



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Environmental Health and Safety		
Title: Sustainability Policy		
Effective Date: 10/17/13	Revision:	Number of pages: 2

Policy Statement:

College of Optometry policies, practices and decisions should embody sustainability principles that are environmentally sound, socially just and economically viable. Policies, practices and decisions should be made using approaches that reduce life cycle costs, restore or maintain the functioning of healthy ecosystems and enhance human well-being. Decisions and actions will be guided by the College's mission and vision statement, reflective of its resources, and consistent with the Strategic Plan of the College.

Definition:

Sustainability refers to societal efforts that meet the needs of present users without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability recognizes that the planet's resources are finite and should be used conservatively, wisely and equitably. Decisions and investments aimed to promote sustainability will simultaneously advance economic vitality, ecological integrity and social welfare.

The College will be guided by these following fundamental principles:

- Promote a sustainable future and increase the awareness of the College community to local and global environmental issues by performing actions that are ecologically sound and economically viable.
- Focus procurement on products that contribute to sustainability including products that are energy efficient, made with recycled content, and that have the capacity to be recycled when their use has ended.
- Pursue practices and procedures that minimize the adverse impact on the environment by conserving nonrenewable resources and supporting their sustained use; minimize the use of toxic substances and generation of waste materials; and reuse or recycle those wastes that cannot be avoided.
- Enhance the quality, health and safety of the environment for the Campus Community.

Based on these principles the College of Optometry will take all reasonable actions to implement the following initiatives:

- The College recognizes the need to educate all members of the College Community concerning their responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable future. Student groups will play a key role in helping the College address this issue.
- Advance environmentally responsive facilities planning and design practices. Environmental implications will be a priority consideration for any new construction or rehabilitation projects in the building.

- Environmentally based decisions balanced with sound fiscal practices will guide the operations and maintenance of the College's facilities and infrastructure.
- Develop initiatives to improve both the energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality in building.
- Maximize the use of environmentally safe cleaning products.
- Recognize the importance of conservation efforts to reduce consumption of natural resources by developing diversified strategies to conserve energy, water and other resources:
 - Reduce the consumption of energy, water and other resources by eliminating wasteful practices and implementing more efficient systems.
 - Implement feasible energy conservation measures.
 - Develop visible projects to aid with education and communication.
- Recognize the importance of minimizing solid waste generation and establish policies and practices such as:
 - Commit to waste reduction, coordinate with suppliers to ensure minimal packaging and waste.
 - Support the reuse of materials, thereby reducing purchases.
 - Encourage employees, students and visitors to participate in the College's recycling program.
- Minimize hazardous waste and presence of toxic materials – ensure that policies and practices to maintain efficient use, tracking, storage and disposal of hazardous waste and toxic materials:
 - Identify the presence of all toxic and hazardous materials.
 - Recycle or dispose of hazardous materials by environmentally responsible means.
- Maintain procurement policies to help sustain markets for sustainable products:
 - Environmentally preferable purchasing underlies and enables all other areas of sustainable practice in this Policy. Therefore, the College will maximize its procurement of environmentally preferable products and services.
 - Policies should encourage procurement of products that minimize waste, have high recycled content, use environmentally responsible production methods, demonstrate durability, and are either biodegradable, recycled, non-toxic or energy efficient, e.g., *Energy Star*.

Responsibilities:

This policy and its implementation will be monitored and assessed for future revisions by the Committee on Health, Safety and Energy Conservation. The Offices of Environmental Health & Safety, Facilities, University Police, Capital Projects and Campus Procurement will be responsible for the overall implementation of the policy and ensure that all sustainable initiatives are put into practice.

INQUIRIES/REQUESTS

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