

## **1.0 POLICY**

Grant MacEwan University shall plan and design facilities to meet or exceed all building codes for the optimal balance of cost, environmental, societal, and human benefits while meeting the mission, goals and function of the intended infrastructure. The University will use an integrated approach for facilities planning and design that views facilities projects holistically as contiguous elements in a sustainable facilities infrastructure.

## **2.0 RATIONALE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

### **2.1 Purpose**

- 2.1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in the planning and design of facilities using the principles of whole building design and environmental sustainability.
- 2.1.2 Further, this policy emphasizes the integration of all aspects of building development through the whole life cycle.

### **2.2 Rationale and Guiding Principles**

- 2.2.1 Planning and design are the first phases of an integrated approach to the concept of Whole Life Cycle Sustainability for MacEwan facilities. An integrated approach to the whole life cycle of buildings can produce a synergistic effect in relation to the sustainability of physical infrastructure.
- 2.2.2 Planning and design of the MacEwan campus should minimize both the depletion of natural resources and the degradation of the environment, reflecting MacEwan's commitment to environmental stewardship and conservation.
- 2.2.3 Overall, the MacEwan campus should exemplify the University's commitment to sustainability (recognizing the fundamental interdependence of environmental, economic and social imperatives), while being a legacy for future generations.
  - 2.2.3.1 The campus should reflect societal ideals for a sustainable living, working and studying environment without compromise to its aesthetic appeal.
  - 2.2.3.2 Campus signage should be standardized for readability and legibility. All signage, including building identification, public information and directional, should enhance familiarization with the University and contribute to its aesthetic appeal.
  - 2.2.3.3 MacEwan should preserve and advance the unique character of its architectural design, respectful of its heritage.
  - 2.2.3.4 MacEwan facilities and built environments should be accessible, secure, healthy, safe and functional.

### **3.0 SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS**

#### **3.1 Scope**

This policy affects the officer responsible for University sustainability or designate and others involved in the planning and design of facilities projects at Grant MacEwan University.

#### **3.2 Definitions**

- 3.2.1 **Accessible** means the unimpeded entrance to and exit from facilities by persons with disabilities. It relates to the concept of barrier-free design (i.e. the incorporation and use of design principles to construct an environment that is functional, safe and convenient for all users, including those with disabilities).
- 3.2.2 **Aesthetic** pertains to the physical appearance and image of building elements and spaces as well as the integrated design process.
- 3.2.3 **Environmental sustainability** is the practice of managing human and ecological systems to conserve and restore the natural environment.
- 3.2.4 **Executive officer** means the president, vice presidents and equivalent positions.
- 3.2.5 **Integrated Design Process (IDP)** is a collaborative approach for design that considers the ecosystem impingement of buildings in meeting their functional intent.
- 3.2.6 **MacEwan campus** is the buildings, facilities, land, roads, fittings, fixtures, equipment and possessions of MacEwan.
- 3.2.7 **Officer** means the president, vice presidents and equivalent positions, deans, directors and equivalent positions.
- 3.2.8 A **project** is an undertaking that has a defined start date, end date, scope, budget and objectives, and that typically involves multiple parties from multiple disciplines.
- 3.2.9 **VOC Emissions** are emissions from Volatile Organic Compounds, which are precursor pollutants contributing to the formation of ground-level ozone and particulate matter

### **4.0 REGULATIONS**

- 4.1 MacEwan shall use clear and transparent guidelines and standards in the planning and design of its facilities, based on regulatory compliance, sustainability principles (identified above) and functionality.
- 4.2 MacEwan shall use Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standards to provide design assistance and where the Alberta Building Code and CSA Standards address the same issues, the more stringent standards shall govern at a minimum.

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- 4.3 MacEwan shall use an Integrated Design Process for projects involving the planning and design of facilities to ensure the optimal balance of cost, environmental, societal, and human benefits while meeting the mission, goals and function of the intended infrastructure.
- 4.4 In commitment to MacEwan's sustainability objectives, facilities projects shall address the following principles:
  - 4.4.1 Optimize the site or existing structure potential for effects on the ecosystem: reuse or rehabilitation of existing buildings; location, orientation and landscaping; transportation methods, parking; physical security and access.
  - 4.4.2 Optimize energy use: consider means of reducing load, increasing efficiency and using renewable resources.
  - 4.4.3 Protect and conserve water: reduce, control and/or treat site runoff; use water efficiently; re-use or re-cycle water where feasible.
  - 4.4.4 Use environmentally preferable products: use materials that minimize life-cycle environmental impacts, have a reduced effect on human health and the environment and that have reduced disposal costs.
  - 4.4.5 Enhance indoor environmental quality: optimize day-lighting; use appropriate ventilation and moisture control; avoid the use of materials with high VOC emissions.
  - 4.4.6 Optimize operational and maintenance practices: use practices that improve the working environment, increase productivity and prevent failure.
- 4.5 MacEwan will set tracking indicators in applicable areas of sustainability to measure performance against objectives.
- 4.6 The executive officer responsible for University Services is accountable for executive oversight of this policy
- 4.7 The officer responsible for University facilities is responsible for implementation of this policy and associated procedures.
- 4.8 The officer responsible for University sustainability or designate will coordinate development of sustainability objectives.
- 4.9 Responsibility for compliance with MacEwan policies and procedures extends to all members of the MacEwan community. Non-compliance may create risk for MacEwan and will be addressed accordingly (see clause 4.5.1 "Respect for the law and University governance" of the University's policy D1200 Code of Conduct – Employees for additional guidance).

**FACT SHEET**

**Relevant Dates**

Approved:	2010.05.20
Effective:	2010.05.20
Next Review:	2013.05

**Source**

2010.05.20	This is a new operational policy approved by Board Motion 01-05-20-2009/10..
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**Accountability:**

Office of Accountability:	Vice President, University Services
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	Director, Facilities
Approved By:	Board of Governors
Contact Area:	Facilities
Authority:	MacEwan will comply with applicable <a href="#">Government legislation</a> , municipal bylaws, zoning restrictions and Alberta Building Codes in consideration of LEED principles espoused by the <a href="#">Alberta Chapter</a> of the Canada Green Building Council for sustainability in the whole life cycle of its facility and campus. This policy is guided by the principles of <a href="#">National Institute of Building Sciences Whole Building Design Guide</a> , the <a href="#">Canada Green Building Council</a> and the environmental beliefs expressed in the <a href="#">Creed of Dr. J.W. Grant MacEwan</a> .

**Related and Associated Matters**

Associated Operational Policies & Procedures: D5000 Facilities - Whole Life Cycle Sustainability; D5050 Facilities Operations and Maintenance

Related Policies: D6000 Sustainability