

1. Environmental Policy of Marianopolis College

Adopted by the Board of Governors on April 29, 2008

2. Preamble

The aim of the Environmental Policy of Marianopolis College is to embody and reinforce the objectives stated in the Marianopolis Vision and Mission Statements. More specifically, the Policy aims to encourage responsible stewardship of the natural environment and to provide a dynamic and supportive environment enabling students to make positive contributions as citizens of the world. We believe that environmental education and the implementation of ecologically sound management policies constitute positive and essential steps toward the realization of these goals.

3. Policy framework documents

3.1 “Our Common Future,” the 1987 report of the UNESCO World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Report), defines sustainable development as “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” The Report goes on to claim that “sustainable global development requires that those who are more affluent adopt life-styles within the planet's ecological means - in their use of energy, for example.” The basis for the Brundtland Commission’s concern for sustainability is two-fold: the belief that resources must be shared equitably across generations and the conviction that resources must be shared more equitably across nations. We believe both principles have their place in any social institution, and they are all the more important for our College given its educational mission.

3.2 The 1976 UNESCO Belgrade Charter states that the goal of education relating to the environment is to “develop a world population that is aware of, and concerned about, the environment and its associated problems, and which has the knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivations, and commitment to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones.” Thus defined, education relating to the environment forms an integral part of the goals set forth in our Vision and Mission statements.

4. Definitions

The Action and consultation committee on the environment (ACCE) is a college-wide consultative committee. It is mandated by the Director General and the Board of Directors. Its composition must aim at being both representative of the college community and effective: the members must represent all sectors of the learning institution, including students, staff, faculty and administration. The role of the ACCE, as its name suggests, is to initiate consultation and concrete actions, in other words, to facilitate the progressive selection and application of environmental actions.

The 4 “R’s”: The environmentally respectful waste management strategies are defined in agreement with the 4 “R’s”: reduce, reuse, recreate and recycle.

Reduce: reducing consumption and production of waste. Purchasing durable, biodegradable and/or reusable items rather than disposable or short life items.

Reuse: giving a second life to items that have been consumed and would otherwise be discarded or recycled.

Recreate: transform materials that would otherwise be discarded so as to give them added value. Composting, which involves the transformation of food waste into rich soil, is a form of recreation.

Recycle: reprocessing materials into new products. While recycling should be favoured over discarding, it requires more energy than reusing.

5. Fundamental principles

This environmental policy is based on:

- The urgency of acting at both the global and the local levels to address the current environmental crisis.
- The importance of protecting the environment for the sake of the health and well-being of current and future generations.
- The importance of protecting natural resources to promote social justice, equity and peace in the world.
- The importance of preserving ecosystems for the sake of the organisms and species with whom we share the planet.
- The desire to strengthen community bonds and collective values through participatory actions aimed at improving the immediate and global environment.

6. Commitments with respect to the environment

Taking into account laws, College statutes, policies, and budgetary constraints, the Environmental Policy of Marianopolis College will guide decision-making in the following areas:

- Energy efficiency
- Water management
- Air quality management
- Dangerous goods management
- Purchasing policies
- Environmental management of external grounds
- Environmental waste management
- Environmental monitoring

7. Concerned parties

Marianopolis College asks that all people on the premises of the College adhere to the Policy, thereby acting responsibly and respectfully toward the environment. Depending on their level of involvement, suppliers and contractors are also called upon to respect this Policy.

8. Areas of involvement

Academic. The College will encourage the development of projects and activities related to the protection of the environment at the local, regional and international levels.

Outreach. The College will implement programs and activities to raise environmental awareness within the Marianopolis community in order to promote responsible eco-stewardship.

Management. Each service and department will strive to respect the basic principles of responsible environmental management, namely, reducing, reusing, and recycling. More specifically, actions should be undertaken in the following areas:

- **Purchasing.** Insofar as availability and budget constraints permit, an environmental purchasing policy favours the acquisition of products that are durable, reusable, recyclable or recycled;

produce less pollution; are free of banned substances; and that generate little waste. In addition, the College supports fair trade, ethical investing and the norms recognized by the International Labour Organization. These principles will also guide the selection of our business partners.

- **Energy.** The College will favour energy conservation practices and will opt for green choices with respect to energy sources and technology.
- **Waste.** The College will seek to minimize waste production by applying the 4 “R’s”: reduce, reuse, recreate and recycle.
- **Dangerous goods.** The College will implement strict measures regarding the safe and environmentally respectful treatment, disposal and elimination of dangerous goods.
- **Water.** The College will strive to prevent water contamination and to promote water conservation.
- **Air.** With the goal of enhancing the quality of the institutional environment, the College will strive to eliminate the various pollutants that could threaten the health of the community.
- **Grounds.** Whenever possible, the maintenance of College grounds will favour ecological practices.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

The College administration is responsible for publicizing and enforcing the College Environmental Policy. It entrusts:

- The appropriate academic bodies with the mandate of integrating environmental concerns in the development and implementation of educational projects.
- The purchasing department with the mandate of overseeing the selection of environmentally sound purchases and services.
- The ACCE (Action and Consultation Committee on the Environment) with the mandate of setting priorities with respect to the initiation and coordination of concrete environmental actions.

It invites:

- The faculty, staff and students to participate in the realization of the proposed environmental actions.
- College visitors to respect the values embodied in this Policy as well as the environmental norms of the institution.

10. Implementation date

The present Policy takes effect April 29, 2008.