

POLICY:	2004 Environmental <sup>1</sup>
Effective Date:	May 10, 2004
Revised Date:	January 2011

St. Thomas seeks to minimize its impact on the environment through a program of continual improvement in environmental performance, achieved by implementing a feasible and comprehensive environmental policy with measurable and achievable targets.

As a result, the three primary objectives in establishing this policy are:

- (a) To establish responsible stewardship of the environment as an institutional priority by meeting or exceeding regulatory requirements for environmental protection set by local, provincial or federal authorities or granting agencies. To establish and maintain high standards of environmental protection, St. Thomas University will work diligently to implement policies, procedures and programs addressing specific environmental issues.
- (b) To provide a framework for establishing policies and procedures that demonstrate responsibility and due diligence on the part of the University and that educate and assist members of the University community to understand and fulfill their responsibilities in protecting the environment.

The cooperation and participation of all members of the St. Thomas community is essential and, to this end, a communications strategy will be put in place to inform students, staff and faculty of new and existing environmental protection obligations. This communication strategy will be managed through the President's Advisory Committee on Campus Environmental Policy under the direction of the University President.

- (c) In cooperation with the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, to identify promptly environmental risks and recommend corrective action. Notification of environmental risks or the discovery of potentially harmful conditions will be channeled through either the chair the President's Advisory Committee on Campus Environmental Policy or the chair of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee. When the risk or condition has been dealt with, a report must be submitted to the President who is responsible for making an annual report to the Board of Governors, and reporting critical incidents to the Board as required.

### 2.0.2. General Principles

The following general principles act as overriding guidelines that apply to, and encompass, the University's environmental goals and objectives, and provide overall direction in achieving them.

(a) Legal and Moral Obligations

The University will ensure that it meets, and where possible exceeds, all applicable environmental laws, regulations, and standards that relate to its activities, operations, and services. In order to adhere to this principle, the University, through the President's Advisory Committee on Campus Environmental Issues, will:

- identify and monitor applicable environmental laws, regulations, and standards;
- correct any identified infractions and deficiencies; and,
- educate and train the University community in their roles and responsibilities for exercising due diligence.

(b) Strategic Planning and Implementation

The University will incorporate environmental considerations in all stages of the planning, design, and decision-making processes of proposed projects, developments, and activities. In order to adhere to this principle, the University will:

- implement programs and procedures that assist in identifying and monitoring new and applicable environmental laws, regulations, standards, policies, and technologies.
- ensure, where practical, that its buildings and infrastructure are designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that minimizes environmental

- create a greater awareness and knowledge of environmental issues by maintaining a database listing all St. Thomas courses, formal programs, service activities, faculty members, and research activities relating to the environment;
- provide students with assistantships and supervised studies in support of the President's Advisory Committee on Campus Environmental Policy;
- support environmental education and research across faculties and departments;
- coordinate an annual environmental seminar across campus; and
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- implement a feedback mechanism for interested parties through means such as Annual Report, Notice Board and other University communications.

### 2.0.3. Goals and Objectives

The environmental goals and objectives of the University are provided in this section. Each goal is accompanied by a set of environmental objectives which outline the steps or actions necessary for achieving these goals.

#### (a) Purchasing Policy

The University shall endeavor to minimize any negative environmental impact of products and services purchased in support of campus operations. In addition, the University will encourage its suppliers and contractors to provide, when appropriate and feasible, environmentally friendly products, and improve or develop environmentally friendly practices. In order to adhere to this principle, the University will:

- develop and implement an environmental purchasing policy;
- communicate its purchasing policy to its suppliers and contractors;
- work with suppliers and contractors to identify and use environmentally friendly products and practices as identified by reputable authorities; and,
- purchase products that are produced from recycled materials, can be recycled or re-used, reduce waste, and/ or conserve natural resources.

#### (b) Solid Waste

The University is committed to minimizing the amount of solid waste generated on campus. In order to adhere to this goal, the University will pursue the following objectives:

- adopt the 4 Rs of reducing, reusing, recycling, and redesigning; and
- develop and implement efficient and effective programs and practices that support the 4Rs.

#### (c) Hazardous Waste

The University is committed to minimizing the amount of hazardous waste produced on campus. In order to adhere to this goal, the University will pursue the following objectives:

- adopt the 4 Rs of reducing, reusing, recycling, and redesigning;

- develop and implement effective programs and practices that support the 4Rs; and
- develop and implement, if needed, hazardous materials and waste tracking system and long-term waste disposal database.

(d) Indoor Air Quality

The University is committed to protecting and improving indoor air quality. In order to adhere to this goal, the University will pursue the following objectives:

- monitor and identify problem areas of indoor air pollution and implement effective and efficient programs and practices for addressing these areas; and
- use environmental and health conscious materials in building construction and renovation that protect and improve indoor air quality.

(e) Outdoor Air Quality

The University is committed to protecting and improving outdoor air quality and minimizing atmospheric pollution. In order to adhere to this goal, the University will pursue the following objectives:

- identify problem areas of outdoor air pollution and implement effective and efficient programs and practices for addressing these areas; and
- minimize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its activities, operations, and services.

(f) Water Supply

The University is committed to minimizing its water consumption through efficient resource use and the implementation of conservation programs and initiatives. In order to adhere to this goal, the University will pursue the following objectives:

- design projects, programs, and initiatives to reduce water consumption; and
- design projects, programs, and initiatives, where practical, to reuse water consumption.

(g) Water Quality

The University affects water quality through the release of waste water to the



well-being. It also interprets and communicates information about those impacts and investigates and proposes means for their management.

(c) Environmental Auditing: A systematic, documented verification process of objectively obtaining and evaluating audit evidence to determine whether specified environmental activities, events, conditions, management systems, or information about these matters conform with audit criteria, and communicating the results of this process to the client.

(d) Sustainable Development: Development that meets the needs of the present