



## **BROCK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION, INC.**

500 Glenridge Avenue  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2S 3A1

## **CONTACT**

p. 905-688-5550 ext. 3568  
f. 905-641-7581  
www.busu.net

## **PURPOSE**

This policy outlines best practices in order to ensure that Brock University remains in a state that is minimally negatively impactful on the environment. The Brock University Students' Union recognizes that climate change as a result of human action is a pervasive threat to environmental sustainability and that its actions impact the sustainability of that environment. This policy will be used to develop a culture of sustainability and promote sustainability practices in all BUSU services and operations. BUSU will post this policy on our website and will provide it in accessible formats upon request. This policy will be reviewed and updated annually to include new and emerging best practices.

## **DEFINITIONS**

"Environment" refers to the naturally occurring habitat home to multiple organisms

"Renewable product" refers to any product that can be processed and reused after being discarded

"Sustainable" refers to anything that does not possess the immediate capability of running out of resources

"Carbon neutral" refers to achieving a net zero release of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere by sequestering or offsetting emissions.

"Plastic Bottle Free Zone" refers to physical areas that prohibit the sale or use of single-use plastic bottles by individuals present in the zone.

## **POLICY**

### **Advertisement and Marketing**

BUSU will ensure that all forms of advertisement, including but not limited to advocacy efforts, club advertisement, and marketing advertisement, are as environmentally friendly as possible.

### **Advocacy**

BUSU will run at least one advocacy campaign on an environmental issue or Green Levy promotion during the year.

BUSU will educate its membership through a Campus Sustainability section in the annual Dayplanner.

BUSU shall provide training for all staff, volunteers and clubs on environmental issues such as sustainable event planning, proper waste management and any other sustainability issues that BUSU deems necessary.

### **Bottled Water**

No BUSU event shall sell bottled water unless there is a contract or MOU in place that requires bottled water to be sold at a BUSU event.



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BUSU shall attempt to provide reasonable alternatives to giving out water bottles at events (e.g. water stations with biodegradable cups, reusable glasses or biodegradable water bottles)

BUSU shall attempt to make the BUSU main office a Plastic Bottle Free Zone by encouraging staff to sign a pledge to make an effort to not purchase beverages including water sold in plastic bottles intended for single use.

BUSU shall encourage all organizations currently leasing space from BUSU to commit to making their spaces Plastic Bottle Free Zones.

BUSU shall encourage its partners, Brock University, and other campus groups to limit the sale and usage of plastic bottles at their events and on campus in general.

### **Contracts**

When signing new or updating contracts or MOUs with third parties BUSU will take into consideration the environmental impact of the actions outlined in the contract.

### **Infrastructure**

BUSU shall ensure that any new buildings or additions to current buildings developed, inhabited or managed by BUSU will meet LEED certification of some kind.

BUSU shall encourage Brock University to ensure that any new buildings or additions to current buildings on all Brock campuses meet LEED certification of some kind.

### **Investments**

BUSU shall completely divest from publicly traded fossil fuel companies by 2025.

### **Lobbying Efforts**

BUSU shall try its best to lobby local municipal and provincial governments to improve conditions on the road for cyclists through cyclist/driver education, and designated cycling lanes on roadways.

BUSU shall lobby Brock University to limit the sale of plastic water bottles on campus.

### **Office Equipment / Supplies**

BUSU shall set double-sided printing as the default on all computers, printers, and photocopiers wherever possible.

BUSU shall print all documents including external and official communications on both sides as much as possible.



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BUSU shall attempt to ensure that all appliances purchased and used are Energy Star certified, with products with low energy consumption given a preference over products with high energy consumption.

### **Offsetting**

BUSU will offset all carbon dioxide emissions accrued from traveling to conferences by executives and employees through programs such as Tree Canada's Grow Clean Air.

Tree Canada: <https://treecanada.ca/en/programs/grow-clean-air/>

BUSU will attempt to work towards making all events (especially week long events such as O-Week, Frost Week, and Wellness Week) carbon neutral or as minimally negatively impactful on the environment as possible.

BUSU shall offset any carbon dioxide emissions accrued from any vehicle used for official BUSU purposes. This does not include any shipping or delivery vehicles used for BUSU's businesses.

### **Relations with the Environment Committee**

The Board of Directors will work in good faith with the Environment Committee, and take all suggestions made by the BUSAC Environment Committee into account when making any decisions which may affect the environment except in such cases where those decisions must be kept confidential. These decisions include, but are not limited to:

1. Any and all cases where there may be any impact to the natural environment surrounding Brock University or on its property
2. All matters that involve the installation of major new appliances
3. All efforts to make the campus more environmentally friendly

The Board of Directors will delegate to the BUSAC Environment Committee their approval responsibilities for the Green Levy up to an amount of \$1500. All other applications to use the Green Levy greater than an amount of \$1500 will be vetted by the Environment Committee which will then make an appropriate recommendation to the Board of Directors for approval or denial of the application. The Environment Committee must report all approved or denied requests for Green Levy funds up to \$1500 to the Board of Directors on at least a monthly basis.

### **Renewable/ Reusable Products**

BUSU will do its utmost to ensure that all products sold on its property are recyclable or 100% compostable unless:

- 1) BUSU has previously entered a contract with a company which requires them to sell certain products.



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- 2) BUSU is unable to financially support the sustainable product, or operates at a significant loss because of it.
- 3) BUSU or the students of Brock University are determined by the Board to be otherwise negatively affected by the product change.

All expense increase or revenue decrease caused by an endeavor by BUSU to swap current products with environmentally sustainable ones will be taken out of the green levy in accordance with its MOU unless:

- 1) The green levy will not support the endeavor
- 2) The green levy will be depleted by the funding
- 3) The Board determines use of the Levy is not necessary

BUSU shall provide an incentive for its membership to use reusable products at its businesses whenever possible. This may be done in the form of a discount, contests, or other promotional offers.

BUSU shall encourage all employees to use reusable containers and reduce the use of disposable containers.

### **Sustainability Audit / Report**

BUSU will develop and implement an audit of its impact on the environmental sustainability of Brock University. This audit may include but is not limited to the BUSU's waste management practices, water usage, and electricity usage.

BUSU will report all efforts made to improve the environmental sustainability of Brock University in a Sustainability Report presented to both the BUSU Board of Directors and the Brock University Students' Administrative Council at the end of the regular academic year.

### **Sustainable / Ethical Purchasing**

BUSU will ensure that it meets all the requirements set out by Fair Trade Canada to maintain the 'Fair Trade Campus' designation.

BUSU's businesses shall be encouraged to buy locally sourced, organic and/or fair trade products as much as possible.

### **Transportation**

BUSU shall encourage its members, and employees to use public transit or other more sustainable methods of transportation as much as possible.

BUSU shall try to provide discounted transit passes to its membership. This may be done in the form of a rebate.



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BUSU shall try to provide a car share, carpool or rideshare service to all members, and employees.

### **Waste Management**

BUSU will have a designated collection box available for students to drop off small electrical waste products unless proper electrical waste collection facilities already exist through Brock University. If a collection box is made, BUSU will ensure all contents are properly recycled at least two times per year.

BUSU will have at least one designated used cellphone collection bin with all collected cell phones going to Rainforest Connection. All associated fees to ship the collected cell phones will be taken out of the Green Levy.

BUSU shall donate any items that are no longer of use to the organization.