

Sustainability Policy
Students' Legislative Council (66.67)
Passed: March 3, 2009 (66.67)
Amended: November 26, 2013 (71.40);
November 1, 2016 (74.21); July 3, 2018 (76.10)



Definitions

Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising an organization or community's ability to meet the needs of the future.¹ Sustainability initiatives generally influence practices involving ecology, equity, and/or economic development. The Students' Union (SU) seeks to prioritize sustainability in its governance, operations, and advocacy. To the SU, sustainability centers on students' present and future impact on the University of Calgary and the global community. Sustainability also speaks to many aspects of the campus environment and student experience, including but not limited to:

- Academics;
- Accessibility;
- Energy and environment;
- Ethics, social responsibility, and governance;
- Health and wellness;
- Construction, renovations, and maintenance;
- Purchasing;
- Responsible use of resources;
- Student engagement;
- Transportation;
- Waste management; and
- Water management.

Authority

- 1 (1) The *Post-Secondary Learning Act* gives the Students' Union a mandate to promote and provide for the general welfare of the student body. The Constitution and the Union Bylaw establish the Students' Legislative Council as the body responsible for creating and approving Union Policy.

Purpose

- 2 (1) This policy serves to demonstrate the Students' Union's commitment to sustainability and provides a vision for Students' Union governance, advocacy, and operations to ensure that it may continue to effectively serve and represent undergraduate student interests at the University of Calgary. This framework, which outlines principles and identifies areas for sustainability, allows for a broad and comprehensive understanding of what sustainability means to the organization.

¹ Definition derived from the Brundtland Report, issued by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (UNWCED), as referenced in the University of Calgary Sustainability Policy.

Policy Statement

- 3 (1) The Students' Union will strive to meet present and future needs of students in a financially, socially and environmentally responsible manner according to the following principles. The SU will:
 - (a) Weigh the risks, gains, and opportunity costs of decisions, including long-term benefits and detriments to future generations;
 - (b) Acknowledge that natural resources are finite and there are limits to growth;
 - (c) Wherever possible, endeavor to reduce its ecological impact by seeking sustainable alternatives, striving toward minimal/zero waste, and exploring opportunities for self-sustaining development;
 - (d) Draw upon current best practices in sustainability;
 - (e) Where appropriate, support and work alongside university and student groups on sustainability initiatives;
 - (f) Incorporate awareness and educational outreach in sustainability initiatives; and
 - (g) Solicit feedback from stakeholders regarding the implementation of sustainability initiatives.