

Laurentian University Environmental Policy

Administrative Authority:	Vice-President, Administration
Approval Authority:	Board of Governors
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Next Review:	April 2020

1. Purpose

As an institution of higher learning Laurentian University has a responsibility and the intellectual capability to provide leadership, and to serve as a role model in actively promoting a healthy environment for current and future generations. Laurentian University is a signatory of the Council of Ontario Universities Committed to a Greener World Pledge (2009), the Talloires Declaration, an action plan signed by many university presidents from around the world (2014), and the Paris Pledge for Action, a commitment to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions immediately, to meet or surpass the goals of the Paris Agreement adopted at the COP21 conference (2015). The University is committed to the principles of responsible environmental stewardship and recognizes the urgent need and opportunity to respond to global climate change through education, research, operations, policy formation and information exchange.

2. Scope

This policy applies to the entire University community, including all academic and administrative activities and services at the University. It provides a framework for incorporating sustainability into planning and decision making in the hope of creating an innovative and continuously improving institutional culture of sustainability

3. Definitions

- 3.1. Sustainability: Laurentian University defines sustainability according to the Brundtland Report¹: “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

- 3.2. University Community: defined as all students, faculty and staff, including all partners and service providers who live, work, learn and play at all Laurentian University campuses.

¹ World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). *Our common future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987 p. 43.

4. Principles

Laurentian University is committed to the following principles of environmental sustainability:

4.1. Environmental Stewardship

The University will actively pursue strategies to reduce its footprint on the environment. Conserving the use of resources and minimizing the production of waste will be achieved through consideration of economic, social, and environmental consequences of its actions.

4.2. Environmental Education

Through education and awareness the University will foster environmental literacy for all. Individuals will be encouraged to achieve, and to communicate, a high level of environmental responsibility through their own actions and with others.

4.3. Environmental Service

The University will convene faculty, students, administrators, government, industry, foundations, non-governmental organizations and the broader community to support interdisciplinary collaboration, research and public dialogue for a sustainable future.

5. Policy Statement

It is the policy of Laurentian University that it will take all reasonable steps, including consideration of prudent fiscal policy, to implement and achieve environmental objectives in key policy areas, as generally outlined below and as may be further defined from time to time.

5.1. Practice Institutional Ecology

5.1.1. Actively work with the University community and all service providers to reduce waste outputs to landfill, promote reuse and appropriate waste diversion, and assess, wherever possible through all life cycle phases, the environmental impact of all purchases and inputs.

5.1.2. Identify opportunities and implement programs to reduce energy and water consumption, and corresponding emissions, while also evaluating opportunities to implement renewable energy generation options.

5.1.3. Support and provide alternative, low carbon, transportation options for the campus community.

5.1.4. Minimize the ecological impact of construction, renovation, maintenance and operation of all campus infrastructure as a responsible steward of our natural environment, including its lands, wildlife, air, plants and water.

- 5.1.5. Promote and integrate sustainable food systems within campus operations by supporting local, organic, fair trade and healthy options.

5.2. Curriculum Incorporation

- 5.2.1. Consistent with policies concerning academic governance of the institution, encourage faculty and Senate to take steps to incorporate sustainability content within existing curriculum offerings, and to initiate additional course offerings, programs and research dedicated to issues of environmental stewardship and sustainability.
- 5.2.2. Encourage collaboration in research across disciplines into issues of environmental sustainability and draw upon the abilities and expertise of the University community to advance sustainability at and beyond the University.

5.3. Involve All Stakeholders

- 5.3.1. Raise awareness among the University community, and broader community about the University's environmental impact and activities and aimed at achieving environmental sustainability.
- 5.3.2. Provide forums for the discussion of, and contribution to, the University's environmental sustainability agenda.
- 5.3.3. Encourage individual and collective efforts throughout the University community to make environmental sustainability a priority.

5.4. Maintain Accountability

- 5.4.1. Seek to achieve continual improvement in environmental performance through the establishment of measurable goals, regular monitoring, performance evaluation and reporting, including all required regulatory reporting.