



**Toronto
Metropolitan
University**

**Urban Water
Research Centre**

2022-2025

STRATEGIC PLAN

THE URBAN WATER RESEARCH CENTRE IS A...

multidisciplinary consortium of researchers who strive to solve complex urban water challenges through transdisciplinary research, strong external networks, and collaborative action.

FACULTY/HQP ACROSS

6 FACULTIES & 13 DEPARTMENTS

NATURAL SCIENCES | ENGINEERING | POLICY | LEGAL LANDSCAPES | SOCIAL SCIENCE ARENAS



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1

Addressing practical real-world problems

2

Promoting transdisciplinary collaboration

3

Leveraging the unique collaborative spaces dedicated to the Urban Water Research Centre

4

Enhancing experiential learning of students and elevating early career researchers

5

Integrating equity, diversity, inclusion, and access into our research, training, and day-to-day-operations

6

Advancing Indigenous understanding and inclusion



2022-2025
STRATEGIC PLAN



THE CENTRE IS A...

Leader in transdisciplinary solutions to complex urban water challenges. Prioritizing research and networks in: urban water management and governance, urban natural systems and green technologies, and freshwater science and governance.



OPERATIONAL DELIVERABLES

- Host transdisciplinary workshops with networks to curate research and solutions to complex urban water challenges.
- Collaborate with other research institutes or branches of the University such as facilities management and campus planning.
- Coalesce researchers around strategic themes to respond to funding opportunities.
- Triage opportunities by prioritizing: transdisciplinary research priorities, HQP benefit, EDIA, and revenue for the Centre.



2

DEDICATED RESEARCH LABS AND COLLABORATIVE SPACES SHOWCASE...

The transdisciplinary research and activities of the Centre. The space serves as a platform to build relationships and bridge disciplinary silos for researchers and students.

OPERATIONAL DELIVERABLES

- Activate Urban Water spaces by removing obstacles and giving a 'hand up' to researchers.
- Form a Sustainable Space Committee to develop policies that support space usage
- On Boarding programs for new users and SOPs for operations.
- Signage to highlight research and activities so the space tells the story
- Host events and activities to encourage relationship development and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

3




THE CENTRE...

Elevates the student experience. And integrates equity, diversity, inclusion, access into daily operations and training, with particular attention to indigenous water challenges.

OPERATIONAL DELIVERABLES

- Formalized Student Leader Committee that brings together students from diverse disciplines to collaborate
- Enhance networking opportunities by inviting students to activities with research partners, stakeholders, and the Board of Advisors.
- Enhance experiential learning through student seminars, presentations on their research, special projects (e.g., multidisciplinary course on green infrastructure)
- Enhance education on equity, diversity, inclusion, access (e.g., multidisciplinary curriculum on Indigenous water challenges “The Apathy to Empathy: The First Nations Water Crisis.”)



THE RESEARCH AND ACTIVITIES OF THE
CENTRE ARE KNOWN AMONGST
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS
AND THE WATER SECTOR.

4

OPERATIONAL DELIVERABLES

- Mobilize Centre research, activities, and accomplishments through communications on the website, social media, urban water community events, and newsletters to internal and external stakeholders
- For research and activities with policy implications create an outreach plan to target decision makers and media preparedness

THE URBAN WATER RESEARCH CENTRE
HAS A SUSTAINABILITY PLAN.

5

OPERATIONAL DELIVERABLES

- Identify administrative siloing that may pose barriers to alternative business modes and central resources that might be leveraged.
- Forensic analysis of indirect expenses and forward plan.
- Communicate about research, activities, and metrics internally to educate across faculties on the value of the centre.
- Identify options for potential revenue generation and cost sharing of centre resources.
- Recommend options toward a phased-in sustainability plan for the Urban Water Research Centre.
- Advocate for the resources to deliver on the Strategic Plan



MOVING FORWARD

1

The Centre triages the opportunities raised by its members and stakeholders with priority placed on the goals stated above.

2

The Centre will review Strategic Plan deliverables in a specific, measurable, and time bound manner each quarter to evaluate progress and adjust as necessary.

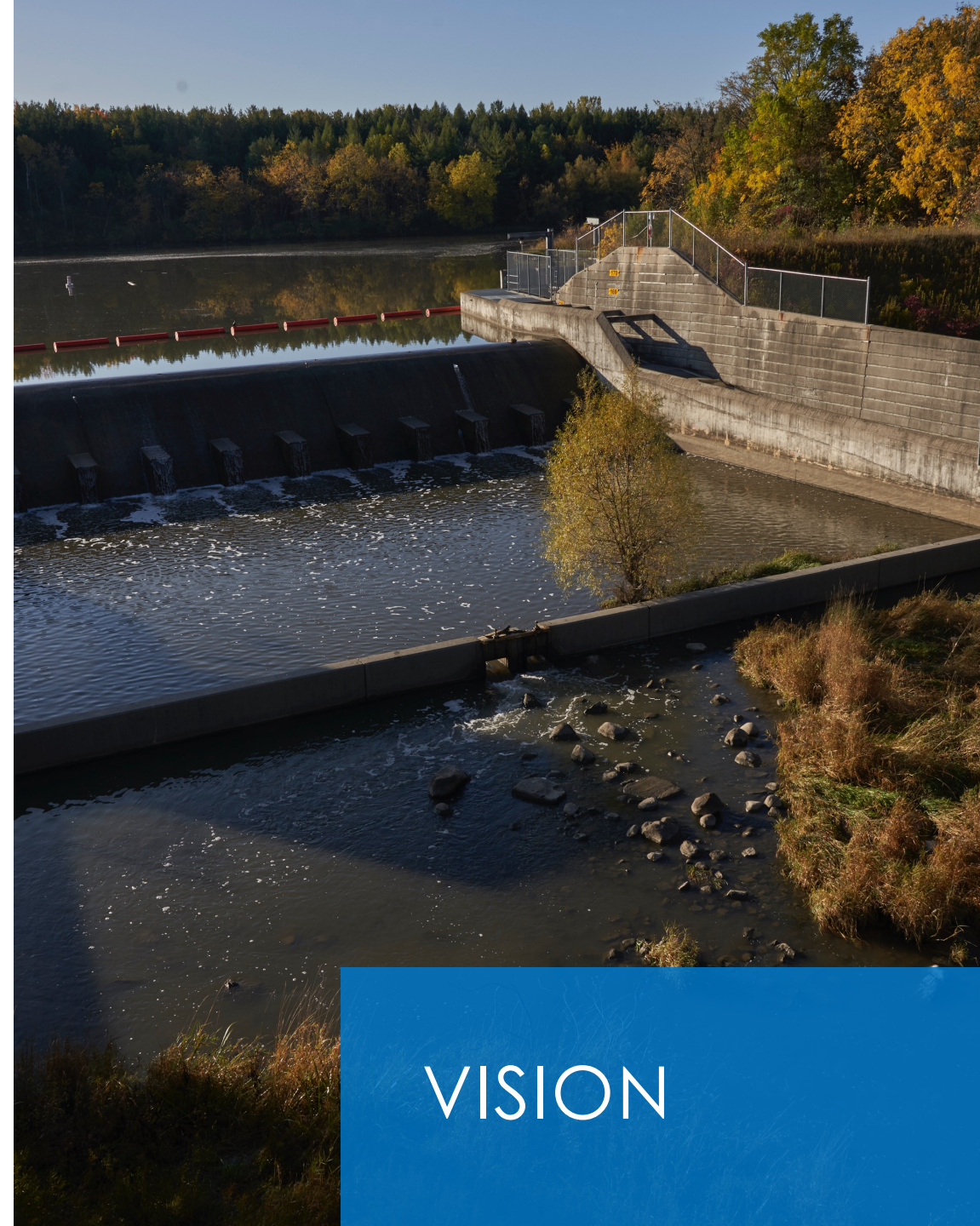
By 2025, the Urban Water Research Centre is a leader in transdisciplinary research in urban water management and governance, urban natural systems and green technologies, and freshwater science and governance.

The dedicated labs and collaborative spaces bring together researchers and students from diverse disciplines and showcase the dynamic research and activities of the Centre.

An active Student Leadership Committee connects students from across disciplines and integrates students into Centre activities.

Multidisciplinary course offerings in green infrastructure and the First Nations water crisis are available to students across campus.

The research and activities of the Centre are communicated and disseminated to internal and external stakeholders and the Centre has a sustainability plan within the University.



VISION