

Complete Policy Title: McMaster University Sustainability Policy	Policy Number (if applicable): N/A
Approved by: President and Vice-Chancellor	Date of Most Recent Approval: March 22, 2011
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Responsible Executive: Vice President (Administration)	Enquiries: <u>Office of Sustainability</u>
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MISSION STATEMENT

McMaster University will apply its immense potential and use its creative and innovative campus community to advance sustainable operations and growth. McMaster is helping to shape the minds and values of new generations of leaders and decision makers by integrating an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable consciousness into all aspects of the university lifecycle through innovation, communication, community engagement and implementation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Identify and establish sustainable objectives and goals
- Provide a framework for developing sustainable procedures and initiatives
- Communicate awareness to all stakeholders
- Involve, engage and collaborate with all stakeholders
- Develop a university-wide culture of sustainability
- Educate for sustainable community participation
- Respond to concerns as raised by stakeholders
- Conduct all initiatives in a transparent and sustainable manner
- Measure and report annually on the indicators to track progress toward improved sustainability

AREAS OF FOCUS

Sustainability areas of focus are provided in this section. Accompanying each area of focus is a set of objectives that outline the actions necessary for achieving the University's sustainability goals. Each area will have an assigned management representative who will be responsible for the implementation and annual reporting to the Sustainability Steering Committee.

Energy

The University is committed to reducing its energy consumption, implementing conservation programs, and promoting energy efficiency. To adhere to this goal, the University will pursue the following objectives:

- provide tools and information regarding best practices to promote energy conservation by the campus community; and
- implement energy conservation programs to engage staff, faculty and students to practice energy efficiency.

Green Space

The University is committed to maintaining a high degree of vegetative surface while limiting the use of pesticides, harmful chemicals and the need for irrigation. To ensure the responsible management of the University landscape, the University will attempt to:

- plant species that are disease and pest resistant;
- use organic pest control methods and fertilizers; and
- experiment with alternative paving methods that will incorporate vegetation.

Transportation

The University encourages sustainable modes of transportation and recognizes the need to balance the demands of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. To adhere to this goal, the University will pursue the following objectives:

- collaborate and coordinate with other community agencies and groups (e.g., Hamilton Street Railway, City of Hamilton and neighbouring communities) to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transportation;
- provide amenities to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transportation (e.g., bicycle lockers and racks, external emergency telephones and pedestrian-priority campus walkways);
- provide education to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety in and around the campus; and
- identify and implement sustainable alternatives to University-owned vehicles where appropriate.

Waste

The University is committed to minimizing the amount of waste generated on campus. In order to adhere to this goal, the University will pursue the following objectives:

- plan and coordinate campus initiatives to reduce consumption;
- where possible, purchase reusable products and attempt to extend the lifecycle of goods where appropriate;
- ensure that products purchased at the University may be recycled by our waste management provider and ensure that recycling is widely available on campus; and
- develop and implement effective programs and practices that support the above objectives.

Water

The University recognizes that fresh water is a non-renewable resource that needs to be conserved. The University will attempt to:

- reduce the quantity of water used and waste water produced;
- employ natural stormwater management procedures: ponds, porous paving, roof gardens and other mitigation;
- reduce landscape irrigation needs by planting native and drought-resistant species; and
- implement water recycling programs to use rainwater for landscape irrigation.

Education

The University acknowledges its role as an academic institution to provide students with the tools to be sustainably conscious citizens. The University also recognizes its role as a sustainable organization and is committed to promoting awareness and education, as well as engaging the University community in the collective responsibility to implement this policy. To adhere to this principle, the University will pursue the following objectives:

- provide students, faculty, staff and administration with opportunities to increase their awareness and knowledge of sustainability;
- provide students with internships and volunteer opportunities in the areas of sustainable development;
- promote leadership roles among individuals from a variety of levels, providing support for sustainable initiatives;
- promote interdisciplinary education and research across faculties and departments;
- coordinate and cooperate with student groups, organizations, institutions, and surrounding communities pursuing sustainable programs and initiatives; and
- apply research/demonstration projects to campus initiatives as part of academic programs (e.g., Engineering).

Health & Wellbeing

The University understands that its staff, faculty and students are integral components to maintaining University sustainability. To ensure a high level of investment into the University's human resources, the University will pursue the following objectives:

- promote programs, groups and departments which support all areas of personal health and wellbeing; and
- recognize accomplishments and achievements of its staff, faculty and students.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Vice-President (Administration) will convene a Sustainability Steering Committee comprised of stakeholders. The Manager, University Sustainability, and the Sustainability Steering Committee will monitor and assess the implementation of the Guiding Principles and review and revise them on a regular basis. The Manager of Sustainability and the Sustainability Steering Committee are also responsible and accountable for implementing this policy. This policy will be reviewed each year and reauthorized by the Board of Governors every five years.

PROCEDURES

Manager, University Sustainability

The Manager, University Sustainability, will provide leadership through strategic planning, development, promotion, education, communication, implementation and monitoring of programs designed to meet McMaster's desire for campus-wide, effective, long-term sustainability.

Sustainability Steering Committee

The Sustainability Steering Committee consists of pan-university representation and reports to the Board of Governors through the Vice-President (Administration). The committee holds open meetings on a bimonthly basis. Presentations and other related material are posted on the Office of Sustainability website along with meeting minutes in order to maintain a high level of transparency.

Sustainability Initiatives and Action Plan

The Manager, University Sustainability, in collaboration with the Sustainability Steering Committee and with recommendations from the campus community and stakeholders, will develop annually a list of campus sustainability initiatives which align with the commitments endorsed by McMaster in the Council of Ontario Universities' [Statement on Creating a Sustainable Environment](#), The [Talloires Declaration](#), and The [University and College Presidents' Climate Change Statement of Action for Canada](#). This list will be revised and updated each year and approved by the Sustainability Steering Committee.