

## St. Thomas University Climate & Sustainability Action Plan 2025-2030 – Key Actions Overview

### 1. Built Environment

- **Target:** Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and water consumption by 2030.
- **Key Actions:**
  - Conduct GHG inventories and energy audits.
  - Develop a prioritized list of energy-efficient retrofits<sup>1</sup> for each building.
  - Assess feasibility for on-site solar energy.
  - Ensure new construction follows globally recognized green building standards.
  - Upgrade plumbing fixtures to low-flow alternatives.
  - Improve indoor air quality and occupant comfort.

### 2. Solid Waste Management

- **Target:** Reduce waste generation and increase diversion rate<sup>2</sup> by 2030.
- **Key Actions:**
  - Standardize recycling infrastructure and signage.
  - Launch educational campaigns on waste sorting.
  - Expand composting and introduce food recovery programs.
  - Implement a deposit-return system for beverage containers.
  - Conduct regular waste audits.

### 3. Natural Environment

- **Target:** Increase biodiversity, native plant species, and tree canopy coverage by 2030.
- **Key Actions:**
  - Conduct biodiversity audits.
  - Plant native and edible plant species on campus.
  - Collaborate with Indigenous partners on plant selection.
  - Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic landscaping.
  - Install rainwater collection systems and green infrastructure.

### 4. Procurement

- **Target:** Increase sustainable purchasing and reduce single-use plastics by 2030.
- **Key Actions:**
  - Develop a Sustainable Procurement Policy.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of energy-efficient retrofits include switching to LED lighting, improving heating and cooling systems, adding insulation, and installing smart controls to save energy.

<sup>2</sup> Percentage of waste diverted from landfills or incineration and instead directed towards recycling, composting, or other sustainable disposal methods.

- Include sustainability criteria in Request for Proposal/Request for Tender processes.<sup>3</sup>
- Prioritize ethical and low-impact suppliers.
- Reduce single-use plastics in food services.
- Implement a reusable container program.

## 5. Academics

- **Target:** Increase number of programs with sustainability learning outcomes by 2030.
- **Key Actions:**
  - Create a sustainability curriculum map.
  - Offer faculty development on sustainability teaching.
  - Establish a sustainability literacy assessment.
  - Provide incentives for sustainability research.

## 6. Engagement

- **Target:** Increase participation in sustainability events/programs and reduce fossil-fuel reliant travel and commuting by 2030.
- **Key Actions:**
  - Establish an Eco-Reps program for student leadership.
  - Create a green office program for staff and faculty.
  - Create a green event program.
  - Develop a sustainability communication platform.
  - Expand active transportation infrastructure.
  - Measure and reduce business-related air travel.

## Questions for Feedback

1. Are the key actions clear and easy to understand? Are any areas missing or unclear?
2. Which areas of focus do you think should be prioritized? Why?
3. What ideas do you have to make it easier or more appealing for students, faculty, and staff to get involved in these initiatives?
4. What do you consider to be the most visible sustainability indicators on campus?
5. What kinds of resources do students need to engage in sustainable behaviours on campus?

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<sup>3</sup> Ways the university asks companies to submit offers or bids for a project.