


 DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY <i>Inspiring Minds</i>	[Office of Sustainability Policies and Procedures]	
	<i>Subject:</i> Sustainability	<i>Date Issued:</i> February 9, 2009
	<i>Title:</i> Sustainability Policy	<i>Date Revised:</i>
	<i>Issued by:</i> Office of Sustainability	<i>Approved by:</i> President 

Preamble

Universities have a tremendous opportunity to influence civic life. Our operational and academic connections are strong and broad reaching. It is through these connections that we see the positive and negative impacts we have on our natural world and each other. Through our values and this knowledge we are compelled to improve ecological, economic, social, and health conditions. As an institution of higher learning it is our responsibility to contribute and model long-lasting sustainable solutions.

The process of sustainability is a pathway of continual improvement where actions protect and enhance human and natural resources needed by future generations to enjoy a quality of life equal to or greater than our own. Dalhousie will honour existing environment and sustainability legal obligations as well as our sustainability commitments as international signatories of the Talloires Declaration, the Halifax Declaration, and the UNEP International Declaration on Cleaner Production. We will provide sustainable development leadership through inter-disciplinary scholarship and operations.

Dalhousie will strive for a culture of sustainability that is reflected in the words we use, the policies we make, and the actions we take. We will focus on the following sustainability goals to achieve the positive ecological, economic, social, and health outcomes that we desire. These include:

- enhancing values, knowledge, skills, and social norms that support sustainability;
- encouraging and supporting organizational behaviours and physical systems that enhance sustainability;
- decreasing natural resource use (energy, water, products), waste, toxins and air emissions;
- increasing use of renewable energy;
- enhancing health and social attributes of the campus ecosystem;
- increasing sustainable transportation; and
- drawing people to Dalhousie as a result of sustainability activity.

At Dalhousie University we recognize that sustainability is a path that is ever changing. This reality will be reflected in an on-going process of sustainability measurement, implementation, and evaluation.

Policy

1. The University Office of Sustainability shall initiate, promote, and conduct programs that promote sustainability in cooperation with academic and administrative units where appropriate. The Office of Sustainability will focus on individual and organizational change and physical system upgrades. Key functions of the Office include policy and planning, communication and learning, and project development and management. The Office of Sustainability will support the work of the President's Advisory Council on Sustainability.
2. The President's Advisory Council on Sustainability shall include representatives of staff, faculty, students, and community and alumni members. The Council shall provide advice on:
 - university sustainability plans, reports, and products;
 - discuss and create options for pan-university sustainability approaches;
 - enhance understanding and synergy of different groups working on sustainability issues on campus; and
 - disseminate ideas and proposed directions to representative organizations and the President.
3. New and existing policies on topics such as transportation, energy, procurement, building design, climate change and waste will be developed and or revised in furtherance of the University's sustainability goals.