



2019 Annual Sustainability Report



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Office of Sustainability

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING,
AND LAND DEVELOPMENT
SUSTAINABILITY.USASK.CA

A Letter From the Special Advisor on Sustainability

Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else.

Fred Rogers

I am pleased to introduce the University of Saskatchewan's 2019 Sustainability Report. It highlights our campus achievements and successes in the world of sustainability. Some of these are the product of groups dedicated to sustainability in their day-to-day goals, such as the Office of Sustainability, the School of Environment and Sustainability, the Sustainability Education Research Institute, or the USSU's Sustainability Committee. Many other successes are the result of contributions from the countless other groups across the university who pursue sustainability in their actions to help push USask to be the university the world needs.

The word sustainability can mean many things to many people. At USask, it is important to us that this word can be defined in a way unique to our goals and paths forward. The University Plan 2025 adopted in late 2018 includes sustainability as one of its central principles, defining it thus:

nākatēyih̄tamowin | nakaatayih̄taamoowin

The principle of sustainability ensures that we take care of the relationships with which we've been entrusted—with the land, with the air and water, with our students, colleagues, and neighbours—guided by mindfulness, respect, and reverence. In Cree and Michif, the idea is much bigger, extending to the attention we pay to protecting and honouring the wellness of all humanity and creation, the integrity of our cultural identities, and the stories embedded within language—the baskets of stories—our students, staff, faculty, and partners bring to our community. For the University of Saskatchewan, Nākatēyih̄tamowin | Nakaatayih̄taamoowin is a cultural and ecological touchstone.

This new definition of sustainability for the university expands on the traditional holistic concept of environmental, societal, and economic prosperity by tapping into the long-held knowledge of our Treaty 6 family, reminding us that if we are to achieve any of our sustainability goals, it must be through trusted and respectful relationships with each other and our planet.

I am particularly excited to be introducing this report as 2019 was an important inflection point for sustainability. The IPCC's 2019 report on Climate Change and Land made clear that Earth's land ecosystems have already warmed more than 1.5°C and that we must take urgent global action to achieve a sustainable future for generations to come. USask President Peter Stoicheff stated in 2019 that we must be, "appropriately impatient," and, "unapologetically ambitious," when it comes to addressing sustainability issues, and in my role as Special Advisor to the President on Sustainability I look forward to leading the creation of a revitalized institutional sustainability plan to take swift action in addressing the global threat of climate change.

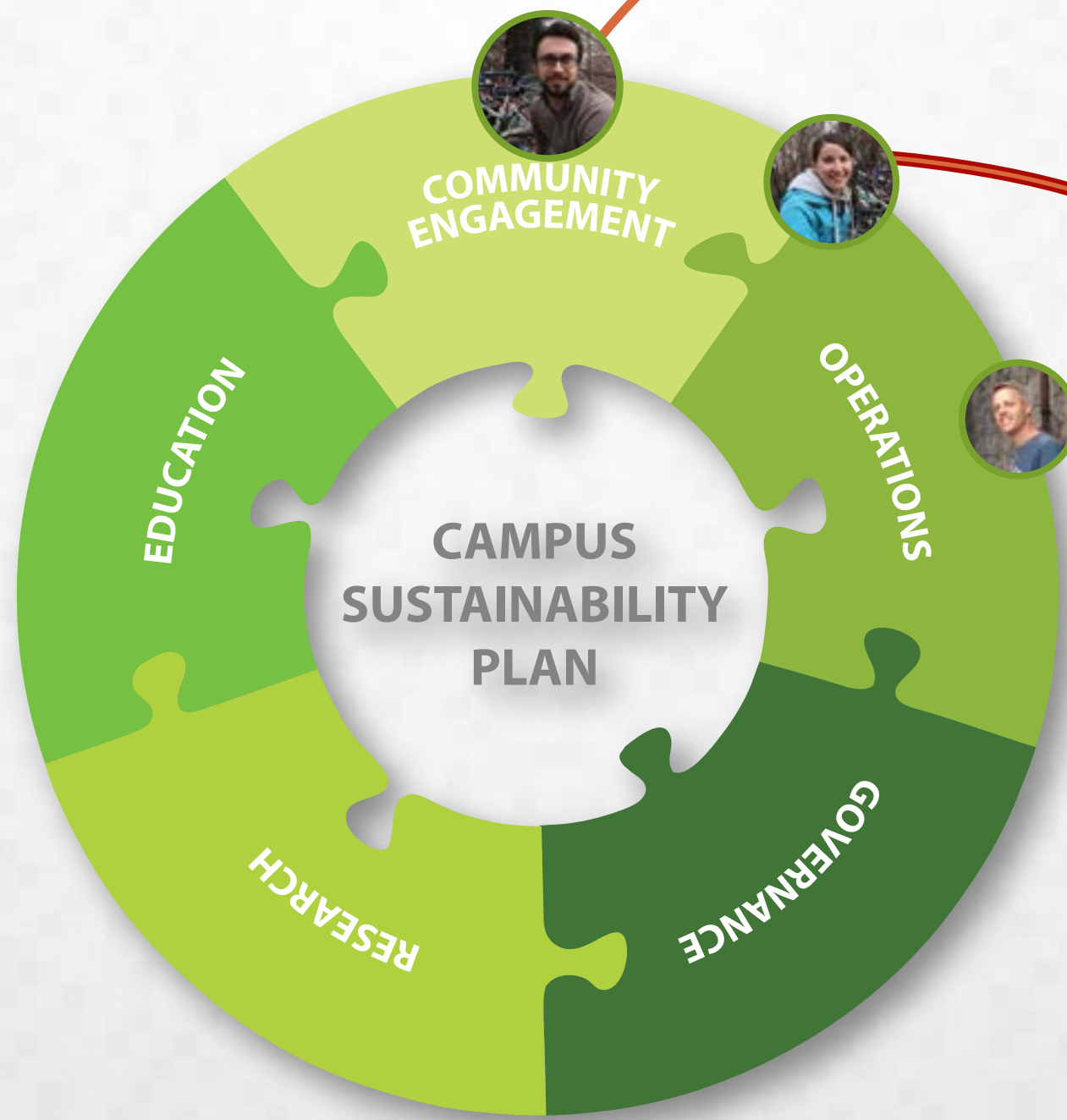
We have made significant progress in advancing sustainability at USask since the Campus Sustainability Plan was adopted in 2012. It is now our opportunity to take bold new steps towards transformative action, allowing the University of Saskatchewan to truly become the university the world needs.

Dr. Irena Creed
AVP Research and Special Advisor to the President on Sustainability
University of Saskatchewan

Contents

The Office	4	
Governance	6	
Education & Research	8	
Community Engagement	12	
Operations	20	
Future Plans	28	

The Office



Matt Wolsfeld

Community Engagement Co-ordinator

Matt works with staff, faculty, and students to facilitate the development of a strong culture of sustainability that is visible throughout campus. By supporting and carrying out the Campus Sustainability Plan's Community Engagement objectives, he helps to achieve the Plan's goal of having all members of the campus community intentionally choosing and initiating sustainable behaviour in all areas of campus life.

Erin Akins

Sustainability Initiatives Co-ordinator

Erin works to integrate sustainability into all aspects of university operations by facilitating changes to day-to-day activities, planning, and decision-making across campus. She works directly with various work units to review existing practices and facilitate positive change.



Kevin Hudson

Energy and Emissions Officer

Kevin develops initiatives and implements strategies to conserve energy and reduce the university's greenhouse gas emissions. This position enhances energy management practices in such areas as facilities, campus utilities, solid waste, water, transportation, infrastructure, and equipment.





Governance

Sustainability isn't merely another problem to be tackled or solved by innovative research and study; it is an essential conviction that must be a part of all decisions made within the influence of the institution. This is why sustainability is one of the key principles in our mission, vision, and values document; why it's a pillar of our University's strategic plan; and why I established the first President's Sustainability Council.

Peter Stoiceff, President

For large organizations like the University of Saskatchewan, an essential component of sustainable change management is formalizing its commitments to sustainability. The [Campus Sustainability Plan](#) (2012) is still in place as the university's primary governing sustainability document; however, since its goals were designed to act until 2020, the university has entered a new process of institutional sustainability planning. Throughout 2020, under the guidance of the President's Advisory Circle on Sustainability, USask will be re-evaluating its sustainability commitments and what the future of campus sustainability means.

President's Advisory Circle on Sustainability

The President's Advisory Circle on a USask Sustainability Strategy (the Circle) is a body comprised of sustainability leaders and champions with the primary purpose to advise and counsel the

President on the creation of a strategic and integrated sustainability plan for the University of Saskatchewan.

The Circle reports directly to the President of the University of Saskatchewan and is lead by the Special Advisor to the President on Sustainability. It is necessary that the Circle membership be populated with individuals with a keen interest in sustainability and the ability to bring diverse perspectives to the group. It is recognized that the Circle may expand and contract as the project moves forward given the needs and requirements as determined by the President and Special Advisor. In particular, the Circle shall be to include individuals who can knowledgeably represent:

1. The three mission areas of the institution (teaching, research, and engagement);
2. Campus operations and facilities;
3. Indigenous Peoples and perspectives; and
4. USask students

The singular mandate of the Circle will be to provide

President's Advisory Circle on Sustainability Members

- Chair: Irena Creed**
AVP Research and Special Advisor to the President on Sustainability
- Vice-Chair: Julian Demkiw**
Senior Strategist
- Patti McDougall**
Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience
- Stryker Calvez**
Manager, Indigenous Education Initiatives
- Marcia McKenzie**
Professor, College of Education
- Jacqueline Ottman**
Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement
- Jason MacLean**
Professor, College of Law
- Janelle Hutchinson**
Chief Strategic Officer
- Laura Zink**
Director, Strategic Initiatives
- Chelsea Willness**
University Secretary
- Karsten Liber**
Interim Executive Director, SENS
- Steven Jones**
Vice-Provost, Health
- Murray Fulton**
Director, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
- Danielle Dunbar**
AVP, Development and Chief Development Officer
- Autumn LaRose-Smith**
USSU Vice-President, Student Affairs
- Erin Akins**
Sustainability Initiatives Coordinator, USOS
- Matt Wolsfeld**
Community Engagement Coordinator, USOS
- Kevin Hudson**
Energy and Emissions Officer, USOS

guidance to the President and Special Advisor on the creation and eventual approval of a *made-in-USask Sustainability Strategy*. In pursuing this mandate the Circle may assist with, but not be limited to:

- Identifying and organizing consultations on the plan with campus and external stakeholders;
- Identifying other members of the Circle;
- Recommending ideas and initiatives related to improving awareness of sustainability on campus;
- Identifying ways to incorporate sustainability into our academic and discovery missions;
- Recommending ideas to better manage our own campus environmental footprint; and
- Recommending ideas for how sustainability initiatives should be governed at USask.

Student Sustainability Coalition

As part of a conscious decision to avoid token representation in the creation of a new institutional sustainability plan, the Circle's core working group worked with the USSU and the GSA to create the Student Sustainability Coalition, a collaborative student group made up of passionate individuals across campus to help craft a unified student voice on sustainability issues.

The Coalition works directly with the Circle through its USSU and GSA representatives and has its members participate on the plan's domain working groups to have direct input in the content of the plan. Going forward, the Coalition will continue to inform sustainability programs, initiatives and policy from the student perspective with assistance from the Office of Sustainability.

Sustainability in the University Plan

The four principles of the University Plan 2025 are connectivity, sustainability, diversity, and creativity. These are woven into the text of the Plan and will help to focus the university's work in the future. These principles incorporate a dichotomy of tension within: to be connected within our practices, yet diverse in our program delivery and inclusive of different communities, and to be creative in our challenge of convention while adhering to sustainability of our institution.

Education & Research

Students from across Canada and the world recognize USask for its innovative sustainability-related and sustainability-focused academic programs and services.

...

The University of Saskatchewan will be recognized across Canada for its outstanding sustainability-focused research, scholarly, and artistic work across all disciplines.

Campus Sustainability Plan Goals for Education & Research

The importance of education as a foundation in moving towards a more sustainable world was recognized by the United Nations when it declared 2005 to 2014 the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

Education — in all its forms and at all levels — is not only an end in itself but is also one of the most powerful instruments we have for bringing about the changes required to achieve sustainable development.

UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005 – 2014; The DESD at a glance (ED/2005/PEQ/ESD/3)

The [Campus Sustainability Plan](#) set out to build on the university's existing strengths and to identify areas for improvement in regard to education for sustainability. Recommendations range from cataloguing what we currently do to developing entirely new programs to fill in existing gaps.

Sustainability transcends traditional academic disciplines, so the university's ongoing support of interdisciplinary scholarship is an important element in sustainability education and research. The university also recognizes its growing amount of Indigenous content as inclusive of sustainability concepts, as the two areas are closely interwoven.

Sustainability Course and Research Inventories

The Office of Sustainability's [2019 sustainability course inventory](#) and [2019 sustainability research inventory](#) are both publically available. In addition to acting as a valuable information resource to students, staff, and faculty, these inventories provide baseline information which informs future initiatives to support sustainability education and research. The inventories will be updated in 2022.

Our Common Future: Undergraduate Student Symposium on the Environment and Sustainability

Since 2017 the Our Common Future Undergraduate Student Symposium on the Environment and Sustainability has been hosted as a joint symposium between the [Office of Sustainability and Undergraduate Environmental Programs](#). The symposium features several projects from the Sustainability Living Lab (see the following section) as well as the ENVS 401 Sustainability in Action project class.

Sustainability Living Lab

The [Sustainability Living Lab](#) uses the campus and community as a laboratory for students to explore sustainability and develop solutions to sustainability issues. Students are also connected with funding, staff supports, and other campus resources to help their undergraduate research transform campus. Past projects have studied campus farmer's markets, fruit orchards, solar installations, planning proposals for regional mega-projects, and much more.



The Our Common Future Symposium features student projects which advance sustainability in all areas of campus.

The University of Saskatchewan offers

288

courses that include sustainability focused or related content

Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability

In September 2014, [SENS](#) began offering the [Undergraduate Certificate of Proficiency in Sustainability](#).

The certificate enriches a student's current degree program by providing significant exposure to sustainability-related concepts and practices. Students gain an understanding of how to integrate human-environmental

systems within our current reality and how to critically evaluate sustainability efforts. Students choose their elective courses from one of three areas of focus: natural resources and sustainability, community and sustainability or food systems and sustainability.

The program has grown from 5 graduates in 2015 to 21 graduates in 2019. A total of 81 students have graduated with the certificate, with another 24 expected to graduate in 2020.

Global Institute for Water Security

The [Global Institute for Water Security \(GIWS\)](#) at USask is the top water resources research institute in Canada and one of the most advanced cold regions hydrology centres in the world. At GIWS, faculty and government scientists work with students and post-doctoral fellows on interdisciplinary teams to understand how climate change, land management practices, and development of natural resources are affecting our water environment, and develop the improved modelling tools needed to sustainably manage water.

Global Institute for Food Security

The [Global Institute for Food Security \(GIFS\)](#) at USask has been constituted with a unique focus on research and technology development that has the potential to improve agriculture in both the developed world and the developing world. GIFS helps end the traditional exploitation of discovery research by industrialized economies by helping deliver discovery research directly to developing world agriculture with rapid beneficial impact.

CREATE Program in Water Security [NSERC CREATE for Water Security](#), led by Dr.

Cheri Westbrook, brings together top water security researchers from the University of Saskatchewan, University of Waterloo, McMaster University, University of Manitoba, and University of Calgary, with federal and provincial government partners and industry partners. The training offers students broad exposure to the biophysical and social forces that affect current water systems, deep knowledge and concentrated capabilities in some aspect of water security, and the personal and professional skills needed to put this understanding to work. The program is now five years into a six year grant and has been very successful to date. 45 graduate students and three post-doctoral fellows have participated or are currently participating in the program.

Ducks Unlimited Canada Endowed Chair in Wetland and Waterfowl Conservation

In October 2019, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and USask announced a partnership to create the [DUC Endowed Chair in Wetland and Waterfowl Conservation](#)—the first of its kind in Canada. The new research chair will teach and supervise students, co-ordinating education, research, and outreach to tackle the complex environmental challenges facing land, water, and wildlife. The endowment will provide student support through graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships.

Environmental Undergraduate Program Co-ordination

The Undergraduate Environmental Programs Office co-ordinates USask's environmental degrees split between 3 colleges and 8 different programs. Their Undergraduate Program Co-ordinator connects and create synergies between these programs, providing better awareness, recruitment, and interdisciplinary opportunities to students interested in pursuing an environmental degree at USask. Some example initiatives include connecting students through several of their popular EnviroConnect events, extending outreach efforts to hundreds of high school students across the province, and co-hosting [Our Common Future](#) with the Office of Sustainability. The UEPO is currently being revisited, with opportunities to expand environmental offerings beyond these degree programs into the rest of the university's offerings.



EECOM 2019 was the first national environmental education conference to focus on climate change education.

People Around the World 2019

The USask Health Sciences' Planetary Health group hosted the second annual People Around the World (PAW) conference in March. Structured around the concept of planetary health, the conference examined the delicate interdependencies of human civilization and nature, with a particular focus on its theme of connections between food, people, and the planet.

EECOM 2019 Conference

The Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM) 2019 Conference took place in May at USask with the theme of "Action on Climate Change Through Education," making this the first national environmental education conference with a focus on climate change education. Its aim was to increase action on climate change through education by bringing together educators, students, policy makers, researchers, and community members to discuss and collaborate on this important and timely topic. The conference was being co-hosted by the Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SaskOutdoors), the Sustainability and Education Policy Network (SEPN), and the Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI).

One Health

[One Health](#), a worldwide strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations in all aspects of health care for humans, animals, and the environment, was identified in 2010 as an area where USask has potential to develop eminence nationally and internationally. As the only university in Canada with a full range of health science colleges and schools on one campus, the university is well-positioned to make tremendous

strides forward in its research, training capacity, and reputation related to One Health. Successes to date have included the One Health Research Development Program, the One Health Leadership Experience for students, a fund for One Health student projects, and a [Graduate Certificate in One Health](#).

Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project

The [Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project](#) aims to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and improve sexual and reproductive health in Mozambique by taking a woman-centered approach to mobilizing communities, increasing capacity in the health-care system and conducting research in 20 communities across Mozambique's Inhambé province. A partnership between the Inhambane Provincial

Undergraduate Environmental Degree Programs at USask

- [Environment & Society](#)
- [Environmental Biology](#)
- [Environmental Earth Sciences](#)
- [Environmental Engineering](#)
- [Environmental Science](#)
- [Resource Economics and Policy](#)
- [Resource Science](#)
- [Toxicology](#)

Other Sustainability-Related Programs at USask

- [Indigenous Studies](#)
- [Northern Studies](#)
- [Aboriginal and Northern Education](#)
- [Critical Environmental Education Cohort](#)
- [Land-Based Indigenous Education](#)
- [Regional and Urban Planning](#)

Graduate Sustainability Degree Programs at USask

- [Master of Sustainable Environmental Management](#)
- [Master of Environment & Sustainability](#)
- [Ph.D in Environment & Sustainability](#)
- [Master of Environmental Engineering](#)
- [Master of Water Security](#)

Health Directorate and the USask Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, the project aims to support and empower women within their families and communities while building capacity through maternal clinics, waiting homes, ambulances, and medical equipment.

USask Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence ADF Funding

The USask Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) received a [\\$3.2 million investment](#) from the province's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) to help reduce the environmental impact of livestock farming and improve the health and safety of animals. Projects using the funding include using pea starch for swine feed, developing strategies to address mineral nutrition in the face of poor water quality, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cattle feedlots.

Canadian Light Source and VIDO-InterVac CFI Funding

Two of USask's research centres—the Canadian Light Source (CLS) and VIDO-Intervac—were the recipients of a [\\$13.4 million operating support grant](#) from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). This funding will help expand the groundbreaking discoveries made at the CLS and help safeguard human and animal health through the innovative vaccine technologies being developed at VIDO-Intervac.

Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security Partnership

Two SENS researchers received a \$2.5 million grant in 2019 to develop the Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security (CASES) Partnership, which will explore how northern residents can achieve energy independence and benefit economically and socially by developing renewable energy. Bram Noble, professor of geography and planning, and Greg Poelzer, a Fulbright scholar and professor at SENS, have established themselves as co-directors of the project, which brings together multidisciplinary researchers, sectoral partners, and 15 Indigenous and northern groups from Canada, the United States, Sweden, and Norway.



Community Engagement

All members of the campus community intentionally choose and initiate sustainable behaviour in all areas of campus life.

Campus Sustainability Plan Goals for Community Engagement

While technological innovations generally garner the most attention, they are really only one part of the long-term solutions to overcoming our sustainability challenges. At its core, sustainability also depends on creating good lifestyles with behaviour, values, and ethics.

Social psychology research indicates that initiatives to promote behaviour change are often most effective when they are carried out at the community level and involve direct contact with people. Through community engagement, we can create a culture of sustainability at USask that enables sustainability to take hold and perform at their most effective levels.

Annual Sustainability Events

In 2018 the Office of Sustainability collaborated on sustainability events around campus including:

- Welcome Week, which features sustainable practices and offers students opportunities to learn about and engage with campus sustainability;
- [Hike, Bike, and Roll](#), a celebration of active

- transportation on campus jointly co-ordinated with many campus and local cycling groups;
- [Campus Sustainability Week](#), an annual celebration of the university's sustainability successes;
- [Our Common Future](#), which displays and presents the accomplishments of the year's Sustainability Living Lab student projects.

Community Gardens

The University of Saskatchewan is currently home to three [community gardens](#): the McEown Community Garden, the University Services Building Staff Garden, the SENSSA Community Garden at St. Andrew's College, and the Horticulture Club Community Garden. These gardens allow students and staff opportunities to participate in community gardening, increasing access to healthy and nutritious food while tackling issues in food security at the university. The [McEown Community Garden](#) is the largest and longest-standing community garden on campus. Currently serving ~80 gardeners living in the residences at McEown Park, College Quarter, and Grad House, the garden operates as an allotment

garden where parcels are allocated to individuals who are responsible for cultivating them. A Community Garden Co-ordinator — a student intern position shared by Residence Services and the Office of Sustainability — supports operational logistics and helps to plan events or workshops throughout the season.

Prairie Habitat Garden

The [Prairie Habitat Garden](#) transforms the land surrounding the western side of the Education Building into a thriving environmentally-based teaching resource which incorporates native prairie plant species and First Nations perspectives into its design. In 2017, extensive landscaping was done to redesign the garden and support expanded educational opportunities.

Student Employment Opportunities

Opportunities for student employment help provide income and hands-on training to students trying to integrate their academic studies into the working world. The Office of Sustainability provides internships, co-op placements, and subsidies for training in programs such as LEED Green Associates for students to help advance sustainability initiatives on campus and train them for future careers. Past students have helped to establish our staff and student engagement programs, build our course and research inventories, and integrate energy efficiency on campus.

Newsletters and Online Communications

The Office of Sustainability maintains a [regularly updated website](#) to provide information on all of its programs and initiatives. People looking for more

Sustainability-Related Student Groups at the University of Saskatchewan

- Student Sustainability Coalition
- Environmental Studies Students Association (ESSA)
- Environmental and Bioresources Students Association (EBSA)
- School of Environment and Sustainability Students Association (SENSA)
- Regional and Urban Planning Students Society (RUP)
- Green Legal
- Engineers Without Borders
- Amnesty International USask
- Enactus USask
- Western College of Veterinary Medicine Students Association (WCVSA)
- Just Youth
- Health Everywhere
- Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH)
- Biology Student Association
- Horticulture Club

avenues to sustainability information can follow the Office's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#) accounts for other updates and events.

Sustainability Tours

The Office of Sustainability offers a [Campus Sustainability Tour](#) upon request that explores hidden aspects of sustainability around campus. The tour highlights green buildings, the results of student projects and retrofits, green landscaping features, and much more.

EcoHack

[EcoHack](#) is an immersive multi-day experience where innovators, tinkerers, and makers from various degree programs collaborate using a rapid-iteration design model to generate viable solutions to problems posed by local community/industry partners. By the end

of the event, our participants will have collaborated with community partners to solve a tangible real-world problem by leveraging the skills and abilities of their interdisciplinary colleagues. 2019 was EcoHack's second year and saw over 50 registered applicants and more than a dozen different community partners.

Campus Sustainability Week

[Campus Sustainability Week](#) — our annual October celebration of sustainability — continued its growing history of bringing a wide range of sustainability-related workshops, lectures, social events, and installations to the campus community. 2019's offerings included:

- the return of the ever-popular ART*Cycled reclaimed and recycled art exhibition;
- Workshops on winter biking, bike maintenance, and zero-waste living;

- a USask Senate Forum on Climate Change;
- a student group-run riverbank clean-up;
- the return of the Carbonless Concert Series to Louis' Loft; and
- a Sustainability Week edition of the familiar USask Campus Market and Sustainability Swap.

ART*Cycled

[ART*Cycled](#) has become an annual fixture of Campus Sustainability Week, featuring a collaboration between the Office of Sustainability and senior art and sculpture students to produce an upcycled public art installation. Sculpture students are connected with the university's surplus assets management facility, where they are able to collect landfill-bound items to turn into works of art. 2019's edition continued to impress, including whimsical mobile projects that wandered around Place Riel's North Concourse.



USSU Sustainability Committee

For years the Office of Sustainability provided U of S student groups with grants to help student-led sustainability events and initiatives. In 2016 the [USSU Sustainability Committee](#) was restructured to become primarily a student granting entity. With funding from both the Office of Sustainability and the USSU, the new Committee now oversees a larger pot of funding that is able to issue sustainability grants to students with greater impact and oversight.

In its first full operating year, the USSU Sustainability Committee funded a full \$5,000 worth of [student projects](#). Now the Committee oversees \$15,000 worth of funding for projects ranging from efficient balsa

wood plane designs to reusable menstrual products being subsidized for USask students.

Work Green

[Work Green](#), the university's workplace sustainability champions program, continued to grow in 2019 to include 140 staff champions from across campus. Some 2019 highlights of Work Green include:

- Piloting a library communications campaign to encourage students to properly recycle their waste, leading to an average 65% reduction in waste left at study areas.
- A Work Green Sustainable Design Thinking workshop that helped to identify key issues and solutions for staff groups
- Continued certification of offices which recognizes their sustainability efforts and provides goals to improve their footprint.
- Delivery of additional Campus Sustainability Tours to introduce more staff to campus sustainability features.

An additional change to Work Green in 2019 was the creation of Work Green Labs, a subgroup of laboratory staff and faculty that recognizes the unique circumstances of labs, which are some of the largest energy users on campus. Its [Green Labs Checklist](#) is a useful tool distributed to campus labs to help curb this heightened energy use. This program will continue to develop in 2020 by working with lab managers to develop better energy and waste standards for the university's research centres.

2019 RCE Awards for USask Programs

The University of Saskatchewan has been recognized by the [Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for](#)

\$45,000

in student projects have been funded by the USSU Sustainability Committee to date.



EcoHack offers students an immersive experience that allows them to solve local problems together with community partners.

universities participating in the program.

[Sustainable Development](#) (RCE) in the past. At their 2019 event, two USask initiatives were highlighted: [EcoHack](#) and the [John Mitchell Building Solar Array](#). It is a great honor to continue to be celebrated among other leaders in sustainability throughout the province and we hope to continue sharing our successes with this great organization.

Community-Based Courses

USask offers a wide variety of community-based courses and co-curricular programs that touch squarely on the social, economic, and community aspects of sustainability. From the many diverse outcomes arising from the ENVS 201 and 401 student projects to the growing number of opportunities for community-based learning through the Edwards School of Business, Agriculture, Arts and Science, Medicine, and others, students are finding opportunities to support communities and community-based organizations through their studies. The Office of Sustainability hosts an [inventory](#) of these and other sustainability-related courses at its website.

Turning the Page Program

The university was a participant in AASHE's 2019 Turning the Page Program, a behaviour change toolkit for reducing paper use. The Office of Sustainability's own Erin Akins acted as a reviewer for the group's [final report](#), and the university's fast action on [central printer updates](#), individual desktop printer replacement, and paper reduction software all provided value leadership and guidance to the other

Indigenous Engagement

Indigenous Achievement Week

Each year in March, the University of Saskatchewan hosts [Indigenous Achievement Week](#) to celebrate Aboriginal accomplishments, reflect on traditions and ceremonies, and connect with the community. Indigenous Achievement Week 2019 featured a variety of cultural and artistic events, speakers and academic talks, the presentation of annual student awards, and the event's flagship round dance.

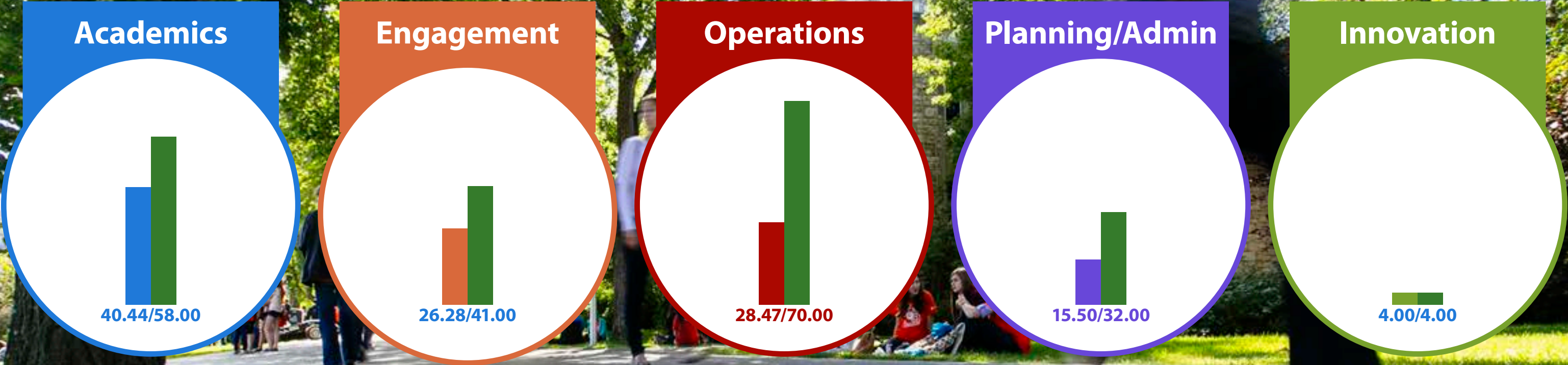
One event in particular caught extra attention: renowned Plains Cree artist Ruth Cuthand and Woodlands Cree artist Vanessa Hyggen—both USask alumni—worked on an art piece called *Beads and Stone*. Using beadwork and architectural stone, their work blended materials and traditions to map emergent processes of Indigenization. The creation of the piece began by breaking a slab of Tyndall stone, a type of stone found throughout USask architecture, as a representation of decolonization and the creation of space within the institution for Indigenous traditions.

Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness Indigenous Voices Program

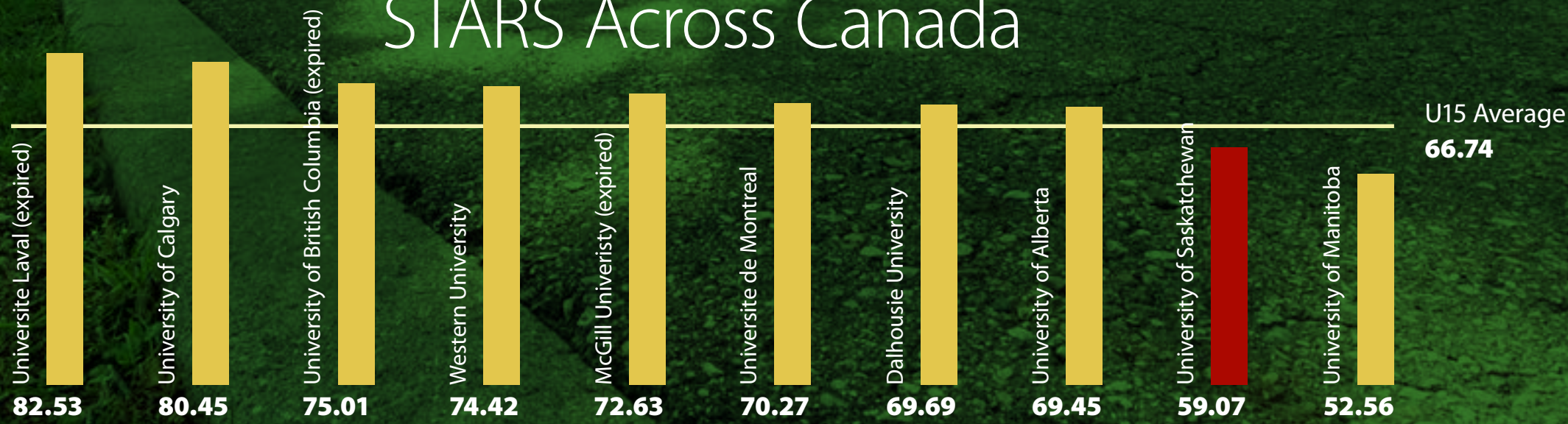
The Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness supports a variety of faculty and curriculum development initiatives related to decolonizing and

Shooting for the STARS

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. Here's how the University of Saskatchewan measures up.



STARS Across Canada



Indigenizing education. The [Indigenous Voices program](#) aims to raise awareness of Aboriginal history, culture, contemporary issues, and decolonization. The program includes Ceremony, learning opportunities through wāskamisiwin seminars (Plains Cree for “the act of becoming more aware”), public talks, a conference, and support to decolonize and Indigenize curricula.

Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) and Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP)

The USask College of Education is home to two special four-year Bachelor of Education programs known as the [Indian Teacher Education Program](#) (ITEP) and the [Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program](#) (SUNTEP). These programs prepare First Nations teachers who will be able to effectively respond to the challenges associated with the ever-changing needs and objectives of students in an increasingly Indigenizing Saskatchewan school system.

College of Education
Aboriginal Awareness Initiative

The College of Education [has developed an initiative](#) to provide professional development to everyone in the college — faculty, researchers and staff — to build

their awareness of Aboriginal culture and knowledge. This will inform teaching, learning, research and engagement for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Community Partnerships

Delta Dialogue Network

The [Delta Dialogue Network \(DDN\)](#) is a SSHRC-funded partnership between the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Manitoba, and three inland northern river delta communities: the [Saskatchewan River and Delta](#), the [Peace-Athabasca Delta](#), and the [Slave River Delta](#).

The partnership works within and across communities to improve knowledge mobilization around issues of sustainability within northern inland deltas. By focusing on knowledge mobilization, the DDN hopes to build upon the best ways to share and create knowledge so it is useful for communities, decision-makers, and academics.

Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve MOU

In April 2012, the School of Environment and Sustainability and the Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) which allows SENS and the biosphere reserve to expand the scope of research and education projects relating to the environment and sustainability. SENS students and faculty have been conducting research at the reserve for the past few years, and one course (ENVS 801) holds a field trip there annually.



SENS’ partnership with Beardy’s and Okemasis First Nation continues to ensure sustainability research benefits Indigenous communities.

Beardy’s and Okemasis First Nation
SENS Research Partnership

The School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) is [undertaking research with community members at Beardy’s and Okemasis First Nation](#) that can help the community address a range of issues related to environment and sustainability, including source water protection, clean drinking water, climate change planning, the role of traditional knowledge and values in land and resource decisions, among others.

Mr. Conrad Alfred Gamble from Beardy’s and Okemasis First Nation is the program’s Indigenous Mentor. Mr. Gamble has been working with faculty and students at SENS since 2015, sharing his knowledge of environment and sustainability issues and ensuring research that will benefit his community.

The Muskrat Hut

The result of a project between the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and USask, [the Muskrat Hut](#) is a small mobile building prototype that houses a bathroom, shower, toilet, and kitchen designed to address the lack of access to safe and clean water, toilets, and food preparation areas in First Nations communities in northern Canada and other remote regions.

SERI Digital Media Mobile Lab

The [Sustainability Education Research Institute’s Digital Media Mobile Laboratory](#) consists of 25 waterproof cameras and a workshop curriculum available to educators, non-profits, and community organizations interested in encouraging youth to use digital media to explore place and sustainability issues

that are important to them. Since 2013, the cameras have been used by multiple projects including Voices in Vision, the Northern Indigenous Media Art Project, and the Ecoquest Media Camp.

Diversity and Equity Co-ordination

USask is home to one of the highest proportions of Indigenous community members across all of Canada’s universities and has put considerable effort into ensuring equity and diversity in its academic offerings. Dr. Jacqueline Ottman, VP Indigenous Engagement is driven to create schools and communities that foster a deeper sense of belonging and appreciation for Indigenous peoples—their histories, stories, and ways of knowing and being. We embrace the teachings of manacihitowin, a Cree/Michif phrase which translates to, “let us respect each other”.

College of Engineering Indigenous
Peoples Initiatives Community

In March 2019, the College of Engineering launched a program designed to help more Indigenous people enter the college and successfully complete their degrees. The new Engineering Access Program is part of the college’s Indigenous Peoples Initiatives Community (IPIC).

The program supports prospective and current Indigenous engineering students in three specific ways:

- **Pathways to Engineering** - A year of academic upgrading for students that do not have the

Indigenous Achievement Week featured an innovative art piece—Beads and Stone—to address decolonization and Indigenization.



required pre-requisites to apply to the College of Engineering.

- **Summer Bridging Program** - Students spend several days on and around campus in sessions focusing on academic preparation, navigating campus, and transitioning to life in Saskatoon.
- **Student Success Program** - Social, academic, and financial supports are available for Indigenous students in the college. For first-year students, this includes meeting regularly with an academic advisor and attending first-year facilitated study sessions to help ensure their success.

Staff Diversity Workshops

The university provides 3.5-hour “Self-Reflection on Diversity” workshop which over 1,500 staff and faculty have attended. Additional workshops have been developed based on the “Emotional Intelligence and Diversity” (EID) model which fosters inclusion, understanding, engagement, and awareness of self and others in a diverse workplace.

Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Policy

The university is committed to creating and maintaining a positive environment for working and

learning that is free of discrimination based on any of the following grounds: religion, creed, marital status, family status, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, colour, ancestry, nationality, place of origin, race or perceived race and receipt of public assistance.

Youth From Care Initiative

The USask provides one of the most comprehensive university-sponsored funds in Canada to students leaving the child welfare system. The [Saskatchewan Youth From Care Bursary](#) pays for up to five years’ of tuition, student fees, required books, accommodation, meal plans, and a stipend for personal costs, as well as a laptop and software to help recipients complete

their first undergraduate degree. The university has allocated \$100,000 annually from its operating budget to support up to five students per year.

Wellbeing and Compensation

All regular employees at the University of Saskatchewan earn a living wage, based on Saskatchewan metrics. In addition, all employees are offered wellness programs that include access to counselling, referral, and wellbeing services. The [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#) provides employees with aid in obtaining these services.

A Snapshot of 2019 Sustainability

January

2019 Waste Audit

In an effort to get an updated look at the nature of waste on campus, the Office of Sustainability undertook a waste audit of six of campus’ most prominent buildings.

Winter Sustainability Week

The Office partnered with the USSU on a short winter edition of sustainability week, with a few small workshops offered in Place Riel and a candlelit Carbonless Concert hosted at Louis’.

February

SASF School Presentations

The Office of Sustainability delivered several Designing for Sustainability workshops to elementary school children in the City of Saskatoon’s Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF) program through the 2019 winter season.

Desktop Printer Reduction Initiative

A partnership with IT Services saw communications, contests, and incentives go out around campus to reduce individual desktop printer usage, reducing energy and paper impacts.

March

Low Carbon Economy Fund Investments

USask received \$1.5 million in federal funding to improve energy efficiency at its Saskatoon campus through building retro-commissioning and controls upgrades.

Our Common Future

The Our Common Future Symposium, a symposium that showcases Living Lab and other student sustainability and environment projects from around the university, was held at the end of March.

April

Green Give and Go

Each year, the Office of Sustainability teams up with Residence Services to reduce the waste associated with annual move-out.

Intern Hiring

The Office of Sustainability hires its summer interns in April, providing job experience to students from all across campus.

May

RCE Awards

The university was recognized for two awards at the annual RCE Awards in 2019.

Bike to Work Day

The USask celebrates Bike to Work Day with the rest of the City of Saskatoon in May, encouraging active transportation.

USask Graduation Powwow

The Graduation Powwow occurs each year in May to celebrate the accomplishments of the university’s Indigenous students.

June

Conversation with the Commission

The team behind Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission met at Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre for a conversation about the commission’s results.

Employee Appreciation Picnic

The Office of Sustainability provides waste services at each year’s Employee Appreciation Picnic in June, helping to divert as much total waste from the event as possible.

July

SHAD Design Workshop

The Shad Canada program for high-achieving high school students spent July at USask, where the designed solutions for national sustainability issues with the help of Office workshops.

Library Sustainability Planning

The University Library’s Leadership Development Program encouraged a large group of staff to work with the Office of Sustainability in July to brainstorm and plan projects to improve social sustainability initiatives on campus.

August

RA Training Fair

Each August the Office of Sustainability meets with new Residence RAs to provide information, support, and funding for residence sustainability initiatives.

Campus Sustainability Tours

With summer in full swing, August is a great month for tours of all of the hidden sustainability initiatives and programming around campus.

September

Orientation/Welcome Week

Each September, thousands of new students flock to campus and are introduced to sustainability initiatives and programs with which they can engage.

Hike, Bike, and Roll

The university’s annual celebration of active transportation takes place in September under the beautiful fall trees of the picturesque Bowl.

October

Campus Sustainability Week

October brings Campus Sustainability Week, a massive celebration of sustainability on campus featuring workshops, art installations, guest talks, and social events.

EcoHack

The second edition of the university’s sustainability-related hackathon took place at Louis’ and Edwards’ School of Business, with 50 registrants and 12 community partners.

November

STARS and THE Submission Prep

After spending months compiling data and information on the university’s sustainability programs and initiatives, the Office of Sustainability puts together its major ranking submissions.

Institutional Sustainability Planning

Under the leadership of Dr. Irena Creed, the university began the process of renewing its institutional sustainability plan.

December

School Tours & Workshops

Another collection of school groups joined the Office in December, exploring campus sustainability features and taking workshops to produce change in their schools.

Holiday Energy Conservation

The Office of Sustainability provided campus with a series of tips and tricks to help reduce energy usage while campus slows down for the Christmas season.



Operations

Sustainability is a guiding principle in all operations at the University of Saskatchewan

Operational changes can significantly impact utility expenditures. Even moderate reductions can prove significant. Proactive operational changes can also act as a buffer against future regulatory changes and rising costs. Visible commitments to sustainability through operational changes positively support the university's reputation, specifically in terms of fundraising, attracting personnel and recruiting students.

Energy and Water Energy Management Program

The University of Saskatchewan maintains an Energy Management Program (EMP) to guide its energy use and development. The program includes important policies such as the [Energy and Water Conservation Policy](#), which instructs all of campus on acceptable use of energy and water resources.

Energy Action Plan

Beginning in 2015, the Office of Sustainability launched the Energy Action Plan (EAP) to address energy usage and conservation issues at the University of Saskatchewan. The EAP was developed in

Campus Sustainability Plan Goals for Operations

partnership with SaskPower and is composed of 3 parts: LED upgrades and retrofits, recommissioning for selected older buildings, and the development of an Energy Management Information System (EMIS) pilot project to assess the potential impact on energy management.

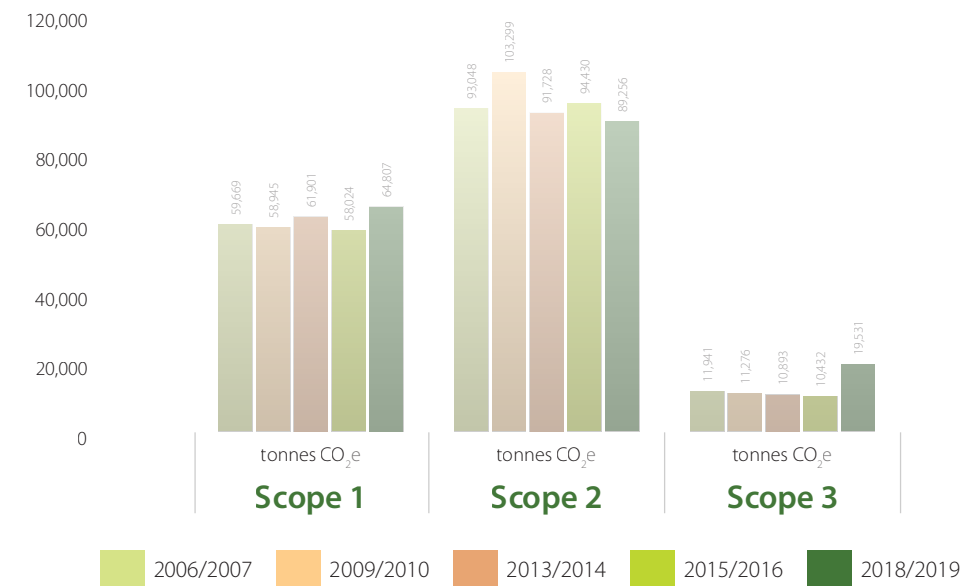
As of 2019, the LED retrofits have been completed across all of the buildings on the central campus. Recommissioning projects are taking place in several buildings across campus, aided by a \$1.5 million investment from the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund. The EMIS pilot has been successfully completed and work is being done to identify how to implement its lessons.

GHG Inventory

A [Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Inventory](#) is completed each year to help track the university's carbon footprint. In general, very little has changed in the university's GHG emissions profile over the past few years. While our new buildings are more efficient in their lighting, water, and heating systems, increased floor space, equipment, electricity usage, and research intensity generally offsets any decrease in GHG emissions.

Through the Years

Total Emissions by Scope



The Office of Sustainability's Annual GHG Inventory Report is publicly available online.

Green Buildings LEED Buildings

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, is a green building rating system that serves to recognize and rate achievements in green building. The University of Saskatchewan is home to [many LEED certified buildings](#), including:

LEED Gold

- **Health Science E-Wing** is notable for its prairie stormwater pond and hot water solar collectors. The building is also designed for excellent access to natural lights which is evident in the main atrium.
- **College of Law Addition** is notable for its living roof. The

GHG Emissions Scopes

Scope 1

Direct GHG emissions from sources owned or controlled by the university.

Scope 2

Indirect GHG emissions from the generation of electricity consumed by the university.

Scope 3

All other indirect emissions from sources not owned by or controlled by the university. Reporting is optional.

living roof provides insulation for the building, extends the lifespan of the roof, and absorbs rainwater to filter the water and reduce the rate of stormwater runoff.

LEED Silver

- **Place Riel Student Centre Expansion** achieved innovation credits for exemplary performance in water use reduction, recycled content of materials used and sourcing local/regional materials.
- **Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre** includes many cultural sustainability elements such as culturally

significant architectural additions and advanced ventilation systems to allow for smudge ceremonies.

LEED Certified

- **Health Science D-Wing** incorporated a high degree of daylight and views which is in contrast to other older laboratory buildings on campus.
- **Murray Building University Learning Commons** renovation extensively used existing building features to reduce the need for new inputs, expand opportunities for usable space, and eliminate much of the construction waste.

Other Certifications

The Collaborative Sciences Research Building was the first of the university's buildings to pursue a [Green Globes](#) certification. It has received 2 out of 4 globes.

Sustainability Revolving Fund

The [Sustainability Revolving Fund \(SRF\)](#) was established in 2014 to help finance sustainability initiatives at the University of Saskatchewan. Projects that result in utility savings (either directly or indirectly through behaviour change) are financed; operational savings plus 50% are invested back into the fund to help it grow over time.

Projects funded by the SRF currently include:

- Geology Building Plumbing Upgrade
- Agriculture Parkade LED Lighting Retrofit
- Ultra-Low Temperature Freezer and Standard Fridge-Freezer Rebate Program
- Flow Cytometer Replacement Rebate Program
- Steam Trap Insulation Jackets
- Health Science E-Wing Solar Thermal Upgrades
- John Mitchell Building Solar Panel Installation
- SECC Sustainable Career MeetUps
- Thorvaldson Water-Cooled A/C Replacements
- John Mitchell Building Solar Array
- Chemistry Aspirator Installations
- Urinal retrofits across campus
- Central Copier Replacement and Print Software
- LED Lamp Retrofits
- WCVN Animal Care Lighting Upgrades
- Toxicology Chiller Upgrades
- Geology Trace Element Lab Heat Reclamation

John Mitchell Building Solar Array

The 5.12 kW [John Mitchell Building Solar Array](#) is the result of a Living Lab student project which sought to expand renewable energy generation on campus to increase the availability of experiential learning opportunities. The panels are available for a use by a number of classes in the College of Engineering. Their output can be seen live and up-to-date at the [Office of Sustainability's webpage](#).

\$1.5 million

in funding has been committed to campus sustainability projects through the Sustainability Revolving Fund. These projects will offer

\$500,000/year in projected savings

Simple payback within 3-5 years

Chemistry Aspirator Replacements

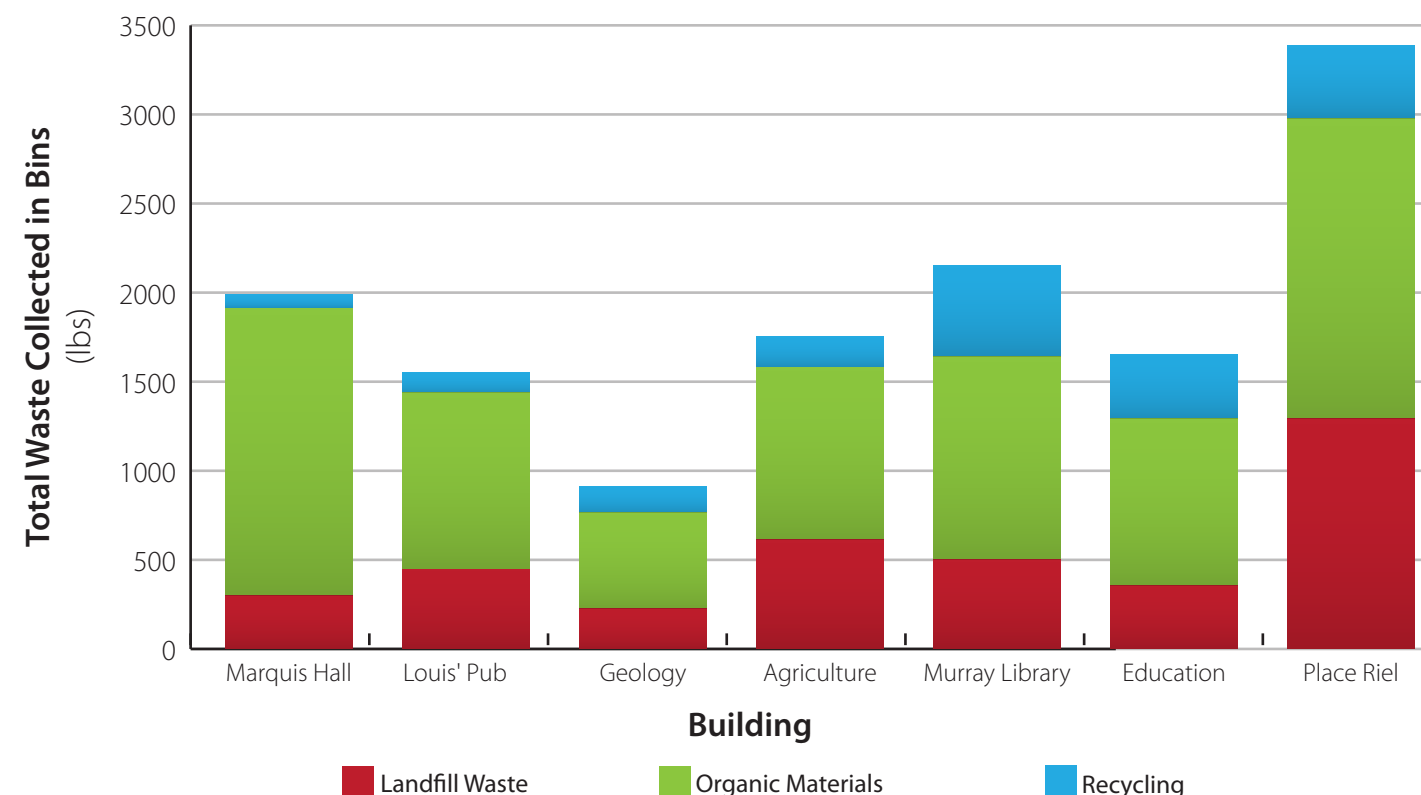
Wasteful water aspirators are commonly used in research labs to generate vacuum flow for research equipment. While electronic diaphragm vacuum pumps are much more efficient, their much greater upfront cost often drives researchers towards cheaper water aspirators for the same work.

The [Sustainability Revolving Fund stepped in](#) this past year to provide \$90,000 to replace 68 water aspirators in the Thorvaldson Building with 31 new pumps. These pumps will save 7.67 million litres of water and \$25,000 in utility costs per year, with a payback period of a mere five years.

Central Copier Replacement and Print Reduction Software

Centralized printer/copiers help to reduce printer impacts and costs, but as equipment ages their efficiency tends to decline. 2019 saw the update of central copiers across campus to new, more efficient models that use less energy when running and also while in hibernation mode (which is triggered more often). Additional updates include print software for scan-to-email and secure printing capabilities, which

2019 USask Campus Waste Audit Results



The University of Saskatchewan's 2019 Waste Audit helped to characterize waste around campus in order to better develop waste management strategies going forward.

reduces overall pages printed and eliminates the need for individual desktop printers. Added software settings control double-sided and black-and-white printing as default settings.

Waste Single-Stream Recycling

USask uses a single-stream recycling program contracted through [Loraas Recycling](#). Plastic, paper, cardboard, metal, and glass are all accepted into recycling bins across the university and sent to Loraas' Materials Recovery Facility for sorting and marketing.

The entirety of USask's single-stream recycling program has used a community-based social marketing framework to develop clear and effective signage and communications based on staff, faculty, and student input.

2019 Waste Audit

In January of 2019, the Office of Sustainability conducted a waste audit of six of the university's

buildings: Geology, Education, Murray Library, Agriculture, Place Riel, and Louis' Pub. The audit helped to characterize waste around campus in order to better develop waste management strategies going forward, in particular organic management plans. A [summary report](#) of this audit can be found at the Office's website.

UTransfer Surplus Assets Transfer Portal

After a successful pilot in 2017, UTransfer became accessible to all USask staff in February 2018, allowing campus departments to trade their unused or unwanted assets using a SharePoint portal.

With changes to campus IT frameworks in 2019, UTransfer is currently being redeveloped for implementation on the Microsoft Teams platform, extended access and increasing ease-of-use for all staff and faculty on campus.

Special Materials Diversion

The University of Saskatchewan diverts other types of specialty waste from the landfill. Some of these measures include:

- Collecting waste paint and taking it to the Saskatchewan Paint Recycling Program;
- Piloting the first laboratory glove recycling program in Canada;
- Diverting 82% of the construction waste generated by large building projects from the landfill;
- Returning toner and ink cartridges for recycling through Supreme Basics;
- Collecting and recycling scrap metals and concrete from construction and demolition;
- Composting landscaping materials including tree trimmings and grass clippings;
- Diverting usable electronics to SARCAN for proper disposal and recycling; and
- Recycling batteries through Call 2 Recycle.

Programming, Transportation, and Consumer Services
Open Textbooks

Consumer Services began pushing for [expanded open textbook and educational resources](#) in 2016 to help reduce student costs. During the 2018-2019 academic year, 4,500 students across six colleges and schools at the UaskS are using open textbooks instead of commercial textbooks, saving them approximately \$450,000. Students have saved more than \$1.8 million since the USask launched the open textbook initiative during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Transportation Modal Split Survey

Commuting at USask continues to become more sustainable. According to our [2019 transportation modal split survey](#), students and employees commute to campus using sustainable options at a rate of 82% and 63%, respectively. These methods include walking, biking, public transit, or carpooling.

Support for Alternative Transportation

The University of Saskatchewan offers a broad array of support for alternative transportation to, from, and around campus. These include:

- Maintaining adequate access to bike racks across campus by actively monitoring and adjusting for use;
- Providing higher security bike parking options through the Health Science parkade cage (75 spots), the Agriculture parkade secure rack (10 spots), underground storage for residences, and [19 personal bike lockers](#);
- Maintaining an extensive and well-connected network of multi-use pathways through campus to encourage active transportation;
- Subsidizing bus pass programs for students ([U-Pass](#)) and staff ([Eco-Pass](#)); and
- The installation of the university's first dedicated EV charger behind Kirk Hall in 2019.

Food and Gardens

College of Agriculture and Bioresources
Rooftop Garden

With the help of Plant Sciences professor Grant Wood and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, the university's first rooftop garden was implemented in 2016 and expanded in 2017. Situated on a lower roof of the Agriculture Building and visible through the skywalk between it and the Collaborative Sciences Research Building, the [Rooftop Garden](#) is also the center of the university's first closed-loop food system. Compost from the Grounds Compost Centre is used to fertilize the food grown at the Rooftop Garden, which is in turn sold to Consumer Services for use at Marquis Culinary Centre. Any resulting scraps or food waste are dehydrated at the Marquis Culinary Centre Food Dehydrator and are returned to the Compost Centre to be turned into compost for a new round of compost to feed the vegetables. The Rooftop Garden also has an academic component, in that Plant Sciences and Soil Science students are able to use the garden for class purposes during the spring and fall months.

Marquis Culinary Centre
Sustainable Food Options

[Marquis Culinary Centre](#), the main dining hall on campus and the center of Culinary Services' operations, has made it their mission for many years to increase the sustainability of their operations and extend additional options to campus in terms of sustainable dining. Some of these initiatives include:

- Trayless dining to reduce the amount of water required for dishwashing and the amount of food waste per diner;
- Kitchen techniques such as batch cooking and controlled kitchen production to reduce food waste associated with food preparation;
- The implementation of a self-serve buffet model designed to reduce food waste.
- Using food from local vendors and student operations such as the Horticulture Club and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources Rooftop Garden;
- Highlighting sustainable and culturally-significant food offerings through events such as Local Food Month, the annual Sustainable Gourmet meal, and International Street Food Week;
- Advertising sustainable food offerings through signage and plasma screens in the dining hall;
- Offering a broad variety of vegan and vegetarian options to diners;
- Using reusable service ware in their dining hall;
- Packaging their catering offerings with biodegradable cutlery, plates, and platters;
- Offering reusable mug discounts at all Consumer Services outlets alongside Tim Hortons, Starbucks, and Subway locations on campus; and
 - Catering trays made of biodegradable, petrochemical-free trays made from low-grade post-consumer and renewable pulped fibers.

Did You Know:

All Consumer Services coffee locations offer a discount for customers who bring a reusable mug!

Marquis Culinary Centre Food Waste Dehydrator

Food and organic waste makes up more than half of the university's overall waste composition. Without effective



The Marquis Culinary Centre Food Waste Dehydrator has diverted 650 lbs of food waste from the landfill each day.



The USask Campus Farmer's Market has continued to offer fresh and local food and handcrafts to campus.

composting or organic waste collection programs on campus, it will be difficult to achieve the university's goal of 90% waste reduction.

The Marquis Culinary Centre Food Waste Dehydrator takes and separates food waste, producing a dry compostable product and a nutrient-rich liquid compost that can be used in landscaping operations around the university. Installed in Fall of 2017, the dehydrator manages approximately 650 lbs of organic waste each day, which creates a nutrient-rich material that has helped to create beautiful and vibrant landscaping across campus.

Sustainable Food Purchasing Inventory

A local food assessment was conducted in 2016 by Localize and updated in 2019 by an M.SEM student. The resulting report has identified that 18% of the food provided by Marquis Culinary Centre is verified local and community-based or has achieved a third-party sustainable or ethical certification. This is achieved through purchasing food from local growers and vendors or by using food grown right here at the

university; the Horticulture Club and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources' Rooftop Garden are two sources of local produce that sell their goods directly to Consumer Services.

Landscape Management

Through its dedication to sustainable landscaping practices, the University of Saskatchewan is able to lay claim to an incredible sustainably-maintained campus. Some initiatives include:

- An Integrated Pest Management Plan which manages weed and insect pests through methods which avoid chemical inputs when possible;
- Planting native prairie plant species and edible plant species in new beds and landscaped areas;
- Irrigating some campus beds with rainwater collected from the roof of the University Services and Collaborative Sciences Research Buildings;
- Selectively paving parking lanes to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff generated;
- Composting a high percentage of the waste generated by campus landscaping operations;

- Utilizing large, old-growth trees and shading to enhance energy efficiency on campus; and
- Using granular, rather than chemical, de-icers.

USask Campus Farmer's Market

The [USask Campus Farmer's Market](#) (a result of the [Sustainability Living Lab program](#)) came into full implementation in 2016/2017, with a monthly farmer's market being held in Place Riel. The market featured a revolving cast of local vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods, various treats, readymade meals, and handcrafted goods all at campus' doorstep. The market returns each year, generally hosting three markets in the first semester and two in the second.

Louis' Sustainability Initiatives

For over 10 years Louis' has been integrating sustainability into its operations as a beloved campus gathering place. These initiatives include:

- Using recycled-content/compostable containers for day-to-day take-out for over 10 years;
- LED retrofits which have reduced average electricity use by 23%;
- Featuring exclusively locally-made draught beer offerings across 20 taps;
- Purchasing fresh produce from the [College of Agriculture and Bioresources Rooftop Garden](#) during the summer months;
- Exclusively serving locally-sourced or certified Fair-Trade/Organic coffee at both Louis' and Louis' Loft; and
- Elimination of straws from bar service, with compostable straws available upon request.

Purchasing and Investment Investment Disclosure

The university participates in responsible investing by integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria into the management of the funds. The university believes that, through engagement rather than divestment, the university can play an important role in supporting change and that ESG factors have the potential to affect long-term investment performance. An [investment disclosure](#) is made available to the public to support transparency and accountability.

Sustainable Procurement Policy and Purchasing Guidelines

As of 2019, USask has integrated sustainability into its [official procurement policy](#), stating that, "procurement decisions will consider the sustainability implications including social, economic, and environmental impacts of all purchasing strategies and decisions".

In 2017, the Office of Sustainability published a [Sustainable Purchasing webpage](#) to aid university units trying to reconcile unit purchasing with sustainability.

Electronics Purchasing

94% of all electronics purchased by the university are Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) certified, with 87% of these purchases ranked as EPEAT Gold certified. EPEAT certified products meet strict environmental criteria that address the full product lifecycle, from energy conservation and toxic materials to product longevity and end-of-life management, offering a reduced environmental impact.

Green Cleaning Purchases and Practices

Over 90% of cleaning products and janitorial paper products purchased by the university were third party certified sustainable; these include EcoLogo certified products that are non-toxic, low-VOC, or made from recycled post-consumer content.





Future Plans

As we leave 2019 having established important partnerships, started ambitious multi-year commitments, and seeing greater public commitment to sustainable actions, the future of sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan looks bright. Keep your eyes open for some of our exciting projects slated for implementation in the coming years.

Institutional Sustainability Plan Renewal
The [university's renewal of its institutional sustainability plan](#) through 2020/2021 will provide a strong, objective foundation for reducing its footprint and contributing to a more sustainable world moving forward. Following draft development in the first quarter of 2020, broader consultations will begin to ensure a transparent and accessible process for the entire campus community.

Organic Waste Management
Following the Office of Sustainability's January 2019 waste audit, the university has recognized an immense opportunity for waste diversion through an organic waste management program. With the landscape for organic management quickly changing, the university

is evaluating options for an institutional program in the coming years.

Bus Rapid Transit Implementation
With the City of Saskatoon's plans to move forward with a Bus Rapid Transit system, the University of Saskatchewan is working closely with the City to identify how it can best develop its transit infrastructure and help best tie into a new type of public transit in Saskatoon.

Co-Curricular Certificate Development
The university is working on the creation of a series of new sustainability-focused or -related co-curricular certificates that can be appended to any degree program taken at USask. The goal of these certificates will be to extend sustainability learning outcomes to all students regardless of degree program while equipping graduates with the critical thinking, design, and solution development skills needed to tackle complex sustainability issues in their careers.



Sustainability: Your University, Your World

Learn More at
sustainability.usask.ca



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Office of Sustainability

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING,
AND LAND DEVELOPMENT
[SUSTAINABILITY.USASK.CA](https://sustainability.usask.ca)