Centre for Environmental Sustainability

Growing Green

As part of its strategic plan to foster growth and development in key areas related to energy and the environment, Western University has created the Centre for Environmental Sustainability. This centre leads the University’s education and research efforts associated with environmental issues.

What is the Centre for Environmental Sustainability?
• Multidisciplinary effort encompassing all areas of basic and applied ‘green research’
• Not only facilitates environmental research partnerships, but provides a platform for training highly qualified personnel and other professionals who will become leaders in the field
• Encourages Western’s faculty to link environmental science with environmental policy, and helps them use their research strengths to advance innovative projects with industry partners
• Provides an interdisciplinary, project-based program in Environment and Sustainability, where students are able to pursue a collaborative, thesis-based Master’s or Phd program, or a course-based Master’s degree program
• Grew from the legacy of Environmental Research Western, which was established to meet the growing need to support interdisciplinary environmental research efforts from all areas within the physical, life and social sciences

Research
• Represents diverse fields of research across the disciplines, including internationally recognized specialties in sustainable development and environmental remediation, atmospheric science, environmental assessment and monitoring, conservation biology and environmental health
• Dedication to the environment also drives Western’s commitment to hire outstanding research chairs, including those in geomicrobiology, ecosystem health, nuclear waste technology and reactor safety, environmental science and ecology, and in environmental science and sustainability
• Many projects have resulted from significant intra-university partnerships, including those related to environmetrics, biogeochemistry of mine tailings, paleoclimate reconstruction, nuclear waste containment and disposal, and photochemical deconstruction of pollutants

Key Facilities and Programs
• International Water Excellence Centre: globally unique facility hosts a wastewater treatment plant for full-scale development/testing of new technologies related to wastewater treatment, nutrient recovery and energy production from municipal waste
• The Biotron: the Centre’s research is closely linked to this state-of-the-art facility, which permits realistic ecosystem studies at a breadth and scale that was previously impossible
• Claudette Mackay-Lassonde Pavilion: state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly and energy-efficient building that houses advanced environmental engineering and green technology research
• Network for Business Sustainability: creates tools, knowledge and research related to sustainable business development and corporate ethics, and helps companies embrace fiscal as well as green responsibility
• Research for Subsurface Transport and Remediation (RESTORE): develops innovative site remediation technologies for hazardous industrial pollutants in soil and groundwater
• Geotechnical Research Centre: advances research about renewable energy and infrastructure rehabilitation, including groundwater contamination and remediation, and management of mine wastes

For more information, please visit: www.uwo.ca/enviro