

Brock University Energy Guideline

Purpose and Intent

This document establishes a framework for responsible energy management across Brock University's operations, facilities, and activities. It supports the University's commitment to improving energy performance, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting sustainable campus operations.

This guideline contributes to the goals outlined in Brock University's Carbon Reduction Plan, which targets a 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. By promoting efficient energy use and responsible energy management, the University aims not only to reduce its carbon footprint but also to support cost savings, operational efficiency, and increased energy resilience and security.

Responsible energy management is especially important in a time of increasing climate uncertainty and global environmental change. By improving energy efficiency and reducing reliance on carbon-intensive energy sources, Brock University also aims to strengthen energy security and resilience across its campus operations. Through this guideline, Brock seeks to support long-term sustainability and contribute to broader efforts to address climate change and its impacts.

This guideline also supports Brock University's strategic priorities, including the "Build Sustainable Futures" direction within the University's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, and contributes to institutional reporting and benchmarking initiatives.

Scope

The guideline applies to all buildings, systems and activities on Brock University's campus and all locations owned, leased or operated by Brock University.

This includes:

- All existing buildings, infrastructure, and operational systems;
- New construction, renovations, and capital projects;
- Activities and operations under Brock University's direct control, as well as those where the University can reasonably influence energy use;
- All stages of the asset lifecycle, including planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning; and
- All campus users, including faculty, staff, students, contractors, and visitors.

Guiding Principles

Brock University commits to:

- Continual improvement in energy performance across its operations, facilities, activities and assets;
- Maintaining and continually improving its Energy Management System (EnMS) to ensure it remains effective, relevant, and responsive to campus needs;
- Ensuring that the information and resources needed to achieve energy targets and objectives are available;
- Complying with all applicable legal and other energy-related requirements;
- Procuring energy-efficient products and services, where feasible, to support improved energy performance;
- Integrating energy performance considerations into design and capital planning activities; and
- Promoting campus-wide energy awareness and engagement through education, outreach, and experiential learning opportunities that encourage responsible energy behaviours.

Energy Efficient Procurement

Brock University will prioritize the procurement of energy-efficient products, equipment, and services that contribute to improved energy performance and reduced lifecycle costs.

Where feasible, the University will:

- Consider energy performance, lifecycle cost, and environmental impact when purchasing equipment or services that influence energy consumption;
- Prioritize products that meet or exceed recognized energy efficiency standards (e.g., ENERGY STAR® or equivalent); and
- Align purchasing practices with institutional sustainable procurement objectives and related guidelines.

Energy Performance in Design and Capital Projects

Brock University will integrate energy performance considerations into the planning, design, and execution of capital projects.

This includes:

- Incorporating energy efficiency and carbon reduction strategies during early design phases;
- Evaluating opportunities for high-performance building systems, electrification, renewable energy integration, and energy-efficient technologies;
- Incorporating high-performance and green building attributes that support improved energy performance and reduced lifecycle emissions; and
- Supporting long-term operational efficiency, resilience, and reduced environmental impact through informed design decisions;

Definitions

Energy Performance

Measurable results related to energy efficiency, energy use, and energy consumption within Brock University's operations.

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Energy Efficiency

The ratio of output (e.g., services, goods, or comfort) to energy input, where less energy is used to deliver the same level of performance.

Energy Use

The manner or type of energy consumption (e.g., heating, cooling, lighting, equipment operation).

Energy Consumption

The quantity of energy used.

Energy Management System (EnMS)

A structured framework of policies, processes, and procedures used to manage and improve energy performance, aligned with ISO standards.

Lifecycle Cost

The total cost of ownership over the lifespan of an asset, including purchase, operation, maintenance, and disposal.

Energy-Efficient Product or Service

A product or service that meets recognized energy performance standards and minimizes energy consumption relative to comparable alternatives.

Renewable Energy

Energy derived from naturally replenishing sources such as solar, wind, or geothermal energy.