

Sustainability at TMU

Sustainability Office, FMD
April 28, 2025

Toronto
Metropolitan
University

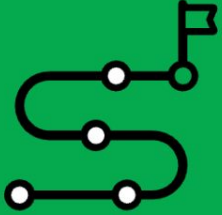


Overview of TMU

- **Founded:** 1948
- **Enrollment:** 48,000 students
- **Faculty & Staff:** 3,000+
- **Campus:** Urban, located in downtown Toronto
- **Community Impact:** Serving a diverse, vibrant community with a focus on innovation, sustainability, and research excellence.
- **Sustainability Office:** Team of 3 full-time staff



2023/2024 accomplishments at a glance



Launch of TMU's first
Sustainability Action Plan



Formation of four new **Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee subcommittees**



TMU earns an **AASHE STARS Gold rating**









Completion of TMU's first
decarbonization feasibility studies



2024 Waste Audit Snapshot

On Track — But Major Opportunities Remain



Metric		2024 Value	2028 Target	Status	Notes
	Waste Diversion Rate	37.10%	50%	 Slightly off track	Needs ~4.3% gain per year
	Waste Generated	1598.67 MT	1,522.92 MT (15% reduction)	 On track	Already down ~10.8%
	Capture Rate	41%	No formal target	 Improving	Up from 37.55%

Next Steps: Identified by the Subcommittee



Action

A flowchart icon consisting of three squares arranged vertically. Arrows connect them in a loop: from the top square to the middle, from the middle to the bottom, and from the bottom back to the top.	Conduct Waste Stream Flow Study to identify system gaps and areas of improvement
A line drawing of a waste truck with a large bin on its back. The bin has a recycling symbol on it.	Establish a tracking process for Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste and expand reuse programming
A line drawing of a classroom. A teacher is standing at the front, pointing at a whiteboard. Three students are sitting at desks in the foreground.	Strengthen sustainability engagement within the classroom: Develop D2L training module)

Reuse and Circularity in Action

TMU Free Store

By giving items a second life, we are



disrupting
throwaway culture
and contributing to
the circular economy



reducing carbon
emissions associated
with the production
and transportation
of new goods



saving resources,
including raw
materials, water and
energy

One Day Only!

Final Free Store Pop-Up of 2024!

Sustainability Office

Give gently-used
items a second life!

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Everyone has an equal
right to the Free Store, we have a
right to it.

Toronto
Metropolitan
University

Facilities
Management
& Development

By the Numbers



Reuse and circularity in action



8,299 items were rehomed via the [Free Store](#)



6,428.13 lbs of waste were diverted from landfill via the Free Store



14,692 items were rehomed through the [Furniture Rehoming Program](#)



302 employees used the Furniture Rehoming Program in 2023-2024, up from 160 in 2022-2023



6,507 Friendlier reusable containers were reused at the Hub Café

TMU Repair Workshop

- Partnership with the Libraries' Digital Media Experience Lab
- The DME's team of fixers teach hands-on repair skills and give items a second life
- Three workshops held since October 2024
- Promotes reuse and circularity



Rocked out a little too hard at your last show?

Get the band back together again.



Repairing your broken electronics is music to our ears!

Gain hands-on repair skills at the March 12 Repair Workshop.

Hosted by the Sustainability Office and TMU Libraries' DME

Need help with what waste goes where?

Ask the TMU Waste Wizard!



Learn more about waste diversion from TMU's Sustainability Office.

Waste Wizard expansion

Four week focused comms efforts: Feb 3 - Mar 2

- Installation of 250 Waste Wizard QR code signs at four-stream waste receptacles
- Digital education campaign with content for SoMe, screens, web
- TMT: [Sorting smarter: TMU's Waste Wizard takes the guesswork out of waste diversion on campus](#)

Coffee cup waste stream pilot

The problem: Disposable coffee cups make up a high volume of contamination of TMU's recycling stream as polyethylene coated coffee cups can't be traditionally recycled.

The response: Rollout of dedicated coffee cup waste receptacles in high traffic areas, educational campaign.

- Campaign (launch date TBD)
 - Installation of new receptacles near campus eateries
 - Raise awareness/drive usage of new waste stream + educate the community on the environmental impact of polyethylene coated coffee cups
 - Digital content for SoMe, screens, Life of a Coffee Cup vid

