



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

**POLICY TITLE:** Sustainability Policy

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 19, 2017

**APPROVAL BODY:** Board of Regents

## **POLICY PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to establish the principles, accountabilities, and planning cycles through which The University of Winnipeg will maintain a transparent and ongoing process of sustainability management.

## **LEGAL AUTHORITY**

This Policy ensures University adherence to the *Sustainability Guidelines for Local Governments, School Divisions, Universities, Colleges and Regional Health Authorities* Regulation included in the *Sustainable Development Act* (C.C.S.M. c. S270).

## **APPLICABILITY**

This Policy applies to all activities and facilities managed by The University of Winnipeg.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

The University will comply with applicable legislative requirements, including federal/provincial statutes, regulations, standards and guidelines, and applicable standards established by independent third parties, as amended from time to time.

The President and Vice-Chancellor is responsible for the maintenance, administration of this Policy, and the communication and promotion of the Policy, both within and outside the University, and will report openly on the University's sustainability performance at timely intervals.

## **KEY DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions apply to terms as they are used in this Policy:

- "Sustainability" means the capacity of a thing, action, activity or process to be maintained indefinitely and meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability is concerned with supporting the health, revitalization and resilience of ecosystems and communities. It is a holistic concept that considers the environment, culture, society, and the economy and seeks simultaneous improvements in human and environmental wellbeing, not just reductions in damage or harm.



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## POLICY ELEMENTS

### Principles

Through its sustainability management process, the University seeks to:

1. Fulfill its mission and goals as an education and research institution in a manner that promotes sustainability both within and beyond the University.
2. Equip students with the skills, knowledge, and desire to actively contribute to a more sustainable world.
3. Encourage scholarship and knowledge mobilization that addresses local and global sustainability challenges.
4. Support academic and research programs, offer services and carry on activities in such a way as to:
  - a. reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and the wastes generated from them;
  - b. use all renewable materials and energy resources at rates equal to, or lower than, their natural rates of deposition, reformation or reproduction in the ecosphere;
  - c. reduce and eventually eliminate the toxicity of these operations to the productivity and diversity of the ecosphere; and
  - d. cultivate principled relationships with people on and off campus and with ecosystems near and far.
5. To encourage the development and adoption by members of the campus community of behaviours that support sustainability.
6. Integrate sustainability in all aspects of management decision-making.
7. Establish decision-making processes, policies and procedures for sustainability which encourage participation by all those affected by the decisions made.
8. Continuously improve the University's sustainability management and governance processes.

### Governance & Accountability

Responsibilities related to sustainability are distributed throughout the institution. The University will develop, publish and make available to the public an institutional sustainability strategy, approximately every five years on a schedule that is aligned with other institutional planning processes. These strategies shall include:

- Key goals to focus sustainability efforts aligned with this policy;
- Specific, measurable targets for each goal and assignment of responsibility to the principal individuals with accountabilities associated with achieving each target;
- A list of measurement indicators that will be used to assess progress against the targets;
- An implementation plan for the institutional strategy;
- Terms of reference and membership criteria for the Campus Sustainability Council and any other committees required to implement the strategy; and



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- Highlights of the annual sustainability performance report will be presented to the Board of Regents annually.

The University shall publish and make available to the public an annual sustainability performance report that shall provide updates on progress made on goals and targets found in the institutional sustainability strategy using the measurement indicators reflected in the strategy and other quantitative and qualitative information as may be appropriate.

Consistent with Principle #7, a Campus Sustainability Council, comprised of individuals with operational responsibility for key areas of sustainability impact as well as student and faculty representatives, will serve as a venue for ongoing coordination, monitoring, oversight, and action planning.

The Campus Sustainability Office shall be responsible for overall coordination of institutional sustainability planning, for coordinating plan implementation, for coordinating performance monitoring and reporting activities, and for implementing elements of institutional sustainability strategies as may be required.

## ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES

Not Applicable

## RELATED POLICIES

- Air Quality Management Policy
- Capital Projects and Renovations Policy and Procedure
- Energy Management Policy
- Green Procurement Policy
- Land Use Planning and Property Management Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Risk Management and Emergency Response Policy
- Sustainable Transportation Policy
- Waste Minimization Policy
- Water Use Management Policy

## RELEVANT DATES

**Effective:** June 19, 2017

**Scheduled Review:** June 19, 2021