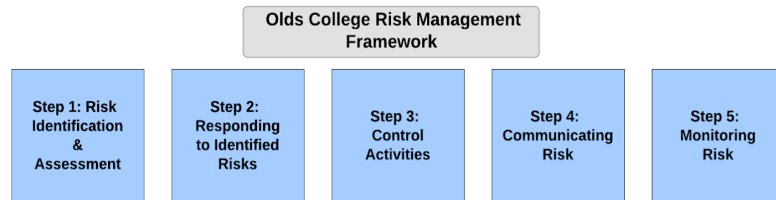# SUSTAINABILITY

This procedure is governed by its parent policy. Questions regarding this procedure are to be directed to the identified Procedure Owner.

Category:	B. Administration
Parent Policy:	B13
Approval Date:	March 11, 2025
Effective Date:	March 11, 2025
Procedure Owner:	Director, Institutional Research & Program Development

Overview:	Olds College of Agriculture & Technology (the "College") is committed to sustainable institutional operations based on economic, educational, environmental, applied research, and social sustainability considerations. To ensure this outcome, the College leverages a number of key procedures under each category to guide operational activities.
Procedures:	The Sustainability Policy operates in accordance with the following procedures:

Economic Sustainability
The College addresses economic sustainability through a combination of robust fiscal planning and a commitment to an ongoing Risk Management Framework.

Institutional Sustainability Planning:
- Utilization of the College cascading strategic planning and budgeting process to promote institution-wide sustainability, including: the College Strategic Plan, Academic Plan, Department-led Plans (e.g. Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Plan & Campus Master Plan), Department Business Plans, Capital Plans, and individual Contribution Agreements.
- Institutional Decision Evaluation Approach (IDEA): Major institutional decisions are subject to the College Institutional Decision Evaluation Approach (IDEA). This process supports effective and sustainable decision making while also providing an avenue for staff sustainability ideas to be identified and supported.

Fiscal Planning
- The College fiscal planning includes a year-round process of analysis, review, and collaborative consultation focusing on operating and capital budgets.

Risk Management
- In support of its ongoing fiscal planning and investment activities, the College also employs a robust Risk Management Framework, This policy highlights risk as a shared responsibility throughout the institution, and

emphasizes the importance of risk identification and mitigation via five primary steps:

Olds College Risk Management Framework

Step 1: Risk Identification & Assessment	Step 2: Responding to Identified Risks	Step 3: Control Activities	Step 4: Communicating Risk	Step 5: Monitoring Risk

Educational Sustainability
The College utilizes a combination of development and evaluation processes as part of its ongoing commitment to educational sustainability. This includes an academic program development process, Formative Reviews, Comprehensive Program Reviews, and Institutional Investment Reviews.

Academic Program Development
- The College employs a systematic process for developing and redeveloping programs to ensure that proposals for new and redeveloped programs offered at the College are viable and sustainable. The program development and redevelopment process includes consultation with internal and external communities to determine student and industry demand.

Academic Formative Reviews
- All new programs and redeveloped programs are required to undergo a Formative Program Review with the purpose of identifying program strengths and areas for improvement during early implementation to maximize program and student success. This ensures academic programs are meeting the needs of students and are on a trajectory for long-term sustainability.

Academic Comprehensive Program Reviews
- The College is committed to the ongoing evaluation of all its academic programs through a systematic Comprehensive Program Review (CPR) process. CPR's provide program stakeholders with critical information about each program's past performance, future direction, and resource requirements.

Institutional Investment Reviews
- The College also leverages Institutional Investment Reviews (IIR) to assess institutional resource commitments, evaluate alternative service delivery models, and enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency; supporting decision making regarding the long-term sustainability of academic programs.

Through the above-stated review processes, programs may be deemed to no longer be a fit for the College based on a number of considerations ranging from sustainability to strategic alignment. Under such circumstances, the Academic Program Suspension & Termination Procedures come into effect.

Environmental Sustainability
The College addresses environmental sustainability through several key processes.

Infrastructure Renewal
- Leveraging infrastructure lifecycle projects to identify opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of the College. This includes incorporating sustainable campus design and planning principles, embedding sustainability-minded procurement policies and procedures, and maintaining sound environmental risk management practices.

Water Conservation & Waste Management
- Reusing water run-off to support ongoing College operations, including the Farm and campus grounds. Water conservation efforts also include facility projects, such as the installation of automated taps in washrooms, and the implementation of water leak prevention practices. The College also minimizes the generation of solid waste and maximizes the amount of waste diverted from landfill.

Energy Efficiency
- Continually assessing and identifying energy efficiency opportunities within the inventory of College infrastructure. This includes the replacement of aging lighting fixtures with more energy efficient options, installing occupancy sensors on existing lighting, and ongoing utility monitoring, and, related to HVAC equipment upgrades. Also upgrading building envelopes to support enhanced energy efficiency (e.g. upgrading insulation, ventilation).

Protecting and Enhancing Habitat
- Maintaining key environmental habits, including the College wetlands and extensive inventory of trees on campus, which support carbon mitigation efforts is an area of focus for the College. Further, the College also explores environmentally friendly products for pest control and other activities.

Applied Research Sustainability
The College fosters ongoing applied research sustainability through a number of key procedures and practices.

1. Supporting the cooperation of funders and researchers, in addressing provincial, national and global sustainability challenges.
2. Developing research agendas, that address gaps in the research required to address societal needs and that are aligned with sustainability practices.
3. Recognising the responsibility of funders to incentivise responsible and sustainable practices in the conduct of research.
4. Pooling resources and efforts to achieve greater and longer impacts and sharing of best practices.
5. Adopting and promoting sustainable and responsible research assessment strategies and processes. This includes focusing on the quality rather than the quantity of research outcomes and being adaptable to a diversity of research approaches.
6. Promoting secure careers and career development to foster creativity and risk taking.
7. Encouraging positive changes in research cultures to make sustainability central to research practices.

This focus is subsequently emphasized in College decision making around areas of research focus, research practices, and external partnerships.

Social Sustainability
From a social sustainability perspective, the College employs a framework of committee's, organizational partnerships and practices, including with the Students' Association Olds College (SAOC), which promote:

- *Quality of life*: supporting staff and student well-being;
- *Equality*: promoting fairness and equal opportunities;
- *Diversity*: valuing and including people from different backgrounds;
- *Inclusiveness*: encouraging participation and engagement; and,
- *Social cohesion*: building strong communities through connections and collaboration.

This framework of committee's and partnerships raise awareness of ongoing or emerging social issues, solve problems, provide training opportunities, and make policy recommendations to sustain an inclusive and safe college environment.

Definitions:	See Parent Policy
Related Information:	- 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.
Review Period:	3 years
Revision History:	New: March 2025