

UTSC Sustainability Update

March 2026

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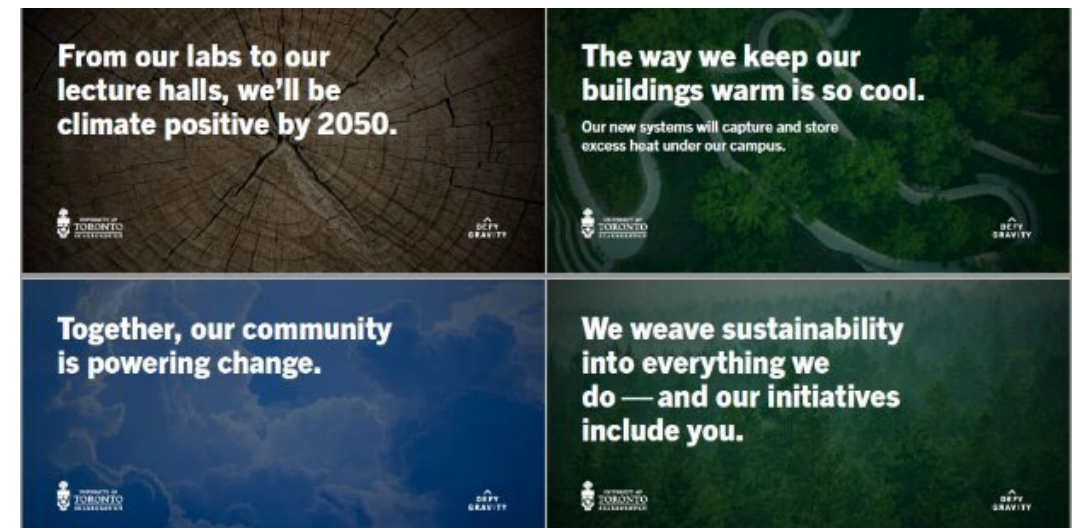


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Agenda

- Climate Positive
- New Updates
- Programming Highlights



Climate Positive at U of T

Definition

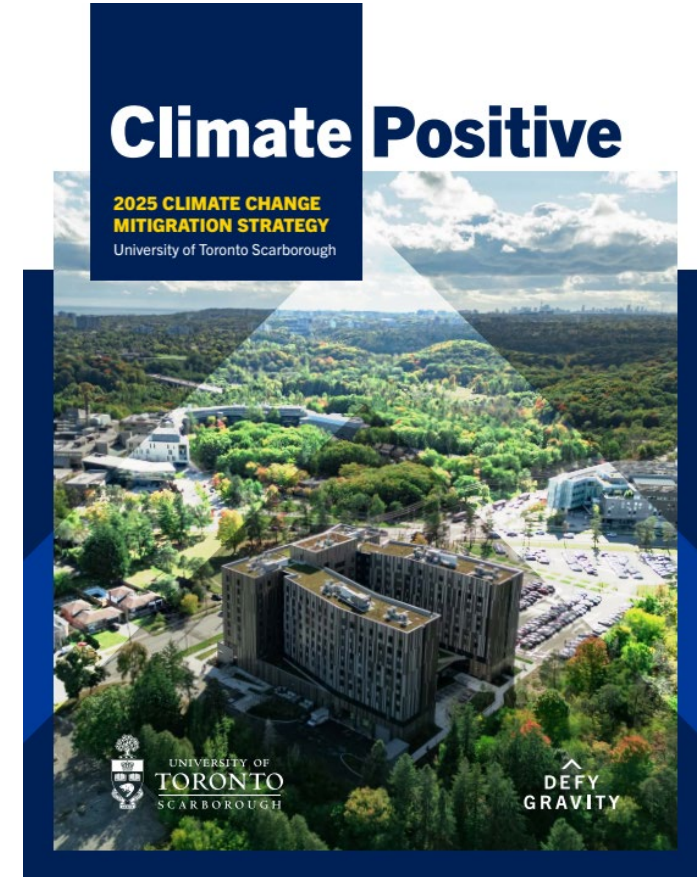
- Net negative GHG Emissions (beyond net-zero). Emitting less GHG emissions than we offset AND
- Reduce annual GHG operating emissions by at least 80%

Purpose

- All three campuses committed to achieving Climate Positive by 2050 through a signed pledge in 2023
- Aligned with U of T's commitments towards climate resilience, championing sustainability and climate action
 - U7+ Alliance of World Universities
 - University Climate Change Coalition (UC3)

Plan from each campus

- UTSC Climate Positive Plan published December 2025



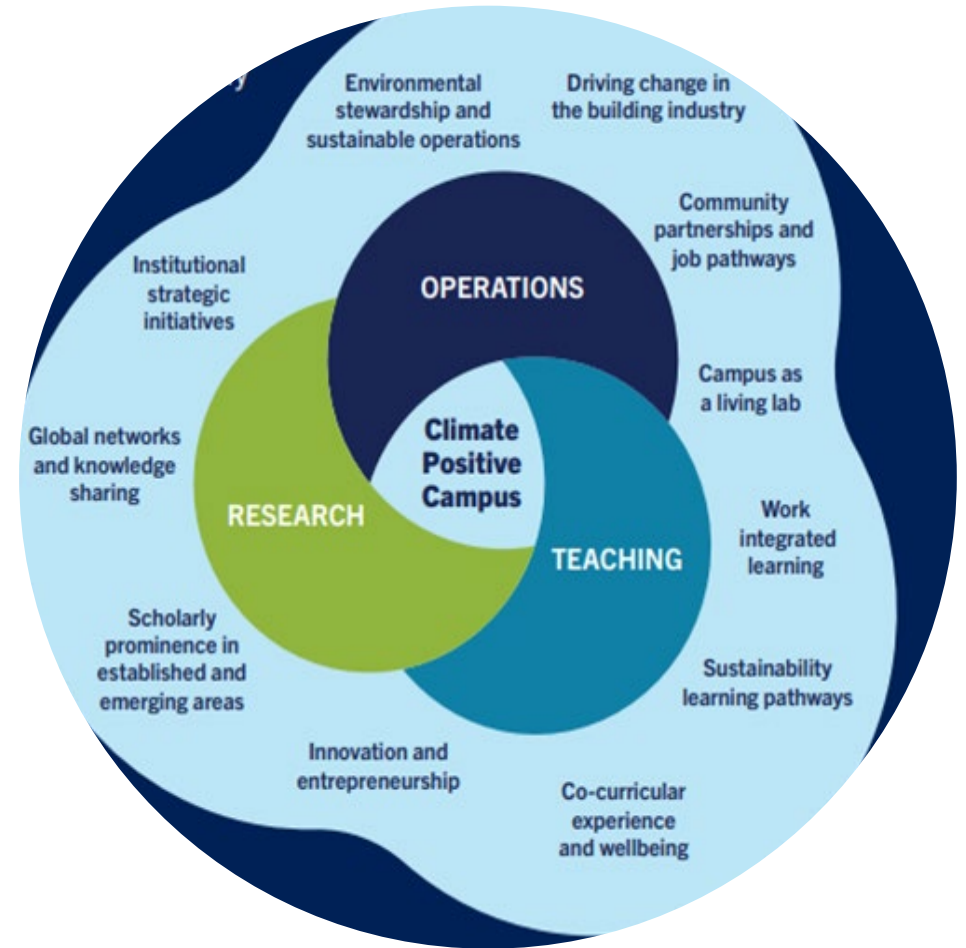
Available on UTSC Sustainability Office website:
<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/sustainability/utsc-climate-positive-strategy>

UTSC Climate Positive: Informed by UTSC Strategic Direction & GHG Targets



From UTSC's Office of Vice-President & Principal:

<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/principal/culture-care-utsc-building-healthy-inclusive-campus>



From UTSC's Climate Positive Plan, December 2025

Climate Positive Plan- Milestones and Projects

Milestones

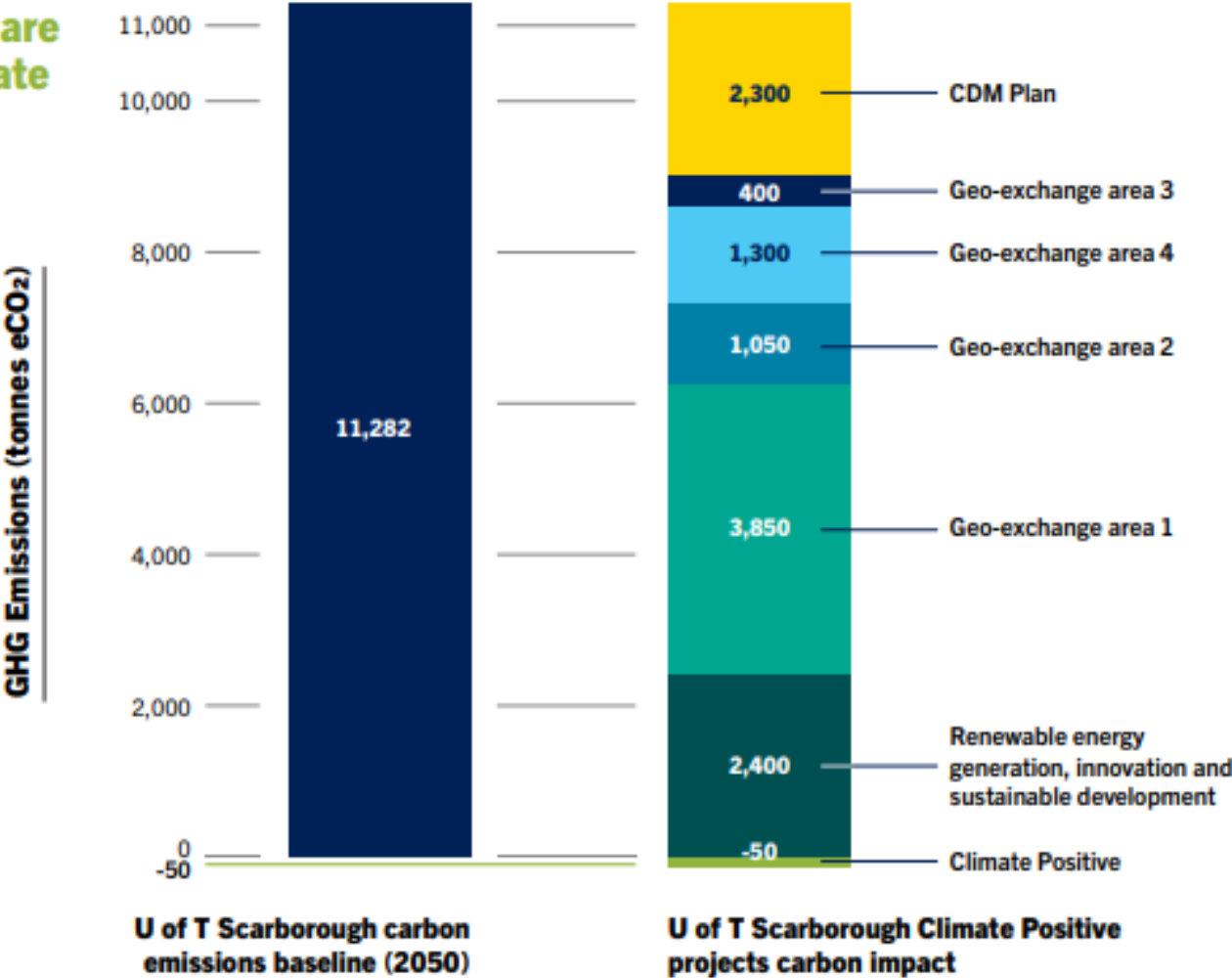
By 2030

- Reduce annual operating GHG emissions by **37% below** a 1990 baseline
- Annual campus emissions under 6900 tonnes eCO₂

By 2050

- Reduce absolute carbon emissions by **at least 80%**
- Annual campus emissions under 2000 tonnes eCO₂
- Achieve **Climate Positive**, reducing more GHG emissions than we emit using renewables and other strategies for the remaining balance of our carbon emissions

Current projects are on track for climate positive targets



Where we are today:

- Converting campus buildings off Steam Heating to more sustainable heating and cooling
- Expanding Geo-exchange Field in the S-Wing Quad

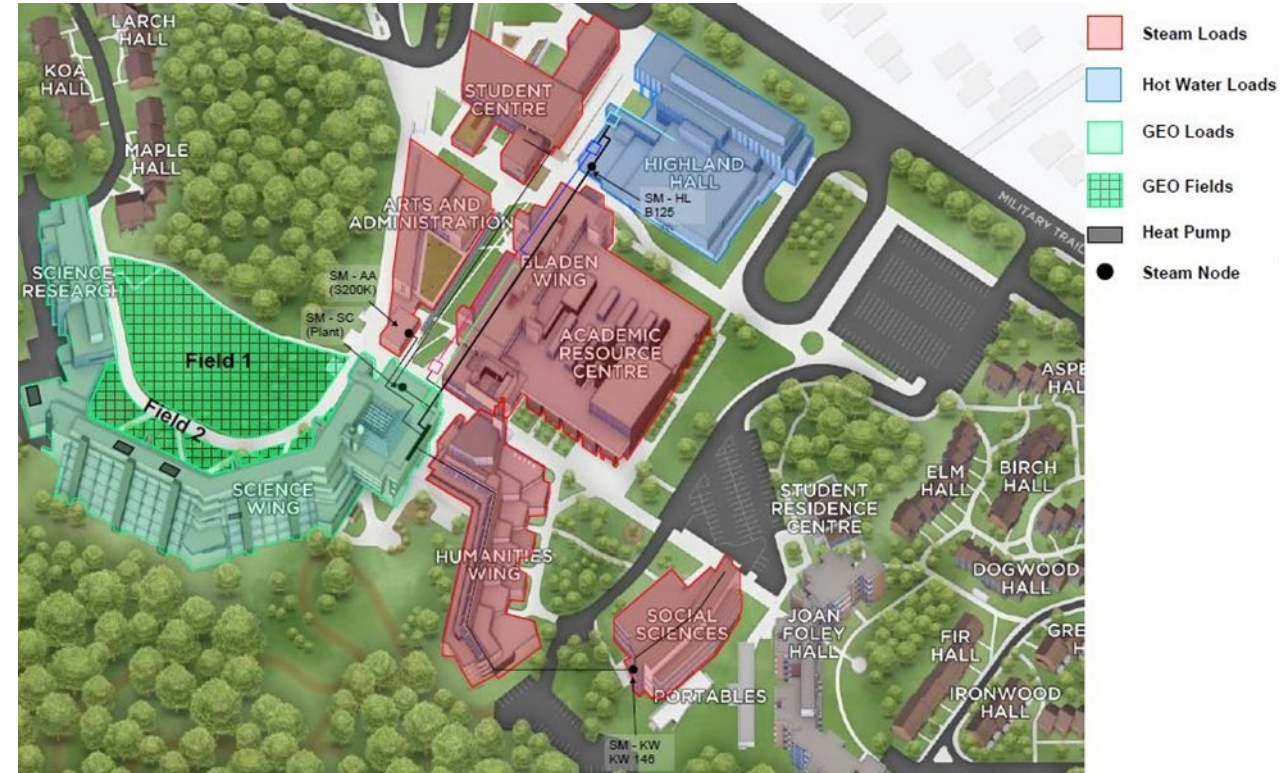
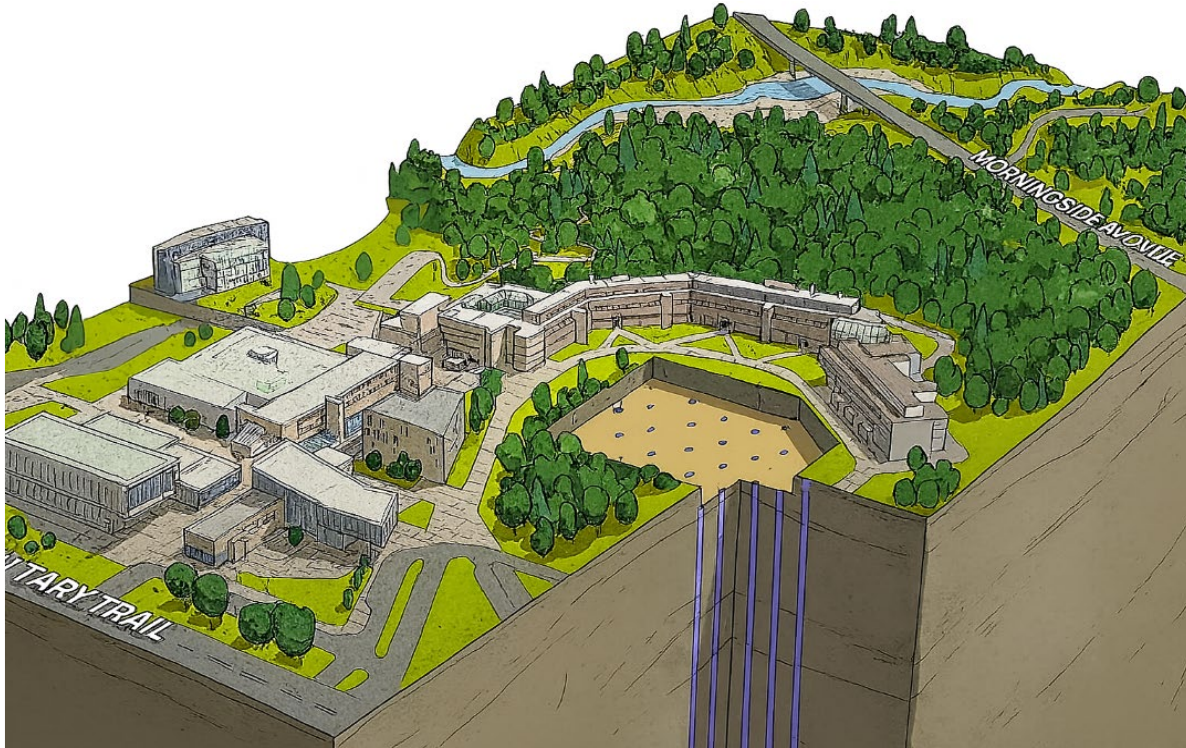


Image caption: (Above left) Rendering of geo-exchange field in S Wing quad first installed in 2018. (Above right) map of south campus buildings and the distribution systems that serve the heating and cooling loads once current geo-exchange field is complete. Buildings in green and blue have been converted off steam distribution and use the geo-exchange for their heating loads (green) or are geo-ready with compatible hot water distribution systems instead of steam (blue).

South Campus Projects

Current and Planned Activities

- Geo-Exchange expansion in S Wing Quad – Spring 2026 completion
- Entrance Vestibules and Glazing in Andrews Buildings
- Energy Audits for South Campus Institutional Buildings & Central Utilities Plant



Image caption (above): Current geo-exchange drilling in S-Wing Quad (Winter – Spring 2026)

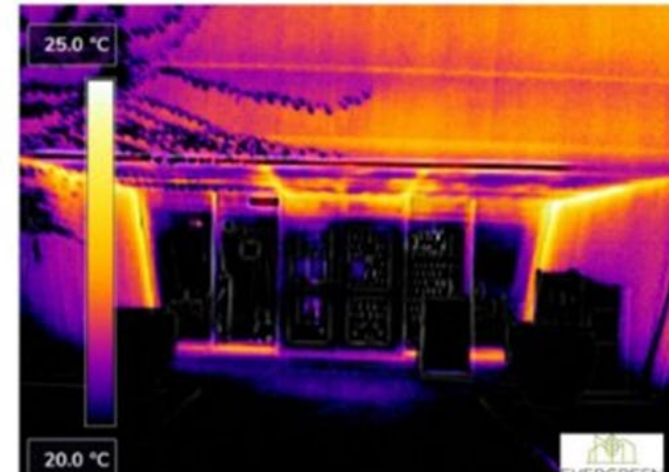


Image caption (above): Thermal imaging of Humanities Wing Vestibules as part of previous study of building energy performance. Entrance vestibules identified as a key opportunity to improve building envelope performance by addressing the associated air leakage and heat loss in these areas that are also due for renewal.

South Campus Decarbonization- looking ahead



Updates and Programming



Image caption (above): Eco Lens event at UTSC in November 2025. Attended by 75 people and hosted by the CECCS Student Leadership Subcommittee and UTSC students

Updates and Programming Continued

Innovation in Organic Waste at Harmony Commons lead by Business Development

- M.Env.Sci work placement to study and report impact on UTSC Sustainability and Scope 3 GHG emissions with Sustainability Office
- Exciting news to be announced from the Lawson Climate Institute

Sustainability Office Volunteer Program – Year 2

- 15 to 20 students annually
- 30-40 volunteer hours and CCR Recognition



Image caption (left): SustainableUTSC volunteers at ConnectU social hosted by Health and Wellness. (above) SustainableUTSC volunteers tabling at engagement event using the Waste Sorting Activity.

Biking For Community “Bikeshare” and Cycling Infrastructure

- Since 2023 with RCS, SHRL & Athletics partnership
- Remains FREE for UTSC Community. Continuous high participation
 - 2023: 531 rentals, 93 participants at events
 - 2024: 956 rentals, 88 participant at events
 - 2025: 865 rentals, 93 participants at events
- Exploring on-site bike repair pop-ups this year
- New City of Toronto Bike Share rental kiosk planned at TPASC

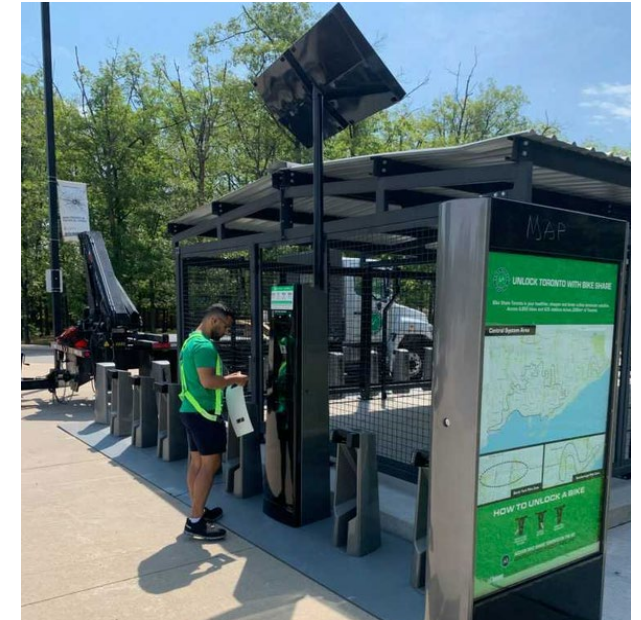


Image caption (above left): UTSC bike rentals used for programmed bike rides with Athletics. (top right) City of Toronto Bike Share rental kiosk at Highland Hall bus loop. (bottom right) Location of planned new City of Toronto Bike Share rental kiosk at TPASC.

Spotlight: Repair Café Series

- Repeated series instead of a variety throughout year
- Community engagement with the Port Union Repair Café
- Interaction numbers:
 - Meeting Place, October: 110
 - Harmony Commons, November: 46, February: 83

**Invitation: Final 2025/2026 Repair Café is
Wednesday March 18th in Meeting Place from 12-4
pm!**



Image caption (Above): Photos from November 2025 UTSC repair cafe

Questions



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