



# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

## 1. PREAMBLE

Dawson College's mission is to:

- Educate a diverse population of students through transformative and innovative learning activities;
- Engage learners and empower them to become active, responsible citizens;
- Enrich society by offering life-long learning opportunities, cultivating partnerships and contributing to a peaceful and sustainable future.

Given its mission and its long-standing commitment to, and work in, sustainability, the College is poised to take a leadership role within the educational community and the broader community in developing and modeling long-lasting, sustainable practices and behaviours. In 2009, the College became a signatory of the Talloires Declaration, an action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in higher education. Over the past decade, Dawson has won recognition for its work in sustainability.

The College's core values of excellence in education, collaborative efforts, innovation, creativity and well-being for all (i.e. human beings, both individually and collectively, and other species) frame a holistic view of education that aligns with the College's commitment to act as an ecologically and socially responsible agent. The College's mission and values are reflected in the College's goal of being a leading Canadian post-secondary institution in promoting and practicing sustainability in all its endeavours.

## 2. DEFINITION OF SUSTAINABILITY

Dawson College defines sustainability in a pluralistic and inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice, secure livelihoods, and a better world for all generations. When economic, social and ecological systems are healthy and sustainable, they provide the conditions for **well-being for all**.

## 3. SCOPE

This policy applies to the operations and management of all Dawson buildings and campuses. All members of the Dawson community, including students, employees, partners, suppliers of products and services, whether acting individually or collectively, have a responsibility to further the College's commitment to sustainability and well-being for all.

#### **4. GOALS OF THE POLICY**

- To provide a framework in which the College strives to continuously improve its sustainability-related performance in academic activities and initiatives, engagement, operations, and planning and administration.
- To define the roles and responsibilities of the College's governing bodies, management and other stakeholders in promoting and practicing sustainability.

#### **5. DEFINITIONS**

##### **5.1 Annual Sustainability Plan**

In order to develop and model sustainability-related practices and behaviours, the plan details the strategies and success indicators for the College's sustainability goals. The plan takes into consideration the principles and standards established by leading organizations in the certification of sustainability in higher education.

##### **5.2 Annual Sustainability Report**

The annual sustainability report communicates to the Dawson community the College's progress towards the attainment of the sustainability goals included in the sustainability plan.

#### **6. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

##### **6.1 Board of Governors**

Approves this policy.

Receives the annual sustainability report.

##### **6.2 Director General**

Approves members of the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Approves the annual sustainability plan.

Approves the annual sustainability report.

Responsible for the application of this policy.

##### **6.3 Academic Dean**

Approves academic-related goals in the annual sustainability plan and oversees their attainment within the academic sector.

Recommends the appointment of a member from the Academic Administration, one faculty member from a technical program, two faculty members from a pre-university program, one faculty member from General Education, one member from the Office of Academic Development, one member from Continuing Education to the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

#### 6.4 Directors

Approve goals under their responsibility in the sustainability plan and oversee their attainment within their directorates.

Ensure that data for the goals under their responsibility in the annual sustainability plan are available for the annual sustainability report.

The Director of Human Resources recommends the appointment of one member from Human Resources to the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

The Director of Facilities Management recommends the appointment of one member from Facilities Management to the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

The Director of Student Services recommends the appointment of one member from Student Services to the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

#### 6.5 Deans

Review academic-related goals in the annual sustainability plan and support their attainment within their sectors.

Provide available data for the annual sustainability report.

#### 6.6 Coordinator – Sustainability Office

Develops an annual sustainability plan.

Generates an annual report from data collected and, where possible, provides access to the data.

Provides guidance and support to management and other College entities (e.g. departments, committees, etc.) in the implementation of the sustainability plan.

Promotes sustainability in the College community.

Develops and implements a communications strategy for informing the internal and external communities about the College's achievements in sustainability.

Chairs the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Coordinates the review of this policy every five (5) years.

#### 6.7 Quality Assurance and Planning Office (QAPO)

Provides expertise in establishing benchmarks and indicators. QAPO also gathers and analyzes data on the College's sustainability activities.

#### 6.8 Sustainability Advisory Committee

Provides feedback to the Coordinator – Sustainability Office on the annual sustainability plan and sustainability report.

Reviews this policy every five (5) years and provides feedback to the Coordinator – Sustainability Office.

Members include:

- The Coordinator – Sustainability Office;
- One student member as selected by the Dawson Student Union;
- One faculty member from a technical program;

- Two faculty members from a pre-university program;
- One faculty member from General Education;
- One member from the Academic Administration;
- One member from the Office of Academic Development;
- One member from Human Resources;
- One member of Facilities Management;
- One member of Student Services;
- One member of the Communications Office;
- One member of the Quality Assurance & Planning Office;
- One member from Continuing Education;
- Other members of the College community or external community recommended to the Director General.

## **7. POLICY REVISION**

- This policy is to be reviewed every five (5) years.
- The Board of Governors is responsible for approving revisions of the policy.

## **8. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This policy comes into effect upon the date of its adoption by the Board of Governors.