

November 18, 2025 | November 21, 2025

Town Hall: Climate and Sustainability Strategy

A draft of the Climate and Sustainability Strategy is available for public comment until November 28th, 2025.

Feedback is welcome via email to climatestrategy@uwo.ca

Find out more about the draft Climate and Sustainability Strategy



Agenda

Land Acknowledgement

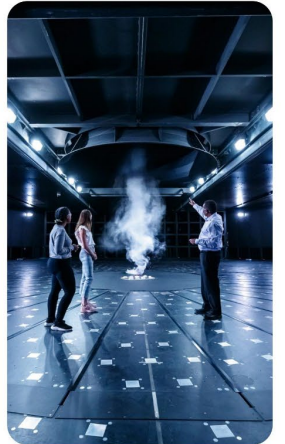
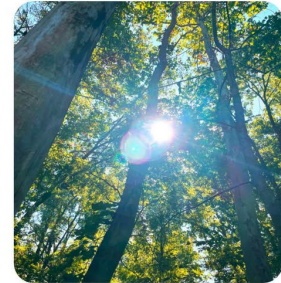
Welcome from PACES

Overview of Engagement

Overview of Strategy

Delivering the Strategy

Q&A



**Climate and
Sustainability
Strategy**

2025

Western
UNIVERSITY • CANADA





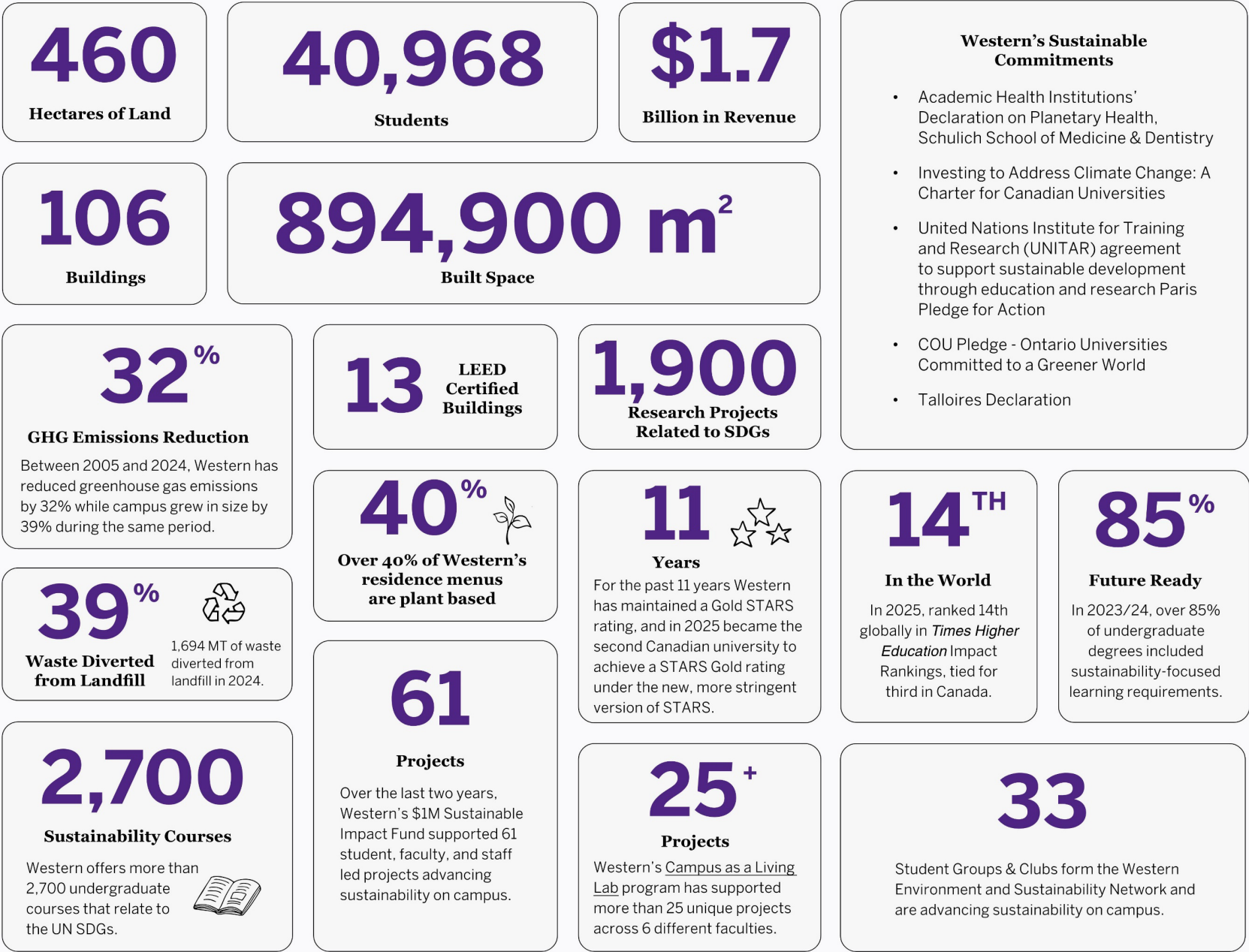
Land Acknowledgement

Welcome



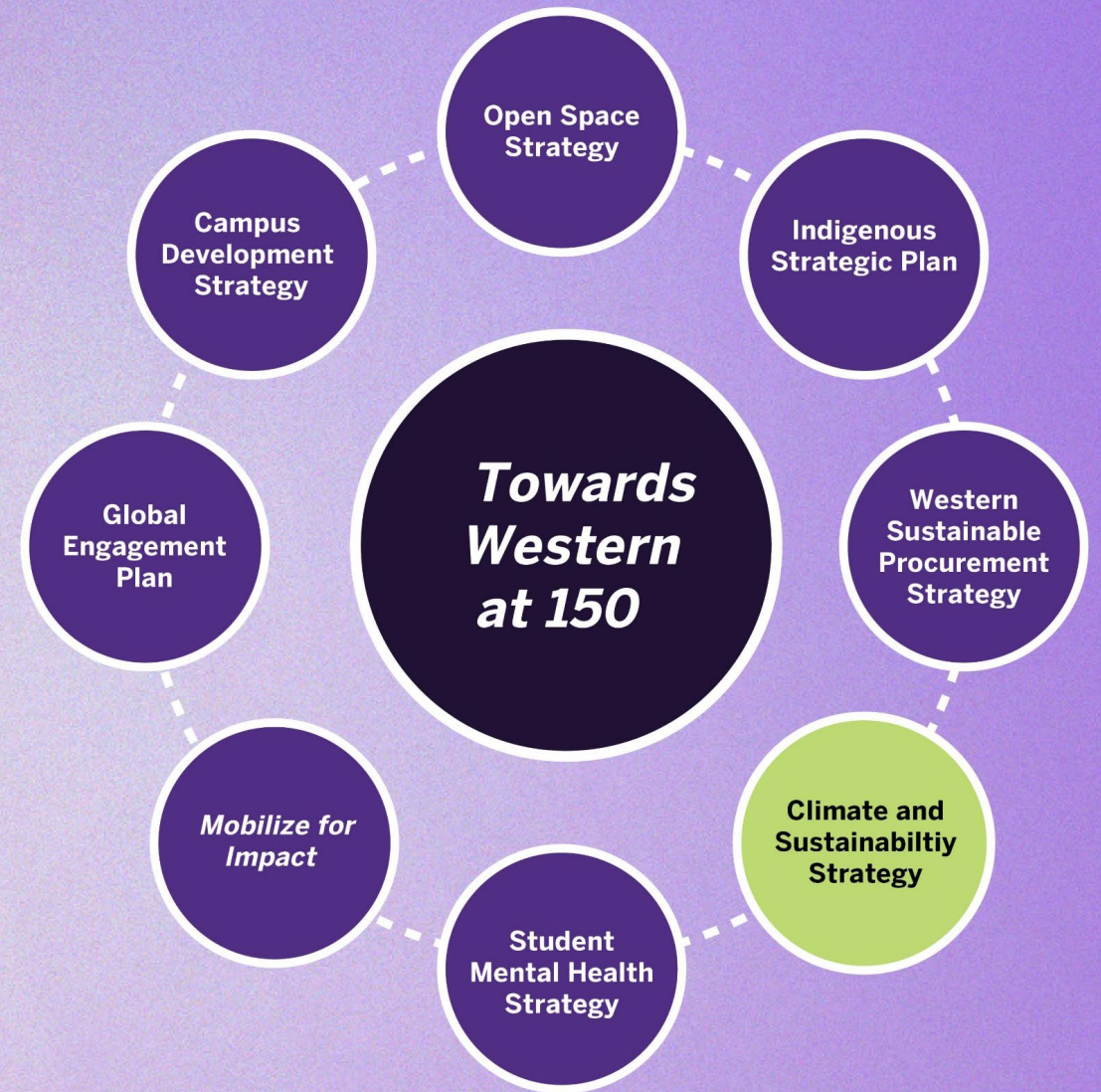
Sustainability at Western

Sustainability by the Numbers



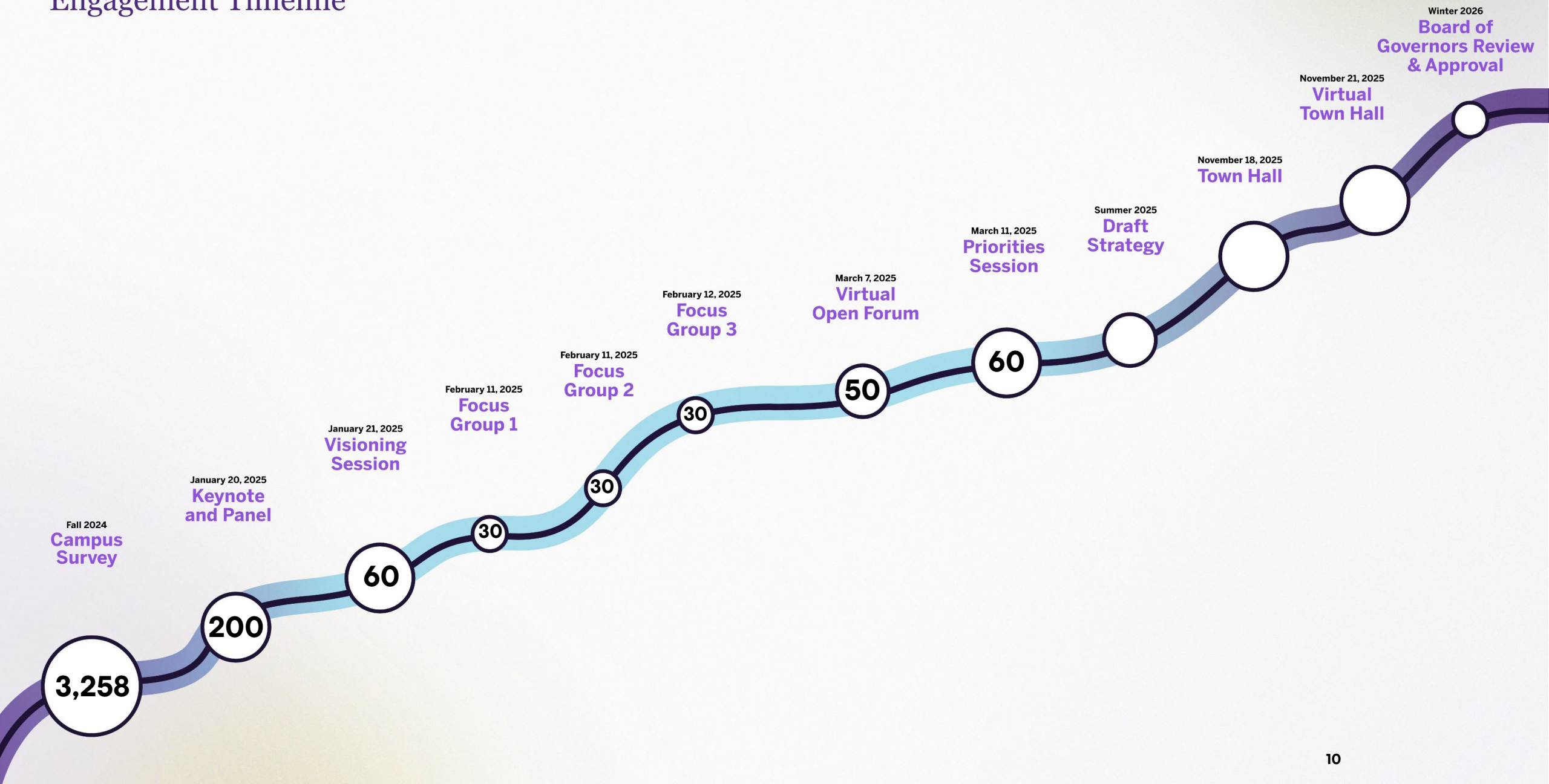
What we set out to do with the new Climate and Sustainability Strategy

1. Be bold and ambitious
2. Can we differentiate Western from peer universities?
3. Identify broad themes and make progress around themes
4. Prioritize
5. Will require collective engagement and action
6. Supported by a 5-year action plan

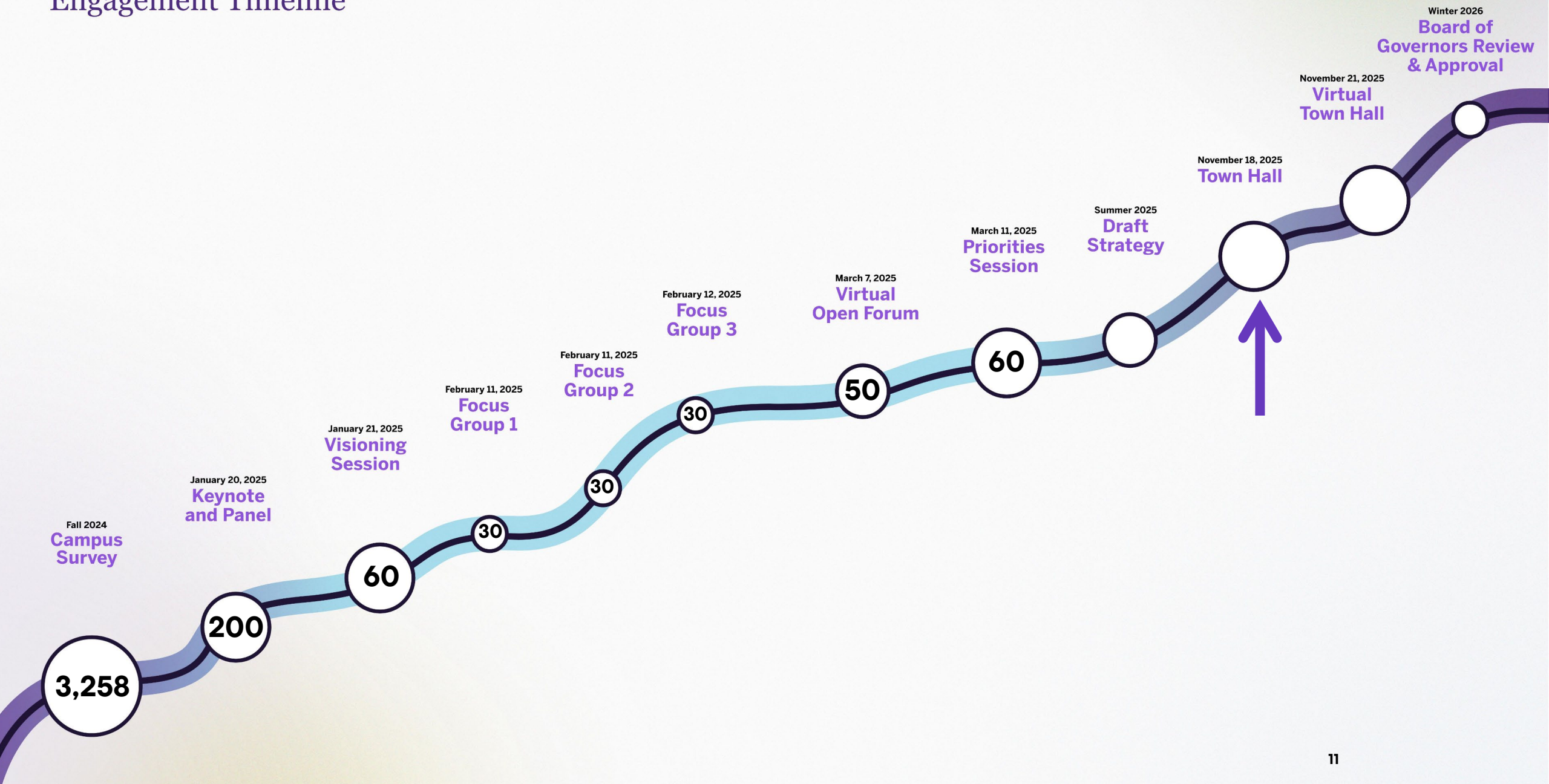


Overview of Engagement

Engagement Timeline



Engagement Timeline



In the 6 weeks the survey was open...

3,258

people took the survey

2,195

are students

230

are faculty

767

are staff

8%

of the Western community

6%

of the student body

16%

of faculty

28%

of staff

Engagement — What we heard

Planetary Health: Recognizing that the health of natural systems and humans is intrinsically linked.

Reconciliation: Learning from the past and reflect on Indigenous knowledge for a better path forward.

Culture: Building a culture of collective responsibility for environmental action.

Creating a healthy campus: Recognizing the mental health of our community and specifically students who are experiencing climate anxiety.

Campaign of awareness: Clearly communicating campus sustainability initiatives with our community to raise awareness of the work that is going on

Interdisciplinary collaboration: Acknowledging that transdisciplinary solutions are needed and they must come out of collaboration and partnerships internally and externally.

Comprehensive Strategy: Taking a holistic approach to make sure the strategy recognizes sustainability as the complex issue that it is.



Overview of Strategy

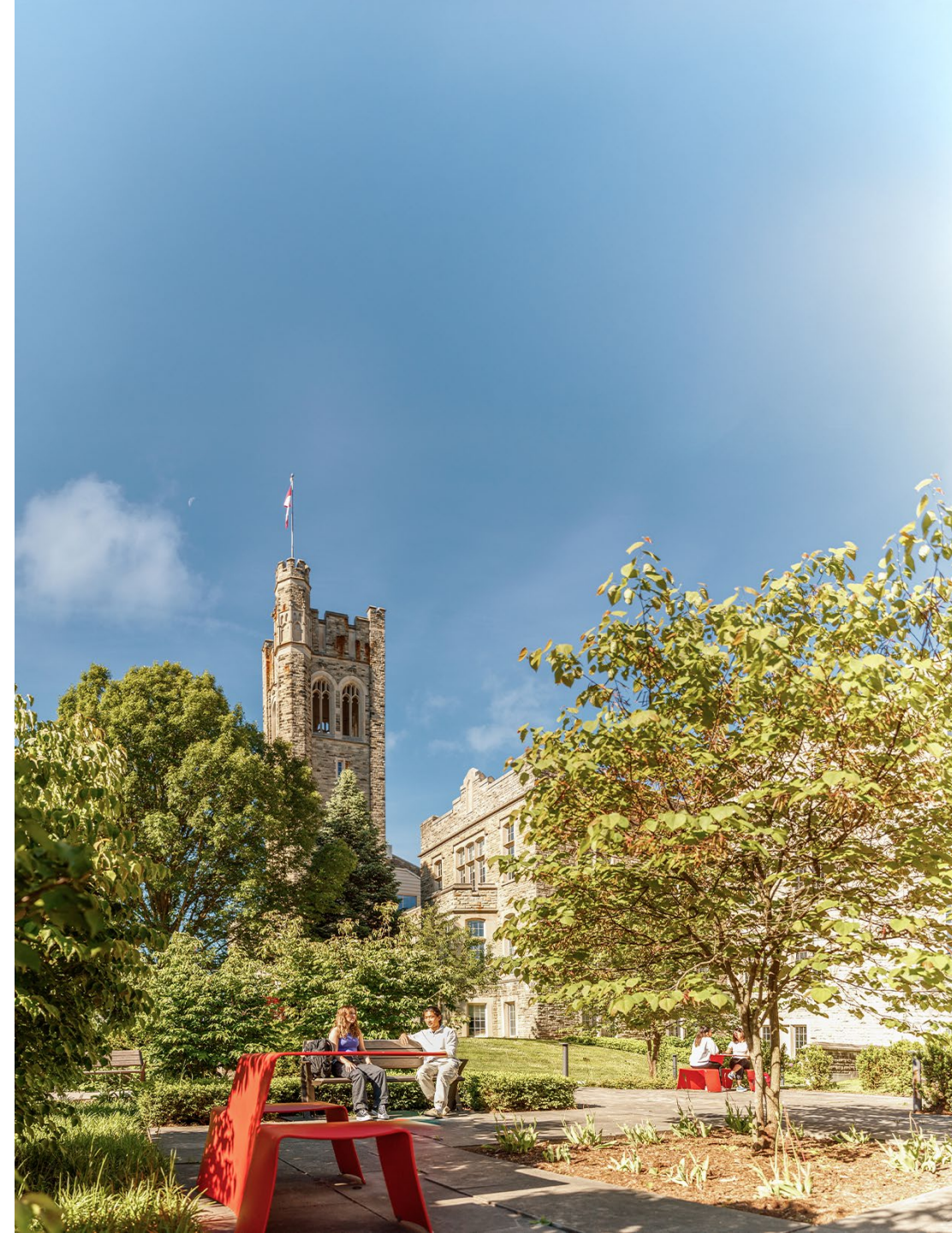
From Engagement to Strategy



Vision

Rooted in our culture of curiosity and innovation, we strive for a regenerative future that supports the health and well-being of the planet, its natural systems, and our community.

We will equip the next generation of changemakers with the knowledge and tools to address the most pressing climate and sustainability challenges of our time.



Guiding Principles

Planetary Health

Recognize the health of natural systems and humans is intrinsically linked. Thus, safeguarding the environment and supporting thriving ecosystems is our collective responsibility.

Stewardship

Honour reciprocal relationships with the natural world by behaving in ways that enhance ecosystems, advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and respect future generations.

Courage

Lead with heart, respect, empathy, and humility. Individually and collectively, uplift curiosity, take risks, and support transformative ideas and actions to influence all areas of university life.

Purpose

Choose deliberate action, set clear targets, and align with Western strategies to advance and measure progress on our climate and sustainability ambitions.

Interdisciplinary

Strengthen connections across the university to embed sustainability as an imperative in all that we do.

Collaboration

Build and deepen relationships with local and global partners as they are vital to achieving greater societal impact.

Priorities

Western's new Climate and Sustainability Strategy is organized around three priorities that reflect our greatest opportunities towards a regenerative future — one that supports the health and well-being of the planet, its natural systems, and our community.



Education & Research



Regenerative Campus



Healthy & Connected Community



WindEEE

The Wind Engineering, Energy and Environment Research Institute (WindEEE RI) was established in 2011 as a clear recognition of novel opportunities in wind research at Western related to the emergence of the world first three-dimensional testing chamber, the WindEEE Research Facility, and the potential to promote innovative research and extensive collaborations nationally and internationally.

Education & Research

Western will advance research and knowledge that drives societal progress toward a more regenerative future, while equipping students across all disciplines with the experience, skills, and expertise to lead in climate and sustainability.

This priority focuses on fostering stronger collaboration, advancing sustainability knowledge, and cultivating the conditions necessary for developing interdisciplinary solutions to address climate change.

Building on Western's Strategic Plan, *Towards Western at 150*, and the Research Strategic Plan, *Mobilize for Impact!*, our ambitions are to:

- Increase student access to sustainability education and enhance course offerings.
- Secure experiential learning opportunities in sustainability, at home and abroad.
- Catalyze thought leadership in sustainability and innovation, building towards a Western Sustainability.

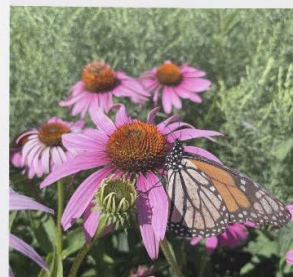


Increase student access to sustainability education and expand course and program offerings

At Western, we are determined to advance sustainability education and prepare students to create a regenerative future.

Over time, we will continue to grow a generation of climate and sustainability changemakers, ready to tackle the complex challenges ahead.

With over 2,700 courses and 2,000 masters and PhD theses linked to the SDGs across our campus, our commitment is clear. The education and opportunities encountered at Western will equip students with the skills and knowledge to make a lasting, positive impact on society, positioning them to enter a competitive job market with specialized skills and up-to-date knowledge on sustainability and climate issues.



Building on this robust foundation, we will:

- Continue to enhance existing programs and develop new ones related to climate and sustainability that are innovative, interdisciplinary, and closely aligned with industry and community needs.
- Work with industry and community partners to identify key skills in demand and integrate these insights into sustainability curricula when designing new programs and innovating existing ones.
- Collaborate with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and the Centre for Teaching and Learning to introduce a sustainability theme, expand scholarship opportunities, and update curricula to embed climate and sustainability topics.
- Create and promote a micro-credential program that equips students with targeted, practical skills and knowledge relevant to current environmental challenges.

Secure experiential learning opportunities in sustainability, at home and abroad

We will continue to foster hands-on, interdisciplinary experiences that equip students and researchers to advance sustainability, strengthen local and global partnerships, and accelerate progress toward a more sustainable future.

In Western's strategic plan, *Towards Western at 150*, we pledged to offer every undergraduate intensive experiential learning opportunities. In recent years, Western researchers have participated in over 1,900 projects aligned with the SDGs. By making this work more visible and interconnected, we will empower students and researchers to break down silos, build on each other's insights, and accelerate progress in the climate and sustainability arena.

To enrich the student experience and broaden opportunities, we want to:

- Expand land-based, experiential, and work-integrated learning opportunities that inspire environmental stewardship and strengthen the connection between communities and the natural environment.
- Seek partnerships with sustainability-focused industries, businesses, and organizations — both in Canada and internationally — to offer internships, co-ops and work-integrated learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.
- Engage industry and community partners in student-led research projects addressing climate and sustainability challenges.



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Education & Research

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- Secure experiential learning opportunities in sustainability, at home and abroad.
- Catalyze thought leadership in sustainability research and innovation, building towards a Western Institute for Sustainability.



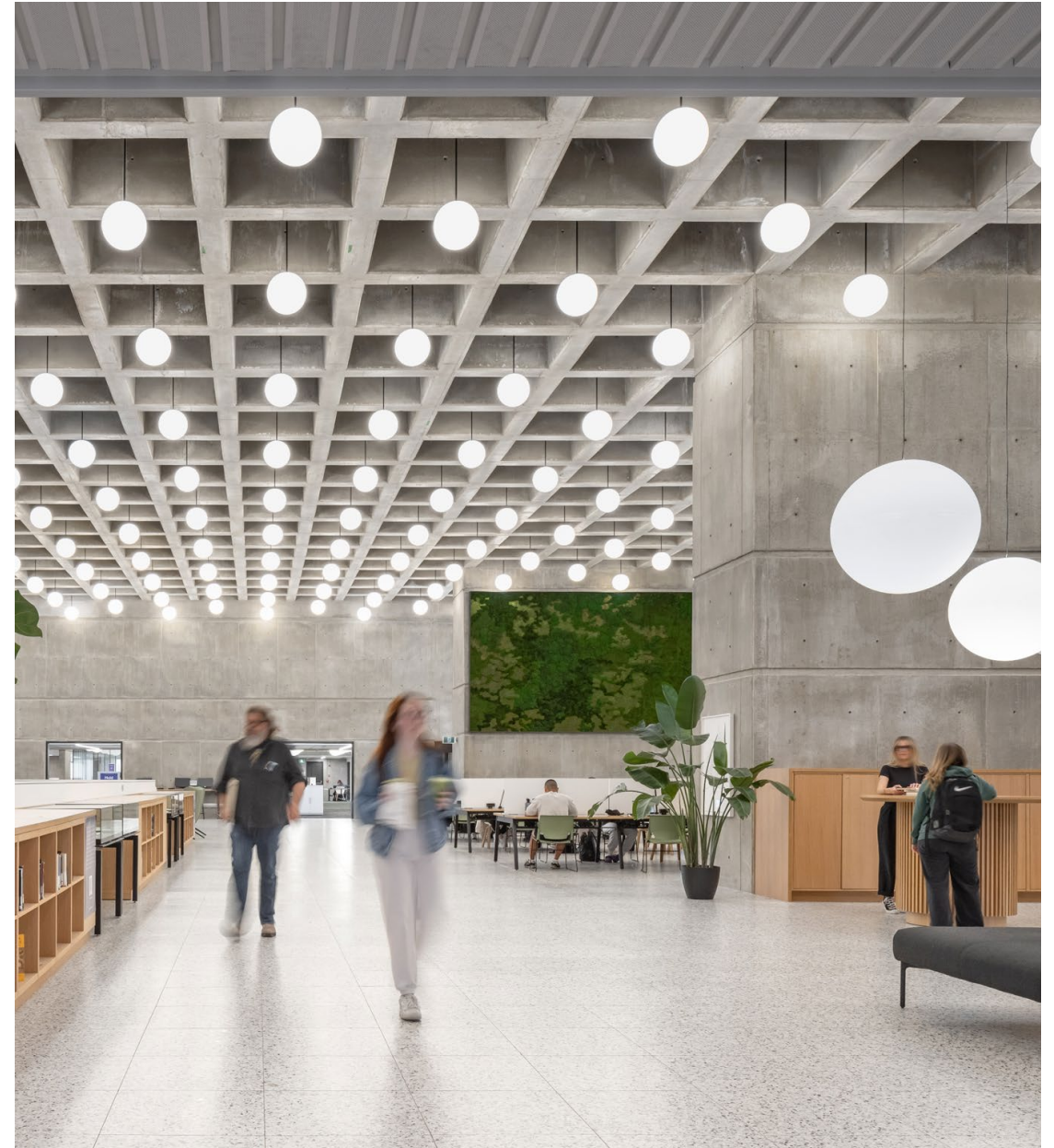
Western aspires to operate and maintain a campus that has a positive impact each day.



Regenerative Campus

For our daily operations and interactions to contribute to a vibrant and resilient environment, we will:

- Strengthen long-term climate adaptation and resilience across campus.
- Enhance ecological health and support biodiversity where possible, and in alignment with the Campus Development Strategy (formerly Campus Master Plan) and the Open Space Strategy.
- Decarbonize campus infrastructure and built assets.
- Measure and curtail Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions through more sustainable operations.
- Foster a culture of material circularity, ensuring waste generation decreases faster than campus growth.



Guided by both non-Indigenous and Indigenous knowledges, Western is committed to fostering a healthy and connected community where individuals have a meaningful connection to nature and feel a sense of belonging and shared responsibility for the environment.



**Healthy &
Connected
Community**

Healthy & Connected Community

To support a healthy, vibrant, and thriving community, we aim to:

- Integrate Indigenous land-based learning by working with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to deepen understanding and connection to place.
- Promote mental, emotional, and physical well-being through meaningful experiences in nature.
- Help people find relief from and cope with eco-distress and climate anxiety.
- Broaden awareness of Western's climate and sustainability initiatives, programming, and networks to encourage greater engagement and participation.



VISION

Rooted in our culture of curiosity and innovation, we strive for a regenerative future that supports the health and well-being of the planet, its natural systems, and our community. We will equip the next generation of changemakers with the knowledge and tools to address the most pressing climate and sustainability challenges of our time

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Planetary Health	Stewardship	Courage	Purpose	Interdisciplinary	Collaboration
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PRIORITIES

Education and Research Western will advance research and knowledge that drives societal progress toward a more regenerative future, while equipping students across all disciplines with the experience, skills, and expertise to lead in climate and sustainability			Regenerative Campus Western aspires to operate and maintain a campus that has a positive impact each day				Healthy and Connected Community Guided by both non-Indigenous and Indigenous knowledges, Western is committed to fostering a healthy and connected community where individuals have a meaningful connection to nature and feel a sense of belonging and shared responsibility for the environment				
Increase student access to sustainability education and expand course and program offerings	Secure experiential learning opportunities in sustainability, at home and abroad	Catalyze thought leadership in sustainability research and innovation, building towards a Western Institute for Sustainability	Strengthen long-term climate adaptation and resilience across campus	Enhance ecological health and support biodiversity where possible, and in alignment with the Campus Development Strategy (formerly Campus Master Plan) and the Open Space Strategy	Decarbonize campus infrastructure and built assets	Measure and curtail Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions through more sustainable operations	Foster a culture of material circularity, ensuring waste generation decreases faster than campus growth	Integrate Indigenous land-based learning by working with Elders and Knowledge Keepers to deepen understanding and connection to place	Promote mental, emotional, and physical well-being through meaningful experiences in nature	Help people find relief from and cope with eco-distress and climate anxiety	Broaden awareness of Western’s climate and sustainability initiatives, programming, and networks to encourage greater engagement and participation

ACTION PLAN & ANNUAL REPORTING

Delivering the Strategy

Delivering the Strategy

1. The strategy establishes a clear, long-term direction for Western
2. A delivery framework will guide implementation, with short, medium, and long-term outcomes defined and prioritized.
3. Actions will be carried out by leaders, departments and groups across the university.
4. The Office of Sustainability will publish an annual report on progress and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
5. PACES will provide guidance on implementing the strategy and action plan, fostering cross-campus collaboration and accountability.

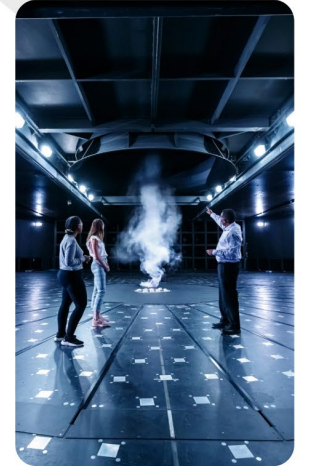
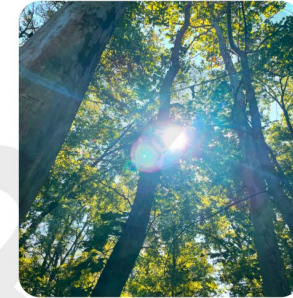


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Question & Answer

Thank you!