

2022 University of Calgary Sustainability Awards: Terms of Reference

Table of Contents

i.	About the Awards	1
	Nomination, adjudication, and award granting process.....	3
	Before you nominate	3
	Nomination form	4
ii.	Award Categories.....	4
	Undergraduate Student Sustainability Award	4
	Graduate Student Sustainability Award.....	5
	Individual Staff Sustainability Award	7
	Group Staff Sustainability Award	8
	Sustainability Faculty Research Award	10
	Sustainability Teaching Award	12

i. About the Awards

In 2022, we celebrate the 14th annual University of Calgary (UCalgary) Sustainability Awards. For more than a decade, these awards have honoured students, faculty and staff members for their outstanding positive contributions to the sustainable future of UCalgary and our world.

Sustainability at UCalgary

UCalgary’s Sustainability Policy (2010) and the [Institutional Sustainability Strategy](#) (2016) define sustainability as articulated in the Brundtland Report (UNWCED 1987):

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

While this continues to be the formal definition embraced by the university, more recently UCalgary has begun exploring sustainability through the lens of the United Nations’ [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). The SDGs provide more diverse ways for our students, faculty and staff to engage in sustainability, help the university to build connections with the many external organizations who are also working to advance the SDGs, and resonate strongly with our students. Presenting the annual University of Calgary

Sustainability Awards through the lens of the SDGs provides a more inclusive approach to recognizing our diverse institutional efforts at local, national and international scales.

United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

[The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the [17 SDGs](#), a call for action by all countries — developed and developing — in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand in hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth — all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests ([United Nations](#), 2020).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



See past winning individuals and projects here: <https://ucalgary.ca/sustainability/get-involved/annual-sustainability-awards/2021-sustainability-awards>

Nomination, adjudication and award-granting process

- All nominations must be submitted using the applicable forms found on the [UCalgary Sustainability Awards web page](#) by **Feb. 22, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.**
- Depending on the number of nominations received, the Office of Sustainability may shortlist the top nominees prior to the judging sessions.
- Awards will be adjudicated by a select panel of invited judges including representatives from the UCalgary Students' Union (SU), Graduate Students' Association (GSA), academia and administration.
- Winners and finalists will be announced in early April 2022.

Before you nominate

What do I need to know before I nominate?

- Self-nominations are accepted, or you can nominate someone else.
- Any undergraduate or graduate student, permanent or sessional faculty member, instructor, postdoctoral researcher, or staff member can be nominated for a Sustainability Award in the appropriate category. The categories are:
 - Undergraduate Student
 - Graduate Student
 - Individual Staff
 - Group Staff
 - Faculty
 - Teaching

Personal information required for nomination:

Please be prepared to share the following information as part of your nomination. The Office of Sustainability may use the information you provide here to contact you and/or the references to confirm the nominees' initiative(s). The two requested references should be able to provide insight into the validity of the candidate's submission, particularly regarding its impact. References could include a supervisor, partner, stakeholder, beneficiary of the project, etc.

- Nominator name and contact information (if not a self-nomination)
- Nominee name (first and last)*
- Nominee contact information (email and phone) *
- Nominee project or group title (if applicable)
- Nominee department or office
- Nominee year of study (if applicable)
- Names of additional project members (if applicable)
- Reference names and contact information (x2)*

Privacy

Please note that all information submitted as part of nominations for the 2022 Sustainability Awards is collected under the authority of Section 33(c) and 34(1)(e) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPP). It is required to determine the suitability of nominees for the 2022 Sustainability Awards. If you have any questions about how this data will be managed or used, please contact the Office of Sustainability at sustain@ucalgary.ca.

Nomination form

Please fill out and submit an online nomination form by visiting the [UCalgary Sustainability Awards web page](#). Webforms cannot be saved — please fill out the form in one session. You may wish to prepare the submission in a word processor and then copy and paste responses into the webform.

For assistance, please contact the Office of Sustainability at sustain@ucalgary.ca.

ii. Award Categories

Undergraduate Student Sustainability Award

Prize

\$250 from UCalgary's Office of Sustainability

Description

The Undergraduate Student Sustainability Award recognizes an undergraduate student or group of students who have led exceptional initiatives or projects that make positive contributions to the sustainable future of UCalgary and of our world. These initiatives may be curricular (i.e., projects completed as part of a course) and/or co-curricular (i.e., completed outside of course time) in nature.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be full- or part-time students in good standing and currently enrolled in an undergraduate program at UCalgary.
- Individuals and groups are both eligible to receive this award.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- If you are a registered UCalgary student club, we encourage you to apply for the SU Sustainability Club Award.

Criteria

1. **Impact:** (max. ~800 words)

Describe the impact of the nominee's initiative. We are looking for responses that include answers to the following questions:

- a) What is the nominee's initiative and the issue(s) it is addressing?
- b) How is the initiative aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (please identify the specific goals)? Were the SDGs used to frame or develop the idea? If so, explain how.
- c) What outcomes have been achieved by this initiative, including changes at a local, regional, national and/or international scale? Please include quantitative and qualitative data.
- d) What are the plans for this initiative in the future?

2. **Innovation:** (max. ~600 words)

Describe how the nominee's initiative is creative and may be precedent-setting. We are looking for responses that include:

- a) What new, innovative idea, approach, process or technology was used in this initiative? Or, if this is an old idea applied in a new way, please describe how.
- b) How does the project, approach or process set a precedent that could enable even greater positive impact elsewhere on campus or in the broader community?

3. **Engagement and Community:** (max. ~600 words)

Describe how the nominee's initiative engaged with stakeholders and the community and how the initiative was shared or promoted. We are looking for responses that include:

- a) **Who** (students, faculty or staff; local, regional or global community; industry, government or non-governmental organizations; etc.) did the nominee engage through their initiative and **how** did the nominee engage with them (e.g. consult, involve, educate, serve, collaborate, etc.)?
- b) How did the nominee promote or share this initiative?

Graduate Student Sustainability Award

Prize

\$1,500, awarded jointly by UCalgary's Office of Sustainability (\$250) and the GSA (\$1,250). The winner of this award will be recognized at the Sustainability Awards and the GSA Awards.

Description

The Graduate Student Sustainability Award recognizes a graduate student or group of students who have led exceptional initiatives that make positive contributions towards the sustainable future of UCalgary and our world. These initiative(s) may be curricular (i.e., part of a course or program) or co-curricular (i.e., outside of course time) in nature.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be full- or part-time students in good standing and currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral program at UCalgary.
- Individuals and groups are both eligible to receive this award.
- Self-nominations are accepted.

Criteria

1. **Impact:** (max. ~800 words)

Describe the impact of the nominee's initiative. We are looking for responses that include answers to the following questions:

- a) What is the nominee's initiative and the issue(s) it is addressing?
- b) How is the initiative aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (please identify the specific goals)? Were the SDGs used to frame or develop the idea? If so, explain how.
- c) What outcomes have been achieved by this initiative, including changes at a local, regional, national and/or international scale? Please include quantitative and qualitative data.
- d) What are the plans for this initiative in the future?

2. **Innovation:** (max. ~600 words)

Describe how the nominee's initiative is creative and precedent-setting. We are looking for responses that include:

- a) What new, innovative idea, approach, process or technology was used in this initiative? Or, if this is an old idea applied in a new way, please describe how.
- b) How does the project, approach or process set a precedent that could enable even greater positive impact elsewhere on campus or in the broader community?

3. **Engagement and Community:** (max. ~600 words)

Describe how the nominee's initiative engaged with stakeholders and the community and how the initiative was shared or promoted. We are looking for responses that include:

- a) **Who** (students, faculty or staff; local, regional or global community, industry, government or non-governmental organizations; etc.) did the nominee engage through their initiative and **how** did the nominee engage with them (i.e., consult, involve, educate, serve, etc.)?
- b) How did the nominee promote or share this initiative?

Individual Staff Sustainability Award

Description

The Individual Staff Sustainability Award recognizes a staff member who has made exceptional positive contributions to UCalgary's sustainability practices and our world's sustainable future. Staff nominees must have led one or more initiatives that have made a lasting and measurable impact at UCalgary. Initiatives that also advance sustainability in local or global contexts are considered assets, but are not required for nomination.

Sustainability may or may not be one of the nominee's defined job responsibilities. Strong nominations for the Individual Staff Sustainability Award will demonstrate significant progress in advancing UCalgary's [Institutional Sustainability Strategy](#) through high-impact projects and/or programs. This award recognizes that most high-impact projects and programs involve systems-level changes that, by nature, include many contributors. Staff members from the Office of Sustainability or Sustainability Studies are not eligible for an individual award; however, cross-departmental teams and projects that they are part of are eligible.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be current full-time or part-time employees (AUPE or MaPS) of UCalgary.
- Only individual staff members can be nominated for this award.
- Self-nominations are accepted.

Criteria

1. **Impact:** (max. ~800 words)

Describe the impact of the nominee's initiative. We are looking for responses that include answers to the following questions:

- a) What is the nominee's initiative and the issue(s) it is addressing?
- b) How is the initiative aligned with the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#) (please identify the specific goals)? Were the SDGs used to frame or develop the idea? If so, explain how.
- c) How is the initiative helping UCalgary realize its Institutional Sustainability Strategy?
- d) What outcomes have been achieved by this initiative, including changes at a local, regional, national and/or international scale? Please include quantitative and qualitative data.

- e) For those who are self-nominating: If the initiative is complete, can you describe what you think made it successful? Are there things you'd do differently next time? If the initiative is still in progress, what would success of this initiative look like to you?
 - f) If applicable, what are the plans for this initiative in the future?
2. **Innovation:** (max. ~600 words)
Describe how the nominee's initiative is creative and precedent-setting. We are looking for responses that include:
- a) What new, innovative idea, approach, process or technology was used in this initiative or this person's work? Or, if this is an old idea applied in a new way, please describe how.
 - b) How does the work, project, approach or process set a precedent that could enable even greater positive impact elsewhere on campus or in the broader community?
3. **Engagement and Community:** (max. ~600 words)
Describe how the nominee's initiative engaged with stakeholders and the community and how the initiative was shared or promoted. We are looking for responses that include:
- a) **Who** (students, faculty or staff; local, regional or global community, industry, government or non-governmental organizations; etc.) did the nominee engage through their initiative and **how** did the nominee engage with them (i.e., consult, involve, educate, serve, etc.)?
 - b) How did the nominee promote or share this initiative?

Group Staff Sustainability Award

Description

The Group Staff Sustainability Award recognizes a team that has made exceptional positive contributions to UCalgary's sustainability practices and our world's sustainable future. Staff group nominees must have led one or more initiatives that have made a lasting and measurable impact at UCalgary. Initiative that also advance sustainability in local or global contexts are considered assets, but are not required for nomination.

Sustainability may or may not be one of the nominees' defined job responsibilities. Strong nominations for the Group Staff Sustainability Award will demonstrate significant progress in advancing UCalgary's [Institutional Sustainability Strategy](#). This award recognizes that most high-impact projects and programs involve systems-level changes that, by nature, include many contributors. While staff members from the Office of Sustainability or Sustainability Studies are not eligible for the individual staff award, cross-departmental teams and projects that they are part of are eligible for group staff award.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be current full-time or part-time employees of UCalgary (TUCFA, AUPE, MaPS or other faculty members).
- Staff groups with at least two members can be nominated for this award, and can be made up of faculty and staff members.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- Please designate one member of the staff team as the primary contact. List all staff members with meaningful involvement in the initiative under “additional nominees.”

Criteria

1. **Impact:** (max. ~800 words)

Describe the impact of the nominees’ initiative. We are looking for responses that may include answers to the following questions:

- a) What is the nominees’ initiative and the issue(s) it is addressing?
- b) How is the initiative aligned with the [United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals](#) (please identify the specific goals)? Were the SDGs used to frame or develop the idea? If so, explain how.
- c) How is the initiative helping UCalgary realize its [Institutional Sustainability Strategy](#)?
- d) What outcomes have been achieved by this initiative, including changes at a local, regional, national and/or international scale? Please include quantitative and qualitative data.
- e) For those who are self-nominating: If the initiative is complete, can you describe what you think made it successful? Are there things you’d do differently next time? If the initiative is still in progress, what would success of this initiative look like to you?
- f) If applicable, what are the plans for this initiative in the future?

2. **Innovation:** (max. ~600 words)

Describe how the nominees’ initiative is creative and precedent-setting. We are looking for responses that include:

- a) What new, innovative idea, approach, process or technology was used in this initiative or this group’s work? Or, if this is an old idea applied in a new way, please describe how.
- b) How does the work, project, approach or process set a precedent that could enable even greater positive impact elsewhere on campus or in the broader community?

3. **Engagement and Community:** (max. ~600 words)

Describe how the nominees’ initiative utilized experiential learning and engaged with stakeholders or the community and how the initiative was shared or promoted. We are looking for responses that include:

- a) **Who** (students, faculty or staff; local, regional or global community, industry, government or non-governmental organizations; etc.) did the nominees engage through their initiative and **how** did the nominees engage with them (i.e., consult, involve, educate, serve, etc.)?
- b) How did the nominees promote or share this initiative?

Sustainability Faculty Research Award

Description

The Sustainability Research Award recognizes faculty members, instructors and postdoctoral scholars conducting exceptional research within which sustainability research or outcomes are embedded.

Strong nominations will demonstrate:

- That sustainability is explicitly embedded in the research or outcomes and advances multiple [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs); perhaps the SDGs were used to formulate the hypothesis or research question.
- Work that is addressing significant environmental, social, economic or well-being challenges.
- Inter- and/or transdisciplinarity (please see definitions below for more detail).
- Scalability.
- Innovation.
- Significant contributions at the local, regional, national and/or international scale.

At the judges' discretion, this award may be divided into different sub-categories based on the nature of nominations received.

Finalists for the Sustainability Faculty Research Award may be asked to submit a current curriculum vitae for consideration by the Sustainability Awards judging panel.

Definitions

Interdisciplinary:

Interdisciplinary work involves integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines. It analyzes and synthesizes links between disciplines in a co-ordinated way, but the ideas and solutions that arise still often maintain their traditional discipline boundaries (Choi and Pak, 2007; Zaman and Goschin, 2010).

Transdisciplinary:

Transdisciplinary scholarship is people from multiple backgrounds working together on challenges. Its focus is on integrating and building knowledge between, across and beyond traditional disciplines. In a complex time of ever-increasing specialization, it's a way to tackle the big questions of our day that do not fit into one department or one faculty, but require important contributions from those units. It's a way to create a unity of knowledge and come to solutions beyond the limits of separate disciplines (University of Calgary, 2020)

Eligibility

- Nominees must be active UCalgary faculty, instructors or postdoctoral scholars.
- Only individuals can be nominated for this award.
- Self-nominations are accepted.

Criteria

1. **Impact:** (max. ~600 words)

Describe the impact of the nominee's research. We are looking for responses that may include answers to the following questions:

- a) What is the nominee's research and what are the issue(s) being addressed? What is the societal relevance of the research? (Please write for a general audience. Try to avoid the use of acronyms and highly specialized terms).
- b) How is sustainability embedded in the research and/or its outcomes? How does it incorporate the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)? Please explicitly state which SDG(s) the research is exploring or advancing. If the research includes any significant partners (community or from other disciplines), please also outline them here.
- c) What quantitative outcomes have been achieved by this research? Are there qualitative impacts, including influencing changes at a local, regional, national and/or international scale?

2. **Innovation:** (max. ~600 words)

Describe how the nominee's research is innovative and precedent-setting. We are looking for responses that include:

- a) What is the new, innovative idea, approach, process or technology in this research? Or, if this is an old idea applied in a new way, please describe how.
- b) How does the project, approach or process set a precedent that could enable even greater positive impact elsewhere on campus and in the broader community?
- c) If applicable, has any knowledge transfer taken place for this research? Are there open-access resources available that relate to this work?

3. **Inter-/Transdisciplinarity:** (max. ~600 words)

Describe how the nominees' research showcases inter-/transdisciplinarity or could be eventually scaled to be so. We are looking for responses that include:

- a) If the research is inter-/transdisciplinarity in nature, please describe how. What other groups or faculties are involved?
- b) If the research does **not** currently involve inter-/transdisciplinarity, please describe how it could be connected with other faculties or groups to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. Nominees don't need to have an official plan to scale the project, but hearing how it **could** be connected to other faculties helps the judges gain insight into the relevance of the research and where it may fit in the bigger picture of sustainability research.

Sustainability Teaching Award

Description

The Sustainability Teaching Award recognizes exceptional educators who have integrated sustainability into their classrooms and across the curriculum at UCalgary.

Strong nominations will illustrate how the nominee's classroom teaching, course design and/or assignments engage their students and prepare them to make positive and innovative contributions towards a sustainable future. Preference will also be for nominations that include a strong experiential learning or work-integrated learning aspect.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be active UCalgary faculty, instructors or postdoctoral fellows.
- This is an individual award.
- Self-nominations are accepted.
- For this award, SUST core courses (i.e., SUST 201, SUST 401, etc.) will **not** be considered as part of the nominee's contributions to sustainability education at UCalgary. However, sustainability-related or focused courses affiliated with the [Sustainability Certificate](#) are eligible.

Criteria

1. Impact: (max. ~800 words)

Describe the impact of the nominee's teaching. We are looking for responses that include answers to the following questions:

- a) What is the curriculum, course and/or assignment(s)?
- b) How does the curriculum, course and/or assignment(s), advance, relate to or align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals? (Please identify the specific goals.)
- c) What outcomes (student learning, student feedback, skills developed, competencies developed, etc.) have been achieved by this curriculum, course design and/or assignment(s)? Please include any quantitative or qualitative data.
- d) How does the curriculum, course and/or assignment(s) incorporate experiential learning and/or work-integrated learning activities that explore and advance sustainability?
- e) If applicable, what are the plans for the curriculum, course and/or assignment(s) in the future?

2. Innovation: (max. ~600 words)

Describe how the nominee's teaching is creative and unique. We are looking for responses that include:

- a) What new, innovative idea, approach, process or technology was used in the curriculum, course and or/assignment(s)? Or, if this is an old idea applied in a new way, please describe how.
- 3. Interdisciplinarity:** (max. ~300 words)
Describe how the teaching showcases interdisciplinarity.
- Definition - Interdisciplinary:
- Interdisciplinary work involves integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines. It analyzes and synthesizes links between disciplines in a co-ordinated way, but the ideas and solutions that arise still often maintain their traditional discipline boundaries (Choi and Pak, 2007; Zaman and Goschin, 2010).
- 4. Community:** (max. ~500 words)
Describe any community connections that the nominee's teaching involved. We are looking for responses that include:
- a) Does the teaching involve partnerships with or involvement from community members (UCalgary, local, regional, national, international)?
- b) Do student assignments involve community-engaged learning?

iii. References

Choi, B. C., & Pak, A. W. (2007). Multidisciplinarity, interdisciplinarity, and transdisciplinarity in health research, services, education and policy: 2. Promotors, barriers, and strategies of enhancement." *Clinical and Investigative Medicine*, E224-E232.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17330451/>

University of Calgary (2020). *Transdisciplinary Scholarship and Areas of Focus*. <https://ucalgary.ca/live-uc-ucalgary-site/sites/default/files/Report%20on%20Transdisciplinary%20Scholarship%20and%20Areas%20of%20Focus.pdf>

Zaman, G., & Goschin, Z. (2010). "Multidisciplinarity, Interdisciplinarity and Transdisciplinarity: Theoretical Approaches and Implications for the Strategy of Post-Crisis Sustainable Development." *Theoretical & Applied Economics*, 17(12).
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