (Student Leadership Subcommittee Co-Chair)
- Zach Lidder, 2nd year, Peace, Conflict & Justice Studies, Trinity College
- Kelechi Nwokeocha, 5th year, Environmental Science/Biology; UTSC campus (Student Leadership Subcommittee Co-Chair)
- Jason Pang, 1<sup>st</sup> year, Masters of Sustainability Management (MScSM); UTM campus



*The organizational structure of CECCS which shows the Secretariat at the base, the committee and co-chairs in the middle with a line to the Principals & Deans Committee, and the U of T President at the top.*

The structure of CECCS was also updated as part of the last proposal to the president. In the latest renewal, Engagement & Partnerships became a cross-cutting component of all CECCS activities and a new Student Leadership Subcommittee and regular interaction with the Principals and Deans Committee were added to the overall CECCS ecosystem (see above).

In addition to these changes, two new staff roles were added to the secretariat team in late 2024. In October, we welcomed Corey Allen as our senior communications advisor. In December, we welcomed Keagan Urbanowicz as the project manager for the Sustainability Catalyst Internship Program.

## 2.2 QS Sustainability Rankings

In 2024 and 2025, the University of Toronto was named the world's most sustainable university by the [QS World University Rankings: Sustainability](#).

The ranking, conducted by London-based firm Quacquarelli Symonds, evaluates universities on their ability to tackle pressing environmental, social and governance challenges and their outward impacts, with U of T earning the top spot in 2025 out of 1744 universities, including 350 new entrants, from more than 100 locations.

QS uses a methodology that considers more than 50 metrics related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with different assigned weights. For 2025, U of T excelled in all three key performance categories that make up the overall score, placing first in social impact, fifth in environmental impact, and 23rd in governance.

## 2.3 Embedded at Every Level: The Committee's Reach Across the University

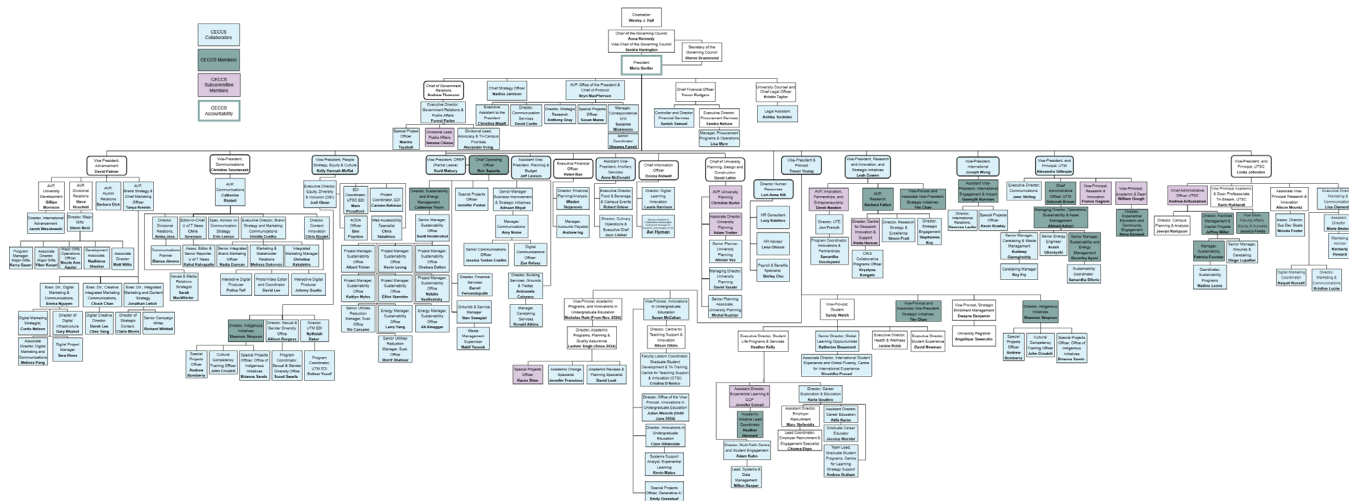
CECCS advances its mandate and the work of its subcommittees through extensive collaboration with dedicated allies at every level of the institution. The committee is supported by



tri-campus connections and partnerships with faculty, staff and students from across the university, as well as with members of the external community.

The diagram and pages below illustrates the far and growing reach of the committee's efforts to make sustainability part of the identity of U of T. It also highlights the work of champions in dozens of departments, faculties, divisions and offices helping to integrate sustainability across the whole of the university.

Total collaborators: 216 (up from 186 last year)



Organizational connection chart for CECCS. Click on the image above for a higher-resolution version.

**Green = CECCS or subcommittee members**

**Purple = CECCS and Subcommittee emeritus members**

**Blue = CECCS connections**

**\*\* Names also in the administrative organizational chart**

Names listed alphabetically, with faculty first followed by staff.

## Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering

- Timothy Bender, Professor, Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry
- Tim Chan, Associate Vice-President and Vice-Provost, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the VP, Research &

Innovation; Professor, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering

- Leanne De Souza-Kenney, Assistant Professor, Human Biology
- Tamer El-Diraby, Professor, Civil & Mineral Engineering
- Sarah Haines, Assistant Professor, Civil & Mineral Engineering
- Aimy Bazylak, Professor, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
- Marianne Hatzopoulou, Professor and Chair, Civil & Mineral Engineering; Director, Positive Zero Transport Futures
- Bryan Karney, Professor, Civil and Mineral Engineering
- Eric Miller, Professor, Civil and Mineral Engineering and Director, Transportation Research Institute

- Emily Moore, Academic Director of Troost Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering (ILead)
- Marianne Touchie, Associate Professor jointly appointed in Civil and Mineral Engineering and Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
- David Sinton, Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; Academic Director, Climate Positive Energy Institutional Strategic Initiative (CPE ISI)
- Christopher Yip, Dean
- Sharon Brown, Assistant Director, Cross-Disciplinary Programs
- Vanessa Bullock, Donor Relations Officer
- Mel Duhamel, Director, Technical Services and Operations, Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering
- Rochel Burkhardt, Special Projects Officer
- Heather MacLean, Vice-Dean, Strategy; Professor, Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering
- Shatha Qaqish-Clavering, Director, Strategy and Operations, Climate Positive Energy Institutional Strategic Initiative (CPE ISI)

#### **John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design**

- Robert Levit, Acting Dean and Associate Professor
- Petros Babasikas, Director, HBA Architectural Studies Program
- Hans Ibelings - Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream
- Alstan Jakubiec, Assistant Professor

- Jeannie Kim, Associate Dean, Academic; Associate Professor, Teaching Stream
- Liat Margolis, Associate Professor and Director, Green Roof Innovation Testing Laboratory
- Peter Sealy, Assistant Professor and Director, Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies

#### **Faculty of Arts and Science**

- Christian Abizaïd, Associate Professor, Geography & Planning, and School of the Environment
- Roger Bulgin, Chief Administrative Officer, Woodsworth
- Adriana Caragea, Assistant Professor, Cell and Systems Biology
- Karen Chapple, Director, School of Cities; Professor, Geography & Planning
- Michael Classens, Undergraduate Associate Director and Assistant Professor, School of the Environment
- Jessica D'eon, Undergraduate Associate Director, School of the Environment; Associate Professor, Chemistry
- Steve Easterbrook, Director, School of the Environment; Professor, Computer Science
- Paolo Granata, Associate Professor, Book and Media Studies, St. Michael's College
- Melanie Jeffrey, Assistant Professor, Human Biology/Centre for Indigenous Studies
- Ito Peng, Professor, Sociology/Munk School of Global Affairs; Director of the Centre for Global Social Policy

- Alexandra Rahr – Director, Undergraduate Programs and Student Experience, and Associate Professor Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy;
- John Robinson, Presidential Advisor on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability; Professor, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy and School of the Environment
- Stephen Scharper, Associate Professor, Anthropology, and School of the Environment; Director of Sustainability, Trinity College
- Matti Siemiatycki, Director, Infrastructure Institute, School of Cities; Professor, Geography & Planning
- Stefan Soldovieri, Chair, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
- Nicole Spiegelhaar, Assistant Professor, School of the Environment and Assistant Director, Trinity Sustainability Initiative
- Jennifer Murphy, Professor, Chemistry
- Romila Verma, Sessional Lecturer, Geography & Planning
- Michael Widener, Chair & Professor, Geography & Planning
- Ariana Bradford, Executive Director, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
- Theresa Brown, Internship Program Coordinator, Arts and Science Internship Program
- Kiran Champatsingh, Communications Officer, School of the Environment
- Panna Chauhan, Business Development Officer, Arts and Science Internship Program
- Jennifer Farooq, Administrative and Project Coordinator, School of the Environment
- Sarah Hinves, Senior Space Planner
- Melissa Hill, Executive Director, Faculty Communications
- Helena Juenger, Assistant to the Chair, Graduate Assistant, St. Michael's College
- Madeleine Lavin, Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Provost, Trinity College
- Sarah Khan, Associate Director, Web and Digital Communications
- Mary Lyne, Chief Administrative Officer
- Erin Macnab, Director, Academic Operations and Strategic Initiatives
- Colin McMahon, Associate Director, Experiential Learning, Office of Experiential Learning & Outreach Support
- Michela McMurrich, Event Coordinator, School of the Environment
- David Powell, Undergraduate Administrator, School of the Environment (until Nov. 2024)
- Carrie Proctor, Student Learning & Professional Development Coordinator, Arts and Science Internship Program

- Greg Rupik, Director, Office of the President Secretary, St. Michael's College
- Meghan Sbrocchi, Department Manager, School of the Environment
- Phoebe To, Undergraduate Administrator, School of the Environment (since Nov. 2024)
- Clare Wiseman, Associate Professor, School of the Environment
- Roxanne Wright, Manager of Program Development and Delivery, Continuing Education, St. Michael's College
- Joel Rodgers, Coordinator, Graduate Student Professional Development, Office of Graduate Professional Development & Student Success

#### **Ontario Institute for Studies in Education**

- Erica Walker, Dean
- Hilary Inwood, Lecturer; Coordinator, Sustainability & Climate Action Network
- David Montemurro, Associate Professor, Teaching Stream; Associate Director, Master of Teaching Program
- Fikile Nxumalo, Associate Professor, Curriculum, Teaching & Learning
- Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone, Executive Director, Continuing & Professional Learning
- Jennifer Sumner, Associate Professor, Adult Education and Community Development Program
- Jenaya Webb, Director, OISE Library

#### **Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education**

- Cathy Amara, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education and Associate Professor, Teaching Stream
- Caroline Fusco, Associate Professor, Social Justice and Equity in Sport; Director, SPaCE (Sport, Physical activity and Cultural Environments) Lab

#### **Rotman School of Management**

- Richard Blundell, Executive-in-Residence
- Kenneth Corts, Vice-Dean, Research, Strategy, and Resources; Academic Director, Lee-Chin Institute for Corporate Citizenship; Marcel Desautels Chair in Entrepreneurship; Professor, Economic Analysis and Policy
- Walid Hejazi, Professor of Economic Analysis and Policy
- Rod Lohin, Executive Director, Michael Lee-Chin Family Institute for Corporate Citizenship, and Senior Lecturer
- Jan Mahrt-Smith, Associate Professor of Finance and cross-appointed to the School for the Environment; Academic Director, Full-Time MBA Program
- Bhavya Dhawan, Student Life Program Coordinator

#### **Faculty of Medicine**

- Paul Hamel, Professor, Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology
- Behdin Nowrouzi-Kia, Assistant Professor, Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy

## Faculty of Music

- Farzaneh Hemmasi, Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology, and School of Cities

## Dalla Lana School of Public Health

- Paula Braitstein, Associate Professor, Epidemiology Division, and Centre for Global Health
- Lissa Ceolin, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream
- Andrea Cortinois, Assistant Professor, Global Health
- Fiona Miller, Professor, Chair in Health Management Strategies, and Connaught Scholar, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, Dalla Lana School of Public Health; Director, CASCADES - Creating a Sustainable Canadian Health System in a Climate Crisis; Director, Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care
- France Gagnon, Vice Principal, Research & Innovation, UTM; Professor
- Blake Poland, Associate Professor, Social and Behavioural Health Sciences Division
- Erica Di Ruggiero, Associate Professor, Center for Global Health; Research Director, SDGs@UofT Institutional Strategic Initiatives
- Nicole Simms, Managing Director, Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation

- Helen Valkanas, Research Officer, Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health and Sustainable Care, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation

## University of Toronto Mississauga

- Matthew Adams, Assistant Professor, Geography, Geomatics and Environment
- Laurel Besco, Associate Professor, ENV Program Director, Department of Geography, Geomatics, & Environment / Institute for Management & Innovation
- Sarah Cherki El Idrissi, Assistant Professor, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology
- Tenley Conway, Professor, ENV Program Director, ENV Management Program Advisor Geography, Geomatics and Environment
- \*\*France Gagnon, Vice Principal, Research & Innovation; Professor, DLSPH
- Monika Havelka, Associate Professor; ENV Program Director and ENV Science Program Advisor, Geography, Geomatics and Environment
- Shashi Kant, Professor; Director, Master of Science in Sustainability Management Program
- Michael Liut, Assistant Professor, Mathematical and Computational Sciences
- \*\*Kent Moore, Associate Vice-Principal, Research & Innovation;



Professor, Chemical and Physical Sciences

- Tingting Zhu, Assistant Professor, Geography, Geomatics and Environment
- Michelle Atkinson, Sustainability Projects & Engagement Coordinator, Master of Science in Sustainability Management Program
- Rena Banwait, Director, Experiential Education and Community Engagement, Office of the VP Academic & Dean
- Linnet Kocheril, Placement and Employer Relations Manager, Master of Science in Sustainability Management Program
- Claire Westgate, Manager, External Partnerships and Communication, Institute for Management & Innovation

#### University of Toronto Scarborough

- Daniel Bender, Professor, Historical and Cultural Studies
- Marc Cadotte, Professor, Biological Sciences
- Heidi Craig, Assistant Professor, English
- Jessica Fields, Vice-Dean, Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success, Office of Vice Principal Academic & Dean; Professor, Health & Society
- Kris Kim, Assistant Professor, Physical and Environmental Sciences
- Nicole Klenk, Associate Professor, Physical and Environmental Science
- Jim MacLellan, Assistant Professor; Director, Environmental Studies

Program, Physical and Environmental Sciences

## 2.4 Communications

In consultation with the Brand Hub staff in U of T Communications (UTC), CECCS developed a value proposition narrative for sustainability at U of T, aligned with the university's existing Defy Gravity brand. Our narrative also includes primary messaging highlighting how sustainability is reflected in our mission and secondary messaging that captures the collaborative, holistic, transformative and responsive nature of our sustainability commitment. It is meant to capture U of T's unique assets and approach to sustainability.

The value proposition narrative was developed with input from key sustainability champions across U of T and will help provide a foundation for marketing communications, collateral materials and campaigns aimed at highlighting U of T's unique, defining work in the sustainability space to diverse audiences. A plan is in development to socialize this narrative with communications colleagues across the tri-campuses to ensure consistent messaging and application of the sustainability brand positioning in their own future materials and storytelling. In addition, a website renewal project for the central sustainability URL — [sustainability.utoronto.ca](https://sustainability.utoronto.ca) — is underway.

## 2.5 Internship Program

### Sustainability Summer Internship Program

In the summer of 2024, CECCS again administered full-time internships with local non-profit and government organizations thanks to funding from Wendy Adams. We provided up to \$15,000 each to EcoSchools, EcoSpark, the City of Toronto Environment & Climate Division, Malvern Family Resource Centre, and Toronto Environmental Alliance to hire U of T students or recent graduates to work on specific sustainability projects or challenges. Through this program, we build community partnerships and provide students with valuable work experiences to prepare them for sustainability careers.

**EcoSchools Canada** hired René Daranjo, a Master of Education, Curriculum & Pedagogy student at OISE as a Programs and Curriculum Intern.

As part of her internship, René assisted EcoSchools with the implementation of environmental curriculum in K-12 schools in Manitoba, creating action guides for students and teachers that result in schools receiving EcoSchools certification. She also supported the assessment of school applications, helping determine certification status and conducting virtual school visits, and helped with the planning of their annual EcoTeam Awards that recognize and celebrate the outstanding work EcoSchools are doing in their communities. Through additional funding, EcoSchools was able to hire a second student and extend René's contract beyond the funding period to the

end of December to support additional projects. More information about the internship work is available in the [EcoSchools 2023-24 National Impact Report](#).

“Overall, this was an extremely valuable opportunity for me to get experience in the environmental and nonprofit world... programs like this are essential, especially for recent graduates trying to get into the sustainability field. [EcoSchools] was a great organization to work with and be part of. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be able to contribute to environmental education work.”



**René Daranjo**  
Catalyst Intern

“Working with René over the course of her internship has been a wonderful experience. She is a committed member of the team and we have welcomed her positive attitude, detailed oriented working style, and expertise in sustainability education.”

**Clara Luke**  
René's supervisor



**The City of Toronto** hired Aashna Pachai, a Master of Arts in Geography and Planning student as a Research Trainee with the Environment & Climate Change Division. Aashna worked with the [City's PollinateTO Project](#). Tasks included social media engagement, reviewing group impact reports, organizing features for the project's public-facing map, and updating the project's

master list and the native plant, shrub and trees inventory on [the PollinateTO website](#). Aashna also contributed to initiatives run by the Climate Resilience team by designing an excel template to gather information on climate resiliency actions, conducting preliminary research on the 28 city divisions, agencies and corporations (DACs), and by creating visualizations to illustrate which initiatives addressed specific climate hazards and focus areas. She then drafted a summary report to explain all the findings. Aashna was hired into the City of Toronto staff following her internship.

“The CECCS Sustainability Internship Program is a crucial platform for students and recent graduates interested in sustainability and climate issues. It offers a hands-on experience in the non-profit sector and with government organizations, which is incredibly beneficial.”



**Aashna Pachai**  
Catalyst Intern

“Aashna performed exceptionally during her internship. She was an immediate contributor and team player... she also demonstrated strong communication skills, evident through engagement with staff from across the organization including management and senior leadership.”

**Stephanie Gower**  
Aashna's supervisor



### **The Malvern Family Resource Centre**

hired Tehseen Sarwar, an Honours Bachelor of Art in Environmental Studies and Architectural Design student,. To promote better access to the fresh produce being sold by farmers, Tehseen advertised and tracked the use of the market bucks' program which gave tokens worth either \$2 or \$5 as alternatives to cash purchases at the farmer's market. Customers who were able could also donate market bucks to increase produce accessibility for community members. Tehseen created information materials about sustainability issues to present at the market's eco-education table, assisted at the Malvern Urban Farm by planting, watering, and weeding crops, and helped with the hydroponic microform by assisting in seeding, transplanting, and harvesting. More information about food justice in Malvern is available on the [Malvern Family Resource Centre site](#).

“This internship.. taught me how to excel in a multitude of tasks, as my job was very much a mix of communication, sustainability education, organization and management, and farming. In the future, having this multidisciplinary experience will open doors and allow me to go into many different sustainability careers.”



**Tehseen Sarwar**  
Catalyst Intern



MFRC Food Access Intern Tehseen Sarwar (right) with Community Engagement Assistant Chey Upshaw (left). Photo: Claire Perttula.

**The Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA)** hired Nicola Schmidt, an undergraduate student majoring in Environmental Ethics as a Zero-Waste & Green Economy Projects Specialist. Nicola worked on three key initiatives: advocating for the use of reusable foodware at the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup, collecting data on local restaurants' efforts to reduce single-use plastics, and contributing to TEA's summer outreach initiatives. For the FIFA World Cup, Nicola researched previous sporting events that used reusable cups such as the 2024 Paris Olympics, and created case studies by attending, interviewing and photographing both Pride and the Taste of Lawrence Food Festival. Nicola also surveyed 100 local restaurants to collect data for her second initiative and tabled at farmer's markets throughout the summer, successfully collecting 60 new public sign-ups for the TEA newsletter.

"The internship offers valuable opportunities for emerging professionals to gain experience, build connections, and put their degrees to good

use by working on something they are passionate about."



**Nicola Schmidt**  
Catalyst Intern

Lastly, **EcoSpark** hired Kumal Udamulla, an environmental science and environmental biology double major student with a certificate in sustainability, as an Environmental Science Intern. At the beginning of his internship, Kumal taught students from grade 7 upwards about biodiversity, tree benefits and aquatic sampling by providing outdoor education sessions throughout the GTA. The second half of his work consisted of collecting data from Brookbanks Park, working with R statistical analysis code and creating visualizations for a citizen science project called [Caterpillars Count](#). The work contributed to the team's knowledge of which trees had the most anthropods and if there was a relationship between plant diversity and anthropod abundance.

"This opportunity was extremely valuable as I could apply what I had learned at university in a real-world and practical setting. It also helped me pursue my passion for environmental fieldwork and data analysis."



**Kumal Udamulla**  
Catalyst Intern



“Kumal has been a vital and inspiring part of our team. He has shown insightful project coordination and data management skills, exceeded expectations for data analysis to benefit both conservation and volunteer engagement, and displayed remarkable professional maturity for an early career intern.”

**Dana Buchbinder**  
Kumal's supervisor



### **New Sustainability Catalyst Internship Program**

In early 2025, and with the generous support of a new anonymous donor, the Sustainability Summer Internships became the Sustainability Catalyst Internships.

Modeled after the University of British Columbia's (UBC) and University of Victoria's Sustainability Scholars Programs, the Sustainability Catalyst Internship Program is an interdisciplinary program offered to graduate students. Students are offered paid opportunities to work on real-world sustainability challenges proposed by an organizational partner in the public, private, or non-governmental sector in the Greater Toronto Area.

Students work with a dedicated mentor from the host organization to complete a defined applied research project over 250 hours between May and September. Interns move through the program as a cohort and receive career development opportunities and project support from CECCS along the way.

For the program's inaugural year, we have worked with the U of T's Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health and Sustainable Care and other partners in the private, public and non-profit sectors towards securing more than a dozen promising new sustainability projects for U of T graduate interns in summer 2025.

## **2.6 International Higher Education Networks**

### **International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN)**

U of T continues to be an active part of the ISCN and is represented in the advisory committee by Kristy Facer, director of the CECCS Secretariat. She has also been named a senior fellow of the group. Kristy works with ISCN members to drive network actions relating to global climate and biodiversity policy as part of [ISCN's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan](#) Priority 2 (Global, Regional and Local Impact). In 2024, this included coordination of member participation in official side events at the COP29 Global Climate Summit and the development and launch of the [Cali Charter from Universities for Biodiversity](#) at the COP16 Biodiversity Summit.

U of T staff are active participants in ISCN Communities of Practice and thematic discussion groups on campus as a living lab, biodiversity, and scope 3 emissions. CECCS co-chair John Robinson also leads an ISCN Community of Practice on Sustainability Governance and Leadership.

CECCS co-chair John Robinson gave the keynote address at this year's ISCN

conference in Lausanne, Switzerland. His presentation on “Shortening the Turning Radius: advancing sustainability governance at Higher Education Institutions” shared some of the learnings from various CECCS initiatives with the 127 attendees representing 70 institutions from 25 countries. [The presentation slides of John’s address are available on the ISCN conference website.](#)

Shortly after the ISCN conference, John repeated this presentation during a visit to the University of Edinburgh. The recorded presentation is available on the [CECCS YouTube channel](#).



CECCS co-chair John Robinson presents at the 2024 ISCN Conference. Photo: ISCN

During the conference, Kristy was also invited to lead a session titled “From Calls to Action: Higher Education and the Global

Climate Agenda”. The session was delivered together with speakers Stephen Davison from Cambridge Zero and the Climate Champions Team, Ana Margarida Costa from King Abdulla University of Saudia Arabia and Kayla Block from Simon Fraser University.

In the session, the contributions of universities and networks to climate action were explored from multiple perspectives, including as non-state actor constituents to global climate policy, as innovators and partners advancing climate solutions and as educators preparing the next generation of climate leaders. The group also shared feedback on the next ISCN Strategic Plan.

As part of an ISCN staff exchange visit, the St. George Campus Sustainability Office met with peers at Harvard University after the CampusEnergy 2025 Conference in Boston on February 6 to discuss sustainability in higher education. Attendees included U of T chief operating officer Ron Saporta, directors Catherine Thorn, Ray Montiero, Flavio Bertolo, and their staff, as well as members of Harvard's Sustainability Office, including chief sustainability officer (CSO) Heather Henriksen, directors Jaclyn Olsen, Rebecca Hatchadorian, associate director Davis Havelick, and their staff.

During the more than three-hour session, both teams shared their sustainability missions, goals, initiatives, and strategies to overcome common challenges. The discussion focused on campus energy and decarbonization, scope 3 emissions (including air travel), building design

standards, waste programming, sustainable change mechanisms, and communications. U of T and Harvard found many synergies in their approaches, and further discussions are already in motion, marking the start of a productive partnership.

The U of T team also had the opportunity to visit the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and meet with sustainability colleagues. CSO Julie Newman discussed MIT's sustainability portfolio, followed by assistant director Brian Goldberg's campus tour showcasing various sustainability features. The team sincerely appreciated the time and effort extended by Julie and Brian.

### **University Coalition on Climate Change (UC3)**

In keeping with the strategy of advancing leadership on sustainability across peer institutions, U of T is also represented as an inaugural member of [The University Climate Coalition](#) (UC3)'s Steering Committee.

Coordinated by Second Nature, UC3 is a network of 23 leading research universities in North America committed to accelerating climate action on campus, in communities and on a global scale. Second Nature also convenes the Climate Leadership Network of more than 400 higher education institutions and brings these groups and their partners together in the annual Higher Education Leadership Summit, in which U of T also participates (see more on this under the operations and research sections of this report).

### **Higher Education Climate Network of Networks**

In 2024-2025, the Network of Networks (NoN) continued to grow with more than 25 networks now regularly participating in NoN activities and calls.

The Networks worked with the director of operations and colleagues in the [Climate Champions Team](#) to develop and fill a part time higher education lead role to facilitate climate action connectivity between higher education and other sectors. The NoN provided input to the United Nations Climate Secretariat consultations regarding the [2030 Climate Solutions Roadmap](#) and future of the [Marrakech Partnership](#); new research investigating connections between all three Rio Conventions, the Cali Charter on Biodiversity (mentioned above); a climate-proofing campaign for small and medium enterprises (SMEs); and various convenings by networks and others at the [June UN Climate Meetings \(SB60\)](#) and Baku Climate Week.

The COP29 roundtable was hosted at ADA University in Baku, Azerbaijan (and online by co-convenor Kristy Faccor) and included in-person commentary from Monique Nardi from the UN and Andy Deacon from the Global Covenant of Mayors. Several other coordination meetings were held with networks throughout the year.

### **2.7 Adams Celebration Grant Impact**

Although donor funding for the Adams Sustainability Celebration ended in 2023, the impacts from grant funding have continued

into 2024. Below are just two examples from the 2022-23 staff and faculty grants.

### **Hart House Land Restoration Project**

Stemming from the \$5000 Adams Sustainability Staff Grant awarded in 2023, in the summer of 2024 Hart House hosted workshops at the farm on invasive species removal and re-purposing invasive plant materials to build a dead hedge, supporting native seedlings and protective habitat for birds, insects and wildlife.

Initially, part of the grant was to engage an Indigenous expert in land restoration and food forests. When that expert moved out of the area, the project experienced a temporary set-back, which became a silver lining allowing more time for a group of Daniels faculty students to become engaged through a [Master of Landscape Architecture Design Research Studio course \(LAN3016\)](#) taught by former CECCS member Liat Margolis.

Students researched the environmental and Indigenous-settler history of Hart House Farm to create design proposals and forest management plans exploring strategies for the farm to answer the call of [U of T's Truth and Reconciliation report](#) by becoming a locus for Indigenous-led land-based teaching, research and guardianship training community-engaged programs.

After working with these students, Hart House staff recipients of the grant opted to focus less on a food garden, and more on restoring the land and improving the health of the forest and native plant populations at

the farm, so more native and traditional plants can flourish. This builds upon the initial knowledge shared by their Indigenous expert M'kmose that restoring the land is a long-term project that requires patience and commitment; and has corresponded with a series of consultations Hart House has engaged in with community partners about the future of the farm, resulting in discussions about land stewardship.

The 2024 summer workshops were the result of the MLA student proposals, and an example of Campus as Living Labs. Part one on July 23 focused on species removal of invasive European Buckthorn from areas identified by the MLA students and the Credit Valley Conservancy. Experts from the Credit Vally Conservation and Bruce Trail Conservancy were on hand to guide volunteers on properly identifying and removing the invasives, and Indigenous Elders led participants, which included Indigenous youth participating in the [Nikibii Dawadinna Giigwag](#) program, in a land-based teaching focused on plant kin and our shared responsibilities to care for the land.

In keeping with Indigenous teachings and commitments to sustainability, the plant materials removed were repurposed for the second workshop on August 13. After allowing the plant material to dry out to prevent re-rooting, volunteers and the MLA students built a dead hedge to create a nurturing space for native seeds to gather and take root. Eventually, the dead hedge material will go back to the earth, and with some care and tending, new natives planted and recommended by Indigenous



knowledge keepers will flourish in its place and be used by Indigenous community members.



Adams Staff Grant recipient Day Milman (left) with volunteers holding tools used to remove invasive European Buckthorn as part of the Hart House Land Restoration Project. Photo: Kristy Bard.

Funds from the Adams Sustainability Staff Grant were used to pay for Indigenous elders and instructors to participate, purchase native plants, and provide meals and transportation for volunteers.

The Hart House Farm Committee will build regular tending and maintenance of these new native plants into their regular events, to ensure responsibilities to the land and plant kin are met going forward.

More phases of land restoration at the farm are in the works.

### **Prof. Kris Kim, Optimizing Vermicomposting Efforts at UTSC**

Since receiving the \$5000 Adams Sustainability Faculty Grant in 2023, Prof. Kris Kim has offered four paid student research positions in collaboration with the UTSC Campus Farm and Culnaria Research Centre as part of his CHMB16 course on Techniques in Analytical Chemistry.

Over their paid research positions from the fall of 2023 to the summer of 2024, these students led the development and setup of a

vermicompost operation at UTSC and gained experience developing ways to analyze the quality of vermicompost with UTSC's state-of-the-art analytical facility, [the TRACES Centre](#).

The impact of the project extended beyond the course itself and led to the integration of the goals, process and preliminary results into several other courses such as CHMA12: Advanced General Chemistry and CHMB16: Techniques in Analytical Chemistry.

Additionally, the student researchers, Sukriti Kotharia and Khanisha Singaravadivel, were invited to give guest lectures about their work in other courses, such as an agroecology course.



Vermicompost researcher Daniel Orozco Fernandez. Photo: Prof. Kris Kim

## 2.8 Staff Sustainability Training

What started as an Operations Subcommittee initiative in 2021 was finally piloted to the first group of 45 staff members on November 27, 2024. After collaborating with staff members in the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and the Institutional Equity Offices, on April 10, 2024 the CECCS Secretariat held a pilot session of [Integrating Sustainability Goals in our Workplaces at U of T](#) with PSEC, EDI and OII staff from across the three campuses. The group provided valuable feedback that was incorporated into the training.

The learning objectives of the training include:

- Familiarize staff with the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Understand the connection between sustainability and EDI
- Learn about U of T sustainability, EDI and OII initiatives
- Empower staff to advance sustainability in their workplace

After identifying co-facilitators from the PSEC, EDI and OII teams, the first session quickly met the registration capacity and developed a long wait list. Additional sessions were scheduled for March 4 and May 29, 2025.

The training will continue to be adapted and improved based on staff participant evaluation feedback, and to ensure the content is kept current. This includes creating asynchronous modules so the training can reach more staff.

Kristy Bard, project manager for the CECCS Secretariat and training facilitator, has also been invited to give an adapted version of the training at a session of the May 7 Student Life Day of Learning.

“I am glad to hear that the university is taking important steps towards sustainable initiatives; at the same time, it was great to connect with others, learn from colleagues what they are doing and provide for opportunities to exchange knowledge.”

### Workshop Participant

## 2.9 Divisional Level Framework for Sustainability Planning

Last year, CECCS developed a divisional level framework to guide academic units in the development of sustainability strategic plans. Inspired by [UTM's Sustainability Strategic Plan](#), [OISE's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan](#), and [Trinity's Integrated Sustainability Initiative](#), the framework offers examples of actions taken by others, and steps faculty and divisional leaders can take, under guidance of CECCS, to embark on a process of discovery about how to integrate sustainability in ways that are aligned with unit goals and priorities.

One example of this is through embedding sustainability strategies within broader divisional academic planning, such as what St. Michael's College did with the [St. Mike's 180: Rooted in the Future](#).

CECCS co-chair Ron Saporta presented the framework at a Principal and Deans meeting on October 17, 2023. We are currently in discussions about piloting the framework

with the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering and the Faculty of Arts & Science, both of which are in the process of undergoing academic planning exercises.

## 2.10 Sustainability Week Events

On March 22, 2024, CECCS co-sponsored an event celebrating SDG6 and World Water Day along with the School of Environment, the Department of Geography and Planning, and [Water Speaks](#), a nonprofit initiative founded by CECCS emeritus member Romila Verma raising awareness of the global water crisis through research, education and action.

The event included an Indigenous welcoming and closing ceremony led by Brooke Holdsworth, a screening of the documentary [Water Be Dammed](#) written and produced by Romila, and a skit of water archetypes written and performed by her students. After the skit, participants were invited to co-create regenerative sustainability by identifying the water archetype they most identified with. There was also a raffle draw for a gift basket that included resin art created by U of T student [Zehra Ali](#).

On March 21, 2025, we collaborated with the same partners to again co-sponsor a World Water Day event led by Romila. This event included a screening of the award winning film by Sindre Kolbjørnsgaard called “Voice of the Glaciers.” After the screening, attendees had a chance to engage with the filmmaker directly about his journey making the film and the challenges of Arctic exploration to

uncover undeniable proof of climate change and glacier melt.



*Romila Verma (centre) with participants at the World Water Day Event, co-sponsored by CECCS, in 2024. Photo: Asad Ali.*

## 2.11 Other Engagement Initiatives

On May 1, 2024, CECCS hosted a Campus as Living Lab tour in collaboration with Trinity College and the St. George Sustainability Office, with visiting guest from Monash University [Sam Rye](#) (Senior Research Officer, Monash Living Labs Infrastructure).

As part of a knowledge exchange about living labs at our respective institutions, we toured the construction site of the [Lawson Centre for Sustainability](#) at Trinity College.

This mass timber, zero carbon, platinum LEED building will include geothermal heating, a roof farm, triple pane windows, exposed wood walls, and beautiful common areas for students, setting the bar for how buildings should be built.

Scheduled for completion in September 2026, tour participants were impressed with how quiet the construction site was because of its modular design.

The tour also included U of T's Landmark project, featuring Canada's largest urban geoechange, parking lot filled with EV chargers and the newly pedestrianized King's College Circle.



*CECCS Secretariat tours the construction site of the Lawson Centre for Sustainability at Trinity College, slated for completion in fall 2026. Photo: Kristy Bard.*



# 3

## Teaching & Learning Subcommittee



*U of T students take part in a land-based learning workshop at Hart House Farm. Photo: Nick Iwanyshyn*

### 3.1 Membership & Priorities

#### Committee members

- Timothy Chan (Co-Chair), Associate Vice-President and Vice-Provost, Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation; Professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
- Hilary Inwood (Co-Chair), Lecturer; Coordinator, Sustainability & Climate Action Network, OISE
- Shannon Simpson, Senior Director, Office of Indigenous Initiatives

#### Subcommittee-only members:

- Rena Banwait, Director, Experiential Education and Community

Engagement, Office of the VP Academic & Dean, UTM

- Michael Classens, Undergraduate Associate Director; Assistant Professor, School of the Environment, FAS
- Andrea Cortinois, Assistant Professor, Global Health, DLSPH
- Heidi Craig, Assistant Professor, English, UTSC
- Cristina D'Amico, Faculty Liaison Coordinator, Graduate Student Development & TA Training, Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation (CTSI)
- Heather Hermant, Lead Coordinator, Academic Initiatives, Centre for Community Partnerships (CCP)
- Alexandra Rahr, Director, Undergraduate Programs & Student Experience; Associate Professor, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
- Sarah Urquhart, PhD Candidate, OISE

#### Priorities

The renewed members of the Teaching & Learning (T&L) Subcommittee met for the first time on November 26, 2024. Members were briefed on the history of the T&L Subcommittee and its ongoing and legacy initiatives, namely: the Sustainability Pathways Program, the Sustainability Undergraduate Course and other inventories, the Emerging Principles for Sustainability Teaching, and the

collaboration with the Community of Practice on Sustainability Pedagogy (CoP).

The group then explored questions such as how the concept of sustainability is interpreted in the context of courses and what potential there might be for amalgamating the inventory data to make it more accessible. The priorities for 2025 on which they reached a consensus are:

1. Development of the Leader tier of the Sustainability Pathways Program, and expansion of the Sustainability Scholar and Citizen tiers
2. Refinement of Emerging Principles for Sustainability Teaching

In parallel, the T&L Subcommittee will assess opportunities for intersection and leveraging our priorities alongside relevant partners and players across campus (e.g. Sustainability Scholar Program administering units, Registrar's offices, Student Life, Sustainability Offices, Community of Practice on Sustainability Teaching, etc.)

### **3.2 Sustainability Pathways Program**

Sustainability and climate change are defining issues of our time and universities have a critical role in preparing the next generation of leaders. At U of T, we equip our students to be effective agents of change regarding sustainability issues regardless of their degree of choice.

The mission of the [Sustainability Pathways Program](#) is to provide all undergraduate

students with the opportunity to incorporate sustainability learning into their program and develop cross-cutting interdisciplinary skills. The program encourages students to become Sustainability Citizens, Scholars, Leaders, or a combination of the above through an integrative tiered framework of co-curricular activities, academic learning and culminating leadership activities.

### **Sustainability Scholar Program**

Sustainability Scholar Program is the curricular learning tier of the Sustainability Pathways Program, taking the form of a Certificate or Minor in sustainability. The program aims to complement any undergraduate degree or discipline, such that all participating students develop a sustainability lens, and to bring together students from across different disciplines who can approach the topic of sustainability from multiple perspectives and engage in interdisciplinary dialogue.

The Scholar Program's novelty is in its offer to reach a much larger fraction of the student population than traditional programs with an express focus on sustainability. At U of T, the proportion of students who major in sustainability subjects such as environmental science and conservation biology is upwards of 4%. The goal of the Scholar Program is to reach the rest, so that the other 96% of U of T's undergraduate student population also have an opportunity to integrate sustainability learning into their program of choice.

Since launching in 2018, the Sustainability Scholar Program has been offered in the following four divisions:

- Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design's Certificate in Sustainability of the Built Environment

- Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering's Sustainable Energy Minor and Environmental Engineering Minor
- Faculty of Arts & Science's Certificate in Sustainability
- University of Toronto Scarborough's Certificate in Sustainability

In September 2024, our sixth Sustainability Scholar program launched with the University of Toronto Mississauga's [Certificate in Sustainability](#). Aligned with the launch of this newest Scholar program, CECCS work study students created [a series of promotional videos](#) interviewing students and faculty about their experience engaging with the Scholar Program in the Faculties of Arts & Science and Engineering. Short reels of these interviews were posted on Instagram to promote the Scholars program. This promotional campaign was a direct result of one of the recommendations of the fall 2022 ENV461 Campus as Living Lab project on [Assessing Awareness, Appeal and Accessibility of the Sustainability Scholar Program at the University of Toronto](#). In January 2025, two new Certificate programs at the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering were approved for Sustainability Scholar designation, which will take effect in September 2025: the [Renewable Resources Engineering Certificate](#) and the [Electric Vehicle Design Certificate](#). With this, the Scholar tier will now have eight programs across five divisions.

The addition of the UTM's Certificate in Sustainability expanded the reach of the university-wide Scholar Program to 86% of

undergraduate students. The total number of enrolled students in the Scholar programs across five divisions as of October 2024 was 924, a 27% increase over 2023. While the constant year-over-year growth of the Scholar Program since its launch in 2019 is encouraging, the low level of program awareness among students, faculty and staff remains a challenge. The Subcommittee will continue to develop plans to expand enrolment while addressing hosting divisions' capacity issues. How to respond to the growing demand for extending the program to graduate students is another topic the Subcommittee will explore.

When we examined the home degree programs of students participating in the Scholar program in the 2023-24 academic year at the largest multi-department faculty at U of T, the Faculty of Arts & Science, we found that they came from 53 non-traditional sustainability major and specialist programs such as art history, criminology and immunology. This demonstrated breadth is one indicator of the program's impact, offering opportunities for students to engage with peers from a variety of disciplines and develop the capacity for an interdisciplinary synthesis in class. In October 2024, U of T was shortlisted for the Sustainability Education Literacy category of the [QS Reimagine Education Awards](#) for our Sustainability Pathways Program. The awards were the 11th edition of the QS university and venture competition committed to redefining learning and employability for future generations through the lenses of sustainability and innovation. Our nomination of the Pathways Program

ranked in the top 25% of 1800 applications, securing a spot on their 2024 shortlist.



*The Sustainability Pathways Program was a shortlisted nominee at the QS Reimagine Education Awards.*

In May 2025, the CECCS Secretariat team is scheduled to present the Pathways Program at U of T's Teaching & Learning Symposium hosted by the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation.

“I got to see the science bridged with humanities... and how it influences policies, our planning decisions and how we can try to make the SDGs a reality based on people’s needs. Now when I’m studying science, it’s easier to connect (the learning) back to the people. The program made my education at U of T more holistic.”



**Kelechi Nwokeocha**  
Sustainability Scholar, UTSC Certificate in Sustainability

“[The program recognition on your transcript signals] your specialization in and commitment to sustainability which makes you more appealing to potential employers, because so many industries and sectors are looking for young people who are trained in sustainability now... It’s important to ensure the students are leaving the program with a sense of purpose, a sense of hope. While there are many challenges the world is facing, there are equally as many solutions.”



**Michael Classens**  
Assistant Professor, School of the Environment  
Certificate in Sustainability, Faculty of Arts & Science

“When it comes to energy use, it’s far more than just an engineering problem. It’s a psychological, behavioral, economic, policy, and a political problem - we have to bring [these different elements] together to the same table... The benefit of the sustainability program is to bring a holistic understanding to create truly sustainable solutions.”



**Danny Harvey**  
Professor, Department of Geography  
Scholar Program: Sustainable Energy Minor,  
Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering



## Sustainability Citizen Program

The [Sustainability Citizen Program](#) on Folio allows u of T students to receive official recognition for their sustainability related extracurricular activities.

Since the program's launch in the fall of 2022, 417 students have enrolled and 33 students have earned Co-Curricular Record recognition through completion of the program. Over the summer of 2024, the CCR program along with the tri-campus [Sustainability Event Calendar](#) was moved from CLNx to Folio.

Below are quotes from the final reflections of three Sustainability Citizens:

“This program helped me understand and unlock my passion for the environment and sustainability. By hearing from a multitude of different perspectives about what exactly sustainability and environmental justice means, I am better able to grasp the multidisciplinary problem that the climate crisis poses (and) will apply what I have learned throughout my career in law school by pursuing environmental law and policy.”



**Jaime Rosenfeld**

Trinity College Ethics, Society & Law Program

“Attending sustainability events over the past few months has solidified my commitment to sustainable living. I acknowledge the magnitude of the environmental challenges we face, but it was truly inspiring to witness so many individuals actively working towards solutions.”



**Muzaffar Khan Malik**

Woodsworth Academic Bridging Program

“My dream is to continue making strides in climate action on a larger scale, and I dedicate my drive to the people I have met and the experiences I have gained on campus. Amidst all of the fear and climate anxiety in the world, there is also so much to be excited for – there are bold new ideas and many people who truly care, this program helps expose you to this world of hope so you can become a part of it!”



**Teya Knightingale**

Rotman Commerce, Finance and Environmental Economics

## Sustainability Leader Program

Now that the Sustainability Citizen and Scholar tiers are in place, the Subcommittee's focus for 2025 is the development of the Sustainability Leader tier.

Recognition for the Leader tier will be made available to students who complete the Scholar and Citizen tiers and meet a set of culminating leadership criteria set out by the CECCS. The Leader tier will aim to recognize student leadership in action on or off campus.

Details of expected learning outcomes, structure, validation process, and incentives are to be finalized this year.



### 3.3 Emerging Principles for Sustainability Teaching

In previous T&L Subcommittee meetings, discussion focused on refining our definition of sustainability teaching to share it with a wider teaching community at U of T to inspire and transform their teaching for more sustainability grounding and orientation. In the process, a few principles in understanding sustainability teaching and implications for the University governance emerged. They are based on the lived experience of T&L faculty, students, and staff members and their networks.

The emerging principles are summarized as follows for further refinement:

- Recognizing student eco-anxiety
- Need for teaching on critical hope
- Centering environmental justice
- Defining sustainability as a process-based approach
- Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches
- Place-based and land-based education; connecting to communities
- Transformative sustainability pedagogy

To provide evidence to support, revise, and/or expand these principles, a literature review and environmental scan was conducted as part of a Campus as Living Lab project in the ENV461 class taught by CECCS co-chair John Robinson. [The ENV461 report](#) will be provided to the Subcommittee to aid the refinement discussion this year.

### 3.4 Sustainability Undergraduate Course Inventory

The [2024-25 Sustainability Undergraduate Course Inventory](#) was updated in the summer of 2024 for the 2024-25 academic year. There are 2076 sustainability-oriented courses this year, representing 29% of all 7288 courses. This is similar to last year when we had 2061 courses (30%) out of 6899.

This year's inventory is the outcome of the course inventory update automation project using machine learning. Proposed by former Teaching & Learning (T&L) Subcommittee member Tamer El-Diraby, and endorsed by T&L Subcommittee, the project employed three student research assistants with computer science or computer engineering backgrounds.

Over three semesters, the students developed a machine learning model and trained it on select data sets from previous years' inventories and the SDGs website to find relationships among words in course titles and descriptions.

The model was developed to recognize patterns around each SDG, e.g. which words show up together often under each SDG, and assign relevant SDG(s) to each course. The machine learning model's output was manually reviewed to validate the results and apply corrections where necessary.

For courses unchanged in description from the previous year, their SDG classifications were maintained for this year. The new methodology was applied to new courses or courses with new descriptions only.

The output was similar to last year's inventory likely because the training data was small - consistency and accuracy were prioritized over volume - and taken primarily from last year's data, and because the new methodology was applied to new or changed courses only.

We appreciate that this first iteration of automation through machine learning yielded results within limited parameters.

The plan for 2025-26 is to expand the training data set and address other challenges identified throughout the process.

### 3.5 Sustainability Experiential Learning Inventory

The purpose of the [2024-25 Sustainability Experiential Learning Course Inventory](#) is to increase the visibility of courses that foster community engagement and external partnerships. The 2024-25 inventory includes 111 courses, representing 5.4% of the 2076 courses captured in the [Undergraduate Sustainability Course Inventory](#).

### 3.6 Campus as a Living Lab and Experiential Learning Project Database

As of April 2025, there are now a total of 505 projects in our [Campus as a Living Lab \(CLL\) and Experiential Learning \(EL\) Project Database](#) tagged by SDGs. Of these, 215 are CLL projects and 290 are EL projects addressing various sustainability challenges in collaboration with partners on and off campus.

Members of the campus community can browse this searchable database, as many

projects and reports can be downloaded to facilitate knowledge sharing and for others to build off the work done previously.



*Sustainability staff and ENV461 Campus as a Living Lab students tour the Greentec facility, where U of T sends electronics for recycling. Photo: Jarod Ellis.*

### 3.7 Campus as a Living Lab for Sustainability Courses

Every year, the CECCS Secretariat supports matchmaking between Campus as Living Lab (CLL) courses and projects. Dedicated support is also provided for project solicitation for two School of the Environment CLL courses: John Robinson's ENV461: The U of T Campus as a Living Lab of Sustainability (taught by Emily Smit in the fall of 2024), and Alstan Jakubiec's ENV1103: Living Labs for Applied Sustainability.

The projects and U of T staff and faculty clients for fall 2024 are listed next. This year's clients included external partners from Les Verts Living and the Toronto Community Benefits Network. In addition to soliciting the projects for these courses, CECCS Secretariat staff attended the mid-term and final project presentations, and shared

recommendations from some projects with CECCS Subcommittees and Working Groups where relevant to assist with implementation.

A [list of other courses that contain elements of CLL principles](#) appears on the website.

### Fall 2024 projects for ENV461

#### [Circular Fashion on Campus: the Creation of a Self-Sustaining Clothing Swap Locker.](#)

Clients: Meghan Sbrocchi, Michela McMurrich, School of Environment

The recommendations from this project were used to pilot Clothing Swap Pop-Up Lockers at New College Residence and Sidney Smith during the March 2025 Sustainability Week.



*A clothing swap pop-up locker was an outcome of a CLL project on circular fashion. Photo: Michela McMurrich.*

[Rethinking E-Waste: Creating Awareness and Seeking Solutions for Unwanted Digital Devices at Woodsworth College.](#) Clients: Roger Bulgin, CAO of Woodsworth; Prof. Heidi Craig, UTSC English/Woodsworth  
CECCS supported this project by organizing tours on campus and at the Greentec

recycling facility when much of U of T's electronic recycling is sent.

Connections made during these tours in part led to another CLL project in APS111/112, the large first year [Engineering Strategies and Practice course](#), during the winter 2025 term to develop a plan for a U of T Computer Reuse Centre which will be a collaboration between Central IT and Student Life.

During the Greentec tour, we learned about the significant GHG emissions saved by keeping electronics out of landfill. As a result, the Computer Reuse Centre is being proposed to receive [Carbon Reduction funding](#).

Recommendations from the ENV461 CLL project were also shared with the Operations Subcommittee Waste Reduction and Recycling Working Group and resulted in an update to the Facilities & Services [waste management website](#) to more clearly outline the St. George campus central process for electronics recycling.

[Sustainability Support for Residences During Move Out.](#) Clients: Kaitlyn Myles, Sustainability Office; Stella Chang, New College Don

As a result of this project, the Sustainability Office developed a plan with New College to collect reusable items for the Free Store during the spring 2025 move-out period.

Five 24-hour collection periods were held on Tuesdays from March 25 to April 22 in Wilson Lounge, with on-site supervision of the first two hours of each donation period. The following day, Sustainability Office staff and volunteer Sustainable Ambassadors will return to empty and remove the bins, with all items going to the [Free Store](#).

[Rooted in Sustainability: A Best Practice Guide for Container Gardening at the](#)



[University of Toronto](#). Clients: Meghan Sbrocchi, Emma Bernardo, School of Environment

(split with 1103) [Pioneering Sustainability at University of Toronto Startups](#). Clients: Jon French, Samantha Goodspeed, Justine Spero, U of T Entrepreneurship

[Reimagining the Scarborough RT: Insights from North American Transit Repurposing Projects](#). Clients: Prof. Sergio Montero Munoz, Institute for Inclusive Economies and Sustainable Livelihoods (IIESL), Dept. of Human Geography, UTSC; Kumsa Baker, IIESL Community Leader in Residence, Toronto Community Benefits Network

### Fall 2024 projects for ENV1103

[Impact on Indoor Gardening on Staff Wellbeing and Engagement](#). Clients: Natalie Vasilivetsky, Sustainability Office; Andrew Vickerson, CEO of Les Verts Living



Facilities and Services staff planting seeds as part of the project *Impact on Indoor Gardening on Staff Wellbeing and Engagement*. Photo: Kristy Bard.

[Impervious Surface & Green Stormwater Management](#). Client: Chelsea Dalton, Sustainability Office

(split with 461) [Impact Measurement and Advocacy: Championing Sustainability across U of T Startups](#). Clients: Jon French, Samantha Goodspeed, Justine Spero, U of T Entrepreneurship

[Investigating the Scope 3 Emissions and Climate Impacts of U of T's Food Services](#). Clients Chelsea Dalton, Sustainability Office; Jaco Lokker, Director, Culinary Operations and Executive Chef, Food Services.

The students on this project, Jaden L. Phillips and Tristan Gessell, had the opportunity to share their findings at a February 19, 2025 Ontario College and University Sustainability Professionals (OCUSP) Lunch and Learn.

Representatives from 14 different colleges and universities across the province attended to learn from the project recommendations and how they can calculate Scope 3 emissions from food services on their campuses.

### 3.8 Community of Practice (CoP) on Sustainability Teaching

The [Community of Practice on Sustainability Teaching](#) (CoP) is a professional learning community of U of T faculty and PhD students from different disciplines who come together to discuss and critically analyze the “what” and “how” of teaching sustainability.

There is an overlapping membership between the T&L Subcommittee and the CoP organizing team, but the CoP has remained independent from CECCS while supporting and amplifying CoP events and activities.

As a result of the recent departure of some founding members, the CoP organizing team and CECCS leadership have agreed that the

CoP should become part of the T&L Subcommittee to ensure its continuity over the long term. This will mean greater involvement from the T&L Subcommittee in leading CoP programming in the future.



# 4

## Research Subcommittee



Biology researchers at UTSC. Photo: Ken Jones

### 4.1 Membership & Priorities

#### Committee members

- Barbara Fallon (Co-Chair), Associate Vice-President Research, Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation; Professor, Social Work
- Imre Szeman (Co-Chair), Director, Institute for Environment, Conservation & Sustainability, UTSC; Professor, Human Geography
- Gwen Burrows, Assistant-Vice-President, International Engagement & Impact; Office of the Vice-President International
- Ito Peng, Director, Centre for Global Social Policy, Faculty of Arts & Science; Professor, Sociology

#### Subcommittee-only members:

- Heather Cunningham, Assistant Director, Research & Innovation Services, Gerstein Science Information Centre
- Erica Di Ruggiero, Research Director, SDG@UofT ISI; Associate Professor, DLSPH
- France Gagnon, Vice Principal, Research & Innovation; Professor, DLSPH
- Jessica Fields, Vice-Dean, Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success, Office of Vice Principal Academic & Dean, UTSC; Professor, Health & Society
- Vinita Haroun, Director, Centre for Research & Innovation Support (CRIS)
- David Sinton, Academic Director, Climate Positive Energy ISI; Professor, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, FASE
- Matti Siemiatycki, Director, Infrastructure Institute, School of Cities; Professor, Geography & Planning
- Michael Widener, Chair & Professor, Geography & Planning

#### Priorities

The Research Subcommittee's first meeting with the renewed membership was held on December 2, 2024. Based on the briefing on

subcommittee history and ongoing initiatives, namely on Integrating Sustainability into Research, the Transdisciplinary Knowledge Co-Production (TKC) Workshop, and the collaboration with the emerging sustainability research ecosystem, the group agreed that the value of this subcommittee's work is to highlight, platform, and amplify the work of the researchers while bringing them together for collaboration and education.

A priority ranking survey, conducted after the first discussion, yielded the following results for the committee's attention in 2025:

- Transdisciplinary Knowledge Co-Production (TKC) Workshops
- Integrating Sustainability into Research with some tools and approaches inherited from the 2023 initiative
- Responsible AI with a Sustainability Lens

#### **4.2 Transdisciplinary Knowledge Co-Production (TKC) Workshops**

Traditional academic training often focuses on extractive research methods, but real-world sustainability and climate challenges require a different approach - one that is solutions-focused and deeply engaged with non-academic partners. In partnership with the [SDGs@UofT Institutional Strategic Initiative](#) (ISI), the CECCS has co-hosted three TKC workshop sessions in 2023 and 2024 to deepen understanding of transdisciplinary community-engaged research, focusing on collaborative interactions and practical tools for

community-university partnerships, and discussion on perspectives of academic and community partners. The target participants were early-career faculty, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students interested in starting or advancing their TKC research.

The first in-person workshop held on December 14, 2023 introduced participants to the concept of TKC research and explored how it is different from conventional research. The session also introduced Visionary Communities, an SSHRC-funded project, to provide an example of research that centers the community's own vision and priorities for the future.

Attendees participated in a table exercise that consisted of a mock research project design process using the Visionary Communities project as a case study. Table facilitators and participants considered the roles of the academic research team and non-academic partners. This was followed by a working lunch where participants discussed potential incentives the University can provide to encourage more TKC research. The goal of posing this question was to shape the future direction of the workshop series and the University's institutional support.

The second workshop was held online on March 19, 2024, providing participants with a working knowledge of the methods and applications of TKC research through the lecture and literature provided. The session encouraged attendees to explore TKC methods and how they may reevaluate their research plans to incorporate TKC approaches in their unique research

fields. The session discussed the Visionary Communities project to offer examples of transdisciplinary approaches to research and highlight various challenges and opportunities associated with implementing TKC research. Following the lecture, an insightful discussion touched upon several important topics including how we can create structures that redistribute power in communities towards marginalized actors, and how researchers can collaborate effectively with academic and community partners.

The third workshop was offered in-person on October 4, 2024 and provided participants with deeper insight into collaborative interaction and good practices regarding TKC research by offering a roundtable session with community partners. Community partners from the Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN), the East Scarborough Storefront, Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA), and the City of Toronto shared their experiences with community-university partnerships and discussed insights regarding what works well, possible improvements, and advice for academics pursuing TKC research. Participants and community partners were placed into breakout groups to further discuss lessons and good practices in collaborative research. The session encouraged attendees to explore TKC methods and how they may reevaluate their research plans to incorporate TKC approaches in their research fields. To conclude the event, each participant was asked to share a 30-second key takeaway with the group.

There was a total of 75 participants registered across the three workshop sessions, 61 of which were unique participants. Of the 61 attendees, 33 (54%) were PhD students, ten (16%) postdoctoral fellows, nine (15%) master's students, eight (13%) faculty members, and one staff. By discipline, ten (16%) came from Education backgrounds, nine (15%) from Engineering, six (10%) from Geography, five from Sustainability Management, and others ranging from Global and Public Health, Medicine, Forestry to Information Studies, Indigenous Health, Social Work, and Music. The majority had no prior experience with TKC, while 16 (26%) participants had less than two years of research experience and five people with more than five years.

TKC workshop participants learned to recognize the collaborative nature of TKC research and the value of putting oneself in the shoes of other stakeholders, as well as the importance of considering environmental and climate change amelioration as co-benefits when addressing community issues. The workshop sessions also reinforced the importance of continuous learning and active stakeholder engagement. Overall, these workshops generated much excitement over a groundswell of interest in TKC research at U of T. We will continue to explore opportunities to advance the TKC research, capacity building and possible future training and/or resources to add to the workshop series.



Panel discussion on community-university partnerships at a TKC workshop in October 2024. Photo by Kristy Faccor.

As a follow-up event to the TKC Workshop, a talk on *Co-Creating Transdisciplinary Education and Research in Complex Times* was presented by Naoko Ellis and Derek Gladwin from the University of British Columbia in October 2024. Nine participants from the latest TKC workshop and a new faculty member attended and shared a vibrant discussion.

Building on TKC workshops, the SDGs@UofT ISI launched a Community of Practice (CoP) on TKC research on January 24, 2025 with support from the CECCS team. This new CoP created and managed by the SDGs@UofT ISI is meant to pursue collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation with academic and non-academic partners. 26 participants, comprised of faculty members, graduate students, staff and a couple of community organization members, discussed what the values were as a community, what wicked problem could be tackled together over the next year, and what a reasonable expectation for impact might look like.

In February 2025, Kristy Faccor, Director of the CECCS Secretariat, was invited to present at the UC3's Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. on TKC on behalf of the CECCS.

Kristy's presentation, "Building a Community of Transdisciplinary Research Support" offered participants insight into TKC approaches to research and U of T's work with early-career researchers. The presentation was well received among student, faculty, staff and partner delegates.

### 4.3 Integrating Sustainability into Research

Inspired by examples of mainstreaming sex- and gender-based analysis (SGBA) in health research and the responsible research and innovation (RRI) movement in Europe, this initiative explores what it would mean for research conduct and content to be shaped more meaningfully by sustainability objectives and imperatives.

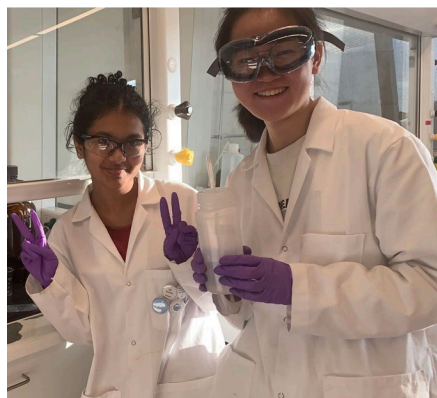
The initial stage of this project in 2023 focused on environmental sustainability dimensions and involved a literature review, a jurisdictional scan, and interviews with research administrators, individual academics and subject matter experts with insight into the theories and practices which could support or hinder integration at different levels. Potential pathways found at U of T include sustainability action plans (UTM and OISE), adding a sustainability question in internal grant applications (Tri-Council Impact Assessment), and research chairs.

The Research Subcommittee is exploring next steps for this initiative, including potential opportunities through policy and practice changes relating to sustainability research at U of T. One such opportunity lies in how to assess and improve sustainability engagement among academics using an institutional tool called [DiscoverResearch](#) (DR). DR is an online database that showcases U of T researchers expertise, supervision and collaboration opportunities. The tool also presents opportunities to improve keyword-based data collection and use to capture and track sustainability-related activities by members of the U of T community.

Another resource is the draft Divisional Framework for Sustainability Strategy developed last year by CECCS (see section 2.9). It is a customizable framework and resource for divisions and offices to leverage to develop sustainability strategy as part of their regular planning exercises. Research is one of the four areas for strategies and targets discussed. Other areas are Teaching and Learning, Administration, and Engagement and Partnerships. The draft framework could be utilized in setting and tracking appropriate key performance indicators for sustainable research.

Integrating sustainability into research practices across the three campuses will require collaboration with the thriving sustainability research ecosystem. There has been a surge in new research centres and institutes on sustainability since CECCS was created in 2017, bringing opportunities

for improved coordination and collaboration. In the coming phase, the CECCS will further explore opportunities for impact and value-addition with key representatives from these groups, many of whom are already active members of the Research Subcommittee.



*L-R: Chemistry students Sukriti Kothari and Yijin Zhang researching vermicompost. Photo: Kris Kim*

#### **4.4 Responsible AI through a Sustainability Lens**

In May 2024, an institutional [Task Force on Artificial Intelligence](#) was launched to collaboratively develop a strategic plan for the University's AI activities in teaching & learning, research, student services, operations and planning, administration, communications, library services, and technology and data governance. The Task Force is slated to release a report and recommendations, incorporating its working group recommendations, in the spring of 2025.

At the time of writing, draft recommendations of the Operations and Planning working group include:

- Emissions from AI which are not already covered under the University's Scope 2 emissions, including the definition of appropriate



boundary conditions, should be included in the University's tracking of its Scope 3 emissions. This tracking should be used to assess and inform emission mitigation measures at the University.

- Information about the emissions impact (both positive and negative) of certain AI tools should be collected and considered during AI tool procurement.
- CECCS should consider opportunities for enhanced mitigation measures, including relating to sustainable procurement, AI use-type, different user-groups and/or other relevant considerations that emerge through committee discussions.

While the first two bullets fall under the purview of the CECCS' Operations Subcommittee (see section 5.3), the Research Subcommittee is interested in exploring the third bullet that could engage the human side of responsible use of AI, including ethics and integrity, transparency, intellectual property, and/or promoting discrimination and biases.

Some members suggested that AI work should be of high importance as an emerging area to think about controls and standards, including but not limited to emissions. The Subcommittee will explore if it can play a role in raising awareness.

#### **4.5 Supporting the Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health and Sustainable Care Seed Grants**

In 2024, the CECCS partnered with the [Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care](#) on a Seed Grant to foster and support members of its community

working collaboratively on research in health, health systems, climate, environment, sustainability, and sustainable development. The Centre is an extra-departmental unit type C (EDU-C), established in November 2023 by its four founding faculties: the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, the Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. It is mandated to catalyze research, education, practice and partnerships for positive environmental and social change for health and in health systems, locally and globally.

In 2024, CECCS & the Collaborative Centre partnered on a \$10,000 seed grant to advance new research and practice opportunities. Following a call for proposals, the joint funded grant was awarded to Kate Hanneman, Associate Professor and Vice-Chair Research, Department of Medical Imaging, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, for a project titled "Age and Sex Specific Effects of Climate Related Environmental Exposures on Medical Imaging Utilization."



*Kate Hanneman. Photo: UHN Communications.*

The overarching goal of this study is to inform adaptation and resilience strategies to prepare for the effects of climate change and improve environmental sustainability in

radiology at local, national and global levels through the following three specific aims:

- Determine sex-and-age-specific associations of ambient heat and fine particulate air pollution on short-term medical imaging utilization from the emergency department
- Evaluate the association between climate-related environmental exposures and imaging utilization in relation to emergency department patient volumes
- Estimate downstream GHG emissions due to climate-related excess medical imaging utilization

#### **4.6 Sustainability Research Related Inventories**

Minor updates to the [Graduate Program](#) and [Research Unit](#) Inventories were conducted this year to correct formatting on our website to improve readability, corrected hyperlinks, and manually added new units such as the Munk School [Climate Adaptation, Resilience & Empowerment Program](#), and removed research units and graduate programs that are no longer active (e.g. [Health Care, Technology, and Place](#), [Resuscitation Sciences](#), Public Health Policy [Public Health Policy](#), Centre for the Study of Education and Work, Centre for the Study of Students in Postsecondary Education, and the Centre for Ambulatory Care Education).

With the total number of research units and graduate programs changing since our last full updates in 2022-23, we have removed the percentages of sustainability programming from the website until we have updated this information.

# 5

## Operations Subcommittee



CECCS student members Hannah Flores, Diego Arreola Fernández, Dorottya Kiss, at the geoelectricity project below King's College Circle. Photo: University of Toronto Communications

### 5.1 Membership & Priorities

#### Committee members

- Marianne Hatzopoulou (Co-Chair); Professor and Chair, Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering; Director, Positive Zero Transport Futures
- Catherine Thorn (Co-Chair); Director, Sustainability & Energy Management, Facilities & Services
- Roger Bulgin, Chief Administrative Officer, Woodsworth; Arts & Science
- Sarah Hinves, Senior Planner, Infrastructure Planning; Arts & Science

- Nicole Spiegelaar, Assistant Professor, Teaching Steam, School of the Environment; Academic Director, Trinity's Integrated Sustainability Initiative; Arts & Science (Campus as a Living Lab Working Group Chair)

#### Subcommittee-only members

- Beverley Ayeni, Senior Manager, Sustainability and Energy Management, UTM
- Ahmed Azhari, Managing Director, Operations, Sustainability & Asset Management, UTM
- Maureen Beckett, Project Manager, University Planning, Design & Construction
- Kenneth Corts, Vice-Dean, Research, Strategy, and Resources; Academic Director, Lee-Chin Institute for Corporate Citizenship; Desautels Chair in Entrepreneurship; Professor, Rotman School of Management
- Patricia Escobar, Sustainability Manager, UTSC
- Jeffrey Miller, Director, Facilities Management & Capital Projects, UTSC
- Shoshanna Saxe, Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering

## Priorities

On November 21, 2024 the Operations Subcommittee met for the first time since 2023 to review updates on last year's priorities and discuss 2025 goals. Taking into consideration member preferences from a survey distributed post-meeting, the following priorities for 2025 were identified:

1. Tri-Campus Sustainable Building Standard
2. Address Scope 3 Emissions (including AI)
  - a. Sustainable Procurement
  - b. Measurement and Reporting process
3. Waste Reduction & Diversion Working Group to address conclusions from the tri-campus waste audit

At the first meeting, it was agreed to establish a Campus as a Living Lab Working Group with participants from all CECCS subcommittees and relevant partners to make recommendations to CECCS on CLL related programming. While the Operations Subcommittee will continue to monitor tri-campus progress on meeting our Climate Positive commitments, it was agreed this no longer needs to be a priority given it's now operationalized on the three campuses.

## 5.2 Climate Positive Commitment updates

Meeting our [Climate Positive Tri-Campus Commitment](#) milestones for 2025 is being led by the respective Sustainability Offices at each campus. To date, climate action plans with aligned metrics have been published by

the St. George and UTM campuses. At St. George, modeling for the [Climate Positive Plan](#) launched in 2021 shows we're on track to achieve climate positive several years before 2050. [Project Leap](#) is the first step in this process and is expected to reduce emissions by 50% by 2027.

Second Nature recognized the Project Leap initiative led by our colleagues at the Sustainability Office with a [Climate Luminary Honors](#) award for the Research category, which was presented at the 2025 Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. in February 2025. CECCS director Kristy Facer and Kaitlyn Myles, project manager in the Sustainability Office at the St. George campus, were on hand to accept the award.



Kristy Facer (left), director of the CECCS secretariat, and Kaitlyn Myles (right), project manager, Sustainability Office St. George. Photo: Donglin Que.

UTM released their [Climate Positive Plan](#), which builds on their [2019 Low Carbon Action Plan](#), 2020 Utilities Master Plan, [Sustainability Strategic Plan](#), and [2021 Campus Master Plan](#). 2023 energy audits revealed 240 energy reduction measures that inform Phase 1 of [Project SHIFT](#), which

includes a 39% reduction in GHGs by 2030.

UTSC is in the process of creating and validating their plan. They have identified 13 key carbon reduction measures costing at \$38 million to meet their climate positive commitments. This includes priority HVAC and building envelope renewals as part of their [2024-29 Energy Conservation & Demand Management Plan](#).

### 5.3 Addressing Scope 3 Emissions through Sustainable Procurement

U of T launched its [Social Procurement Program](#) in 2023 with help from CECCS. Through social procurement, the university can leverage existing procurement activities to achieve positive social value outcomes. Since its launch, approximately 3,600 buyers across the three campuses have access to the [Diverse Supplier Portal](#), which connects them to just under 4,000 diverse suppliers—including student-led businesses. To date, the portal has tracked \$14 million in spending.

As the program evolves, the next phase involves laying the groundwork for piloting purchases over \$100,000. This work will be guided by the Sustainable Procurement Toolkit, originally developed by Central Procurement Services, and currently undergoing a refresh to reflect emerging needs and practices. To support this process, the Operations Subcommittee has convened a Working Group to update the toolkit, build internal familiarity, and begin setting the foundation for future piloting.

Meanwhile, UTM has drafted their own Sustainable Procurement Guides, in part informed by Central Procurement's toolkit. UTM is in the process of forming working groups with relevant stakeholders to review the guides ahead of signoff and roll-out. Their draft Procurement Guide on Cleaning and Janitorial Supplies is related to the Student Leadership Subcommittee's priority to switch to biodegradable soap and eliminate paper towels in U of T washrooms (see section 6.3).

SLS member and UTM student Jason Pang is working with the UTM Sustainability Office and Facilities Manager to review a list of vendors as part of an RFP that will be awarded in April 2025. Together, they will review chemical composition, availability of MSDS, eco-logo certification, and alignment to [STARS criteria](#) to select a vendor that can reliably supply biodegradable soaps and cleaning supplies. This information will then be shared with Caretaking management at the St. George and UTSC campuses so they can look at updating their own vendor agreements and design standards to adopt more sustainable products.

In the months ahead, the Subcommittee will explore the best mechanisms for measuring and reporting on Scope 3 emissions. This will in part be informed by the [2024 Quantification of Scope 3 Emissions report](#) funded by U of T's Climate Positive Energy Institutional Strategic Initiative. This report has provided a good baseline for understanding the University's Scope 3 emissions. For example, we now know that the majority of Scope 3 emissions are



caused by goods and services, hence the need for us to focus our efforts on sustainable procurement. However, there are different methodologies institutions are using to measure Scope 3 emissions, and decisions remain to be made on how to operationalize a consistent process to enable us to measure progress.

Another component to Scope 3 emissions is the impact of AI. We will include AI emissions in our Scope 3 audits and explore mitigation initiatives through the [Carbon Reduction Fund](#) (a.k.a. the [Air Travel Emissions Mitigation Initiative](#)) as part of the University's AI Task Force recommendations. AI will be included in the Sustainable Procurement Toolkit, and the Research Subcommittee also has a great interest in collaborating on the responsible and sustainable use of AI.

#### **5.4 Waste Reduction and Recycling Operations Working Group**

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Operations Working Group that was formed to address a key priority of the Operations Subcommittee in 2023 continued to meet throughout 2024 to discuss outcomes and next steps after the first aligned tri-campus waste audit in early 2024. This aligned audit used the same company and methodology on all campuses to allow for a fairer comparison of waste diversion. Previously, each campus used different companies and methodologies, resulting in large differences in stated diversion rates.

After the campus audit, there were still large differences in sampling sites e.g. UTM did not sample a back of house kitchen while UTSC and UTSG did. Since organics are heavy, their diversion rates skewed higher. There's also variability in special streams included in each campus diversion rate, e.g. light bulbs, batteries, construction waste, scrap metal.

Based on the 2024 tri-campus waste audits conducted by Waste Solutions on all three major campuses, an estimated 2,924,863.94kg of waste was diverted from landfill annually. This represents 53% of the estimated total 5,507,655.77kg of waste generated. This is an estimate because not all campuses provided the same annual hauler data, and hauler practices vary. Below are the links to each waste audit report for further details.

- [UTM 2024 Waste Audit Report](#)
- [UTSC 2024 Waste Audit Report](#)
- [St. George 2024 Waste Audit Report](#)



*Nabil Yacoub, waste management supervisor, explaining the process for recycling electronic waste at the St. George campus central recycling facility. Photo: Kristy Bard.*

Over the summer of 2024, a CECCS work-study student helped to analyse the waste audit results, considering differences in

sampling sites and special streams. 24-hour sample data from public-facing bins only (excluding hauler data and back of house organics that skewed results) show similar diversion rates of 10-20%. This is comparable to all public sector institutions in Ontario.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Working Group recommends moving away from publishing single diversion rates to two separate metrics: public bin waste diversion, and total diversion including special Streams and back of house, in addition to measuring total waste per full time equivalent and per gross square meter of building space.

### **5.5 Campus as a Living Lab Working Group**

The CLL Working Group was established by the Operations Subcommittee in early 2025 and is made up of members from each CECCS Subcommittee, as well as two CLL course instructors.

The first meeting was held on March 5, with three other meetings planned before July 1. The Working Group has attracted a high level of engagement from faculty and is tasked with providing direction to the goal of expanding the university's Campus as Living Lab program, including through recommendations to CECCS and the Secretariat on the following:

- Review existing goals, objectives and definition of CLL, and propose any changes, e.g. emphasizing CLL

projects can be related to both operational and academic administrative issues, including curriculum and research management.

- Establish a framework, direction, and set of priorities for expanding CLL.
- Determining how best to explore the impact of past CLL programming and projects, including, e.g. the degree to which projects have been implemented, impact on operational or administrative processes and/or practices, enhanced learning, advances in research and relational improvements among participants and partners, etc.
- Consider new formats CLL activities can take that provide a wide range of outcomes and impacts.
- Address concerns and questions relating to demands on staff time, broadening the list of CLL 'client' base, engaging faculty and bringing in external partners.
- Consider how CECCS should support, encourage, and facilitate both course and non-course based CLL projects, activities and initiatives.
- Map the role of different CLL supports and roles across campus, including value-addition of the CECCS team on matchmaking, process direction, CLL support tools, etc.

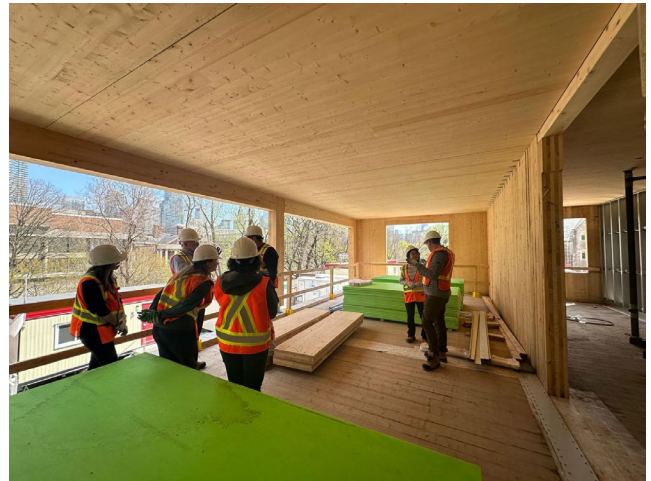
## 5.6 Sustainable Building Standards

Work on the tri-campus Sustainable Building Standard continues to move forward after more time than anticipated was required to address stakeholder feedback. This presented an opportunity to realign the release of the new standard with the St. George [Campus Master Plan 2040](#).

The goal remains to provide a comprehensive, holistic sustainability approach to the design and construction of new buildings on campus that will help us meet our Climate Positive commitments as well as other elements including embodied carbon and life cycle impacts, resilience, EDIA and health and wellness, while also managing alignment with constantly evolving external requirements such as the Toronto Green Standard and LEED.

Two Operations Subcommittee members with architecture and planning perspectives have been added to the core working group of tri-campus Sustainability Office and energy management staff. An advisory group of faculty and staff with related expertise is also being formed for further consultation.

When the first draft of the standard has been developed, more broad internal stakeholder consultation will begin. In the meantime, the existing [Tri-Campus Energy Modelling Standard](#) requires new buildings and major retrofits to meet absolute targets for operational carbon and energy.



*CECCS Secretariat and Sustainability Office staff at a tour of the Lawson Centre for Sustainability building under construction, May 2024. Photo: Kristy Facer*

# 6

## Student Leadership Subcommittee



Students gather at the Free Store, where students, staff, and faculty can shop for gently used clothing, furniture and books at no cost. Photo: Facilities and Services

### 6.1 Membership & Priorities

#### Committee members

- Harshit Gujral (co-chair), 4th year, PhD in Computer Science
- Kelechi Nwokeocha (co-chair), 5th year, Environmental Science/Biology, UTSC campus
- Victoria Costa Duarte, 1<sup>st</sup> year, PhD in Political Science and Collaborative Specialization in Environmental Studies

- Diego Arreola Fernández, 4<sup>th</sup> year, Environmental Studies, Economics, International Relations
- Hannah Permaul Flores, 4<sup>th</sup> year, BSc, Forest Conservation
- Zach Lidder, 2nd year, Peace, Conflict & Justice Studies, Trinity College
- Jason Pang, 1<sup>st</sup> year, Masters of Sustainability Management (MScSM); UTM

#### Subcommittee-only members

- Alyssa D'Addio, 1<sup>st</sup> year, MSc in Sustainability Management, UTM
- Amy Fernando, 1<sup>st</sup> year, MSc in Geography in Air Pollution and Health Dorottya Kiss, 1<sup>st</sup> year, Masters of Architecture, Daniels Faculty of Architecture & Landscape Design
- Dorottya Kiss, 1<sup>st</sup> year, Masters of Architecture, Daniels Faculty of Architecture & Landscape Design
- Celina Mankarios, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, UTM Environmental Management
- Amanda Meng, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Peace, Conflict and Justice/Environmental Science



## Priorities

In advance of their first meeting on November 28, 2024, CECCS student members were asked to brainstorm potential initiatives to focus on in 2025 in a collaborative document. Each student who put forward an idea briefly presented it during the meeting, with others contributing and Secretariat members providing feedback and guidance. The students were encouraged to select at least one or two initiatives that could be achieved within the short first mandate period to build momentum. During the meeting, the students ranked their individual priorities as follows:

1. Student Engagement. This involved conducting a survey/focus group, reaching out to non-environmental sustainability student groups, organizing an event during Sustainability Week, and providing input into the new sustainability website.
2. Campaign for U of T to switch to biodegradable soap/cleaning products and eliminate paper towels in washrooms.
3. Improving Waste Diversion/Recycling in Student Residences.

Members of the Student Leadership Subcommittee (SLS) have also been integrated into the Campus as Living Labs Working Group (see section 5.5) and are collaborating with the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee on the development of the Leader tier of our Pathways Program (see section 3.2).

Based on the identified priorities, SLS members then ranked the top five students to invite as Subcommittee-only members, from a list of 12 short-listed candidates from the CECCS call for nominations.



*CECCS member and SLS subcommittee member Victoria Duarte speaking at the committee meeting in October 2024. Photo: Polina Teif.*

## 6.2 Student Engagement

The Student Leadership Subcommittee (SLS) initiative on student engagement builds on CECCS student engagement efforts over the last three years through our participation in [Student Orientation](#) events on all three campuses. In 2024, we once again had a presence at the Clubs Carnival on the St. George campus on August 30. On September 4, we shared a table at the UTM Resource Fair with the UTM Sustainability Office and the MScSM program. And on September 11, we attended the UTSC Get Experience Fair, where we shared a table with the SDGs@UofT Institutional Strategic Initiative. At all three events, we talked to students about our [Sustainability Pathways](#) and [Sustainability Catalyst Summer Internship](#) programs. Our tables also once again featured the SDG Trivia Game created



by architecture students awarded the Adams Sustainability Student Grant in 2023. Students who signed up to receive our monthly newsletter during Orientation were entered for a chance to win \$200 in T-Bucks or UTM Gift Dollars. As a result, we gained 31 new subscribers to our newsletter, and 196 new followers on Instagram.

Members of SLS kicked off their student engagement priority by organizing a Winter Gathering on December 4, 2024. Staff, student, and faculty sustainability champions from across the tri-campus were invited to the year-end gathering to celebrate accomplishments and help forge new connections to advance sustainability at U of T. The well-attended event featured speeches from the SLS co-chairs Harshit Gujral and Kelechi Nwokeocha, who presented on the above noted SLS priorities for 2025, and some friendly competition with the SDG Trivia Game. The winning trivia team went home with CECCS branded t-shirts.

After the Subcommittee-only members were added, SLS members participated in a tour of the University's Geo-exchange system at the end of January. This served to help the students learn more about a flagship sustainability initiative on the St. George Campus and get to know each other more. Harshit Gujral, Kelechi Nwokeocha and Celina Mankarios later wrote about what they learned in [this article published in The Varsity on March 4](#).

In early March, the SLS student survey was launched, where students were invited to

share their experiences and opinions on campus sustainability initiatives for a chance to win one of four random draws for \$25 in T-Bucks. It is hoped that by knowing more about what students think, SLS members will become better equipped to represent student interests and concerns. The survey split into two streams, with one set of questions designed for individual students, and another for members of student group executives given the aim of collaborating more closely with student clubs and promoting awareness on the diverse ways that student groups are contributing to Sustainable Development Goals.

Over one month, the survey collected responses from 66 people, 32% of which identified as members of student club executives. The survey revealed strong student interest in sustainability education and events with 70% supporting a mandatory course on climate preparedness. While many students occasionally or frequently engage in sustainability events, key barriers such as lack of time, awareness, and financial constraints hinder broader participation. Executive student leaders expressed a desire to better integrate sustainability within their group activities, yet awareness of institutional initiatives remains limited, pointing to a need for improved communication and accessibility of resources.

The survey identified students willing to participate in a focus group at a later date. These focus groups will ask students a series of open-ended questions so that we can learn more about how SLS can help

amplify student voices and enhance student engagement by understanding student sustainability concerns and aspirations.

Another part of the student engagement campaign was the creation of an [online flyer](#) used to promote SLS goals, CECCS programming, and our orientation towards the concept of regenerative sustainability and the SDGs. In addition to linking to the student survey, the flyer invites students to get engaged by subscribing to the CECCS newsletter, following us on Instagram, and promoting events through our Tri-Campus Sustainability Calendar.



*CECCS work study students and Student Leadership Subcommittee members in front of the SDG Art Wall at the Sustainability Thinking Exhibition. Photo: Kristy Bard.*

Finally, the student engagement strategy included participation at Sustainability Week tabling events at the UTM and UTSC campuses. On the St. George campus, SLS members presented at the March 21 Sustainability Action Awards and World Water Day event co-sponsored by CECCS. SLS members also collaborated with the School of the Environment on the March 27 Sustainability Thinking Exhibition where they curated an SDGs Art Wall. On May 9, SLS member and forest conservation student Hannah Permaul Flores will lead campus tree tours as part of her participation in the

City of Toronto's [Neighbourhood Climate Action Champion](#) program. In advance of the first tour, [LEAF \(Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests\)](#) will conduct a presentation on the Benefits of the Urban Forest, which will include information about tree equity and identification.



*Attendees pose for a photo at the CECCS Winter Gathering, organized by the Student Leadership Subcommittee. Photo: Kelechi Nwokeocha.*

### **6.3 Collaboration with Caretaking on Biodegradable Soaps and Eliminating Paper Towels from Washrooms**

This initiative was initially proposed by SLS co-chair Harshit Gujral to address biodiversity on campus, and to extend the success of the recent transition to biodegradable soaps and cleaning products at Campus Cooperative Residence Inc. Harshit wrote about in [this Varsity op-ed in September 2024](#).

Students first met with St. George caretaking management in late December to discuss their desire to collaborate to transition to biodegradable soaps and eliminate paper towels from washrooms. Caretaking provided a list of cleaning products and soaps currently in use, which showed that most of the cleaning products and all of the hand soaps are already [Ecologo certified](#),

which means they are readily biodegradable. The hope is that by promoting this, we will not only make their use more well known across campus, but encourage members of the campus community to make adjustments to the products they use at home as well.

The students created [a webpage on biodegradable soaps](#) that explains how their use supports human health and marine life and includes an FAQ section. U of T's use of biodegradable soaps on all campuses has been promoted through a social media campaign corresponding with Earth Day.

While some of the cleaning supplies used by Caretaking are also Ecologo certified, the student's encouragement to follow up with suppliers of non-certified products to explore more environmentally friendly alternatives resulted in updated information on proper use procedures and dilution with front-line staff. While not biodegradable, the most commonly used multi-surface cleaner and degreaser is hypoallergenic, non-toxic and without VOCs.

In March, Caretaking provided an initial list of 349 washrooms where a pilot to remove paper towels could be trialed, given the existence of energy efficient Dyson Airblade V (low voltage) hand dryers in those locations already.

Communications staff at CECCS and Facilities and Services designed signage that will be applied to the paper towel dispensers in pilot locations that will not be stocked during the pilot. The signage includes a QR code linking to the [Paper Towel Reduction Pilot webpage](#) the students

created. This includes an explanation as to why removing paper towels is an important waste reduction initiative, FAQs, and a link to a feedback form. This feedback form will be monitored by SLS members and shared back with the Caretaking team. At the same time, Caretaking staff will share any complaints received, track cost savings, and inform us of any locations where paper towels may have to be reinstated and why.

SLS members have also reached out to the U of T Book Store to explore collaborating with them to sell U of T branded handkerchiefs that can be promoted as a reusable alternative to disposable paper towels. The Book Store is in the process of exploring vendor and design options, as the handkerchief could fit in well with a new line of sustainable and fair-trade certified line of products.

The long-term goal is to have St. George Facilities & Services update their existing [Caretaking Design Standard](#) so all washrooms will be outfitted with Dyson Airblade V low voltage hand dryers, allowing for the removal of paper towels from all washrooms as UTM has already done. UTM is also in the process of piloting their draft sustainable procurement guide on cleaning and janitorial supplies. SLS member and UTM student Jason Pang has been supporting this work, auditing top vendors that meet Ecologo certification and alignment with STARS. The results of this will be shared back with St. George Caretaking.

In the fall of 2025, we will have a group of students review all the data collected during the pilot and potentially collect additional qualitative feedback from Caretaking staff as part of a Campus as Living Lab project. The students will be tasked with conducting a jurisdictional scan to supplement the pilot findings with additional research and write a detailed report including recommendations for Caretaking's consideration. Turning SLS initiatives into Campus as Living Lab projects provides other students valuable opportunities to contribute to sustainable change on campus.

#### **6.4 Improving Waste Diversion/Recycling in Student Residences**

This initiative is another great example of Student Leadership Subcommittee (SLS) members initiating a student-led Campus as a Living Lab project. It started with SLS member and University College residence don Jason Pang noticing the lack of sufficient recycling bins in his residence. With only garbage and bottle/can recycling receptacles available in some locations, he noticed both bins quickly became overfilled, resulting in recyclable material going in the garbage, or contamination of the recycling stream. He proposed that we initiate a CLL project conducting waste audits at student residences, review successful waste management systems at other student residences across Canada, and provide recommendations to all the residence management teams across U of T, but particularly at UC where management expressed a willingness to buy a larger variety of sorting bins if they could make an evidence-informed decision.



*Students conduct a waste audit at University College residence.  
Photo: Kristy Bard.*

With alignment to the goals of the Operations Subcommittee's Waste Reduction and Recycling Working Group (see section 5.4), we learned that waste management systems in St. George residences are not aligned to university-wide standards. Instead, each residence determines their own recycling program, resulting in inconsistency with some residences having better recycling programs than others. This is particularly the case in older buildings that weren't designed to have waste-dedicated rooms on each floor.

Waste management and Sustainability Office staff suggested we compare the diversion rate at UC with Chestnut Residence, which provide garbage, container recycling, and mixed paper recycling bins on each floor, in addition to green bins in the main floor cafeteria. SLS members met with residence management staff at both UC and Chestnut to get approval for the plan and sort out logistics for both audits, which occurred in March. We also enlisted the support of Hargun Rekhi, the UC Sustainability Commissioner and former CECCS work study student who helped our Waste Reduction and Recycling Working Group analyze results from the first



tri-campus waste audit in 2024. Hargun not only helped us conduct the audit at UC, but on March 21 she presented the results to the UC College Council.

While it was hoped the results would convince UC to buy more bins, we found that despite having a reputation for better waste diversion, residents at Chestnut still had poor sorting habits, resulting in a diversion rate of only 13.5%. This finding is consistent with past CLL projects on campus waste. In comparison, UC's diversion rate was 30.9%. The largest contaminant of the recycling streams at both UC and Chestnut was organic food waste. When factoring in the weight of organic waste found in the garbage or contaminating recycling streams, UC has a potential diversion rate of 60%. At both UC and Chestnut, the existence of green bins on every residence floor would greatly increase diversion. Luckily, just before conducting the audits, we learned that UC had already purchased new green bins for Morrison Hall that will be deployed in the coming months.

Results from our small audits at UC and Chestnut will be analyzed further as part of a work-study CLL project over the summer, in conjunction with a review of previous CLL projects on waste and a jurisdictional scan to develop a best practices guide on waste management specifically geared towards residences. One of the case studies that will be reviewed as part of this will be the student residence at UTM. In collaboration with the Waste Reduction and Recycling Working Group, we will monitor how anticipated standardization of recycling

across Ontario municipalities in 2026 may impact this work.

Once the best practices guide has been disseminated across residences, we hope to organize a competition between residences to encourage adoption of the guide and award the residence with the best diversion rate.

## 6.5 Student Group Inventory

The [2024-25 Sustainability Student Group Inventory](#) was updated in late 2024 and includes 402 student groups across U of T's three campuses and affiliated colleges that focus on topics related to the UN SDGs. This is a marked increase from the 269 student groups in last year's inventory but is mainly the result of many more clubs listed in the Student Organization Portal. The percentage of total student clubs with a sustainability focus is 32%, a slight increase from 27% in 2023-24, and 29% in 2022-23.

The updated Student Group Inventory was particularly helpful as part of the SLS student engagement campaign, as we disseminated information about the SLS survey and other initiatives through this email list.

In future years, we will be able to complete the Student Group Inventory earlier given changes to the Policy on the Recognition of Student Groups. These changes will require student groups to renew their status on the Student Organization Portal by July 31 instead of September 30.



We hope this updated timeline will allow us to update this inventory over the summer going forward when most other CECCS inventories are updated.

# 7

## Appendices

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### Appendix A - Call for Nominations

#### **CECCS Call for Nominations, PDAD&C Memo #3**

From: Meric Gertler, President

Date: July 26, 2024

Re: Call for Nominations—Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability (PDAD&C #)

#### **Background**

The President's Advisory Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability (CECCS) was created in 2017 with the goals of making sustainability a key component of the University of Toronto identity, achieving international leadership in the integration of operational and academic sustainability, and coordinating sustainability activities across the three campuses. Since then, the Committee has become an important part of the university and has contributed to achievements such as U of T's recent recognition as the #1 for Sustainability in 2024 according to the QS World University Rankings. Advances in sustainability at the University of Toronto and the work of the CECCS is made possible through the insights and efforts of sustainability champions and committee members from across all three campuses – and this work is more important and urgent than ever.

#### **Call for Nominations – Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability**

I am seeking nominations for new CECCS members. The CECCS is made up of the following:

- Seven members of the student community who will also serve on the Student Leadership Subcommittee (undergraduate and graduate)
- Seven faculty members (from any campus)
- Seven staff (from any campus)

Members of the University community are invited to submit nominations or expressions of interest to serve on the CECCS by **Aug 23, 2024**. You may submit nominations on your own behalf or nominate another individual. The submission should demonstrate knowledge of U of T's sustainability efforts, express an interest in the field, and include a brief CV/résumé. Additional information on the Committee and its work may be found in the Terms of Reference, included below.

Submissions or inquiries should be addressed to:

*Dr. Kristy Facer, Director, Secretariat*

*Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability*

c/o [ceccs@utoronto.ca](mailto:ceccs@utoronto.ca)

## **Appendix B – CECCS Meetings 2024-25**

### Committee on the Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainability Meetings

- October 24, 2024
- January 24, 2025
- May 1, 2025

### Teaching and Learning Subcommittee

- November 26, 2024
- February 24, 2025
- April 16, 2025

### Research Subcommittee

- December 2, 2024
- March 4, 2025

### Operations Subcommittee

- November 21, 2024
- February 13, 2025
- May 22, 2025

### Student Leadership Subcommittee

- November 28, 2024
- February 21, 2025
- April 23, 2025

## Appendix C – UTC Communication Report

### INTRODUCTION:

Over the course of 2024 and into 2025, University of Toronto Communications (UTC) worked with colleagues across the three campuses to uncover and share stories that support and enhance U of T's sustainability identity. These stories – published on our owned channels, promoted on institutional social media accounts, and pitched to external media – draw attention to the ways in which students, faculty, and staff are creating practical solutions for a promising future.

### OWNED MEDIA:

*U of T News* published 47 sustainability-themed stories between Jan. 1 2024 and April 15, 2025, which earned a total of 57,694 page views. *U of T Celebrates*, which highlights honours and awards received by members of the U of T community, also published four sustainability-themed announcements about recognition for achievements in sustainability, including honours received by Project Leap and by the Sustainability Pathways Program.

These stories and announcements highlighted a diverse array of initiatives – from efforts to boost sustainability on our own campuses, to research that's making an impact on air pollution, clean water, EVs, urban agriculture and more – and were widely shared across the institutional social media channels managed by UTC, particularly X/Twitter and Facebook.

By far the most popular sustainability stories were those involving sustainability initiatives on our own campuses. These five stories accounted for more than half of all page views (29,262 views) for sustainability content on the site:

#### Top stories on the News site:

1. [U of T ranked world's most sustainable university for second year in a row](#) (9,995 views)
2. [U of T constructing Canada's tallest academic timber building](#) (7,077 views)
3. [U of T to cut carbon emissions in half on St. George campus by 2027](#) (5,106 views)
4. [What should U of T's St. George campus look like by 2040?](#) (3,597 views)
5. [Scientists develop framework to measure plastic emissions](#) (3,487 views)

### SOCIAL MEDIA AND VIDEO

UTC also created and shared several sustainability-themed videos on its social channels:

#### Video: U of T to cut carbon emissions in half on St. George campus

- [X Post](#) 4,246 impressions, 128 engagements, 5 link clicks
- [X U of T News Post](#) 927 impressions, 26 engagements, 3 link clicks
- [Facebook Post](#) 5,526 reach, 1,169 views, 133 interactions
- [Instagram Post](#) 59,719 reach, 108,132 views, 3,511 interactions

#### Video: U of T News Now on the Free Store video

- [X Post](#) 1,993 impressions, 57 engagements, 6 link clicks
- [X News Post](#) 1,031 impressions, 35 engagements, 3 link clicks
- [Facebook Post](#) 3,882 post views, 4,684 reach, 988 3-second views, 76 engagements



- [Instagram](#) 156,399 views, 101,565 reach, 5,882 interactions

**Video: U of T News Now on the Geoexchange**

- [X Post](#) 1,780 impressions, 56 engagements
- [X News Post](#) 427 impressions, 10 engagements
- [Facebook Post](#) 13,063 post views, 13,257 reach, 2,323 3-second views, 198 engagements
- [Instagram Post](#) 57,212 views, 31,735 reach, 1,358 interactions

**EARNED MEDIA:**

UTC's targeted efforts generated strategic external coverage in top-tier international, national, and local media outlets that further elevated awareness of U of T as a global leader in sustainability research, education, and operations. The media relations team also provided strategic guidance when needed and corrected inaccuracies in related earned media coverage.

The most impactful earned media results often come when the University is shown to be an exemplar, as it is in this [story from Time Out](#) about the QS sustainability ranking. The university's ranking was featured in local, national and international outlets including [blogTO](#), [National Observer](#) and [NDTV](#).

UTC was also heavily involved in shaping several news stories that highlighted sustainability initiatives, such as a CBC Here and Now radio interview regarding the [Free Store](#) at St. George campus (also featured in [TorontoToday](#)), and coverage in the National Observer featuring [Project Leap](#) and the upcoming [Academic Wood Tower](#).

**Earned media coverage quality score analysis:**

QUALITY SCORE ANALYSIS			
DESIREABLE CRITERIA	SCORE	UNDESIRABLE CRITERIA	SCORE
Conveys key message	4	No key message	-1
Desirable spokesperson quoted or paraphrased	1	Critic quoted or paraphrased	-2
Desirable visual	1	Undesirable visual	-2
Leaves audience more likely to support the initiative	2	Leaves audience less likely to support goal	-3
Dispels a myth	1	Negative message or myth reinforced	-2
Display copy contains key message and U of T mention	1	N/A	
Total	10	Total	-10

**Goal:** Leverage sustainability stories to amplify and reinforce key message among target audiences via strategic earned media coverage that achieves an average quality score of 8 or above

**Results:** Average quality score of 9

Quality scoring for QS Sustainability Ranking earned media campaign:

Target outlets	Date	Outlet	Headline	Total	Key message		Spokes-person mention +1	Visuals		Support for goal		Myths		Display copy
				9.0	Conveys key message +4	No key message -1		Desirable +1	Undesirable -2	Increase +2	Decrease -3	Dispels +1	Reinforce -2	Contains U of T mention and key message +1
1 international	Dec. 12, 2024	Time Out	<a href="#">The world's most sustainable universities have been crowned</a>	6	2		0	1		2		1		0
2 national	Dec. 10, 2024	CTV News Channel	<a href="#">U of T is world's most sustainable university</a>	9	4		0	1		2		1		1
	Dec. 11, 2024	National Observer	<a href="#">University of Toronto ranked world's most sustainable university</a>	10	4		1	1		2		1		1
3 local	Dec. 10, 2024	CP24	<a href="#">U of T ranked world's most sustainable</a>	9	4		0	1		2		1		1

Target outlets	Date	Outlet	Headline	Total	Key message		Spokes-person mention +1	Visuals		Support for goal		Myths		Display copy
				9.0	Conveys key message +4	No key message -1		Desirable +1	Undesirable -2	Increase +2	Decrease -3	Dispels +1	Reinforces -2	Contains U of T mention and key message +1
			<a href="#">e university</a>											
	Dec. 10, 2024	blogTO	<a href="#">University of Toronto was just ranked the best in the world in one category</a>	9.5	4		1	1		2		1		0.5
	Dec. 11, 2024	Streets of Toronto	<a href="#">The University of Toronto just topped another best in the world list</a>	9.5	4		1	1		2		1		0.5
1 academic aggregator	Dec. 11, 2024	Education News Canada	<a href="#">U of T ranked world's most sustainable university for second year in a row</a>	10	4		1	1		2		1		1

## U of T News stories

Date published	Story
01.10.2024	<u><a href="#">U of T researchers partner with Siemens Energy to tackle sustainable energy production</a></u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 2,551 impressions, 41 engagements, 6 link clicks <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 672 impressions, 7 engagements, 2 link clicks <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 18,964 reach, 19,340 impressions, 198 interactions, 17 link clicks Google Analytics 488 views
01.18.2024	<u><a href="#">U of T constructing Canada's tallest academic timber building</a></u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 5,378 impressions, 217 engagements, 65 link clicks <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 1,004 impressions, 37 engagements, 26 link clicks <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 26,415 reach, 26,415 impressions, 305 interactions, 151 link clicks Google Analytics 7,077 views
02.02.2024	<u><a href="#">U of T to cut carbon emissions in half on St. George campus by 2027</a></u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 5,898 impressions, 191 engagements, 23 link clicks <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 1,356 impressions, 53 engagements, 15 link clicks <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 33,553 reach, 35,687 impressions, 415 interactions, 46 link clicks Google Analytics 5,106 views
02.05.2024	<u><a href="#">U of T to cut carbon emissions in half on St. George campus video</a></u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 4,246 impressions, 128 engagements, 5 link clicks <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 927 impressions, 26 engagements, 3 link clicks <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 5,526 reach, 1,169 views, 133 interactions, <a href="#">Instagram Post</a> 59,719 reach, 108,132 views, 3,511 interactions
02.06.2024	<u><a href="#">U of T geoscientists shed new light on plate tectonics</a></u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 3,200 impressions, 75 engagements, 21 link clicks <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 794 impressions, 7 engagements, 1 link click Google Analytics 542 views
02.16.2024	<u><a href="#">Cleaner air, better ice: U of T acquires electric Zamboni for Varsity Arena</a></u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 5,071 impressions, 97 engagements, 24 link clicks <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 653 impressions, 11 engagements, 4 link clicks <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 14,794 reach, 15,080 impressions, 16 interactions, 9 link clicks Google Analytics 439 views
03.04.2024	<u><a href="#">From nature to the lab: U of T startup brews more sustainable food ingredients</a></u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 2,609 impressions, 43 engagements, 13 link clicks <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 764 impressions, 14 engagements, 5 link clicks Google Analytics 553 views

03.13.2024	<p><u>Academic collaboration rethinks urban freight logistics</u></p> <p> <a href="#">X Post</a> 2,958 impressions, 35 engagements, 9 link clicks  <a href="#">X U of T News</a> 763 impressions, 4 engagements, 2 link clicks  <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 18,603 reach, 19,389 impressions, 217 interactions, 13 link clicks  Google Analytics 1,195 views </p>
03.20.2024	<p><u>U of T grads aim to electrify - and simplify - the package delivery business</u></p> <p> <a href="#">X Post</a> 2,355 impressions, 45 engagements, 7 link clicks  <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 535 impressions, 10 engagements, 1 link click  Google Analytics 498 views </p>
04.22.2024	<p><u>SDGs@UofT brings scholars together in pursuit of UN Sustainable Development Goals</u></p> <p> <a href="#">X Post</a> 3,876 impressions, 94 engagements, 17 link clicks  <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 774 impressions, 18 engagements, 3 link clicks  <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 10,667 reach, 10,828 impressions, 112 interactions, 3 link clicks  Google Analytics 448 views </p>
04.22.2024	<p><u>Scientists develop framework to measure plastic emissions</u></p> <p> <a href="#">X Post</a> 3,868 impressions, 67 engagements, 7 link clicks  <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 948 impressions, 14 engagements, 6 link clicks  Google Analytics 3,487 views </p>
04.23.2024	<p><u>Making waves: U of T entrepreneur uses quantum chemistry, AI to purify drinking water</u></p> <p> <a href="#">X Post</a> 2,469 impressions, 27 engagements, 3 link clicks  <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 751 impressions, 12 engagements, 6 link clicks  Google Analytics 1,704 views </p>
04.29.2024	<p><u>U of T Engineering to launch new certificate in electric vehicle design</u></p> <p> <a href="#">X Post</a> 2,713 impressions, 31 engagements, 4 link clicks  <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 981 impressions, 11 engagements, 1 link click  <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 16,525 reach, 16,544 impressions, 106 interactions, 15 link clicks  Google Analytics 632 views </p>
05.01.2024	<p><u>Warming up: U of T researcher explores the impact of climate change on sports</u></p> <p> <a href="#">X Post</a> 5,920 impressions, 171 engagements, 26 link clicks  <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a> 1,296 impressions, 19 engagements, 6 link clicks  <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 12,674 reach, 12,850 impressions, 90 interactions, 4 link clicks  Google Analytics 679 views </p>
05.03.2024	<p><u>PhD student seeks to make drinking water treatment more sustainable</u></p> <p> <a href="#">X Post</a> 3,045 impressions, 41 engagements, 8 link clicks  <a href="#">X U of T News Post</a>  <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 13,055 reach, 13,240 impressions, 156 interactions, 9 link clicks </p>



Google Analytics 468 views

05.06.2024 Students tackle impact of climate change at U of T Climate Impacts Hackathon

[X Post](#) 4,514 impressions, 98 engagements, 6 link clicks

[X U of T News Post](#) 997 impressions, 18 engagements, 0 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 11,176 reach, 11,281 impressions, 191 interactions, 3 link clicks

Google Analytics 424 views

05.08.2024 Climate change set to disrupt urban wildlife, study finds

[X Post](#) 4,074 impressions, 70 engagements, 9 link clicks

[X U of T News Post](#) 1,144 impressions, 11 engagements, 3 link clicks

Google Analytics 438 views

05.23.2024 U of T researcher leads effort to protect power utilities from quantum attacks

[X Post](#) 2,772 impressions, 56 engagements, 13 link clicks

[X U of T News Post](#) 1,041 impressions, 21 engagements, 2 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 9,029 reach, 9,029 impressions, 106 interactions, 7 link clicks

Google Analytics 756 views

07.3.2024 U of T study highlights tension between Canada's climate and housing goals

[X Post](#) 2,264 impressions, 42 engagements, 4 link clicks

[X U of T News Post](#) 646 impressions, 16 engagements, 7 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 12,894 reach, 12,925 impressions, 135 interactions, 3 link clicks

Google Analytics 721 views

07.5.2024 Study identifies sources of indoor air pollution in Toronto subway system

[X Post](#) 2,766 impressions, 93 engagements, 20 link clicks

[X U of T News Post](#) 556 impressions, 19 engagements, 6 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 151,707 reach, 154,118 impressions, 320 interactions, 69 link clicks

Google Analytics 2,024 views

07.23.2024 Emotions play a key role in shaping people's views on renewable energy: Study

[X Post](#) 1,301 impressions, 28 engagements, 2 link clicks

[X U of T News Post](#) 377 impressions, 3 engagements, 2 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 8,681 reach, 8,949 impressions, 69 interactions, 8 link clicks

Google Analytics 571 views

07.24.2024 New contaminant-tolerant catalyst could help capture carbon directly from smokestacks

[X Post](#) 2,054 impressions, 39 engagements, 7 link clicks

[X U of T News Post](#) 490 impressions, 17 engagements, 7 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 13,796 reach, 13,799 impressions, 100 interactions, 5 link clicks

Google Analytics 414 views

07.26.2024	<u>U of T researchers design new method of recycling steel that could reduce industry's carbon footprint</u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 1,591 impressions, 33 engagements, 7 link clicks <a href="#">X News Post</a> 659 impressions, 25 engagements, 9 link clicks <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 11,087 reach, 11,388 impressions, 84 interactions, 4 link clicks Google Analytics 613 views
07.29.2024	<u>U of T's Grid Modernization Centre receives \$10 million in federal funding to advance energy transition</u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 2,463 impressions, 74 engagements, 9 link clicks <a href="#">X News Post</a> 572 impressions, 15 engagements, 3 link clicks <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 5,154 reach, 5,208 impressions, 72 interactions, 1 link click Google Analytics 1,088 views
07.31.2024	<u>More with less: Researchers map a more sustainable path to home construction in Canada</u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 2,297 impressions, <a href="#">X News Post</a> 514 impressions, 6 engagements, 0 link clicks <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 12,042 reach, 12,764 impressions, 94 interactions, 6 link clicks Google Analytics 399 views
08.01.2024	<u>U of T researchers develop foam filter system to mop up oil spills faster</u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 2,267 impressions, 46 engagements, 7 link clicks <a href="#">X News Post</a> 582 impressions, 17 engagements, 7 link clicks <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 13,846 reach, 13,899 impressions, 114 interactions, 5 link clicks Google Analytics 337 views
08.06.2024	<u>U of T Engineering student team wins international prize with sustainable wind turbine</u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 3,363 impressions, 98 engagements, 14 link clicks <a href="#">X News Post</a> 650 impressions, 17 engagements, 6 link clicks <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 12,009 reach, 12,583 impressions, 112 interactions, 2 link clicks Google Analytics 632 views
08.12.2024	<u>U of T urban studies course explores wildfire response in Canada's North</u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 2,257 impressions, 73 engagements, 8 link clicks <a href="#">X News Post</a> 420 impressions, 5 engagements, 2 link clicks Google Analytics 260 views
08.13.2024	<u>Utah's Great Salt Lake a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, study finds</u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 1,625 impressions, 24 engagements, 3 link clicks <a href="#">X News Post</a> 418 impressions, 4 engagements, 2 link clicks Google Analytics 315 views
09.05.2024	<u>'Helping the people I grew up with': U of T undergrad returns home with a passion for sustainability</u>  <a href="#">X Post</a> 6,663 impressions, 197 engagements, 14 link clicks <a href="#">X News Post</a> 492 impressions, 7 engagements, 2 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 13,490 reach, 13,898 impressions, 148 interactions, 11 link clicks  
Google Analytics 407 views

09.11.2024 3D-printed soil? U of T startup expands sustainable urban farming footprint in Toronto

[X Post](#) 1,458 impressions, 60 engagements, 13 link clicks  
[X News Post](#) 410 impressions, 8 engagements, 4 link clicks  
[Facebook Post](#) 15,109 reach, 15,109 impressions, 94 interactions, 8 link clicks  
Google Analytics 936 views

09.16.2024 U of T engineering students encouraged to consider sustainability when designing future AI systems

[X Post](#) 1,845 impressions, 27 engagements, 2 link clicks  
[X News Post](#)  
Google Analytics 546 views

09.18.2024 Geoscientists confirm 'dripping' of Earth's crust beneath Türkiye's Central Anatolian Plateau

[X Post](#) 1,298 impressions, 34 engagements, 9 link clicks  
[X News Post](#) 606 impressions, 17 engagements, 12 link clicks  
Google Analytics 927 views

09.19.2024 Research project explores how urban agriculture can reduce emissions and increase access to food

[X Post](#) 1,767 impressions, 50 engagements, 7 link clicks  
[X News Post](#) 357 impressions, 1 engagement, 0 link clicks  
[Facebook Post](#) 11,088 reach, 14,011 impressions, 115 interactions, 5 link clicks  
Google Analytics 1,008 views

09.20.2024 Battery-powered EV chargers – co-developed at U of T – installed on St. George campus

[X Post](#) 2,088 impressions, 59 engagements, 8 link clicks  
[X News Post](#) 479 impressions, 11 engagements, 3 link clicks  
[Facebook Post](#) 12,255 reach, 15,912 impressions, 140 interactions, 6 link clicks  
Google Analytics 725 views

09.25.2024 Harmony Commons becomes Canada's largest building with passive house certification

[X Post](#) 2,028 impressions, 28 engagements, 7 link clicks  
[X News Post](#) 396 impressions, 11 engagements, 5 link clicks  
[Facebook Post](#) 17, 123 reach, 22,795 impressions, 162 interactions, 15 link clicks  
Google Analytics 500 views

10.15.2024 U of T researcher tracks 1,000 years of sea ice

[X Post](#) 2,147 impressions, 56 engagements, 8 link clicks  
[X News Post](#) 750 impressions, 12 engagements, 3 link clicks  
[Facebook Post](#) 13, 876 reach, 21,101 impressions, 108 interactions, 6 link clicks  
Google Analytics 472 views

10.21.2024	<p><u>Large-scale adoption of electric vehicles can lead to human health benefits: Study</u></p> <p><a href="#">X Post</a> 1,823 impressions, 50 engagements, 11 link clicks  <a href="#">X News Post</a> 378 impressions, 1 engagement, 0 link clicks  <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 9,694 reach, 14, 465 impressions, 120 interactions, 6 link clicks  Google Analytics 314 views</p>
11.21.2024	<p><u>U of T News Now on the Free Store video</u></p> <p><a href="#">X Post</a> 1,993 impressions, 57 engagements, 6 link clicks  <a href="#">X News Post</a> 1,031 impressions, 35 engagements, 3 link clicks  <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 3,882 post views, 4,684 reach, 988 3-second views, 76 engagements  <a href="#">Instagram</a> 156,399 views, 101,565 reach, 5,882 interactions</p>
11.22.2024	<p><u>U of T and Siemens Canada partner to transform energy grid</u></p> <p><a href="#">X Post</a> 1,509 impressions, 15 engagements, 5 link clicks  <a href="#">X News Post</a> 743 impressions, 20 engagements, 7 link clicks  Google Analytics 1,224 views</p>
12.10.2024	<p><u>U of T ranked world's most sustainable university for second year in a row</u></p> <p><a href="#">X Post</a> 13,028 impressions, 2,474 views, 282 engagements, 21 link clicks  <a href="#">X News Post</a> 1,141 impressions, 353 views, 38 engagements, 3 link clicks  <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 427,200 reach, 79,836 impressions, 21,949 views, 817 interactions, 15.2K link clicks  <a href="#">Instagram</a> 146,325 views, 86,671 reach, 4,900 interactions, 4,365 engagements  Google Analytics 9,995 views</p>
12.12.2024	<p><u>From sustainability to decolonizing knowledge: U of T joins Global Humanities Alliance</u></p> <p><a href="#">X Post</a> 2,344 impressions, 73 engagements, 17 link clicks  <a href="#">X News Post</a> 420 impressions, 5 engagements, 2 link clicks  <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 8,917 reach, 13, 414 impressions, 84 interactions, 6 link clicks  Google Analytics 982 views</p>
12.20.2024	<p><u>Reimagining the curb: U of T alum helps cities design smarter streets</u></p> <p><a href="#">X Post</a> 2,583 impressions, 80 engagements, 17 link clicks  <a href="#">X News Post</a> 387 impressions, 5 engagements, 3 link clicks  Google Analytics 642 views</p>
01.06.2025	<p><u>Forests may be more resilient to climate change than previously thought: Study</u></p> <p><a href="#">X Post</a> 2,077 impressions, 77 engagements, 12 link clicks  <a href="#">X News Post</a> 544 impressions, 17 engagements, 4 link clicks  <a href="#">Facebook Post</a> 8,468 reach, 12,736 impressions, 178 interactions, 5 link clicks  Google Analytics 901 views</p>
01.31.2025	<p><u>Polar bear population decline due to climate change-induced food shortages: Study</u></p> <p><a href="#">X Post</a> 4,292 impressions, 117 engagements, 22 link clicks  <a href="#">X News Post</a> 442 impressions, 6 engagements, 1 link click</p>

Google Analytics 505 views

02.11.2025

How U of T aims to address the world's most complex challenges

[X Post](#) 4,352 impressions, 198 engagements, 20 link clicks

[X News Post](#) 1,279 impressions, 57 engagements, 35 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 5,763 reach, 8,232 impressions, 64 interactions, 11 link clicks

Google Analytics 1,368 views

02.18.2025

PhD candidate encourages girls in Zambia to devise sustainable solutions to local problems

[X Post](#) 1,852 impressions, 30 engagements, 7 link clicks

[X News Post](#) 428 impressions, 4 engagements, 1 link click

Google Analytics 352 views

03.04.2025

U of T environmental scientists highlight role of paint in microplastic pollution

[X Post](#) 1,826 impressions, 51 engagements, 11 link clicks

[X News Post](#) 430 impressions, 7 engagements, 2 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 7,565 reach, 12,075 impressions, 80 interactions, 10 link clicks

Google Analytics 596 views

03.13.2025

Rock-solid evidence: Study finds strong link between rock strength and erosion

[X Post](#) 1,284 impressions, 22 engagements, 4 link clicks

[X News Post](#) 636 impressions, 14 engagements, 0 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 8,497 reach, 8,497 impressions, 77 interactions, 8 link clicks

Google Analytics 290 views

03.25.2025

What should U of T's St. George campus look like by 2040?

[X Post](#) 4,349 impressions, 190 engagements, 71 link clicks

[X News Post](#) 655 impressions, 39 engagements, 17 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 13,878 reach, 20,593 impressions, 221 interactions, 93 link clicks

Google Analytics 3,597 views

03.25.2025

U of T News Now on the Geoexchange

[X Post](#) 1,780 impressions, 56 engagements, 0 link clicks

[X News Post](#) 427 impressions, 10 engagements, 0 link clicks

[Facebook Post](#) 13,063 post views, 13,257 reach, 2,323 3-second views, 198 engagements

[Instagram Post](#) 57,212 views, 31,735 reach, 1,358 interactions

## **U of T Celebrates stories**

10.18.2024

U of T's Sustainability Pathways Program recognized by Quacquarelli Symonds - Video

[X Post](#) 2,000 views, 1,997 impressions, 45 engagements, 5 link clicks

[Facebook](#) 10,017 views, 9,941 reach, 1,651 video views, 176 engagements

Google Analytics 140 views

11.26.2024

U of T recognized by City of Toronto for sustainability practices



[X Post](#) 1,850 impressions, 46 engagements, 7 link clicks  
Google Analytics 247 views

02.07.2025 U of T's Project Leap recognized with Climate Luminary Honor

[X Post](#) 1,195 impressions, 22 engagements, 6 link clicks  
Google Analytics 282 views

02.24.2025 U of T Mississauga recognized with Sustainability Award

[X Post](#) 1,855 impressions, 42 engagements, 8 link clicks  
Google Analytics 177 views