

**PROPOSED REVISION TO: REG/POL ##: Sustainability Policy**

**Rationale: Provides the foundation for planning and implementation of strategies that will advance an enduring institutional commitment to the teaching, demonstration, and practice of sustainability.**

**Consultation Process:**

\_\_\_\_\_ [The Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business] authorizes transmittal of PRR for review

\_\_\_\_\_ General Counsel preliminary review

\_\_\_\_\_ [Relevant NCSU administrative body] review, if applicable

\_\_\_\_\_ The Campus Environmental Sustainability Team review

\_\_\_\_\_ General Counsel final review, if changes have been made

\_\_\_\_\_ EOM, or official with delegated authority to review PRR

\_\_\_\_\_ University Council (recommendation/notification), if applicable

\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Trustees (approval/notification), if applicable

PRR #00.00.00 [inserted by Legal Affairs]  
[Sustainability Policy]

Authority: Issued by the Board of Trustees. Changes or exceptions to administrative regulations issued by the \_\_\_\_\_ may only be made by the \_\_\_\_\_.

History: First Issued: April x, 2013. Last Revised: \_\_\_\_\_.

Related Policies: University of North Carolina General Administration Sustainability Policy (2009)

Additional References: • Sustainability Standard Operating Procedures (2013), Campus Mobility Plan (2012), •Bicycle and Pedestrian Mater Plan (2012), Pathway to the Future: NC State's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan (2011), Sustainability Strategic Plan (2011), Climate Action Plan (2011), Strategic Energy Management Plan (2011), American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (2008), Session Law 2007-546 (Senate Bill 668), Physical Master Plan, (2007), NC Executive Order 156 (1998), NC General Statute 143-58.3 (1994)

Contact Info: Tracy Dixon, Director, University Sustainability Office, [tracy\\_dixon@ncsu.edu](mailto:tracy_dixon@ncsu.edu), 919-513-0211

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

The Sustainability Policy represents NC State's enduring commitment to advancing sustainability through the life of the university. The Sustainability Policy accelerates the transformational progress called for in the Pathway to the Future: North Carolina State University's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan. As a preeminent comprehensive research university, NC State transforms lives and provides for social, economic, and technological advancement across North Carolina and the world. These advances in campus sustainability reflect one of NC State's core values: the stewardship of economic and natural resources. As these vital resources dwindle worldwide, society faces a grand challenge to which NC State is helping create innovative solutions.

The Foundation for Advancing Sustainability: A Strategic Plan for NC State University commits the NC State community to a long-term effort to advance sustainability regarding campus operations, instruction in classrooms, use of space and facilities, and engagement with public and private partners. As the largest four year institution in North Carolina, NC State has the opportunity lead by example while advancing sustainability. The Strategic Plan will provide for the growth of the university while more efficiently using and conserving energy, water, land, and physical resources.

The goal of the Sustainability Policy is to guide the management and growth of our academic enterprise and campus life while using energy and other resources more efficiently; becoming leaner, stronger, and smarter. The policy will also create an environment where students are exposed to sustainable concepts through learning, research, and involvement.

## **2 POLICY STATEMENT**

NC State is committed to being a leader in and model for environmental, social, and economic sustainability in the local and global community. NC State will proactively manage and pursue sustainability across the areas of Academics and Research, Community and Culture, Climate Impact, Green Development, Operations, Purchasing, Transportation, and Waste Reduction to reduce life cycle costs, restore and maintain natural systems, and further human well-being.

Using a systems view approach, NC State will grow the intellectual and scholastic scope of the university while using fewer resources. NC State will advance and monitor sustainability by ensuring that policy goals are well integrated into institution's processes, administration, teaching, research and innovation, campus operations, and community engagement. Therefore, NC State is committed to sustainability as a core value to be integrated across the university's missions.

### **3 SCOPE**

The Sustainability Policy will guide management and growth in the following areas:

#### **3.1 Academics and Research**

NC State shall produce graduates with the ability to address complex environmental and social challenges that carry sustainability into the state, the nation, and the world. The university will foster sustainable literacy among the entire campus community, enhance sustainability educational offerings, conduct interdisciplinary research that advances sustainability, and provide a sustainability living laboratory for students through campus projects, work study, research opportunities, and university operations.

#### **3.2 Community and Culture**

NC State shall be a collaborative partner and responsible environmental and social citizen of the surrounding community. NC State will promote sustainability awareness, understanding, and behavior change on campus and with outside communities with the goal of promoting a global culture of sustainability. The university shall regularly celebrate sustainability programs, recognize accomplishments, and take an active role in fostering linkages among and between campus departments and community organizations.

#### **3.3 Climate Impact**

NC State shall pursue the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and implement a plan to become climate neutral by 2050.

#### **3.4 Green Development**

NC State shall minimize the environmental footprint of campus and consider the needs of present and future generations, including the greater Raleigh area, in campus planning. Efficient use of existing space will be thoroughly evaluated prior to new development. NC State will achieve efficient use of space through the implementation of space and utilization standards, effective management strategies, and strategic re-investment. For development, NC State shall incorporate sustainability into comprehensive master plans and construction guidelines for all buildings and land assets. All buildings shall be constructed and certified to meet accepted high performance building standards. Capital investment decisions shall utilize life cycle costing and total cost of ownership concepts.

#### **3.5 Operations**

The operation and maintenance of buildings and grounds shall promote and improve energy and water efficiency and the responsible use of material resources while providing occupant health and well-being through healthy and safe workspaces and residences.

### 3.6 Purchasing

NC State purchasing decisions shall be guided by total cost of ownership and total life cycle cost. Any purchase shall improve the environmental performance of its supply chain with consideration given to toxicity, waste reduction, recycled content, energy and water efficiency, rapidly renewable resources, and local production and shall also improve the social performance of its supply chain with consideration given to working conditions and historically underutilized businesses.

### 3.7 Transportation

NC State shall encourage and incentivize the use of a comprehensive, multimodal transportation system designed to reduce dependency on single occupancy vehicles. This includes the safety and accessibility for all roadway users, encompassing pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists. The university will promote a pedestrian, alternative transportation, and bicycle friendly community.

NC State shall procure, maintain, and operate a vehicle fleet that reduces dependence on petroleum fuels through the use of alternative fuels, conservation, electrified transportation, and new technologies.

### 3.8 Waste Reduction and Recycling

NC State shall develop and implement regulations and programs that work towards achieving zero waste. Waste reduction efforts shall focus first on source reduction followed by reuse, and recycling.

## 4 PROCEDURES

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document will include specific guidance for implementing each section of the scope. The SOP shall be issued by the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business. The following business units have responsibility for the corresponding scope of the policy's implementation:

<b>Scope</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
4.1 Academics and Research	Provost and Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation
4.2 Community and Culture	University Sustainability Office
4.3 Climate Impact	Facilities Operations, University Sustainability Office
4.4 Green Development	Office of the University Architect, Capital Projects Management, Design and Construction Services, Facilities Operations
4.5 Operations	Facilities Operations, Housing, Campus Recreation, Campus Enterprises, and Athletics

4.6 Purchasing	Purchasing Department
4.7 Transportation	Transportation Department, Fleet Services
4.8 Waste Reduction and Recycling	Waste Reduction and Recycling Office

**5 REVIEW OF POLICY**

This policy shall be reviewed every five (5) years by the Campus Environmental Sustainability Team, and any necessary revisions and modifications shall be recommended to the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business for their consideration.

DRAFT