

Policy Number	3.5
Approval Body	Board + Senate
Policy Officer	President
Approval Date	S: October 2009 B: November 2009

3.5 UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY

ENABLING LEGISLATION & LINKED POLICIES

University Act

35.2 (6) The senate of a special purpose, teaching university must advise the board, and the board must seek advice from the senate, on the development of educational policy for the following matters:

- (a) the mission statement and the educational goals, objectives, strategies and priorities of the special purpose, teaching university;

OBJECTIVE

Emily Carr University of Art + Design (University) has a responsibility to educate members of the University community to engage effectively as global citizens, to steward our natural resources in a responsible manner and to work towards a sustainable future in cooperation with organizations at the local, provincial, national and global level.

This policy is an overarching framework that serves to assist the University community in incorporating sustainability into decision making and provides a common understanding of what sustainability means at the University.

The University recognizes that sustainability is a commitment to future generations. It requires the collective action of the University community through long term planning, shared learning, grassroots activities and institutional leadership. The University will consider ecological balance, economic prosperity, and social development in all decision making.

University activities shall strive to embody approaches that enhance community well-being, further diversity and equity, restore or maintain the functioning of natural systems and are fiscally responsible.

The purpose of this policy is to further the goals as set out in the University's strategic plan.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all University activities and all members of the University community.

POLICY

1. Sustainability supports the University's goals and values as articulated in the strategic plan and mission statement.

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2. Sustainability activities are integral to the academic, teaching and research priorities and will draw upon the abilities and expertise of the University community.
 3. Vice-Presidents, Deans and Directors have responsibility for sustainability within their respective areas.
 4. Sustainability activities will require the balanced use of resources within budgetary parameters and will utilize life cycle assessments.
 5. The University will establish measurable sustainability goals and will monitor, evaluate and report on performance.
 6. The University shall comply with and exceed where practical all applicable legislation, regulation and codes of practice related to sustainability.
 7. The University establishes and maintains strategic partnerships with communities, governments, corporations and other non-governmental organizations to develop and promote sustainable practices and to identify and address sustainability challenges.
 8. The University will create mechanisms for input and advice on the implementation of the sustainability policy from across the University community.

DEFINITIONS

Sustainability:	is the state of achieving the ecological balance that allows social development and economic prosperity to be achieved across generations.
Ecological Balance:	is the equilibrium between, and coexistence of, all organisms and their environment.
Social Development:	encompasses a commitment to create social opportunities for individuals and groups to enhance overall community well-being.
Economic Prosperity:	is a financially healthy state.
Activities:	include, but are not limited to, the University's operations, practices, teaching, research, decisions, events, strategies, actions and planning.
University Community:	members include all University faculty, staff and students, separately incorporated organizations operating on campus who voluntarily agree to submit to the processes under this policy, organizations and individuals required by contract to comply with University policies, any person holding a University appointment whether or not that person is an employee and members of the Board of Governors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University would like to acknowledge that many of the elements of this policy were developed in conjunction with the sustainability policy of the University of Victoria.