

# **ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY**

## **BOARD POLICY**

**Title:** Environmental Stewardship Policy

**Policy #:** B1200

**Effective Date:** November 15, 2005

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### **Board Policy Statement**

Royal Roads University is committed to developing and maintaining high standards of environmental stewardship. The University will be a global leader in environmental sustainability through innovative strategies which foster the protection and preservation of the environment.

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### **Philosophy**

Royal Roads University offers degree programs which incorporate studies of environmental sustainability as one of their principal tenets. Royal Roads University operations must in themselves reflect the highest standards of sustainability and environmental consciousness.

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### **President's Responsibilities**

The President will ensure that procedures, personnel and processes are in place to effect this policy.

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### **Information, Action and Monitoring Requirements for the Board**

The President will report on progress towards the policy objectives and ensure that the Annual Plan is made available to the Board by October each year.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

Royal Roads University Procedures Manual – Environmental Stewardship  
Royal Roads University Principles for Sustainability

**FACT SHEET**

**DATES:**

15.11.05	Board Approval
15.11.05	Implementation
15.11.08	Review Due ( <i>approval date + three years</i> )

**SOURCE:**

25.01.08	Approval by Board Motion: RRU Principles for Sustainability
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# ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES MANUAL

## Environmental Stewardship

### OPERATING POLICY

Royal Roads University must reflect the highest standards of sustainability and environmental consciousness. All members of the Royal Roads community (learners, faculty and staff) are committed that the University:

1. Become a leading institution in environmental sustainability and stewardship;
2. Set a standard other institutions will emulate; and,
3. Develop a campus-wide environmental management system.

### PROCEDURES

1. We will achieve this commitment by:
  - a) Understanding, preserving, and restoring the biodiversity and ecological values of the Royal Roads University site.
  - b) Following the commitment noted above, understanding preserving and restoring the historic infrastructure, and, where applicable, the uniqueness, of Hatley Park;
  - c) Complying with all environmental regulations;
  - d) Enhancing operational efficiency in a measured and systematic fashion;
  - e) Taking advantage of all opportunities to practice pollution prevention, resource conservation, and energy efficiency consistent with the preceding commitment;
  - f) Illustrating "Living our Learning" by demonstrating and reporting the benefits of integrating economic development and sustainability;
  - g) Conducting regular performance audits; and,
  - h) Establishing a public advisory committee to assist the University in setting environmental priorities and developing and implementing solutions.
2. The Environmental Management Advisory Team (EMAT) will serve as a vehicle for identifying issues, monitoring progress towards environmental systems, influencing the planning process, and provide recommendations and advice to the President through the Vice President Operations on:
  - a) A campus-wide environmental management system;
  - b) The opportunities available to the University to improve the quality of the physical environment on campus, to reduce the impact of the campus on the surrounding environment, and to contribute to resolving regional and global environmental concerns;

- c) The results of the annual environmental performance audit of the campus which will have identified where we have met, exceeded or failed to meet our annual objectives, areas within which we may be exposed from a legal or moral/ethical point of view regarding our own Environmental Policies and law, and the effect of campus activities on the air, water, land, and natural resources;
- d) An annual plan, by the beginning of September, on how the various elements of the University plan to reduce their impact on the natural environment over the course of the year, including any costs and benefits expected from such activities;
- e) An up-to-date list of environmental indicators and targets that can be used by all elements of RRU to assess whether their actions are having a positive or negative impact on the natural environment, and an annual assessment of the status of those indicators; and,
- f) The positive and negative environmental impacts of other operations present on the campus.

3. The members of EMAT are as follows:

***Ex Officio***

Chair (*to be appointed by the President based on the recommendation from the Team*)  
 Secretariat (*Environmental Coordinator*)

***Members (or designates)***

VP Operations & Learning Support  
 Director, Physical & Environmental Resources  
 Director, Information Services and Resources  
 Manager, Conferences and Events  
 Manager, Campus Life  
 Laboratory Instructor  
 Faculty  
 Finance/HR Representative  
 Dean  
 CUPE 3886 Representative  
 Supervisor, Gardens and Grounds  
 ICS Representative  
 Learning Support Associate  
 B. Sc. Student Representative  
 B. Com. Student Representative  
***2 at large*** - open to anyone with a strong interest in the environment

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## BRIEFING NOTE



### Recommendation for Action

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**MEETING:** 25 January 2008

**AGENDA ITEM:** PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

**SPONSOR:** AVP AND CIO

**APPROVED BY:** PRESIDENT

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#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM AND RATIONALE:**

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2000 the Board of Governors passed the Environmental Stewardship Policy committing the university to be a global leader in environmental sustainability. On January 14, 2005 the Board passed the Policy on Corporate Social Responsibility in which the administration was tasked with “conducting the University’s activities in an environmentally sustainable manner”. Both policies delegated the responsibilities to the President to set goals and report annually to the Board. In July 2007, the President delegated responsibility to the AVP and CIO for oversight of sustainability on campus. Shortly thereafter a Heritage and Environmental Stewardship Committee was struck.

The environment, spearheaded by climate change concerns, has moved front and centre in public policy. As a publicly funded university, we will be expected to lead. The Provincial Government has taken an aggressive policy stance passing legislation requiring a 33% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2020. In addition, public institutions must be climate neutral by 2010. The University Presidents Council (TUPC) is in the process of signing a declaration that will commit the university to:

1. Initiate a comprehensive plan to reduce GHG emissions by creating a planning body that includes students, staff, faculty, researchers, administrators and other partners to set emission reduction targets in accordance with each institution’s jurisdiction.
2. Within one year of signing, complete a comprehensive inventory of all GHG emissions on campus.
3. Within two years of signing, set targets, and develop an institutional climate action plan that engages each institution’s research, education and operations into a comprehensive strategy that catalyzes solutions for climate change.
4. Immediately, implement selected tangible actions to reduce GHG emissions.

5. Work cooperatively with governments, civil society, the business community and other institutions of higher learning to contribute to global climate change actions in recognition of our responsibility for equitable solutions.

RRU is well positioned to respond, our Heritage and Environmental Stewardship committee is tasked with the integration and oversight of a Sustainability plan. We have completed a comprehensive GHG emission inventory for the campus and will be repeating that for next year. Richard Iredale (Bateman building architect) and Anita Burke (ex VP Sustainability, Shell) have been retained to help lead a process resulting in a sustainability master plan. Consultation, focus groups and charettes will be part of this process resulting in a plan delivered by May 2008. The major elements envisioned in that plan will be:

1. Ecologically sensitive siting of new buildings.
2. Concept design of renewable energy systems to eliminate the use of non-renewable energy sources on campus.
3. Concept design of waste and recycling systems to eliminate waste on campus.
4. Development of a green procurement policy.
5. Feasibility design of a new on-site water supply system for campus.
6. Feasibility design of a new biological wetland waste water treatment plant for the university.
7. Development of a campus heritage conservation plan.
8. An environmentally sensitive and sustainable campus transportation plan.

The time is now right for the University to adopt an aggressive set of sustainability principles and objectives to position for the capital campaign and to achieve the objectives of the previously passed policies.

### **Principles.**

Consistent with the overall Campus Sustainability Plan, we propose the following principles be used universally in RRU planning and decision making:

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Limit development to disturbed areas
- Compact efficient footprint
- Pedestrian friendly
- Active and passive green building design
- Use of local and sustainable resources
- Respect heritage designation
- Anticipate, lead and support MAVED and Provincial sustainability goals
- Incorporate sustainability in all our learner programs
- Support sustainability research and incorporate this in our community engagement initiatives
- Reduces our overall carbon footprint
- Is fiscally responsible

**Goals**

Royal Roads University will produce a sustainability plan by July 2008. The goals of that plan, subject to financial resources, will be:

1. Reduce net GHG emissions by 50% by 2020 from 2007 levels
2. Be climate neutral by 2010
3. Go “off-grid” by 2018 (self sufficient in energy, water, waste)
4. Learn from our experiences to identify best practices and be a leader in sustainability.

**MOTION:**

That the Board approve the Sustainability Principles and Goals as presented.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLANS AND KPI'S:**

We are committed to sustainability as a key foundation in our strategic plan and have KPIs to reflect that commitment. This motion will strengthen that commitment and set clear goals and KPIs upon which our progress towards sustainability can be measured.