Chief Sustainability Officer

York University is a leading international teaching and research university and a driving force for positive change. It was founded in 1959 on principles of social justice. Since that time, York University has grown to become Canada’s third largest research and teaching institution, a progressive and community-engaged university committed to providing a broad demographic of students access to a high quality, research-intensive environment. York University continues to innovate across its multiple campuses located in the heart of Toronto, including the Keele and bilingual Glendon campus, the Markham campus scheduled to open in 2023, and international campuses in Hyderabad, India, and Costa Rica. With this growth comes a shared responsibility to be a leading advocate for sustainability as the university prepares for, and responds to, the challenges faced locally and globally, within the University community, and beyond.

York University has long been recognized as an international leader in sustainability-relevant research, teaching, partnerships, and campus practices. By challenging themselves to deepen this commitment as supported in the strategic research and academic plans, the University now seeks a new Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) to be a thought leader and drive this agenda forward. With accountability to the new Sustainability Steering Committee, chaired by the University President, and to the VP Finance and Administration for administrative purposes, the Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) is the campus leader, responsible for the oversight and overall management of a small team and a comprehensive sustainability plan to progress the University’s Sustainability Strategy, minimize the University’s environmental impact, support new initiatives for sustainable development, and foster a culture of sustainability among students, faculty, and staff. The CSO will work closely with the divisions, the faculties, and the Sustainability Advisory Task Force ensuring a coordinated and integrated approach across the University.

The position requires a strategic and credible leader with an in-depth understanding of sustainability and environmental affairs, nationally and internationally. The Chief Sustainability Officer will bring superior organizational, project management and consensus building skills, demonstrated support of equity, diversity and inclusion, and the ability to build respectful and productive relationships with the university’s executive leadership, Senate, Board of Governors, faculty, staff and student community and with external stakeholders. You will be able to: exercise sound judgement and the highest level of ethics and integrity; manage competing and fast-changing priorities; demonstrate collegial leadership; and, communicate effectively in small and large group settings. As the successful candidate, you have the critical and strategic thinking skills and vision to move this agenda forward by driving results and influencing outcomes. You are purpose-driven and can work effectively in a large and complex organization. You are highly motivated to make a difference in environmental issues and sustainability and have a natural ability to engage and influence others.

Applications are encouraged immediately at https://www.odgersberndtson.com/en/careers/18415. Nominations and inquiries should be directed to Dominik Legault of Odgers Berndtson.

The University welcomes applications from all qualified individuals, including individuals within the University’s employment equity categories of women, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities and aboriginal persons, individuals of diverse gender and sexual orientation and all groups protected by the Human Rights Code. York University is committed to employment equity and diversity and a positive and supportive environment.

Applicants wishing to self-identify as part of York University’s Affirmative Action Program can do so by downloading, completing and submitting the form found at: http://acadjobs.info.yorku.ca/affirmative-action/self-identification-form. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens, Permanent Residents and Indigenous peoples in Canada will be given priority.

In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), accommodation will be provided by both Odgers Berndtson and York University throughout the recruitment process to applicants with disabilities.