

 Selkirk College Policies		Number and Title: 4300 Sustainability		
		Replaces: N/A		
		Effective: 2026-02-02	Next Review: 2031-02-02	
Executive Responsibility:	Administrative Responsibility:	Recommended by Policy Review Committee:		2025-09-18
Vice-President College Services	Director of Facilities and Business Services	Recommended/Approved by Education Council:		N/A
		Approved by President:		2026-02-02
Linkage to Board of Governors Policies				

A. PURPOSE

This policy defines Selkirk College’s core commitment to sustainability, establishes guiding principles for decision making, and sets standards to ensure those commitments are upheld.

B. SCOPE / LIMITS

The Policy applies to all employees of Selkirk College to foster a culture of sustainability rooted in local relevance and global responsibility.

C. PRINCIPLES

1. **Climate action:** Recognizing that climate change is a threat to social, economic, and environmental sustainability, Selkirk College commits to climate change mitigation and adaptation across all operations, while advancing observation, education, and advocacy to influence change.
2. **Sustainable resource stewardship:** Selkirk College prioritizes procurement, development, investment, consumption, and disposal practices that preserve resources, respect ecological limits, advance innovation, and uphold human rights and well-being.
3. **Biodiversity preservation:** Selkirk College commits to preserving and enhancing biodiversity on and off campus, recognizing that diverse and healthy ecosystems are vital.
4. **Respect of Indigenous cultural integrity:** Selkirk College recognizes that sustainability is inextricable from Indigenous cultural knowledge, traditions, and values. Selkirk College respects the ownership of cultural materials while promoting the ethical preservation and transmission of cultural practices and knowledge.
5. **Reciprocal relationality:** Selkirk College values relationships grounded in reciprocity, mutual respect, and shared benefit, especially with Indigenous communities and Knowledge Keepers.
6. **Health and quality of life:** Selkirk College fosters environments that support physical, mental, cultural, and spiritual well-being, promoting balance, fulfillment, and individual and collective health.
7. **Social equity:** Selkirk College aspires to be a fair and inclusive community where all individuals have equitable access to opportunities, resources, and support.

8. **Quality education and engagement:** Selkirk College embraces its role as a leader in advancing sustainability through active engagement, awareness-building, and transformative education.
9. **Alignment with global goals and frameworks:** Selkirk College's efforts are informed by recognized sustainability frameworks, which are continually reviewed and integrated in alignment with the college's institutional mission.
10. **Transparency and Accountability:** Transparency and accountability guide Selkirk College's sustainability efforts, ensuring measurable progress, public trust, and continuous improvement.
11. **Resilience and Adaptation:** Selkirk College builds resilience to environmental, social, and economic challenges through planning and adaptive approaches that support long-term sustainability.

D. DEFINITIONS

1. **Adaptation/ Climate Change Adaptation:** The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects.
2. **Biodiversity:** The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.
3. **Carbon footprint:** The total amount of GHGs emitted directly and indirectly by Selkirk College's activities, measured in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e).
4. **Greenhouse gases (GHGs):** Specific climate-changing gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride, and other substances prescribed by regulation, as listed in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act.
5. **Knowledge Keeper:** At Selkirk College, an Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit or Métis) Knowledge Keeper is a respected individual, often an Elder or gifted community member, who preserves and shares traditional knowledge, language, and cultural practices through lived experience and community service. Definitions and protocols vary by Nation, so it is essential to ask each community how they define and engage with Knowledge Keepers.
6. **Mitigation/ Climate Change Mitigation:** Intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.
7. **Resilience/ Climate Resilience:** The capacity to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from environmental, social, or economic challenges (resulting from climate change) while maintaining core functions.
8. **Sustainability:** Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability at Selkirk College considers the interconnections between environmental, social, cultural, and economic systems.
9. **Traditional knowledge:** At Selkirk College, traditional refers to knowledge held by First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, the Indigenous peoples of Canada. Traditional knowledge is specific to place, usually transmitted orally, and rooted in the experience of multiple generations. It is determined by an Indigenous community's land, environment, region, culture and language.

E. STANDARDS

Selkirk College is committed to integrating respect for the land and natural environment into its academic, research and operational activities. This includes sustainable practices such as carbon footprint reduction and responsible use of resources. Selkirk College is also committed to upholding and advancing social and

economic pillars of sustainability. In keeping with Selkirk College's core commitment to sustainability, the college will:

1. **Integrate sustainability as a commitment** in institutional planning and decision making.
 - a. Secure commitments wherever possible by embedding relevant sustainability principles into new and updated policies.
 - b. Set, communicate, and implement measurable sustainability goals aligned with institutional priorities and global frameworks.
 - c. Ensure transparent and consistent reporting on sustainability initiatives, outcomes, and progress.
 - d. Consider recognized sustainability frameworks and commitments (e.g., SDG Accord, Race to Zero, STARS) to guide institutional goal setting, assessment, and reporting.
 - e. Meet and strive to exceed applicable sustainability-related regulations, such as the Climate Change Accountability Act and associated Carbon Neutral Government Program.
 - f. Allocate and sustain dedicated resources, where possible to oversee, coordinate, and implement institutional sustainability commitments.
2. **Improve environmental stewardship:**
 - a. Conserve resources and increase equipment efficiency to reduce consumption relative to college growth (e.g. energy, water, paper, other materials).
 - b. Reduce waste production, increase waste diversion from landfills and the environment, and responsibly dispose of hazardous materials.
 - c. Give preference to environmentally responsible goods, services, and practices.
 - d. Protect and enhance campus biodiversity and natural habitats and encourage environmental responsibility among all members of the campus community.
3. **Strengthen resilience** by regularly including climate change and other sustainability-related risks in the college's risk assessments, plans, and emergency preparedness and response efforts.
4. **Collaborate respectfully and reciprocally with Indigenous communities and Knowledge Keepers** on sustainability initiatives, recognizing their integral role in sustainability and enabling opportunities to provide their perspectives and participate in decision-making.
5. **Uphold human rights and ethical practices** by embedding social and environmental responsibility into all operations, consistent with articles 4, 10, 29, 31 and 32 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
6. **Promote healthy and balanced lifestyles** for all students and staff, emphasizing physical, mental, cultural, and spiritual well-being.
7. **Integrate sustainability education** across curricula, professional development, and extracurricular initiatives to build community literacy and capacity.
8. **Inspire a culture of engagement and shared responsibility** through collaboration with communities, governments, institutions, and Indigenous partners on sustainability initiatives.
9. **Promote and invest where possible in sustainability research, innovation, and applied learning** that contributes to institutional and regional sustainability solutions.
10. **Implement sustainable procurement and investment practices** to strengthen Selkirk College's commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

F. REFERENCES

1. **Carbon Neutral Government Program:** Legislated under the Climate Change Accountability Act of British Columbia – all provincial public sector organizations (PSOs) in British Columbia must be carbon neutral, achieved by measuring their emissions, reducing them where possible, and purchasing offsets to cover the remainder.
2. **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** A 15-year global framework adopted by all United Nations member countries aimed at solving humanity’s greatest challenges, covering people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership, by 2030.
 - a. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The 17 global goals of the 2030 agenda.
 - b. **SDG Accord:** A commitment made by learning institutions to deliver the SDGs and annually report on progress as a signatory. Selkirk College is a signatory.
3. **United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP):** A resolution that outlines the rights of Indigenous peoples, including their right to self-determination, land rights, and cultural preservation.
4. **Race to Zero:** A global campaign rallying non-state actors to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030. Selkirk College is a signatory.
5. **Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS):** A program of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) (Selkirk College is a member). STARS is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.

G. RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Energy Conservation Procedures
2. Idling on Campus Procedures
3. Paper Usage Procedures



Signature

February 2, 2026

Date