

# The University of Winnipeg

## Water Use Management Policy

**TITLE:** WATER USE MANAGEMENT POLICY **NUMBER:** 90.0009

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2007

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

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### **Purpose:**

The University of Winnipeg (the “University”) Water Use Management Policy (“Policy”) establishes a framework within which the University will incorporate water use management into its overall sustainability management system. Moreover, this Policy aims to encourage the adoption of technologies which reduce water consumption, emphasize waterless waste management systems, and which capture, recycle and reuse grey water and storm water in 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 water consumption, recapture and recycling 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 externalized costs, are left unaccounted for.

**Grey water** – waste water originating from showers, lavatories, kitchen sinks, laundries and other water uses which contribute relatively little by way of common water pollutants (phosphates, nitrogen) and which represent relatively low toxic and biohazard risks in waste water.

**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.

**Waterless waste systems** – waste reprocessing systems for human waste and/or “black water” discharges using composting or dehydration / physical destruction technologies to render the waste harmless or reprocess it into a useful product (organic fertilizer, soil amendments, etc.).

### **Goals:**

1. Strive for zero waste in the University’s use of water, and zero emissions of toxic or hazardous substances to waste water systems.
2. Strive continuously to reduce, as far as practicable, the University’s demand for potable water, the discharge of pollutants to water, and the production of waste water from all University programs, facilities, and operations through the hierarchical application of demand reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery.
3. Make decisions respecting water use management with due regard for their impact on the environment, including plant, animal and human health, and that water management programs and initiatives be instituted with due regard for their economic impact.
4. 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 its own water use management activities.
5. Develop and implement water use management policies and procedures which comply with or exceed the ISO14001-2004e standard for environmental management systems.
6. Encourage research, education and innovation respecting water conservation with a view to preventing and reducing adverse impacts on the environment and the economy now and for future generations.

7. Report University water use management performance to internal and external stakeholders and make this 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 water use management decisions.
- Provides for training of administration, faculty and students about water use issues and conservation methods appropriate to campus operations.
- Regularly reviews technologies for their applicability to this Policy.
- Develops procedures, at both the institutional and department level, that achieve the goals set in this Policy.
- Develops, maintains and monitors information useful for tracking progress, identifying priorities, evaluating the impact of any initiatives and ensuring accountability.
- Establishes and maintains an accountability structure.

### **Accountability**

- The University will set and review water use management objectives on a bi-annual basis.
- 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 meet 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**

Air Quality Management Policy  
Energy Management Policy  
Land Use Planning and Property Management Policy  
Green Procurement Policy  
Risk Management and Emergency Response Policy  
Sustainability Policy  
Waste Minimization Policy

### **Policy Review**

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