

## SUSTAINABILITY

This document is the parent policy for any College procedures. Questions regarding this policy are to be directed to the identified Policy Owner.

<b>Category:</b>	A. Academic
<b>Policy Number:</b>	A18
<b>Approval Date:</b>	September 16, 2013
<b>Effective Date:</b>	September 26, 2013
<b>Policy Owner:</b>	Vice President, Student Experience

<b>Objective:</b>	<p>Olds College of Agriculture &amp; Technology (the “College” will achieve sustainable operations based on multiple bottom-line concept. To ensure this outcome the College strategically manages opportunities and risks, making decisions in the present that promote positive long-term benefits.</p> <p><b>Rationale</b> Sustainability is a business approach that creates long-term value by embracing opportunities and managing risks derived from the multiple bottom line concept of economic; environmental; research, teaching &amp; learning; educational; social; and governance responsibilities.</p>
<b>Policy:</b>	<p>This policy applies to the management and promotion of the multiple-bottom line sustainability concept: economic, educational, environmental, governance, research and teaching, and social.</p> <p><b>SPECIFIC GUIDELINES</b></p> <p>Olds College will establish a Sustainability Engagement Committee to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversee implementation of the multiple bottom-line Sustainability Framework;</li> <li>• Propose appropriate Sustainability Measures to the Administrative Services committee for consideration of submission to the Board of Governors;</li> <li>• Develop and maintain the Sustainability Strategic Plan – in alignment with and driven by the Comprehensive Institutional Plan;</li> <li>• Ensure that the College’s sustainability investment is appropriately leveraged;</li> <li>• Approve sustainability standards, guidelines, and processes;</li> <li>• Provide input to the College’s risk management framework regarding sustainability issues;</li> <li>• Advise Academic Council regarding sustainability content in the College curriculum;</li> </ul>

- Track the status of sustainability projects and resolve resource conflicts; and
- Monitor sustainability measures and improvement for the College.

The Sustainability Engagement Committee shall be comprised of a cross-divisional team of key stakeholders and governed by Terms of Reference approved by the Vice President, Student Experience.

#### Relevant Legal Instruments

Acts and Regulations that authorize or influence this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Province of Alberta *Post-Secondary Learning Act*. Statutes of Alberta 2003 Chapter P-19.5.
- Province of Alberta *Results-Based Budgeting Act*. Statutes of Alberta 2012 Chapter R-17.5
- Province of Alberta *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 Chapter E-12.
- Province of Alberta *Post-Secondary Learning Act Land Use Regulation*. Alberta Regulation 54/2004.
- *Canadian Constitution Act, 1982: Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

#### Related Content

Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta's Publicly Funded Advanced Education System.

#### Measurement

- Terms of Reference and Minutes of Sustainability Engagement Committee
- Approval and Communication of Sustainability Strategic Plan
- Sustainability Outcome Measures approved by the Board of Governors

#### **Definitions:**

**Economic Sustainability:** The prudent use of all resources to optimize the College's capacity to achieve the vision without compromising the potential for continued benefits. It involves the discipline to create long-term benefits by securing diversified revenues and allocating resources based on current situational realities, anticipated future events, financial position and operational risks.

**Educational Sustainability:** Encompasses the creation of life-long learning opportunities by planning, preparing and delivering programs and education in ways that exceed learner goals. It requires attracting and retaining skilled and knowledgeable staff committed to personal and learner development, innovative curriculum design, access to technology and tools and excellence in teaching and learning strategies. Staff, irrespective of role, create an environment that inspires and enables individuals to develop their capabilities to the highest potential levels throughout their life.

**Environmental Sustainability:** Involves the protection and enhancement of our environment. Sustainable practices include pollution prevention and recovery practices, and recycling processes. It involves choosing, where viable, clean technologies, clean and renewable energy sources, and environmentally responsible products. Programs, facilities and grounds will be planned, constructed and operated in a manner that reduces our environmental footprint and protects ecological systems.

**Governance Sustainability:** Is a shared leadership practice that develops and empowers the Board of Governors and staff to be institutional leaders. Its collaborative approach is founded on the principles of governance stewardship and moral leadership to achieve long-term growth and the development of the College. Through shared leadership practices, governance sustainability builds capacity by creating, sustaining and fulfilling the values, vision, mission and outcomes of the College.

**Research and Teaching Sustainability:** Involves the teaching of holistic sustainability principles in the College’s curriculum and conducting research to improve sustainability practices. It raises awareness of sustainability, research of sustainability and improves learning outcomes and student experiences. Research and teaching sustainability prepares students to be better citizens and leaders.

**Social Sustainability:** Builds upon the basic needs of health, security and justice to enhance individual and community capacity. Capacity and quality is supported through learning and personal growth. It creates social inclusion and builds trusting compassionate communities.

**Related Information:**

**Related Procedures:**

**Review Period:**

**Revision History:**

3 years

New: September 16, 2013