

Catalyzing Action for Health in a Changing Climate

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Background

The **Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care** is a multi-faculty academic unit at the University of Toronto. Launched in November 2023, the Collaborative Centre is an initiative of four faculties: the **Dalla Lana School of Public Health**, the **Temerty Faculty of Medicine**, the **Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing**, and the **Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy** – with the ambition to elevate awareness and engagement across disciplines, professions, and knowledge systems; to strengthen and support cross-fertilization between **research, education and practice and policy change**; and to achieve impact at the speed and scale required to meet the transformative challenges posed by climate change and the demands of sustainability.

Research: Shaping the future of climate, environment, and sustainability research in the health sciences

Education: Equipping learners to understand and act on the health and health system challenges of climate & environmental change

Practice & Policy Change: Strengthening ambition for practice & policy change to promote health & health system sustainability

Key Highlights

Research

- Facilitated by the Temerty Foundation gift, we launched a **Summer Student Funding program**
- Journal Club**, bringing together students and other members monthly to critically review and discuss publications and works in progress.
- In 2024, five of our members received **Seed Grants** to facilitate research.
- Led UofT bid for Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Climate Change Health Excellence Centers
- Collaborating with HC & Centre for Global Child Health (SickKids) on climate & health symposium, knowledge gaps workshops
- 4 **Research clusters**, including:
 - Equitable Urban Climate Resilience
 - Pharmaceuticals in the Environment
 - Mental Health in the Anthropocene
 - Sustainable Digital Health Transformation



Policy & Practice Change

- The Collaborative Centre continues to facilitate CASCADES and the TAHSN Sustainable Health System Community of Practice, and their various activities.
 - Launched its first **TAHSN Climate & Sustainability Report**, which summarizes the 2024 Sustainability Balanced Scorecard



Community Climate Resilience

- City of Toronto partners (ECF, TPH, SDSA-CDU)
- Climate & heat knowledge needs; integrating climate into community development planning

Climate Costs of AI

- TCAIREM & TRANSFORM-HF partners
- Developing white paper; convening roundtables

Education

Student Training Program (STP) 2025–26

- 34 research & professional graduate students
- 7 faculties – Public Health, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Engineering, Arts & Science, Rotman
- 6 sessions & scholarly/ community activities

Summer Studentships 2025

- 6 with CREMS, Pharmacy, Public Health, Work Study, Engineering
- 2 with CECCS

Graduate Fellowships 2025–26

- 5 PhD students for 1 year (alumni of or participants in STP)
- Integrate/ deepen research engagement
- Co-develop knowledge to action workshops
- Planetary Health & Sustainable Care ECHO**, run in partnership with CASCADES



Engagement & Knowledge Mobilization

- Since launch, our events have **engaged over 2000 people**, in collaboration with 15 partners.
- In 2024, we hosted our first Annual Symposium. Planned annual event to engage diverse community

Collaborating across campuses, across TAHSN & beyond

- Research clusters with faculties and TAHSN partners
- Collaboration with CECCS
- Collaboration with units @ UTM & UTSC
- Collaboration with COPEH-Canada

Awards Program

- Students – Excellence in Research/ Innovation
- Early Career
- Best in TAHSN

About the Collaborative Centre

The Collaborative Centre's purpose is to catalyze climate & sustainability action for health & health systems through research, education, and practice & policy change.

Many faculty, students, trainees, and health sector partners have developed expertise and efforts on climate, environment, and sustainability in health and health systems. This work has made the creation of the Collaborative Centre possible, provides extraordinary capacities, and sets us apart.

The Collaborative Centre was launched in recognition of the need for a centre of excellence to catalyze climate & sustainability action for health & health systems.

We have a network of almost **100 members** across eight faculties and continue to expand. We welcome the participation of faculty, students, trainees, and professionals with an interest in these issues to engage with our work. Sign up for our newsletter and become a member.



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