

YORK UNIVERSITY
ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT 2012-2013
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary



At York University, sustainability is one of our core values, and it is an ongoing commitment of our community of students, faculty and staff to be leaders in teaching, research, and applied sustainability. We consistently strive to be the greenest university in Canada.

The President's Sustainability Council (PSC), PSC working groups, and many other champions of sustainability at the University have been working diligently to advance the recommendations contained in previous annual reports, while at the same time developing and proposing new recommendations herein. Progress on past recommendations can be found throughout this report.

New recommendations for 2013 are as follows, by working group:

Administrative and Organizational Structure

2013-1: Register for and participate in the STARS program, and provide the additional administrative and financial resources necessary for participation.

2013-2: Develop a pilot initiative on signage on a specific sustainability initiative, in conjunction with relevant staff persons, in order to study the potential effectiveness of signage and social marketing in changing behaviour and enhancing campus sustainability.

Social Justice and Human Rights

2013-3: Investigate current practices on campus, best practices at other post-secondary institutions, and the possibility of becoming certified by Fair Trade Canada to be a "Fair Trade University".

2013-4: Expand the unconferences to proactively include participation of students, faculty and staff.

2013-5: Invite committees, ad-hoc working groups, and other stakeholder groups to present to the committee once per year to ensure collaboration and consideration of social justice and human rights values (e.g. Access York, Community Safety, YUDC, etc.).

2013-6: On an ongoing basis, the President's Sustainability Council shall identify, monitor, and where possible, help to strengthen implementation of the York University Secondary Plan and Keele Campus Master Plan with respect to social justice and human rights considerations embodied in these documents (amended from two previous recommendations: 2012-9 & 2009-22).

Campus Operations and Development

2013-7: Work should focus on better aligning heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems with programmed space use within buildings (e.g. classroom use), and on opportunities for further reductions through other community engagement initiatives, behavior modification and process changes.

2013-8: Efforts should also aim at monitoring the renewable energy market for cost effective technologies that are compatible with York's physical footprint and energy grid.

2013-9: In the 2013-2014 year, the Res Race to Zero program should be expanded to commence in September, engaging students in a broader program of sustainability, including water, waste, stewardship, and community involvement.

Conclusive evidence of the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer at Keele campus was established in the Spring of 2012. A program of assessing all Ash trees was completed in Summer of 2012. The inventory included a rating of all the trees, and those that could be saved were earmarked for a multi-year treatment program aimed at reversing the devastation posed by the insect infestation.

2013-10: The treatment program should be continued over the Summer of 2013.

2013-11: An overall tree inventory was commenced for Keele Campus in Summer 2012, and should be completed in 2013. An overall tree inventory for Glendon Campus should also be undertaken and completed in 2013.

The York University Master Plan for the academic lands includes policies for the protection of all major open spaces, including the four woodlots. Background technical studies have been completed assessing conditions and making recommendations for woodlot management.

2013-12: An assessment of the recommendations of these technical reports should be conducted in 2013-2014, including community consultation and identification of resource requirements for implementation.

2013-13: Considerable interest has created the proposal to pilot a Farmers Market on Keele campus as a collaboration between and among CSBO Food Services, Regenesi@York, the PSC Student Subcommittee and other campus partners.

2013-14: A University strategy is required for more effective management of cigarette butts which are presently being discarded by smokers in gardens, rockery, walkways and other common spaces. This might include a program of expanding the tobacco waste units on campus, and a communications program to inform smokers of the need to properly "bin their butts".





Appendix A

Progress at a glance, PSC 2009-2012
Report Recommendations




Progress on the 2012 President’s Sustainability Council Annual Report Recommendations


A. Administration and Organizational Structure

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Given that the Planning, Budgets and Accountability report (PBA) is no longer printed, which had included a CSBO Sustainability Report, we recommend that future Sustainability reports be more comprehensive. The York University Sustainability report should include specific University sustainability goals with data and progress on those goals, along with a report from the President’s Sustainability Council. This approach is currently being done at other Canadian Universities.		Ongoing
We recommend that the University consider adding new policies, modifying existing policies, or develop guidelines for the community to reflect best practices in the following areas of sustainability: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procurement• Food• Paper• Water - A water policy is part of the approved motion to phase out the sale of bottled water and is expected to be in place by September 2015.		Medium





B. Curriculum

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
The Office of the Vice-Provost Academic will facilitate enhancement of sustainability in curricular contexts through existing academic planning mechanisms (e.g. quality assurance, development of learning outcomes) and aligned University committees (Community Safety Committee).		Medium


B. Curriculum

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
The Vice-Provost Academic will undertake to discuss with the new Vice-Provost Students the creation of a Working Group, involving students, faculty and staff, with a mandate to explore and foster co-curricular intellectual interests in issues of sustainability.		Medium

C. Social Justice and Human Rights


Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Strengthen York U's messaging to showcase diversity and equity as a key York U commitment. Specifically, the messaging should be highlighted in student, faculty and staff recruitment materials and York U's external webpage.		Medium
Create further opportunities for campus wide discussion, especially with students, to solicit input about SJ&HR issues in a sustainability context.		Short
York U communicates regularly with the neighbouring communities using plain language and various accessible means to promote opportunities to connect with the campus (for example, events, facilities, etc.)		Short
Continue to explore viable mechanisms to promote and expand opportunities for community use of space on campus.		Medium
Monitor, and where possible, strengthen the social justice and human rights considerations in the implementation of the York University Secondary Plan.	Amend- ed	See 2013 - 6





C. Social Justice and Human Rights

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Continue to support and monitor progress related to previous SJ&HR recommendations in past PSC reports recognizing that several of the 2011/12 recommendations are refinements of previous recommendations based on the progress and new information gathered.		Ongoing





D. Campus Operations and Development

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
<p>It is recommended that the University create an advisory committee on responsible investment that includes student and employee members. The Committee should provide a forum to discuss and express opinions on responsible investment and, from time to time, to provide advice to the University administration through the Vice-President Finance and Administration. The VPFA is responsible for formulating recommendations for decision by the Board of Governors of York University, through its Investment Committee.</p> <p>The scope of the Advisory Committee's work might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advice about investments where investment managers can actively engage;• Identification of companies who may be involved in activities contrary to the University's principles and beliefs, where active engagement by York's investment managers would be warranted;• Advice about circumstances in which stocks held by the University may cause social or environmental injury;• Advice on proxy voting guidelines, including areas in which the University should invoke proxy voting; and• Identification of like-minded organizations, shareholder groups or coalitions, with which the University could potentially affiliate or become a member.		Short

Legend			
Completed	Significant Progress	Work Has Begun	Not Yet Started
			




Progress on the 2010 President’s Sustainability Council Annual Report Recommendations

A. Administration and Organizational Strucutre



Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Implement a pilot project for student engagement in sustainability in the summer of 2011.		Short
Compile a list of University policies and procedures that are related to sustainability. The list will be reviewed to see if there are any opportunities for modification, and the list of relevant policies and procedures will be posted on the Sustainability Website.		Short



A. Administration and Organizational Strucutre


Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Encourage University divisions and departments to integrate sustainability into their Integrated Resource Plans.		Short
Create a President's Sustainability Award that would recognize efforts of an individual or a team that initiates, adopts and/or fosters a culture of sustainability.		Medium
Create a strategy that details how the Council and the Student Sub-Committee will engage the York community to establish greater awareness of sustainability, the work of the Council, as well as the opportunities for engagement.		Short

B. Curriculum


Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Cultivate intellectual interest in sustainability among students and faculty through symposia and/or key events.		Short
Bring forward discussion of sustainability to the Teaching & Learning Working Group on Technology enhanced Learning in order to identify strategies to embed sustainable practices in course design and teaching practices across the University (for example, use of electronic assignment drop-box).		Short






B. Curriculum

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Explore the opportunity, perhaps in collaboration with relevant faculty members, to: 1. Undertake research to identify how other post-secondary institutions nationally and internationally support sustainability in the curriculum; and 2. Conduct key informant discussions internally and externally to identify opportunities for new or enhanced academic offerings related to sustainability that meet emergent workforce needs.		Short





C. Social Justice and Human Rights

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Establish an assessment model for community investments, including time, financial, in-kind and other resource allocations.		Medium


C. Social Justice and Human Rights

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
10. Develop the York University-TD Community Engagement Centre (CEC) as a hub for York's various academic and non-academic outreach and engagement activities, by: 1. Expanding employment and enrollment recruitment sessions at CEC and with CEC partners; 2. Creating more opportunities to educate local community agency/support staff (such as youth workers, job developers, faith leaders) recognizing their important role as key influencers within the community for youth/residents interested in post-secondary education; 3. Building/enhancing current mentoring activity between York students and local youth (including WAY, partnering with Teacher candidates, and through nursing student placements in local schools and at Black Creek Community Health Centre); and 4. Developing capacity to host and support more York students who are high achieving local secondary school grads.		
Explore policies and procedures at other institutions with a view to developing the best practices for improved community access to York, including access to events such as college speakers' series, the March Gala, public workshops, and fine arts performances.		Ongoing
Develop an electronic portal for external groups to understand York engagement opportunities and make requests for York resources and services.		Medium

C. Social Justice and Human Rights





Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Develop promotional materials for local neighbourhoods and other underrepresented communities that outline programs, admissions, scholarship, financial aid and engagement opportunities.		Medium
In collaboration with the Harry Sherman Crowe Housing Co-Op, explore creation of on-campus employment opportunities for HSC Co-Op youth and residents (e.g. social enterprise, summer employment).		Medium
Explore a program for workplace training opportunities, for example, through internships, skilled trade apprenticeships and other employment training in collaboration with local partners and community initiatives, including systems and support for faculty and staff to participate in supervision.		Medium
Advocate, with the City of Toronto, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and other partners, for the construction of a physical link across the Black Creek, to enhance pedestrian and bicycle access to York University.		Long

D. Campus Operations and Development

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
All University contracted, non-franchised food service outlets that serve coffee and tea provide its customers with at least one option of fair trade certified coffee and tea at all times; that information on fair trade be displayed; and that these options are priced so that cost alone will not be an overriding factor in consumer selection. This approach, as a principle, should be extended to include other fair trade commodities (for example, sugar and cocoa) where this becomes feasible.		Short

D. Campus Operations and Development

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Request the York University Development Corporation and the York University Student Centre to take the same approach with their contracted tenants and embed the requirement for a similar fair trade certified coffee and tea option in leases of food service operators within their respective premises. This approach, as a principle, should be extended to include other fair trade commodities (for example, sugar and cocoa) where this becomes feasible		Short
The University should give preference to suppliers who can meet or exceed predetermined “green” specifications. Procurement Services could include in their Request for Proposal (and other “RFx” procurement documents) criteria/specifications from suppliers that could be quantified on responses received As a starting point to be able to test this recommendation, Procurement Services should focus on goods that are easily measurable and have accepted industry standards, such as appliances (EnergyStar, Energuide), paper (FSC – Forest Stewardship Council) and vehicles (fuel efficiency, hybrid/ alternate fuel technology).		Medium







Legend			
Completed	Significant Progress	Work Has Begun	Not Yet Started
			

D. Campus Operations and Development



Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
<p>Develop a York-University-wide Green IT program that would, among other initiatives, include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop and issue a series of green IT guidelines to be adopted by all IT units across the institution;2. Further explore and, where practical, adopt virtualization technology and cloud computing as means of achieving efficiencies and energy consumption reductions;3. Establish institution-wide standards for the management of IT infrastructure, servers requiring spaces with specialized utilities, and other considerations;4. Work with Procurement Services to establish and adopt minimum power efficiency5. standard for all new computer hardware;6. Work with Procurement Services and the Waste Management department to develop a procurement process that requires consideration and adoption of life-cycle assessment for computer hardware purchases and in-house mechanisms to collect, recover and ensure that end-of-life computer equipment are recycled responsibly;7. Develop and implement a centralized workstation power management initiative for all laboratory (and “computer common”) workstations, as a way to reduce power consumption from these workstations, beginning with the approximately 2,000 laboratory workstations managed by UIT; and8. Phase out desktop printers in favour of an environment of duplex and network printers only.		Short to Medium

Progress on the 2008 - 2009
President’s Sustainability Council Annual Report Recommendations




A. Administration and Organizational Strucutre

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Establish opportunities for broad-based discussion of this report, including opportunities for constructive feedback.		Short
Develop a York University policy statement on sustainability.		Short
Dedicate resources to the Sustainability Council to enable fulfillment of its objects.		Short
Establish a formal role for the Yorkw!se program in relation to the Sustainability Council.		Medium
Establish a community of Campus Sustainability Ambassadors.		Short
Continue to develop and implement opportunities for student engagement in collaboration with the President’s Sustainability Council Student Sub-Committee.		Short




A. Administration and Organizational Strucutre

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Undertake and support a Sustainability Assessment Project.		Short
Engage a review of sustainability administration models across Canadian and international institutions of higher education, with a view to identifying the most suitable model for York.		Short for the review only



B. Curriculum

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Request that the Academic Policy, Planning and Research Committee (APPRC) and the Vice-President Academic and Provost make sustainability a major strategic feature in the White Paper and the new University Academic Plan.		Short
Develop a greater focus on sustainability in the York curriculum.		Medium
Work with the relevant faculty members/offices to design and implement a survey about sustainability within the existing York curriculum.		Medium






B. Curriculum

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Include sustainability in more courses and academic programs throughout the University.		Medium
Encourage and support the development of non-degree offerings in sustainability.		Medium
Provide students with more opportunities to do research and work on campus sustainability projects.		Medium







C. Social Justice and Human Rights

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Enhance York's resource commitment to existing initiatives such as those identified in the Inventory of Community Engagement (Office of University Events and Community Relations)		Medium
Improve access to York facilities such as the library system, buildings, and sports complexes and laboratories. In particular, a number of days each year should be designated as “community use days” for specified facilities (with streamlined approval process and waived or significantly reduced fees for facility use).		Medium





C. Social Justice and Human Rights

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Assess and develop outreach initiatives to attract qualified applicants for part-time and full-time employment from communities-in-need surrounding York.		Short
Through the York Foundation encourage donor programs that enhance bursaries and awards for local residents.		Medium
Encourage deliberate outreach efforts with local secondary schools by each Faculty and department.		Medium
Coordinate bridging and transitional programs and explore opportunities for ongoing budget support to these programs.		Medium
Support and implement the policies of the updated York University Secondary Plan, specifically as they relate to housing, community services and facilities.	Amended	See 2031-6
Support the ongoing work of the President's Advisory Committee on Human Rights and help bridge this work with York's sustainability initiatives.		Short





D. Campus Operations and Development

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Develop a York-specific green standard for the development and construction of all new buildings and building renovations		Short
Establish an institution-wide program that enhances “e-waste” recycling practices in all academic departments and administrative units, and locate drop boxes throughout the Keele and Glendon campuses to facilitate broader community participation.		Short
Identify and implement policies, plans and incentives to substantially reduce the consumption of paper at York by adopting practices of double-sided printing on all multiple-paged documents and encouraging students to print and submit double sided papers and assignments.		Short
Implement a clear, comprehensive and coordinated program that is aimed at increasing the level of recycling and composting.		Short
Provide a larger selection of products made from 100% recycled materials in the University Bookstore.		Medium
Establish a program to reuse office furniture, when/where feasible, and if not, items should be offered by sale/donation to the York community, community charities, and organizations		Short

D. Campus Operations and Development

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Support (and if possible increase support for) organizations focused on traffic demand management, the promotion of transit use and other alternate modes of transportation, and like sustainable transportation initiatives.		Short
Establish policies and practices to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants from vehicles, for example through establishment and enforcement of a “no idling” policy for all vehicles on York’s campuses.		Medium
Develop a York University policy or framework aimed at governing campus food service operations in a more coordinated fashion that enables and supports the implementation of sustainable practices at a much greater degree than is presently possible.		Short
Develop a University food services policy that protects the investments made in campus food operations by restricting on-campus catering and food service provision to caterers and food service providers that are contracted, permitted or otherwise authorized by the University’s Food Services office.		Short
Improve the University’s marketing of the range of available food services on both campuses, for example through website improvements, and better signage.		Short
Expand and enhance the availability of sitting/common space for use by students (both indoors and outdoors) and improve access to microwaves, water-bottle refilling stations and sinks for those that bring food from home or want to refill water bottles.		Medium

D. Campus Operations and Development

Recommendations	Status	Implementation Guidelines
Compile and analyze studies of the natural features of the University’s two campuses, establish a York inventory of natural features and develop a comprehensive plan for protecting and enhancing York’s endowment of natural features.		Medium
Continue to develop ecologically progressive plans and procedures to guide campus landscaping and grounds management practices.		Short
Integrate relevant research and studies into grounds management and other areas of campus operations by establishing formal opportunities with straightforward processes for the engagement of students (for example, through course-related research projects, internships, paid work, or volunteer opportunities).		Short
Continue to position the University to manage its carbon footprint more effectively through the implementation of the energy management program and other initiatives; and expand efforts to engage the community in prudent energy conservation practices in order to sustain, and possibly improve, the targeted reduction in energy consumption and emissions.		Medium

Legend			
Completed	Significant Progress	Work Has Begun	Not Yet Started
