



1. PREAMBLE

As a comprehensive research-intensive university, the University of Lethbridge ("University") has a leadership role and unique responsibility to develop approaches to environmental, economic, and social-cultural sustainability that are innovative, realistic, and connected to regional, provincial, national and global sustainability aspirations. The University demonstrates commitment to environmental sustainability through transformative research and teaching, campus operations, and community engagement. Committing to environmental sustainability as a core value of the University, employees and students of the University can lead by example, through the discovery and learning missions of the institution.

University of Lethbridge Strategic Plan 2014-2019

Strategic Direction – Enhance the sustainability of the University

We commit to taking action on the education, research, policy formation, and information exchange necessary to advance sustainability. We will incorporate the three facets of sustainability – environmental, economic, and social responsibility – into all aspects of our institution and communicate these efforts for the benefit of all.

2. PURPOSE

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee ("ESAC" or "Committee") is advisory to the President and is tasked with providing leadership, coordination and guidance to the University for the integration of environmental sustainability principles and practices throughout the University's teaching, research and operational activities.

The ESAC works to facilitate open and transparent communication and discussion between all University units and its communities, for the purpose of identifying shared priorities and opportunities for collaborations in environmental sustainability.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ESAC champions the advancement, awareness, knowledge, and critical thinking on issues related to environmental sustainability at the University. by supporting activities, programs, and projects that:

- i. Increase awareness of the opportunities to advance, create and disseminate environmental sustainability goals, outcomes, and impacts;
- ii. Promote environmentally sustainable practices across teaching, service, research, scholarship and creative activity, and operations;
- iii. Improve operations, including energy, climate change, air emissions, waste, water, buildings, transportation, grounds, food systems, and procurement;
- iv. Integrating Indigenous ways of knowing and stewarding the environment into our plans and practices; and
- v. Enhance engagement of members of the University Community in their work, study, life, and learning.



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4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- i. Support and contribute to the creation of a University Environmental Sustainability Plan that includes objectives, targets, and reporting mechanisms;
- ii. Develop a sustainability report card that speaks to provincial, national, and international themes and priorities;
- iii. Empower, educate, and engage the University community to contribute to sustainable campus goals and plans;
- iv. Communicate initiatives, successes and achievements in environmental sustainability across the University other communities;
- v. Advise on environmental sustainability-related teaching and research and facilitate collaboration across disciplines and functions to integrate sustainability into the University's teaching, research and operational activities;
- vi. Through a planning/prioritization process, identify and examine specific high priority environmental sustainability opportunities and initiatives and develop recommendations for consideration by the President;
- vii. Remain current on the changing global landscape of environmental sustainability initiatives, knowledge and goals;
- viii. Support progress on mitigating negative environmental impacts and creating positive benefits for the University community and society; and
- ix. Include and amplify Indigenous voices and ways of knowing in the Committee's work.

5. COMMITTEE

5.1. Membership

Vice-President (Research) (ex-officio) – Chair

Associate Vice-President, Facilities (ex-officio)

Director, Facility Operations & Maintenance (ex-officio)

Director, Campus Development (ex-officio)

(4) Academic Members, appointed by the President (with consideration of I+EDI)

(1) Non-academic Member, appointed by the President

(1) Undergraduate Student, appointed by the University of Lethbridge Students' Union

(1) Graduate Student, appointed by the University of Lethbridge Graduate Students' Association

Note – all Members are voting members of the Committee.

5.2. Terms of Office

- i. Appointed members, other than students, will serve a three-year term, which can be renewed once by the President.
- ii. Undergraduate and Graduate Student representatives ESAC are appointed for a 1-year term that can be renewed under the recommendation of the respective appointing body.



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5.3. Decision-Making

From time to time, it is expected that the Committee will make recommendations to bring forward to the President of the University. When forming these recommendations:

- i. The Committee will make every effort to operate on a consensus model.
- ii. When consensus is not attainable, the Committee will follow a democratic process.

5.4. Committee Support:

Administrative support to the Committee will be provided by the Office of the Vice-President (Research).

5.5. Expert and External Advice:

Expert and external advice will be sought as necessary and at the request of the Chair to support ESAC in meeting its responsibilities.

5.6. Meeting Schedule

The Committee will have at least three (3) meetings per year, at the call of the Chair.

5.7. Reporting

- i. All Committee meetings shall be documented including attendance, agenda, decisions made and support material.
- ii. The Committee will report annually to the President of the University on the Committee’s activities, an analysis of the University’s progress towards campus environmental sustainability, and suggestions regarding opportunities for action in relation to campus sustainability issues.
- iii. All Committee meetings and reports are to be publicly available on the University website.

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