

# Terms of Reference – Waterloo Student Climate Council

## July 28, 2023

The [Waterloo Climate Institute](#) is the focal point for climate change research, training, and knowledge mobilization at the University of Waterloo, with over 140 researchers from all six University faculties, plus students and scientists from partner institutions and government agencies. The Climate Institute’s mission is to elevate and enhance the impact and excellence of innovative interdisciplinary research and education that empowers business, government, and civil society to respond effectively to the climate crisis. We achieve this by bringing together our research community and partners around strategic research and training priorities that advance climate change solutions at the local, national, and international scales.

The Climate Leaders Program was established by the Waterloo Climate Institute to provide opportunities for students to become leaders in climate action. The program offers Waterloo students with opportunities to participate in climate leadership training and events, and network with climate researchers and professionals from the Waterloo community and beyond. The program is managed by Climate Institute staff and supported by the Student Climate Council.

The Climate Leaders Program objectives include:

- **Community:** Build and support a community of students across campus who are passionate about climate change, where they can learn from each other and share motivation and strength.
- **Capacity:** Support students in their development of foundational leadership skills needed for climate-related careers by offering a range of uniquely-climate-focused training and workshops.
- **Network:** Create opportunities for students to expand their professional networks through organized and facilitated connections with Climate Institute researchers, partners and collaborators representing diverse backgrounds and sectors.

The Climate Institute is establishing a volunteer Student Climate Council to help advise on and support the Student Climate Leaders Program. The Student Climate Council will work in close collaboration with Climate Institute staff.

### **Composition of the Waterloo Student Climate Council**

- The Student Climate Council will be made up of 12 UWaterloo students, 2 from each Faculty (one undergraduate and one graduate).
- Members will rotate as co-chairs of the council on a schedule to be agreed in the first meeting of the year.

### **Application Process**

- Student Climate Council positions will be advertised broadly across all Faculties during the Spring semester. Applications will be collected via an online form on the Climate Institute website in early September of each year.
- Members of the Student Climate Council will be selected by the Climate Institute with input from the outgoing Student Climate Council, based on their background, skills and interests as indicated on the application form.
- The position of Student Climate Council member is for a one-year term and accommodation will be made for students on co-op or undertaking field research during their term.

### **Responsibilities of the Student Climate Council**

With direction from the Executive Director, and with support from the Managing Director and Climate Institute staff, the role of the Student Climate Council members will be to:

- Act as student ambassadors of the Climate Institute within their home faculties, promoting the Climate Institute, its programs, and activities among students
- Provide input on the Climate Institute's programs, activities, and strategic planning.
- Advise on the direction and activities of the Climate Institute's Climate Leaders Program, including the training program for students
- Provide support for the coordination and management of the Climate Institute's student engagement activities on campus
- Initiate and implement 1-2 interdisciplinary climate events in their Faculties each year, in collaboration with other Student Climate Council members and with support from Climate Institute staff.

### **Time Commitment**

- Student Climate Council members commit for a one-year term, which may be renewed for an additional year.
- Regular Student Climate Council Members will commit a minimum of 5 hours per month including a monthly meeting with Climate Institute staff (with the schedule to be agreed upon during first meeting in September each year).
- Co-Chairs will commit a minimum of 10 hours per month including additional time for communication and coordination between other council members and Climate Institute staff.

### **Benefits**

Members of the Student Climate Council will:

- Gain valuable experience and skills in climate leadership, event organisation, outreach, and facilitation to add to their curriculum vitae
- Grow their network and collaborate with like-minded students and professionals from across the university and Climate Institute.
- Obtain a certificate of membership/participation
- Receive references and/or LinkedIn recommendations for study and work opportunities as needed.