



<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>Sustainability Policy</b>		
<b>Category:</b>	<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Policy #</b>	<b>SUS-1</b>

## **1. Preamble**

The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union's value statement articulates that the following principles shall guide the Union in all of its endeavours: integrity, mutual respect, professionalism, service, teamwork and trust, as well as social, economic, and environmental responsibility.

The USSU acknowledges that we gather on Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis. We remember that there has been Indigenous governance, education, and stewardship of the land since time immemorial and that these practices continue today. We honour and reaffirm our relationships with one another and the land we are on.

The following policy has been established to ensure the USSU operates responsibly and sustainably, encouraging its members to do the same. It exists to standardize and streamline how the USSU interacts with students, staff, and faculty at the university, as well as to conduct its operations efficiently. Additionally, it aims to articulate mechanisms by which students and student groups can qualify and apply for funding.

## **2. Definition**

Sustainability is a set of systems and processes that enable environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic efficiency.

## **3. Purpose**

- 3.1. To be an organization that practices and promotes sustainability in all aspects of our organizational operations, facilities, centres, services, governance, and practices.
- 3.2. To lobby for sustainable accountability at university, civic, provincial, and federal levels, as well as in collaboration with community members and stakeholders.
- 3.3. To be a leader in sustainable institutional practices through environmental, social, and economic commitments.

- 3.4. To partner with and/or offer support to individuals and groups that demonstrate dedication to sustainability. The USSU will honour this commitment by maintaining a Sustainability Fund in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan Office of Sustainability to assist students in achieving sustainable initiatives.
- 3.5. To promote frameworks and support group initiatives that align with the sustainability goals of the USSU.

#### **4. Ethical purchasing guidelines**

- 4.1. The USSU recognizes that ethical purchasing practices should be integral to its operations and realizes the impact daily purchasing choices have on the wider environment and community. The USSU commits to sourcing its products from businesses that ensure responsible practices are maintained throughout the production process. Additionally, the USSU will prioritize acquiring products locally and from their original source.
- 4.2. The USSU gives preference to materials and products that are comprised of recycled content and are recyclable or biodegradable.
- 4.3. The USSU prioritizes energy-efficient appliances, electronics, and light fixtures in all renovation plans and when these items need replacement.

#### **5. Consumption and Waste**

- 5.1. The USSU will take action to reduce energy consumption and minimize energy waste in all of its operations. Consequently, the USSU will seek to reduce paper consumption wherever possible.
- 5.2. The USSU will actively work towards reducing the quantity of waste produced by operational activities.
- 5.3. The USSU will educate its staff and its membership about sustainable practices, initiatives, and events.

#### **6. Sustainability Fund Guidelines**

- 6.1. The Sustainability Fund is sponsored by the USSU, the University of Saskatchewan Office of Sustainability, and the University of Saskatchewan's President's Office.

- 6.2. This policy has been developed to standardize the process by which the USSU Sustainability Committee grants funding to undergraduate student sustainability projects and initiatives.
- 6.3. Funding shall be applied for through the online Sustainability Fund form as found on the USSU Sustainability webpage.
- 6.4. Undergraduate students may apply individually or on behalf of a campus club, college society, or constituency group. Groups who apply must have a minimum of 75% University of Saskatchewan Students' Union membership.
  - 6.4.1. If the application is on behalf of a ratified student group, the fees will be deposited into the group's bank account.
- 6.5. The Sustainability Committee will not disburse funds to undergraduate students or groups for:
  - direct donation to charity,
  - the cost of alcohol served at any event,
  - the day-to-day administrative costs of an organization,
  - year-end banquets,
  - travel, or travel expenses,
  - conference fees.
- 6.6. Conditions to qualify for a conference:  
If the funds are used to organize a conference on the topic of sustainability, the event must be organized in a venue or a platform that is accessible to most undergrad students. If registration fees will be charged to attend the conference, there must be a discounted fee for USSU members.
- 6.7. Those individuals or groups seeking funding in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) are required to make a presentation to the Sustainability Committee in addition to submitting a funding request form. The Sustainability Committee also reserves the right to require clarification or presentation of individuals or groups seeking funding under five hundred dollars (\$500).

## **7. Terms and Conditions**

- 7.1. Applications must be made a minimum of 14 calendar days in advance of the proposed project start date. Campus groups are encouraged to apply as early as possible to ensure funding. Retroactive requests will not be accepted.
- 7.2. Funds must be used for the intention stated on the "Sustainability Funding Request Form."

- 7.3. The Sustainability Committee will require itemized receipts or confirmation of costs as a condition of receiving funding.
- 7.4. After funding has been approved, it is highly recommended that the successful applicant submit all relevant receipts, invoices, or confirmations of cost within 21 days after the event or project end date, and no later than April 30<sup>th</sup> of the academic year in which the grant was approved.
- 7.5. If funding is not collected or arrangements are not made in due time, the funds will be released back to the fund.

<b>Contact Information:</b>	Vice-President Student Affairs: (306) 966-6970		
<b>Policy Authority:</b>	Sustainability Committee		
<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Board/Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Motion</b>
Created/Adopted	USC	03/30/2006	USC147
Amended	USC	04/02/2009	USC126
Amended	USC	12/02/2010	USC106
Amended	Executive Committee	06/21/2011	EXEC11
Amended	Executive Committee	08/28/2015	EXEC28
Amended	Executive Committee	09/02/2016	EXEC33
Amended	Sustainability Committee	03/29/2017	SC21
Amended	Sustainability Committee	01/22/2018	SC06
Amended	Sustainability Committee	02/08/2022	SC03
Amended	Executive Committee	06/25/2025	EXEC014