



Policy No.	A.3.7
Title	<b>Environmental</b>
Approval Body	President
Policy Sponsor	Vice President, Administration & International Development
Last Revised/Replaces	July, 1998
Effective Date	June 29, 2015

### **CONTEXT AND PURPOSE**

This Policy and associated Procedures address the commitment of Vancouver Community College (VCC; the College) to conducting its activities in a manner that promotes responsible stewardship of the environment.

VCC is concerned about the quality of the natural environment and building a sustainable society. Thus, the College believes it has a responsibility to enable the College community, its suppliers and contractors to become knowledgeable about the environment and to become more environmentally responsible.

The College's commitment includes showing leadership and demonstrating accountability through sound environmental practices. The College commits to encouraging environmentally friendly decision-making in all aspects of its operations using the criteria of: effectiveness, availability and cost.

### **SCOPE AND LIMITS**

This policy applies to the entire VCC community including students, employees and contractors. VCC believes that a healthy environment is essential for the health and well-being of present and future generations.

### **STATEMENT OF POLICY PRINCIPLES**

1. The College establishes and maintains high standards of environmental stewardship to protect natural resources and minimize environmental impact. The College considers environmental factors in all its planning and decision-making activities.
2. The College establishes and supports an Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group to provide leadership and promote education with regard to environmental issues.
3. The College requires that prompt action be taken to address environmental risks and concerns.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Environment: Environment means the biophysical conditions under which people or things live or are developed.

Sustainability: Sustainability, within the context of this policy, refers to the quality of not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources, and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance.

## **RELATED LEGISLATION & POLICIES**

### Legislation

*Environmental Protection Act* (and regulations), Government of Canada

*Hazardous Products Act* (and regulations), Government of Canada

*Environmental Management Act* (and regulations), Province of British Columbia

*Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act* (and regulations), Province of British Columbia

Canadian Standards Association, ISO 14000 Series – Environmental Management

## **RELATED PROCEDURES**

Refer to Policy A.3.7 Environmental Procedures