

8 Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge



TRCA is part of a network of thought leaders striving to address a range of urban sustainability issues, including watershed management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and ecosystem conservation. TRCA is recognized for its expertise by researchers, practitioners and community members, and is well positioned to help generate and mobilize the knowledge needed to answer urgent environmental challenges.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Community members have access to TRCA research and data, and other leading science, to convey a clear picture of the environmental health of watersheds in the jurisdiction.
2. Community and infrastructure planning, design, operation and renewal in member municipalities is informed by the best sustainability knowledge and research, including data and studies by TRCA, member municipalities and other leaders in the jurisdiction.
3. TRCA programs and projects are evidence-based and informed by both high-quality local research and global best practices.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACHIEVED (2013 – 2017)

- Updated flood warning systems, flood mapping and modelling, and risk assessments; and worked with member municipalities to develop flood remediation plans to reduce flood risk, and enhance emergency response. This work has included working with stakeholders to conduct updated studies for flood-prone Special Policy Area communities to provide guidance on risk mitigation and other measures required to facilitate safe redevelopment.
- Finalized the Toronto and Region Source Water Protection Assessment Report which identifies vulnerable areas and potential future threats to municipal drinking water supplies to inform the review of projects and plans.
- Developed the Integrated Restoration Prioritization process which strategically directs TRCA restoration work to provide maximum benefit for the ecological health of the nine watersheds, and the TRCA Guideline for Determining Ecosystem Compensation which outlines required mitigation when a decision to impact a feature is made as a last resort.

PROJECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2018 – 2022)

- Increase collaboration with senior levels of government, academic institutions, private sector and not-for-profit stakeholders to develop leading-edge sustainability knowledge.
- Continue to demonstrate leading-edge community energy efficiency and sustainable design practices in TRCA facilities, including at the Living City Campus at Kortright.
- Bring together agencies, professional organizations, and academic institutions working on protection and restoration in the jurisdiction to maximize efficiencies and to ensure the best science and data is leveraged in the delivery of programs and projects.
- Deliver knowledge sharing events to professionals in the fields of environmental engineering, restoration ecology and climate change resilience.
- Undertake pilot collaborations with industry, academic institutions and partners to determine and demonstrate which TRCA data are most useful in supporting sustainable practices, and how best to provide access to that data to achieve more sustainable development.

MEASURING PERFORMANCE

TRCA will monitor how data and information are accessed and used, both internally by staff and externally by partners and community members, and seek user feedback in order to improve the value of this information. TRCA will also invite reviews from participants in knowledge sharing events and programs. In addition, TRCA will continue to explore which emerging or existing indicators can be applied to measure the implementation of sustainability best practices in local community design and retrofit projects.