

A close-up photograph of a bee pollinating a cluster of small, white, fuzzy flowers, likely a boneset. The bee is yellow and black, and the flowers are densely packed along a stem. In the background, there are blurred green leaves and other yellow flowers.

Ontario Tech University

2025 Sustainability Report

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ontario Tech University acknowledges the lands and people of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, a branch of the greater Anishinaabeg Nation, including Algonquin, Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatomi.



AT A GLANCE



859

residence items
diverted from landfill

604



pieces of university
furniture rehomed

1,080

lbs of honey harvested from
the campus apiary



550+

sustainability related
courses offered



40+

sustainability
events held



Fairtrade

Campus designation since 2023



18

Community
partnerships to advance
sustainability on campus



over
2,400
people engaged in
sustainability events

**Bee City
Campus**

Designation maintained
through engagement
events & pollinator
garden installation

Operations



In October, 176 solar panels were installed at the campus farm.

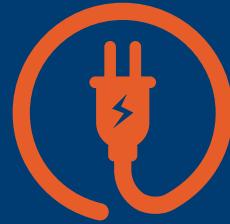
This addition increased the solar energy capacity of the farm from 20 kW to 84 kW.



210 MWh of solar energy produced on campus this year



That's enough energy to power a home for 18.5 years!



Electrification

The campus farm's gas powered lawn mower was replaced with an electric version, further reducing Ontario Tech's greenhouse gas emissions.



Energy Saving Recognition



Ontario Tech University received two energy related awards from Durham Greener Buildings for its outstanding leadership in reducing energy use and emissions on campus.

Ontario Tech also won second place in the Leadership and Sustainability Impact Awards for its significant impact in advancing sustainability initiatives and promoting a greener future in the Durham Region community.

Ranked 100 out of 1,745 universities



▲ Improved 251 positions from 2024 ranking



Ontario Tech received the **Most Sustainably Improved University** award from UI Green Metric, a global ranking on sustainability in higher education institutions. This award demonstrates Ontario Tech's integration of sustainability through every component of the university, from education to systems design.



Furniture Reuse Program

604

Pieces of furniture
donated to students,
staff, and community
members.

Giving old furniture a new life!



Where possible, furniture is reused on campus,
while furniture that is no longer needed is offered
to the broader community.

Free Store Program

859

Items from residence move out diverted from landfill and rehomed.

Every April, many students move out of residence and in the rush, leave behind clothes, shoes, electronics, non-perishable foods, and books. The Free Store collects these items, sorts them and reoffers them back to the campus community.

As the cost of living soars, this program aims to offer access to necessities that students may otherwise not be able to afford, like warm winter clothing.



Environment

1,080 lbs

of honey harvested from
the campus farm apiary



676 lbs

of produce grown on the campus farm

Cabbage
Onion
Garlic
Squash

Zucchini
Cucumber
Herbs
Apple

Pear
Tomato
Potato
Plum



Part of the produce grown on the campus farm is sold on a sliding scale at campus markets to promote food security amongst students.



The rest of the produce is provided to Hunter's Kitchen, a campus dining location that turns the produce into affordable meals and treats for the campus community.





This year also marked the establishment of Ontario Tech's partnership with Common Ground Foodshare (CGF), a local non-profit that sources, prepares and distributes fresh food boxes to community members in need. CFG was provided an area to farm and in turn, built compost bins to support Ontario Tech's composting program.



Planting at the Campus Farm

228 trees

40+ native plants (such as turtlehead, black-eyed susan, dense blazing star, & false sunflower)

600 feet of garlic cloves for next year

16

Mature trees moved from the farm nursery to North Campus



1
New pollinator garden on the campus farm

Pollinators at play



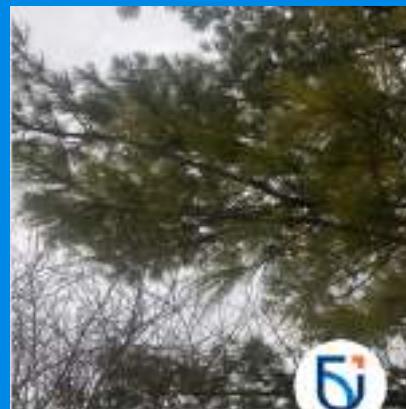
This site contains native plants which provide food and shelter for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators.

Learn more at BeeCityCanada.org



2,288

Total entries on
Ontario Tech
Biodiversity Inventory



Eastern White Pine
(*Pinus strobus*)

Research Grade

8.2



White-tailed Deer
(*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Research Grade

8.2



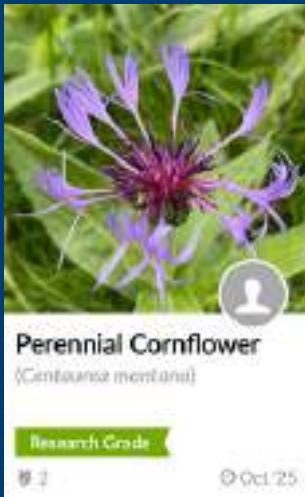
© Jun '25



Feral Pigeon
(*Columba livia domesticus*)

Research Grade

© May '25



Perennial Cornflower
(*Centaurea montana*)

Research Grade

© Oct '25

161 biodiversity
inventory
submissions of 114
unique species were
made in 2025

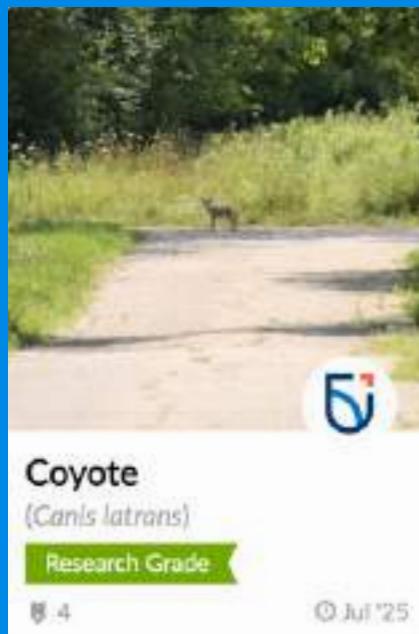
iNaturalist



Greater Bee Fly
(*Bombylius major*)

8.1

© May '25

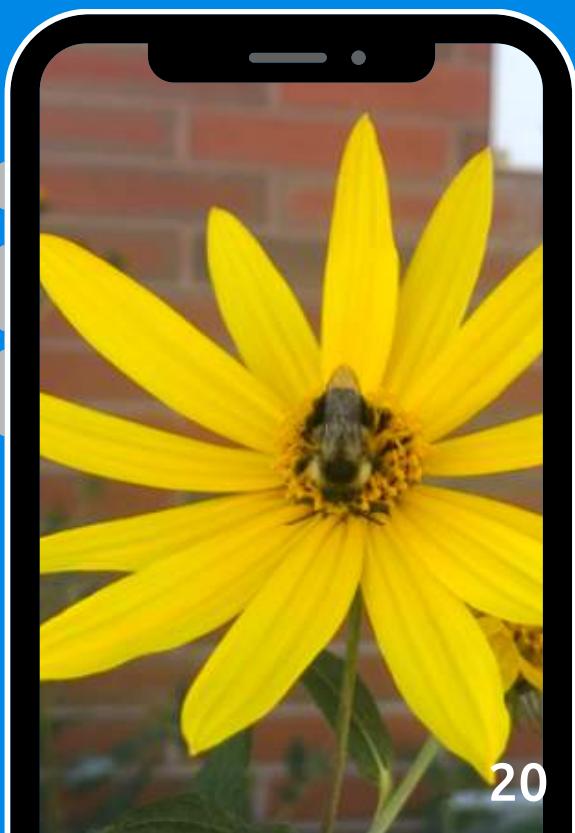


Coyote
(*Canis latrans*)

Research Grade

8.4

© Jul '25



20

Creating a Bird Safe Campus



As established by the [Ontario Tech Biodiversity Inventory](#), both campuses are home to over 40 species of birds. Unfortunately, those birds often collide with the glass windows on campus, mistaking them for the open sky.



The Office of Campus Infrastructure & Sustainability took action this year to retrofit almost 2,000 square feet of glass on the Software and Informatics Research Centre entrance ramp as well as the southside of Charles Hall.



Bird Safe Campus

1,851 square feet of glass retrofitted

90 submissions to tracking form

26 bird strikes recorded

14 student and staff volunteers

1 injured bird successfully rehabilitated



Social Good



Buzzworthy Bulletin



172
NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

In just over a year, the campus sustainability newsletter has almost doubled in subscribers, with many staff and students looking for a platform to access information on how to engage with sustainability on campus.



40+ SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS



ENGAGED 1,354 students
330 staff
717 community members



Fairtrade Campus

Ontario Tech University maintains its Fairtrade Campus designation through its steering committee, Fairtrade product availability, and education and engagement events. The following Fairtrade products are available at the campus-run dining hall (Hunter's Kitchen) as well as through catering: tea, coffee, chocolate, bananas, and ice cream.



Ontario Tech University has been recognized as a designated Fairtrade Campus since 2023.





18 Sustainability Champions

The sustainability champions grew considerably this year with a total of 18 students. These students show exemplary leadership on campus and support a wide range of sustainability related events from tabling, to planting, to volunteering at Feed the Need in Durham.

Collaborated with 18 Organizations



COMMON
GROUND
FOODSHARE.



Academics



550+

**sustainability related
courses offered**

Courses such as
**Business & Sustainability,
Environmental Communication,
and Sustainable Community
Energy Systems**

10

Environment & Sustainability Programs

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Business and Society

Bachelor of Arts and Science (Honours)

Sustainability

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) or Bachelor of Engineering and Management (Honours)

Energy Engineering

Nuclear Engineering

Railway Engineering

Bachelor of (Honours) or Bachelor of Science and Management (Honours)

Biological Science

Environmental Biology

Marine Biology

Nanophysics

Minor

Sustainability Studies



347

Scholarly publications on
sustainability



Sustainability Survey

More than 50% of students believe that sustainability is important to a well functioning economy.



45%

of students have an understanding of climate change, biodiversity loss and water, air and soil pollution.



Ontario Tech University
2000 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa, ON, Canada L1G 0C5

sites.ontariotechu.ca/ocis/sustainability

sustainability@ontariotechu.ca

 @OT_sustain