

UTM's Sustainability Strategic Plan: Fostering a Culture of Sustainability

17 November 2020



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UTM Academic Plan

*An institution that values and
promotes Sustainability*

ACADEMIC PLAN 2017



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"We are mindful that environmental awareness should guide our physical planning and be reflected in our pedagogy and scholarship. UTM recognizes that the environmental challenges facing the planet cannot be solved in isolation but require collaborations across all areas of research. We are cognizant that global environmental change is not simply a technical challenge but includes scientific, political, cultural, economic and social aspects as well."

- Excerpt from UTM 2017 Academic Plan

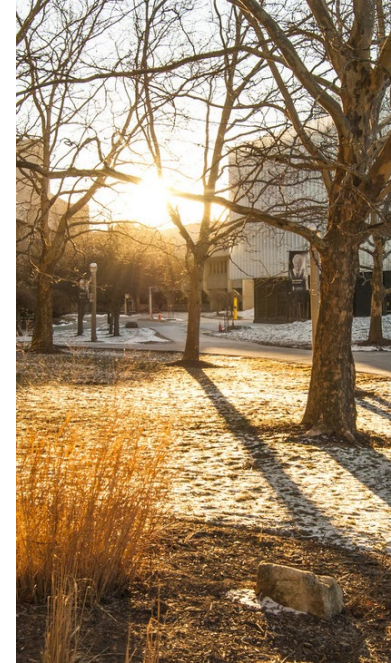
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Sustainability Pathways Working Group (SPWG)

- Constituted in December 2017
- Membership consisting of:
 - Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean
 - Professors representing 8 Academic Units
 - Representatives from Office of the Registrar, Office of the Dean, Student Housing & Residence Life
 - MScSM Director and student representative
 - Representative from International Holistic Tourism Education Centre
- Sustainability Pathways Working Group Report completed in October 2018



SPWG

Key Recommendations

01

Academic Programs and Curriculum

In the short-term, UTM should introduce a Sustainability Pathway. In the long-term, UTM should also consider incorporating at least one “Sustainability Course” as part of UTM’s distribution requirements. UTM should explore the possibility of starting two programs in Sustainability.

02

Research

UTM should fund sustainability research at levels that create powerful incentives for faculty to embrace and engage in this area.

03

Campus Engagement

Sustainability Seminar/Colloquia Series, Sustainability Orientation, Sustainability Poster Competition, Peace Garden, Engagement of Student Clubs, and more.

05

Human Resources and Infrastructure

Create a new position of Vice-Principal Sustainability, create a standing Sustainability Advisory Group (SAG), develop a Long-Term Sustainability Strategic Plan for UTM, become a member of AASHE STARS.

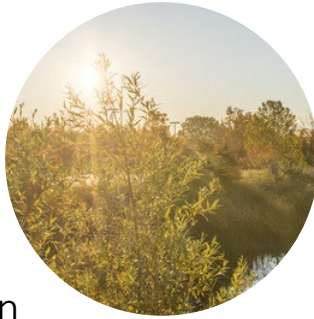
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Civic Engagement

UTM should explore all possibilities through the CSE and EEU for existing opportunities or to create new ones for civic engagement (to develop and strengthen connections with Mississauga, Peel Region, Ontario, and Canada).

Principal's Sustainability Advisory Committee (PSAC)

- Constituted in September 2019
- Membership comprised of:
 - Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean
 - Chief Administrative Officer
 - Director, MScSM program
 - Professors representing 3 academic units
 - Staff representing 2 academic units
 - Staff representing Sustainability Office, Office of the Dean, Hospitality & Retail Services, Student Housing & Residence Life
 - Alumni, graduate, and undergraduate student representatives
- Visioning sessions held to include additional UTM community members representing a vast array of perspectives
- Draft of Sustainability Strategic Plan: Fostering a Culture of Sustainability 2030 currently under review



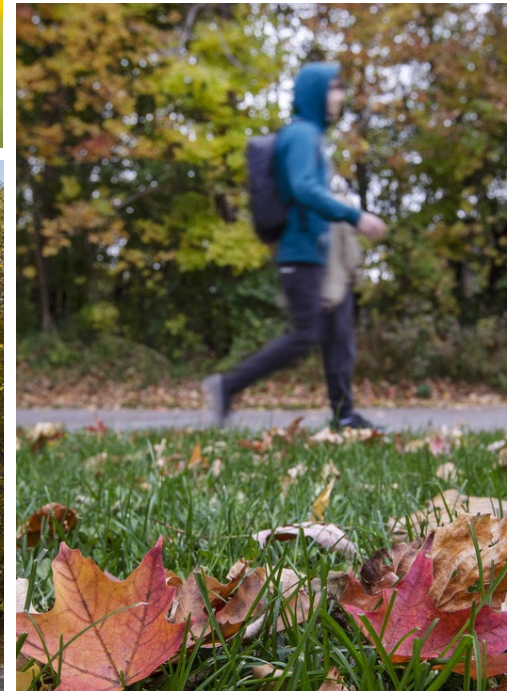
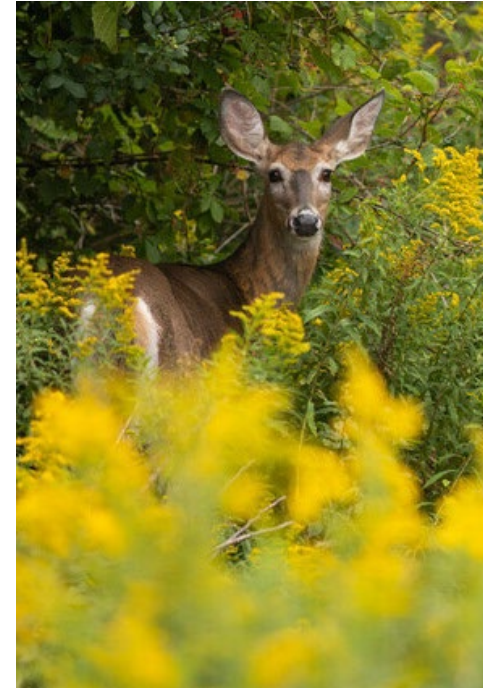
UTM's Sustainability Strategic Plan

Our Vision

The Sustainability Strategic Plan is based on UTM's vision to become a global leader in sustainability by fostering a culture of sustainability.

Key Academic & Research Features

- Learning opportunities provide students with the space to explore creative approaches to current systems, use critical thinking skills and take calculated risks. Undergraduate and graduate learning pathways are interdisciplinary and freely accessible to all students, regardless of their degree program.
- UTM will become the pioneer for inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research related to sustainability. Research opportunities will provide a unique academic space to work in multi-disciplinary teams on various sustainability-related issues and their solutions .



Thank you

“We need acts of restoration, not only for polluted waters and degraded lands, but also for our relationship to the world. We need to restore honor to the way we live, so that when we walk through the world we don’t have to avert our eyes with shame, so that we can hold our heads up high and receive the respectful acknowledgment of the rest of the earth’s beings.”

— Robin Wall Kimmerer, Distinguished Teaching Professor and Director, Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

From: *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*



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