

### 3.3 Our Responsibility to Future Generations

The Trent Lands and Nature Areas Plan must balance a variety of needs and growth pressures, whilst preserving the health of our ecosystems, economies, and communities for generation to come. To achieve this balance, it is critical to raise the bar to a paradigm in which we view ourselves as stewards and co-creators of a better future.

Within the context of a rapidly changing climate, Trent University has an opportunity to be a leader in fostering resilient and adaptable communities. As an institution of higher learning, the University may establish strategic partnerships to further research that can contribute to a greener, secure, and inclusive future.

 From an Indigenous Traditional Knowledge perspective, the UN declaration, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the following four aspirations can be derived:

*A good life*

A holistic, systems-based approach, where campus and community needs are infused with natural systems, material flows, and movement of people.

*Do no harm and seek net benefit*

Our actions should extend beyond reducing harm to people, land, air, and water. We must give back to the earth, the flora, fauna, and people.

*Inclusive and mindful of the collective*

Our campus and communities should be meaningfully engaged to result in an inclusive community, integrating culture, equity, and wellbeing.

*Responsible to future generations*

Our footprint should be reduced, seeking efficient management of resources, and integrating sustainable food options for a resilient and adaptable campus.

THE GLOBAL PICTURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



The UN has declared 17 priorities through an open, global process to be translated into practice. Trent University seeks to join this pivotal movement, through their balance and implementation.





Learn more about the SDGs online at: [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

To ensure this level of foresight is rooted in current and future explorations and University initiatives, the evolution of the Symons Campus should be driven by a holistic approach that builds upon an integrated, robust system. From this we can identify a number of system elements that can be integrated into any development that takes place on the Trent lands:

SDGs

**WATER STRATEGY**

*Operate within the water balance of the place and climate.*

SDGs

Source: North of 49 Photography

**ECOLOGY STRATEGY**

*Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of ecosystems for biodiversity gains.*

SDGs

**CARBON STRATEGY**

*Minimize energy-related carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.*

SDGs

Source: Canada Green Building Council

**ENERGY STRATEGY**

*Reduce energy usage and support renewable sources.*

SDGs

Source: Canadian Architect

**PLACE STRATEGY**

*Establish a strong relationship between culture and community.*

SDGs

Source: Getty Museum

**HEALTH STRATEGY**

*Optimize physical and psychological health and wellbeing.*

SDGs

**MATERIALS STRATEGY**

*Endorse products that are low in embodied carbon, recycled, and bio-based.*

SDGs

Source: Sarah Laskov

**WASTE STRATEGY**

*Increase waste diversion and conserve resources.*