

COMMITTEE TITLE: Sustainability

A. Background and Definitions

As a post-secondary institution, Niagara College first made sustainability a key strategic priority in 2009 and has identified the importance of reducing impacts on the environment. Niagara College has adopted the definition of sustainability based on the Brundtland Commission report, created by the United Nations (UN) in 1987, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*. In this report, the following definition is provided: “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The Sustainability Committee was formed in 2011, with representation from academics, operations, student services, the Student Administrative Council, the student body, and other employees to drive initiatives that focused on improving campus sustainability. Since then, the Office of Sustainability was formed in January 2015 with the intention to continue and develop initiatives on campus and in the community.

B. Purpose

The Sustainability Committee provides feedback to the Office of Sustainability regarding sustainability projects and initiatives. The Committee has an integrated and cross functional focus regarding sustainability leadership, facilities and operations, academic programming and research, as well as outreach and engagement.

C. Statements

1. Duties and Responsibilities:

The Sustainability Committee provides a college-wide perspective with the intention to assist the Office of Sustainability in setting and achieving its priorities. The Sustainability Committee will assist the Office of Sustainability to make progress by:

- a) Making recommendations regarding key sustainability opportunities and challenges across the institution;
- b) Providing feedback on new initiatives and projects, particularly related to engagement strategies, operational efforts, and academic initiatives;
- c) Identify new opportunities and areas for collaboration on campus and in the community.

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2. Membership:

The Sustainability Committee is a broad and diverse group made up of representatives from across the institution and both campuses. The Committee will have up to 11 members in addition to the ex-officio members representing the Office of Sustainability.

The Sustainability Committee composition will include:

- Vice President, Corporate Services (Co-Chair)
- Associate Dean of the School Environmental & Horticultural Studies (Co-Chair)
- Office of Sustainability representatives (ex officio)
- Energy Manager (ex officio)
- Director, Facilities Management Services
- Niagara Research and Innovation representative
- Student Administrative Council representative
- Student representative
- Faculty representative, Welland Campus
- Faculty representative, NOTL Campus
- Support Staff representative
- Communications representative

3. Appointment and Vacancies:

The terms of appointment for the Committee will include:

- a) where relevant, members will be appointed for a two-year term. All members must sit and be active on at least one working group as listed in the Working Group section of this document;
- b) all annual terms coincide with the Niagara College fiscal year-end (March 31);
- c) to ensure continuity on the Committee, all membership terms will not end in the same calendar year, membership terms may be staggered;
- d) members must maintain an active role on the Committee and working group(s); absence from more than 2 successive meetings without just cause may result in the Chair requesting a replacement;
- e) membership may be terminated prior to the end of the appointed term, if the member is no longer eligible to represent the department that appointed him/her;
- f) if new members cannot be identified by the Co-Chairs or the Sustainability Advisor, a call for appointments can be released requiring a statement of intent emailed to the Sustainability Advisor. All statements of intent will be discussed with the Co-Chairs prior to selection on the committee.

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4. **Quorum:** 50% plus one (1) of appointed Sustainability Committee members.
5. **Meeting Procedures:**
 - a) meetings will occur in person at minimum two times per calendar year. Additional meetings may be called if required;
 - b) monthly updates will be provided to the Committee via the Office of Sustainability;
 - c) agenda will be prepared by the Sustainability Advisor with input by the Co-Chairs.
6. **Working Groups**
 - a) working groups may be called on an ad hoc basis;
 - b) working groups may include but are not limited to waste management, energy management, engagement and communication, greening the curriculum;
 - c) working groups may include other college employees, students, or community members.

D. Related Documents

NC100 – Sustainability