

A close-up photograph of a bumblebee on a white, spiky flower. The bee is positioned on the left side of the flower, facing right. The background is a blurred green field with other similar flowers and some yellow flowers in the distance.

Ontario Tech University

2025 Sustainability Report

Table of Contents

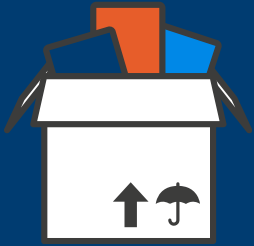
Land Acknowledgement	3
At a Glance	4
Operations	5
Solar	6
Solar	7
Lawn Mower	8
Energy Award	9
UI Green Metric	10
UI Green Metric	11
Furniture Reuse Program	12
Free Store	13
Environment	14
Honey Harvest	15
Campus Farm Produce	16
Campus Market	17
Common Ground Foodshare	18
Campus Farm Planting	19
Biodiversity Inventory	20
Bird Safe Campus	21
Bird Safe Campus	22
Social Good	23
Newsletter	24
Sustainability Events	25
Fairtrade Campus	26
Sustainability Champions	27
Partnerships	28
Academics	29
Sustainability Courses	30
Sustainability Programs	31
Publications	32
Survey	33

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

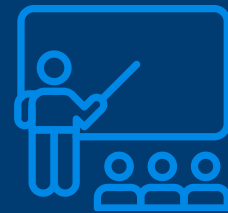
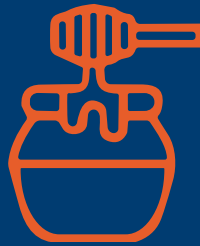
604



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



over

2,400

people engaged in
sustainability events



18

Community
partnerships to advance
sustainability on campus



Bee City
Campus

Designation maintained
through engagement
events & pollinator
garden installation

Operations



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

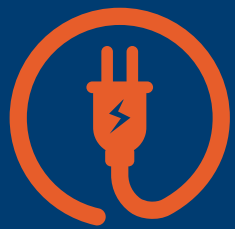
This addition increased the solar energy capacity of the farm from 20 kW to 84 kW.



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

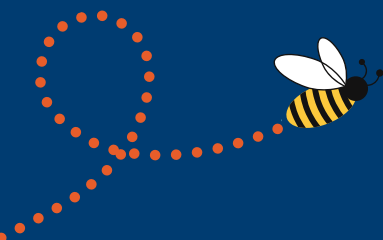
228 trees

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

 Bee City
CANADA  OntarioTech
UNIVERSITY

2,288

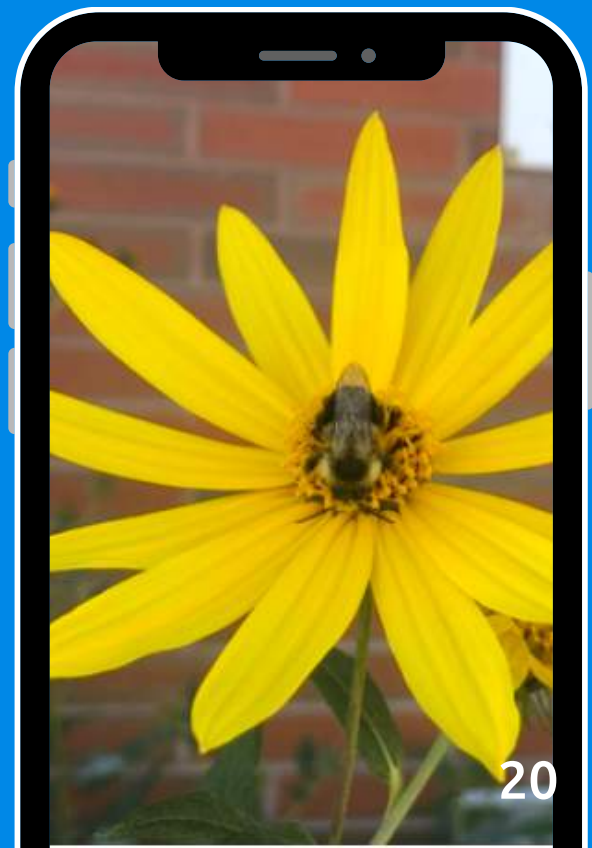
Total entries on
Ontario Tech
Biodiversity Inventory



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



 iNaturalist



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

A group of people are seated in a room, facing a man who appears to be presenting. The room has large windows on the left and right, and a brick wall with a whiteboard in the background. The audience is diverse in age and appearance. Some people are wearing green shirts with the text "EAT PLANTS. PLANTS. THAT'S THE WAY TO LIVE." on the back. The room has a modern feel with a mix of brick and wood paneling.

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



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.



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