



SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

University Policy No: GV0800

Classification: Governance

Approving authority: Board of Governors

Effective date: January 2017

Supersedes: March 2009

Last Editorial Change:

Mandated review: January 2024

PURPOSE

1.00 The University of Victoria has a responsibility and desire to educate members of the University Community to engage effectively as global citizens, steward our natural resources in a responsible manner, foster a university culture that supports and promotes the values and principles of sustainability, and work towards a sustainable and just future in cooperation with organizations at the local, provincial, national and global level.

This policy is an overarching framework for existing and future initiatives that serve to assist the University Community in incorporating Sustainability into decision making, and to provide a common understanding of what Sustainability means at the University of Victoria.

The university recognizes that one of the great challenges of our time is to make decisions that simultaneously consider and advance Ecological Balance, Economic Prosperity, and Social Development.

University Activities shall strive to embody approaches that enhance community health and well-being; further diversity and equity; restore or maintain the functioning of natural systems; and are fiscally responsible.

The purpose of this policy is to further the goals as set out in the University's Strategic Plan.

DEFINITIONS

2.00 **Sustainability** is the state of achieving the ecological balance that allows social development and economic prosperity to be achieved across generations.

2.01 **Ecological Balance** is the equilibrium between, and coexistence of, all organisms and their environment.

2.02 **Social Development** encompasses a commitment to create social opportunities for individuals and groups to enhance overall community health and well-being.

2.03 **Economic Prosperity** is a financially healthy state.

- 3.00 **Activities** include, but are not limited to, the university's operations, practices, teaching, research, decisions, events, strategies, actions and planning.
- 4.00 **University Community** members include:
- all employees and registered students of the university;
 - post doctoral fellows;
 - separately incorporated organizations operating on campus who voluntarily agree to submit to the processes under this Policy;
 - organizations and individuals required by contract to comply with university policies;
 - any person holding a university appointment whether or not that person is an employee;
 - members of the Board of Governors; and
 - anyone residing on campus.

SCOPE

- 5.00 This policy applies to the Activities of the University of Victoria and members of the University Community.

POLICY

- 6.00 Sustainability supports the university's overarching goals as articulated in the Strategic Plan, thereby integrating sustainability principles in all levels of its planning and administrative processes.
- 7.00 The university recognizes that Sustainability is a commitment to future generations. It requires the collective action of the University Community through long term planning, shared learning, grassroots activities, and institutional leadership.
- 8.00 Sustainability Activities will support the academic, teaching and research priorities and will draw upon the abilities and expertise of the University Community.
- 9.00 Each Vice-President has responsibility for Sustainability within their respective areas.
- 10.00 Sustainability Activities will require the balanced use of resources within budgetary parameters and will utilize life cycle assessments and purchasing practices based on Social, Environmental and Financial considerations.
- 11.00 The university will establish measurable Sustainability goals and monitor, evaluate and report on performance.
- 12.00 The university shall comply with and exceed where practical all applicable legislation, regulation and codes of practice related to Sustainability.

- 13.00 The university establishes and maintains strategic partnerships with communities, governments, corporations and other non-governmental organizations to develop and promote sustainable practices and to identify and address sustainability challenges.
- 14.00 The university will create mechanisms for input and advice on the implementation of the Sustainability Policy from across the University Community.
- 15.00 The university will communicate and promote this policy to members of the University Community.

AUTHORITIES AND OFFICERS

The following is a list of authorities and officers for this policy:

- i) Approving Authority: Board of Governors
- ii) Designated Executive Officer: President
- iii) Procedural Authority: Vice-President Finance and Operations, Vice-President Academic and Provost, Vice-President Research, Vice-President External Relations
- iv) Procedural Officer: Director of Campus Planning and Sustainability

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (2008)

Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act (2008)

Note: and all other municipal and regional bylaws pertaining to operations.

RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

Because of the integrated nature of sustainability, a number of University of Victoria policies are related to this policy. For a comprehensive list of policies, visit <https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/policies/browse/classification/>

OTHER DOCUMENTS

- University of Victoria Campus Plan (January 2016)
- Strategic Research Plan 2016-2021
- Sustainability Action Plan: Campus Operations 2014-2019
- A Vision for the Future - Building on Excellence: A Strategic Plan for the University of Victoria (February 2012).