

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

# 2024-2025 ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



UNIVERSITY OF  
SASKATCHEWAN



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# GLOSSARY

<b>AASHE:</b> Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
<b>CO<sub>2</sub>e:</b> Carbon dioxide equivalents, a common unit of measure for greenhouse gas emissions
<b>CoS/the City:</b> City of Saskatoon
<b>GHG:</b> Greenhouse Gas
<b>GMCTL:</b> Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching & Learning
<b>JSGS:</b> Johnson Shoyoma Graduate School of Public Policy
<b>MOU:</b> Memorandum of Understanding
<b>QS:</b> Quacquarelli-Symonds, or sometimes in reference to the Quacquarelli-Symonds Sustainability Rankings
<b>RCE/RCE SK:</b> Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, Saskatchewan Chapter
<b>SENS:</b> School of Environment and Sustainability
<b>SDG/UN SDGs:</b> United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
<b>Sustainability Strategy/the Strategy:</b> <i>Critical Path to Sustainability: USask's 2021-2030 Sustainability Strategy</i>
<b>STARS:</b> Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System
<b>THE:</b> Times Higher Education, or sometimes in reference to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings
<b>USask:</b> University of Saskatchewan
<b>USSU:</b> University of Saskatchewan Students' Union



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*The land is acknowledged as our Mother, the Earth. The University of Saskatchewan is committed to honor and support the \*Indigenous peoples, Indigenous cultures, Indigenous values, and Indigenous languages that belong to the land of Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis. The University of Saskatchewan is committed to working towards mending colonized lands and protecting the land in a way that demonstrates honour, respect, and love. The University of Saskatchewan extends this commitment to the lands and Treaty territories (Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10) that constitute kisiskâciwan ([Saskatchewan], “the swift current”, Cree/Saulteaux), and all Indigenous people that call kisiskâciwan home. We are born to the land and the land claims us.*

## \*INDIGENOUS

The term Indigenous in this document reflects The [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP) definition: “Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic, and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live.” Further, UNDRIP describes the right of Indigenous communities to determine their own membership in accordance with their customs and traditions.

**ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan**

LEARN MORE

**deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin**

LEARN MORE



## Message from the Chief Sustainability Officer



The global and Canadian landscapes look quite different than when I wrote last year's message in August 2024 – global conflicts have escalated, Canada's relationship with our closest neighbor has changed remarkably, and a general sense of uncertainty permeates many Canadians lives. [David Coletto of Abacus Data](#) articulates this sense of uncertainty as precarity and notes that,

*"Canadians are no longer just worried about affording or getting access to what they need today".*

Instead, Coletto notes that increased political instability and economic volatility have,

*"...deepened financial, professional and personal insecurity. Affordability, job security and Canada's global standing now feel unpredictable, making long-term planning seem risky, if not impossible for some."*

In addition to those concerns, anxieties about health care access, climate change and personal safety have fueled broad distrust in institutions and societal systems – Canadians feel the future is unstable and personal resilience is constantly tested. Universities now face temporal and context-based opportunities to consider how to best serve their students and communities more broadly.

Given the breadth and complexity of Canadians' concerns, it can be challenging to find systematic approaches to consider these problems and analyzing pathways forward. Working as a sustainability professional, my familiarity with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) gives me a lens to view these national, community and personal challenges (SDG 8 = Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 11 = Sustainable Cities & Communities; SDG 16 = Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions, to name just a few!) and more importantly how the SDGs identify concrete ways in which universities – both through their teaching and research mandates - can provide threads of optimism towards building a more stable future.



**101-200<sup>th</sup>**  
in the world for  
**THE Impact Rankings**



**131<sup>st</sup>**  
in the world for QS  
**Sustainability Rankings**



**Gold**  
achieved in 2023  
**STARS submission**

When I consider this Annual Sustainability Progress Report within that context, there are 3 particular threads I want to draw your attention to:

- [SDG Research Highlights](#): This new section offers a glimpse into the ways in which USask researchers are discovering new solutions and making real-world impacts towards achieving the SDGs. While this limited format report only offers a glimpse, I invite you to visit USask's new online [SDG Hub](#) which provides more comprehensive information about how our teaching, operations and research works together on each of the 17 SDGs.
- [Preparing our Students for the Future](#): Our [2021-2030 Sustainability Strategy](#) identified that we need to prepare our students to design and implement innovative solutions to sustainability challenges. We are achieving this by identifying sustainability competencies and making changes within our curriculum that will ensure our graduates are resilient through adaptable and future-proof skills, regardless of their major. In 2024-25, we recognized significant improvement as every USask college and school now includes sustainability content; we have examples of students working towards all 17 SDGs across the syllabi and we noted a 10% increase in the number of USask course syllabi with SDG-aligned actions. This means that more of our students are gaining the skills necessary to both adapt and thrive, increasing their own personal certainty about the future.
- [Collective Action with Community Partners](#): Many people think of the SDGs as action towards global problems, but they also address challenges that are happening within our local communities. A highlight of my role as Chief Sustainability Officer has been identifying and celebrating members of our USask community who are working tirelessly on addressing problems in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan communities, so I invite you to learn more about the great work that is being done to create a more accessible justice system, improve hepatitis C care, support patients with dementia in rural areas, and advancing wetland conservation on indigenous lands.

As USask's teaching and research mission supports our aspiration to be what the world needs, we also continue to work to reduce our own campus carbon footprint and meet our greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. 2024-25 saw our emissions decrease by 3% from last year, but uncertainty exists within this commitment as well. The extension of Saskatchewan's coal-fired power plants raises questions about the rate at which SK's electrical grid will green, which directly affects USask's ability to meet our 2030 GHG reduction goal. As well, uncertainty continues regarding how to fund the necessary infrastructure improvements needed to improve campus efficiency, operations and keep our facilities and infrastructure maintained.

In closing, I must acknowledge and thank all of the individuals across campus who are working tirelessly towards our sustainability goals – either through their teaching and support of students, their innovation and discovery, or their commitment to improving our campus operations – it is only through their commitment and efforts that USask is achieving the progress we are seeing. Keep up the good work and if there are ways in which the Office of Sustainability can support you, please let us know!

**Janelle Hutchinson**  
**Chief Sustainability Officer**  
**University of Saskatchewan**



# The SDGs and USask

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an urgent call for action by all countries—developed and developing—in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth, all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

USask's Sustainability Strategy was developed with a strong foundation built on addressing the SDGs. The broadness of the goals combined with the specificity of the actions nested within each goal allow every member of the campus community to connect their studies or their work to progress on the goals. We encourage everyone to visit the [UN's website](#) to learn more about the goals and their recommended actions.



Throughout this report, we have included connections to the SDGs by way of the numerical icons.

These icons are not intended to be comprehensive assessments of all of the work done on any one SDG, but instead to acknowledge and celebrate the great work achieved by USask community members and how it supports specific SDGs.



# The Office of Sustainability



**Janelle Hutchinson**  
Chief Sustainability Officer

As the University of Saskatchewan's first Chief Sustainability Officer, Janelle leads the implementation of our Sustainability Strategy and assists leaders across the organization with moving the work of the sustainability strategy forward. Janelle works with individuals within key portfolios with specific responsibilities for academic/curriculum, research/discovery, institutional operations and external engagement to implement the strategy. Additionally, Janelle is responsible for institutional-level sustainability work such as reporting on the success of the strategy and other sustainability-related initiatives, coordinating governance and advisory tables, creating and managing policy and procedures, leading communications strategies, and representing the university to external stakeholders.



**Matt Wolsfeld**  
Reporting & Engagement Specialist

Matt works to celebrate and map the progress of the Sustainability Strategy and to facilitate the development of a strong culture of sustainability that is visible throughout campus. By supporting the collection of sustainability data across all areas of campus life, reporting on the progress of the Sustainability Strategy, and leading campus sustainability engagement initiatives to bring all community members into the fold, he helps to create a campus community that intentionally chooses and initiates sustainable behaviour, contributing their part to achieving USask's sustainability goals.



**Dana Kwan**  
Community Engagement and Event Coordinator

Dana works to identify and implement opportunities, events and engagement strategies which will increase awareness of the Sustainability Strategy and mobilize action throughout multiple groups across campus, including students, faculty and staff.

## Sustainability Leadership Table

The Sustainability Leadership Table is intended to be an evolving group of special advisors who help to operationalize the Sustainability Strategy in their respective areas. The 3 members of this group include:



**Robert Bierman**  
Director, Planning, Design & Construction

Robert leads the charge in USask's Path to Zero plan towards the university's 2030 goal of cutting campus GHG emissions by 45% from 2010 levels and a long-term objective of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. Much of his work helps to achieve progress within Commitment 2 of the Sustainability Strategy.



**Dr. Wendy James (PhD)**  
Director, GMCTL

Wendy is the Director of the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning. She leads teams who work on sustainability in teaching and learning through embedding sustainability in programs, helping faculty redesign courses around reflect/share/act, and gather data about the impact of the Sustainability Strategy.



**Dr. Maureen Reed (PhD)**  
Distinguished Professor, SENS  
UNESCO Co-Chair in Biocultural Diversity,  
Sustainability, Reconciliation, and Renewal

Maureen's focus is on deepening USask's sustainability research and enhancing the visibility and impact of training partnerships for transdisciplinary research at national and global levels. Her work spans across many areas of the Sustainability Strategy, though much of her work in the area of sustainability research can be mapped within Commitment 4.



# The People of Sustainability

7

The work of achieving the goals of the Sustainability Strategy would not be possible without the tireless work of staff and leaders all across the university. This page is dedicated to some of the important sustainability champions that help push the Strategy forward from within their own areas of work. The Office of Sustainability is always keen to expand and celebrate members of USask's community who support the sustainability strategy, so please contact us if you would like to be included within next year's report.



**Dr. Vince Bruni-Bossio (PhD)**  
Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic

As the Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic, Vince provides leadership and strategic direction in order to achieve goals as outlined in Commitment 3: Empower Action.



**Gary Brunet**  
Director, ICT Support Services

Gary works to embed sustainability into the university's vast IT systems network. This includes addressing electronic energy consumption across campus devices, helping to reduce printing dependency on campus, and leading the secure disposal of all campus IT hardware and fleet print toner.



**James Cook**  
Manager, Campus Planning & Real Estate

James is responsible for the long-term planning of development and real estate management for campus lands. His advocacy for sustainability helps to bring important social and environmental factors into the decision-making process for large projects that will impact USask across many decades to come.



**Dr. Graham Fairhurst (PhD)**  
Research Services Specialist, SENS

Graham supports internal and cross-institutional initiatives to further the School's strategic priorities, expand research funding, elevate faculty profile, and strengthen the impact of faculty and graduate student research. He also plays an important role in the university's QS, THE, and STARS reporting efforts.



**Greg Fowler**  
Vice-President, Administration and Chief Operating Officer

As the Vice-President, Administration and Chief Operating Officer, Greg provides leadership and strategic direction in order to achieve goals as outlined in Commitment 2: Model the Way.



**Dwight Grayston**  
Manager, Utilities Services

From waste to water to fleet emissions and more, Dwight's management of Utilities Services touches many aspects of the Sustainability Strategy, primarily within Commitment 2 and our operational success.



**Jennifer Drennan**  
Strategist

Jennifer acts as one of the leads of the university's THE Impact Ranking submissions, an annual international ranking that compares post-secondary performance across metrics tied to the SDGs.



**Wade Epp**  
Associate VP, Campus Operations

Wade's oversight of Campus Operations plays an important role in many areas of the Sustainability Strategy, such as influencing building to emissions, overseeing operational staff where sustainability is not just a goal, but a core principle embedded in the university's daily operations and long-term planning.



**Dr. Baljit Singh (PhD)**  
Vice-President, Research

As the Vice-President, Research, Baljit provides leadership and strategic direction in order to achieve goals as outlined in Commitment 4: Capitalize on Strengths.



**Marnie Wright**  
Associate VP, People and Chief Human Resources Officer

Marnie is a dedicated advocate of sustainability in the human resources sphere, helping to distribute a culture of sustainability across all employees of the university.



**Andrea Eccleston**  
Operations Manager, International Office

Andrea plays a role in all aspects of the International Office operations. She brings her previous experience, including managing undergraduate environmental programs at SENS, to her work in aiding the university's QS, THE, and STARS reporting efforts.



**Aditi Garg**  
Educational Development Specialist

Aditi helps educators to design courses and programs that allow students to develop competencies for social, environmental, and economic sustainability and to help meet the UN SDGs through teaching and learning. She also helps with curriculum mapping and development and the internationalization of teaching and learning.



# The People of Sustainability

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**David Harris**  
Senior Assessment Analyst

David is involved in various assessment activities including the Academic Program Review process and university international ranking submissions. David has become an ally of the Office of the Sustainability in driving the collection and reporting of important sustainability-related data and metrics.



**Le Li**  
Senior International Specialist

Le facilitates global collaborations to broaden access to international academic and research opportunities, advance North-South partnerships, and promote global citizenship among faculty, students, and staff.



**Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy (PhD)**  
Director, International Office

Dr. Meghna Ramaswamy is the Director of the International Office (IO) and leads a team of international research and partnerships specialists to facilitate and support international activities for faculty, staff and students. She is a strong advocate for the UN SDGs and the role they play in international education.



**Dr. Sara Dzaman (PhD)**  
Educational Development Specialist, GMCTL

Sara has worked at the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning since early 2020 and prior to that worked in the College of Medicine and as a K-12 teacher. Sara currently leads the curriculum team and enjoys being involved in the various initiatives across the institution related to curriculum design processes, instructional strategies, and assessment practices.



**Dr. Nancy Turner (PhD)**  
Interim Associate Provost, Teaching Innovation & Strategic Initiatives

Nancy works in partnership with colleges/schools and other units to raise the profile of teaching and learning and the provision of support for evidence informed and inclusive teaching and learning practice, ongoing enhancement of learning and teaching, and student success as they pursue their learning, life, and career goals.



**Dave Palibroda**  
Sustainability & Emissions Officer

Dave develops and implements initiatives and strategies to conserve energy and reduce the university's GHG emissions. He works towards enhancing practices on campus as they relate to energy management. He also oversees many initiatives corresponding to Commitment 2 of the Sustainability Strategy.



**Dr. Douglas Clark (PhD)**  
Executive Director (Acting), SENS

Douglas is the Acting Executive Director of SENS, where he oversees the development of SENS graduate programs, certificates, and micro-credentials with a strong focus on sustainability. As SENS' primary ambassador, Douglas also encourages the translation of academic research into community, government, or corporate action.



**Mike Pawlusi**  
Campus Planning Specialist

Mike is responsible for developing, making recommendations, and monitoring all master planning and related initiatives that contribute to shaping the physical environment of the core campus in Saskatoon, as well as related lands and campus locations. As an ally of the Office, he brings a sustainability lens to the physical campus and its future.



**Jeff Lindsay**  
Manager, Safety Resources

Jeff works to embed sustainability concepts in occupational health and safety across campus. This includes important work in diverting landfill-bound materials and the management of hazardous waste across campus operations and research.



**Bradie Preiss**  
Manager, Campus Engineering & Sustainability

Within Robert Bierman's Infrastructure, Planning, and Land Development portfolio, Bradie manages the team responsible for planning, designing, and overseeing the implementation and operation of sustainability measures across the university's buildings and facilities.



**Quintin Zook**  
Director, Consumer Services

As the director of Consumer Services, Quintin oversees areas such as parking and transportation, protective services, and the Merlis Belsher Place and Marquis Hall buildings. He is a strong advocate for sustainability in these areas and helps to work towards achieving the SDGs across his wide portfolio.



**Patrusia Rudy**  
Executive Assistant, President's Office

Patrusia Rudy has spent the past decade at the University of Saskatchewan, contributing to a range of strategic and operational areas including Financial Services, University Relations, and currently the Office of the President. She also supports the university's Sustainability Office, helping advance environmental initiatives across campus.



# 1 LEVERAGE OUR PLACE

*USask continues to be responsive to our social, economic, environmental and cultural setting; numerous units and departments across campus offer programming to meet USask's goal of working with communities to achieve the SDGs.*

## Establish an Advisory Table

*Much of the work towards this action in 24/25 revolved around identifying, acknowledging, and empowering where possible the many advisory tables and collaborative teams USask is involved with. Partnerships of particular importance in 24/25 include:*

### Potential National Urban Park in Saskatoon

11 15 17

Parks Canada is collaborating with partners to create a network of national urban parks in Canada's large urban centres and Saskatoon has been selected as a potential site. The shared vision for these parks is to conserve nature, connect people with nature and advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. USask is proud to serve as a member of the National Urban Park Steering Committee, which is co-led by Meewasin Valley Authority and Parks Canada.



In 2024-25:

- The Pre-feasibility phase was completed (following the national urban parks designation process) and the next planning phase launched. The planning phase will include solidifying options related to vision, potential boundary and governance model, preparing capital and operating plans and public engagement activities. It is anticipated that the planning phase will be completed in 2026.
- Based on feedback from an internal USask committee (which included members from Ag & Bio, Arts & Science, SENS, Planning, Design & Construction, Teaching, Learning & Student Experience, University Communications and USask's Legal Office), in December 2024, USask's Board of Governors received an information item for review and feedback which envisioned a small portion of USask land as being designated within the National Urban Park boundary. A request for final decision is expected during the 2025-26 year.

## USask and City of Saskatoon Partnership

11 17

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the University of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon in 2018, the Sustainability task team continues to share information, identify mutual areas of research interest and ultimately support and promote mutual sustainability goals.

6

research funding  
competitions

24

projects funded and  
co-led by

\$600K

in funding awarded

8

USask  
Colleges

&amp;

13

CoS  
Departments

Research Junction, the flagship program of the university's Research Connections team, is a key part of USask and the City's partnership. The Research Junction team expanded its membership in 2024-25 to include two new members, Dr. Phani Adapa, Director, Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives, USask, and Dr. Stryker Calvez, Director, Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, City of Saskatoon. Additional 2024-25 highlights include the hosting of a joint USask/CoS workshop with **109** attendees, the design and launch of a new seed grant program which awarded **\$30,000** across six new partnerships, and the continuation of the Research Junction Development Grant program which awarded **\$58,000** to two projects.



# 1 LEVERAGE OUR PLACE

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## Nurture & Convene Public Discourse

*Our work to inspire widespread awareness, engagement, and action was furthered by many of USask's excellent public speaker series and community cafés. A sampling of these include:*

### Community Housing Rights Advocacy

1 10 11 16 17

In the wake of a housing crisis and record homelessness in Saskatoon, [USask's Community-University Institute for Social Research \(CUISR\) hosted a community conversation](#) in February 2025 at Station 20 West to discuss how community members can collectively work towards ensuring housing rights for all. Designed by CUISR's Lived Expert Advisory Council and supported by two Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation-Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (CMHC-SSHRC) Partnership grants, the community conversation sought to help develop a report and next steps, including workshops and actions, to maintain momentum and make a difference in housing rights in Canada.

### USask SDG Month 2025

17

Throughout March of 2025 the university celebrated the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals with a series of events including panels, workshops, professional development sessions, and more. A particular highlight included the return of ART\*Cycled, a student sculpture exhibition featuring reimagined and repurposed items collected from the Saskatoon Regional Waste Management Center.

Staff Sustainability Champions Celebration



Global Cafe Sustainability Speaker Series:  
Aubrey-Anne Laliberte-Pewapisconias



ART\*Cycled



Bike to Work Day



Greening Move-Out  
with Residence Services



Paint and Pot with  
Peer Health



SDG Multiplier Training



EcoHack



Earth Day Cleanup



Indigenization and Sustainability  
Session with GMCTL



### Public Talks, Workshops and Events

4 17

The university is home to many departments and groups that host publicly available lectures, workshops, and learning events where students, staff, faculty, or the general community at large can come to hear experts speak on a wide variety of topics. These groups include:



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
College of  
Arts and Science  
ARTSANDSCIENCE.USASK.CA

EVENTS



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
College of Law  
LAW.USASK.CA

EVENTS

JOHNSON  
SHOYAMA  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY  
URREGINA USASK

EVENTS



**Communities and  
Sustainability**  
Signature Research Area

EVENTS



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

EVENTS



Centre for the  
Study of Co-operatives

EVENTS

**TEDx**  
University of Saskatchewan

EVENTS

**kihcihkaw aski**  
Indigenous Knowledge & Wisdom Centre

EVENTS



# 1 LEVERAGE OUR PLACE

*USask continues to be responsive to our social, economic, environmental and cultural setting; numerous units and departments across campus offer programming to meet USask's goal of working with communities to achieve the SDGs.*

## Build Bridges and Create Portals

*USask is home to many community-based research and service groups that aim to help effectively and equitably engage the surrounding community as partners and collaborators. Just some of these groups in 2024-25 included:*

### CLASSIC

Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City Inc. (CLASSIC) provides free full legal representation and summary advice for people who experience poverty and social injustice. CLASSIC provides services for the community through:

- Walk-In Advocacy Clinic (WAC), full legal representation,
- Legal Advice Clinic (LAC), summary legal advice,
- Intensive Clinical Law Program (ICLP), Clinical Legal Education for College of Law students, and
- Community Support Program (CSP), systems navigation.

The group also provide services through special projects like:

- Project ID for individuals to obtain their Birth Certificate or Health Card, and
- Community Legal Education Presentations to increase legal literacy.

4 10 11 16 17

In 2024/25, CLASSIC assisted

**1,083**

individuals with full legal representation, and

**455**

people assisted with summary legal advice

## kihci-okâwîmâw askiy Knowledge Centre Events

2 10 15 17

The [kihci-okâwîmâw askiy \(Great Mother Earth\) Knowledge Centre](#) in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources has been offering a bountiful collection of accessible workshops. Their APEGS-recognized workshops held in 2024-2025 featured **10 workshops** with over **1000+ registrants** including an international audience spanning **20** First Nations, **25** post-secondary institutions, **8** countries, and **18** government agencies. The Centre also connects Indigenous people, communities, and organizations to faculty researchers and research centres at USask, including collaborations with Little Pine First Nation and the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence on buffalo research.

### askiy Mentorship Team



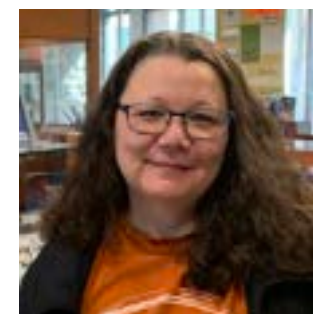
**Dr. Melissa Arcand**  
Academic Director,  
*kihci-okâwîmâw askiy Knowledge Centre,*  
*College of Agriculture and Bioresources*



**Jordie Gagnon**  
Senior Strategic Officer,  
*College of Agriculture and Bioresources*



**Candice Pete-Cardoso**  
Director,  
*kihci-okâwîmâw askiy Knowledge Centre,*  
*College of Agriculture and Bioresources*



**Donna van de Velde**  
Special Projects Officer,  
*kihci-okâwîmâw askiy Knowledge Centre,*  
*College of Agriculture and Bioresources*

## RaDAR Rural Memory Clinic

3 4 10 11 17

The [Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health](#) (CCRAH) at USask hosts the [Rural Dementia Action Research Program](#), known as RaDAR. The program has been a leader in supporting rural communities to develop local team-based memory clinics in southern Saskatchewan. The CCRAH RaDAR program has created key supports for the rural care teams. These supports include opportunities for new teams to shadow existing clinics, consultation with training and mentorship, a co-ordinator who travels to the clinics, plus a handbook with useful resources including templates to guide team members through the assessment process.



# 1 LEVERAGE OUR PLACE

*USask continues to be responsive to our social, economic, environmental and cultural setting; numerous units and departments across campus offer programming to meet USask's goal of working with communities to achieve the SDGs.*

## Build Bridges and Create Portals

### Prairie Hepatitis C Roadmap



The [Journeys to Wellness: Prairie Hepatitis C Roadmap](#) is the result of a two-year project spearheaded by the [Waniska Indigenous Centre](#), based out of Pewaseskwan (the Indigenous Wellness Research Group) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). The Roadmap contextualizes the Canadian Network on Hepatitis C (CanHepC) Blueprint to Inform Hepatitis C Elimination Efforts in Canada and was developed through a lived experience and community lens. The Roadmap assesses the context, challenges and enablers to hepatitis C care and suppression, and includes priorities to address the hepatitis C wellness journey in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

### CREATE Justice



The College of Law's [Centre for Research, Evaluation, and Action Towards Equal Justice](#) (CREATE Justice) was created in response to a call for action for a more accessible justice system in Canada. CREATE Justice works towards its goal of creating a more accessible justice system through the implementation of new or existing projects, often through its in-house lab, aimed at making justice more accessible in a variety of ways. The Centre boasts a long list of current and completed projects and initiatives on topics such as transforming family justice, accessibility of the justice system for marginalized tenants, and partnership between justice and health.



**CREATE Justice**  
Centre for Research, Evaluation,  
and Action Towards Equal Justice  
Access to Legal Services - Dispute Resolution - Systemic Justice

Exciting new developments in 2024-25 include:

- A collaboration between CREATE and the National Action Committee on A2J in Civil and Family Matters (NAC), in which CREATE was invited to extend its experience researching, developing, and applying systems change strategies to the national and international A2J community.
- Funding secured jointly with the Public Legal Education Association of SK and the Law Society of SK to pilot a youth legal literacy project in Saskatchewan.
- Membership in the Cross-Canada Family Justice Transformation Strategy, a national alliance through which CREATE has continuously supported improvements of the SK family justice system through collaborating with stakeholders on research, evaluation, implementing transformational design strategies, and action.

### USask and Métis Nation–Saskatchewan



USask and Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) have partnered together on a project that involves the environment, the community, experiential learning, and carbon storage data. Peat samples taken from local muskegs (also known as treed wetlands or peatlands) in the Nisbet Community Forest are being used to assess the degree of carbon storage in these critical ecosystems. As water tables drop and peat begins to decompose or burn during wildfires, this carbon is released into the atmosphere, thus creating a need to quantify these carbon stores. Collaborating with Dr. Bryan Mood (PhD), Renewable Resource Management program co-ordinator and lecturer for AgBio, a strategy was developed to obtain peat samples while providing experiential learning for students.

An additional goal of the collaboration was to build capacity across MN–S and collaborate with non-governmental organizations, universities, and other Indigenous organizations to identify partners interested in advancing wetland conservation by providing technical and research capacity. With both USask and MN–S working together towards the common goals of environment conservation, climate change mitigation, and experiential learning, an exchange of unique ideas and perspectives happened that wouldn't have been possible with just one party working on the project.

### Department of Indigenous Health and Wellbeing



The [Department of Indigenous Health and Wellness](#) continues to collaborate with health system partners (Saskatchewan Health Authority) to establish the necessary framework within the College of Medicine, ensuring meaningful impacts on education, research, and service. It is essential to evaluate current governance, structures, policies, and practices-identifying those that support and those that hinder the intended goals of the new unit. Additionally, an Indigenous Advisory Group and Social Justice Council provide key stakeholder perspectives, guiding the evaluative lens used by the Office of the Vice Dean of Indigenous Health to ensure that progress in the new department aligns with the clearly articulated goals.





# 2 MODEL THE WAY

*USask's entrepreneurial campus spirit pushes campus operations to support, adopt, diffuse, and scale sustainability solutions to work towards the achievement of our long-term greenhouse gas reductions targets.*

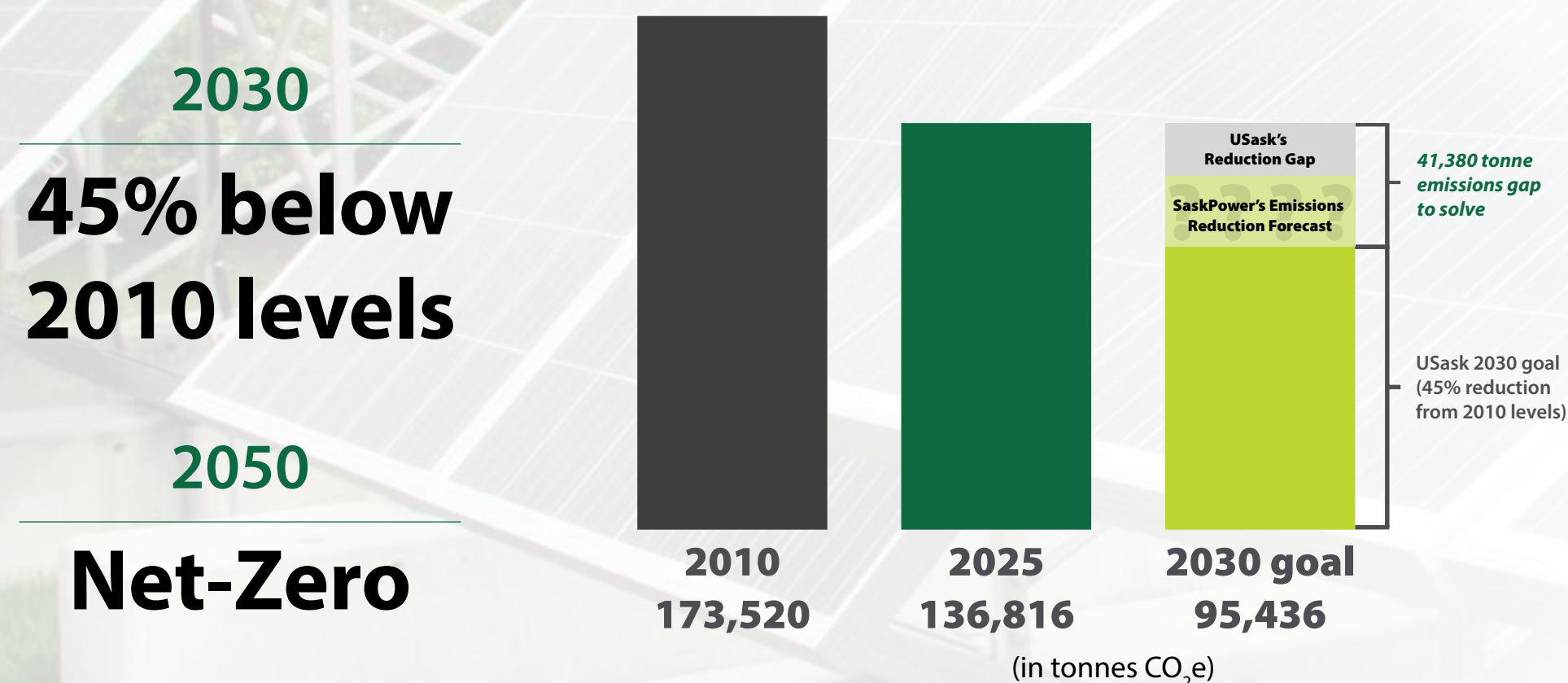
## Invest in Solutions

*USask has identified three primary pathways to achieving our GHG reduction goals: decarbonizing our heating/cooling system, reducing demand through building infrastructure improvements including improved space utilization and building better as USask systematically embarks on capital projects and renovations. An overview of these efforts across 24/25 are as follows:*

### Total 2024/2025 GHG Emissions:

**↓3%** **136,816** **↓21%**  
from 2023/2024 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e from 2010 baseline

### USask's GHG Reduction Goals



## Decarbonization and Demand Reduction

7 11 13

Decarbonization continues to be a critical step to reaching our emissions reduction goals. HVAC and building envelope upgrades, lighting retrofits, and control system upgrades are just some examples of the work constantly being done around campus to reduce our impact. Two major examples from 2024-25 include:

### Phytotron Growth Chamber Lighting Upgrades

An SRF initiative that was initiated by a phytotron user with an idea to save energy. Growth chamber fluorescent lights were replaced with LEDs, which not only saves energy but also gives off less heat resulting in a much lower cooling demand for each growth chamber. The reduced cooling demand will allow the phytotron operators to reduce the number of chillers required to keep the growth chambers cool. This ongoing project involves replacing over **10,000** fluorescents with LEDs and is anticipated to reduce USask emissions by over **1,000** tonnes annually.

### Qu'Appelle Hall Addition HVAC and Envelope Upgrades

Energy efficiency upgrades were a key aspect of the Human Health Resources renovations to the main floor of the Qu'Appelle Hall Addition. New windows and controls upgrades to the antiquated steam heating systems will allow for far great energy efficiency and comfort (with an anticipated GHG reduction of **28 tonnes** annually). The original once-through water cooled air conditioning system was also replaced with a modern air conditioning system that will save around **3,500,000 L** of water each year.

## Build Better

Recognizing the need to tackle our growing deferred maintenance deficit while shrinking our emissions footprint, the SRF committee looked for opportunities within major capital projects to replace aging systems with new, energy-efficient options. This culminated with \$185,000 being provided to the Qu'Appelle Hall renovation project to replace existing, inefficient heating systems with new, more sustainable options. The SRF committee is continuing to look at new major projects for opportunities to upgrade systems in partnership with our campus partners, with the goal of meeting both their immediate project needs while also working towards USask's longer term sustainability goals.



# MODEL THE WAY

*USask's entrepreneurial campus spirit pushes campus operations to support, adopt, diffuse, and scale sustainability solutions to work towards the achievement of our long-term greenhouse gas reductions targets.*

## Bolster Action & Remove Barriers

*We continue to examine and amend our institutional policies where necessary to make action for sustainability easier and more convenient while removing incentives for unsustainable or harmful behaviour. Some initiatives which had particular impact in 24-25 were:*

### Sustainability Revolving Fund

9 11 17

The Sustainability Revolving Fund (SRF) continued to provide valuable funding for operational sustainability improvements on campus. In 2024/25, the fund took on 7 new projects spread across lighting upgrades, urinal and boiler replacements, and HVAC upgrades, with a total SRF investment of **\$1.276M**, annual GHG savings of over **1,300 tonnes**, and annual cost savings of more than **\$450,000**. An updated report on the fund shedlight on some impressive metrics across its 2014-2023 run, including:

30

projects undertaken

9,314 tCO<sub>2</sub>ein estimated GHG reductions  
equal to

2,173

cars removed from roads for a year

\$1.96M

in total project expenditures

15,364 MWh

in estimated electrical reductions  
equal to

2,150

homes powered for a year

\$2M

in estimated financial savings

134,200 m<sup>3</sup>in estimated water reductions  
equal to

3,200

homes' water usage for a year

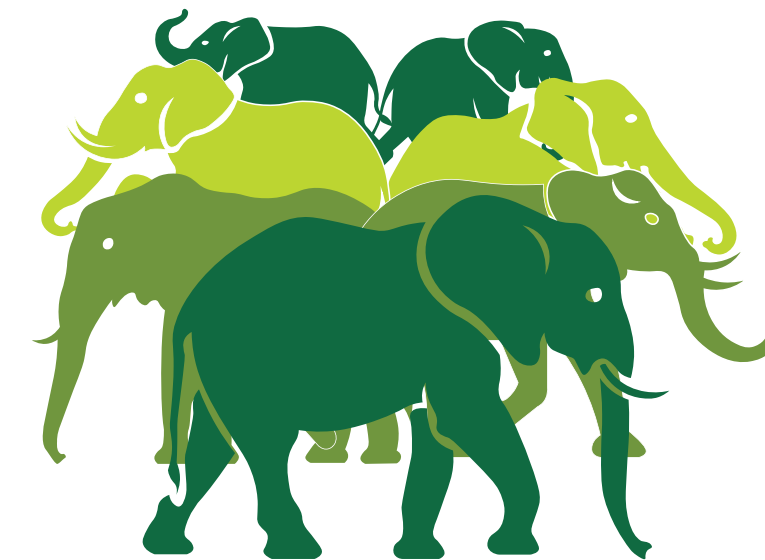
## Energy Sustainability and Waste Reduction in IT

12 13

USask IT's continuing partnership with Quantum Lifecycle Partners to recycle electronics waste on campus flourished in 2024-25. Nearly **40,000 lbs** of electronic waste was collected for recycling, providing nearly **\$60,000** in returns to USask. These results make the program net positive in revenue in only its second year, making way for a clear future.

In May, 2025, IT began offering a printer toner recycling pickup program. The program is being staffed by a student jointly provided by IT and the Office of Sustainability and will reduce electronic and chemical waste associated with discarded print toner cartridges.

The Print Optimization Program continues to help make printing on campus safer, more efficient, and less wasteful through the adoption of networked devices, toner cartridge management, and the removal of wasteful individual desktop printers. Since its inception, the program has resulted in a reduction of **204,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e** (carbon dioxide equivalents) of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (an increase of 94,000 over 2024-25).



**USask has recycled  
40,000 lbs of e-waste,  
equivalent to the weight of**

**7 elephants**



USask's IT team were awarded with Quantum Lifecycle Partners' 2025 Circular21 award in honor of its dedication to reducing GHG emissions through the reuse and recycling of old and redundant assets.



# 2 MODEL THE WAY

*USask's entrepreneurial campus spirit pushes campus operations to support, adopt, diffuse, and scale sustainability solutions to work towards the achievement of our long-term greenhouse gas reductions targets.*

## Bolster Action & Remove Barriers

### EV Fleet Vehicle Additions

7 11 13

In fall 2024, USask took delivery of **15** customized electric Club Cars that will be used by the Facilities team, reducing the dependence on the current fleet of gas-powered vehicles. The concept of purchasing EVs came from the Facilities team's strategic plan, which included a review of the university's current fleet of vehicles to identify ways to reduce both costs and carbon emissions.

Currently Facilities manage a fleet of nearly 100 traditional gas- or diesel-powered vehicles including full-sized vans, small vans, cube trucks, dump trucks, half- and quarter-ton trucks, loaders and skid steers. On average the fleet uses approximately 5,000 litres of fuel per month. The new EVs have significantly lower maintenance requirements compared to the gas vehicles which means less down time, less cost of repairs, and less loss of productivity.



Pictured: USask's 15 electric fleet vehicles.

### 2024 International Energy Forum

7 13 17

The 2024 International Energy Forum, an international energy conference that included speakers and researchers from Alaska, Norway, Sweden, other Canadian and American universities, and Indigenous groups and communities throughout Saskatchewan, took place May 14 to 16, 2024. Dr. Greg Poelzer (PhD), a professor of USask's School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) and co-lead of the Energy and Mineral Resources for a Sustainable Future Signature Area, helped host the forum to set USask at the forefront of the global energy transition conversation.

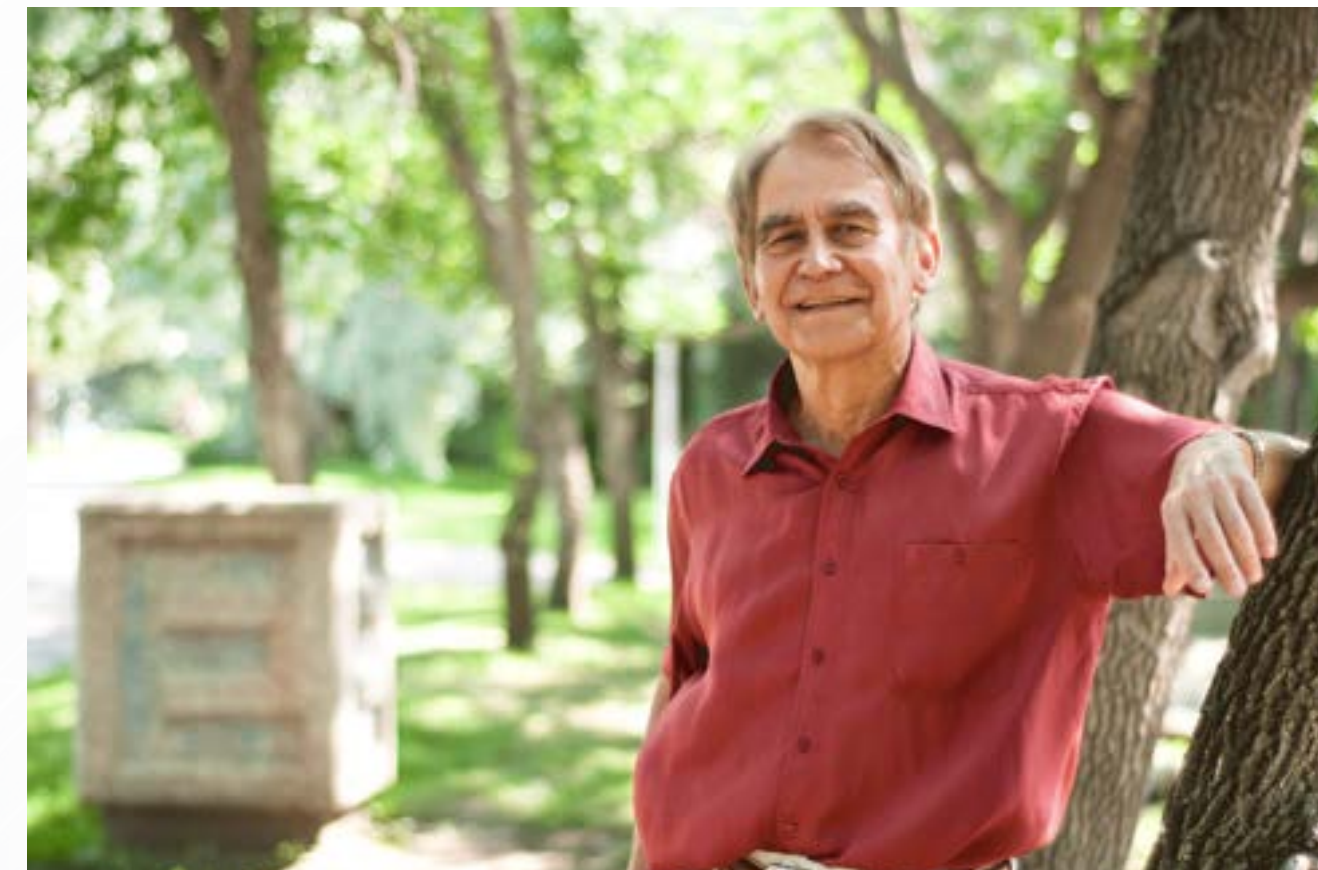
### CASES

7 11 13

The [Community Appropriate Sustainable Energy Security \(CASES\) Partnership](#) is an international research initiative involving **15** northern and Indigenous communities and public and private sector project partners from Canada, Alaska, Sweden, and Norway. Hosted by the University of Saskatchewan, the overarching goal of the CASES initiative is to reimagine energy security in northern and Indigenous communities by co-creating and brokering the knowledge, understanding, and capacity to design, implement and manage renewable energy systems that support and enhance social and economic values.

### Small Modular Reactor Research

7 13



Pictured: Dr. Jerzy Szpunar (PhD), USask College of Engineering

A team led by Dr. Jerzy Szpunar (PhD), a professor in USask's College of Engineering specializing in advanced nuclear materials, began using advanced simulations and experiments to evaluate the performance of uranium-based fuels adopted for Canadian [small modular reactor \(SMR\) technology](#). SMRs are nuclear energy producers that are small in size and intended to be factory-constructed and portable. Particularly in provinces like Saskatchewan, where providing energy to remote regions can be challenging, SMRs are potentially game-changing technology. The research project received funding from a combination of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Natural Resources Canada through NSERC's Alliance grants program.



# 2 MODEL THE WAY

USask’s entrepreneurial campus spirit pushes campus operations to support, adopt, diffuse, and scale sustainability solutions to work towards the achievement of our long-term greenhouse gas reductions targets.

## Share Widely Our Progress

As we invest in solutions and change behaviours around campus, USask is working to identify proper and effective metrics for change and mechanisms for sharing these effectively with the community. Measures taken in 24/25 include:

### 2023-2024 GHG Emissions Inventory

7 11 13

USask decreased its emissions by 3% from 2023/2024 levels this past year. For a more detailed look at our 2024/2025 GHG emissions, please refer to Appendix A of this report.

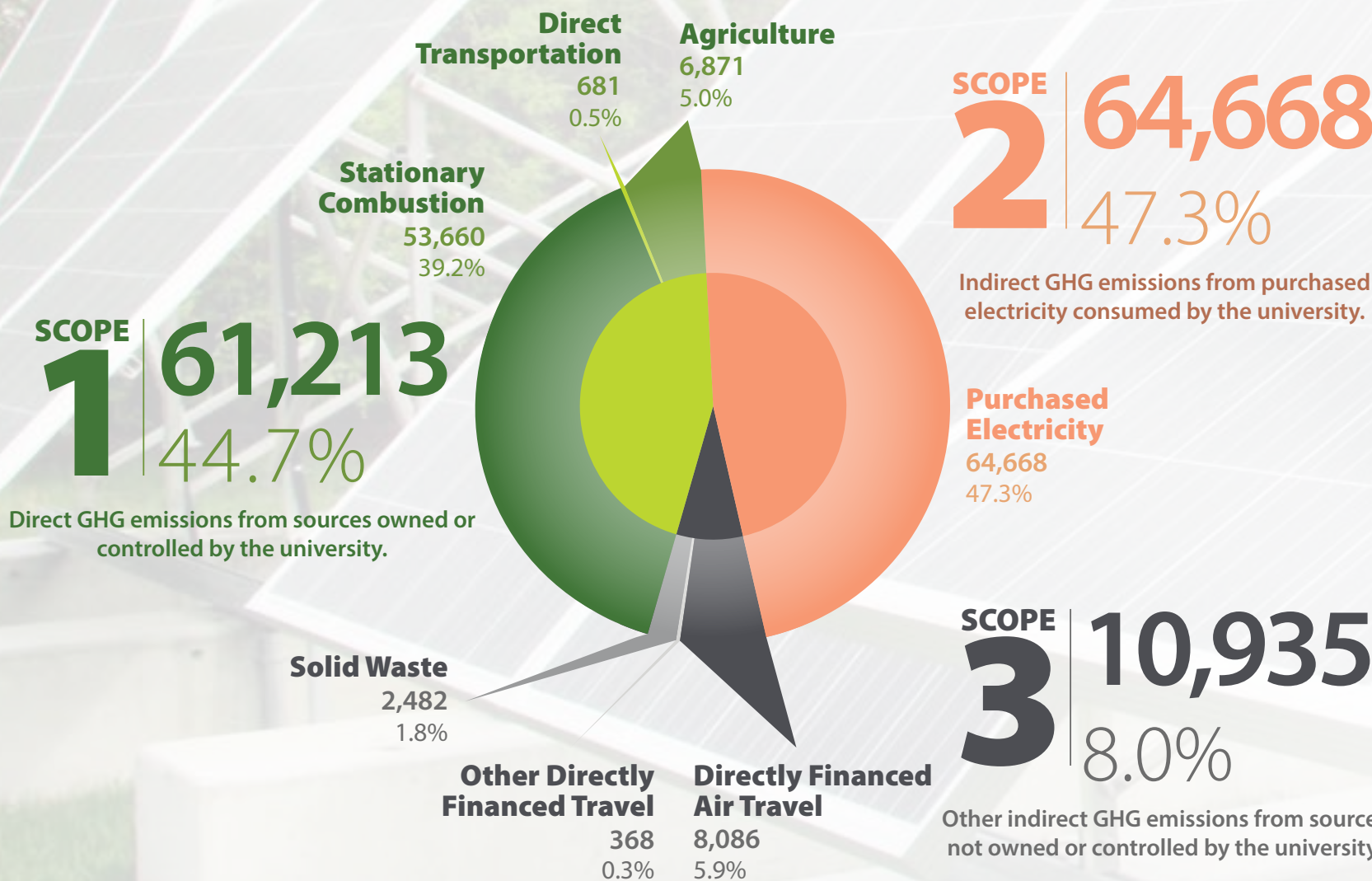
#### USask 2024/2025 GHG Emissions By Scope (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e)

Total 2024/2025 GHG Emissions:

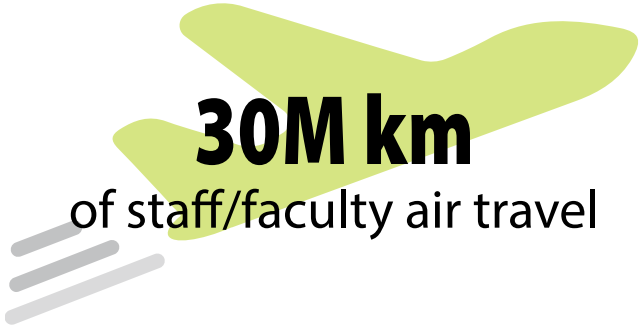
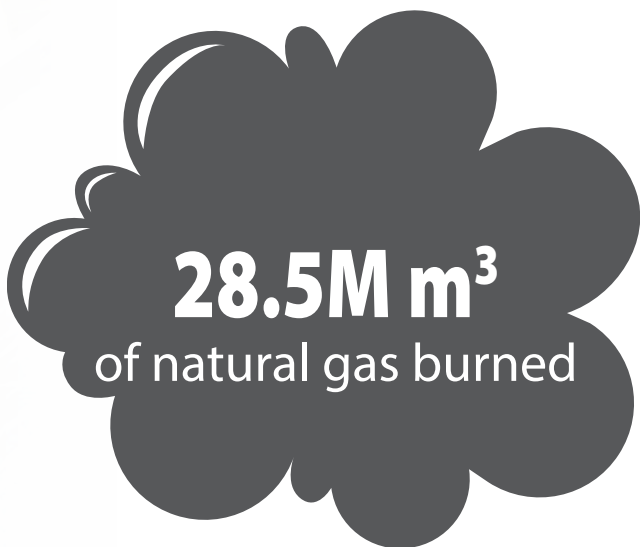
136,816 MT CO<sub>2</sub>e

↓ 3% from 2023/2024

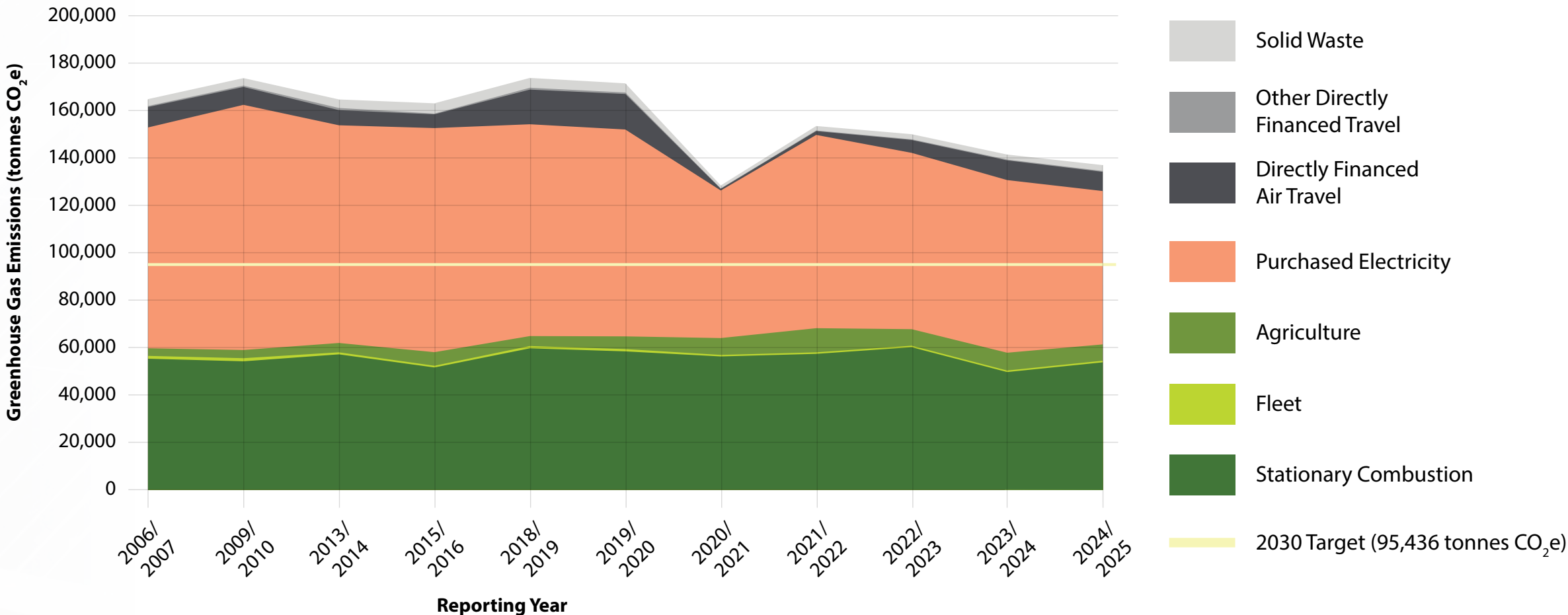
↓ 21% from 2010 baseline



### 2024-2025 by the Numbers



#### USask GHG Emissions Over Time





# 2 MODEL THE WAY

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## Share Widely Our Progress

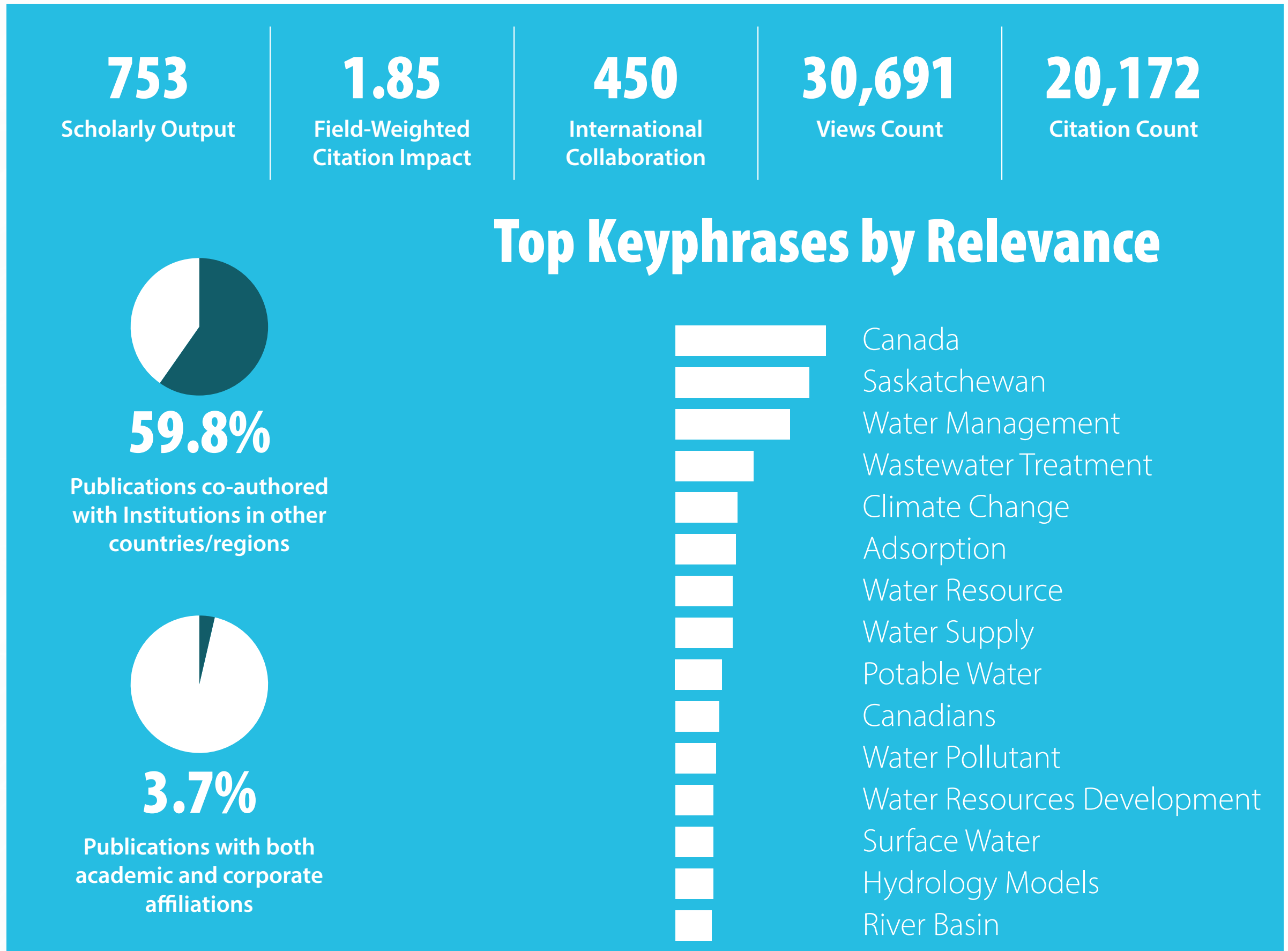
### USask SDG Hub



The Office of Sustainability published a new reporting service in early 2025 to outline USask's impact on the SDGs called the USask SDG Hub. The Hub serves as a living record of the university's initiatives and progress towards all 17 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. For each of the goals, the Hub lists key metrics, recent news, institutional stewardship initiatives, research institutes, centres, and projects, research impact, sample courses, and key STARS reporting areas.



A screenshot of the main SDG Hub page.



An example of an SDG's research impact report (SDG 6 pictured).



# 3 EMPOWER ACTION

*USask's support of a generation of diverse learners and achievers is helping to shift mindsets and expand skillsets to accelerate action to achieve the SDGs.*

## Equip Champions

*Making sustainability experiences and education widely available is helping to equip all disciplines within the USask community with the tools needed to be agents of change in their lives. Progress was achieved in 2024-25 through these projects:*

## Sustainability Faculty Fellows

The university's third cohort of Sustainability Faculty Fellows has now begun, offering 4 new faculty leaders redesigning courses. The second cohort is now starting the year of influencing curriculum and instruction in their home colleges to embed the sustainability competencies. Two highlights include:

- Reisha Peters' STLHE presentation and paper about embedding sustaining competencies in student-led design projects in engineering
- Faculty mapping of sustainability competencies across Edward's School of Business and the strategic plan for ongoing growth.

The 4 new fellows for this year are:

- Chantel Chizen, Agriculture and Bioresources
- Joelena Leader, Edwards School of Business
- Kenneth MacKenzie, Arts and Science
- Sarah Burningham, Law

**1,000+**  
students taught in Faculty  
Fellows courses

**17**  
Faculty Fellows-created or  
-inspired courses

**40%**  
increase in reported student confidence  
in communicating about and finding  
creative solutions for sustainability

4 17

### 2024-2026 Cohort



**Dr. Andrew Ireson (PhD)**  
Professor, School of Environment and Sustainability



**Dr. Reisha Peters (PhD)**  
Assistant Professor, College of Engineering



**Dr. Scott Bell (PhD)**  
Professor, College of Arts and Science



**Dr. Norman Sheehan (PhD)**  
Professor, Edwards School of Business

### 2025-2027 Cohort



**Dr. Chantel Chizen (PhD)**  
Assistant Professor, College of Agriculture and Bioresources



**Kenneth MacKenzie**  
Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Science



**Dr. Joelena Leader (PhD)**  
Assistant Professor, Edwards School of Business



**Dr. Sarah Burningham (PhD)**  
Professor, College of Law



# 3 EMPOWER ACTION

USask’s support of a generation of diverse learners and achievers is helping to shift mindsets and expand skillsets to accelerate action to achieve the SDGs.

## Engage Sustainability in Curricula

The modification and adaptation of curricula to include contemporary sustainability topics is helping USask accelerate our transformation into the institution the world needs. Efforts in 24-25 include:

### Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability

4

The [SENS Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability](#)—which is open to undergraduate students from all Colleges at USask—continues to offer significant exposure to sustainability-related concepts and practices while students gain an understanding of how to integrate human-environmental systems within our current reality and how to critically evaluate sustainability efforts. The Certificate is completed *in addition* to their existing degree program and can be structured to involve the same amount of courses as their degree requires. In the November 2024 and Spring 2025 convocation ceremonies, **29** students graduated—a **60% increase** from the previous year—with the certificate from **6** different colleges.

2024-25 Undergraduate Certificates of Sustainability represented students from:

College of Agriculture  
and Bioresources  
Environmental Science

College of  
Arts & Science  
Environmental Biology

Edwards  
School of Business  
BComm - Management

Renewable Resources  
Management

Rural and Urban Planning  
Environment and Society

## Sustainability Course Inventory

4

The inventory of the university’s sustainability-focused and sustainability-inclusive courses took on another update in 2024-25, with two students reviewing over **25,000** rows of course listings offered between May, 2022 to April, 2025, reading over **1,500** syllabi. Of the 16 colleges and schools at USask, **14 (88%)** demonstrated courses at the -focused (higher) level, with **15 (94%)** at the -inclusive (lower) level.

	2019	% of Syllabi	2022	% of Syllabi	2025	% of Syllabi	Change from 2022-2025
Sustainability-Inclusive	171	24%	98	5%	313	20%	+215
Sustainability-Focused	117	16%	214	10%	100	6%	-114
Syllabi Reviewed	720/7853	9%	2100/6410	33%	1527/6590	23%	-573

The inventory was also able to identify courses which allow students to contribute to advancing the SDGs at the target level, and for the first time 2025's update was able to show evidence for this across **all 17** SDGs. From 2022 to 2025, USask has seen an increase in this metric from **9%** of reviewed syllabi to **20%**.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total	Percent of Reviewed Syllabi
2022	0	29	6	2	5	11	4	12	1	13	11	8	29	2	5	54	2	194	9%
2025	1	32	70	70	1	1	3	33	9	19	23	16	4	2	11	2	4	301	20%



# 3 EMPOWER ACTION

*USask's support of a generation of diverse learners and achievers is helping to shift mindsets and expand skillsets to accelerate action to achieve the SDGs.*

## Enable Diverse Learning

*USask continues to enable access to diverse modes of sustainability education and providing varied credential types in the efforts to allow community members to select their optimal mode of learning. Work in this area includes:*

### Prairie Horticulture Certificate 30th Anniversary

4 9 10 15

In November 2024, the [Prairie Horticulture Certificate](#) celebrated its **30th anniversary** as a USask offering. The Certificate was the first of its kind in Canada to offer a distance education program co-ordinated between both universities and colleges. Thousands of students have enrolled in the Certificate since 1994 and it is still recognized by the horticulture industry as an advantage for those looking to enter the industry.

### Expanding Microcredentials

3 4 6 15

The number of the university's microcredential offerings continued to grow over the past year, including the addition of:

#### Management of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) in Adults: Clinical Update

Offered by the College of Nursing, this accessible and flexible microcredential concentrates on the ability to assess/diagnose, collaborate with the client and other members of the health-care team to develop an individualized evidence-informed treatment plan, and monitor treatment response/outcomes for individuals living with uncomplicated and complex MDD.

#### Sustainable Irrigation - Irrigation Agronomy / Water Management

Two microcredentials under the umbrella of sustainable irrigation are now being offered by the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. The program is designed for agronomists, agrologists, producers, engineers, and anyone who is interested in sound decision-making in irrigated agriculture. Learners are introduced to the conditions required for sustainable irrigation, including topics related to protection of the environment, regulations, technical design, water management, and farm management.

## SENS Graduate Certificates

4 9

The School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) added four graduate certificates to its lineup of offerings in climate change, energy, sustainability, and water. In 2024/25, **8 completed certificates** were awarded, 4 of which laddered into a full master's program with the school and will start in fall 2025.

### 2024/25 Certificate Completions



4

**Water Resources**



2

**Sustainability Solutions**



2

**Community Energy  
Planning and Finance**



# 3 EMPOWER ACTION

*USask's support of a generation of diverse learners and achievers is helping to shift mindsets and expand skillsets to accelerate action to achieve the SDGs.*

## Demonstrate & Experience Learning

*USask is enabling students to work with local community leaders to explore how they can apply action towards the SDGs in real-world applications. Examples in 2024-25 include:*

### Community-Engaged Service Learning

Community-engaged projects for sustainability are opportunities for USask students to contribute towards achieving environmental, social, or economic sustainability with community partners while developing and reflecting on career readiness competencies. This is mutually beneficial – community partners can complete smaller, impactful projects and USask students can gain career-ready skills through placements of approximately 40 hours. USask students reflect on their sustainability competencies via 'wraparound': before, during, and after the experience.

4 11 17

4

**sustainability  
student projects  
completed in 24-25**

### ENVS 401

ENVS 401 – Sustainability in Action, the capstone course to the School of Environment and Sustainability's Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability continues to be open inquiry-based, dynamic, teamwork-driven, and application-focused course enabling student-led sustainability projects. Since its inception, the course has attracted a high degree of interest (**>470 students over 10 years**), and has fostered more than **100 student projects**. The class of 2024/25 featured **23** students and showcased projects including public engagement on boreal research sites, post-consumer organics management at USask, the creation of online Dutch Elm Disease informational resources, studying the solar potential of Merlis Belsher Place, native greenery and local biodiversity public awareness campaigns, and demonstration bee pollinator gardens.

4 11

#### Winter 2025's ENVS 401 featured students from 8 different degree programs:

<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
Environmental Science	Renewable Resource Management	Environment & Society	Environmental Biology
<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Rural and Urban Planning	Environmental Geological Science	Psychology	Biology

### EcoHack

4 9 11 13 17

EcoHack 2025 brought together **24** students and recent grads at Collider Saskatoon for a one-day sustainability challenge hosted by the Office of Sustainability. In just one afternoon, teams tackled real-world problems posed by three partner organizations—SARCAN, Meewasin, and SWRC—and pitched their solutions to a panel of judges.

The winning project proposed a 24/7 smart recycling kiosk connected to an app with material classification, drop-off tips, and volunteer pickup features. Second place went to a Pokémon GO-inspired app to support volunteer wildlife monitoring in the Meewasin Valley. The third-place team pitched workshops to promote the circular economy by addressing mindset shifts, funding access, and community engagement.

EcoHack 2025 highlighted how collaboration, creativity, and rapid ideation can lead to actionable sustainability solutions with real impact.

**24** participants, **3** partner organizations, and **1** day to make a difference

Many thanks go out to the sponsors and community partners of EcoHack 2025



EcoHack 2025 awarded **\$6,000** in prize money to its three winning teams:

- **1st Place (\$3,000):** Ana María Alvarez Caiza, Susana Alejandra Jiménez Sandoval, J. David Quezada Borja, Mariel Bonilla Revelo; *24/7 SARCAN recycling depot with smart recycling machines and an app to help users classify materials, track recycling stats, and learn about environmental impact.*
- **2nd Place (\$2,000):** Basisah Musarrat, Rubana Syeda, and Sharzil Ramij; *Meewasin Go, a gamified wildlife monitoring app to help Meewasin Valley volunteers to log species sightings, complete biodiversity challenges, and earn rewards.*
- **3rd Place (\$1,000):** Luke Bunn, Roshan Boorada, and Labbaik Malik; *Community repair pop-up program to make repair skills more accessible.*



# 3 EMPOWER ACTION

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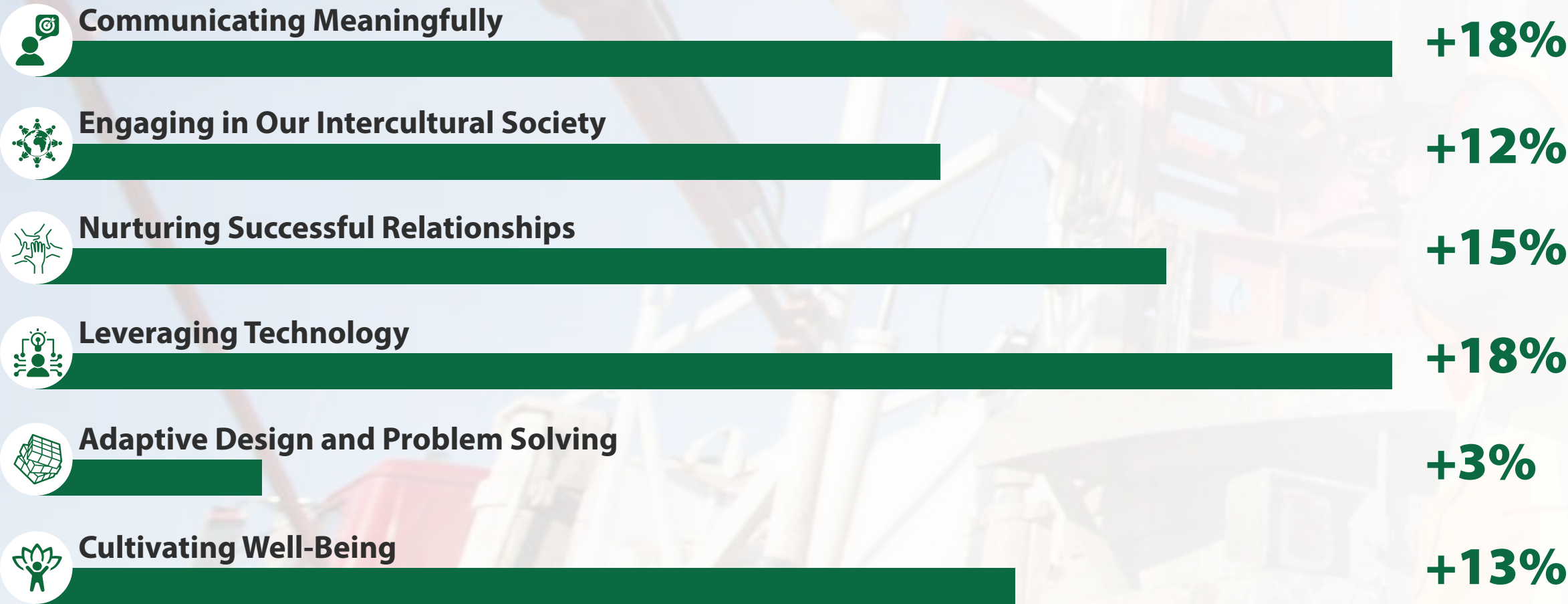
## Demonstrate & Experience Learning

### Sustainability Learning Competencies Feedback 4

The USask Sustainability Learning Competencies created by the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning (GMCTL) saw their second year of use in 24-25 and continued to receive excellent feedback from students, who felt the added focus on the competencies made them feel better equipped to handle sustainability problems in the real world.

#### Increases in Sustainability Learning Competencies

Pre- and post-term survey of Winter 2025 semester students



### Students on the Sustainability Learning Competencies

"I am better positioned to speak about sustainability than before the course."

"I feel confident in relating the SDG to my course material and applying them to real life situations."

"I feel more confident in using a sustainability lens in future research, education, and my career."

"My confidence in communicating about sustainability grew through collaborative discussions and case studies that required critical thinking."



# 4 CAPITALIZE ON STRENGTHS

*USask is bringing together the campus community to create knowledges focused on designing and implementing innovative and workable solutions to sustainability challenges.*

## Build Leadership and Capacity

*USask is working to increase, diversify, and enhance convergence research, encouraging every member of the university to focus some energy into solving sustainability challenges. Work in 2024-25 includes:*

### Cameco Mining & Nuclear Energy Partnership

7 8 9 13 17

A [\\$10 million investment](#) from Cameco, a global nuclear fuel and energy company, was announced in May, 2025. This funding will support:

- An undergraduate Nuclear Fuel Cycle program that will bring together geology, geophysics and engineering;
- A graduate certificate in Energy and Resource Management that will convene students from across policy studies, law, sustainability, and business;
- Fostering northern and Indigenous students' interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines, starting from the earliest learners through the Science Ambassador program and the Cameco STEM Pathways Initiative at the USask Prince Albert Campus;
- Groundbreaking research and innovation projects through a mining and nuclear energy technology accelerator, in conjunction with OPUS;
- A faculty research fund to be administered through the Global Institute for Energy, Minerals and Society (GIEMS). GIEMS is a first-of-its-kind, non-profit research centre that will serve as a hub to support clean energy transition by fostering connections between the post-secondary, industry, public, and non-profit sectors.

**\$10M** invested

## Sustainability Awards

4 17

The Office of Sustainability continued to sponsor two academic research awards in 2024-25 to recognize exemplary undergraduate sustainability-focused research.

### Life and Health Sciences Research Expo Sustainability Progress Awards

USask Health Sciences' Life and Health Sciences Research Expo annually recognizes exemplary research and learning activity at USask across the categories of basic, translational, clinical, and applied science as well as social and population health and, as of 2023, sustainability. The Office of Sustainability was proud to present its 2025 awards to:

- **Sustainability & Planet:** A K M Munzuru Hasan; *Maternal near-miss and quality of care in first-level referral hospitals in Inhambane, Southern Mozambique — a mixed-methods study*
- **Sustainability & People:** Fernanda Andre; *Embryonic Exposure to bisphenol S causes longterm behavioural alterations in zebrafish (danio rerio)*

### USSU Symposium Sustainability Awards

The USSU Undergraduate Symposium is an annual event highlighting the research, scholarly and artistic works of undergraduate students at the University of Saskatchewan. The Office of Sustainability has continued to sponsor sustainability awards at the symposium since 2022 and was proud to present two awards at this symposium in 2025:

- **Scientific Sustainability Award:** Aaryan Patel; *Towards AI-based Tracking of Animals in the Boreal Plains*
- **Social Sustainability Award:** Marium Baig & Zainab Raheel; *Giving FWRd*



# 4 CAPITALIZE ON STRENGTHS

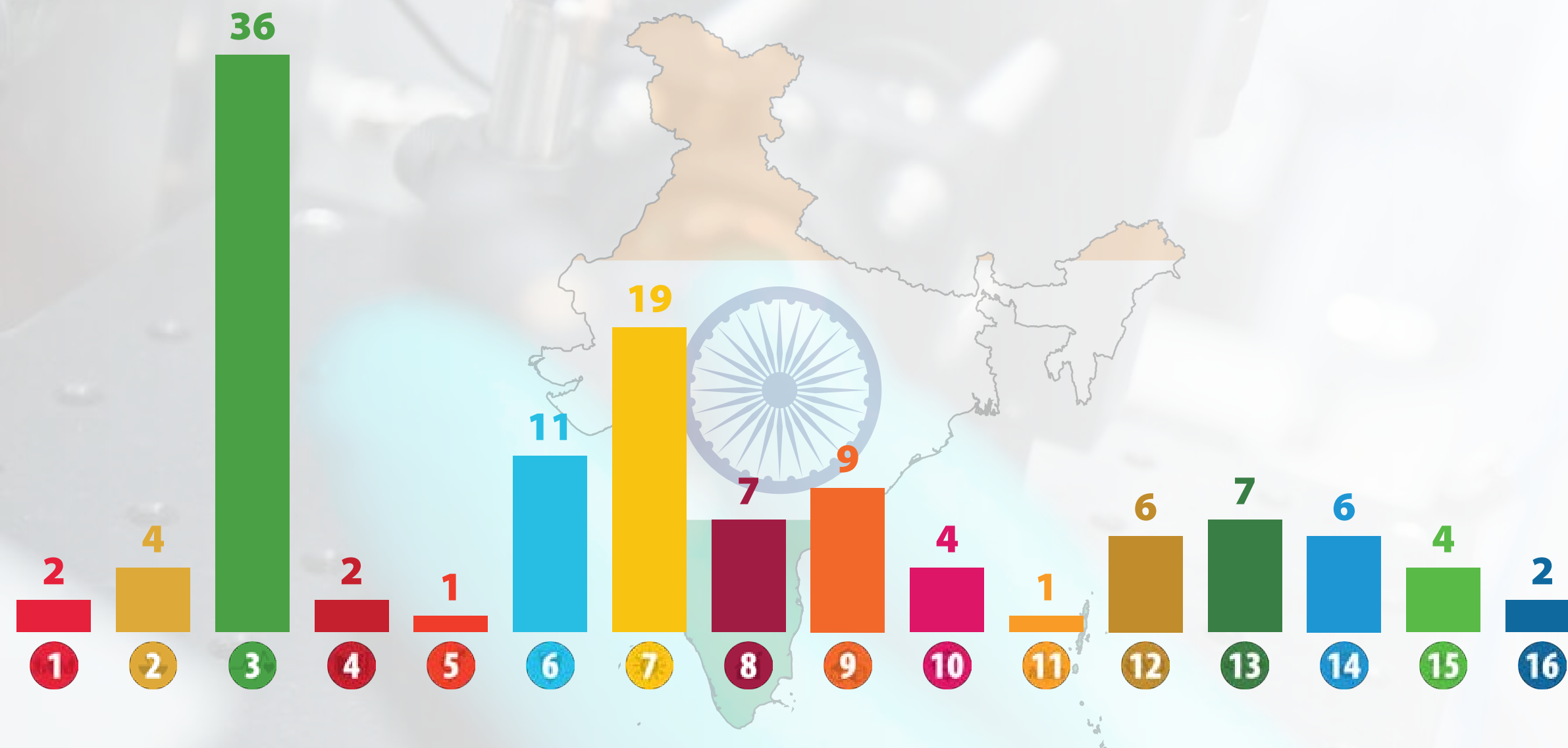
*USask is bringing together the campus community to create knowledges focused on designing and implementing innovative and workable solutions to sustainability challenges.*

## Build Leadership and Capacity

### International Office Partnerships in India

The [USask International Office](#) houses over 250 international agreements with more than **200** entities in over **60** countries (including one with the Government of Saskatchewan on International Education). This year, the Office highlights their collaborations and synergies with India as it was listed as one of the **top 5 most active countries** for SDGs 1 through 15 according to SciVal Worldwide Analysis.

2024-25 Co-Publications with Indian Partners by SDG



### Highly-Cited USask-India SDG-Related Co-Publications

**Dr. Bishnu Acharya** (College of Engineering) works with Manipal Institute of Technology and Ramaiah Institute of Technology Bangalore on catalytic pyrolysis of biomass (phenol and hydrocarbon generation), adsorption of organic and pharmaceutical pollutants, and absorption of gases using activated carbon.

**Dr. Ajay Dalai** (College of Engineering) works with the College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, and the Research and Development Centre of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited to explore the drivers and barriers in the production and utilization of second-generation bioethanol in India.

**Dr. Emily Jenkins** (Western College of Veterinary Medicine) works with the Centre for One Health, College of Veterinary Science, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University to study the global distribution of *Trichinella* species and genotypes in wildlife and wildlife-associated human trichinellosis.

**Drs. Meena Sakharkar and Jian Yang** (College of Pharmacy and Nutrition) work with Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Symbiosis International Deemed University, and B. J. Govt Medical College and Sassoon General Hospitals on the diversity of vaginal microbiota between healthy women and cervical cancer patients in India, which can help in the early prediction of cervical cancer risk and thus in designing prevention strategies.

**Dr. Hassan Vatanparast** (College of Pharmacy and Nutrition) works with Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, India and Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Malaysia to study the seafood waste biorefinery process, focusing on key concepts, emerging technologies, potential product avenues and challenges. This study provides invaluable insights for researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and methodological standardization to advance sustainable waste management practices in the seafood industry.

**Dr. Lee Wilson** (College of Arts and Science) works with the Department of Biotechnology & Medical Engineering, National Institute of Technology Rourkela on the removal of contaminants present in water and wastewater by cyclodextrin-based adsorbents.



# SDG RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

USask research covers all 17 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This year's highlights include...



## Community Talks for Housing Rights

The [Community-University Institute for Social Research's](#) (CUISR) Lived Expert Advisory

Council [facilitated conversations](#) among Saskatoon's inner city community members in February, 2025. The sessions, held at Station 20 West in Saskatoon's Pleasant Hill neighbourhood, brought together community members, housing and service providers, researchers, students, and policy personnel to discuss several housing-related questions in community-led small groups in order to develop a report and next steps.



David Fineday and Dr. Isobel Findlay (PhD), USask professor emerita and co-director of CUISR



## Pulse Weed Management

In December, 2024, Dr. Steve Shirtliffe (PhD) in the College of Agriculture and Bioresource's

Department of Plant Science was awarded **\$2.47M** by Saskatchewan Pulse Growers to [aid in the development of a framework](#) to manage kochia, a salt- and drought-resistant tumbleweed that causes major problems for pulse growers in Saskatchewan. The program is set to run for six years (field seasons from 2025 to 2029) and builds on previous weed management programs to build a robust long-term weed management strategy framework.



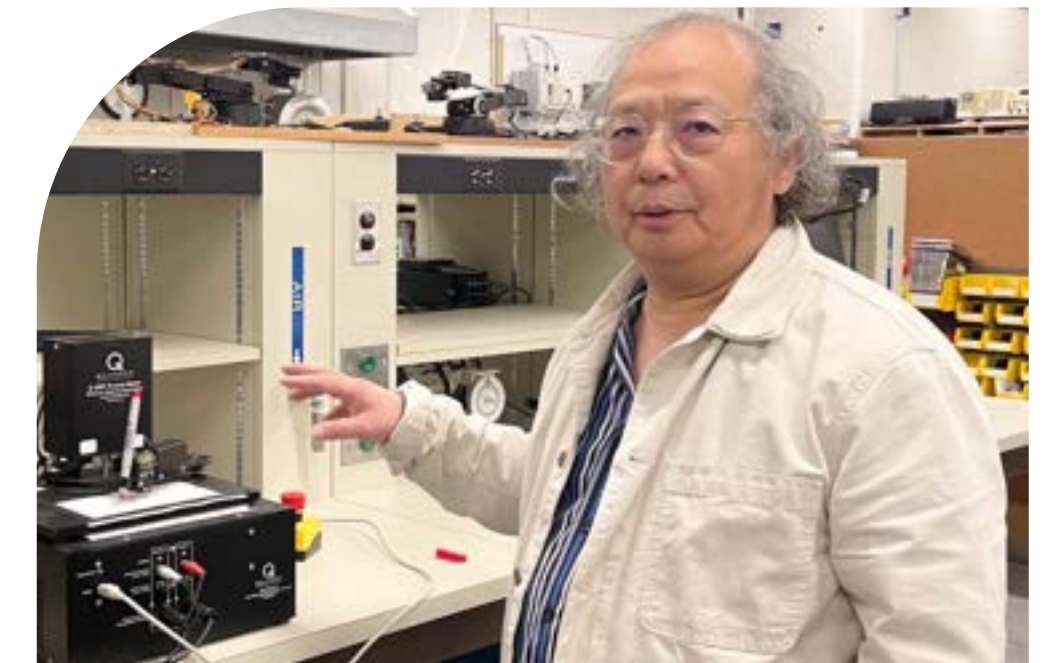
Dr. Steve Shirtliffe (PhD), Department of Plant Science, College of Agriculture and Bioresources



## Blood Cell Nanorobots

From repairing deadly brain bleeds to tackling tumours with precise chemotherapy, micro/

nano-robots (MNRs) are a promising, up-and-coming tool that have the power to substantially advance health care. In 2024, Dr. Chris Zhang (PhD) and his team at the College of Engineering were the first to [develop a highly accurate mathematical model that optimizes the design of MNRs](#) which improves their navigation, allowing them to travel efficiently through the bloodstream, offering potential treatments for very small and remote areas of the body.



Dr. Chris Zhang (PhD), College of Engineering



# SDG RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

USask research covers all 17 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This year's highlights include...



## SK-Ukraine Program Wins Award

A [2024 course](#) focused on current methods in teaching English as a global language which invited

seven teachers from Ternopil, Ukraine was the recipient of a 2025 Regional Centre for Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development (RCE-SK) award. The course, offered through the Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unity (SELU) in the College of Education, is part of a partnership between Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk National Pedagogical University (TNPU) and the College of Education to help build English language teaching capacity in Ukrainian schools.



A paper heart bearing the colors of the Ukrainian flag



## Water Researcher Speaks at UN

To commemorate February 11, 2025, the 9th International Day of Women and Girls in Science,

USask researcher Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace (PhD) [delivered remarks to the United Nations](#) about water research and the work needed to be done to strengthen participation from equity-deserving groups. Schuster-Wallace is the creator of the Women Plus Water initiative, whose expert list officially launched at the UN Assembly in 2023 to recognize experts who are committed to gender equity and interested in sharing their expertise related to water-related UN SDGs.



From left: GIWS Executive Director Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace (PhD), PhD student Ines Sanchez-Rodriguez



## Transdisciplinary Water Security Program

An NSERC Collaborative Research and Training Experience ([NSERC-CREATE](#)) funded program led by

USask researcher Dr. Markus Hecker (PhD) is looking to bridge the gap between the concepts of water quantity and water quality within a socio-ecological and human health and well-being context for graduate students. The program is rooted in a collaboration between USask and two German institutions (Goethe University Frankfurt and RWTH Aachen University), offering students both an interdisciplinary educational experience and a transatlantic perspective on water issues.



Left: Dr. Markus Hecker (PhD), School of Environment and Sustainability



# SDG RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

USask research covers all 17 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This year's highlights include...

**7** AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



## Nuclear Research and Innovation MOA

In November, 2024, USask [signed a Memorandum of Agreement](#) with Atomic Energy of Canada

Ltd. (AECL) and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Limited (CNL) to collaborate on nuclear research and innovation. The partnership, housed within USask's College of Engineering, aims to leverage the strengths of each institution to advance nuclear science and technology, grow One Health applications, enhance educational opportunities, access specialized infrastructure, and contribute to the development of sustainable energy security and solutions.



From left to right: USask AVP Research Dr. Terry Fonstad, CNL VP Dr. Stephen Bushby, AECL VP Amy Gottschling

**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



## Crop Development Centre Successes

An [Economic Footprint Assessment](#) prepared by EY for USask's Crop Development Centre

(CDC) concluded that thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic development in Canada can be attributed to the Centre. The Centre, which houses remarkable expertise in the areas of plant breeding and pathology, uses state-of-the-art technologies and scientific advances to improve crop varieties to support the agriculture industry and to generate returns for growers across Western Canada.



Research technician Ayla Lichtenwald working at the Crop Development Centre

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## AI Poses New Risk to Corporations

A [team of interdisciplinary researchers at USask's Edwards School of Business](#) and the

University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business published findings related to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in corporate governance. The team conducted interviews over 2.5 years with chairs of 27 large companies listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Their paper highlights a new type of risk to AI they call encroachment risk, which is the novel idea that AI can encroach on the power and influence of strategic roles and pose an organizational risk.



From left: Dr. Vince Bruni-Bossio (PhD), Dr. Devan Mescall (PhD), Dr. Regan Schmidt (PhD)



# SDG RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

USask research covers all 17 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This year's highlights include...



## 2SLGBTQIA+ Healthcare Access

Dr. Melissa Dykhuizen at USask's College of Nursing [completed research in 2024](#) that aims to

increase the understanding of 2SLGBTQIA+ issues in healthcare, particularly in regards to cervical cancer screening for transgender men. Dykhuizen's research aims to bridge gaps in health research for these groups and, as a research chair with the Centre for Health Research, Innovation, and Scholarship at Saskatchewan Polytechnic, will be looking to create partnerships with other academics, community members, and community organizations.



Dr. Melisa Dykhuizen (PhD), College of Nursing



## Cumberland House Digital Heritage Project

A [groundbreaking digital heritage](#) project led by Dr. Allyson Stevenson (PhD) and Cumberland

House residents aims to grow dynamic partnerships with galleries, libraries, archives, and museums across the Prairies with the goal of preserving and reclaiming cultural heritage. Stevenson's team will work towards building a digital history website, owned by the community, using an Indigenous-developed collection management system that can integrate protocols, different languages, and cultural materials.



Dr. Allyson Stevenson (PhD), Department of Indigenous Studies, at Cumberland House



## Crop Waste to High-Value Products

The University of Saskatchewan's (USask) Dr. Bishnu Acharya (PhD) has been awarded the

prestigious Mitacs Innovation Award, for his [research into turning canola, oat and flax waste into feed for microbes, nutritional food additives and sustainable packaging](#).

Acharya (from USask's College of Engineering) is leading a research effort to turn canola meal into a low-cost, nutrient dense feed for microbes to use in fermentation. This fast-growing segment of the biotechnology sector benefits the development of new foods, beverages, medicines and other applications.



Dr. Bishnu Acharya (PhD), College of Engineering



# SDG RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

USask research covers all 17 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This year's highlights include...



## Intersectional Climate Change Research

Dr. Sabine Liebenehm (PhD), assistant professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources,

has been [researching the intersections](#) of climate change, water security, and gender equity in a project that looks to enhance research capacity related to water security and gender equity while facilitating an exchange between West African and Canadian scholars. Liebenehm has attracted seven scholars from Ghana, Burkina Faso and Togo and they've all been an integral part of the project and collaborate at conferences, leadership programs and presentations.



Dr. Sabine Liebenehm (PhD), College of Agriculture and Bioresources



## Salmon Data Reveals Ecological Impacts

The School of Environment and Sustainability's Dr. Tim Jardine (PhD) has been [using migratory](#)

[data from salmon](#) to identify their larger impact on river ecosystems. By looking at their travel patterns and the nutrients and contaminants they leave in their wake, Jardin has recognized that salmon are the most important movers of biomass in the animal kingdom. The research illustrates the importance of studying elements like nutrients and contaminants together in order to understand the broader picture of environmental impacts from migratory species.



Migrating salmon



## Impact of Metal Mining on Forests

Metal mining is a major player in the Canadian economy and mine sites scattered across our

boreal forests are a divisive source of soil contamination. Levi Lundell, soil science master student in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (alongside supervisors Drs. Derek Peak (PhD) and Katherine Stewart (PhD)) [is investigating how boreal plants interact with contaminants](#) from these mines to see if these plants can be used in remediation and restoration efforts of abandoned or actively managed metal mine tailings.



Graduate student Levi Lundell, College of Agriculture and Bioresources



# SDG RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

*USask research covers all 17 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This year's highlights include...*



## Centre Receives \$3M Investment

The Centre for Forensic and Behavioural Science and Justice Studies (CFBSJS) signed

two research agreements that will provide a total of **\$3 million** over the next 10 years. These include a memorandum of understanding with Correctional Services Canada (CSC) and a collaborative research agreement with the Government of SK. This investment will help support specific research projects that focus on topics important to the province and will be identified collaboratively between USask and the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety (CPPS).



Dr. Mansfield Mela (MBBS), director of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies



## International Partnerships for Transdisciplinarity

TRANSECTS, an international partnership between USask and institutions in South Africa, Germany, and France, was the recipient of a \$500K grant

from the Spencer Foundation in the United States, the first time a USask-led project has received this grant from what is considered one of the biggest supporters of education research with a focus on initiatives that provide educational opportunities for disadvantaged or marginalized communities. The grant will support two South African-based initiatives to train and support Indigenous and rural youth.



Dr. Maureen Reed (PhD), with research collaborators in the Vhembe Biosphere Region, Limpopo, South Africa

## Want to Highlight Your Research?

The Office of Sustainability is always looking for help to continue highlighting USask research that advances any of the SDGs. If you know of research that should be recognized for these efforts, please let us know at [sustainability@usask.ca](mailto:sustainability@usask.ca).



# 4 CAPITALIZE ON STRENGTHS

*USask is bringing together the campus community to create knowledges focused on designing and implementing innovative and workable solutions to sustainability challenges.*

## Create Innovation Ecosystems

*We work to develop hubs of innovation with the capacity to pilot and perfect technological innovations to solve all levels of sustainability challenges. Some of this work includes:*

### Global Institute of Food Security

2 9 13 17

The [Global Institute of Food Security](#) (GIFS) is one of USask's world-class collaborative institutes that helps its Canadian and international partners to advance productivity, competitiveness, and sustainability in the agriculture and food sector. Their scalable, cutting-edge services and integrated model position them to accelerate innovation with impact.

In 2025, GIFS produced a [new comparative carbon footprint study](#) of barley and oats production which shows that Saskatchewan and Western Canadian farmers are producing these crops with the lowest carbon intensity relative to other jurisdictions in the study. Comparable to earlier studies on non-durum wheat, canola, field peas, durum wheat and lentils, the lower carbon intensity numbers for barley and oat production in Western Canada are driven by the widespread adoption of various innovations and farming practices employed by producers, including:

- No-and minimal-till farming.
- The adoption of herbicide-tolerant canola.
- A robust crop rotation system.
- The production of nitrogen-fixing pulse crops.
- The growing adoption of innovations on the rise, such as the variable-rate application of fertilizer.

This follows an [August 2024 GIFS paper in Nature](#) based on their first study (wheat, canola, and peas), showing Canadian produce has significantly lower carbon footprints than other regions compared.

*"In extreme cases, Canadian crops could be shipped to western European markets an additional 17 times before their carbon footprint would break even with crops grown in Europe."*

*-August, 2024 Nature paper*

### Global Institute for Energy, Mines and Society

7 8 9 12 15 17

The Global Institute for Energy, Mines and Society (GIEMS), the third and newest global institute in Saskatchewan, is a first-of-its-kind collaboration between USask, the University of Regina, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic and supported by the Province of Saskatchewan. Its goals include demonstrating to the world that Saskatchewan is a leader in developing clean energy solutions, mineral resource development, community engagement, and Indigenization. The work enabled by GIEMS will aid Canada in achieving its net-zero emissions goals, sustainable development of mineral resources, and leading the nation in understanding societal impacts of these technologies, developing public policy frameworks to achieve these changes and leading Indigenization and Reconciliation efforts through demonstrated action. As of March, 2025, GIEMS was incorporated and funded for **\$780,000**, with Tom Kishchuk joining GIEMS as its first Executive Director.

### Global Institute for Water Security

3 6 9 11 12 14 17

The [Global Institute for Water Security](#) (GIWS) is a leading water resources research institute in Canada and one of the most advanced hydrology research centres in the world. The Institute is dedicated to protecting water resources, mitigating water-related disasters, anticipating global change, and co-creating research with Indigenous Peoples.

GIWS continued its collaborative work in 2024-25, with innovative projects including:

- A [Virtual Water Gallery](#), a science and art pilot project which aims to provide a safe, inclusive and collaborative space for fully open discussions between scientists, artists, and a wider public, to explore past, present, and future water challenges. A [paper about the Gallery](#) was published in PLOS Climate in April, 2025.
- [Women Plus Water](#), a collaborative initiative between GIWS and the College of Arts & Science that increases the visibility of women in water and engages people through the annual conversation series, expert list, and mentorship opportunities to learn about the gendered impacts of water research, management, and decision-making.
- The development of [a new modelling framework for the preservation of Prairie Wetlands](#), which was covered in [a June 2024 paper in FACETS](#).
- An NSERC funded project to investigate [reuse options for municipal wastewater and stormwater](#).



# 4 CAPITALIZE ON STRENGTHS

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## Create Innovation Ecosystems

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### Opus

USask's startup incubator continued to expand in 2024/25, providing increased access to programming, mentors, advisors, infrastructure, and entrepreneurial training. With a focus on research-backed deep tech innovations with potential for proprietary IP, Opus is proving to be an integral part of USask's innovation landscape. Since inception, Opus-incubated ventures have secured more than **\$1.5M** in non-dilutive funding and have created **16** new jobs.



### Opus 2024-25 highlights:

- **29** aspiring entrepreneurs across **17** new ventures in the idea2Build program.
- **18** startup competitions entered by Opus founders winning over **\$21,000** in prize money.
- Over **41** hours of programming served to participants, featuring the advice of **38** mentors and coaches from Saskatoon's business community and beyond.
- **591** USask community members having received services or attending Opus events.
- The first team of student founders from **Saskatchewan Polytechnic** in a pilot partnership offering.
- **Patents granted** to two Opus companies on their core technologies.
- **\$667,500** in private sector investment and almost **\$300,000** generated in revenue by Opus-incubated ventures.

### i2Build Program

Opus' Innovate2Build Program is designed to support the unique needs of USask founders. This program provides access to entrepreneurial programming, infrastructure, and a network of experts to help build successful ventures on campus. Current USask students, faculty, and staff are eligible to apply.

### 2024 i2Build Program Innovation Expo Pitch Participants



**Behzad M. Toosi**

Faculty

Western College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
Small Animal Clinic Sciences

#### AICENE

An AI platform that detects early-stage cancer in pets using blood samples.



**Deepak Lakhanpal**



**Kara Friesen**

Masters Student

College of Agriculture  
and Bioresources  
Department of Food Science

#### Cultured Bites

Tempeh plant-based protein products made with Saskatchewan pulses and grains.



**Stephen Zettl**

Masters Student

College of Engineering  
Department of  
Mechanical Engineering

#### Sask Shrimp Ltd.

Aquaculture fed that does not break down in the water helping mitigate disease and reduce filtration costs.



**Kapil Khandelwal**

PhD Student

College of Engineering  
Department of Chemical  
and Biological Engineering

#### NutraMate

An automated prescription management system for pharmacies.



# 4 CAPITALIZE ON STRENGTHS

*USask is bringing together the campus community to create knowledges focused on designing and implementing innovative and workable solutions to sustainability challenges.*

## Forge and Lead Collaborations

*USask's support of unique multi-community, multi-partner, and multi-sector collaborations is tackling the full spectrum of sustainability challenges, from idea germination to translation into real-life solutions. Work in 24/25 includes:*

### Research Junction

[Research Junction](#) is a collaboration between the City of Saskatoon and Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives to support the development of joint research projects that address contemporary urban issues for the benefit of Saskatoon residents.

The Research Junction team expanded its membership in 2024-25 to include two new members, Dr. Phani Adapa, Director, Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives, USask, and Dr. Stryker Calvez, Director, Reconciliation, equity, Diversity & Inclusion, City of Saskatoon. Additional 2024-25 highlights include the hosting of a joint USask/CoS workshop with 109 attendees, the design and launch of a new seed grant program which awarded **\$30,000** across six new partnerships, and the continuation of the Research Junction Development Grant program which awarded **\$58,000** to two projects.

1 4 8 9 11 17

**\$600K**

in total Research Junction grants across

**24**

projects funded and co-led by

**13**

City departments

**8**

Colleges and Schools

### 2024-25 Research Junction Projects

#### City Water Pipe Risk Assessment, Inventory, and Warehousing System

Dr. Hamed Samarghandi (PhD), a professor of management science in USask's Edwards School of Business with a degree in mechanical and manufacturing engineering, is leading a project to categorize the risk of failure in current city pipes and preparing an inventory and warehousing system to store future replacements. Dr. Samarghandi pointed to the recent water main break in Calgary that resulted in a water supply crisis for the entire city as one of the inspirations for this project, and hopes that they might create a more cost-effective solution for handling issues that may arise.



Dr. Hamed Samarghandi (PhD)

#### Sustainable Theatre Production Ecosystem

Carla Orosz, USask drama professor and head of the Department of Drama, is working with City of Saskatoon Arts and Grants consultant Kathy Allen to figure out the best ways to share resources among theatre organizations and build a sustainable theatre production ecosystem for the future. The project will look for ways to make modern theatre more sustainable and hopefully grow new theatre companies and artists in a more sustainable model.



Carla Orosz



# 4 CAPITALIZE ON STRENGTHS

USask is bringing together the campus community to create knowledges focused on designing and implementing innovative and workable solutions to sustainability challenges.

## Forge and Lead Collaborations

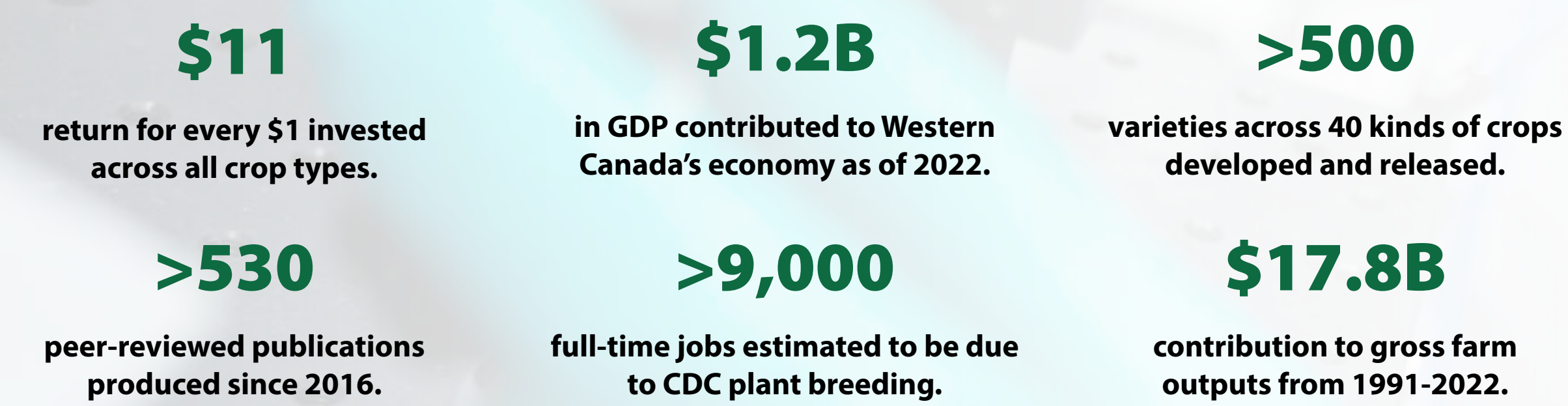
### Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation 3 7 9 11

The Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation was established in 2011 to help place Saskatchewan among global leaders of nuclear research, development and training. The Centre invests in partnerships with academia and industry for maximum societal and economic benefit while funding research projects in nuclear topics, supporting new faculty positions, operating a first-class cyclotron facility as a user-accessible resource, and providing advice on nuclear topics. In 2024-25, the Centre saw:



### Crop Development Centre 2 10 11 17

An economic footprint assessment of USask’s Crop Development Centre was performed by EY in July 2024. The final report provided a detailed analysis of the Centre in three distinct areas—economic contribution, return on investment (ROI) analysis, and socioeconomic benefits—and highlighted some key impact findings, including:



### TRANSECTS 4 17

In 2024-25, the Transdisciplinary Education Collaboration for Transformations in Sustainability (TRANSECTS)—an international Community of Practice and a transdisciplinary sustainability research training program—continued to connect trainees, practitioners, and scholars across three country hubs through pathways for training, professional development, networking, and mentorship. TRANSECTS reached its midpoint in April, 2025, with its progress documented in a report submitted to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), accompanied by an appendix and an infographic showcasing key actions, activities, and accomplishments from the first half of the program.



The 2024 Transdisciplinary International Learning Lab (TILL) at Vancouver Island University in Canada offered trainees the opportunity to enhance their professional, relational, and intercultural skills while applying transdisciplinary research in the UNESCO Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region. Following the TILL, an international Program Institute held in Canada fostered shared learning, community-building, and thoughtful reflection among members.

TILL alumni strengthened the Student and Trainee Advisory Round Table (START), a youth network of engaged trainees, by establishing a TILL ‘Buddy Program’ to connect alumni with current trainees. They have also launched a monthly ‘Speaker Series’, which aims to promote engagement, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among students, practitioners, and scholars around transdisciplinary themes.

2025 began with the development of a Continuing Education Course focused on professional skills for collaborative work, which will be open to all and is scheduled for delivery later this year.





# 5 CATALYZE SOCIAL CHANGE

*USask continues to push for social change by promoting, engaging, and supporting shared knowledges, expertise, and experiences.*

## Engage in Local & Global Dialogue

*USask continues to develop a shared understanding of both the challenges and solutions to global sustainability challenges by engaging in a diverse range of dialogues. Examples include:*

### USask International Office

The [USask International Office](#) houses over **250** international agreements with more than **200** entities in over **60** countries (including one with the Government of Saskatchewan on International Education). In 2024/25, there were **11 new** and **17 renewed** agreements that were signed.

The USask International Office hosts a “[USask in the World](#)” database which lays out all of the university’s international relationships around the world. These relationships—divided into partnerships, stay opportunities, and networks—are presented on a world map to help easily visualize the university’s extensive relationships across the world.



17

### International Networks and Partnerships

The University of Saskatchewan maintains memberships in a number of national and international networks and partnerships focused on advancing sustainability and sustainability education. These include:

- [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#) (AASHE)
- [Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#) (SDSN)
- [Sustainability Education Research Institute](#) (SERI)

17

## Leverage Networks for Action

*The many networks and partnerships between USask and the private sector, public sector, not-for-profits, and civil society here and abroad help to harness actions and opportunities for scalable social, political, and technological sustainability solutions. Examples include:*

### Universities Canada Advocacy

The University of Saskatchewan is a member of Universities Canada, a membership organization providing Canadian university presidents with a unified voice for higher education, research, and innovation. As part of this membership, we are working with Universities Canada on their [Canada’s Universities Action for Net Zero Initiative](#) to measure and track the higher education sector’s climate progress over time, serve as a hub for sharing best practices, advocate for the supports the sector needs to meet its targets and continue to address climate change more broadly, and collaborate locally, nationally, and internationally to align efforts and deepen our impact.

16 17

### Regional Advocacy Memberships

The [Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council](#) (SWRC) is dedicated to helping the people of Saskatchewan reduce waste. It is a non-governmental organization that leads in addressing the underlying causes of waste by identifying opportunities, creating connections, and promoting solutions for a waste-free Saskatchewan. The university acts as a sponsoring member of the Council and maintains two seats on its Board of Directors.

9 12 11 15 16 17

The [Saskatchewan Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development](#) (SK RCE) is a voluntary network of organizations who are committed to creating a United Nations University designated Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Each of the 150+ RCEs around the world is a network of individuals, organizations and experts who are committed to using education as a tool for building a sustainable future. In May 2025, USask was recognized with 2 awards at the SK RCE’s annual recognition event in Regina: Kit Stern’s (student at the College of Kinesiology) [GOLDEN \(Growing Older, Living Dynamically, Exercising, Nurture\) project](#), and the College of Education and SELU’s [Saskatchewan-Ternopil Oblast English Language E&T Program](#).



# PAW 2024

People Around the World International Congress

## MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

**October 16 - 18, 2024**  
**Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

PAW 2024 — a dynamic event that brought together experts and innovators to explore how a cohesive approach to the Food-Water-Energy nexus—using data as a cross-cutting concept—can address socio-cultural issues both locally and globally. Attendees celebrated achievements, shared insights and helped shape the future of sustainable solutions.



Keynote Speaker  
**Dr. Daniela S. Jones**

Assistant Professor, Biological and Agricultural  
Engineering Department and Data Science Academy  
Director of Agricultural Analytics

*North Carolina State University, USA*

The PAW 2024 Congress was dedicated to exploring the interconnected dynamics of the Food-Water-Energy nexus through the unifying lens of data. In 2024, it explored how integrated approaches in this field can effectively address socio-cultural challenges on both local and global scales. We celebrated the remarkable achievements with our partners and harnessed the insights gained to pave the way for future innovations and directions. Together, we are charting a course towards sustainable solutions that resonate across communities worldwide.

From policymakers, researchers and artists, to entrepreneurs, scientists and the general public—PAW 2024 provided an exchange of innovative ideas, strategies and collaborative efforts focused on re-examining the solutions required to address the Decade of Action and implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Keynote Speaker  
**Dr. Alice Bouman-Dentener**

Co-Founder, Cansu Global

*Netherlands*



# 5 CATALYZE SOCIAL CHANGE

*USask continues to push for social change by promoting, engaging, and supporting shared knowledges, expertise, and experiences.*

## Actively Listen to All Voices

*USask ensures that the voices in our learning and research environments are grounded in principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Projects of note in 24/25 are:*

### McEown Community Garden

The McEown Community Garden is an excellent example of the university's dedication to listening to and addressing the needs of the campus community. Initially started by a collective of students living in the McEown Park residences and formalized in 2015, the Garden is the largest and longest-standing community garden on campus, serving anywhere from 50-100 gardeners living in the residences at McEown Park, College Park, and Grad House. In the 2025 garden season, **59** gardeners participated in the initiative.



2 10 11 16

## STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY FUNDING

Support for student sustainability projects is available to any students, regardless of discipline, through the USSU Sustainability Committee. Projects ranging from sustainable event materials to green remote controlled aircraft to community greenhouse construction have been funded throughout the years.

### USSU Sustainability Committee

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) Sustainability Committee works each year to help the USSU progress as a leader in sustainable practices while actively contributing to the sustainable growth of our community. The Committee's 2024/25's highlights include:

- **Planning Students Association**
  - **\$4,000** to enhance MOMENTUM 2025 Conference sustainability measures.
- **Write On Usask**
  - **\$493** to purchase eco-friendly and reusable journaling supplies
- **Trash to Treasure (ENVS 401 project group)**
  - **\$420** to purchase Lomi desktop composters for Agriculture Building staff rooms.

4 9

### Arts & Science Women in Faculty Mentorship

5 10

In 2024 the College of Arts & Science launched a new [peer mentorship group](#) for women faculty, who currently make up approximately 35% of the faculty complement in Arts & Science. This group aims to bring women, women-identified, and non-binary faculty members together from across the College to share success stories and offer support for overcoming career obstacles. Future sessions will include mentoring pre-tenured faculty and all faculty seeking promotions on how to successfully navigate the tenure and promotion process. Topics will include crafting tenure and promotion narratives, demystifying the collegial process at the Departmental and College levels, and tips from the CRC on what makes for a successful tenure and promotion casefile.

### Women Plus Water

5 6 10 14

Initiated by GIWS Executive Director Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace (PhD) in 2018 as a lecture series, [Women Plus Water](#) has grown into a much larger collaborative initiative between GIWS and the College of Arts & Science that increases the visibility of women in water and engages people through the annual conversation series, expert list, and mentorship opportunities to learn about the gendered impacts of water research, management, and decision-making. Women Plus Water gives women, young professionals, and allies of all identities opportunities for professional development while empowering a global network of water experts committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in water.

To commemorate February 11, 2025, the 9th International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Dr. Schuster-Wallace [delivered remarks to the United Nations](#) about water research and the work needed to be done to strengthen participation from equity-deserving groups.



From left: Dr. Corinne Schuster-Wallace (PhD), Executive Director, GIWS; Ines Sanchez Rodriguez, SENS PhD student and newest member of Women Plus Water



# A 2024-25 USASK GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

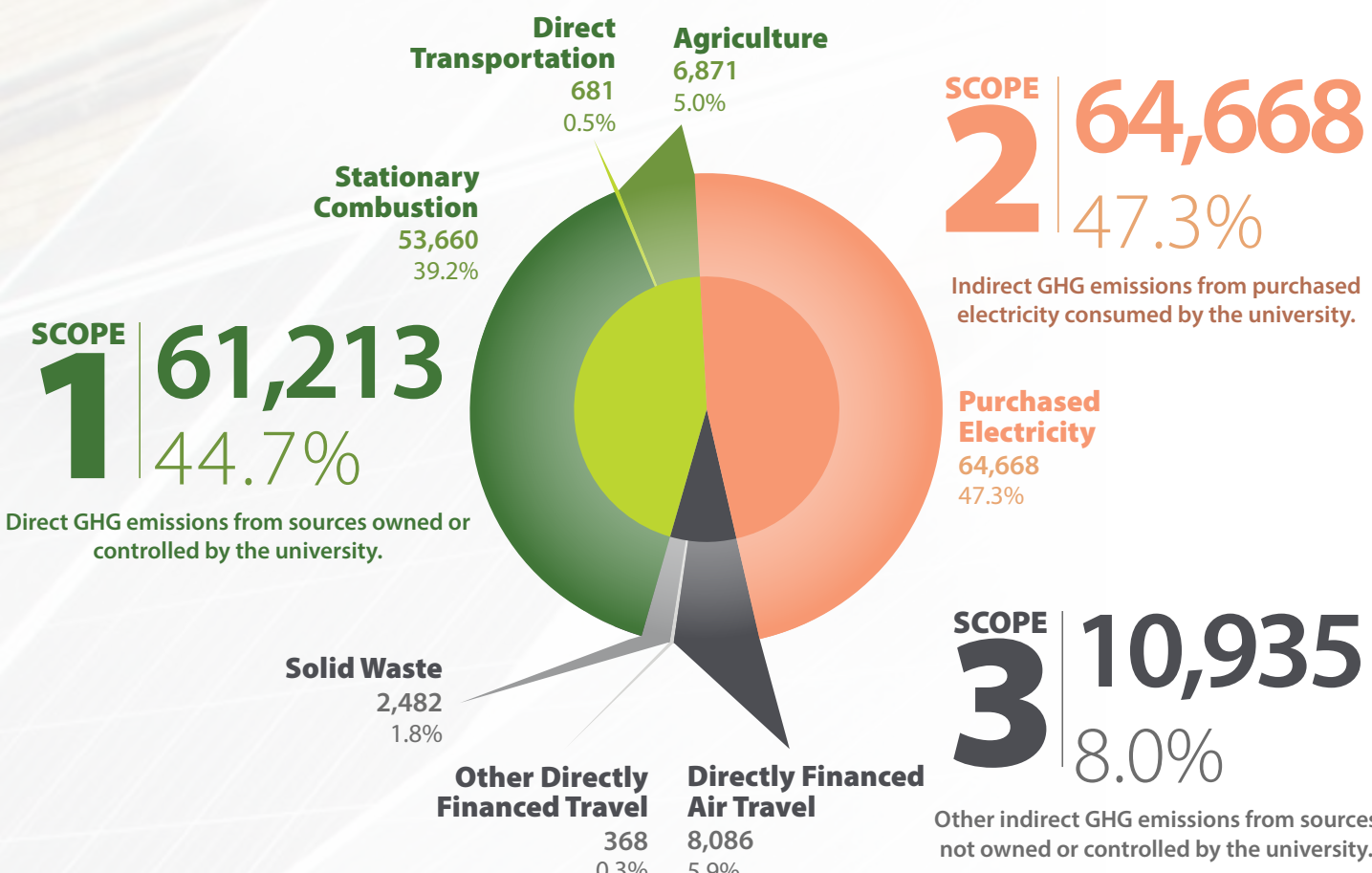
Each year the university publishes an inventory of its contributions to global GHG emissions.

On-campus stationary emissions were up 8% this year—a 4,000 tonne increase. The previous year's reporting period featured a very mild winter, making this year's markedly colder winter show a comparatively large difference natural gas usage at USask's heating plant. If the 24-25 data is normalized for heating degree days (HDD), it could be argued that USask actually experienced a 4% drop in these emissions. As with previous years improvements, this can be attributed to HVAC system upgrades and better building envelopes achieved through numerous capital projects that have been completed since 2010 and overall improved management of our heating systems across campus. In 2025-26, upgrades to the boiler(s) in the heating plant will begin; improvements of components will be expected to improve efficiency and support GHG emissions reduction.

Scope 2 electrical emissions are down 11% compared to last year—an 8,000 tonne decrease; however, the primary reason for this reduction was major changes at the Canadian Light Source (CLS). The replacement of their linear accelerator (LINAC), which began in late May 2024, resulted in a 40% (10.5 GWh) reduction in electrical use. This is only a temporary drop, and when the new LINAC resumes activity in 2026 our electrical consumption will likely return to previous levels. The university's photovoltaic solar arrays generated 34,337 kWh of electricity, equivalent to avoiding 18 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e if purchased from the provincial electrical grids.

Scope 3 emissions are relatively flat compared to last year (a 2% decrease), though waste emissions specifically rose 19% (400 tonnes) from last year. This is likely due to the continuation of people returning to campus, including less hybrid workers. Still, even considering this increase USask is still well below pre-COVID levels. In particularly good news, air travel emissions decreased 2.6% (compared to last year's 53% increase). A flattening of our travel emissions is a solid testament to sustainability factors influencing USask staff and faculty's decisions going forward.

USask 2024-25 GHG Emissions By Scope (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e)



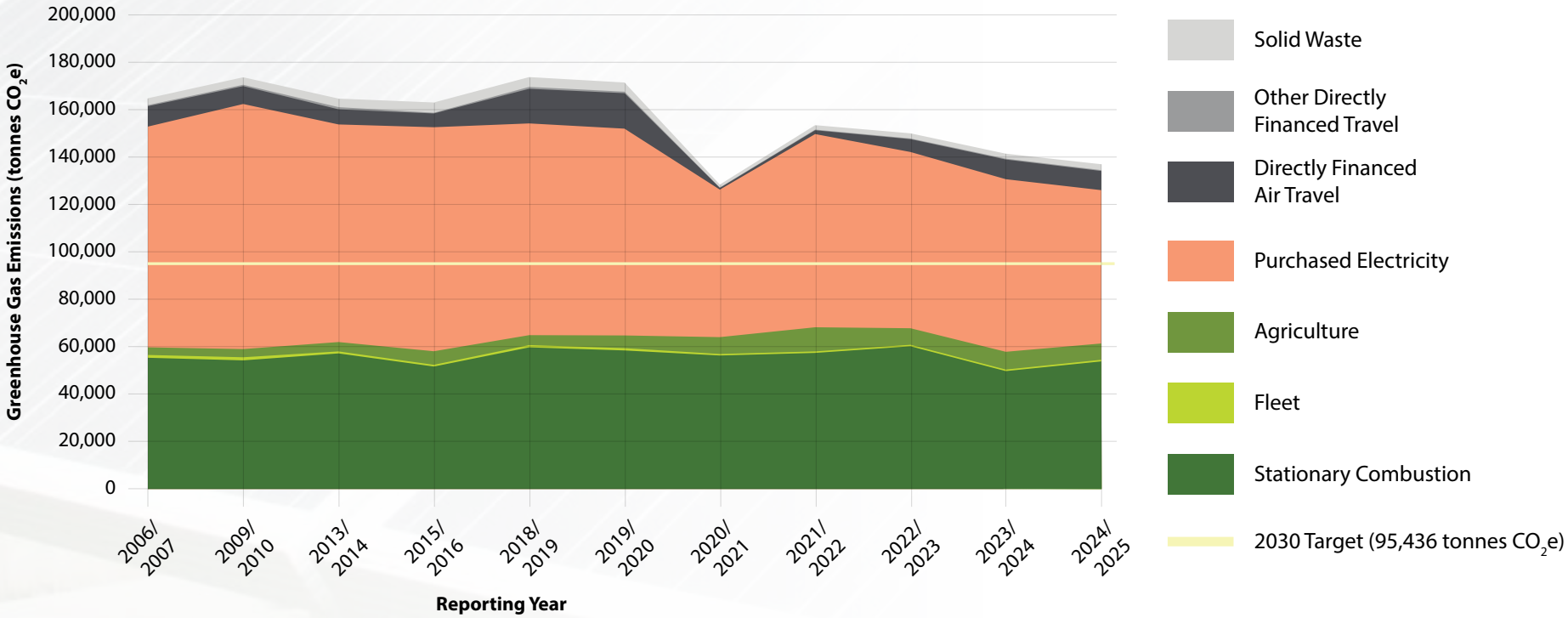
3% Reduction  
from 2023/24

Total 2024/2025 GHG Emissions:  
**136,816**  
MT CO<sub>2</sub>e

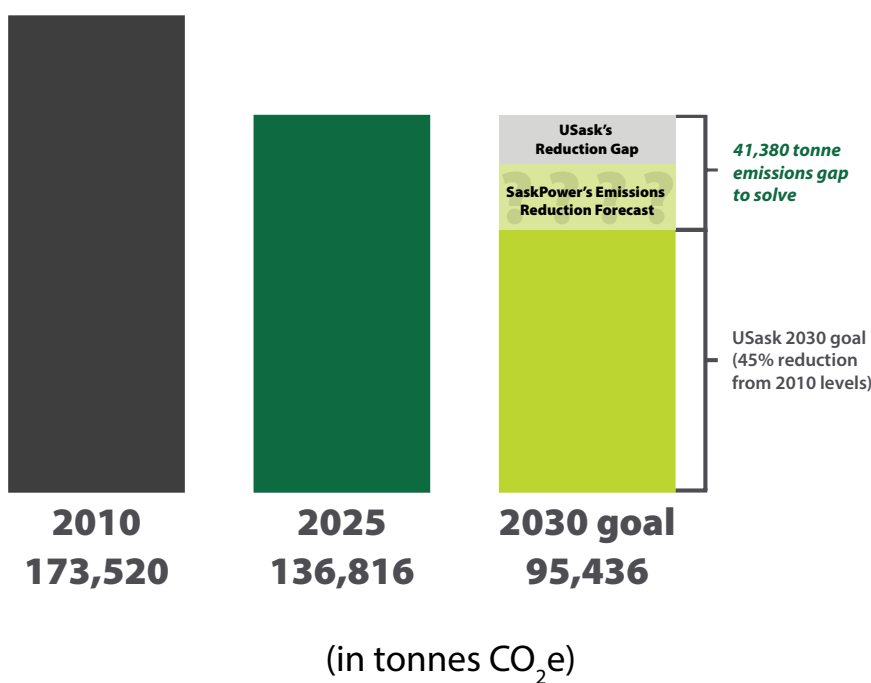
21% Reduction  
from 2010 baseline

	GHG Emissions (MT CO <sub>2</sub> e)	Percentage of Total 24/25 Emissions
Scope 1	61,213	44.7%
Stationary Combustion	53,660	39.2%
Agricultural Operations	6,871	5.0%
Fleet	681	0.5%
Scope 2	64,668	47.3%
Electricity	64,668	47.3%
Scope 3	10,935	8.0%
Directly Financed Air Travel	8,086	5.9%
Solid Waste	2,482	1.8%
Other Directly Financed Travel	368	0.3%

USask GHG Emissions Over Time



USask's GHG Reduction Goals



2030

45% below 2010 levels

2050

Net-Zero