

Board Policy Title: Sustainability Policy (Formerly Environmental Policy)	Board Category: Governance Committee	Policy#: GC-1
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1.0 General

Sustainability is a Guiding Principle for NSCC (Strategic Plan, “Now More than Ever”, 2012).

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 recognised that these pillars of sustainability are connected and interdependent.

For the purposes of this policy, **sustainability** is defined as *meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs* (Bruntland, 1987).

2.0 Policy Statement

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

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

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

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

3.0 Guiding Principles and Actions

3.1 **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.

3.1.1 **Action:** NSCC will provide learning opportunities for all employees to engage in dialogue about sustainability in education; helping learners apply the concept of sustainability to their discipline or department.

3.1.2 **Action:** NSCC shall strive to meet, or exceed, industry best practices for sustainability in post-secondary education. At a minimum this includes achieving and maintaining STARS* and Silver certification.

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3.2 ***Cultural and Social Engagement:*** NSCC recognizes its role in enhancing the quality of life through community building.

3.2.1 **Action:** During or prior to the fall semester of each academic year, Campus Sustainability Committees will collaborate with other campus committees to define how to support health and wellness activities.

3.2.2 **Action:** A calendar of campus cultural events shall be compiled and promoted.

3.3 ***Measuring, Benchmarking and Reporting:*** NSCC supports effective monitoring and reporting on sustainability progress.

3.3.1 **Action:** An Annual Sustainability Progress Report shall be produced by the Facilities and Engineering Department, and presented to the Board of Governors.

3.3.2 **Action:** We shall optimise the use of industry-accepted tools to measure and benchmark sustainability throughout the organization. Examples of tools to be utilized include BOMABEST* and STARS* certification.

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

3.4.1 **Action:** NSCC shall adhere to all aspects of the *Environment Act*, the applicable Goals of the *Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (2007)*, and the appropriate Actions as outlined in the *Nova Scotia Climate Change Action Plan (January 2009)*. The Annual Sustainability Progress Report shall include a review of NSCC's performance with respect to the above noted regulatory requirements.

3.5 ***Sustainable Purchasing Policies:*** NSCC recognizes that one of the primary methods of exercising its commitment to sustainability is through its purchasing choices.

3.5.1 **Action:** NSCC will obtain maximum value, by balancing short and long-term costs, maintenance, life-cycle, and environmental impacts in purchasing goods and services.

3.5.2 **Action:** In the spirit of provincial sustainability, and our Strategic Plan's commitment to Building Nova Scotia's economy, where practical and possible, NSCC will purchase products and services produced in Nova Scotia.

3.6 ***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.

3.6.1 **Action:** NSCC will minimize the consumption of energy, water, and resources by eliminating wasteful practices and promoting efficient use.

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

3.7.1 **Action:** Campus waste management systems shall be reviewed and refined regularly. Every two years the NSCC shall complete a comprehensive college-wide waste audit.

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

3.8.1 **Action:** NSCC shall ensure the safe management of environmental risks, including hazardous building materials, chemical and petroleum storage. These risks shall be reviewed and reported by the Facilities and Engineering Department on an annual basis.

3.9 **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.

3.9.1 **Action:** All aspects of campus master planning and building renovation processes shall incorporate sustainable practices.

3.9.2 **Action:** New construction shall be completed in compliance with LEED standards.

3.10 **Sustainability Leadership:** NSCC recognizes that effective communication and leadership is essential to support the guiding Principles of this Policy.

3.10.1 **Action:** Each campus shall maintain an active Sustainability Committee, reporting to the Sustainability Steering Committee.

3.10.2 **Action:** The Sustainability Steering Committee, which comprises a representative of each campus, shall meet at least quarterly.

4.0 Revisions to Policy

This Policy shall 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.

References

-*Environment Act, S.N.S. 1994-95, c. 1.*

-*Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, S.N.S. 2007, c. 7.*

-*Toward a Greener Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Action Plan, January 2009*

*Notes

-*BOMA BEST: Building Environmental Standards*

-*STARS: Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Reporting System*

-*LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*

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