



1.0 Preamble

Across Canada and North America, student unions and universities are striving to become more sustainable. They are taking on policies, activities and advocacy efforts that shift the behaviour of their organizations and members. Many student associations have dedicated sustainability staff, standing committees on sustainability, and operate a range of programs to this end.

Student activism, rising costs, and the impacts of global climate change continue to drive change both inside and outside the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) and Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). Sustainability measures are a way to reduce our impacts on the planet, reduce the quantity of resources necessary for our daily activities, and to protect the environment for future generations.

2.0 Definitions

Sustainability - The practice most commonly defined as "improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems" (Brundtland Report, 1987). Since the concept of sustainability applies to long-term objectives achieved by short- and medium-term actions, the term has application within virtually all spheres of activity. The KSA approaches sustainability using a **triple bottom line** paradigm where the environmental, social, and economic impacts of each decision are considered and weighed before a balanced conclusion is developed.

3.0 Policy on Sustainability

WHEREAS the KSA recognizes environmental and social responsibility are ongoing processes requiring continual organizational commitment;

AND WHEREAS the KSA recognizes its members are committed to environmental and social responsibility, and value sustainability;

AND WHEREAS the KSA recognizes that the notions of organizational and environmental health are complimentary;

AND WHEREAS the KSA recognizes the importance of sustainable stewardship, the integration of sustainability into all aspects of organizational operations, and the development of sustainability initiatives internally and within our campus community;

AND WHEREAS the KSA recognizes the improved recruitment, retention, health and wellness of all of its members, Council and employees will result from sustainable practices;

AND WHEREAS the KSA has a Special Committee on Environmental Sustainability (SCES) that reviews and reports to Council on matters of sustainability;



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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the KSA adopts the following “principles” for environmental and social responsibility and encourages KPU to do the same:

- The KSA will include awareness and educational outreach as a vital component of achieving its sustainability goals.
- The KSA will seek feedback from its community as part of its accountability mechanisms.
- The KSA will encourage its Council and staff to take ownership and commit to modeling sustainability initiatives set by the organization.
- The KSA shall support students to raise public, government, industry, and university awareness to address the urgent need to move towards environmental sustainability.
- The KSA will support education, research, policy formation, and information exchange on the environment, innovation and sustainability to move toward global sustainability.
- The KSA will work with local, national and international community and non-governmental organizations to assist in finding solutions to environmental problems.
- The KSA will work to minimize its consumption of non-renewable energy, minimize water consumption and contamination, reduce the quantity of solid and organic wastes it produces, and employ sustainable building design and construction principles wherever possible.
- The KSA will balance quality, cost and environmental sustainability in its purchasing and investment decisions. Where relevant, long-term and life-cycle costs will be considered in achieving this balance.
- The KSA will work to develop and adopt environmentally sustainable practices and processes in all of its operations.
- The KSA will encourage the active engagement of all members of the campus community on issues of sustainability and will support sustainability awareness and action in the greater community.

AND BE IT RESOLVED THAT the KSA mandates the Executive and the General Manager to develop a sustainability-focused action plan every three years in accordance with the sustainability principles for the KSA in collaboration with staff and elected officials, to be reviewed annually.