

# Sustainability in Action Spotlight

## Environmental Services

Environmental Services at Trent University, responsible for caretaking and waste management, provides sustainability leadership through waste reduction, diversion, and green practices. Their collaboration with the Sustainability Office has significantly advanced campus waste initiatives, fostering a circular economy.

## Operationalizing Sustainability

- Supporting Education and Awareness: Environmental Services enhances campus sustainability through weekly staff communications, supporting student engagement efforts, and by collaborating on annual waste audits and programs that improve waste sorting and disposal practices.
- Driving Waste Innovation: Leads pilot programs such as bathroom compost collection and the lab recycling program, testing innovative waste management approaches to inform campus-wide implementation.
- Streamlining Waste Practices: Played a pivotal role in developing the Resource Recovery and Waste Diversion Policy to standardize waste practices, ensuring efficiency and ease of use across campus.
- Advancing Green Practices: Reduces environmental impact through initiatives like the Green Cleaning Program, which uses eco-friendly products, and transitioning to reusable cleaning supplies to minimize waste.
- Building a Collaborative Culture: Maintains strong partnerships with the Sustainability Office through regular collaboration, including monthly meetings, to support Trent University's goal of achieving zero waste by 2028.



## Trent Green

Environmental Services' Green Cleaning Program highlights the integration of sustainability with operational practices. By prioritizing environmentally friendly cleaning products and reusable supplies, this program reduces harmful chemical use and minimizes waste. The initiative demonstrates how small changes in daily operations can have a lasting impact on environmental and human health.

## Actionable Insights

- Environmental Service's efforts show how core operations and sustainability can work together. Here are key ideas to inspire your team:
- Promote Hands-On Education: Every section will generate waste. Build programs to assess reduction and diversion of the waste streams of your section.
  - Develop Green Practices: Explore opportunities to adopt environmentally friendly materials, tools, or processes to reduce environmental impact.
  - Collaborate on Policies: Work with partners to establish policies that streamline sustainable practices and align with institutional goals.
  - Pilot New Ideas: Test innovative projects on a small scale to determine feasibility and refine approaches before broader implementation.



Trent Sustainability Office