



Sustainability Policy

Adopted: March 21st, 2024

Version 2

Version	Description	Author(s)	Adoption
1	Initial Version	Julia Levantian (VP Internal)	February 17th, 2020
2	Formatting, Addition of Purchases section, Update of Committee and Rewards and Sanctions sections	Sierra Campbell (Sage), Nora Kasem (CUBES President), Seif Bedair (VP Internal), Maria Amezquita (Independent Representative)	March 21st, 2024

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.

Section A: Definitions

1. The following terms will be used throughout this document and are hereby defined:
 - 1.1. BOD - Shall mean the ECA Board of Directors;
 - 1.2. CUCCR - Shall mean the Concordia University Center for Creative Reuse
 - 1.3. ECA - Shall mean the Engineering and Computer Science Student Association of Concordia University;
 - 1.4. GCS - Shall mean the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science;
 - 1.5. MA - Shall mean any member associations of the ECA as defined by the ECA Bylaws;
 - 1.6. Environmental - Shall mean relating to the natural world and the impact of human activity on its condition.
 - 1.7. Ecological - Shall mean relating to or concerned with the relation of living organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.
 - 1.8. enuf - Shall mean a social enterprise that helps Concordia clubs and associations tackle the waste crisis, empowering them to do good in ways that are hassle-free, engaging, and cost-effective.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section D: ECA Spaces

1. All ECA spaces are to be equipped with compost bins. These bins are to be marked as “compost” and labeled 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. On every floor where there is a garbage bin, there shall be a marked compost bin as well as a marked recycling bin.

Section E: 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 compostable, 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. At all events of over 15 people in which food is involved, enuf is to be present to collect any and all leftover food for redistribution.
4. No single use plastic bottles are to be distributed or sold at events. Plastic water bottles are permitted for medical emergencies only.
5. All coffee, tea, and sugar sold or distributed at events is to be fair trade certified.
6. At least one plant-based food option must be available at all events where food is served.
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.
8. 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.

Section F: Purchases

1. In the procurement of all goods and services, preference shall be given to local and Quebec suppliers which use biodegradable or limited packaging, use recycled or reused materials, and have a recognized fair trade label.
2. Merchandise shall only be purchased for the anticipated event attendees. All items shall be of high quality and intended for reuse following the event.
3. Inventory and office items shall be purchased intentionally and shall be of quality which permits an enduring service life.

4. Transportation to events, competitions, and conferences shall consider applicable emissions and select available options which reduce the carbon footprint of the journey.
5. Non-viable objects are to be disposed of in a sustainable manner. This includes but is not limited to reuse in a different form, donating to CUCCR, or recycling.

Section G: Sustainability Committee

1. The Sustainability Committee is to be composed of:
 - 1.1. The Sustainability Representative who shall act as the head of the committee.
 - 1.2. Two (2) to four (4) volunteer ECA Regular Members.
 - 1.2.1. In the event that more than four (4) people register as volunteers, interviews will be held by the BOD.
2. Responsibilities of the Sustainability Committee include, but are not limited to:
 - 2.1. Upholding the rules and regulations of the Sustainability Policy.
 - 2.2. Organizing a minimum of one (1) sustainability related event per year.
 - 2.3. Organizing the sustainability portion of the FROSH orientation day presentation. The length of this portion is to be agreed upon with the VP Social.
 - 2.4. Assisting ECA Executives in ensuring all ECA events adhere to the Sustainability Policy.
 - 2.5. Aiding all societies in adhering to the policy for their events.
 - 2.6. Recommending sustainability initiatives to the BOD and undertaking these initiatives.
 - 2.7. Communicating with other on-campus sustainability initiatives to better support the above-mentioned initiatives.

Section H: 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 an MA 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 an MA breaks any of the above rules, they may be placed on probation subject to investigation of the policy breach by the VP Internal and Sustainability Committee followed by a recommendation to the BOD.
4. At the end of each academic year, the strikes are erased.