

## **Environmental Sustainability Policy**

The College at Brockport has made a commitment to being a positive and innovative force for the protection and enhancement of the local, regional and global environment, through teaching, research and administrative operations. Building upon existing accomplishments and working within the framework of the College's educational mission, strategic plan and fiscal resources, this policy will establish the structure so that environmentally sound practices are a core value of the College.

### **The College will be guided by these following fundamental principles:**

- Promote a sustainable future by performing actions that are ecologically sound-and economically viable, thereby raising the awareness of the College community to both local and global environmental issues.
- Cultivate a spirit that creates a sense of belonging and caring for both the College campus and the greater community.
- Pursue practices and procedures that minimize the adverse impact on the environment by conserving nonrenewable resources and supporting their sustained use; minimize the use of toxic substances and generation of waste materials; and reuse or recycle those wastes that cannot be avoided.
- Enhance the quality, health and safety of the environment for the Campus Community.

### **Based on these principles the College will take all reasonable actions to implement the following initiatives:**

1. Commitment to environmental education - The College recognizes the need to educate all members of the College Community concerning their responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable future:
  - Academic Schools and Departments will be encouraged to increase the level of environmental literacy in their offerings.
  - All Divisions will be encouraged to increase their level of environmental literacy in their co-curricular offerings.
  - Engage students in research, independent study, internship and community-based activities.
  - The thoughtful involvement and energy of student groups will continue to be recognized as a crucial aspect to help the College address this issue.

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2. Where appropriate the College will encourage research endeavors that:
  - Encourage the development of grants to support environmental research to aid scientific and public understanding and improve government, business, and consumer decision-making regarding pollution prevention, improving environmental quality and sustainable development.
  - Align with ecologically sound principles, such as minimizing the use of hazardous and toxic materials and fossil fuels.
3. Advance environmentally responsive facilities planning and design practices.
  - Environmental implications will be a priority consideration in the development of new buildings and the modification of existing facilities by optimizing the efficiency and utilization of these facilities.
  - Use of the Facilities Master Plan will ensure sustainable and appropriate land use patterns by defining “areas for development” thereby protecting green space.
  - Minimize the effect of motor vehicles by improving the pedestrian experience and promoting alternative transportation systems and car share programs.
  - Utilize sustainable materials and systems in the implementation of the grounds and landscape master plan.
  - Design and construct new buildings and rehabilitate existing buildings to comply with the criteria for a minimum Silver rating per Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.
4. Environmentally based decisions balanced with sound fiscal practices will guide the operations and maintenance of the College’s facilities, infrastructure and grounds:
  - Develop short-term and long-term initiatives to improve both the energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality of existing buildings.
  - Maximize the use of environmentally safe cleaning products.
  - Maximize grounds and landscape maintenance practices that use vegetation compatible with the local environment and utilize ecological management practices.
5. Recognize the importance of conservation efforts to reduce consumption of natural resources by developing diversified strategies to conserve energy, water and other resources.
  - Maximally reduce the consumption of energy, water, and other resources by eliminating wasteful practices, and implementing more efficient systems.
  - Implement all feasible energy conservation measures in existing buildings, renovations and new construction.

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6. Recognize the importance of minimizing solid waste generation and establish policies and practices such as:
  - Commit to waste reduction, with an emphasis at the initial source.
  - Support the reuse of materials, thereby reducing purchases.
  - Support the recycling of materials by expanding current efforts.
  - Expand the food scrap and grounds waste composting program.
7. Minimize hazardous waste and presence of toxic materials – ensure that policies and practices to maintain efficient use, tracking, storage and disposal of hazardous waste and toxic materials:
  - Identify the presence of all toxic and hazardous materials.
  - Recycle or dispose of hazardous materials by environmentally responsible means.
8. Maintain procurement policies to help sustain markets for sustainable products.
  - Obtain maximum value by considering both short-term and long-term cost, including environmental impact in purchasing goods and services.
  - Policies should encourage procurement of products that minimize waste, have high recycled content, use environmentally responsible production methods, demonstrate durability, and are either biodegradable, recycled, non-toxic or energy efficient (i.e., Energy Star)
9. Continue to be recognized as a leader in promoting an environmentally sustainable future.
  - Support and coordinate efforts to increase sustainability initiatives and programs on campus and within the community.
  - Sustainability should be reflected in each Division's strategic plan.
  - Increase alumni outreach and giving based on sustainability initiatives.
  - Encourage an aggressive marketing and communication program internally and externally.

### **This policy and its implementation will be monitored and assessed as follows:**

- The Managing Environmental Safety and Health (MESH) Committee should provide oversight of this policy.
- Quantitative and qualitative measure should be established to assess the above stated initiatives on a regular basis, (e.g., STARS Survey).
- College Divisions will describe their progress on sustainability initiatives in their annual reports.