



Terms of Reference – Waterloo Student Climate Council

2024-25 Council Term

Background

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 Action Program was established by the Waterloo Climate Institute to provide opportunities for students to take climate action. The program offers Waterloo students opportunities to participate in climate action 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 Action Program, * Learn * Connect * Act *, 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.

Scope of Member Role

Composition

- The Student Climate Council will be made up of 12 UWaterloo students, two from each Faculty (one undergraduate and one graduate).

Application Process

- Student Climate Council will submit applications including Resume and cover letter in early September.
- Members of the Student Climate Council will be selected by the Climate Institute, based on their background, skills and interests as indicated on their application.

Responsibilities

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 host one pop-up booth in their home faculty.
- Provide input on the Climate Institute's programs**, activities, and strategic planning, including the Climate Action Program that provides training for students.
- Support student events and activities** through one or more of the following: coordination, promotion, attendance, facilitation, connections to their faculty or other campus groups.
- Attend all Climate Action Program events** (only exempt from class or work commitments) and encourage peers to attend.

Time Commitment

- **Term:** A two-semester term (Fall and Winter), which may be renewed for an additional year.
- Minimum of 5 hours per month to attend events, meetings, and sub-committee meetings.
- Minimum of 2 hours per month on promotion of events to faculty contacts, LEARN shells, student groups, posting posters, and other communications methods.

Benefits

Members of the Student Climate Council will:

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