



Office of Sustainability

Building a sustainable future

“The University of Alberta is truly green and gold. Green in terms of our commitment to environmental sustainability and gold in terms of being winners and leaders as we achieve our sustainability goals.”

Indira V Samarasekera, O.C.
President and Vice-Chancellor,
University of Alberta

sustainability.ualberta.ca

Want to get involved in campus sustainability?

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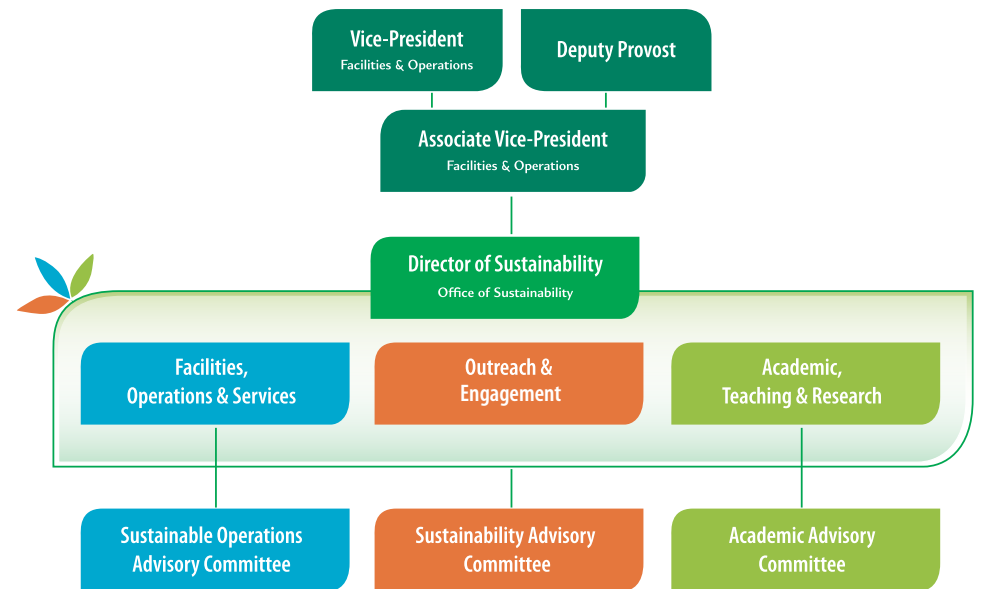
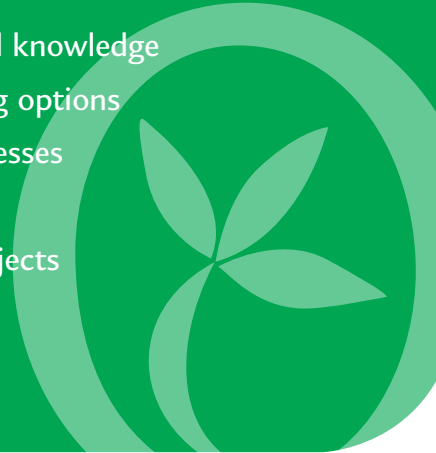
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The Office of Sustainability informs and inspires students, staff and faculty to adopt sustainable practices.

We help you to be more sustainable by:

- Delivering projects that build your sustainability skills and knowledge
- Connecting you to information, experts, tools and funding options
- Profiling and promoting your campus initiatives and successes
- Crafting effective campus and community partnerships
- Co-building action-oriented campaigns and outreach projects for your club or office
- Sharing ways to build sustainability into your studies, teaching and research





The Office of Sustainability focuses its efforts in three areas

Facilities, Operations, and Services

From waste collection to energy management, cleaning, and transportation, the university is continuously seeking more sustainable solutions. Established sustainability practices include: electric and hybrid vehicles, solar-powered compacting garbage cans, energy efficient lighting, composting, and recycling programs.

Outreach and Engagement

We work collaboratively with clubs and organizations across campus to incorporate the principles of sustainability into everyday life. We create and support projects that inform, assist, and mobilize students, staff and faculty to think and act more sustainably.

Academic Teaching and Research

The University of Alberta offers students opportunities to integrate sustainability into their learning, research, and practical experience. Our work seeks to increase students' exposure to emerging knowledge across the many branches of sustainability.



University of Alberta's Sustainability Commitment and Guiding Principles

The University of Alberta is committed to a continuous effort to include sustainability in the many aspects of university life, on our campuses, in our institutions, and in the larger community of which we are part. In alignment with its values, vision and mission, the U of A takes an integrated approach to sustainability that links teaching and learning, research, outreach, and the operations that support them, as it builds one of the great universities for the public good. The university strives to manage all resources in harmony, recognizing the interconnectedness of ecological, social, and economic systems. To this end, the University of Alberta is committed to constant improvement guided by the following principles:

Integration

- Encourage the development of collaborative solutions involving all stakeholders.
- Promote a culture of integrated sustainability through excellence in teaching, learning, innovative research, and community engagement.

Education and Outreach

- Aid students and all other members of the university community in developing the knowledge and tools necessary to become informed future leaders, and global citizens during their experience at the University of Alberta.
- Promote a culture of sustainability at the university by providing opportunities for participation, discovery learning, and transformative experiences.
- Contribute to and participate in the advancement of sustainability in the local and global communities by sharing knowledge, expertise, best practices, and lessons learned.

Research

- Support innovative research and inquiry that improves understanding of challenges to sustainability and lead to real-world solutions and problem-solving.
- Encourage a collaborative approach to research that includes faculty research undertaken in partnership with operation's staff, students, community organizations, industry and any other potential stakeholders.

Improvements in Operations and Practices

- Develop strategies and objectives that conserve resources, decrease the production of waste, minimize ecological footprints, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide practices aimed at sustainable supply chain management.
- Develop processes that support long-term ecological, socially, and fiscally responsible decision-making in activities, operations and practices.

Stewardship

- Protect the natural environment by enhancing local and global ecosystems and biodiversity for both present and future generations.
- Contribute to the protection of the earth's environmental life-supporting systems by minimizing the pollution of air, water, and soil.
- Aim to enhance the global environment through balanced and positive social, economic, and ecological activities.



Sustainability is adding up on campus

1975 the year the U of A started its recycling program

2 years in a row, the U of A has been named one of Canada's Greenest Employers

225+ researchers currently involved in environmental and energy research

6 hybrid vehicles in our carshare program, *Connect by Hertz*

90% of students commute by bike, foot, bus, LRT, or carpool to the U of A

13 500 000 square feet of buildings maintained with our sustainable cleaning program, *Cleaning for a Healthy U*

100% of our future building construction receiving Provincial funding will be designed and certified to a minimum LEED® Silver standard

2008 the year Campus Saint-Jean began to offset the carbon dioxide from its Dean's air travel

17 hybrid vehicles are in the university's fleet

100% of North Campus landscaping waste is composted and mulched

0 trays are used in the Augustana cafeteria, eliminating the use of water and soaps for cleaning

80 campuses including the U of A were recognized as campus sustainability leaders by the Sustainable Endowment Institute

100% of full-time U of A undergraduate students have unlimited access to the Universal Transit Pass program in Edmonton

100% of the computers at Campus Saint-Jean automatically shut down at 10 pm to save energy

20 clubs and programs on campus working on sustainability

10 solar panels are installed at our Augustana Campus, relieving 20-30 per cent of the energy required to heat cafeteria and gymnasium water

95% of the steel and concrete recovered during the renovation of Enterprise Square has been reused in other U of A construction projects