



ACCOUNTABILITY

77.01	Sustainability	POLICY
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1.0	PURPOSE
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- 1.1 Sustainability is a value and strategic priority for NSCC (Strategic Plan, “Here and Now”, 2017).
- 1.2 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 recognized that these pillars of sustainability are connected and interdependent.

2.0	SCOPE
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- 2.1 Nova Scotia Community College, as a learning organization and as an employer, values sustainability in all aspects of its business.
- 2.2 NSCC will minimize environmental impacts, and will provide educational, social, and financial leadership to achieve the goals of this policy.
- 2.3 NSCC will embed sustainability in its curriculum, operations, planning, training and administrative processes, to establish and foster sustainable literacy throughout the organization.
- 2.4 NSCC commits to sustainability as a cycle of continual learning and improvement, where its day-to-day actions sustain or improve quality of life for future generations.

3.0	DEFINITIONS
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TERM	DEFINITION
BOMA BEST	(BOMA: Building Owners and Managers Association, BEST: Building Environmental Standards) was developed to facilitate a consistent approach to measuring and managing the environmental performance of a building and is assessed in terms of energy use, water use, waste management, environmental communications, and indoor environmental quality.
STARS	The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is a tool for measuring how well a post-secondary institution embeds sustainability in all aspects of what they do.
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a rating system that is recognized as the international mark of excellence for green building.

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4.0 POLICY

4.1 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.

- a) 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.
- b) NSCC will strive to meet, or exceed, industry best practices for sustainability in post-secondary education. At a minimum this includes achieving and maintaining STARS* Gold certification.

4.2 Cultural and Social Engagement

NSCC recognizes its role in enhancing the quality of life through community building.

- a) Campus Sustainability Committees will meet at the beginning of each academic year to collaborate with other campus committees to plan how to support health and wellness activities. Campuses will provide quarterly reports to the College on cultural and social engagements, for the purposes of enhancing cultural awareness.

4.3 Measuring, Benchmarking and Reporting

NSCC supports effective monitoring and reporting on sustainability progress.

- a) NSCC will prepare and present an Annual Sustainability Progress Report to the Board of Governors.
- b) NSCC will optimize the use of industry-accepted tools to measure and benchmark sustainability throughout the organization. Examples of tools to be utilized include BOMA BEST and STARS certification.

4.4 Meeting Regulatory Requirements

NSCC recognizes the need to meet, and where possible, exceed, regulatory requirements related to sustainability, the environment and human health.

- a) NSCC will adhere to all aspects of the *Environment Act*, the applicable Goals of the *Sustainable Goals Development Act (2019)*, 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.

4.5 Sustainable Purchasing Policies

NSCC recognizes that one of the primary methods of exercising its commitment to sustainability is through its purchasing choices.

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- a) NSCC will obtain maximum value by balancing short and long-term costs, maintenance, life-cycle, and environmental impacts in purchasing goods and services.
- b) NSCC will purchase products and services produced in Nova Scotia where practical and possible, and by doing so will contribute to building Nova Scotia’s economy and the sustainability of the province.

4.6 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.

- a) NSCC will minimize the consumption of energy, water, and resources by eliminating wasteful practices and promoting efficient use.

4.7 Leadership in Climate Change Solutions

NSCC is in a unique position to take a lead on addressing climate change challenges through leveraging infrastructure, research, education and community development opportunities.

- a) NSCC will develop a Climate Change Action Plan, to be updated bi-annually.

4.8 Minimize Solid Waste Production

NSCC recognizes the benefits of minimizing the generation of solid waste, and maximizing the amount of waste diverted from landfill.

- a) NSCC will complete a comprehensive college-wide waste audit annually and regularly review and refine campus waste management systems.

4.9 Minimize Environmental Risks on Campus

NSCC recognizes that sound environmental risk management practices will reduce the risk of environmental damage.

- a) NSCC will ensure the safe management of environmental risks, including hazardous building materials, chemical and petroleum storage. These risks will be reviewed and reported annually by the Facilities and Engineering Department.

4.10 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.

- a) NSCC will incorporate sustainable practices in all aspects of campus master planning and building renovation processes.
- b) NSCC will complete all new construction projects in compliance with LEED standards.

4.11 Healthy Buildings

NSCC is committed to providing the NSCC community with buildings that support a safe, healthy and productive environment to work and learn.

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- a) NSCC will complete annual facility condition assessments of campuses to facilitate a risk-based approach to funding allocation for deferred maintenance and facility upgrades.

4.12 Sustainability Leadership

NSCC recognizes that effective communication and leadership is essential to support the guiding principles of this Policy.

- a) Each campus will maintain an active Sustainability Committee, reporting to the Sustainability Steering Committee.
- b) The Sustainability Steering Committee, which comprises a representative of each campus, will meet at least quarterly.

4.13 Policy Review

This Policy will 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.

5.0 POLICY SUPPORTS

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Environmental Act, S.N.S. 1994-95, c.1.](#)
- [Sustainable Development Goals Act \(2019\)](#)
- [Toward a Greener Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Action Plan, January 2009](#)

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