



# Sustainability Plan 2019

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# PREFACE: George Brown College Sustainability Plan Guiding Principles

The Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the societal shifts it triggers, means we have to reimagine how we manage our shared global environment and natural resources.

George Brown College has a responsibility to reduce our eco-footprint and our contribution to climate change through sustainability driven procurement, energy retrofit and conservation practices and zero waste strategies.

This Sustainability Plan is guided by the following goals:

- **Neutrality:** Reduce the College's carbon footprint
- **Innovation:** Prepare students and employees for the 4th Industrial Revolution
- **Leadership:** Lead by example modeling conservation and climate stewardship

The college is committed to developing the following behaviours, actions and policies that lead to environmental, financial and social sustainability:

- **Eco-Footprint Reduction** — Reducing the environmental impacts of all college operations.
- **Sustainability Education** — Sharing sustainability knowledge to support social, economic and environmental prosperity.
- **Engagement** — Collaborating and innovating to develop best practices for a sustainable future.



# 1. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN – KNOWLEDGE

## Over-Arching Objective

Graduates have knowledge and skills that incorporate sustainability into their discipline(s). Every active program contains a minimum of one learning outcome relating to social, environmental or economic sustainability.

### 1.1. Sustainability in Curriculum

#### Objective

**2019/2020:** Academic Excellence Program Review Office to revisit results of 2014 audit of sustainability learning to establish whether programs identified as having zero sustainability-related learning outcomes have closed the gap by adding one or more sustainability-related learning outcomes.

#### Work Plan

- Programs that have closed the gap and met the 2014 goal will be added to an update/conclusion of the 2014 report.
- Programs that have not yet closed the gap can request Curriculum Specialist assistance from OAE to help them do the following:
  - identify a candidate course for a sustainability-related learning outcome;
  - articulate a measurable, discipline-focused sustainability learning outcome within the identified course;
  - confirm to Academic Management Committee that they have closed the gap and met the 2014 goal.

#### Target

Every College program includes at least one course with at least one sustainability-related learning outcome.

### 1.2. Resources for Faculty

#### Objective:

Faculty have tools, information and guidance to increase their understanding of what is meant by Education for Sustainability (EfS) generally and in their vocational areas and apply that knowledge in their teaching.

#### Work Plan

- Explore ways to integrate Education for Sustainability (EfS) resources and guidance with the Teaching and Learning Exchange (TLX) team.
- Organize Lunch & Learn sessions with guest speakers on Education for Sustainability topics tailored to select Academic Centres.
- Support faculty led College initiatives such as the annual Tommy Douglas Institute Conference which focuses on different themes related to social equity, justice and sustainability.
- Include professional development resources, best practices, and information related to Education for Sustainability on the College's sustainability web-site.



## 2. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN – ENGAGEMENT

### Over-Arching Objective

The George Brown College community collaborates and acts on sustainability initiatives and practices that keep us on a sustainable path.

### 2.1. Communications Program

#### Objective

The College has an effective and purposeful communications program for external and internal audiences to inform them about the College’s sustainability efforts and to promote buy-in, behaviour change and support of sustainability practices.

### 2.2. Sustainability Web-Site

#### Objective

The College has an effective and informative web-site that promotes, engages and educates internal and external audiences about the College sustainability initiatives and plans.

#### Work plan

Update the content, layout and overall design of the Sustainability web presence.

#### Target

Updated web-site including Sustainability Plan Report available on-line.

#### Metrics

Increase in web-site traffic compared to current levels.

### 2.3. Process Stewardship Initiative

#### Objective

Identify college processes that if altered, would promote the college guiding principles of achieving carbon neutrality, demonstrating innovation and exercising climate stewardship.

#### Work Plan

- Provide opportunities for George Brown College community engagement directly related to reducing the College’s eco-footprint.
- Provide a carbon footprint management tool to educate staff and students to improve the determinants of low-carbon behaviours, to promote low-carbon concepts and to facilitate their carbon management.
- Focus on improvements that foster the reduction of carbon and/or eco-footprints.
- Use the information from this engagement in decision making by college personnel responsible for determining operating processes for their Division.

#### Tactics/Examples of Behavioral Changes:

- Enterprise wide video communications using a reliable platform for video and audio conferencing, chat, and webinars etc. in place of some on-site meeting.
- Telecommuting; Hoteling (temporary office carrels).
- Process automation (software like asset and contract management software, paper cut etc.).
- Going paperless, digitize wherever possible (See Paper Conservation section).
- Purchase of environmentally friendly office supplies (See Green Purchasing section).

#### Metrics

- Percentage employees telecommuting and/or hotelling
- Increased percentage of eco-friendly office product purchases.



## 2.4. Student Sustainability Awareness and Education Opportunities

### Objective

Students have opportunities to experience the practice of sustainability in their campus experience through peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and learning, in extra/co-curricular activities and/or by collaborating with different areas of the College on special projects.

### Work Plan

- **WWF Living Planet Leadership Program:** Provide opportunities for students to participate in the WWF's Living Planet Leader program which requires students to demonstrate sustainability leadership, teamwork, and an understanding of sustainability as it applies to their area of study.
- **Student Sustainability Squad:** The Student Association supports a Sustainability Club for student led sustainability action, awareness building and campaigns.
- **The George Eco Residence Committee:** The George has a student Green Committee that works on practical environmental projects and campaigns for students living in residence to promote environmental stewardship.

### Metrics

- Number of Students participate in WWF Living Planet at Campus Program.
- Number of student-run Sustainability Squad sustainability events.
- The College sends a team of students to participate in the WWF Designing Change competition.
- Number of sustainability events per academic year at The George.

## 2.5. Sustainability: Funding/Financing Mechanisms for Sustainability

### Objective

The College has a sustainable resource/funding model to support sustainability initiatives and actions.

### Work Plan

Explore options/alternative resources to fund sustainability initiatives and actions including:

- Develop new collaborative funding partnership with community, corporate, foundation and private entities to support sustainability initiatives at the College.
- Leverage existing relationships with vendors, industry partners, etc. to uncover new sources of funding for sustainability initiatives, (e.g., redirection of rebates and incentives)
- Investigate with Facilities Management and Finance the viability of establishing a revolving sustainability fund from utility savings.
- Explore and take advantage of new and innovative sources of governmental (municipal, provincial, federal) funding for sustainability initiatives.
- Work with the College's Finance Office to investigate possible financial /budgetary measures to incentivize and fund sustainability initiatives (e.g., charge backs for paper use, utilities, etc.)
- Work with the George Brown College Foundation and Alumni Office to create new fundraising opportunities specifically to fund academic scholarships and/or other learning opportunities for students related to sustainability.

### Metrics

- Volume of Funds raised.
- Number of Special Projects realized.

### Target

- Replicate the CCET Sustainability Scholarship model in one other Academic Ctr.
- One "partnership" project (either with private sector, NGO, community or other).



## 3. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN – ECO-FOOTPRINT

### Over-Arching Objective

To be a leader in sustainability by reducing the eco and carbon footprint of the College's facilities, operations, procurement and future building plans.

### 3.1. Product Stewardship/Materials Management

#### Objective

Develop a circular economy plan for the college by reducing the life-cycle impacts of products the college purchases.

#### Work Plan

- Identify difficult to recycle materials and identify alternative material substitutes, product replacements and/or recycling opportunities.
- Promote conservation, reuse, environmentally friendly decision making both internally and with the supplier community.

#### Goal

Successfully transform at least one "waste" product into a circular economy solution.

#### Metrics

- Volume of specialty materials diverted from landfill.
- Number of developed plans for reuse, recycling or replacement.
- Divisional use of information in decision making.

### 3.2. Supplier Climate Stewardship Awareness and Education Software

#### Objective

Create an evidence-based supplier engagement tool that demonstrates leadership in exercising climate stewardship, reduction in our ecological footprint and establishes a composite measure that informs sustainable development and ecological economics.

#### Work Plan

- Promote supplier awareness of climate stewardship through a Supplier Sustainability Assessment.
- Use the information from this engagement to inform decision making by college personnel responsible for ordering goods for their Division to affect a positive environmental and socio-economic impact.

#### Target

Distribute Supplier Sustainability Assessment Questionnaire to key vendors in 2019.

#### Metrics

- Number of vendors engaged.
- Quality of responses from vendors.
- Divisional use of information in decision-making.
- Number of students engaged

### 3.3. Process Improvements (Paper)

#### Objectives

- Reduce the College's consumption of paper resources.
- Reduce use of mail services College-wide.

#### Work Plan

- Pay some vendors by Visa Pay and pay students through e-payment.
- Campus Stores to move to electronic invoices and payments.
- Carry out survey of paper forms still being used and devise strategies to replace with electronic forms.

#### Metrics

Cost savings from mailing service (postage, envelopes and labour).

### 3.4. Paper Conservation & Photocopier Fleet Optimization

#### Objectives

Reduce the environmental impacts of paper consumption, and reduce paper waste, by reducing printing and use of other associated consumables (toners, etc.).

#### Work Plan

- Replace photocopier machines with larger volume, more energy efficient, strategically placed machines and reduce associated paper use via greater printer controls.
- Develop a College Print Policy to control printing at the College including mandating duplex printing and maximum print limits on copiers.
- Phase out desk top printers.
- Utilize the Paper Cut Print Management software to track printing and control printer behaviour at the College and devise strategies to reduce printing.
- Promote increased use of on-line tools such as Microsoft Teams, Blackboard by all employees.

#### Metrics

- Employee device ratio: 6:1 Optimal.
- Reduced volume of purchased photocopier paper.
- Reduced photocopier paper purchase costs.
- Reduced volume of printing by Xerox print centres.

### 3.5. Food Services

#### Objective

- Reduce the environmental impacts of food services and dining operations.
- Model sustainability best practices in College run, contractor operated cafeterias, and College hosted catered meetings and events.
- Where feasible encourage franchise operations to align with sustainability principles and practices.

#### Work Plan

- a) **Food and Beverage Purchasing:**
  - Increase the percentage of local (Ontario) and sustainable food purchases;
  - Work towards becoming a certified Fair Trade Campus.
  - Develop a College policy related to sale of single serve bottled water.
- b) **Dining Operations (Waste & Energy Management):**
  - Collect post-consumer food waste at catered events of greater than 50 people at all campus locations.
  - Upgrade Cafeteria and CHCA kitchen appliances and equipment to be Energy Star certified.
- c) **Campus Living Centres:**
  - Develop sustainability guidelines for all caterers at The George and the Blackburn Convention Centre located at 80 Cooperage Street.
- d) **Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts (CHCA)**
  - Implement Chef School Sustainability Blueprint affecting all culinary labs and Culinary Arts Enterprise run food outlets including Chef on the Go, The Café, The Chefs’ House and catered events at 300 Adelaide St. East.

#### Metrics

- LEAF ([LEAFme.org](http://LEAFme.org)) certification for the Chef School (Level 2).
- Percentage Reduction in food waste.
- Percentage increase in local food and beverages purchases.
- Percentage increase third party certified sustainable food purchases.
- Percentage reduction single use plastics and bottled water.
- Increased number of catered events with organics diversion.
- Percentage Energy Star Appliances/ equipment.





## 3.6. Energy Management

### Objective

Reduce the College's carbon footprint by 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050, by continuously reducing energy demands across all college owned properties by:

- reducing energy consumption,
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions and
- introducing an energy conservation program.

### Work Plan

- Relinquish older and inefficient buildings.
- Replace older plant infrastructure with more effective and efficient equipment.
- Install LED lighting and occupancy sensors to all owned properties.
- Plan for the Arbour building to be net zero carbon through use of mass timber and passive energy solutions.
- Replace ineffective building envelope conditions (windows, doors etc.)
- Develop District Energy agreements for Arbour and Daphne Cockwell.

## 3.7. Solid Waste Reduction Plan

### Objective

- Minimize production of waste and maximize recycling to achieve a total diversion rate of 70percent in line with the City of Toronto's Long-Term Waste Management Strategy.
- Meet the intent of the provincial Strategy for a Waste Free Ontario which lays out Ontario's vision for a circular economy and goals of a zero-waste Ontario with zero greenhouse gas emissions from the waste sector.

### Targets (by 2022)

- Increase total diversion rate to 70percent (based on annual waste audit data) which is an increase of 1 percent on average over next 4 years.
- Waste Reduction: Reduce overall waste generation (garbage/waste, recycling, compost).

### Strategies

#### Waste Audits and Consolidated Annual Reporting

- Carry out annual waste audits for each campus to determine the annual waste diversion rate for George Brown College resulting from existing waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting programs.
- Continue to implement consolidated annual reporting of all waste and diversion streams to augment waste data.
- Use waste audit data to identify point of generation, to quantify composition of wastes and to identify areas for high priority action.
- Identify any additional opportunities for waste reduction and diversion that may exist.

#### Annual Waste Reduction Action Plan

- Engage and educate the College community to use materials efficiently, minimize production of waste and maximize recyclability.
- Continue hand dryer installation program to reduce/eliminate paper towels college wide.
- Product packaging take-back program for divisional purchases e.g. ITS, CHCA etc.
- Develop policy for waste management and recycling college wide including a standard protocol for recycling system at offices.
- Develop a more detailed Waste Reduction Action Plan to achieve waste reduction and recycling/diversion goals .

#### Waste Separation to Maximize Recycling

Improve the garbage and recycle separation program by:

- Engaging and educating the College community to understand the difference between garbage and recycling.
- Redesign signage for all existing three-hole recycling bins.
- Add more multi compartment waste containers and remove solitary bins where needed.
- Add post-consumer organic (food waste) collection bins at selected areas e.g. Cafeteria, student seating areas etc.