



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

### 1. PREAMBLE

Bishop's University (Bishop's) is committed to improving sustainability on campus and in its operations. The aim of this policy is to advance sustainability at Bishop's by identifying realistic and measurable targets.

The Sustainable Development Committee of the Board of Governors has prepared this policy, identifying overall objectives, the operational areas in which the policy can be implemented and specific goals.

#### 1.1 Commitment

In 2012, the Bishop's community made a commitment to the value of Sustainability through resolutions of Senate and the Board of Governors:

*We value principles of sustainability and seek to integrate them into our academic programs and our individual and institutional activities.*

*We value the natural beauty of our surroundings and exceptional architectural quality in our built environment.*

The Sustainable Development Committee seeks to implement this value through the Sustainability Audit, applying a series of indicators set out to track progress and achievements in the area of sustainability. These indicators provide a quantitative, measurable basis for tracking the progress of initiatives on campus, and they allow members of the Bishop's community to develop targets in different areas of operation.

#### 1.2 Environmental Sustainability Policy

The Environmental Sustainability Policy applies to Bishop's campus and all members of the Bishop's community, including but not limited to faculty, students and staff.

### **1.3 Goal**

The University administration and other members of the Bishop's community seek to minimize negative impacts on the environment through continual improvement in sustainable performance and the implementation of a feasible and comprehensive Environmental Sustainability Policy with realistic and measurable targets.

### **1.4 Definition**

Sustainable Development is defined as a form of development « that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs ».<sup>1</sup> This policy will focus mainly on environmental sustainability.

## **2. AREAS OF APPLICATION**

The policy will address the following areas: *Environmental Sustainability Awareness, Energy Efficiency, Transportation, Water Consumption and Air Management, Waste Reduction, Buildings and Grounds, Purchasing and Protection of trees and green space.*

### **2.1 Environmental Sustainability Awareness**

The Sustainable Development Committee will enhance awareness of campus Environmental Sustainability projects, research and activities. Training and orientation of new campus community members will be modified to make new members of the Bishop's community aware of these initiatives where possible.

### **2.2 Energy Efficiency**

The Buildings and Grounds Team, led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds, will, when resources permit, develop practices and guidelines to minimize energy consumption and to reduce emissions wherever possible and appropriate. Where resources permit, the University will endeavour to purchase renewable energy and to reduce the consumption of fossil energy, wherever possible and appropriate.

### **2.3 Transportation**

The Buildings and Grounds Team, led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds, will endeavour to minimize vehicular energy consumption as well as to reduce emissions and consumption of fossil fuels. The University administration will develop partnerships with local organizations, such as the *Société de Transport de Sherbrooke*, in an effort to increase the use of alternative transportation by campus community members.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/index.html>

## **2.4 Water Consumption and Air Management**

The Buildings and Grounds Team, led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds, will, as resources permit, endeavour to improve both interior and exterior air quality, minimize water consumption and reduce waste water production wherever possible and appropriate.

## **2.5 Waste Reduction: Solid, Organic and Hazardous Materials**

Wherever possible and appropriate and where resources permit, the Buildings and Grounds Team, led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds, will work with other departments to:

- ♦ minimize solid and organic waste production, and
- ♦ limit and monitor the use of hazardous materials on campus grounds, in cleaning and in laboratories

through recycling, composting and other waste management projects.

## **2.6 Buildings and Grounds**

The Buildings and Grounds Team, led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds, will endeavour to minimize the ecological impact of the construction, maintenance and operation of buildings on campus.

The University will, where resources permit, construct future buildings on campus to LEED certification requirements wherever possible and appropriate.

## **2.7 Purchasing**

The Vice-Principal Finance and Administration and the Director of Finance will develop purchasing policies and guidelines that take into account the ecological impact of products and services purchased for campus operations. Specifically, they will promote the preferential purchasing of local goods and services where possible and permitted by law.

## **2.8 Protection of trees and green space**

In conformity with the Campus Master Plan, members of the Bishop's community will use of long-term campus planning to promote smart growth and, with the goals of protecting green space and increasing land efficiency.

## **3. Sustainable Development Committee**

The Sustainable Development Committee of the Board of Governors, established by sections 3.3.1 of Division I and 2.1 of Division IV of Bishop's Statutes, will monitor the implementation of this policy, and will review it every three years.

## **4. GOALS**

The goals set out below are based on the findings and recommendations of the triennial B.U. Campus Sustainable Development Audit. They aim to establish a framework for the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Policy.

### **4.1 Environmental Sustainability Awareness**

4.1.1 The Sustainable Development Committee will maintain and update the following webpages:

- a. a page on which the documentation relating to the work of the Committee is available (<http://www.ubishops.ca/sustainable-development-land-use/index.html>);
- b. a page containing information on energy efficiency projects at Bishop's (<http://www.ubishops.ca/energy-efficiency-projects/>);
- c. in collaboration with the research office, a page containing information on research on sustainability pursued by Bishop's faculty (<http://www.ubishops.ca/research/whats-new.html>).

4.1.2 The Sustainable Development Committee will raise awareness of projects aimed at improving the environmental sustainability of the University.

4.1.3 The Sustainable Development Committee will work with the Dean of Student Affairs, the Academic Deans and the Director of Human Resources to train and orient new campus community members on sustainable initiatives of the University.

### **4.2 Energy Efficiency**

4.2.1 The Sustainable Development Committee will establish standards against which improvements in energy consumption can be measured.

4.2.2 The Buildings and Grounds Team, led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds, will undertake projects to increase energy efficiency or decrease pollution wherever possible and appropriate, and where the cost of investments can be recouped in an acceptable period.

4.2.3 Working with the Vice-Principal Finance and Administration, the Director of Buildings and Grounds will develop an integrated approach to facilities management where energy costs are analysed in the aggregate rather than by examining individual systems or energy types in isolation.

4.2.4 In collaboration with the Secretary General and Vice-Principal Government Relations and Planning, the Director of Buildings and Grounds will explore government initiatives and

subsidies to ensure participation in relevant programs in the areas of pollution reduction and energy efficiency.

4.2.5 Working with the Vice-Principal Finance and Administration, the Director of Buildings and Grounds will incorporate energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies into the design, renovation and operation of facilities wherever possible and appropriate, and where resources permit.

4.2.6 The Buildings and Grounds Team, led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds, will ensure that energy meters are installed and used to track energy consumption wherever a preliminary cost-benefit analysis indicates that the savings from such an investment are likely to outweigh costs.

### **4.3 Transportation**

4.3.1 In conformity with the Campus Master Plan, the Buildings and Grounds Team, led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds, will make bike racks available at academic, administrative and residence buildings on campus.

4.3.2 Members of the University administration charged with purchasing or renting campus vehicles and non-stationary equipment will consider emission levels in selecting vehicles and equipment.

4.3.3 The Director of Buildings and Grounds will ensure that action is taken to reduce the number of vehicles fuelled by fossil fuels on campus and replace them with more ecological alternatives, such as electric vehicles.

4.3.4 The Sustainable Development Committee will develop a campaign aimed at persuading members of the Bishop's community to use alternative means of transportation both on campus and for transportation to campus.

### **4.4 Water Consumption and Air Management**

4.4.1 Wherever possible and appropriate, and where resources permit, the Buildings and Grounds Team, led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds, will take steps to ensure that water efficient models are selected when replacing water fixtures on campus. Longevity and water efficiency will be the primary considerations when purchasing water fixtures.

4.4.2 When resources permit, the Director of Buildings and Grounds will undertake projects to decrease water usage and waste.

4.4.3 The Custodial Supervisor will take steps to ensure that environmentally friendly cleaning supplies are purchased wherever possible and appropriate and where resources permit.

4.4.4 The Buildings and Grounds Team led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds will consider outdoor air quality when purchasing equipment and determining energy sources.

#### **4.5 Waste Reduction: Solid, Organic and Hazardous Materials**

4.5.1 The Sustainable Development Committee will propose an effective waste reduction program for paper.

4.5.2 All members of the Bishop's community will take steps to limit solid waste generated on the Bishop's campus.

4.5.3 All members of the Bishop's community involved in purchasing supplies will take steps to ensure that environmentally friendly products are selected wherever possible and appropriate, and where resources permit.

4.5.4 The Director of Buildings and Grounds and the Director of Residence and Conference Services will take steps to maintain an effective recycling (paper, glass, plastic, metals, computers and other materials) and composting programs across campus.

4.5.5 Whenever permitted by applicable laws and University and government regulations and policies, the University will offer furniture and equipment for sale or donation prior to disposal.

4.5.6 The Buildings and Grounds Team, led by the Director of Buildings and Grounds, will institute the practice of using yard waste as mulch on campus grounds.

4.5.7 In accordance with provincial or federal regulations and the mandate of the Joint Health and Safety committee, the Health and Safety Coordinator will monitor the safe use and storage of hazardous and toxic materials on campus and arrange for disposal. The Health and Safety Coordinator will also report on the storage and disposal of hazardous materials to the Joint Health and Safety Committee, Animal Care and Biosafety Committee and the Human Resources Committee of the Board as appropriate.

#### **4.6 Buildings and Grounds**

4.6.1 To the extent permitted by available resources, Buildings and Grounds personnel will monitor and minimize response time for building maintenance and repairs. Neglected maintenance tasks generally increase energy use and potential harm to the environment.

4.6.2 The University administration will incorporate an environmental impact analysis into the planning and design of new buildings. Within the constraints of available resources, the impact of new buildings will be minimized through appropriate selection of materials and design elements.

4.6.3 The University administration will develop and implement policies promoting the use of environmentally friendly materials and disposal procedures during building construction and renovations.

#### **4.7 Purchasing**

4.7.1 The Sustainable Development Committee will propose practices and guidelines aimed at minimizing the use of paper on campus (photocopiers and printers).

4.7.2 Where appropriate and where resources permit, the University will purchase unbleached, recycled and post-consumer paper.

4.7.3 The Sustainable Development Committee will work with the Manager of the Bookstore to provide unbleached recycled paper for sale in the Bookstore.

4.7.4 Wherever possible and appropriate, members of the University community will take the following factors into account in purchase of products:

- a. the extent of packaging;
- b. environmental performance (*i.e.* energy saving);
- c. construction (*i.e.* recycled materials rather than tropical hardwoods);
- d. longevity.

4.7.5 Wherever possible and appropriate, members of the University community will request information from suppliers about sustainable alternatives when purchasing goods and equipment.

4.7.6 Wherever possible and appropriate, members of the University community will purchase local goods and services.

#### **4.8 Protection of trees and green space**

4.8.1 The Sustainable Development Committee will develop a Tree Policy aimed at providing support for the conservation and enhancement of trees by dictating the broad guidelines that will enable Bishop's and future generations to thrive in a healthy and sustainable environment.

### **5. IMPLEMENTATION – *Sustainable Development Action Plan***

The Bishop's Environmental Sustainability Policy will be implemented as part of an ongoing and adaptable *Sustainable Development Action Plan*. This plan will be reviewed every three years through the Bishop's Campus Sustainable Development Audit.