



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Adopted: Winter 2020

Preamble

This policy lays out the ECA's principles of ecological sustainability, and the specifics of the actions that need to be undertaken by the ECA in order to minimize our collective carbon footprint. The ECA has a duty of adopting such practices in order to set an example for its students and member associations, who represent the driving force of technological progress in our society. Failure to abide by this policy will result in warnings, and subsequent withholding of member association funds, depending on the severity of the infraction. The severity is to be decided by the BOD.

PART A: DEFINITIONS

- **ECA** – shall mean the Engineering and Computer Science Student Association of Concordia University;
- **Board** – shall mean the ECA Board of Directors;
- **Member associations** - shall mean all student societies within the ECA
- **Environmental** - shall mean relating to the natural world and the impact of human activity on its condition.
- **Ecological** - shall mean relating to or concerned with the relation of living organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.

PART B: PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this policy is to reduce ECA's ecological impact and to encourage good environmental habits for its students and member associations.

PART C: SCOPE

1. This policy applies to all employees and members of the ECA.
2. This policy applies to all ECA controlled spaces and all spaces which ECA member associations use on a regular basis.
3. This policy applies to all events & activities held on ECA-managed space (irrespective of the event organizers) and to all events & activities organized by and/or relating to the ECA or an ECA member association (irrespective of the location of the event).
4. No part of this policy inhibits students or associations from going above these requirements in ensuring minimal ecological footprint.

PART D: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

1. The ECA unequivocally affirms its commitment to providing and promoting an environment that is in accordance with:
 - a. The responsibilities of the members as defined in the By-Laws;
 - b. The Code of Rights and Responsibilities; and
 - c. The letter and spirit of the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedom as well as the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

Section 1 - ECA Spaces

1. All ECA spaces are to be equipped with compost bins. These bins are to be marked as “compost” and labelled with examples of things that can be composted. Management of compost bins is the responsibility of the sustainability committee.
2. At least one (1) food item sold in the B Annex is to be fair trade certified.
3. All coffee, tea, and sugar used in ECA spaces is to be fair trade certified.
4. Everywhere where there is a garbage bin, there shall be a marked compost bin directly next to it, as well as a marked recycling bin.

Section 2 - ECA Events

1. All plates, cutlery, and cups used at events shall be either reusable (made of porcelain, ceramic or hard plastic) or compostable. If the plates, cutlery, and cups are postable, they are all to be composted.
2. All Lizard Lounges shall require attendees to bring their own cups. No single use cups shall be distributed. The members of the host society are in charge of providing cups for sale or rent in case attendees do not bring their own cup.
3. The ECA is to host a minimum of one (1) sustainability related event per semester. Examples include lunch and learns, career fairs, information sessions, or social events wherein attendees are educated on a topic relating to environmental growth, environmental development, environmental sustainability, or fair trade.
4. At all events of over 15 people in which food is involved, Waste Not Want Not is to be present to collect any and all leftover food for redistribution.
5. No single use plastic bottles are to be distributed or sold at events. Plastic water bottles are permitted for medical emergencies only.
6. All coffee, tea, and sugar sold or distributed at events is to be fair trade certified.
7. A portion of both the Winter and Fall FROSH Orientation day presentation shall be devoted to talking about sustainability and fair trade, as well as informing new students on the importance of adopting sustainable practices on campus.

Section 3 - Roles and Responsibilities of the Sustainability Committee

1. The sustainability committee is to be made up of between two (2) and four (4) members.
2. All members of the committee will be made up of volunteers. In the event that more than four (4) people register as volunteers, interviews will be held by the BOD.
3. All members of the committee are to be students belonging to the Gina Cody school of engineering and computer science.
4. Members of the committee are in charge of upholding the rules and regulations of the sustainability policy.
5. Members of the committee are in charge of managing all compost and recycling bins in ECA spaces.
6. Members of the committee are in charge of organizing the minimum of one (1) sustainability related event.
7. Members of the committee are in charge of the sustainability portion of the FROSH orientation day presentation. The length of this portion is to be agreed upon with the VP of Social Affairs.

Section 4 - Rewards and Sanctions

1. At the annual ECA banquet held at the end of each academic year, an award is to be presented for the most environmentally sustainable society of that academic year. The award is based on which society has demonstrated the most initiative in terms of sustainable projects and development.
2. If a society is to break any of the above rules and regulations for the first time, they are to receive a written warning.
3. The second time a society breaks any of the above rules, a percentage of their budget between 5% and 25% will be withheld, depending on the severity of the infraction, and depending on the amount spent on the event.
 - a. Small infractions which merit 5%-10% include but are not limited to:
 - i. Throwing compostable items in the trash.
 - ii. Distributing coffee/tea that is not fair trade certified.

- iii. Using single use cups at lizard lounges.
 - b. Medium severity infractions which merit 15% include but are not limited to:
 - i. Not collaborating with Waste Not Want Not for an event larger than 15 people.
 - ii. Using single use plastic cutlery, plates, and cups for less than half of the allotted supplies.
 - c. Severe infractions which merit 20%-25% include but are not limited to:
 - i. Using single use plastics for more than half of your allotted event supplies.
 - ii. Distributing single use plastic bottles.
4. At the end of each academic year, the strikes are erased.