

Policy Name:	Sustainability Policy
Originating/Responsible Department:	Facilities Management and Planning
Approval Authority:	Senior Management Committee
Date of Original Policy:	February 2020
Last Updated:	April 2024
Mandatory Revision date:	April 2029
Contact:	AVP (Facilities Management and Planning)

Purpose:

Carleton is committed to achieving a carbon-neutral campus by 2050 and improving its sustainability performance as measured through various ratings and certifications.

This policy outlines Carleton's commitment to continuously improving its sustainable practices. With Carleton's pivotal role in education and research, it becomes imperative to impart a profound understanding of sustainability to future decision-makers and harness academic knowledge to effectively address the challenges our society encounters. Simultaneously, Carleton operates in a manner that upholds the University's economic and social responsibilities but also safeguards the natural systems vital to its existence. Recognizing the gravity of climate change and other pressing challenges, Carleton acknowledges the indispensable role institutions like the University play. Carleton commits to taking necessary appropriate actions to mitigate these impacts, ensuring that future generations can continue to cherish and benefit from the University's campus and environment.

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 follow and comply with this Policy where applicable.

Procedure:

Carleton is dedicated to integrating sustainability as a catalyst for broader strategic objectives, guiding decisions and actions to ensure alignment with sustainable outcomes. As part of this commitment, the university will:

- Comply with or exceed applicable legislation, regulations, and other legal requirements as appropriate.
- Conduct thorough reviews of all major activities and operations to assess their environmental impacts, both direct and indirect. The university will then prioritize and take appropriate actions as part of annual and long-term planning.
- Foster continuous improvement by establishing procedures and aligning sustainability performance targets, subject to annual review and reporting including by the Board of Governors. To ensure transparency, the university will publish annual reports that review progress towards the goals in this policy and relevant strategic plans.
- Safeguard the environment by reducing resource consumption and through the reduction and elimination of pollution sources.
- Collaborate with partners and organizations to enhance Carleton's ability to achieve

sustainable outcomes independently and through collaborations.

- Explain the principles of sustainability so they are understood by staff and students, embedded in planning, decision-making, and activities as appropriate, with adequate resources available to facilitate appropriate actions.
- Ensure that sustainability actions are aligned to wider Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and considerations in decision-making.

To implement this policy, the University has identified several key sustainability impacts and corresponding objectives:

- **Energy and Emissions:** Position Carleton as a leader in addressing carbon reduction and actively pursue becoming a carbon-neutral campus by 2050.
- **Sustainable Procurement:** Adhere to the Carleton Procurement Policy and enhance the capacity of all departments and faculties to consider sustainability in the evaluation process for goods, services and vendors as appropriate.
- **Zero-Waste and Natural Resources:** Mitigate pollution by reducing harmful emissions and discharges, advocating the zero-waste principles to minimize environmental impact from waste generation and natural resource usage.
- **Dining Operations:** Support sustainable food systems, ensure the availability of local, sustainable, and certified food, (e.g. MSC) as appropriate on campus, and maintain the University's Fair Trade Campus designation.
- **Water:** Decrease water usage and maintain a utility monitoring system, to target reduction in use.
- **Sustainable Travel:** Minimize carbon emissions, where feasible, from university business travel, commuting, and deliveries, and encourage the use of active transportation options where appropriate.
- **Sustainable Buildings:** Integrate sustainable development principles into new construction and major renovation projects, incorporating climate mitigation and adaptation measures when appropriate and feasible.
- **Biodiversity:** Safeguard, conserve, and enhance campus grounds to promote biodiversity for the benefit of the community and wildlife.
- **Sustainable Collaboration:** Foster partnerships, engage in networks to share sustainability experiences and knowledge with internal and external stakeholders, including student organizations, and contribute to discussions on sustainability issues.
- **Education and Research on Sustainability:** Actively promote and support the integration of sustainability and climate change education and research within the university. Assist faculty in incorporating sustainable principles in curriculum development and delivery.
- **Staff and Student Wellbeing:** Support the health and wellbeing of the Carleton community through campus development and sustainability initiatives.
- **Community Engagement:** Encourage sustainability inquiry and create opportunities for engagement in extracurricular activities that foster environmental awareness and responsibility across the university campus community.
- **Responsible Investments:** Adhere to the Carleton Responsible Investing Policies and consider Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles within university investments as appropriate.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Director, Energy & Sustainability and the Sustainability Manager will oversee the implementation of facilities-related sustainability initiatives at Carleton University.

Contacts:

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

Related Plans and Policies:

Sustainability Strategy (2020)

Energy Master Plan (2021)

Campus Master Plan (2023)

Outdoor Space Master Plan (2020)

Endowment Fund Responsible Investing Policy (2023)

Non-Endowed Funds Responsible Investing Policy (2023)

Retirement Fund Responsible Investing Policy (2023)

Procurement Policy (2023)