Sustainability Policy

Purpose

As an institution of higher learning, the University values the opportunity to play a vital role in supporting sustainability principles. The University seeks to be both a model and catalyst of change by demonstrating stewardship of the natural and built environment in a socially, environmentally and economically responsible method.

This policy reinforces our responsibility to the environment. Additionally, this policy will set forth the goals we strive to meet to reach the highest possible standards of sustainability on our campus and in our day-to-day activities related to academics and community outreach.

In particular, this policy will:

- Foster a culture of sustainability throughout our campus and the broader community by playing a positive and proactive role in sustainability leadership; and

- Ensure that our commitment to sustainability is in our organizational behaviours and policies through long-lasting solutions, including ecological, social and economic facets of sustainability.

Scope and authority

This policy applies to all members of the University, including faculty, staff, and students. Including contractors and service providers to all areas of the University that support teaching, learning, research and services.

Policy

The University is committed to supporting and implementing the following sustainability goals:

Environment

1. Develop programs and policies that minimize resource and material demands of University activities.
2. Adopt effective waste management strategies that reduce the volume of waste generated and sent to landfill.
3. Identify opportunities to:
   - reduce water consumption
   - implement water conservation measures where possible and establish programs that promote the efficient use of water
   - identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption, implement energy conservation measures where possible

- establish programs that promote the efficient use of energy among faculty, staff and students.
4. Ensure that University procurement policies and procedures incorporate an assessment of the environmental impact of purchases throughout their life-cycle and encourage the use of producers and suppliers who follow environmentally responsible practices.
5. Establish systems to monitor and measure our environmental performance.

Infrastructure

1. Promote a healthy and productive environment by providing students, faculty and staff with safe, functional, and sustainable facilities.

2. Integrate sustainable features into new and existing building design and application.

3. Build and renovate facilities per energy efficiency and sustainability principles.

4. Use ecological landscaping methods and preserve green space.

Culture and Education

1. Share knowledge and engage with students, staff, faculty, and community members to promote eco-literacy and ensure effective participation of the University community in green living practices.

2. Develop a team program to build a network of sustainability-focused individuals across the University.

3. Identify and pursue opportunities to incorporate the principles of sustainability and environmental literacy into the course curriculum.

4. Ensure representation and active participation by the University on relevant steering committees and associations to promote awareness of sustainability issues and determine how to address them.

5. Further partnerships with locals and government organizations to progress environmental objectives. Communicate with the outside community about the University's environmental performance and activities.

Policy Administration
In addition to the specific areas of focus, the University will:

1. Prepare and regularly update a sustainability plan with specific goals and objectives.

2. Develop new projects and monitor existing projects contributing to sustainable development.

3. Consider activities carried out by or on behalf of the University in light of their life cycle, including their economic, environmental and social footprints.

4. Establish sustainability indicators to enable accountability, communicate specific goals and monitor and report on progress. Report annually on progress to the University community.