

CAC WLUFA website post, April 2026

Keeping climate action in focus at Laurier

The WLUFA Climate Action Committee (CAC) continues to attract a robust membership, with eleven members and a wide representation across faculties in 2025-26 (see who we are at the bottom of [our page](#)).

It has been a while since we shared a public update, so here are some of the main issues we have been working on over the past couple years:

- 1) Continuing to monitor, evaluate, and respond to [Laurier's commitments to incorporate climate concerns into its investment practices](#), including by giving a November 2024 presentation to the Climate Risk Management Working Group (CRMWG) that the Board of Governors established to work on Laurier's next steps in this area.
- 2) Following up on our contributions to the revision of [Laurier's Sustainability Policy 4.13](#), in particular to ensure that the policy's stated requirement for the formation of a sustainability "steering committee" would be implemented. We applaud the creation of a [Sustainability "Advisory" Committee](#) in fall 2025. While the name suggests a less influential role, the significant number of senior administrators on the committee suggests that its role is being taken seriously. The SAC's composition is representative of much of the Laurier community; Contract Faculty are a notable exception to this.
- 3) Taking part in the university's September 2024 "Whiteboarding" session to provide the administration with feedback on revisions to Laurier's Carbon Reduction Roadmap, and engaging in follow-up communications urging transparency about the new roadmap.
- 4) Contributing comments on Laurier's new [Procedures for Divestment Requests Policy 5.19](#), resulting in changes that were crucial to ensure the policy did not act as an insurmountable barrier to lodging divestment requests with the Board of Governors.
- 5) Continuing work with Teaching Excellence and Innovation on the Climate Pedagogy Community of Practice. In fall 2024, the CPCoP's Climate Knowledge and Action Survey of First-Year Students collected data from 1197 participants. In 2024 and 2025, the CPCoP members attended climate pedagogy workshops held in collaboration with University of Waterloo and Conestoga College.

The WLUFA CAC has also co-hosted several events over the past couple years:

- 6) In October 2024, along with the Sustainability Office and Office of Research Services, we co-hosted a university-wide discussion about the place of air travel emissions in Laurier's wider carbon footprint and emission reduction efforts.
- 7) For the Ontario Library Association's climate action week, we worked with the Sustainability Office and the Library to co-host a November 2024 panel discussion on collaboration in climate action. Then, in November of 2025 we collaborated with the Library, LSPIRG, and EcoHawks to host a panel session on Indigenous sovereignty, land stewardship, and climate change.
- 8) As part of our connection to the Waterloo Region Climate Collaborative, we hosted a November 2024 event to bring together community organizations to discuss raising the profile of climate change in the provincial and federal elections.

Spotlight on air travel emissions

Many in the Laurier community depend on air travel to advance aspects of their work, and for many WLUFAs it is essential for our research. However, new carbon accounting practices in place at Laurier indicate that air travel makes up the third largest source of our institutional emissions (see p. 13 of the [2024-25 Sustainability Report](#)). CAC's outreach to the Sustainability Office and the Office of Research Services to raise the possibility of a wider conversation about air travel emissions was met with enthusiasm. The [collaborative event](#) we co-organized in October 2024 drew roughly thirty participants in a hybrid meeting format. We took in presentations from the Sustainability Office and the Office of Research Services, as well as a talk by Dr. Derek Hall regarding his [research on the topic](#) across the Canadian post-secondary sector.

Discussions at the event led to the summer 2025 formation of a university-wide working group on this issue. The Laurier Air Travel Emissions Working Group (LATE-WG) is led by the Sustainability Office and the CAC participates in setting the scope and agenda. Two members of CAC are part of the working group, which is currently working on an information resource for faculty and staff.