

Sustainability Annual Report 2024/25



Carleton
University

Sustainability



Table of Contents

Message from Sustainability Carleton	3
Sustainability Highlights	4
Sustainability Goals	5
Recognition and Leadership	6-7
Sustainability Assessment - STARS	8-9
Teaching and Research	10
Zero Waste	11
Energy and Carbon Emissions	12-13
Campus Biodiversity	14
Engaging our Community	15
Transportation	16
Data Supplement	17-18
Sustainability Plan Progress	19

Message from Sustainability Carleton

This past year marked another meaningful step forward in Carleton University's ongoing journey toward environmental and social sustainability. Across our campus, students, faculty, staff, and partners continued to translate ambition into action and further strengthening the connections between learning, research, operations, and community engagement.

At the centre of this work are our students. Sustainability at Carleton is increasingly shaped by student curiosity, leadership, and participation, whether through sustainability-focused courses and research, applied learning experiences, or hands-on involvement in campus initiatives. From biodiversity monitoring and waste audits to transportation studies and energy analysis, students are helping to generate knowledge, test solutions and inform decision-making. This "campus as a living laboratory" approach ensures that Carleton's environment is not only a place of learning, but an active place for experimentation, innovation, and positive change.

This year, we continued to deepen the alignment between teaching, research, and campus operations. Sustainability is now embedded across nearly all academic departments and a growing proportion of courses, equipping graduates with the skills and systems thinking needed to address complex challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and social equity. At the same time, operational initiatives, including carbon reduction projects, waste reduction, sustainable transportation programs, and nature-based solutions, provide real-world case studies that enrich education and deliver measurable environmental benefits.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions remains a core institutional priority. Carleton advanced progress toward its targets through investments in energy efficiency, electrification, and long-term planning, while continuing to report transparently on emissions, performance, and challenges. Participation in external benchmarking and verification frameworks, including AASHE STARS and the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, supports accountability, and continuous improvement while ensuring that Carleton's sustainability performance is assessed against rigorous global standards.

Together, these efforts reflect Carleton's commitment to sustainability not as a single program or objective, but as a shared institutional practice, one that integrates learning with action, local impact with global responsibility, and innovation with accountability. As we look ahead to the coming years, Carleton will continue to build on this foundation, guided by collaboration, evidence, and a strong commitment to preparing our students and community to lead a more sustainable future.

Sustainability Highlights

Sustainable Operations

- ✓ 350 tonnes of CO2 saved in 2024 through efficiency and decarbonisation projects.
- ✓ 97% diversion rate when construction waste is included.
- ✓ 600+ native plants planted as part of Tiny Forest initiative.
- ✓ 84% students travel to campus by sustainable transportation.

Teaching and Research

- ✓ 92% of departments offer sustainability-related courses.
- ✓ 15% of all courses include sustainability content.
- ✓ 3.5% increase in the number of sustainability courses (from 2021).
- ✓ 52% of all departments engaged in Sustainability research.

Recognition and External Accountability

- ✓ Gold STARS rating maintained - overall score increased.
- ✓ WWF Living Planet certification achieved.
- ✓ Nature Positive University status achieved.
- ✓ The only Canadian university recognised in Government of Canada's Net-Zero challenge.

Sustainability Goals

Carleton University prides itself on being a dynamic research and teaching institution that embraces the power of higher education and innovation, the value of community and collaboration, and the importance of sustainability. Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Carleton's Sustainability Plan aligns institutional priorities with globally recognized sustainability objectives while supporting transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

As the current Sustainability Plan sunsets, the goals below reflect Carleton's ongoing commitments and the progress achieved to date. Over the coming year, the University will build upon this SDG-aligned framework to develop updated sustainability goals that respond to emerging priorities, new institutional aims, and evolving global expectations.

Sustainability Goals

Leadership and Governance

- Achieve zero instances of environmental legal non-compliance
- Achieve a Gold STARS rating
- Report annually to the Carleton community and provide continuous progress updates
- Engage stakeholders in sustainability-related decision-making

Energy, Climate, and Buildings

- Achieve a 50% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050
- Increase the number of renewable or alternative energy projects on campus
- Achieve annual reductions in electricity and natural gas consumption
- Maintain a minimum four Green Globes rating for all new builds and major renovations

Water and Waste

- Achieve annual reductions in water consumption
- Achieve a zero-waste campus
- Achieve a zero construction waste campus

Sustainable Travel

- Complete a Sustainable Transportation Strategy
- Increase the number of university-owned electric vehicles
- Establish and increase active transportation rates within the Carleton community

Engagement

- Increase the number of sustainability-themed events on campus
- Increase student engagement with organizations and programs focused on sustainability

Food and Dining Operations

- Increase the percentage of local and sustainably sourced foods purchased through dining operations
- Maintain Carleton's Fair Trade Campus designation

Recognition and Leadership

In 2024–25, Carleton University continued to be recognized for its sustainability leadership through public commitments, global rankings, and third-party awards and certifications. This year also marked an important milestone with the successful update of Carleton’s sustainability assessments, demonstrating continuous improvement while maintaining strong external recognition.

Commitments to Sustainability Leadership

Government of Canada Net-Zero Challenge

Carleton is a participant in the Government of Canada’s Net-Zero Challenge, a voluntary initiative that supports organizations in developing and implementing credible plans to transition facilities and operations to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This supports SDG 13: Climate Action through long-term greenhouse gas reduction planning.

University Global Coalition

Carleton is a member of the University Global Coalition, a global platform of universities and higher education organizations working in partnership with the United Nations to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. This supports SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by strengthening international collaboration and shared action.

Nature Positive Universities

As a Nature Positive University, Carleton is committed to halting and reversing nature loss by assessing how campus activities affect species and ecosystems and enhancing biodiversity across campus. This supports SDG 15: Life on Land through ecosystem protection and restoration.

Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges

Carleton is a member of the Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges, a UN-backed global campaign led by the UN Environment Programme, EAUC, and Second Nature that mobilizes higher education institutions to take immediate and credible climate action. This supports SDG 13: Climate Action.

Investing to Address Climate Change: A Charter for Canadian Universities

Carleton is a signatory to the Investing to Address Climate Change: A Charter for Canadian Universities, which affirms the responsibility of universities to act constructively on climate change through principled investment practices. This supports SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

United Nations–supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)

Carleton is a signatory to the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment, which provide a global framework for responsible investment and stewardship. This supports SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through transparent and accountable governance.

Rankings, Awards, and Certifications

Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings

In 2024–25, Carleton continued to perform strongly in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which assess universities based on their contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Carleton's results highlight institutional strengths across multiple SDGs, including climate action, sustainable communities, responsible consumption, and partnerships, demonstrating real-world sustainability impact. This supports SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals and reflects cross-cutting contributions to the SDGs.

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) STARS

Carleton updated its AASHE STARS submission in 2024–25, reflecting progress across academics, engagement, operations, and planning and administration. As a result of this updated submission, Carleton retained its Gold STARS rating and increased its overall score, demonstrating continuous improvement in sustainability performance. This supports SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production through institutional sustainability integration.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)–Canada Living Campus

Carleton has achieved Living Campus certification in partnership with WWF Canada, recognising its commitment to conservation, biodiversity, and positive environmental outcomes on campus. This supports SDG 15: Life on Land.

Fair Trade Campus

Carleton is recognized as a Fair Trade Campus, reflecting its commitment to advancing the social, environmental, and economic benefits of Fair Trade through procurement and awareness initiatives. This supports SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Green Globes

Carleton is committed to ensuring all new construction and major renovations achieve a minimum rating of three out of five globes under the Green Globes rating system. To date, 11 campus buildings have been rated. This supports SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 13: Climate Action through energy-efficient and sustainable building design.

Green Restaurant Association Certification

Carleton's dining operations are certified by the Green Restaurant Association, which provides guidance for reducing environmental impacts through energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable purchasing. This supports SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Sustainable Purchasing Excellence (SPE) Certification

Carleton has earned a three-star Sustainable Purchasing Excellence certification for serving nutritious and environmentally sustainable food in the Caf—the first higher education institution in Canada to achieve a three-star rating. This supports SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.



Carleton University uses the Sustainable Development Goals as a shared framework to align institutional priorities, teaching, research, and operations with global sustainability challenges.

Using the SDGs helps connect campus initiatives to internationally recognized goals, strengthening accountability, collaboration, and impact.

Sustainability Assessment - STARS

Carleton University's 2025 AASHE STARS Performance: Advancing Sustainability Through Teaching, Research, and Campus Engagement

Carleton University's 2025 submission to the AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) demonstrates strong institutional leadership and continued progress across sustainability teaching, research, engagement, and planning. Carleton achieved a Provisional Gold Rating, improving on our score in 2022. This increase reflects meaningful gains across core academic and engagement areas and highlights the university's commitment to embedding sustainability into the student experience, research culture, and campus operations.

Key Highlights

- Gold Rating maintained, with an improved overall score.
- Strong performance in Academics (78%) and Engagement (79%).
- Sustainability integrated across 91% of departments and nearly 15% of courses.
- Extensive living lab and experiential learning opportunities for students.
- Growing interdisciplinary sustainability research and open-access leadership.
- Clear alignment with UN SDGs and Carleton's sustainability planning priorities.
- Continued focus on student experience, wellbeing, and real-world impact.



Carleton performed particularly well in Academics (78%) and Engagement (79%), underscoring sustainability as a defining feature of learning and community life on campus. Sustainability is now broadly integrated across disciplines, with over 91% of departments offering sustainability-focused or sustainability-inclusive courses, and nearly 15% of all courses addressing sustainability themes. Students benefit from a growing range of undergraduate and graduate programs, immersive field courses, and applied learning opportunities that connect theory to real-world challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, social equity, and public policy.

A distinguishing strength of Carleton's STARS performance is the "campus as a living laboratory" approach. Students actively engage in hands-on research and operational projects—such as biodiversity monitoring, energy audits, water quality analysis, waste audits, and sustainable transportation studies—allowing campus infrastructure and operations to directly support teaching and research. These experiences enhance student learning, employability, and civic engagement, while also informing institutional decision-making and continuous improvement.

Carleton's sustainability research profile also continues to grow, with over half of academic departments engaged in sustainability research and strong institutional support for interdisciplinary scholarship and open access publishing. This work contributes to global knowledge-sharing and aligns closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly SDGs related to Quality Education, Climate Action, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Clean Water, Responsible Consumption, and Good Health and Well-Being. These efforts reinforce Carleton's role as a public-minded institution advancing solutions to complex societal challenges through research and education.

The STARS results also highlight effective coordination, planning, and wellbeing initiatives, including governance structures that integrate sustainability into institutional strategy and programs such as the Healthy Workplace Program. Together, these efforts support a healthy, inclusive campus community while advancing the objectives of Carleton's Comprehensive Sustainability Plan and informing the next phase of institutional sustainability planning.

Overall, Carleton's 2025 STARS results reflect a strong and improving sustainability performance, driven by campus-wide collaboration and a clear focus on student learning, research impact, and community engagement. Maintaining Gold while increasing the overall score demonstrates that sustainability at Carleton is not static, but evolving—building on existing strengths while identifying opportunities for continued progress in operations, literacy, and applied innovation.

Teaching and Research

Carleton integrates sustainability across the academic spectrum, ensuring that students in every discipline engage with environmental and social responsibility in meaningful ways. Nearly 92% of Carleton's academic departments offer at least one sustainability-related course, and more than 14% of all courses include sustainability-focused or sustainability-inclusive content.

This extensive curriculum reflects a deeply interdisciplinary approach — sustainability concepts are embedded not only in environmental and engineering programs but also in fields such as business, humanities, social sciences, and public policy. Signature programs like Environmental and Climate Humanities, Environmental Engineering, and Global and International Studies (Globalization and the Environment specialization) equip students to tackle the world's most complex sustainability challenges from multiple perspectives.

In addition, over 16% of Carleton's graduates complete degree programs that require an understanding of sustainability principles. These include both technical and policy-oriented programs that address energy systems, climate resilience, biodiversity, and social equity. Through these academic pathways, Carleton ensures that graduates enter the workforce prepared to lead sustainability transitions in their professions and communities.

In 2024–25, Carleton University continued to be recognized for its sustainability leadership through public commitments, global rankings, and third-party awards and certifications. This year also marked an important milestone with the successful update of Carleton's sustainability assessments, demonstrating continuous improvement while maintaining strong external recognition.



Zero Waste

Waste management at Carleton University is a long-standing commitment, shaped by years of dedicated effort toward the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Through a wide range of programs, infrastructure improvements, and policy alignment, Carleton continues to advance its goal of becoming a zero-waste campus.

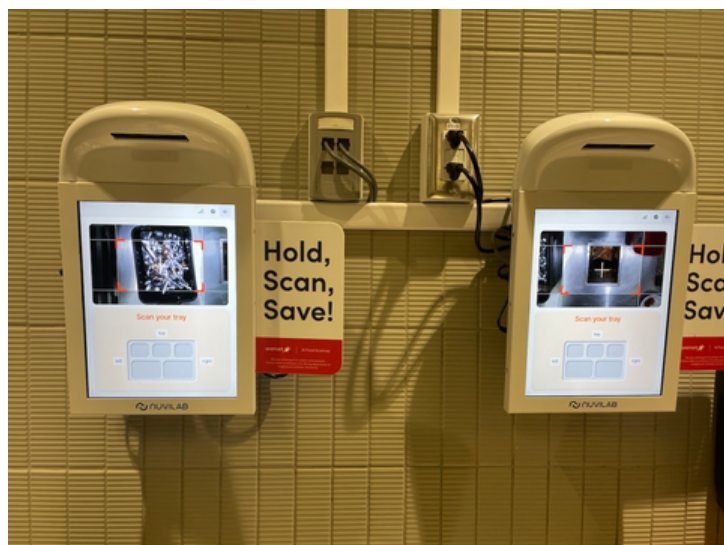
Carleton conducts regular waste audits to assess and improve waste management practices. In 2024, two waste audits were completed across campus, including targeted audits at food service locations, which identified diversion rates exceeding 90 per cent. These efforts have enabled Carleton to operate two Certified Zero-Waste facilities, where more than 90 per cent of waste is consistently diverted from landfill.

When construction and demolition waste is included, Carleton achieves a diversion rate exceeding 97 per cent, reflecting the effective management of materials associated with the scale and impact of ongoing campus development projects. Alongside this, the overall campus waste diversion rate (excluding construction and demolition materials) increased by 3 per cent this year, reaching 33 per cent.

Reuse is supported through a variety of initiatives across campus. Programs such as Sprott Shares, along with platforms like the Carleton University Reuse Base (CUrb) and Carleton Marketplace, help facilitate the exchange and redistribution of goods within the campus community. More recently, Carleton launched a new Reuse Hub in the University Centre Nideyinàn, providing a centralized and accessible location for the reuse and recycling of items such as batteries, books, cables, and pens.

To reduce contamination and improve sorting accuracy, Carleton provides tools such as the Waste Wizard and a Sustainability Map to guide proper disposal. The university has also introduced new waste collection operators and continues to expand the rollout of standardized four-stream sorting stations across campus.

Food waste reduction remains a priority. In partnership with Aramark, Carleton uses Leanpath technology to track and reduce food waste in kitchens and cafeterias. Dining Services has also introduced NuviLab food scanners to better understand consumer-level waste and inform menu planning. Compost bins are strategically placed across campus, supported by clear labeling and ongoing education, and zero-waste practices continue to expand within dining operations.



NuviLab Scanner in the Student Food Court

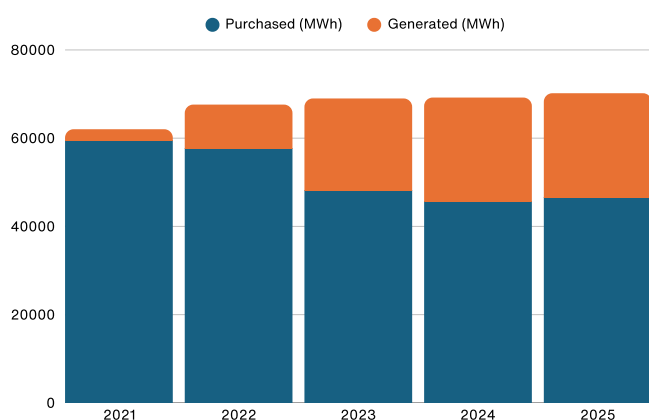
Energy Programs

Carleton University is committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. The interim target of a 50% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 (relative to 2005) is currently under review to ensure alignment with evolving regulatory conditions, infrastructure constraints, and updated project feasibility. This recalibration is intended to strengthen the credibility and deliverability of Carleton's climate commitments while maintaining long-term ambition.

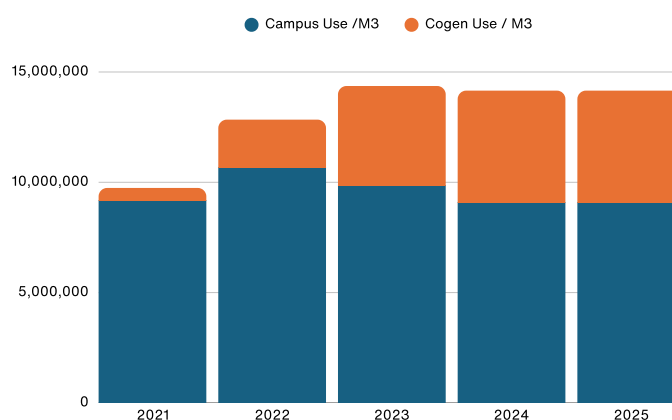
Campus energy use has remained relatively stable in recent years, but the underlying energy mix has changed significantly. Since 2021, purchased electricity has declined by approximately 30%, driven by efficiency improvements and increased on-site generation. The campus now generates approximately 34% of its electricity through its combined heat and power (CHP) system.

This shift has improved energy resilience and reduced exposure to external electricity markets, but it has also increased on-site natural gas use. As a result, Carleton's energy strategy balances emissions reductions with reliability, cost management, and readiness for future electrification.

Campus Electricity Usage



Campus Gas Usage



Carleton participated in the federal carbon pricing program until April 2025, accruing approximately \$1.75 million in notional carbon tax allocations, expected to reach \$2.5 million by 2027 due to program lag. Exiting the program by 2030 is projected to avoid more than \$4.5 million in future costs, reinforcing the financial case for proactive decarbonization investments. These funds are being reinvested in infrastructure renewal and emissions-reduction projects.

The electric boiler project represents Carleton's most significant near-term electrification investment, with a projected annual reduction of approximately 2,600 tonnes of CO₂ once operational. An updated feasibility assessment is underway to reflect changes in electricity pricing, grid capacity, and policy conditions.

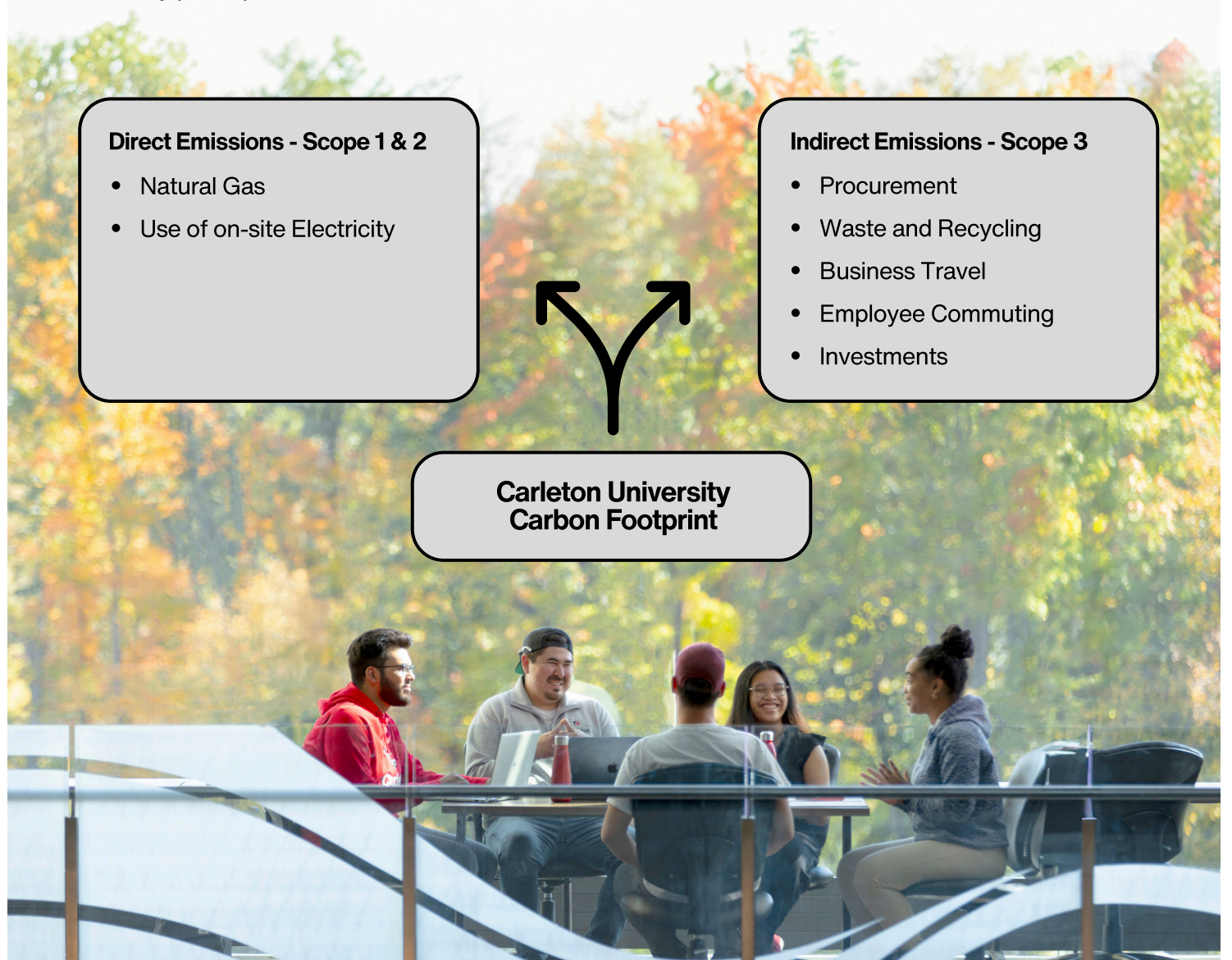
At the building level, pathway studies supported by the Ottawa Retrofit Accelerator indicate that targeted retrofits could achieve emissions reductions exceeding 78% in some building clusters, highlighting the importance of focused, data-driven interventions.

Carleton is moving toward an integrated, portfolio-based decarbonization approach that links infrastructure renewal, emissions reduction, financial stewardship, and operational resilience. This approach combines electrification, targeted retrofits, innovative financing models, and long-term planning to support sustained progress toward climate neutrality. For detailed data tables, building-level programs, and financing models, see the *Energy Focus Supplement*.

Energy and Carbon Emissions

Campus greenhouse gas emissions are commonly grouped into three categories. Scope 1 includes direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the university, such as on-site fuel combustion for heating and power. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions associated with purchased electricity and energy. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions across the university's wider value chain, such as commuting and business travel, procurement of goods and services, waste, and investments. While Scope 3 typically represents the largest share of an institution's overall climate impact, Scope 1 and 2 are the areas over which the university has the most direct operational control, making them the primary focus of near-term emissions reduction targets and infrastructure investments.

At the same time, addressing Scope 3 emissions is essential for achieving meaningful long-term climate impact. Many of these emissions are driven by individual and collective choices, external partners, and broader factors beyond direct control, however they also represent the greatest opportunity for engagement, influence, and collaboration. Travel and commuting, in particular, are a significant component of Carleton's broader emissions profile and a key area for future action through policy, incentives and behavioural change. By combining direct operational decarbonization with expanded efforts to understand, engage, and reduce Scope 3 emissions, Carleton is working toward a more comprehensive and impactful climate strategy that reflects both institutional responsibility and community participation.



Campus Biodiversity

Campus Initiatives: Tiny Forest

As part of its ongoing commitment to campus greening, biodiversity, and climate action, Carleton University established a Tiny Forest on campus in 2025. This initiative contributes to broader sustainability and land stewardship goals by enhancing green infrastructure in a highly visible and accessible location while providing opportunities for experiential learning and community engagement. The Tiny Forest project reflects Carleton's approach to integrating nature-based solutions into the campus environment.

The Carleton University Tiny Forest is located at the corner of University Drive and Stadium Way, near the Tennis Dome, and covers approximately 200 square metres. Designed using the Miyawaki method, the forest replicates the structure of a natural ecosystem through dense planting across three vegetation layers—canopy, shrub, and groundcover. Approximately 600 native plants were installed, representing a diverse mix of trees, shrubs, and forbs selected to support local biodiversity, improve air quality, enhance stormwater absorption, and contribute to long-term carbon sequestration .

Facilities Management and Planning (FMP) has assumed responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the Tiny Forest. The site has been fully integrated into regular grounds management practices, including watering, mulching, staking, and seasonal inspections to ensure successful establishment during the early growing years. Embedding the Tiny Forest within FMP's long-term landscape management plan ensures its continued health and contribution to campus sustainability initiatives.

Beyond its immediate environmental benefits, the Tiny Forest has already catalyzed further campus greening initiatives. Faculty members have expressed interest in using the site for research on insect and bird activity, while student-led momentum from this project supported the successful development of a pollinator garden in Alumni Park. Together, these initiatives demonstrate the value of small-scale, high-impact projects in advancing biodiversity, experiential learning, and community connection at Carleton University.



The Tiny Forest planting day, held on October 4, 2025, was a collaborative success involving students, faculty, staff, and community partners. Organized jointly by EnviroCentre and the Sustainability Carleton team, the event engaged approximately 35 participants, including student groups such as the Carleton University Students' Association (CUSA), the Carleton Conversation Collective, and the Biology Society. Educational components were incorporated into the event to highlight the ecological benefits of Tiny Forests and their role in urban climate resilience and biodiversity enhancement.

Engaging our Community

Meaningful sustainability progress depends on the active participation of the campus community. In 2024–25, Carleton continued to expand opportunities for students and staff to engage in sustainability through programs, events, certifications, and hands-on projects that support behaviour change, environmental stewardship, and shared responsibility.

The Carleton Green Workplace Program remained a central platform for departmental engagement. By year-end, 22 departments had completed the program, including 14 new departments certified in 2025, with three achieving the program's highest level of certification. The program supports practical action across areas such as waste reduction, energy conservation, and sustainable purchasing, helping embed sustainability into everyday workplace practices.

Carleton also hosted a range of sustainability-focused events to engage students and staff in practical actions to reduce their environmental impact, reinforce awareness, and encourage participation in campus sustainability initiatives. These included pop-up events on waste awareness, bike and e-scooter promotion and safety.

In 2025, Carleton achieved recertification as both a Nature Positive University and a WWF-Canada Living Campus, reflecting continued commitment to biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration, and nature-based solutions. These recognitions are supported by ongoing efforts to enhance green infrastructure, support native species, and integrate biodiversity considerations into campus planning and operations.

Student collaboration played a key role in advancing this work. Students contributed to the development of bird-friendly glazing designs, including artistic and hand-drawn treatments created by student groups to reduce bird strikes, and helped establish a pollinator garden in Alumni Park to enhance habitat, support pollinators, and strengthen campus biodiversity.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate Carleton's participatory approach to sustainability — engaging students and staff as active contributors to environmental outcomes while fostering a shared culture of responsibility and care for the campus environment.



Student designed bird friendly glazing



Pollinator Garden in Alumni Park



Student transport survey

Transportation

Transportation is a significant contributor to campus-related greenhouse gas emissions and an important area for advancing Carleton University's climate and sustainability goals. In 2024–25, Carleton continued to promote and enable low-carbon, active, and shared transportation options through a combination of infrastructure support, partnerships, programming, and community engagement. These efforts focused on reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicle use, improving access to sustainable travel options, and strengthening connections between campus, the city, and surrounding communities.

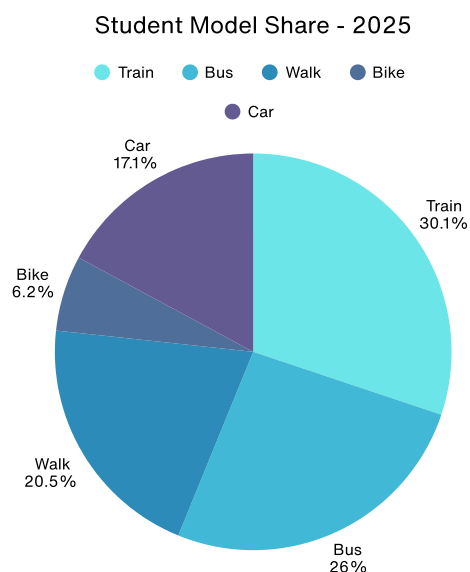
Active transportation remained a key priority and Carleton hosted a bike workshop focused on discovering and navigating Ottawa by bicycle, delivered as part of the city-wide Let's Bike program. Through this initiative, the Carleton team collectively cycled 9,831 kilometres in June, resulting in an estimated 406 bike trips replacing car travel. This program supported awareness-building, skills development, and confidence among participants, encouraging cycling as a viable everyday transportation option.

Cycling was further supported through collaboration with the Carleton University Residence Association (RRRA), which promoted on-campus bike rentals. For a small fee, members of the Carleton community were able to rent bicycles for local travel, recreation, and exploration of the city and surrounding areas, reducing barriers to participation in active transportation for students without personal access to a bike.

To further encourage sustainable commuting, Carleton hosted a full-day Clean Commuter Challenge focused on promoting alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle use and raising awareness among students about their transportation choices. The event included an on-campus engagement booth, information-sharing, and direct outreach, with strong participation and interest from the student community.

As part of the challenge, a student travel survey was conducted to better understand commuting patterns. The findings highlight the importance of maintaining and expanding infrastructure and services that support transit, walking, and cycling, which together account for the majority of student travel to and from campus.

Carleton partnered with Neuron Scooters to promote the use of e-scooters as a low-emission, flexible option for short trips and last-mile travel to and from campus. This initiative supported alternatives to single-car use, particularly for connections between campus, nearby neighbourhoods, transit stations, and shopping areas. E-scooters also provided a practical weekend mobility option for students and staff, enhancing access to the city while reducing transportation-related emissions. Together, these initiatives reflect Carleton's commitment to integrating sustainable transportation into campus life through infrastructure, partnerships, and community engagement.



Data Supplement














All data presented in this report is based on the calendar year, from January 1 to December 31.








Indicator	Metric	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Campus Area (m2)	Total Campus Area	485,068	497,731	497,731	497,731	503,388
Campus Population (K)	Total Campus Population Total Number of Students Total Number of Faculty Total Number of Staff	33,898 31,522 1,004 1,372	33,427 30,903 1,049 1,475	32,530 30,027 1,053 1,450	32,845 30,231 1,062 1,552	33,374 30,760 1,058 1,556
Energy Consumption (MWh)	Natural Gas Electricity Total Energy Consumption	99,403 59,341 158,744	102,858 62,024 164,882	135,546 67,611 203,157	151,646 68,999 220,645	149,335 69,205 218,540
Energy Intensity (MWh /m2)	Energy intensity	0.33	0.33	0.41	0.44	0.43
On-site Electricity Generation (MWh)	Total On-site Generation % Electricity Generated On-site	0 0	2,608 4%	10,036 15%	20,887 30%	23,596 38%
Direct (Scope 1) GHG Emissions (kt CO2e) ¹	Facilities Natural Gas (Overall use) Building Emissions (%/Overall) Co-generation Emissions (%/Ov)	18.3 18.3 (100%) 0	18.9 17.8 (94.2%) 1.1 (5.8%)	24.9 20.7 (83.1%) 4.2 (16.9%)	27.8 19.1 (68.7%) 8.7 (31.3%)	27.5 17.6 (64.1%) 9.9 (35.9%)
Indirect (Scope 2) GHG Emissions (kt CO2e)	Electricity - Location Based	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.4
Other Indirect (Scope 3) GHG Emissions (kt CO2e)	Category 1: Purchased Goods and Services Category 5: Waste Generated in Operations Category 6: Business Travel Category 7: Employee Commuting Category 15: Investments	14.6 0.0004 0.02 1.9 n/a	16.1 0.0004 0.15 1.9 n/a	17.9 0.0004 1.27 1.9 123	19.4 0.0003 2.27 1.1 90	21.5 0.0003 2.39 1.5 90 ²
Total GHG Emissions (kt CO2e)	Total Scope 1 Total Scope 1 and 2 Total Scope 3 Total Scope 1,2 and 3	18.3 20.1 16.5 36.6	18.9 20.7 18.2 38.8	24.9 26.6 144.0 171.1	27.8 29.2 112.7 169.7	27.5 28.9 115.4 171.8
Water Consumption (cubic metres)	Total Water Use	265,552	256,668	360,927	492,541	131,637
Water Intensity (cubic metres/m2)	Water Intensity	0.55	0.52	0.67	0.99	0.26
Waste Generated (metric tons)	Total Weight of Waste Generated Total Weight of Waste to Landfill Total Weight of Waste Composted Total Weight of Waste Recycled % Waste to Diverted from Landfill	853 641 86 126 25%	908 680 74 154 25%	1,010 709 95 205 30%	991 668 68 322 33%	987 610 44 376 38%
University Vehicles	Total Number of University Owned Vehicles Total Number of University Owned EV % of University Owned Electric Vehicles	n/a n/a n/a	n/a n/a n/a	103 65 63.1%	107 70 66.3%	107 70 66.3%
Campus Commuting	Modal Split % by Transit % by Car as Driver % by Car as Passenger % by Cycling % by Walking	61% 22% 7% 2% 8%	61% 22% 7% 2% 8%	61% 22% 7% 2% 8%	61% 22% 7% 2% 8%	56% 17% - 6% 21%

¹ Carleton's GHG (scope 1 and 2) inventory underwent a thorough audit and validation by an independent third-party consultant.

² GHG Emissions for Investments in 2024 based on 2023 due to data availability at time of reporting.

Sustainability Plan Progress

Sustainability Action	Status	Updates
Leadership		
Zero instances of sustainability and environmental legal non-compliance.		No legal non-compliance reported for 2024-25.
Achieve Gold rating in The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS).		Completed in 2025. A full review and update was conducted with submission achieving Gold certification.
Report annually on Carleton's sustainability impacts and progress.		Annual reporting to the Carleton Board of Governors Building Program Committee and Board of Governors. The Annual Sustainability Report is published to the Carleton Sustainability Website. In addition, Sustainability Data Dashboards are maintained on the Carleton Sustainability Website, for data and program reporting.
Report annually through global best practice standards and assessments.		Carleton reports annually towards several standards and assessments. This includes in 2024-25: THE Impact Rankings, WWF Campus Living Planet, Nature Positive Universities, Net Zero Challenge and Canada's Greenest Employee.
Ensure that community stakeholders are engaged in reporting and decision-making processes.		The Carleton Annual Sustainability Report is published on the Carleton Sustainability Website.
Energy and Emissions		
Meet the objectives and targets identified in the Carleton University Energy Master Plan.		The Carleton Energy Master Plan was updated in 2021. The plan is still in early deployment.
Achieve a 50% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 2030, and 100% by 2050 (based on 2005 baseline).		See GHG Emissions in Data Supplement
Increase the number of renewable or alternative energy projects on campus.		Ongoing review with solar rooftop review conducted for future consideration.
Achieve annual energy (electricity and gas) consumption reductions.		Overall consumption has increased year on year, with Energy intensity showing a decline.
Maintain a minimum 4 Green Globe rating (or equivalent) for all new builds and major renovations.		All new buildings and renovations continue to be assessed to Green Globes.
Water		
Achieve annual water consumption reduction (intensity).		Water consumption decreased in 2024. This was attributed to previous overbilling.
Zero Waste		
Achieve a zero-waste campus (over 90% diversion rate).		Waste diverted from landfill exceeded 90% when construction waste was included. When construction was is not included this falls below the 90% target. External audits found diversion rates to be between 80-90%.
Achieve a zero construction waste campus (over 90% diversion).		Good practice highlights over 90% for individual projects.

Sustainability Action	Status	Notes
Sustainable Travel		
Complete a Sustainable Transportation Strategy for the campus.		The Carleton Sustainable Transportation Strategy was completed and utilised as part of transport demand management during O-Train shutdown. This has not been updated.
Increase the number of university-owned electric vehicles.		Over 60% of all university owned vehicles are electric.
Establish Active Transportation rates amongst staff, faculty, and students.		Not yet begun. In the absence of a full campus survey data from the Green Commuter Challenge in 2025 was highlighted in the report.
Food Services		
Increase the percentage of local and sustainably sourced foods purchased through dining operations.		Baseline data completed in 2025, resulting in increased local sourced programs.
Achieve commitments under Carleton's Fair Trade Campus designation.		Annual designation renewed in 2025.
Community Engagement		
Increase the number of sustainability-themed events on campus to increase awareness.		Additional sustainability events run throughout the year including a specific Sustainability Week, Bike to Work Month, Earth Hour, Clean up the Campus event and Student Expo.
Evidence of increased student engagement with organizations working toward sustainability programs.		Social media followers increased by 20% to 1,200. Increase in student engagement including specific examples of conservation projects, bike sharing and fair-trade.