

UN Sustainable Development Goals Report

YORK UNIVERSITY 2021



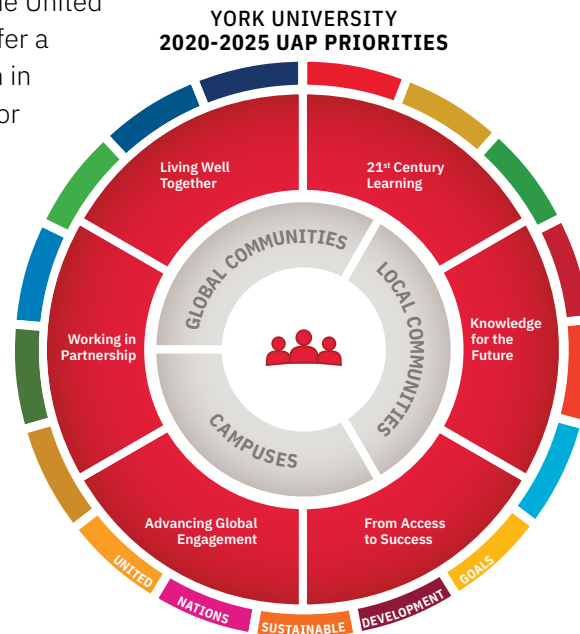
Introduction

In June 2020, York University launched its new University Academic Plan 2020-2025 (UAP) which included a university wide challenge to elevate York’s contributions to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. The new UAP serves as a blueprint for action, positioning York University as an agent of positive change in a world facing a convergence of unprecedented trials from climate change, a global pandemic, racism and xenophobia, poverty and inequality.

The plan expresses York’s commitment to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which offer a framework for UN member countries to take urgent action in 17 areas that are critical to ensure peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

York University’s new [UAP](#) serves as a rallying call for students, faculty and staff to bring their expertise from across disciplines to work together to build new tools, develop strategies and solutions to global challenges.

This report is an inspiring way to monitor and track our SDG progress via research, teaching, stewardship and outreach. Through meaningful stories and metrics, this report illustrates how Canada’s 3rd largest university is driving positive change to [right the future](#).



“We are a community taking action to embed the UN SDGs in our work as we recognize our responsibility to contribute to positive change on a local and global level.”

Lisa Philipps,
Provost & Vice-President
Academic



About the Report:

The source for the UN SDG descriptions is from [The Global Goals](#).

All bibliometric indicators are based on publications data from SciVal/Elsevier for the 2018-2020 timeframe. Elsevier SDG mapping methodology details can be located <https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/9sxdykm8s4>. Information about the individual indicators cited can be located at <https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scival/features>.

For any metrics relating to academic programs related or relevant to specific SDGs, they cover any Undergraduate Degree, Undergraduate Certificate, Graduate Degree and Graduate Diploma Programs within and outside the classroom.

Facts and Figures

THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2021

Top 6%
of universities worldwide
for **3** years in a row

67
out of
1,240
universities
from **98** countries
in 2021

3rd in Canada
27th in the world
out of **1,240** universities
from **98** countries

5th in Canada
24th in the world
out of **656** universities
from **85** countries



5th
in Canada



3rd
in Canada



4th
in Canada



6th
in Canada




\$4.4B
contributions to
Ontario economy


2049
net zero
carbon emissions


Canada's top 100
Greenest employers for
9 consecutive years


10,839+
students are first
in their family
to attend university


35,986
scholarships
awarded for a total of
\$74,903,183


300+
global partnerships in
60+ countries



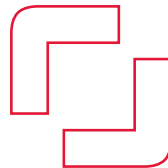
End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

SDG 1: No Poverty

Eradicating poverty is not a task of charity, it's an act of justice and the key to unlocking an enormous human potential. Still, nearly half of the world's population lives in poverty, and lack of food and clean water is killing thousands every single day of the year. Together, we can feed the hungry, wipe out disease and give everyone in the world a chance to prosper and live a productive and rich life.

UNECE ESTABLISHES TORONTO CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

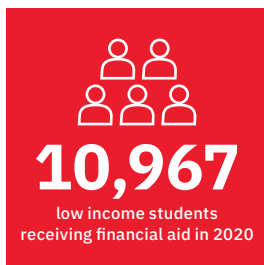
Ending poverty and homelessness is one of the most important challenges we face. York's poverty and homelessness scholars are tackling this challenge through a bold and innovative new global initiative. The Toronto Centre of Excellence on Youth Homelessness Prevention is the first Geneva UN Charter Centre of Excellence in North America (UNECE). Co-directed by Stephen Gaetz, a professor at York's Faculty of Education and president of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, and Melanie Redman, president and CEO of A Way Home Canada, the work has the potential to be transformational. Learn more [here](#).



Stephen Gaetz



Delegates at the UNECE announcement event July 2021. Pictured above, from left, top row: Rhonda L. Lenton, president and vice-chancellor of York University; Paola Deda, UNECE; Melanie Redman, A Way Home Canada; and Judy Sgro, MPP Humber River-Black Creek. From left, bottom row: Stephen Gaetz, president of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness; Amir Asif, vice-president research and innovation, York University; Adam Vaughan, MP Spadina-Fort York and parliamentary secretary to the minister of families, children and social development





CONNECTIONS BETWEEN POVERTY AND HEALTH IN CANADA

Examining the impact of poverty in Canada, Dennis Raphael, a professor in York University’s School of Health Policy and Management, recently launched a new edition of *Poverty in Canada: Implications for Health and Quality of Life*. His text looks at the impact poverty has on the health of individuals, communities and society as a whole, and why specific groups are most affected, including Indigenous people, people of colour and recent immigrants. Raphael’s work looks at how we define and measure poverty, the situational and societal causes of poverty, the means of reducing poverty’s incidence and responding to its effect. Learn more [here](#).



CIFAL YORK HOSTS WEBINAR ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOMELESSNESS

Examining the global challenge of homelessness through the lens of the Sustainable Development Agenda, York hosted a webinar in partnership with CIFAL Durban and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). “Social Development and Homelessness on a Global Level SDG 11: Human Settlements, Resilient, Safe and Inclusive Cities” was the first webinar in a series exploring homelessness as a global phenomenon that is prevalent in many cities. Looking at the programs directed at homelessness in Durban, the webinar creates opportunities for sharing information and experiences around homelessness and encourages stakeholders to take formal steps to take action. Learn more [here](#).



VIRTUAL POVERTY SIMULATOR TOOL



With 1 in 10 Canadians living in poverty, York staff and faculty launched a new campaign to encourage community members to challenge their perspective on poverty. The virtual poverty simulator tool, [MaketheMonth.ca](#), is designed to raise awareness about the issues related to poverty in our communities, such as housing, mental health, food security, child poverty and employment. The tool challenges participants to make the month on a limited budget, offering a glimpse into the decisions that people living with limited resources face. The poverty simulator was launched alongside York’s campaign to raise \$150,000 for the United Way. Learn more [here](#)



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Hunger is the leading cause of death in the world. Our planet has provided us with tremendous resources, but unequal access and inefficient handling leaves millions of people malnourished. If we promote sustainable agriculture with modern technologies and fair distribution systems, we can sustain the whole world's population and make sure that nobody will ever suffer from hunger again.

VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY CONNECTS STUDENTS TO THE FRONT LINES OF FOOD PRODUCTION

Food security is a challenge faced by millions of Canadians and many millions more around the world. York's Sarah Rotz, an assistant professor at the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (EUC), is using virtual technology to help students in her Land and Food Politics course connect with people on the front lines of food production. Through these interactions and the diverse perspectives it exposes them to, they are gaining a deeper understanding of the complexities of land and food. Learn more [here](#).



Sarah Rotz

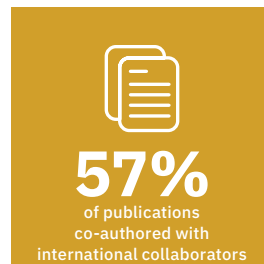
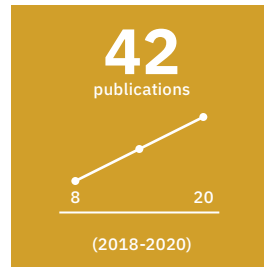
FOOD BANKS PARTNERING WITH CORPORATIONS MAY BE PERPETUATING FOOD INSECURITY

Food banks partnering with Walmart to reduce hunger in Canada are actually at risk of perpetuating household food insecurity, according to a study led by York University. The study, "Take the money and run: how food banks became complicit with Walmart Canada's hunger producing employment practices," indicates that food banks and food diversion do not address the fundamental drivers of household food insecurity. These partnerships obscure the role Walmart and other corporations play in creating food insecurity through employment practices. The study was authored by student Zsofia Mendly-Zambo, Professor Dennis Raphael and Alan Taman of Birmingham City University. Learn more [here](#).



YSPACE ANNOUNCES NEW COHORT OF FOOD VENTURES PARTICIPATING IN FOOD ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

Canadian food businesses are getting a boost through York University’s innovation hub, YSpace, which welcomed 12 participating companies in the third cohort of the Food Accelerator program. A first-of-its-kind initiative in the GTA, the Food Accelerator supports promising food and beverage consumer-packaged goods ventures as they build their strategy, grow their network and scale their business. Launched in partnership with the Regional Municipality of York Region and the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative, the five-month Food Accelerator program helps scale high growth food and beverage ventures through customized workshops, expert mentorship and peer-to-peer circles. For more information click [here](#).



GRAD STUDENT CO-FOUNDS GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Recognizing that food security is an issue impacting individuals disproportionately affected by the pandemic, Jade Crimson Rose Da Costa took action. Da Costa, a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at York, co-founded The People’s Pantry to support QTBIPOC folks, newcomers, sex workers and the precariously housed by providing them with free grocery care packages and home-cooked meals. The People’s Pantry team grew to include more than 500 volunteers, including some York University graduate and undergraduate students. Using GoFundMe, they raised more than \$64,000 through community donations and partnerships with United Way and FoodShare Toronto. Learn more [here](#).



People’s Pantry co-founder Jade Crimson Rose Da Costa



Maloca Garden – York University’s community garden on Keele campus established in 1999



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Over the last 15 years, the number of childhood deaths has been cut in half. This proves that it is possible to win the fight against almost every disease. Still, we are spending an astonishing amount of money and resources on treating illnesses that are surprisingly easy to prevent. Goal 3 promotes healthy lifestyles, preventive measures and modern, efficient healthcare for everyone.

DAHDALEH INSTITUTE OF GLOBAL HEALTH LEADING THE WAY

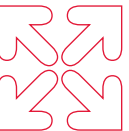
York University is leading and inspiring innovation in global health by empowering our world-renowned researchers like Professor Rebecca Pillai Riddell. That's why the Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research supports research, teaching, and partnerships that work to make the world healthier, more sustainable, and fairer for everyone - it's research in action. That's what York is all about, and we're proud of the people who make it possible. Learn more [here](#).



Rebecca
Pillai Riddell

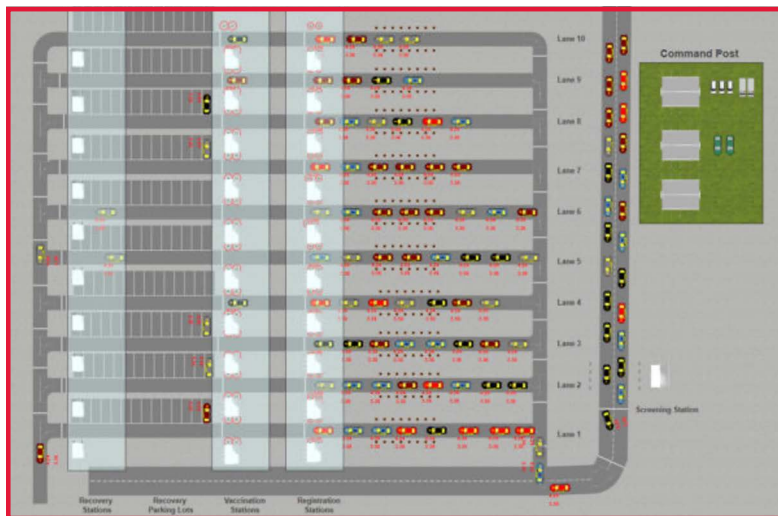
YORK'S UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

As a leading institution in health and health governance, disaster and emergency management and disease modelling, York University is well-positioned to contribute to our collective understanding of the social, economic, environmental and health impacts of the pandemic. One York project chronicles the exceptional work our researchers are undertaking to aid in the fight against COVID-19. This resource, with more than 140 pages, contains interviews and peer-reviewed scholarly publications and is updated weekly on the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation (VPRI) website. Professor Jianhong Wu chaired the National COVID-19 Modeling Task Force advising public health officials on the transmission risk of COVID-19 and the trajectory of potential future outbreaks. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) provided a 1.2 million CAD grant for Professor Jude Kong's AI-powered Predictive modeling and forecasting of the transmission of COVID-19 in Africa project. Learn more [here](#).



YORK RESEARCHERS CREATE AI SIMULATION TO HELP WITH LOGISTICS OF MASS VACCINATIONS FOR COVID-19

With a focus on community health and helping Canada through the pandemic, York researchers developed a new tool to help clinics and public health agencies plan for mass vaccinations. The drive-through simulation app and its artificial intelligence version were developed in November 2020, prior to vaccine distribution. The tool can be used to determine how to best immunize large numbers of people against COVID-19, rapidly and safely. When it comes to drive-through vaccinations, the app can support enhanced planning, design, operation, feasibility and effectiveness assessments. The research team was led by Professor Ali Asgary in collaboration with Professor Jianhong Wu. Learn more [here](#).



An example of the drive-through vaccine simulation app showing how 10 lanes could be configured


YORK UNIVERSITY AND CAMH LAUNCH CANADIAN GUIDE ON MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY FOR AUTISM

With pandemic stressors impacting us all, there has never been a more important time to amplify mental health resources for individuals with Autism. York University researchers, in collaboration with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), launched a first-of-its-kind mental health literacy guide to address the knowledge gap in supporting autistic adults. The guide looks at how to identify mental health problems and solutions for this community, and seeks to dispel misconceptions. It is free for anybody to access online, and combines input from research and first-person accounts of autism in Canada. York's Dr. Jonathan Weiss led this project. Learn more [here](#).



YORK PROFESSOR LEADS UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH ROADMAP FOR COVID-19 RECOVERY

COVID-19 has had a crushing socio-economic impact, especially for marginalized populations and people with complex needs who have experienced the brunt of the virus. To build back better post-COVID-19 and make sure no one is left behind, York University Professor Steven Hoffman has been chosen to lead a United Nations effort to develop a research roadmap for the post-pandemic recovery period. Learn more [here](#)



97%
students fully vaccinated.
(Oct 27)



50+
Programs relevant
or related to SDG 3



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SDG 4: Quality Education

Education liberates the intellect, unlocks the imagination and is fundamental for self-respect. It is the key to prosperity and opens a world of opportunities, making it possible for each of us to contribute to a progressive, healthy society. Goal 4 is about ensuring access for all along all educational levels and ensuring relevant skills for sustainable development and financial success.

AWARD WINNING CAPSTONE CLASSROOM INCORPORATES UN SDGS

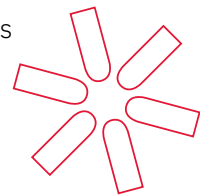
Experiential learning is one the most effective approaches that helps students transition from an academic setting to the workplace. In 2020, York launched C4: The Cross-Campus Capstone Classroom, an innovative program open to all York students entering the last part of their degree. Under the leadership of Danielle Robinson, C4 provides students with an opportunity to work on interdisciplinary teams focusing on real-world challenges. In the process, students develop and hone meaningful skills that set them apart in the job market and align with the UN SDGs. Learn more [here](#).



Danielle Robinson

GLOBALLY NETWORKED LEARNING SHINES DURING PANDEMIC

Through the pandemic, the Globally Networked Learning project at York has continued to build on the success of its pilot. Globally networked learning is an approach to teaching and learning that enables students and faculty in different locations worldwide to participate in and collaborate on knowledge-making processes. With classes being delivered remotely during the pandemic, Globally Networked Learning projects also let students learn to collaborate via online platforms, similar to the way a team would work in an international company. Students and faculty engage in joint lectures and class discussions, assignments or research projects through innovative pedagogies. Learn more [here](#).



110
publications



37 40
(2018-2020)



30+

Programs relevant
or related to SDG 4

BRINGING STEM TO LIFE IN SCIENCE CLASSROOMS

York is building opportunities for educators and students with a new program aiming to encourage high school students to choose careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The Lassonde School of Engineering's Kindergarten to Industry (K2I) Academy brought together York University's engineers and scientists with community organizations and K-12 educators to offer training in solving sustainable development issues. The K2I Academy will enable more than 375 teachers to bring STEM education and experiences to more than 11,000 Grade 9 and 10 students over the next three years. Learn more [here](#).



UNESCO CHAIR CHARLES HOPKINS RECOGNIZED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

York University's Charles Hopkins was the recipient of the Clean50 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award for his work on a global scale to reorient education towards sustainable development. One of only five sustainability heroes to receive this prestigious award, Hopkins was recognized for decades of dedicated engagement in reorienting education systems toward sustainable development. He has fostered cross-sector thinking that has connected academia with business, industry, the arts and the general public. Hopkins is the UNESCO Chair and also the Co-Chair for the Knowledge Working Group for the President's Sustainability Council at York. Learn more [here](#).



Charles Hopkins

38
Canada Research Chairs

Top
2%
of researchers in the world
(Elsevier 2020)

115
UN SDG related projects
in the
Project Commons

27%
of alumni more civically active
because they attended York U

UNESCO Chair
the world's first and longest
serving in Education for
Sustainable development
(SDG 4.7)



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

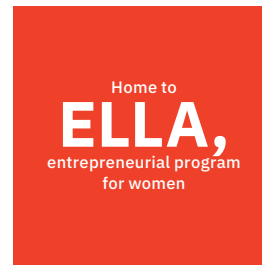
Gender bias is undermining our social fabric and devalues all of us. It is not just a human rights issue; it is a tremendous waste of the world's human potential. By denying women equal rights, we deny half the population a chance to live life at its fullest. Goal 5 is about ensuring the political, economic and social equality for women, and eradicating prejudice in all forms.

COLLABORATION IN ISOLATION: WOMEN FILMMAKERS AROUND THE WORLD TEAM UP

Female-driven filmmaking is on the rise, and York University is playing a key role through a unique film inspired by and made possible due to the pandemic lockdown. The project, an 83-minute feature film entitled ONE (NINE), was the result of a collaboration between nine female filmmakers around the world, all working together virtually. Led by filmmaker Ingrid Veninger, assistant professor in the Department of Cinema and Media Arts in the School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design, and with no predetermined sequence or imposed narrative, the uncertain nature of the film was fitting for uncertain times. Learn more [here](#).



Ingrid Veninger



GENDER AND EQUITY IN SPORT

Three York University projects were selected to receive funding from E-Alliance, a central resource hub supporting research on advancing gender and equity in sport. The projects selected include one that examines how members of the Tamil diaspora in the GTA became sport leaders within their community. Another looks at the inequities in Canadian High-Performance Sport Coaching and why women, across all levels of sport, are consistently less likely to continue as athletes, coaches, officials and board members. The third looks at using trauma- and violence-informed sport for development to support women and girls who experience gender-based violence in Moss Park, Toronto. Learn more [here](#).

BOOK ON FEMINIST RESEARCH

Furthering the call from the Sustainable Development Goals to support gender equity, York’s Centre for Feminist Research brought leaders and students together for the virtual launch of *Social Reproduction and the City: Welfare Reform, Child Care, and Resistance in Neoliberal New York* by Simon Black. The book tells the story of the transformation of child care after welfare reform in New York and links welfare reform to feminist research and activism around the “crisis of care,” social reproduction and the neoliberal city. The launch featured an introduction by Meg Luxton, professor in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies at York University. Learn more [here](#).



Young Indigenous Women’s Utopia

YOUNG INDIGENOUS WOMEN LEADERS IN DECOLONIZING RESEARCH

York University’s Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change welcomed youth leaders from the Young Indigenous Women’s Utopia project. Three youth leaders travelled from Treaty 6 and the traditional homelands of the Métis to share their knowledge and stories about resurgence, youth activism and decolonizing research. The youth facilitated workshops with students to share their work and approach to Indigenizing research. One workshop included making and wearing red ribbon skirts to celebrate and acknowledge survival, resilience and resistance to colonial and gender-based violence. In another workshop, the group shared their award-winning “cellfilm” that imagines a world free of violence. Learn more [here](#).





Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

One in three people live without sanitation. This is causing unnecessary disease and death. Although huge strides have been made with access to clean drinking water, lack of sanitation is undermining these advances. Goal 6 is about providing affordable equipment, management, and education in hygiene practices, to stop this senseless suffering and loss of life.

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS FOR CLEANER DRINKING WATER

York University believes one important outcome of scientific research is demonstrated when knowledge moves beyond the lab to the wider world, where it is used to tackle pressing problems like access to safe, clean drinking water.

In the lab led by Professor Satinder Kaur Brar, York researcher Pratik Kumar saw the enormous potential in a common substance – sand – to deliver a solution with global impact. Kumar’s household device cuts the level of toxins in drinking water drastically. Today, while continuing his research, he is also working to install these devices across India and around the world. Learn more [here](#).



Satinder
Kaur Brar

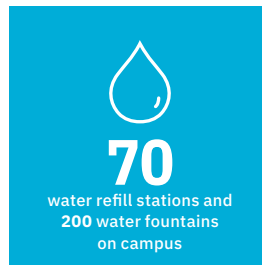
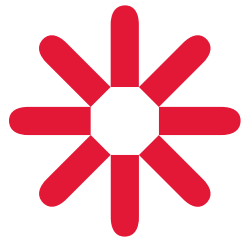
FELLOW FROM DAHDALEH INSTITUTE FEATURED ON THE GLOBE AND MAIL FOR SAFE WATER OPTIMIZATION TOOL

Syed Imran Ali, Dahdaleh Institute Research Fellow, was featured by the Globe and Mail for his work on the Safe Water Optimization Tool. The story captures his journey in developing the tool, from experiencing refugee camps in South Sudan to working with the team at the Dahdaleh Institute to forming a partnership with Médecins sans frontières (MSF). Recognizing that refugees were storing water in unsanitary conditions, his tool allows aid workers to test the water in people’s shelters to ensure it is safe. Ali’s work was highlighted as part of the Stepping Up series, introducing Canadians to new leaders. To find out more click [here](#).



INDIGENOUS WISDOM APPLIED TO SUSTAINABLE WATER GOVERNANCE

Applying Indigenous research methods and knowledge from Elders, language speakers and Indigenous women, one York student had her work published in the esteemed journal, *Water* (2020). The article, “An Indigenous Research Methodology That Employs Anishinaabek Elders, Language Speakers and Women’s Knowledge for Sustainable Water Governance,” was written by PhD student in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, Susan Chiblow (also known as Ogamauh Annag Qwe). Having worked extensively with First Nation communities for the last 20 years, Chiblow’s research incorporates Indigenous worldviews, examines humanity’s relationship to water and efforts on improvement for humans, animals and the waters themselves. Learn more [here](#).



SAPNA SHARMA – PROVOSTIAL FELLOW “WORKING TOWARDS EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER”

This year, four faculty members were appointed as York University Provostial Fellows. Appointed for one year, each of the recipients will work to enhance collegial capacity at an institutional level to advance the priorities of the University Academic Plan (UAP). The Provostial Fellowships also provide an opportunity for a diverse group of tenured faculty to gain hands-on experience in university leadership. Fellows will work with the provost and relevant members of the senior leadership on a project or initiative intended to advance one of the UAP priority areas. Appointees include professors Burkard Eberlein, Sapna Sharma, Cheryl van Daalen-Smith and Qiang Zha. Learn more [here](#).





Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Renewable energy solutions are becoming cheaper, more reliable and more efficient every day. Our current reliance on fossil fuels is unsustainable and harmful to the planet, which is why we have to change the way we produce and consume energy. Goal 7 is about implementing these new energy solutions as fast as possible to counter climate change, one of the biggest threats to our own survival.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE ADDRESSES CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING

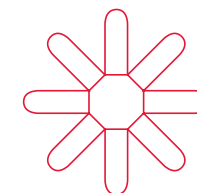
At York University, energy policy is an important part of the relationship between environmental sustainability and economic prosperity. York is home to internationally renowned environment and sustainability scholars, like Mark Winfield, Professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, Co-Chair of the Faculty's Sustainable Energy Initiative, and Coordinator of the Joint Master of Environmental Studies/Juris Doctor program offered in conjunction with Osgoode Hall Law School. Winfield and his team are leading research in areas like sustainable energy policy development, addressing the increase in populist challenges to climate change, and community energy planning. Learn more [here](#).



Mark Winfield

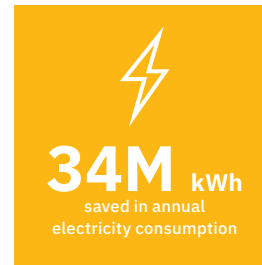
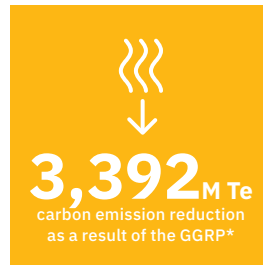
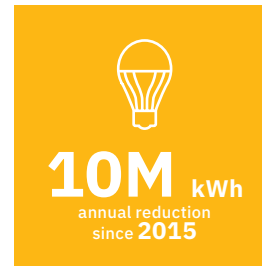
COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECT

Two York researchers are looking at sustainable energy issues through a community justice lens. PhD Candidate Susan Morrissey Wyse and Professor Christina E. Hoicka published their work that considers Local Energy Plans from a community perspective, emphasizing participation of local community members through ownership and control of energy. This is referred to as Community Energy. The two determined that Local Energy Plans represent a promising avenue for pursuing Community Energy objectives. These objectives can be achieved by emphasizing the three components of Community Energy – community participation, capacity and ownership – throughout processes and actions in local energy plans. Learn more [here](#).



AMPD'S FINE ARTS PERFORMANCE FACILITIES TEAM INSTALLS NEW LED FIXTURES TO REDUCE OUR ENERGY FOOTPRINT

Students returning from the pandemic to York's School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design were welcomed by a warm vibe with new house lighting in performance facilities. The shift to LED theatrical lights in the two main venues, the Sandra Faire & Ivan Fecan Theatre and the Tribute Communities Recital Hall, is saving a significant amount of energy. In total, the Performance Facilities technical team replaced 84 tungsten lights with LED fixtures, going from a total wattage of 86,415 to 9,380, a reduction of more than 90 per cent. The LED fixtures drastically improved lighting for events and shows.



INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY ACADEMY -

The International Renewable Energy Academy (IREA) was created to meet the growing need for a new generation of leaders focused on the principles of achieving 100 per cent renewable energy.

Community focus, experiential learning and constant innovation are at the heart of IREA's work. The IREA partnered with local communities, such as Oxford County (Ontario's first community committed to achieving 100 per cent renewable energy) and others abroad, including Costa Rica's Earth Charter Secretariat and Chile's leading renewable energy high school. The academy also offers climate solutions courses, which in 2021, included Principles of Renewable Energy, Introduction to UNSDGs and Earth Charter. Learn more [here](#).



*Green House Gas Reduction Projects



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Economic growth should be a positive force for the whole planet. This is why we must make sure that financial progress creates decent and fulfilling jobs while not harming the environment. Goal 8 is about protecting labour rights and once and for all put a stop to modern slavery and child labour, promoting job creation with expanded access to banking and financial services, to ensure all have access to the benefits of entrepreneurship and innovation.

YSPACE HELPS BUSINESSES SURVIVE DURING PANDEMIC

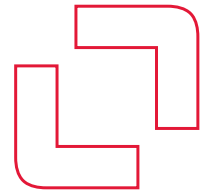
York University is committed to supporting the development of future leaders focused on building a more inclusive economy. YSpace, York's entrepreneurship hub offers programs and services that help business people at every stage of development: ideation, validation, launch, and growth. Driven by the passion that David Kwok brings to every project, YSpace makes connections between people by offering mentoring, workshops, and programs to help participants equip their businesses – no matter what stage of development they're at – to thrive. Learn more [here](#).



Nafis Ahmed
and
David Kwok
(left to right)

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN EMERGING ECONOMIES

The innovative performance of restructured state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in China's high-speed train sector is the focus of new research led by Justin Tan, the Newmont Chair in Business Strategy at York University's Schulich School of Business. His work, reported in the Journal of International Business Studies, builds on institutional theory and distinguishes state governance via equity ownership and administrative affiliation in an emerging economy with market-hierarchy institutional conflicts. The research was based on a comprehensive proprietary panel data of high-speed train manufacturers in China between 1989 and 2015. This study contributes to the institution-based theory of technological innovation in emerging economies. Learn more [here](#).

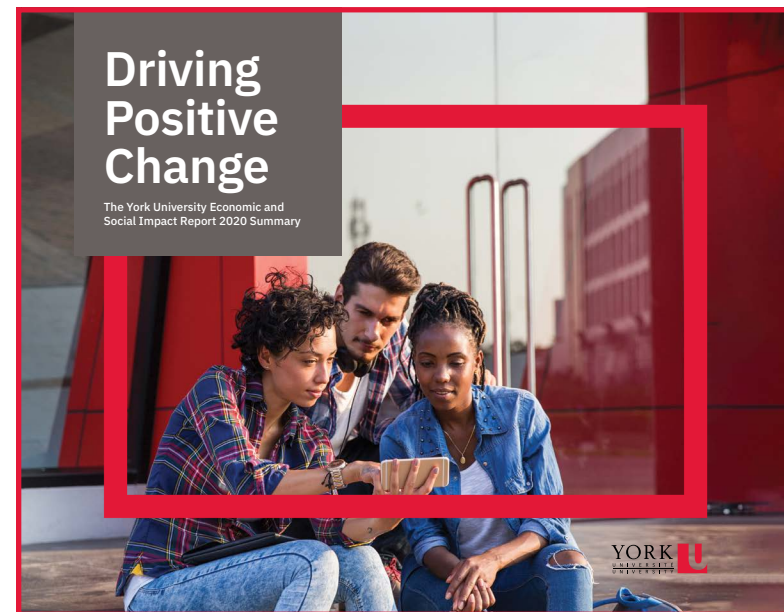
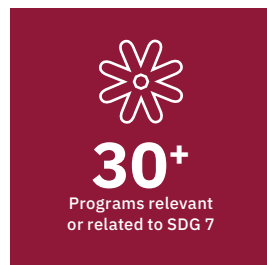
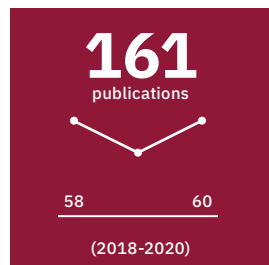
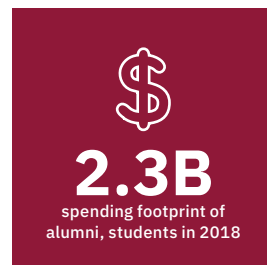


EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT GAP

York was among seven universities and 16 cross-sectoral partner organizations to join the collaborative research initiative, Closing the Employment Standards Enforcement Gap: Improving Employment Standards Protections for People in Precarious Jobs. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the five-year project seeks to inform effective employment standards enforcement in Ontario. In 2021, the initiative released research examining how COVID-19 exposed how poorly workers in Canada are protected. Gaps in sickness and caregiving leaves are particularly problematic in a pandemic where staying home when sick or caring for others can help stop the spread of a highly contagious virus. To find out more, click [here](#).

YORK U RELEASES SUMMARY OF ITS NEW ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT

A new report shows that York University contributes \$4.4 billion to Ontario's economy. Driving Positive Change: The York University Economic and Social Impact Report 2020 Summary profiles the University's economic, fiscal and social impact in the GTHA, Ontario and beyond. It documents the magnitude of the University's economic impact on the region, province and nation through access to education, employment, innovative research and as a global gateway. It also demonstrates how the University serves as a ladder of opportunity for students, an engine for social progress, and a driver of economic growth for Ontario and Canada. Learn more [here](#).



The cover of Driving Positive Change: The York University Economic and Social Impact Report Summary



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

A functioning and resilient infrastructure is the foundation of every successful community. To meet future challenges, our industries and infrastructure must be upgraded. Goal 9 ensures the promotion of innovative sustainable technologies and ensures equal and universal access to information and financial markets, bringing prosperity, creating jobs and making sure that we build stable and prosperous societies across the globe.

AWARD-WINNING NEW BUILDING EMBODIES EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

To find proof of York University's commitment to sustainability, look no further than the front door of our Keele campus and the Rob and Cheryl McEwen Graduate Study & Research Building, which opened in 2019 and is a part of the Schulich School of Business. "As a Certified LEED Gold Building, the McEwan building embodies the commitment of the Schulich School of Business to be a recognized international leader in environmental sustainability in all its endeavours," said James McKellar, associate dean of external relations and professor of real estate and infrastructure. This LEED-certified building is a showcase of architectural and design innovation, including a dramatic glass solar chimney that provides passive natural ventilation for the entire facility, an active slab radiant heating and cooling system, and more than 200 automated, computer-controlled Low E windows. To find out more, click [here](#).

James McKellar



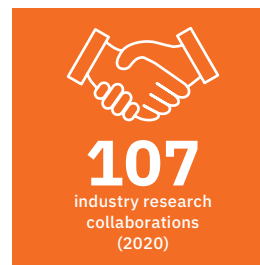
CFI AWARDS MORE THAN \$1.5M IN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

York University researchers received more than \$1.5 million in funding from the Government of Canada in support of research infrastructure projects that will make positive change for local and global communities. Among the innovative projects to receive funding is one to develop extended reality applications for public safety, public health and disaster-and-emergency management training. Another investigates emerging technologies for people with dementia, looking at the needs of older adults to be able to use technology without having to adjust settings, change versions or use hacks. The funding comes from the Canada Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) program. Learn more [here](#).



NSERC CREATE GRANTS TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR CANADA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

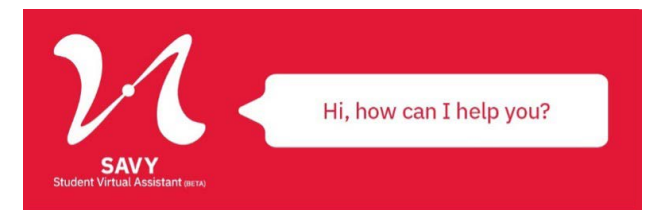
York University was awarded more than \$3.2 million for two projects to prepare students for careers in industries that require interdisciplinary training and are central to Canada's economic future: space robotics for exploration and applied biotechnology for environmental sustainability. Smart Autonomous Robotic Technology for Space Exploration (SMART-ART) will work to address a shortage of professionals, an aging workforce and gender inequality in the field. Training in Applied Biotechnology for Environmental Sustainability (TABES) will look at waste management and transforming waste into high-value bioproducts. Funding for this work was received through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council's Collaborative Research and Training Experience program (CREATE). To find out more click [here](#).



SAVY VIRTUAL ASSISTANT WINS PRESTIGIOUS INNOVATION AWARD

Recognizing innovation at York, the University's virtual assistant, SAVY, won the 2020 Canadian University Council of Chief Information Officers (CUCCIO) Innovation Award. A bilingual software-based agent that leverages artificial intelligence, SAVY provides students with 24/7/365 access to information via mobile phone and online. A testament to the creativity, passion and perseverance of individuals at York and in UIT, the award recognizes innovative information technology projects or initiatives that have significantly advanced teaching, learning, research, or administration within an institution or in the community. SAVY continues to grow with plans to allow subject matter experts from York to contribute information. Learn more [here](#).

With SAVY, students can get 24/7/365 general information via mobile phone and online. It serves as students' first point of contact, designed to provide relevant, targeted information without the need for searching





Reduce inequality within and among countries.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Too much of the world’s wealth is held by a very small group of people. This often leads to financial and social discrimination. In order for nations to flourish, equality and prosperity must be available to everyone - regardless of gender, race, religious beliefs or economic status. Goal 10 is all about addressing income inequality, social, economic, and political inclusion, and creating policies that promote equality.

YORK INTRODUCES NEW COUNCIL TO DELIVER ON COMMITMENT TO EQUALTY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION

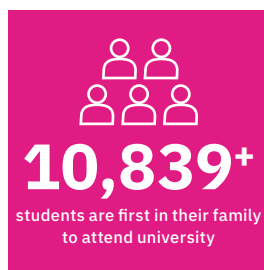
York is building a learning environment where our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is a part of everything we do. To that end, we founded the President’s Advisory Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in November 2020, chaired by Sheila Cote-Meek, vice-president equity, people and culture. It’s also why Professor Susan D. Dion was appointed as the first associate vice-president Indigenous initiatives. There is still much more work to do, and we are rising to the challenge as a university community where all voices are valued and respected. Learn more [here](#).



Sheila Cote-Meek

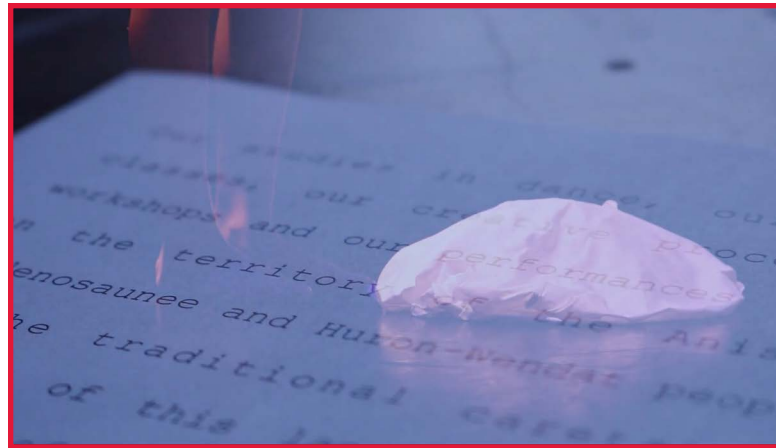
YORK’S NEW ANTI-BLACK RACISM: A FRAMEWORK ON BLACK INCLUSION

Recognizing that anti-Black racism exists and ending it is our responsibility, York University released a framework and action plan to guide the University’s approach to combatting anti-Black racism, on and off campuses. Addressing Anti-Black Racism: A Framework on Black Inclusion and the Draft Action Plan on Black Inclusion – For Further Consultation include a series of action-oriented commitments to address anti-Black racism. Kairi Williams, associate director, Alumni Events, Division of Advancement and a member of the President’s Advisory Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) says the documents are required in order to achieve the goals in the university academic plan. Learn more [here](#).



INDIGENOUS STUDENT AMY HULL HEALS TRAUMA WITH DANCE AND RE-WRITES AND RECORDS NEW LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR YORK

The Indigenous land recognition used by the Dance Department got a powerful update by Mi'kmaw and Inuk dancer and choreographer Amy Hull, currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Dance. As an undergraduate student, Hull was asked to update the land acknowledgement with language that speaks truer to the realities of arts-making on lands that have a rich history of storytelling before colonization. The recording she made continues to be used before dance performances at York. Hull is also recognised for her piece, Old Habits, inspired by her experiences growing up in a western culture, removed from her Indigenous heritage. Learn more [here](#).



Video: A New Pre-Show Land Acknowledgement for York U Dance – AMPD Transforming Tomorrow



FUNDING HEALTH CARE IN RICHER COMMUNITIES

Examining inequalities in funding health care, a new study published in the Journal of Business Ethics found corporate charitable foundations tend to direct health care funding to richer communities rather than to regions with the greatest needs. The study, “Putting the ‘Love of Humanity’ Back in Corporate Philanthropy: The Case of Health Grants by Corporate Foundations,” was co-authored by Irene Henriques, of the Schulich School of Business. Research findings showed U.S. corporate health grants are less likely to reach communities with a lower proportion of medical service providers and insured citizens. As a result, corporate philanthropy tends to exacerbate health inequality. Learn more [here](#).





Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

The world's population is constantly increasing. To accommodate everyone, we need to build modern, sustainable cities. Goal 11 is about using new, intelligent urban planning to create safe, affordable and resilient cities with green and culturally inspiring living conditions.

YORK'S CITY INSTITUTE PROVIDES NEW KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES IN THE URBAN ARENA

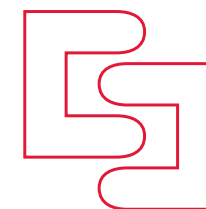
York University is a centre of thought and action on how we build more sustainable and inclusive cities and communities. One of our leaders in that field is Professor Linda Peake, an award-winning scholar on the intersection of race and gender and the influence they play in human geography and beyond. Her work as director of City Institute influences how we build, develop, and redevelop our communities in the 21st century. Learn more [here](#).



Linda Peake

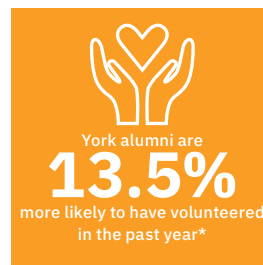
ENGINEERING TEAM ADDRESSES URBAN PLANNING AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Climate change and urbanization is increasing the frequency and intensity of floods in cities. Three researchers at the Lassonde School of Engineering sought to address these big issues, illustrating how York University has the expertise to build new tools and strategies to tackle the historic crises we are facing. Their work, which focused on three Canadian cities, determined that Low Impact Development (LID), a technique that reduces stormwater runoff to manage urban flooding, is one way to solve this mounting, global threat. Professor Usman Khan led this new research in collaboration with Professor Mojgan Jadidi and grad student Sarah Kaykhosravi. Learn more [here](#).



STUDY FINDS BUSINESSES IN CITIES WITH SEVERE AIR POLLUTION MORE LIKELY TO INFLATE BOTTOM LINE

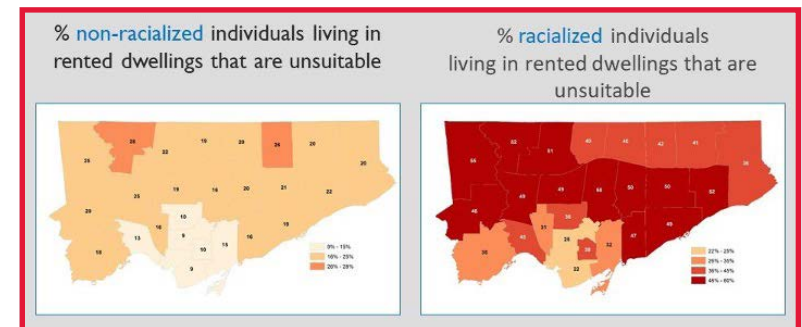
A new study co-authored by Professor Charles H. Cho has found that businesses located in cities with severe air pollution are more likely to alter their books. The study, “Contaminated Heart: Does Air Pollution Harm Business Ethics?” showed that companies operating in cities with elevated levels of air pollution exhibit a greater likelihood of restating their financial statements and manipulating earnings to inflate their bottom line. Recognizing that air pollution is one of the greatest challenges faced by business and society, Cho’s work analyzes how environmental degradation carries with it ethical, economic and social costs. Learn more [here](#).



*in comparison to other university graduates in the Greater Toronto Area

RESEARCH ON THE TORONTO HOUSING CRISIS

New research reveals the racial, social and geographic divides of Toronto’s housing crisis, with racialized communities, newcomers and refugees hardest hit. The report presents a unique visual portrait of rental housing disparities in Toronto. The first-of-its-kind, the study uses individual census data records to take a deep dive into the multifaceted housing challenges faced by Toronto renters. Presented through more than 50 maps and figures, the data reveal patterned spaces and places of exclusion at the intersections of race and immigrant status. The report was jointly authored by community and academic researchers, including Associate Professor Luann Good Gingrich. Learn more [here](#).





Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Our planet has provided us with an abundance of natural resources. But we have not utilized them responsibly and currently consume far beyond what our planet can provide. Goal 12 is about sustainably managing natural resources, reducing and managing waste better, and promoting sustainable lifestyles and company practices.

YORK LAUNCHES NEW SOCIAL PROCUREMENT POLICY – A FIRST IN CANADA

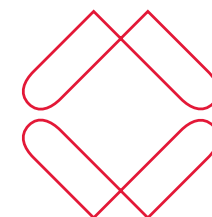
York University is one of the first universities in Canada to establish a Social Procurement Policy. That’s because York understands that a community-engaged approach helps drive social change and inclusive economic growth. Procurement services director, Dexter King, is leading the work to change how the University buys goods and services, which is front and centre in York’s new Markham Campus project. Learn more [here](#).

Dexter King



ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT COLLABORATION

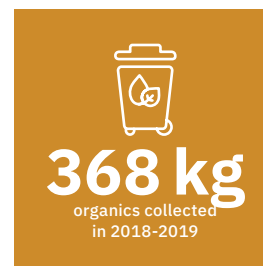
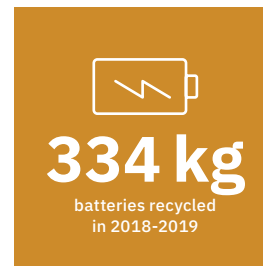
The “ecological footprint” of human consumption is 70 per cent more today than it was in 1970, with a large attribution of the increase to carbon footprint, or emissions. Those were the findings of an initiative at York University measuring how consumption of renewable resources has changed over the last 50 years. Research out of York’s Ecological Footprint Initiative in the Faculty of Environmental Studies is informing governments about the way humans use the Earth’s resources and the planet’s capacity to provide them. This work is empowering the Footprint Data Foundation to inform individuals, communities and government leaders to better manage limited resources. Learn more [here](#).





REDUCE, REUSE, AND RETHINK

With proposed legislative changes to Ontario’s Blue Box program and waste management legislation across North America, Dr. Calvin Lakhan’s recent work is timely. Dr. Lakhan’s research examines the goal of our waste management system. “Now, more than ever, we need to clearly define what our goals are, and whether our existing approaches are helping move us towards achieving those goals,” he writes. Dr. Lakhan, who is also the co-investigator of York’s “Waste Wiki”, states that Canada has become a victim of its own success with households and policy makers conflating recycling with sustainability, rather than prioritizing reducing or reusing waste. Learn more [here](#).



SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY RESEARCH IN GHANA

Climatic risks and household responses to food security in Ghana are the focus of Balikisu Osman’s research. She is also a recent recipient of the prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship award. Born in Ghana to a farming household, Osman’s research sets out to explore how smallholder farming households implement coping, adaptation and insurance practices against climatic shocks and impacts. It also examines how these households shape their food availability, accessibility, utilization and stability throughout the year. Her work will help support the Government of Ghana, development organizations and private sector investors in developing resilient innovative solutions to climate change and food insecurity challenges. Learn more [here](#).





Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

SDG 13: Climate Action

Climate change is a real and undeniable threat to our entire civilization. The effects are already visible and will be catastrophic unless we act now. Goal 13 is about invoking climate action through education, innovation and adherence to climate commitments, to make the necessary changes to protect the planet. These changes also provide huge opportunities to modernize our infrastructure which will create new jobs and promote greater prosperity across the globe.

YORK RESEARCHERS FOCUS ON URGENCY OF CLIMATE CRISIS

When it comes to the climate crisis, we need to act now. That's the message coming from York researchers who have been warning that the climate crisis is quickly becoming a health crisis. The call to action comes from researchers looking at topics ranging from Canada's dwindling bumblebee population to emerging plant and insect species that carry dangerous viruses. The urgent crisis is also being studied through the lens of climate change and its damage on living species in the north and south poles, the significant droughts and massive loss of crops in Africa, and more. Learn more [here](#).

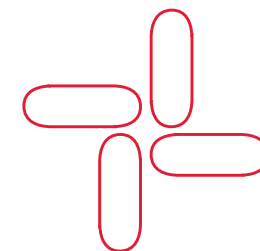


Dawn Bazely, Sheila Colla, Mark Terry, and James Orbinski (top left, clockwise)

YORK TO BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL ON OR BEFORE 2049

Recognizing that universities have a crucial role to play in addressing issues around climate change, York is advancing its Sustainability Strategy with a progressive goal of becoming carbon neutral on or before 2049.

The goal of carbon neutrality aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Building on York's commitment to sustainability, the recommendations to achieve carbon neutrality were made by the community and the Carbon Emission Reduction Target Advisory Committee. A leader in sustainability, York has already made great strides in supporting sustainable practices, teaching, research and partnerships and will continue to do its part to address the growing environmental crisis. Learn more [here](#).



SCHULICH PARTNERS WITH THE UN TO STUDY HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS REAL ESTATE VALUES

The impact of climate change on real estate values was the key focus of new research by York University's Schulich School of Business in partnership with the United Nations and the Henley Business School in the U.K. The research was commissioned to support real estate investors in correlating recent extreme weather events to real

estate values and prices, and how risk should factor into future projections. Their report shows that physical climate risk is fundamental and critical to all real estate investors, but there is a lack of information on how these risks could affect property values in the long term. Learn more [here](#).

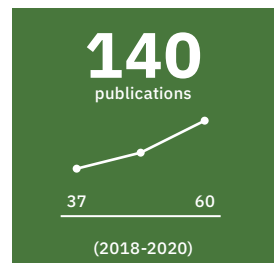


YORK RESEARCHERS STUDYING ADAPTABILITY OF DESERT ECOSYSTEMS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

New research from York examines desert ecosystems for their adaptability to climate change. The research, by York University PhD graduate Alessandro Filazzola, investigates the role of species identity in facilitating the response to environmental changes in desert plants. This research is key at a time when desert ecosystems threatened by shifts in precipitation patterns from climate change are pushing some species past certain thresholds. Exploring how plants respond to climate change along a large regional gradient spanning three desert provinces, Filazzola's work shows how species identity, soil nutrients and aridity drive positive interactions among plants along a regional gradient of semi-arid to hyper-arid. Learn more [here](#).



A close up of Lacey phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) growing under a shrub. This plant was one of three species that were seeded along the entire aridity gradient





Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

Healthy oceans and seas are essential to our existence. They cover 70 percent of our planet and we rely on them for food, energy and water. Yet, we have managed to do tremendous damage to these precious resources. Goal 14 is all about reversing this damage, protecting them by eliminating pollution and overfishing and immediately start to responsibly manage and protect all marine life around the world.

FRESHWATER DATABASE HELPS RESEARCHERS AROUND THE WORLD

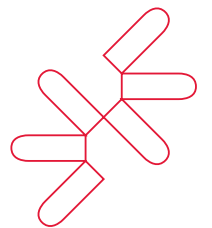
A multidisciplinary York University research team under the supervision of associate professor Sapna Sharma has created a publicly available database covering half of the world's freshwater, including more than 12,000 lakes in 72 countries, to help enable researchers around the world monitor and manage water quality and overall health of the lakes. The database can be used to improve understanding of how chlorophyll levels respond to global environmental change and provide baseline comparisons for environmental managers responsible for maintaining water quality in lakes. This innovative collaboration, which includes colleagues at Wilfrid Laurier and Illinois State universities, is already benefiting researchers around the world. Learn more [here](#).



Sapna Sharma

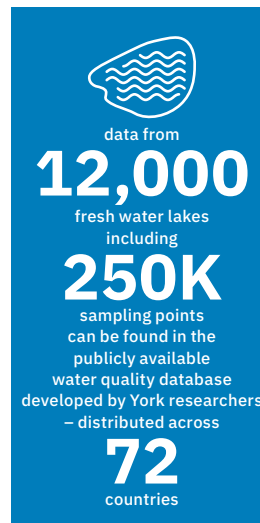
RESEARCH ON THE PACIFIC OCEAN

One York University researcher is furthering our understanding of “overturning circulation” in the Pacific Ocean, an area of study largely overlooked. Assistant Professor of Atmospheric Science Neil Tandon is examining how the behaviour of the “ocean conveyor” – what oceanographers call the “overturning circulation” – varies from year to year. Understanding and predicting year-to-year climate variations offers tremendous benefits to society. For example, if current models aren't getting Pacific overturning right, that might be throwing off their interannual climate predictions. Fixing these problems might produce great improvements in interannual climate prediction. Tandon's work was published in the Journal of Physical Oceanography. Learn more [here](#).



LABOUR RELATIONS IN THE GLOBAL FISHING INDUSTRY

With a goal to better understand labour issues experienced by fishing vessel workers and worker support organizations, new research out of York examines how marine fisheries work, focusing on fisheries based out of Thailand and Taiwan. Both employ mainly migrant workers from Southeast Asia, and have been identified with serious labour abuse, often linked to Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The objective is to explain the social, technological, ecological, and economic processes that produce differences in working conditions, and to identify the reasons that make fishing working conditions unacceptable by most standards that would be applied to terrestrial work. Learn more [here](#).



OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATORY DRILLING AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Research focusing on the regulatory processes leading to decisions to permit exploratory offshore drilling in or adjacent to marine protected areas is being led by Principal Investigator Gail Fraser. Her work aims to assess decision-making processes by drawing on comparative international cases that highlight how eastern Canadian offshore oil governance practices can be strengthened. The title of her project is “Offshore oil exploratory drilling and marine protected areas: Assessing decision- making processes and outcomes in comparative developed state cases”. The project compares regulatory decisions where a call for bids overlapped with a marine protected area in four comparable jurisdictions: Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. Learn more [here](#).





A flourishing life on land is the foundation for our life on this planet.

SDG 15: Life on Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. We are all part of the planet's ecosystem and we have caused severe damage to it through deforestation, loss of natural habitats and land degradation. Goal 15 is about promoting a sustainable use of our ecosystems and preserving biodiversity, which is the key to our own survival.

BIOLOGY CLASS TAKES TO STUDENTS BACKYARDS DURING PANDEMIC

When a global pandemic interrupted her students' research, Glendon Campus Biology professor Laura McKinnon got her students to practice—literally—doing some research in their own backyards. McKinnon pivoted her course, "Ecological Monitoring in an Urban Environment," to an online-only format that allowed students to conduct their research in their own neighbourhoods. The result was a two-week course that was engaging, comprehensive, and incredibly well-received by the students. Learn more [here](#).



Laura McKinnon

CENTRE FOR BEE RESEARCH

Experts from disciplines across York, including biologists, social scientists and mathematicians, have convened their own hive to tackle the global crisis concerning the health and decline of bees. The Centre for Bee Ecology, Evolution and Conservation (BEEc) received approval by the York University's Senate to become the 26th Organized Research Unit. BEEc researchers will study the health, behaviour, biodiversity, genomics and conservation of bees, with the goal of enhancing their survivability, and their important contribution, through pollination, to planetary health. Learn more [here](#).



STUDENT EXPERIENCES BENEFIT THE PLANET - PRECISION AGRICULTURE TRAINING

José Etcheverry, an associate professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change, is working to help solve the world's current climate emergency by training students on how to thrive in jobs focused on climate solutions. Etcheverry received funding from Co-operative Education Work-Integrated Learning (CEWIL) Canada to develop UNSDG Precision Agriculture, Renewable Energies & Sustainable Enterprise Training (UPARESET) and offer stipends for 55 students at York and other post-secondary institutions to participate. Students received practical training on precision agriculture, climate change solutions and local sustainable development strategies, using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) and the Earth Charter as guidelines. Learn more [here](#).



ECOLOGY, CONSERVATION, AND MIGRATORY BIRDS

With a focus on waterbirds that nest in colonies, Professor Gail Fraser has spent 15 years studying double-crested cormorants at Tommy Thompson Park in Toronto. Every year, she follows a sample of nests, records when nesting began and whether birds have been successful at raising their young. Her goal is to track how the birds are doing and hopefully detect significant ecological changes when they occur. Her research is coordinated with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, managers of this urban wilderness. Fraser also collaborates with artist Cole Swanson, using art-science approaches to shift the negative perceptions about cormorants. Learn more [here](#).



Nesting double-crested cormorants



Compassion and a strong moral compass is essential to every democratic society.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Yet, persecution, injustice and abuse still runs rampant and is tearing at the very fabric of civilization. Goal 16 ensures that we tackle abuse, organized crime, corruption, and violence through strong institutions and global standards of justice.

YORK ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES AND LANGUAGES (CIKL)

The new Centre is led by inaugural Director Deborah McGregor, an associate professor at York and the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at Osgoode Hall Law School. The Centre will host Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers and students engaged in these areas of scholarship and aims to facilitate knowledge production and dissemination that re-centres Indigenous knowledges, languages, practices and ways of being. Moreover, the CIKL will support research involving both traditional and contemporary knowledges, as care-taken, shared and created by Indigenous scholars at the University and from Indigenous knowledge holders in the community. Learn more [here](#).

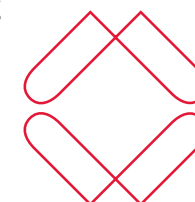


Deborah McGregor



CONJUGAL SLAVERY IN WAR RESEARCH PROJECT

In a project to strengthen capacity in preventing violence and advancing understanding of the use of conjugal slavery as a tool of war, York University joined an interdisciplinary team of researchers and partners. The team explored the social and legal meaning of conjugal slavery in times of war and the implications of this gender violence in post-conflict situations in African countries. This SSHRC-funded Partnership Grant (2015-2020) documents cases of so-called forced marriage in conflict situations, and places this data in historical context. This project has ramifications on the international prosecution of crimes against humanity and reparations programs for survivors of violence. Learn more [here](#).



HOW A BELIEF SYSTEM, WITH JUSTICE IN MIND, SILENCES INDIGENOUS VOICES

In this seminal article, Glendon scholar Yann Allard-Tremblay, of the Huron-Wendat First Nation, contends that rationalism, embraced by politicians and political theorists, is a source of violence because it ignores and distorts the voices of the Indigenous peoples. His article for the Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy adds to a vital discussion related to reconciliation, and focuses on the population of Turtle Island, referring to the continent of North America. Associated with the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, Allard-Tremblay specializes in political and social theory, with an interest in democracy, political pluralism and Indigenous peoples. Learn more [here](#).



RESEARCH ON SYRIAN REFUGEES AND DEPRESSION – COULD SPUR CHANGE

A year-long study by Health Professor Farah Ahmad discovered that rates of depression experienced by Syrian refugees rose two years after their relocation. In this study, Ahmad and her team sought to evaluate the prevalence of depression symptoms in Syrian refugees within their first year of settlement in Canada (as a baseline) and again at one year later. The study showed refugees experienced a significant increase in depression during their second year, shedding light on perceived sinking social support and control, language barriers and more disappointments – all predictors of depression that could point the way to policy change. Learn more [here](#).



Researchers found that Syrian refugees two years after arrival in Canada experienced depression at higher rates than in the first year after they had arrived in the country



*Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER) Project – a consortium of Canadian and Kenyan universities and NGOs.



The Global Goals can only be met if we work together.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. Goal 17 is about fostering global partnerships, International investments, and support to ensure innovative technological development, fair trade and market access, especially for developing countries. To build a better world, we need to be supportive, empathetic, inventive, passionate, and above all, cooperative.

FIRST CANADIAN UN LEADERSHIP TRAINING CENTRE OPENING AT YORK

York sees the challenge of climate change as a call to action here in Canada and around the world. As part of our commitment to build a more socially, economically and environmentally sustainable world, York is honoured to be designated as the home for Canada's first Centre International de Formation des Acteurs Locaux (CIFAL). CIFAL centres serve as hubs for global knowledge training exchange among government officials, the private sector, academia and civil society. CIFAL York will be a centre of innovation in our shared fight against climate change housed at York's Markham Centre Campus under the leadership of Professor Ali Asgary, in collaboration with the associate director, Associate Professor Idil Boran. Learn more [here](#).



Idil Boran
and Ali
Asgary

YORK AS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF GLOBAL UNESCO NETWORK

York University is one of six founding partners of a new global UNESCO network on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) led by Leuphana University in Germany. This new network will focus on ESD as a transformative force toward achieving the SDGs and a sustainable future for all. The network will be a collaboration spanning 30 countries to address teachers at all levels as key players to foster sustainable development and peace through education. By collaborating globally, ESD knowledge, insight, research and experience can be more effectively and respectfully contextualized to enhance understanding in all UN regions simultaneously. Learn more [here](#).





SDG STUDENT HUB

A student-driven initiative launched by York University's Sustainability Office is helping students of all disciplines learn about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and take action to help achieve them – both on and off-campus. The SDG Student Hub was launched in fall 2020 as part of the partnership between York and the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to bring world-class initiatives in sustainable development to its communities. The SDSN works with universities and other knowledge centers to help them activate sustainable development initiatives through knowledge mobilization; problem-solve partnerships with governments, business and civil society; and encourage local social entrepreneurship. Learn more [here](#).



SDG Student Hub
York University



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS



300+
global partnerships in
60+ countries



\$45M
in partnership
research funding
through 800+ agreements



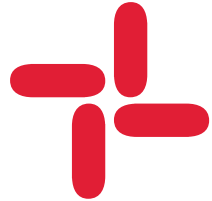
345
MOUs with
global partners
in 2020-21
(up from 313 in 2019-20)



1st
international conference
bringing together sustainability
and internationalization
in the context of the SDGs

LASSONDE'S BEST PROGRAM STUDENTS HACK UNITED NATION'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A low-cost solar stove using an innovative Fresnel lens technology to address the critical concern of smoky indoor stoves in third-world countries. An innovative packaging system to help restaurants reduce food waste. Eliminating paper waste with a virtual poster board using novel technology and recycled computer monitors. These are just a few of the ideas coming from UNHack 2020. The three-day experiential learning Design Sprint was hosted in November 2020 by Lassonde's Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science & Technology (BEST) program. More than 230 students participated, developing their changemaking skills by addressing, and in some cases implementing, solutions to local and global sustainability challenges. Learn more [here](#).




INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES BUREAU

York University
member since 2012

