

# The University of Winnipeg

## Air Quality Management Policy

**TITLE:** AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT POLICY **NUMBER:** 90.0002

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2007

**AUTHORITY:** Vice-President (Human Resources, Audit & Sustainability)

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### **Purpose:**

The University of Winnipeg (the “University”) Air Quality Management Policy (“Policy”) establishes a framework within which the University will incorporate air quality management into its overall sustainability management system. Moreover, this Policy aims to encourage the improvement of air quality and maintenance of high air quality through the adoption of technologies that reduce air pollution, and reduction of technologies that damage air quality, in, on and around all University facilities.

### **Scope:**

This Policy applies to the facilities and activities as specified in Appendix “A” – Scope of the Sustainability Policy.

### **Legal Authority:**

The legal authority for this Policy includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following acts and regulations:

Manitoba Environment Act

Manitoba Sustainable Development Act

### **Responsibility:**

The Vice-President (Human Resources, Audit & Sustainability) is responsible for the maintenance, communication and administration of this Policy. Responsibility for maintaining, reporting and analysis of all air quality monitoring records will rest with the Sustainability Office. Physical Plant is responsible for updates to the Procedures in this Policy.

### **Definitions:**

**Full-cost Accounting** – means accounting for the economic, environmental, land use, human health, social and heritage costs and benefits of a particular decision or action to ensure no costs associated with the decision or actions, including externalised costs, are left unaccounted for.

**Life Cycle Accounting** – means basing cost comparisons of products and services on the combination of initial purchase price *and* the cost of operation over the predicted service life of a product, its cost of disposal or recycling, and with the energy and resource costs that may be incurred during its use and disposal.

**Life Cycle Assessment** – a method for assessing the environmental impacts of a product or service over its entire life cycle, and identifying opportunities for reducing these impacts. It assesses resource extraction and processing, product manufacture, marketing, product use, and recycling or disposal, and includes transportation and energy.

### **Goals:**

1. To strive continuously to achieve high levels of air quality and to reduce sources of air pollution and actual discharges of air pollutants in and from all University programs and facilities.
2. To designate all University properties and facilities, both indoor and outdoor, as non-smoking areas, except for ceremonial purposes.
3. To develop all indoor spaces in University facilities as scent-free areas.
4. To encourage the development and use of modes of transportation by students, administration and faculty that incurs progressively less emission of pollutants and GHGs per passenger kilometer.
5. To take decisions respecting air quality management with due regard for their impact on the environment, including plant, animal and human health, and that air quality management programs and initiatives be instituted with due regard for their economic impact.
6. To ensure that University policies, programs and decisions take into account the need to rehabilitate any part of the environment that is damaged or degraded as a result of air pollutant impacts from the University.
7. To develop and implement air quality management policies and procedures which comply with or exceed the ISO14001-2004e standard for environmental management systems.
8. To encourage research, education and innovation respecting air quality management with a view to preventing and reducing adverse impacts on the environment and the economy now and for future generations.
9. To report its air quality management performance to internal and external stakeholders and make this management Policy available to them.

## **Responsibilities**

The Vice-President (Human Resources, Audit & Sustainability) will ensure that the Administration

- Uses full-cost / life-cycle accounting in making air quality management decisions.
- Provides for training of administration, faculty and students about air quality issues and air quality management methods.
- Regularly reviews technologies for their applicability to this Policy.
- Develops procedures, at both the institutional and departmental levels, that achieve the commitments described in this Policy.
- Develops, maintains and monitors information useful for auditing progress, identifying priorities, evaluating the impact of any initiatives and ensuring accountability.
- Establishes and maintains an accountability structure.

## **Methods of Ensuring Accountability**

- The University will set and review air quality management objectives bi-annually.
- Targets will be publicly available and in a format amenable to quantification. So far as practicable, the University will use standards, definitions and indicators that are consistent with the requirements of both federal and provincial legislation and those necessary to secure and maintain ISO 14001-2004e registration.
- Progress will be audited against the targets established in the objectives.

## **Related Policies**

Energy Management Policy  
Land Use and Planning Policy  
No Smoking Policy  
Purchasing (Procurement) Policy  
Risk Management and Emergency Response Policy  
Sustainability Policy  
Waste Management Policy  
Water Management Policy

## **Policy Review**

This Policy is to be reviewed at least once every five years.