

Kaitlyn D’Lima, Sustainability Intern University of Toronto Mississauga | Sustainability Office



Sustainability Office



The Sustainability Office Team

About the Sustainability Office

The Sustainability Office was established in 2004 and is focused on driving sustainable change at UTM. The efforts of the Sustainability Office led UTM to achieve a STARS Silver ranking under the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Program. To advance the culture of sustainability on campus, a Sustainability Strategic Plan and Progress Report have been released to guide and update stakeholders on the campus’ efforts in reaching a Platinum-ranked institution in the future.

UTM’s Sustainable Progress

- 28** Sustainable targets completed
- 21** Sustainability meetings
- 7** Sustainability subcommittees

“Obstacles are motivation to push forward” – UofT Defy Gravity Campaign

The University of Toronto is a massive organization, so naturally, the path of driving sustainable change will be faced with many obstacles. This quote is part of the Defy Gravity campaign, which I encountered on my walk to the office. It became a key takeaway from my internship as I internalized that **obstacles in driving sustainable change are not to be feared**, but rather welcomed. **Leveraging the power of connection and collaboration** to face obstacles was another takeaway from my experience. Over my five months, I worked with many teams across the university such as FM&P, Grounds, Procurement, Centre for Student Engagement, UTMSU, and the Institute for Management & Innovation, all of which helped to drive sustainable actions, events and programs on campus. The most notable event was the Campus Clean-Up held in June, where 66 participants from across the university and along with some City of Mississauga staff, came together and collected 37 pounds of garbage and recycling from campus.



My role as the Sustainability Intern consisted of...



Advancing the goals in the strategic plan to support our progression through the STARS program



Planning and attending sustainability events and supporting the new Waste Ambassadors program



Creating social media content that is informative and captivating for the UTM community



Toured TMU’s campus garden and supported the Request For Quote process for UTM’s campus garden



Tabling to promote the Sustainability Office and educating students on waste management practices