

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

PURPOSE

Sustainability is one of the seven core values of Brock University's Integrated Strategic Plan that informs and strengthens the Institution's actions. We ensure sustainability through an appropriate balance of resources and activity. In setting our goals, we evaluate their impact on our human, financial and environmental resources to ensure that the outcomes will not only be sustainable but will also form a solid academic foundation for our future scholarly endeavours. We are committed to sustainability in human, financial and environmental contexts.

SCOPE

Creating a sustainable university requires the cooperation and dedication of faculty, staff, students, partners and the wider community working collaboratively with each other. This policy is intended to guide the Brock community, individually and collectively, in its daily operations and strategic directions as we:

- a. incorporate the November 2009 COU pledge committing Ontario universities to a greener world;
- b. embrace the eight theme-based goals that support Niagara's vision for a sustainable future:
 - i. agriculture and food,
 - ii. built environments,
 - iii. culture learning & social development
 - iv. economy
 - v. ecosystems & natural areas,
 - vi. governance,
 - vii. health & security,
 - viii. infrastructure systems; and
- c. support the eight main characteristics of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves:

- i. achieving the three interconnected functions: conservation, development and logistic support,
- ii. outpacing traditional confined conservation zones, through appropriate zoning schemes combining core protected areas with zones where sustainable development is fostered by local dwellers and enterprises with often highly innovative and participative governance systems,
- iii. focusing on a multi-stakeholder approach with particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities in management,
- iv. fostering dialogue for conflict resolution of natural resource use,
- v. integrating cultural and biological diversity, especially the role of traditional knowledge in ecosystem management,
- vi. demonstrating sound sustainable development practices and policies based on research and monitoring,
- vii. acting as sites of excellence for education and training, and
- viii. participating in the World Network.

POLICY STATEMENT

Brock University, located within a UNESCO designated Biosphere Reserve and the Regional Municipality of Niagara as well as a signatory to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Statement on Creating a Sustainable Environment, is committed to the protection of the environment, the health of the broader community and the well being of future generations.

DEFINITIONS

Sustainability: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

UNESCO: The Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve: A Biosphere Reserve designated by UNESCO in 1990 that recognizes the Niagara Escarpment as an internationally significant ecosystem for its special environment and unique environmental plan that stretches 725 km from Lake Ontario (near Niagara Falls) to the

tip of the Bruce Peninsula (between Georgian Bay and Lake Huron). The Escarpment corridor crosses two major biomes: boreal needle leaf forests in the north and temperate broadleaf forest in the south. It also includes wetland complexes, cliff faces, slopes and aquatic ecosystems.

Sustainable Niagara: A Regional Municipality of Niagara plan that describes the community’s vision for what Niagara could look like in 2060, the goals we can work towards, and the actions that will get us there; a guide in making decisions around a common vision of what Niagara can be for generations to come; a framework for measuring our progress.

COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING

The Policy Owner will monitor compliance with the Policy, with advice and/or observations provided by the Sustainability Coordinating Committee. Reporting will be included in the annual reporting on the University’s sustainability-related plans and activities.

Policy owner:	Associate Vice-President, Facilities Management Facilities Management
Authorized by:	Board of Trustees, Capital Infrastructure Committee
Accepted by:	Senior Administrative Council
Effective date:	March 9, 2016
Next review:	March 9, 2019
Revision history:	Revision #1
Related documents:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brock University Integrated Strategic Plan 2. Brock University Integrated Strategic Plan - Priorities to Actions 3. Brock University Strategic Mandate Agreement 4. Council of Ontario Universities - A Pledge from the Executive Heads, November 2009