



Windsor Law
University of Windsor



CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

“

*We have a responsibility for the earth.
We have a relationship with the earth.
Our overall health and well-being are
connected to the earth. Our
interconnectedness with all living
things around us is everlasting.”*

*Myrna Kicknosway
Elder-in-Residence, Windsor Law*



Objective

The objective of this Policy is to set out a framework for decision-making and action at Windsor Law around climate and sustainability. The Policy should be interpreted and implemented in a manner which is true to Windsor Law’s values, supports the wider University of Windsor’s commitment to sustainability, and honours our location, where the river bends. It takes a “whole of Windsor Law” community approach to sustainability.

Sustainability Efforts

1 Operations

- Continue to implement good practices around the sustainability of events hosted by the Faculty -including all related units- and student groups.¹
- Encourage and incentivise sustainable forms of travel to and from campus - including by active and public transportation- as well as to external locations such as conferences, externship placements and moots.²
- Ensure all operations carried out by or hosted at the law school, including with respect to procurement, are planned and executed with a sustainability lens in mind. This includes waste and energy reduction in daily operations.³

2 Academics

- Ensure core courses on climate and sustainability are consistently taught at Windsor, and that clinical, mooting and other experiential opportunities in the environmental law field are regularly considered.
- Encourage the integration of climate and sustainability issues into the wider curriculum, with particular attention to access to environmental justice, environmental racism, transnational environmental issues, and Indigenous perspectives on wholistic health.⁴
- Encourage faculty and student scholarship on climate and sustainability law, including around environmental remediation.

¹ The Faculty has already discontinued the use of single-use plastic water bottles. The University's Sustainable Event Guide provides additional guidelines, including around ensuring accessibility, for events.

² The Faculty should consider how it can constructively play a role in improving sustainable transportation options to campus. Rail travel outside of Windsor should be considered wherever feasible, in line with the University of Windsor's Travel Policy.

³ In support of the University of Windsor's Carbon Neutrality Plan.

⁴ "[W]holistic health means wholeness in the person. It encompasses mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and environmental connections." Beverley Jacobs, "Impacts of Industrial and Resource Development on the Wholistic Health of Akwesasronon: A Human Responsibility/Rights Solution" (Doctoral thesis, University of Calgary, 2018) at 98.

Sustainability Efforts

3 Engagement

- Include this Policy on the Windsor Law and SLS websites.
- Include the Policy in Orientation materials and in onboarding packages for new faculty and staff.
- Support sustainability endeavours in all aspects of the law school experience, in coordination with other law school committees and units.

4 Governance

- Create a standing committee comprised of faculty, staff, and student representatives to encourage actions under this policy. The committee will report annually to the Dean and Faculty Council on the Faculty's progress.⁵ The committee will coordinate its activities with the University's Sustainability Office.
- Review this policy periodically and recommend any necessary changes to the Dean and Faculty Council.
- Build sustainability practices into budgeting decisions for both the Faculty and the SLS.

⁵ Faculty and staff representatives will be assigned to the committee in the usual manner. Student representatives will be selected by the SLS and will include a representative of the Environmental Law Society.

As a new generation of students enter postsecondary education already acting as change agents on climate change, the University will accelerate and embed sustainability measures in research, teaching, and operations while fostering a culture that values the stewardship of natural environments, and social and environmental sustainability. The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals and the Principles for Responsible Investing will provide a strong framework for planning, enabling alignment with campus operations, research and creative activity, teaching, and community engagement, advancing our existing strengths in environmental research.

Aspire. Together for Tomorrow, University of Windsor Strategic Plan (2023–2028)

2024



Acknowledgements

The University of Windsor sits on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi. We respect the longstanding relationships with First Nations peoples in this place in the 100-mile Windsor-Essex peninsula and the straits – les détroits – of Detroit. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties. Indigenous Peoples have a profound connection to this land, water and natural world, and we would like to thank those who have cared for this land since time immemorial. We all have a responsibility to care for these lands, waters and territories for future generations.

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to a more sustainable future.

Contact

uwindsor.ca/law