

Environmental Health & Safety Policy

Policy Sponsor:

President

Approval Date: July 25, 2018

Responsible Unit:

Environmental Health and

Safety Office

Reviewed: May 8, 2025

- A. <u>Background & Purpose</u>: Dalhousie is committed to providing a safe working and learning environment. This policy reflects this commitment and incorporates Dalhousie's obligations under provincial occupational health and safety legislation.
- B. <u>Application</u>: This policy applies to all members of the Dalhousie University community, contractors and consultants hired by Dalhousie, and to those individuals and organizations who Dalhousie invites to campus.

C. Definitions:

- a. EH&S: Environmental Health and Safety
- b. University Community: Dalhousie faculty and staff, persons engaged to work on Dalhousie research projects, and Dalhousie students.

D. Policy:

- 1. Dalhousie will not be satisfied until:
 - a. Dalhousie's workplace is safe from hazards;
 - b. Dalhousie 's employees and others at the workplace are injury -free; and
 - c. Dalhousie's study and campus life are safe,

all while showing leadership in pollution prevention and an established record of compliance with this policy.

2. Dalhousie is determined to comply with all applicable legal and other regulatory requirements to support this Policy.

- 3. Members of the University community share the responsibility for EH&S compliance and must take all reasonable care to ensure environmental protection and the safety of University community members and those who are invited onto University campuses.
- 4. It is the duty of all employees to ensure that any persons under their direction are made aware of and comply with this Policy and all other applicable EH&S policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines.
- 5. Contractors and others whom Dalhousie invites on campus shall comply with all relevant legislation, as well as this Policy and all other applicable EH&S policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines.
- 6. Dalhousie is committed to continual improvement of Dalhousie EH&S management systems and will dedicate resources as necessary.
- 7. Dalhousie is committed to keep all employees and students informed and equipped with the necessary processes, training and resources as required to support this Policy and all other applicable EH&S policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines.
- 8. Dalhousie is committed to cooperation among University community members and the committees and programs established to further EH&S initiatives under this policy.
- 9. All EH&S programs, policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines shall be consistent with this policy.
- 10. Individuals or organizations who fail to comply with this policy or any other applicable EH&S policy, procedure, protocol or guideline, or who fail to comply with any reasonable direction provided by the Executive Director, Environmental Health and Safety in support of the foregoing, may, depending on the circumstances, face appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

E. Administrative Structure:

- 1. <u>Authority:</u> The President is the sponsor of the policy, with responsibility for implementation being provided through the Vice -President Finance and Administration and the EH&S office.
- 2. Environmental Health and Safety Committee: The EH&S Committee supports the University's efforts in achieving our policy statement and in creating and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace and campus environment. The EH&S Committee comprises members representing the University administration and an equal number of members appointed by employee and student groups. The Director serves as a non-voting member and acts as a liaison between the EH&S Committee and the administration and University community. Terms of reference for the EH&S Committee shall be established by the Vice-President Finance and Administration.

- 3. <u>Safety Program Committees</u>: Safety program committees may be established from time to time as part of the policy and regulatory framework required to manage specific safety programs or to address specific health and safety risks. Terms of reference for safety program committees shall be established by the Provost or Vice -President with the most relevant scope of authority.
- 4. <u>Local Safety Committees</u>: Leaders of academic and administrative units are encouraged to establish local safety committees to assist them in managing their responsibility for the environmental health and safety of their unit, and to engage members of their unit in developing and implementing an environmental health and safety program relevant to the activities of their unit. Terms of reference for local safety committees shall be established by the relevant academic or administrative leaders.
- 5. <u>Policy communication:</u> This policy will be distributed by the EH&S Committee throughout the University and will be posted on the Secretariat website and EH&S myDal site.
- 6. <u>Policy Review</u>: The Executive Director EH&S, in consultation with the EH&S Committee, is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations for changes to this policy as required.