

## Sustainability Policy

<p><b>Classification</b> General</p>	<p><b>Table of Contents</b></p> <p>1 Purpose ..... 1</p> <p>2 Scope ..... 1</p> <p>3 Definitions ..... 1</p> <p>4 Policy Statement ..... 2</p> <p>5 Responsibilities..... 3</p> <p>6 Related Information ..... 3</p> <p>7 History ..... 4</p>
<p><b>Approval Authority</b> Board of Governors</p>	
<p><b>Implementation Authority</b> Associate Vice-President, Sustainability</p>	
<p><b>Effective Date</b> March 24, 1995</p>	
<p><b>Last Revision</b> June 18, 2010</p>	

### 1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is:

- a) to confirm the University of Calgary’s commitment to excellence and leadership in advancing the pursuit of Sustainability in teaching, research, community service and operations;
- b) to confirm the principles and accountabilities that will govern how the University of Calgary acts upon this commitment; and
- c) to provide the authority to the President and Vice Presidents to approve supporting policies, in alignment with this policy, specific to research, teaching, community service and Campus Operations.

### 2 Scope

This policy applies to all activities under the governance of the University of Calgary.

### 3 Definitions

In this policy:

- a) “Campus Operations” means all activities that support the work of the University of Calgary.
- b) “Institutional Planning” refers to the act of developing long-range plans to define the future desired state of the campus.
- c) “Institutional Sustainability Reporting” refers to the development and publication of a comprehensive report articulating the institutional goals with respect to Sustainability and progress towards those goals.
- d) “Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)” refers to quantifiable indicators of critical success factors to achieve defined institutional goals. Monitoring of KPIs over time provides a measure of progress towards organization goals.

- e) “Sustainability” refers to societal efforts that meet the needs of present users without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

#### 4 Policy Statement

##### Sustainability Commitment

- 4.1** The University of Calgary is committed to excellence and leadership in advancing the pursuit of Sustainability in teaching, research, Campus Operations and community service.

##### Goals

- 4.2** The University of Calgary aims:
- a) to produce scholars with the necessary expertise and skills to address the complex challenges of a sustainable, peaceful, and just society;
  - b) to conduct research that illuminates and advances Sustainability;
  - c) to improve the long-term viability and vitality of the environmental, social and economic systems that support our campus and the global community;
  - d) to contribute to the rapid development and transfer of knowledge for Sustainability through interdisciplinary inquiry, dedicated research, and collaborative partnerships;
  - e) to be an exemplar of campus Sustainability in Campus Operations; and
  - f) to foster an ethic of civic engagement, dialogue and shared commitment to actions that advance Sustainability.

##### Accountabilities

- 4.3** Senior Administration may advance the Sustainability Policy by:
- a) acknowledging the institutional Sustainability Commitment in the Academic Plan, Annual Business Plan Directive, and similar Institutional Planning documents;
  - b) approving related management policies specific to teaching, research, Campus Operations and community service;
  - c) communicating this policy to all senior management staff for their consideration and advancement;
  - d) providing annual institutional reporting including Key Performance Indicators;
  - e) raising awareness of the Sustainability Commitment on campus and in the community at large.
- 4.4** Deans and Executive Directors of faculties and institutes may advance the Sustainability Policy by:
- a) acknowledging the institutional commitment to Sustainability in their academic plans, annual business plans, and similar planning documents;
  - b) where appropriate, developing faculty or institute specific policies and strategic goals in support of this policy specific to teaching, research, and community service;
  - c) communicating this policy to faculty members for their consideration and advancement;
  - d) where appropriate, contributing to annual Institutional Sustainability Reporting;
  - e) supporting trans-disciplinary and cross departmental scholarship and advancing the quality of educational offerings addressing environmental, economic and social systems in the context of Sustainability;

- f) modeling practices in support of Sustainability in general operations and teaching practices.

**4.5** Executive and Senior Directors of Business Units may advance the Sustainability Policy by:

- a) acknowledging the institutional commitment to Sustainability in annual business plans, and similar business unit planning documents;
- b) where appropriate, developing specific policies in support of this policy specific to various aspects of Campus Operations;
- c) communicating this policy to all management staff for their consideration and advancement;
- d) contributing to annual Institutional Sustainability Reporting including progress on Key Performance Indicators;
- e) modeling practices in support of Sustainability in all areas of Campus Operations.

**4.6** The University of Calgary may contribute to building a culture of civic engagement and leadership skill development in advancing Sustainability by:

- a) fostering student, staff, and faculty participation and collaboration in co-curricular initiatives on and off campus;
- b) providing opportunities for student, staff and faculty dialogue and action on Sustainability;
- c) supporting student participation in identifying institutional priorities for campus Sustainability and student led projects;
- d) supporting internal and external communications to highlight the Sustainability Commitment and progress in advancing this policy.

**5 Responsibilities**

**5.1** Approval Authority

- a) The Board of Governors will ensure appropriate rigour and due diligence in the development or revision of this policy.

**5.2** Implementation Authority

- a) The Associate Vice-President, Sustainability will:
  - i. promote awareness of this policy and related principles and accountabilities;
  - ii. provide strategic direction to institutional initiative to support this policy;
  - iii. monitor compliance with the policy and related principles and accountabilities;
  - iv. provide bi-annual Institutional Sustainability Reporting;
  - v. regularly review the policy and related procedures to ensure consistency in practice; and
  - vi. sponsor the revision of this policy and related procedures when necessary.

**6 Related Information**

[imagineCALGARY](#)

[Talloires Declaration, University Leaders for a Sustainable Future \(ULSF\)](#)

[IPCC Climate Change 2007 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers](#)

[UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development](#)

[Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Reports](#)

[UN Millennium Development Goals](#)

**7 History**

March 24, 1995	Approved and Effective.
April 24, 2009	Revised. Policy name change from Environmental Policy to Sustainability Policy.
June 18, 2010	Revised.
January 1, 2020	Editorial Revision. Updated format and links.
May 29, 2023	Editorial Revision. Updated titles.