

Sustainability Policy

E-06, U-06, M-06, P-06, N-06, I-06

LONG TITLE	Sustainability and Environmental Policy	DATE OF ENACTMENT	4 April 2022
		LAST AMENDED	4 April 2022
REFERENCE No.	E-06, U-06, M-06, P-06, N-06, I-06	NEXT REVIEW	4 April 2024
CATEGORY	Category Name	COMPETENT CHAMBER	Council

PREAMBLE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the contributions of CUSA to ensure a more sustainable environment both on the physical campus and in the social atmosphere. The policy will serve as strategies for our association to be held accountable. This Policy shall be reviewed every two years by Council.

INTERPRETATION

For the purposes of this policy unless the context demands a separate interpretation:

1. This Policy may be called the *Sustainability Policy*
2. In this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:
 - a) **Sustainability:** Carleton University employs the [following definition](#):
“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”
 - b) **Climate change:** [The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) defines climate change as “a change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and that is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.”
 - c) **Climate justice:** According to the [United Nations](#), climate justice “insists on a shift from a discourse on greenhouse gasses and melting ice caps into a civil rights movement with the people and communities most vulnerable to climate impacts at its heart. [...] We have begun to understand the intergenerational injustice of climate change.”
 - d) **Divestment:** “The action or process of selling off subsidiary business interests or investments.” In this context, [divestment](#) refers to the selling of stocks invested in the fossil fuel industry.
3. This policy applies to all CUSA spaces including but not limited to: office spaces, businesses, service centres, online and in-person events, and to all CUSA staff including but not limited to: executive, full-time, part-time and volunteer.

4. We at CUSA recognize the importance of the work being done by students, who have been leading the charge and pressuring the university and government institutions to become more environmentally friendly and sustainable. We as the Carleton University Students' Association stand with our students and strive to uplift, promote and follow sustainable practices.
5. CUSA understands the need for immediate and substantial government action to curb the climate crisis, as well as action from businesses, corporations and individuals and recognizes the correlation between socioeconomic inequality and the climate crisis.
6. CUSA supports Carleton University in its decision to divest from fossil fuels.
7. CUSA supports Carleton University initiatives to reduce possible waste in Residence, Food Services and CUSA businesses.
8. CUSA opposes the on-campus use of all unnecessary chemical herbicides and insecticides.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

9. The President and Executive Director [and/or climate officers] have the responsibility of maintaining sustainable practices in both the work environment and on campus. They are responsible for following the procedures and strategies outlined in this policy and have a duty to ensure CUSA advocates to the University to follow sustainable practices.

POLICY

10. CUSA employs the following strategies to advocate for this action:
 - a. Climate Action Task Force
 - i. CUSA's Climate Action Task Force focuses on research and creating initiatives, events and programming related to climate justice and sustainability by collaborating with CUSA clubs and external organizations that have a focus on climate justice and sustainability.
 - ii. The task force works in conjunction with the Vice President of Student Issues to advocate for climate action amongst the municipal, provincial and federal governments.
11. CUSA employs the following strategies to reduce its carbon footprint:
 - a. CUSA practices recycling at all of its business, service and office locations.
 - b. CUSA supports the efficient use of water and energy.
 - c. CUSA businesses utilize sustainable (and oftentimes, biodegradable) takeout packaging and reusable dishes where applicable.
12. CUSA employs the following strategies to promote climate justice:

- a. CUSA recognizes Indigenous leadership and knowledge systems within the climate movement.
- b. CUSA commits to executing public awareness campaigns to educate the student body on sustainability practices and the climate crisis.
- c. CUSA commits to executing public awareness campaigns to educate the student body on the importance of justice and equity when fighting for climate action.