

Taskforce on Sustainability Research Terms of Reference

As part of the ongoing strategic research planning commitments recognized within the York Strategic Research Plan, *Building on Strength*, the broad area of sustainability research is recognized as an area of considerable opportunity. As an opportunity area identified for development within the Strategic Research Plan, *Public Engagement for a Just and Sustainable World*, it is a research area with a rich cross-disciplinary mix of research strengths, bringing together renowned scholars from a wide range of disciplines to support York's leading sustainability research programs at York. York continues to be at the forefront of sustainable, collaborative, integrative and solution-oriented research issues of sustainability, broadly defined. As such the Vice-President Research & Innovation (VPRI) is eager to support the growth and development of initiatives to enable the recognition of York University as a Canadian leader in sustainability research.

Mission

VPRI is sponsoring an arm's length interdisciplinary academic taskforce to develop ideas and examine options for building and featuring York University's research strengths in the area of sustainability. This taskforce will leverage collegial expertise, solicit broad advice on recommendations towards how York can advance research opportunities in this area.

Mandate

The mandate of the Taskforce on Sustainability Research is to:

- Broadly engage the community to identify current and potential sustainability research strengths at York
- Develop recommendations for structures that best capture York's strengths in sustainable research and to promote and foster York's future
- Provide advice on potential linkages between Researchers at York and External Partners
- Provide a final report to the York community that reflects the Task Force's findings and recommendations

Membership

Membership to be composed of 10-12 active members reflective of the diverse sustainability research community at York, and may also include additional working group members and external members representative of the broader community. Taskforce Chair to be appointed by VPRI.

Meetings

The Taskforce on Sustainability Research will meet regularly at the call of the Chair, at times to be determined, for a period of up to 8 months during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Proceedings

The Taskforce on Sustainability Research will actively reach out through a diverse range of open and engaged discussions and consultations to solicit an array of input from the York community. Reflecting its advisory capacity, Taskforce on Sustainability Research will not be a voting committee. Recommendations will normally be arrived at by consensus. Summary of the community feedback received will be posted on the Taskforce website.

Support

The Taskforce on Sustainability Research will be supported by VPRI staff who will

- Schedule and coordinate logistics of Taskforce meetings and events
- Circulate an agenda and documentation prior to each meeting
- Prepare and distribute minutes after the completion of each meeting
- Capture community feedback
- Provide web support
- Support the writing of the Taskforce final report