




Our Path to Carbon Neutral

A photograph of two women in a forest setting. One woman is kneeling on a wooden plank, pouring water from a small wooden bowl into a stream. The other woman is sitting on the plank, watching. The stream flows over rocks, creating white water. The background is a dense forest with trees and foliage.

Canadore College resides on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg and within lands protected by the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850. This land is occupied by the people of Nipissing First Nation, Treaty #10 in the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 since time immemorial.

COMMITMENT STATEMENTS



George Burton
President and CEO

Canadore College has set an ambitious goal to be carbon neutral by 2031. Our baseline carbon footprint will help to guide mitigation strategies as we explore emerging sustainable technologies to reduce the impact that our operations have on the environment.

We remain committed to seeking ways to improve well-being, both on campus and in our communities, through outreach and applied research.

Our partnerships are vital, and we aim to align our efforts to ensure that we are creating a better place to live, learn, grow, and prosper for our staff and students and the communities we serve.

Between now and 2031, we will undertake several initiatives to promote environmental, economic, and social well-being as outlined in our Living Plan. Together, we will do our part to help create a more sustainable future.



Shawn Chorney
Vice President, Strategic
Infrastructure, Indigenous
& Learner Services

Canadore College is a destination of choice for people from around the world. We aim to create an environment that is magnetic – an environment where people want to come, where they want to be, and where they want to stay.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) go well beyond environmental sustainability. For us, it means that we look at how we hire, how we create capacity for our students, and the curriculum that is taught. It refers to creating an environment that is diverse, safe, and inclusive. We believe that, when we achieve significant progress on all fronts, we will begin to realize the full potential of the College as a community of people with shared goals.

We will not wait for others to address climate change or to build healthier, more sustainable communities. **Our 10,000 students, employees, and volunteers provide us with an incredible opportunity to make an impact now.**



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INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

Canadore College has been a valued partner to our communities for more than 50 years. Our focus remains centered on quality education and student success as evidenced by our 60,000+ graduates worldwide. We welcome 5,600 students each year from over 400 Canadian communities and 15 international countries, including Brazil, China, India, Peru, and Africa.

- We have 3 campuses in North Bay, Ontario – the Aviation Campus, the College Drive Campus, and the Commerce Court Campus – we also have a campus in beautiful Parry Sound, Ontario.
- We have over 80+ full-time programs.
- We have delivered quality programming through the School of Environmental Studies for 50+ years.

Canadore affirmed its long-term commitment to sustainability in 2010 when it was included as one of its five pillars:

1. Student Success
2. Program and Service Excellence
3. Innovation and Entrepreneurship
4. Connection to Community
5. Sustainability (fiscal and environmental)

But what does this mean? It means that, as an institution, we structure, plan, evaluate, implement, and make decisions with sustainability in mind.

More than 11 years later, that commitment has not wavered. In fact, Canadore's 2021-2022 Business Plan set an ambitious target to be carbon neutral by 2031 and most recently has signed on to the SDG Accord.



What is the SDG Accord? This accord is a commitment from post-secondary institutions around the world to embed the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into everything they do.

This includes education, research, leadership, operations, administration, and engagement activities.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This commitment has driven us here today – **our plan**.

This is the first stage of the Canadore College Sustainability Plan. It celebrates the work that has been done to date and establishes a baseline. Secondly, it is an opportunity to broaden the conversation amongst our staff, students, and our community as a whole as we take important steps to embed the sustainable development goals (SDGs) into everything we do.

We will begin by introducing the 17 SDGs as told by Canadore staff, students, and community partners. We will then introduce sustainability, both as the officially accepted term and in our own terms to describe what it means to our college.

The plan will describe **where we are** – our ongoing initiatives have been catalogued on our webpage and can be filtered conveniently by their contributing SDG.

Next, the plan will describe **where we will be** – this section will describe our living plan to achieve carbon neutrality for our managed facilities by 2031, and a Canadore forever invested in the well-being of our staff, students, and community. Where partnerships exist, we will work with and guide them to achieve their sustainability goals.

The plan will focus on four broad areas:

1. Operations
2. People
3. Collaboration and Community Outreach
4. Research and Curriculum Development

The plan builds a living framework to establish a more sustainable Canadore and to support our partners to build a more sustainable community. It aims to face today's challenges head on and embrace future challenges as an opportunity to learn, evolve, and create solutions through collaboration, innovation, and applied research.

It is important to note that **this plan will remain fluid**.

Why? Quite simply – things change. Priorities will shift, new technologies will become available and we will learn from our experiences as well as those of our fellow post-secondary institutions who are committed to the same goal.

One thing that will not change – our commitment.



SUSTAINABILITY AT CANADORE

Post-secondary institutions play a critical role within the communities they serve. In their letter to three ministers entitled “Building Back Better to Ensure Well-being for All” the Colleges & Institutes Canada ImpAct Advisory Committee noted that **over 95% of Canadians and 85% of Indigenous people live within 50 kilometers of one of our facilities.**

This represents an incredible opportunity to **act now** - to educate, inspire, and work together to create a path to a more sustainable future.

OUR VISION

We envision a Canadore that is carbon neutral by 2031, that embeds the SDGs into its core, promotes well-being through thoughtful action, and educates to inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals, or Global Goals, are a collection of 17 interlinked goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.”

Click on one of the boxes below to learn more about each individual goal as told by our staff, students, and community partners.

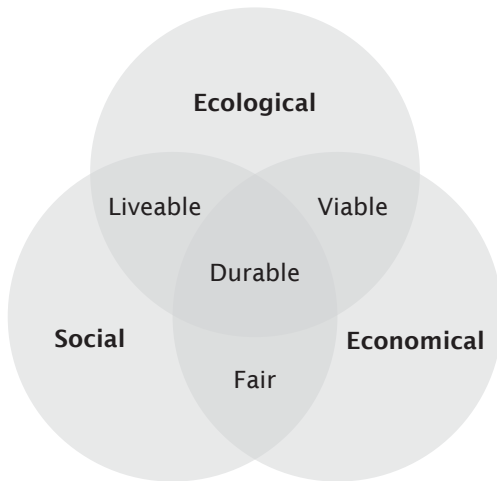


DEFINING SUSTAINABILITY

The 1987 Brundtland Report published by The United Nations defines sustainability as **“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”**

i. The Three Pillars of Sustainability

- **Economic:** promotion of economic development and growth, but not at the expense of the social or environmental pillars.
- **Social:** values that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion: respect for rights, and basic human needs and the promotion of well-being for all groups.
- **Environmental:** focus on environmental well-being.



ii. Sustainability at Canadore

For Canadore, sustainability means that we are committed to ensuring the prudent and effective management of our human, fiscal, and environmental resources to ensure that our learners and employees receive maximum benefit from the college's and communities' resources, now, and forever.



WHERE WE ARE

By signing the SDG Accord, we affirmed our commitment to sustainability and leading as an institution within our community and on a global stage.

This section celebrates what we have done to date.

i. Establishing Baselines

We are working with **Ecometrica** to complete an information and data collection effort to identify and account for existing scope 1, 2, and some scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions. Through this effort, we will assess our current carbon footprint, improve data collection, and build a replicable process that is used to measure progress each year.

ii. Inspiring the Canadore Community

We have created a **Sustainable Development Task Force** – this dedicated and diverse group is comprised of students and staff representatives from senior leadership, faculty, facilities, finance, research, careers, marketing, and communications.

Our task force contributes to ongoing projects, provides feedback, and suggests new approaches to ensure that our outputs are rooted in the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

iii. ImpAct-Climate Campus Living Labs

Colleges & Institutes Canada (CICan) selected Canadore to be one of ten demonstration sites for its first round of the ImpAct-Climate Campus Living Labs project.

The goal of these projects is to connect faculty, students, and community partners to raise awareness about climate change, and to promote projects that reduce GHG emissions.

Our project will focus on food security and solutions to divert GHG emissions through the displacement of fossil fuels to rural and Indigenous communities. This will be accomplished through our off-grid grow pods which operate 24 hours per day and can produce approximately 30,000 pounds of food annually.



The project's three primary goals are to:

- Increase production of fresh produce for our culinary programs;
- Consult with Indigenous communities to determine their needs; and
- To grow the produce that has been identified through consultancy.

iv. But there is more....

For a user friendly experience, we have catalogued our ongoing initiatives on our Sustainable Canadore page linked [here](#).

For each, you will find the “why?” and the “how?”



WHERE WE WILL BE



Our waste diversion rate will be 90% by 2031 to **achieve Zero Waste.**



Any **CO₂ released** from campus operations will be mitigated by the equivalent amount being removed.



Obtain LEED Gold Certification for any **new construction** projects.



Measure the **integration of sustainability** at every level as a post-secondary institution to achieve Gold in STARS rating.

1 OPERATIONS

This priority area seeks to reduce the impact that our daily operations have on the environment and seeks ways to further incorporate the SDGs within our campuses. It is subdivided into the following sections: waste reduction, energy, and infrastructure, campus greening, and travel.

i. Waste Reduction

- Eliminate waste on campus through reducing, reusing, composting, and recycling.
- Assess and mitigate operational waste in collaboration with academic programs.
- Integrate more local and sustainably sourced foods.
- Develop sustainable procurement policies in collaboration with the finance team.
- Reduce paper usage in collaboration with the I.T. team.

ii. Energy and Infrastructure

- Focus on facility decarbonization strategies and the use of renewable or alternative energies.
 - » Geothermal
 - » Solar
 - » Hydroelectric
 - » Battery Energy Storage Solutions (BESS)
- Improve the accessibility of water filling stations.
- Implement review process and waste tracking plan for construction projects.

iii. Campus Greening

- Seek opportunities to incorporate additional greenspace on campus.
- Plant more trees to increase carbon sequestration and safely remove trees that are emitting carbon.
- Create environmental policy to protect our greenspace and waterways.



iv. Travel

- Increase number of electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles within existing fleet.
- Promote active transportation for staff and students through availability and improvements to existing infrastructure.
- Develop carbon offsetting program to help mitigate work related travel.

2

PEOPLE

This priority area aims to engage the college community in activities that promote well-being by contributing to the SDGs.

- Incorporate the equity, diversity and inclusion framework into everything we do.
- Identify initiatives to help promote student and staff well-being through activities, educational opportunities, or training.
- Lead projects that engage the college community as a whole to help them contribute in meaningful ways.



3

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

This priority area aims to find ways to act as leaders in sustainability within the communities we serve.

- Engage the college and broader community through newly developed website and social media.
- Collaborate with and support like-minded organizations to promote sustainability within our community. Support them in pursuit of their sustainability goals.
- Distribute monthly newsletter to staff, students, and community members.





4

RESEARCH

AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

This priority area aims to embed social, environmental, and economic well-being into what is taught and provides additional opportunities for research.

- Catalogue research projects as they relate to SDGs.
- Review SDG integration within existing curriculum and explore opportunities to further integrate. Explore opportunities for micro-credentials.
- Create living labs using new infrastructure to demonstrate the newest evolution in sustainable technology.



CONCLUSION

This document will be reviewed annually to, first, celebrate what has been accomplished and, second, to seek opportunities for improvement and incorporate lessons learned. It will also help to inform our yearly business plan.

Our updated initiatives can be found [here](#).

Our plan will purposefully remain fluid. This will allow us to remain transparent, keep an open dialogue, reflect, and remain open to new research, and innovation.

Our plan and our vision will get us to 2031 but our unwavering commitment to the well-being of our staff, students, communities, and the planet will last forever.

**We only have one planet
– the time to act is now.**



“

**We are the first generation
that can end poverty, the last
that can end climate change.**

To the reader:

”

We hope that our plan inspires you to do the same and commit to promoting the SDGs where you live, work, and play.

Before you go, we ask that you consider this quote from former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Thank you,

Jesse Russell
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