



A YEAR OF

GREEN

ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2016-2017



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

York's reputation as a leader in university sustainability dates back to its first decade, when our Faculty of Environmental Studies was launched in 1968 as the first program of its kind in Canada. Today, sustainability remains at the heart of what we do here at the University. In addition to approximately 500 course offerings in sustainability across our Faculties, our students are able to enjoy unique experiential learning opportunities at our new EcoCampus in Costa Rica, the Lillian Meighen Wright Centre.

Outside the classroom, the University has invested in programming that has led to significant achievements in a number of key areas, including energy conservation, waste management, food and transportation. We have been named one of Canada's Greenest Employers for five consecutive years, and in 2016, we achieved a Silver rating from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

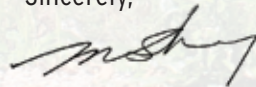
With the formation of the President's Sustainability Council in 2008, York's longtime leadership in sustainability reached an important milestone. As part of our culture of planning, the Council was created to advance York's sustainability initiatives, projects and practices, and to provide oversight for the required actions stemming from recommendations.

Since its formation, the Council has put forward more than 100 recommendations, all of which have been accepted by the University administration. The majority of these recommendations have been implemented, with many more well on their way towards implementation.

None of this would have been possible without the sustained commitment and leadership of sustainability champions across our campuses. As I complete my final year as President and reflect on our achievements over the last decade, I would like to thank the York community for supporting this important work. Our future looks bright, with new developments in campus infrastructure and transit on the way, including two new subway stations on our Keele campus opening by the end of 2017, and as we prepare to launch a sustainability strategy that will guide the University into its next decade and beyond.

I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements outlined in this report, and thank you for sharing in our vision for a sustainable future for all.

Sincerely,



Mamdouh Shoukri
President & Vice-Chancellor

**“Sustainability
remains at the heart
of what we do here
at the University.”**



ENERGY

Through a comprehensive suite of activities, York University's Energy Management Program has reduced energy consumption at the University by approximately 30% from 2007 levels. This has been accomplished through a detailed energy audit, followed by an overhaul of the University's energy infrastructure that has included building retrofits and upgrades to the existing central energy facilities. A campus-wide automated metering system now tracks and monitors electrical energy use per building to better quantify each building's progress towards meeting the campus' energy objectives.



34,730,786 kWh
saved in annual
electricity
consumption



\$5M
saved on utilities
per year



\$5.2M
received in utility
rebates for reduced
emissions

OVER
30%
reduction in energy
use intensity
since 2007

DID YOU KNOW?

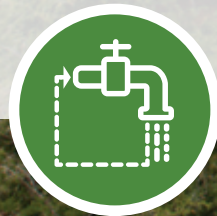
York University has a **District Energy System** that utilizes **Combined Heat and Power (CHP)** to power, heat and cool most University buildings. As a result, individual buildings served by the system don't need their own boilers, chillers or air conditioners, which increases efficiency and lowers maintenance costs.

INFRASTRUCTURE, NEW FACILITIES AND RENOVATIONS

The Planning and Renovation Unit in CSBO has a longstanding commitment to green building. Annually the group undertakes approximately 200 projects ranging in scale, complexity and cost. Projects are undertaken with consideration to sustainable practices, starting with the most efficient means of delivering the project, including the reuse of existing materials, including lighting, as well as other passive green design strategies. Solutions include practices in energy efficient building systems to reduce energy consumption and minimize York's carbon foot print.

ECO-CAMPUS IN COSTA RICA

The Lillian Meighen Wright Centre was opened in the spring of 2016. The 400 square meter facility was constructed with a number of innovative green building technologies, including sustainable energy systems, rain water catchment and storage, grey water filtration systems, natural ventilation, bird-friendly windows and FSC certified construction materials.



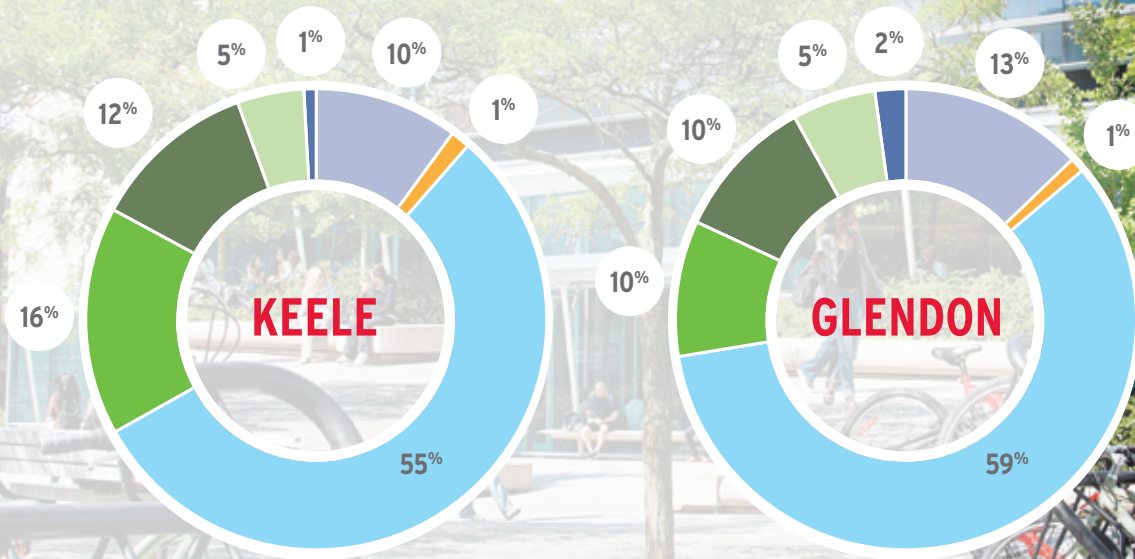
DID YOU KNOW?

York's Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence has been awarded **LEED Gold certification** by the Canada Green Building Council. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the most widely-used third-party verification for green buildings. York has **4 other LEED certified buildings.**



TRANSPORTATION

York's Transportation Services Department encourages the use of alternative transportation such as public transit, carpooling, cycling and walking. By reducing single-occupancy automobile use, York reduces energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and the space required for parking.



CLOSE TO 90% OF STUDENTS

at the Keele and Glendon campuses utilize sustainable modes of transportation.*



Walk



Bike



Local
Transit



Regional
Transit



Solo
Driver



Rideshare



Other

*Source: Student Move TO Survey, 2016.

DID YOU KNOW?

The newest addition to York's vehicle fleet is an **electric car**, used by the Fire Services Department.

York is in the process of going electric with its shuttle buses. The shuttles connect the communities in the Glendon and Keele Campuses, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods.

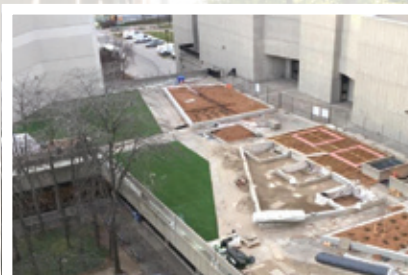


GROUNDS

York University's Grounds Department is responsible for maintaining the outdoor spaces on the Keele and Glendon campuses. To reduce water and energy use, Grounds staff have increased the use of organic fertilizers and automatic irrigation systems, and utilized xeriscaping techniques, which use local and drought-resistant plants to reduce maintenance and irrigation. The department is also in the process of replacing gas-powered equipment with equivalent battery-powered equipment, which will further reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to grounds maintenance practices.

CENTRAL SQUARE PODIUM RENEWAL

The York University Central Square Podium Renewal brings new life to this significant, but previously under-utilized open space on the campus. New seating and public space combined with various planting initiatives support and encourage use by students, staff and visitors.



The podium renewal incorporates a number of sustainable strategies, including:

- Intensive and extensive green roof plantings that reduce the urban heat island effect and storm water runoff
- Native trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses support birds and pollinators, promoting biodiversity
- Drought tolerant plant species used that require no permanent irrigation
- Reuse of existing building materials and locally sourced materials

DID YOU KNOW?

York University
has over

200
hectares of land



200+
gardens



22
kilometres
of walking paths



13+
kilometres
of roadway



WASTE

ZeroWaste is York's comprehensive waste management program that diverts waste from landfills through reuse, recycling and composting. In 2016, York's waste diversion rate was 68%, one of the highest rates for postsecondary institutions in Ontario.



DID YOU KNOW?

Disposable coffee cups are not recyclable or compostable at York. Due to the plastic liner in the cup, they must be placed in the garbage, although lids and sleeves can be recycled. To reduce coffee cup waste, consider bringing your own mug, and you can receive a 25¢ discount on your coffee or tea with the **Lug-A-Mug program.**

WE ❤️ YOUR MUG

LUG-A-MUG
& SAVE \$0.25

Get a discount every time you bring your reusable mug on any coffee or tea purchase

@aramarkfoodsnyu

WATER

York has implemented a variety of water conservation initiatives in recent years, including low flow water fixtures in all new buildings and renovations.

Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has commended York for its historic responsible approach to developing local stormwater management measures, which continue to expand with all new uses.

WATER USE
HAS BEEN
REDUCED

by approximately
10%

over the past

10
YEARS

DID YOU KNOW?

There are several **green roofs** on the Keele Campus, including on the new Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence. Green roofs reduce water runoff while also reducing energy use.



FOOD

York's Food Services department supports initiatives that move the food system in a better direction. Numerous eateries serve locally grown produce that's fresh and tasty, as well as cage-free eggs. Fair trade certified coffee is also available across campus. York also has a weekly Farmers' Market that takes place every Thursday during the academic year.

Food Services' locations operated by Aramark have implemented a number of sustainable initiatives and practices throughout campus:

LOCAL & SUSTAINABLE PURCHASES

- 28% of purchases are either local (Ontario), Sustainable (Seafood) or Fair Trade or Rain Forest Alliance certified
- 26% of produce is grown locally
- All shell eggs are cage-free
- Focus on Vegetarian / Vegan options with the launch of "Vegan Mondays" in partnership with the Health Education team

EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Local & sustainable food themed events at all Aramark locations
- "Local Wednesdays" that include local farmers produce and ingredients



DID YOU KNOW?

With Food Services' **Eco-Takeout program**, customers buying food at four of the University's cafeterias can get their meals to go in reusable containers, which can help to significantly reduce packaging waste.



CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH

Teaching and research in sustainability has long been a strength at York University. From our pioneering Faculty of Environmental Studies, to innovative programming across every faculty, York is a destination for undergraduate and graduate students looking to study the many aspects of sustainability.

Approximately 500 COURSE OFFERINGS

on environment
and sustainability
across all faculties



Nearly 300 YORK RESEARCHERS

currently undertaking
sustainability research
on a wide variety of
subject areas



YORK'S NEW ECO CAMPUS

In the spring of 2016, York opened the Lillian Meighen Wright Centre, also known as York's Eco Campus, in Costa Rica. The centre is located next to the 400-acre Las Nubes Forest Reserve, which is part of one of the largest rainforest ecosystems in Central America.

The centre includes indoor classrooms and laboratories, an outdoor Indigenous classroom, an arboretum, and botanical gardens. It will operate as a local, national and international hub dedicated to education and research on Neotropical conservation, eco-health, community wellbeing and sustainable livelihoods of those who live and work in the area.



DID YOU KNOW?

The MBA program at York's Schulich School of Business has been named the **best program** for sustainability and corporate social responsibility by *Corporate Knights* magazine for 13 straight years.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

GET INVOLVED

From committees to student clubs to events on campus, there are many ways to get involved in sustainability at York.

The Sustainability Council is comprised of students, faculty and staff, who advise the President and administration on how to advance York University's sustainability initiatives, projects, and practices. The PSC has 5 working groups and a student subcommittee, which are open to all members of the University community. The PSC and working groups meet regularly throughout the year.

FAIR TRADE FAIR

York's Fair Trade Fair takes place during the winter term each year, celebrating the Fair Trade movement at York University and beyond. A variety of Fair Trade products such as coffee, tea, chocolate and clothing are available at York year-round.



We are always looking for good people and good ideas.

If you would like to get involved, or if you have an idea you'd like to share, please send us an email or contact us on social media.



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