

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 31 March 2025
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CATEGORY Stances, Equity and Advocacy	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 social interactions. The policy will serve as a strategy for the association to be held accountable. This Policy shall be reviewed every two years by Council.

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. CUSA recognizes the importance of the work being done by students, who have been leading the charge and strongly advocate the university and government institutions to become more environmentally friendly, sustainable and socially responsible.
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 waste in Residence, Food Services and CUSA businesses.
8. CUSA opposes the on-campus use of all unnecessary chemical herbicides and insecticides.
9. CUSA recognizes Indigenous leadership and knowledge systems within the climate movement.

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

10. The President and Director of Operations 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 for the University to follow sustainable practices.
11. The Vice President of Student Issues, the advocacy team and the CUSA Think Tank are responsible for advocating for better sustainability practices within governmental structures, whether that be municipally, provincially and federally.
12. The CUSA Business Managers are responsible for ensuring that their respective businesses are adhering to the sustainability policy.

POLICY

13. CUSA promotes the following strategies to reduce its carbon footprint:
 - a. CUSA creates a Climate Action Task Force composed of four (4) Councillors that:
 - i. focuses on research and creating initiatives 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. Review all current and future CUSA Policies through a lens of sustainability, to reflect these values in relevant governing documents

- b. CUSA employs green practices in all of its businesses, including but not limited to:

- i. recycling at all of its business, service and office locations.
- ii. employing the efficient use of water and energy.
- iii. utilizing sustainable takeout packaging and reusable dishes where applicable.
- iv. offering discounts for bringing your own mugs
- v. CUSA weigh the risks, gains, and opportunity costs of decisions, including long-term benefits and detriments to future generations

14. CUSA employs the following strategies to promote climate justice:

- a. CUSA commits to executing public awareness campaigns to educate students on sustainability practices and the climate crisis.