

McLennan Community College

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Subject:	Sustainability		
Source:	President		
Approval Authority:	President	Approval Date	08/31/2022
Approved by Leadership Team:	Benson:	Hills:	McKown:
History:	Replaced policy date 01/01/2021		
Remarks:	Policy updated to new format.		

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the college-wide policy on sustainability is to develop a culture of sustainability on campus by engaging college personnel, departments, college partners, and students in environmentally sustainable practices and education with the goal of conserving and protecting the environment.

1.1 Policy

It is the policy of McLennan Community College (MCC) to finance, plan, design, construct, renovate, and maintain campus and facilities in a manner that enhances the sustainability of the campus. Sustainable building integrates design, construction, methods, and materials that enhance environmental quality for the planet as well as the building occupants. In addition, MCC will support campus initiatives related to sustainability.

1.2 Definitions

(Environmental) Sustainability is the ability to meet an individual's or community's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

A **carbon footprint** is the amount of greenhouse gasses generated by an individual, organization, or product and is a metric that can be used to assess environmental impact.

To **reduce** is the elimination of waste before it is created. An example might be the purchasing of items with reduced packaging.

To **reuse/rebuy** represents reusing of items or products to help prevent the need for harvesting new materials. This may involve second-hand purchasing, or rebuying.

Recycling is the process of collecting materials that might otherwise be thrown away and processing it into a new product or usable material.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1.3 Procedure and Responsibilities

The College will appoint a campus Sustainability Committee who will be responsible for promoting sustainability through students, personnel, and campus activities. The Sustainability Committee will promote educational and sustainable project opportunities on campus to improve sustainability at the personal, campus, or community level. Examples may include but are not restricted to:

- water conservation
- waste and source reduction
- green construction
- environmental education
- recycling
- sustainable landscaping
- reducing carbon output
- urban gardening
- community engagement

The campus Sustainability Committee will be available to work with the College construction planning committee and design teams to make recommendations with planning, designing, construction, and renovating College owned property and facilities to help improve the sustainability of facilities and reduce the College's carbon footprint.

Sustainability Committee Officer & Members

The sustainability officer may serve a 2-year consecutive term as chair of the Sustainability Committee with opportunity for a renewal for a second term. The chair shall be an employee of MCC and have previously served a full academic year on the Sustainability Committee prior to becoming chair. The role of the chair is to: a) work with members of the Sustainability Committee on projects; promote projects across campus departments; review committee membership on an annual basis; and to inform MCC administrators of proposed initiatives.

The Sustainability Committee will consist of members with an interest in preserving and protecting the environment through sustainable practices. Members are expected to fulfill the following responsibilities as service on the Sustainability Committee: a) attend committee meetings on a regular basis; b) promote sustainability projects on campus; c) and participate in one or more project events or activities per academic year.

1.4 Summary

The College strongly supports conserving and protecting the environment through efforts including: source reduction; recycling; reuse/rebuy; reducing campus' carbon footprint; water conservation; energy efficiency; and other sustainable practices as identified by the Sustainability Committee.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Therefore, sustainability in curriculum design and conservation activities will become part of the core of campus strategic planning. To further this goal, construction projects will be evaluated and will address to the fullest extent possible sustainable building practices. This includes the design, construction, and efficient use of resources, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, water conservation, and the protection of land and water environments.