

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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**Effective Date:** October 1, 2007

**Originating Office:** Office of the Vice-President,  
Services

**Supersedes /Amends:** VRS-5/N/A

**Policy Number:** VPS-5

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### PREAMBLE

Concordia University is committed to responsible environmental stewardship through all the University's activities and functions. While recognizing that every member of the University community shares in this responsibility, the University shall provide leadership through its operations, teaching and research. The University shall strive to be at the forefront of environmental leadership and shall encourage University community members to begin initiatives in line with concepts outlined in this policy.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the Talloires Declaration commitment and the University's efforts in progressing toward environmental sustainability. It also provides an institutional framework for an environmental management system that will aid Concordia in reducing costs and risks, achieving a high level of regulatory compliance, and to continuously improve the University's environmental performance.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to all members of the University community, including faculty, students, administrators and staff, and also includes contractors. It encompasses teaching, research and service operations and outreach to the wider community.

### POLICY

1. The University shall establish and maintain an environmental management system that establishes due diligence, supports teaching, research and service functions of the University and which shall comply with all federal, provincial and municipal laws, regulations and generally accepted standards of practice relating to the environment.
2. The University recognizes its responsibility to ensure that individuals using hazardous materials are appropriately advised about the risks, informed of their responsibilities as outlined through university policy, properly equipped and trained, and adequately supervised. The University will ensure that appropriate facilities exist to create safe and healthy work environments.

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3. The University shall seek to provide responsible and innovative leadership in environmental sustainability. This includes actively working to preserve and enhance the environment through such measures as wise material use, energy conservation and efficiency, waste reduction and recycling, water conservation, pollution prevention and other ecologically-sensitive choices, among others.
4. All planning, construction and renovation projects undertaken by the University shall consider employing universal barrier-free design, locally-produced, reused, recycled and/or sustainably harvested materials as well as recycling and/or reusing demolition, renovation and construction waste. Green building principles shall be utilized where financially feasible in all significant projects, incorporating issues such as optimal energy efficiency, life-cycle costs, high indoor environmental quality, and reduced water consumption, to minimize environment degradation and enhance the well-being of the University community. Whenever financially feasible, renewable energy sources shall be implemented to meet the University's energy needs.
5. Wherever feasible in terms of financing, sourcing and availability, the University shall attempt to purchase goods that are ecologically benign, including items that are energy efficient, locally produced, made from post-consumer recycled and/or renewable materials, are recyclable, non-toxic and/or organic, should they meet or exceed the requirements as specified by the departmental end users. The University shall also work to consider life cycle costs and impacts when assessing products and equipment for procurement and, when possible, will tender to suppliers that are local and/or committed to environmental sustainability.

### Roles and Responsibilities

6. Every University community member shall take an active role in the implementation process of this policy.

### Directors, managers and supervisors

7. Directors, managers and supervisors at every level shall be expected to provide leadership in supporting and implementing aspects of this policy that affect their area of responsibility.

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### Environmental Advisory Committee

8. The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) shall evaluate, endorse and recommend plans and initiatives related specifically to this policy.
9. The mandate of this committee shall include:
  - Evaluating and monitoring implementation plans and strategies related to the Environmental Policy;
  - Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of an environmental management system;
  - Reviewing and approving an annual report on Concordia's environmental sustainability assessing the achievements, successes, shortcomings and obstacles facing policy implementation;
  - Receiving, studying and responding to suggestions or concerns of an environmental nature brought from any member of the University community; and
  - Receiving and reviewing communication from external environmental and auditing bodies.
10. The EAC shall report to the Vice-President, Services and shall meet at least once every three months or at the call of the Chair of the Committee. It shall be comprised of representatives from the University community, including one undergraduate and one graduate student appointed by the Concordia Student Union and the Graduate Student Association respectively; one representative each from the Office of the Vice-President, Services, Purchasing Services, Internal Audit, Environmental Health and Safety, two representatives from Facilities Management, and a Faculty member. The Director of the Environmental Health and Safety Office shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.