



AASHE  
 2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103

18 January 2024

Dear AASHE STARS Review Team,

As acting Vice-President and Principal of the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), I am delighted to submit our 2023 Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System report for reaccreditation to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

Our 2020 STARS Silver Rating is a source of immense pride for our community. It also encourages us to keep stepping up our game. Some of that work is reflected in the rankings: U of T is now recognized as the most sustainable university in the world by [Quacquarelli Symonds](#).

As U of T's second largest division, and as a vibrant campus on 225 acres of ecologically vital greenbelt, UTM plays a significant role in this achievement. Since 2021, led by our [Sustainability Office](#) and collaborators across this community, we have implemented a ten-year [Sustainability Strategic Plan](#) that embeds sustainability in all our operations, organized around five core pillars:

- |                      |             |                      |                     |                          |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Academic Programs | 2. Research | 3. Campus Engagement | 4. Civic Engagement | 5. HR and Infrastructure |
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We drive progress across these areas through a suite of accountability groups, including the [Principal's Sustainability Advisory Committee](#) (PSAC), comprised of students, staff, faculty, and librarians dedicated to advancing the university's sustainability goals.

The committee – like our campus as a whole – has *grow smart, grow green* as a guiding principle for development: we have expanded our infrastructure even while strengthening our care for this land. This principle has shaped the priorities of our campus-wide [Strategic Framework](#), developed in 2022, as well as our just published [climate positive plan](#), which describes our path to go carbon neutral by 2043 and climate positive by 2050. It is also reflected in recent projects, such as our:

- New science building, which leverages geothermal technology and rooftop solar photovoltaic panels to use 65% less energy than a traditional building of its size; and our
- [Campus farm](#), a hydroponic system that uses just five gallons of water daily to grow over 13,000 plants for campus eateries.

UTM's efforts have made a difference beyond campus as well, including in the city of Mississauga. For example – our first-ever [memorandum of understanding](#) with the city, signed in 2023, identifies sustainability and climate resilience as core to our long-term collaboration.

For both the short- and long-terms, our sustainability policies are heavily data-driven. So, the data reported here for evaluation has been carefully collected through our formal university channels. Our Sustainability Office conducted an additional data review to ensure accuracy.

Let me end with thanks. The framework of this AASHE STARS program has been invaluable in strengthening our commitment to sustainability – and our performance in sustainability metrics. We look forward to expanding our efforts for a greener future.

Yours truly,

Ian Orchard  
 Acting Vice-President and Principal  
 University of Toronto Mississauga