

Policy Name:	Environment and Sustainability Policy
Originating/Responsible Department:	Facilities Management and Planning
Approval Authority:	Senior Management Committee
Date of Original Policy:	February 2020
Last Updated:	March 2022
Mandatory Revision date:	March 2024
Contact:	AVP (Facilities Management and Planning)

Purpose:

This policy outlines Carleton University’s commitment to embedding continuous environmental and sustainable improvement to further enhance performance, in Carleton’s operations. A commitment to sustainability allows the University to reduce its collective impact while ensuring that both existing and future generations of students, staff and faculty continue to enjoy Carleton’s unique campus.

Scope:

This policy applies to all members of the Carleton University community, including employees, volunteers, students, and visitors. Contractors hired by the University are also expected to observe and comply with this Policy where applicable.

Procedure:

The University acknowledges the important role it plays in developing the environmental and sustainable stewardship in academic and operational spheres of influence. The University also has a distinct role to enable students to have skills and knowledge to make positive sustainable change. To achieve these aims, the University will ensure that sustainability is applied as a driver that delivers wider strategic goals, whilst also enabling decisions and actions to deliver on sustainable outcomes.

The University’s commitment is set out within the following framework of strategic objectives and programs:

- Promote and foster a culture of sustainable leadership, including the ability to meet or exceed compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations, and any other relevant internal and external compliance obligations;
- Demonstrate transparency and accountability in sustainability reporting, and ensure continuous improvement by establishing procedures and associated sustainability performance targets that are reviewed and reported annually;
- Establish Carleton as a leader in addressing carbon reduction and actively pursue a carbon neutral future.
- Develop the capacity for all departments and faculties to include sustainability in the procurement of goods, services and in the supply chain, with emphasis on consideration to environmental impacts when awarding contracts;
- Become a zero-waste institution to minimize the environmental impact from waste generation and the use of natural resources;
- Prevent pollution by managing and reducing emissions to air and discharges to water, and reducing water consumption;

- Support sustainable food systems and the availability of local, sustainable and certified food on campus.
- Ensure a commitment to the use of Fairtrade products and maintaining Fairtrade campus status, including all central catering services to include the use of Fairtrade certified coffee, tea, and one sugar option at on-campus events;
- Minimize carbon emissions where possible arising from business travel, commuting and deliveries and encouraging reduced dependency on single occupancy car travel to and from the campus;
- Incorporate the principles of sustainable development into all new build and major renovation projects and integrate climate mitigation and adaptation measures where appropriate and feasible;
- Build partnerships and take part in networks to share experience and knowledge of sustainability with all internal and external stakeholders including student unions and help guide discussion on sustainability issues;
- Encourage sustainability inquiry and create opportunities to engage in extra-curricular activities that promote environmental awareness and responsibility across the university campus community; and
- Engage the Carleton community in the university's sustainability journey and milestones on an ongoing basis and communicate our progress.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Sustainability Manager will oversee the implementation of environmental and sustainability-related initiatives at Carleton University, in collaboration with the Director, Energy and Sustainability Services and other stakeholders as necessary.

Contacts:

Assistant Vice-President (Facilities Management and Planning)
Director, Energy and Sustainability Services
Sustainability Manager

Related Policies:

Sustainability Strategy (2020)
Energy Master Plan (2021)
Campus Master Plan (2016)
Outdoor Space Plan (2020)