DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY **Sustainability Policy**	***Policy Sponsor and Approved by:*** President	***Date Issued:*** February 9, 2009
	Issued by: Office of Sustainability Responsible Units: All Departments	***Date Revised:*** *November 2022*

1. Background and Purpose

The updated Sustainability Policy incorporates the revised original policy and detailed topic policies and guidelines developed from 2010-2020. Specific guidelines are referred to at the end of the document. This creates a comprehensive policy for reference, direction, and regular updating.

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 development solutions including social elements of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.

The process of sustainability is a pathway of continual improvement where actions protect and enhance human and ecological health 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, research, 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:

- values, knowledge, skills, and social structures that support sustainability are endorsed;
- support organizational behaviours and physical systems that promote sustainability;
- decrease natural resource use (e.g., energy, water, products) and outputs (e.g., pollution);
- increase renewable energy (on and off campus);
- enhance health and diversity of the campus ecosystems;
- increase sustainable transportation options;
- reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) and adapt to a changing climate; and
- draw people to Dalhousie because 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.

2. Application

This policy applies to administrative activity on campus including campus operations activities such as building and property management, and procurement. Key departments are engaged such as Facilities Management, Ancillary Services, Office of Sustainability, Financial Services, and others responsible across the university for procurement in departments and research.

3. Administrative Structure

The University Office of Sustainability shall initiate, promote, and conduct programs that support sustainability in cooperation and with leadership from academic and administrative units. 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 (PACS).

The President's Advisory Council on Sustainability shall include staff, faculty, and student representation. 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.

4. Policy Review

The Office of Sustainability, key departments, and PACS will review the Sustainability Policy for updating every three years.

5. Related Plans, Policies and Guidelines

- University Strategic Plan
- Campus Master Plans
- University Sustainability Plan and Sub Plans: Energy and Green Building, Climate Change, Sustainable Procurement and Waste Management, Natural Environment, Transportation Demand Management, Healthy and Sustainable Food
- Environment Health and Safety Policy
- Facilities Management Design Guidelines
    - Laboratory Design Standard (in conjunction with the Office of Research Services)
    - HVAC Design Guidelines
    - Electrical Design Guidelines
    - Lab and Fume Hood Control Standard
    - Natural Environment Design Guidelines
    - Commissioning Guidelines
    - Active Transportation Guidelines
    - Custodial Guidelines

Policy Planning, Guidelines and Reporting (Appendix A)

1.1 Planning, Guidelines, and Reporting

The Office of Sustainability, with the engagement of respective departments and campus community, will maintain and update a University Sustainability Operations plans and respective sub-plans on issues of waste, procurement, utilities (energy and water), food, green building, sustainable transportation, natural environment, and climate change. Facilities Management, with the support of the Office of Sustainability, will incorporate sustainability elements in building design guidelines that address issues such as energy and air quality, water, building envelope, active transportation, climate change natural environment, and materials. Sustainability reporting on key performance indicators will be published every three years, and in some cases annually.

1.2 Sustainable Transportation

1.2.1 Green Fleet

a) The University will aim to support car share services for campus use where available. Consideration should be made to have car share vehicles that are low-emitting and fuel efficient.

b) Purchasing University owned vehicles will consider:

- Reducing extra or inefficient fleet vehicles through downsizing or right sizing.
- Support driver training through programs such as drive smart and drive less. Ensure regular inspections and maintenance (such as tire pressure) for optimal fuel efficiency and safety.
- Purchase vehicles considering pollution reduction, life-cycle costing, emissions, and functionality, accessibility, and social and health criteria. Consider low emitting (e.g., hybrid) and zero emission vehicles as supplies become available.

c) Electric vehicle infrastructure:

- The University will add electric vehicle infrastructure to support green fleet and some locations as a parking amenity. Specific signage will denote an electric charge parking space.

d) Idling reduction - This applies to all vehicles on and adjacent to Dalhousie property.

- Vehicles shall never be left idling when unattended.
- Engine warm up periods should not exceed one (1) minute (provided air pressure for air brake system are fully charged and all safety provisions are in place)
- Light-duty vehicles (passenger size) should be shut down whenever idling periods are expected to exceed one (1) minute. Heavy-duty vehicles (such as buses and cargo trucks) should be shut down whenever idling periods are expected to exceed (3) three minutes.
- Exceptions: for emergency and functional requirements.

1.2.2 Sustainable Transportation Programs: will be offered on campus including subsidized transit passes for students and employees, guaranteed ride home (taxi passes for sustainable transportation users in case of an emergency), vehicle sharing programs, and active transportation infrastructure and education.

1.3 Green Building

1.3.1 The University will plan, construct, manage and maintain Dalhousie properties using principles of sustainable building. All new “major building projects” will meet high standards for green building for all projects. Comprehensive and focused program certification for new construction such as striving for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold or higher and Net-Zero/Zero Carbon certification should be met. A major building project is defined as a construction project larger than 10,000 gross sq ft.

1.3.2 Dalhousie will set design guidelines for green building design and operations in renovation projects of all sizes from retrofits of interior building spaces and houses to major buildings. Green building programs for existing buildings will be regularly evaluated.

1.4 Energy, Water, Carbon

1.4.1 A comprehensive energy and water program lead by an energy committee including representatives from the Office of Sustainability and Facilities Management will be maintained. Investments are made to improve building energy and water efficiency that strive to meet high performance standards and increase renewable energy on and off campus.
1.4.2 Best management practices and standards (e.g., IS0 50001 standard) in energy management will be used as a guide for action.
1.4.3 Preventative maintenance and monitoring programs will be used to identify and fix water leaks and excess energy use and when found effecting repairs will be undertaken in a timely manner.
1.4.4 Best practices in storm water and landscape management will be used to reduce and reuse water and promote biodiversity with nature-based solutions.
1.4.5 Centralized procurement and management of university paper and electronics (multi-functional devices and printers, phones, network equipment, laptops, computers, monitors, audiovisual equipment) will enable consistent costing benefits, application of sustainability standards, and security requirements. Purchasing requirements include ENERGY STAR and focus on EPEAT Gold for electronics and appliances where applicable and 100% post-consumer, third-party certified paper.
1.4.6 A comprehensive climate action program is implemented including mitigation and adaptation strategies.

1.5 Sustainable Procurement

1.5.1 Dalhousie University evaluates sustainability criteria in purchasing including environmental, economic, social, and health considerations. In keeping with this intent, it is important to the University that our sponsors, suppliers, contractors, consultants, vendors, and agents commit to the following sustainability actions.

a) Comply with applicable municipal, provincial, and federal, national and international rules and regulations to respect and safeguard workers' rights.
b) Foster a climate that does not tolerate discrimination in employment,
c) Employees are treated with respect and dignity and not be subject to any physical, sexual, psychological, or verbal harassment or abuse.
d) Recognize and respect the right of employees to freedom of association, collective bargaining, political belief, affiliation, or activity.
e) Support no use of forced labour, including prison labour, indentured labour, bonded labour, or other forms of forced labour.
f) Prohibit the use of forced and child labour. No person shall be employed under the age of 14 or under the age for completion of compulsory education, whichever is higher.
g) Ensure that wages and working hours meet legally mandated minimums and industry standards.
h) Provide a safe and healthy workplace setting to prevent accidents and injury to health arising out of, linked with, or occurring in the course of work or because of the operation of employers' facilities.
i) Employers shall adopt responsible measures to mitigate negative impacts that the workplace has on the environment.
j) Employers shall not require workers to work more than the regular and overtime hours allowed by the law of the country where the workers are employed.
k) Employers shall pay at least the minimum wage or the appropriate prevailing wage, whichever is higher, comply with all legal requirements on wages, and provide any fringe benefits required by law or contract.
l) Work actively to improve the environment and respect human rights in the communities operated in.
m) Offer and promote equity, diversity, and inclusion programs.

n) Operate with sustainable business practices and commit to the responsible use of environmental resources in the production, operation, and distribution of product(s).
o) Have a written environmental sustainability policy, plan, and program that addresses issues such as energy, waste, pollutants including carbon dioxide emissions, water, local economic development, and community building.
p) Reduce, reuse, and recycle product material where possible.
q) Minimize packaging waste.
r) Reduce water and energy use.
s) Obtain, meet, or exceed the most recent versions of sustainability certification standards as applicable to operations and products such as ENERGY STAR, Green Guard, Blue Angel, Eco-Logo, FSC, Fair Trade, Organic, Local, ISO, LEED, and BOMA BEST.

1.6 Pollution Prevention

1.6.1 Prevent pollution by reducing harmful emissions and discharges to air, water, and land including strategies such as:
a) the reduction and proper management of chemicals in buildings, labs, and on grounds.
b) maintain and continuously improve green cleaning programs.
c) reducing energy use, switching to cleaner sources, and using strategies to filter and capture pollutants.
d) Minimize and reduce impact of waste disposal.
e) Control pollutant run-off onto land and into water systems through built and green infrastructure design and management principles.

1.7 Food and Beverage

1.7.1 Support the increase and promotion of plant forward, local, healthy, food options. Use third party-certification to advance sustainable food and beverage purchasing goals for example fair trade products, organic, seafood and animal welfare certifications.
1.7.2 Reduce energy, waste, and water usage in food operations. Focus on the reduction of disposables and plastic waste. Engage in food recovery and food waste reduction programs.
1.7.3 Promote and actively expand the use of tap water, to reduce bottle water consumption, through provision and promotion of water fountains on campus and during events, drinking water testing, and easy and economic offerings in catering (e.g., default jugs of water)

1.8 Waste Management and Grounds

1.8.1 Offer and promote waste diversion from the landfill through waste avoidance, reduction, reuse, recycling, and conversion programs. This includes offering:
a) reuse programs such as surplus goods and residence material diversion.
b) support of extended producer responsibility initiatives.
c) recycling for paper and cardboard, organics, recyclables, construction and demolition waste, electronics, and other universal waste sources like batteries.
d) biomedical and hazardous waste programs are offered through the guidance of the Environment, Health and Safety office.
1.8.2 Integrated and organics pest management and natural plantings are used to improve biodiversity, reduce invasive species, and create outdoors spaces for teaching, research, and social health. Local, national and international species at risk will be monitored and habitat protected where applicable.
1.8.3 Supporting the reduction of waste creation and waste contamination through education, compliance measures such as pickup refusal, and handling charges.
1.8.4 Avoiding tree removal on campus is the first priority. If this action cannot be avoided, prior to removal of trees, shrubs, and plans from a project site, trunk diameter at breast height (DBH) shall be measured for each affected tree and shrub. The sum of all such diameters is the replacement diameter. The number of replacement trees and shrubs is to be calculated from an equivalent total

diameter of new stock as measured at the root collar. Thus, the sum of all root-collar diameters of replacement vegetation shall be no less than the sum of all breast-height diameters of removed vegetation. The replacement biomass should be replaced onsite. If no space is available funding is provided to the replacement vegetation account where trees and plants can be replaced on or surrounding any of our four campuses.

1.9 Education and engagement: Increase learning opportunities and engagement of sustainable development issues through student and class engagement, workshops, presentations, dialogue, and initiatives on campus and in the community.