1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 Sustainability is a value and strategic priority for NSCC (Strategic Plan, “Here and Now”, 2017).

1.2 This policy supports and guides NSCC’s commitment to sustainability in a broad context. Sustainability incorporates environmental responsibility, cultural vitality, social equity, and economic viability and it is recognized that these pillars of sustainability are connected and interdependent.

2.0 SCOPE

2.1 Nova Scotia Community College, as a learning organization and as an employer, values sustainability in all aspects of its business.

2.2 NSCC will minimize environmental impacts, and will provide educational, social, and financial leadership to achieve the goals of this policy.

2.3 NSCC will embed sustainability in its curriculum, operations, planning, training and administrative processes, to establish and foster sustainable literacy throughout the organization.

2.4 NSCC commits to sustainability as a cycle of continual learning and improvement, where its day-to-day actions sustain or improve quality of life for future generations.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOMA BEST</td>
<td>(BOMA: Building Owners and Managers Association, BEST: Building Environmental Standards) was developed to facilitate a consistent approach to measuring and managing the environmental performance of a building and is assessed in terms of energy use, water use, waste management, environmental communications, and indoor environmental quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STARS</td>
<td>The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is a tool for measuring how well a post-secondary institution embeds sustainability in all aspects of what they do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEED</td>
<td>Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a rating system that is recognized as the international mark of excellence for green building.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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4.0 POLICY

4.1 Commitment to Teaching and Learning

NSCC recognizes the need for on-going education for all members of the NSCC community regarding the importance of sustainable practices.
4.2 Cultural and Social Engagement
NSCC recognizes its role in enhancing the quality of life through community building.

4.3 Measuring, Benchmarking and Reporting
NSCC supports effective monitoring and reporting on sustainability progress.

4.4 Meeting Regulatory Requirements
NSCC recognizes the need to meet, and where possible, exceed, regulatory requirements related to sustainability, the environment and human health.

4.5 Sustainable Purchasing Policies
NSCC recognizes that one of the primary methods of exercising its commitment to sustainability is through its purchasing choices.
4.6 Efficient use and Conservation of Energy, Water, and Other Resources
NSCC recognizes the importance of conservation efforts and efficient use of resources as the primary method to be used to reduce resource consumption, and minimization of greenhouse gas emissions.

a) NSCC will minimize the consumption of energy, water, and resources by eliminating wasteful practices and promoting efficient use.

4.7 Leadership in Climate Change Solutions
NSCC is in a unique position to take a lead on addressing climate change challenges through leveraging infrastructure, research, education and community development opportunities.

a) NSCC will develop a Climate Change Action Plan, to be updated bi-annually.

4.8 Minimize Solid Waste Production
NSCC recognizes the benefits of minimizing the generation of solid waste, and maximizing the amount of waste diverted from landfill.

a) NSCC will complete a comprehensive college-wide waste audit annually and regularly review and refine campus waste management systems.

4.9 Minimize Environmental Risks on Campus
NSCC recognizes that sound environmental risk management practices will reduce the risk of environmental damage.

a) NSCC will ensure the safe management of environmental risks, including hazardous building materials, chemical and petroleum storage. These risks will be reviewed and reported annually by the Facilities and Engineering Department.

4.10 Sustainable Campus Design and Planning Principles
NSCC recognizes the on-going benefits of incorporating sustainable practices in the design and construction of campus grounds and buildings.

a) NSCC will incorporate sustainable practices in all aspects of campus master planning and building renovation processes.

b) NSCC will complete all new construction projects in compliance with LEED standards.

4.11 Healthy Buildings
NSCC is committed to providing the NSCC community with buildings that support a safe, healthy and productive environment to work and learn.

a) NSCC will complete annual facility condition assessments of campuses to facilitate a risk-based approach to funding allocation for deferred maintenance and facility upgrades.

4.12 Sustainability Leadership
NSCC recognizes that effective communication and leadership is essential to support the guiding principles of this Policy.
ACCOUNTABILITY

77.01 Sustainability

POLICY

- Each campus will maintain an active Sustainability Committee, reporting to the Sustainability Steering Committee.
- The Sustainability Steering Committee, which comprises a representative of each campus, will meet at least quarterly.

4.13 Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually through a consultative and iterative planning process coordinated by the College’s Sustainability Steering Committee in conjunction with all Campus Sustainability Committees. Revisions will be submitted to the Governance Committee for approval by the NSCC Board of Governors.

5.0 POLICY SUPPORTS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Environmental Act, S.N.S. 1994-95, c.1.
- Sustainable Goals Development Act (2019)