

 <b>The University of British Columbia Board of Governors</b>	<b>Policy No.:</b>  <b>5</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b> May 1997  <b>Last Revision:</b> June 2005
	<b>Responsible Executive:</b> Vice-President, External Relations	
<b>Title:</b>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sustainable Development</b></p>		
<b>Background &amp; Purposes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop an environmentally responsible campus communities that are economically viable and reflects the values of the members of its campus communities;</li> <li>• to ensure integration of ecological, economic and social considerations at all levels of strategic planning and operations within the University;</li> <li>• to work towards a sustainable future in cooperation with organizations such as the GVRD and the City of Vancouver;</li> <li>• to assume a leadership role through practising sustainable development and instilling sustainable development values in its graduates and employees, through research, teaching, and operations.</li> </ul>		

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. “Human demands upon the planet are now of a volume and kind that, unless changed substantially, threaten the future well-being of all living species. Universities are entrusted with the major responsibility to help societies shape their present and future development policies and actions into the sustainable and equitable forms necessary for an environmentally secure and civilized world.”  
(The Halifax Declaration)
  
- 1.2. The severity of the problem has been recognized not only by universities, but also by industry. One conclusion from the Business Council for Sustainable Development, Report of the First Antwerp Eco-Efficiency Workshop, sponsored by the Commission of European Communities and the U.N. Environment Program, in November 1993, was:
  - 1.2.1. “Industrialised world reductions in material throughout, energy use and environmental degradation of over 90% will be required by 2040 to meet the needs of a growing world population fairly within the planet’s ecological means.”
  
- 1.3. As part of its responsibility as an educational and research institution and as a signatory to both the Halifax Declaration and the Talloires Declaration by the University Presidents for a Sustainable Future, UBC provides leadership by demonstrating the means to a sustainable community on its campuses. UBC recognizes that just as the university contributes to a healthy society and economy through education to build up social capital, we also need to invest in maintaining the ecological services and resources, our natural capital, upon which society depends.
  
- 1.4. UBC seeks to become a centre for teaching and learning about the skills and actions needed to manage ourselves in a sustainable way. This in turn requires responsible fiscal management that enables the university to continue to pursue these goals.

## 2. General

- 2.1. The University of British Columbia, including its subsidiaries and ancillary operations, is committed to improving its performance in sustainability in all areas of operations. UBC will develop appropriate standards for managing sustainability at UBC. Specific targets, priorities and timetables for achieving these objectives are developed in a consultative process involving faculty, staff and students, as outlined in the procedures of this policy. In the process of meeting the UBC mandate for teaching and research, efforts focus on the following inter-related areas:
  - 2.1.1. UBC contributes to the protection of its environmental life support systems. This means minimizing the pollution of air, water and soil.
  - 2.1.2. UBC preserves and enhances the integrity of ecosystems at UBC through careful management, and the development and implementation of remediation measures for degraded sites as appropriate.
  - 2.1.3. UBC seeks ways to conserve resources and reduce waste. This means developing methods to minimize the energy and material intensity of university activities and reducing waste.
  - 2.1.4. UBC has information and reporting systems in support of decision making based on sustainable development principles including life cycle, social and environmental costing and accountability to stakeholders.
  - 2.1.5. UBC seeks to ensure its long term economic viability through responsible and effective management, the development of a comparative advantage in its educational and research activities, innovative methods to calculate and account for external costs, to identify cost-savings and new sources of revenue and through innovative partnerships with the larger community.
  - 2.1.6. UBC works to enhance its capacity to teach, research and practice sustainable development principles, and to increase ecological/social/economic literacy and practices among faculty, staff, students, and the public at large.
- 2.2. UBC implements this policy, mindful of the need to balance ecological, social and economic imperatives, in an open and transparent decision-making process with the involvement of all stakeholders.

## **PROCEDURES**

**Approved: May 1997**

**Revised: June 2005**

*Pursuant to Policy #1: Administration of Policies, "Procedures may be amended by the President, provided the new procedures conform to the approved policy. Such amendments are reported at the next meeting of the Board of Governors and are incorporated in the next publication of the UBC Policy and Procedure Handbook."*

### **1. Director for Sustainable Development**

1.1. The Director for Sustainable Development, reporting to the Associate Vice President Land and Building Services and working with all sectors in the University, is responsible for focusing efforts on the objectives of the policy, promoting the development of sustainability target and action plans of individual units, and coordinating the many sustainable development activities, on-going and emerging, on the University's campuses. The Director liaises closely with the Environmental Programs Manager and the SEEDS program coordinator and is the chief contact with the external community about issues and advances in sustainability at UBC, providing linkages for campus and regional efforts. The Director coordinates reporting on all related University efforts, include recording and reporting on progress (and lack of progress) and plans for long-term development. The Director provides training and guidance to the University community and serves as the central information source about sustainability issues.

### **2. Targets and Action Plans of all Units**

- 2.1. An action plan will be developed in all units for improving performance in key sustainability areas with clear indicators for targets, by all units, with the assistance of the Director for Sustainable Development. Plans will include evaluation guidelines, effective measures of progress, reporting mechanisms and appropriate educational support. Changes to existing practices as well as new and innovative methods are considered during the development of the plan.
- 2.2. Once drafted, the targets and action plans will be reviewed by the Vice President responsible for the area for approval of actions, timing and funding. Administrative heads of unit are responsible for ensuring communication about the goals of the unit's plan and its implementation once approved. Administrative heads report on their progress annually to the Vice President responsible for the units and send a copy to the Director for Sustainable Development Programs for publication of an annual report to the Board of Governors.
- 2.3. Target and action plans are reviewed by the unit every two years, taking into account new technologies and opportunities. The Director establishes management systems sufficient and appropriate to UBC in order to develop plans and meet goals for sustainability approved by the Board of Governors.

### **3. Education about Sustainability**

3.1. A coordinating mechanism for enhancing educational efforts about sustainability is the SEEDS program.

### **4. The Sustainability Advisory Committee**

4.1. The Director and the SEEDS program are advised by a committee composed of representatives (faculty, staff and students) of key areas across the campuses. The Sustainability Advisory Committee and the

SEEDS program are advisory to the Vice-President, Administration and Finance for operational matters, to the Vice-President, Academic and Provost for academic matters at the UBC Vancouver campus, and to the Vice-President, Learning & Research (UBC Okanagan) for academic matters at the UBC Okanagan campus.

4.2. The committee's responsibilities are:

- 4.2.1. to advise on the SEEDS program, in which students, staff and faculty engage in projects to enhance sustainability of UBC operations and to increase knowledge of and develop solutions to sustainability issues;
- 4.2.2. to foster the integration of knowledge and issues about sustainability into all relevant scholarly and research activities, the curriculum, and student activities of the University;
- 4.2.3. to enhance the capacity of academic units to teach and practice sustainable development principles; and
- 4.2.4. to assist the Director for Sustainable Development to communicate the goals of the sustainable development policy and develop support for them within both operational and academic units of the University.