

POLICY 1.48 – Environment & Sustainability

Policy Category:	General
Subject:	Environmental and sustainability principles and initiatives
Approving Authority:	Board of Governors
Responsible Officer(s):	Vice-President (Operations & Finance)
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Related Procedures:	Procedures for Environment & Sustainability
Effective Date:	November 24, 2016
Supersedes:	June 24, 2010

PREAMBLE

A sustainable campus is one that promotes the smallest possible ecological footprint by promoting a healthy ecosystem and supporting the values of conservation.

The University of Western Ontario is a signatory to the COU *Statement on Creating a Sustainable Environment* and to the *Talloires Declaration*, an action plan signed by many university presidents from around the world. The COU statement acknowledges that Ontario's universities have special responsibilities on three fronts:

- To assist in finding solutions to the challenges of environmental sustainability
- To share knowledge about environment and sustainability
- To incorporate principles of sustainability into our own operations wherever possible

As a postsecondary institution, Western has the intellectual capacity to solve pressing environmental problems; it has a moral obligation to minimize its impact on the environment; and it has the opportunity to educate students who will become global leaders in the environment and sustainability movement.

A. SCOPE

This policy applies to all areas of the University that support the delivery of teaching, research and services at Western. It provides an overarching framework for creating an institutional culture of sustainability that draws upon the abilities and expertise of the University community.

B. PRINCIPLES

The University of Western Ontario subscribes to the following principles of sustainability:

1. *Engagement*: Environment and sustainability is the responsibility of everyone at Western. Success requires the collective action of the University community through long-term planning, shared learning, grassroots activities, and institutional leadership.
2. *Institutional Ecology*: The University commits to developing institutional practices that promote sustainability while reducing the use of resources and the production of waste and hazardous materials.
3. *Efficacy*: The University will continue to provide quality education and services while progressively reducing negative environmental, health and economic impacts.
4. *Accountability*: The University will establish measurable sustainability goals and monitor, evaluate and report on performance.
5. *Innovation*: The University will encourage a climate of creativity, inquiry, research and collaboration that fosters new ideas and approaches to sustainability questions and challenges.
6. *Community*: The University recognizes that it is part of a larger community and will engage with that community to promote sustainable practices and to identify and address opportunities and challenges that may have impact beyond our campus boundaries.

C. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The principles identified in this policy will encourage:

- Incorporating sustainability into our academic programming, to contribute to an educated citizenry and develop future leaders
- Engaging in research across the disciplines into issues of environmental sustainability
- Reducing our use of inputs
- Reducing outputs through recycling and reuse
- Focusing on life cycle management of resources and waste products
- Utilizing ecological landscaping methods and preserving green space
- Building and renovating facilities in accordance with energy efficiency and sustainability principles