



Economic, Social, and Environmental Sustainability

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Category:	Administration
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Executive Division:	Education
Department Responsible:	
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Policy Statement

BCIT's commitment to sustainability encompasses advancing the state of practice through education and research, improving campus operations and planning, and strengthening employee and student stewardship and wellness programs.

BCIT encourages all members of the Institute community to carry out their duties in a manner that supports economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

BCIT aims to advance its educational mandate within the limitations of the natural environment and through fair and equitable work practices that include consideration of full-cost accounting for local and global impacts on individuals and society.

BCIT strives to use our facilities and operations as a vehicle for learning, teaching, and living the principles of sustainability as outlined in the definitions below.

Purpose of Policy

The purposes of this policy are as follows:

- To serve as an umbrella policy to guide the development and implementation of new policies and programs that will advance sustainability at BCIT
- To establish the principles and goals that will inform development of such policies and programs
- To define the roles of BCIT employees responsible for implementing this policy
- To communicate the need for practices that support sustainability
- To initiate change in behaviours and management towards sustainable practices
- To foster economic, social, and environmental sustainability on BCIT campuses

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Application of this Policy

This policy applies to BCIT students and employees.

Related Documents and Legislation

2003: Purchase of Operating Goods and Services
 2004: Capital Asset
 5401: Program Development and Change
 5401-PR1: Program Development and Change Process
 5402: Program Review
 5402-PR1: Program Review Process
 6600: Integrity in Research
 7100: Safety and Security
 7100-PR7: Environmental Protection

Definitions**sustainability**

- Improving human lives while protecting the natural environment.
- Recognizing the interdependence of the economy, society and the natural environment.
- Operating with concern for the economic prosperity, social equity, and ecological integrity of British Columbia and the world.

economic sustainability

- A financial strategy that will ensure BCIT is exploring forms of cost savings/minimization and is appropriately resourced.
- Using sustainability criteria in risk management and long-term planning to mitigate negative financial impact from future uncertainties.
- A financial strategy for achievable costs and benefits both monetary and non-monetary to the Institute and others affected by the Institute's operations over the lifecycle of a project or initiative.

social sustainability

- The condition of fostering or maintaining the well-being, safety, health, and development of our students and employees, and contributing to the vibrancy of our communities and those communities in other locations that are affected by our actions.

- Education leading to rewarding careers and responsible, contributing citizens both locally and globally.

environmental sustainability

- Limiting resource depletion and pollution rates to levels that do not exceed global or local ecological carrying capacity.
- The long-term maintenance of healthy ecosystems which we recognize as essential for supporting life and quality of life.

Goals

While recognizing its Provincial mandate and respecting its core business, current commitments, and the limits of BCIT resources, the Institute aims to comply with Provincial leadership and reduce its ecological footprint and work towards achieving seven sustainability goals.

All members of the BCIT community have responsibilities toward advancing the Institute's sustainability aspirations to become:

1. Greenhouse gas neutral (i.e., avoid, reduce, absorb, offset emissions)
2. A net energy producer (i.e., generate more energy on campus than we use)
3. A Zero waste organization (i.e., rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle, and eliminate toxics)
4. Water balanced (i.e., staying within the capacity of natural hydrological flows)
5. Ecologically restored (i.e., restoration of campus ecosystems and native species)
6. Equitable and socially responsible
7. Accessible and safe to all students, faculty, employees, alumni, contractors, and visitors

Scope

Through the application of this policy, BCIT aims to improve, monitor, and report on its performance in sustainability including in the areas of:

- Curriculum development and education delivery
- Applied research
- Food services
- Building design, construction, and renovation
- Facilities management and custodial services
- Procurement of goods and services
- Land use planning
- Landscaping and ecological restoration
- Transportation
- Enhancement of human well-being, equity, health, safety, and productivity

Duties and Responsibilities**BCIT Community**

All members of the BCIT community have responsibilities towards advancing the Institute's sustainability goals. BCIT employees involved with sustainability initiatives will monitor progress, using measurable, quantifiable information to report in an objective, transparent manner.

Leadership Team

The Leadership Team is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Sustainability Committee

Duties and Responsibilities

The Sustainability Committee is responsible to support the Leadership Team to define, facilitate, advise, advocate, and enable sustainability at BCIT.

Schools and Departments

Schools and departments are responsible for considering the goals and principles of this policy in preparation of their operating plans.

The Director of Sustainable Development and Environmental Stewardship

The Director is responsible for providing technical leadership in sustainable development and environmental stewardship throughout BCIT, and advises faculty and instructors in accordance with institute policies and collective agreements.

Procedures Associated With This Policy

None

Amendment History

1. Created 2014 Apr 08

Scheduled Review Date

2019 Apr 01