









We would like to thank all the great people who are part of the Camosun College community for their time and efforts in developing our Sustainability Plan, and for the thoughtful, proactive contributions made by our



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“Camosun” is a Lkwungen term (language of the Songhees and Esquimalt peoples) meaning *where different waters meet and are transformed*. Our name signifies the strong connection we have to this place, its history and its communities.

Sustainability is a corner post of Camosun College’s *Strategic Plan*. The goal is to provide leadership and support on key social, environmental, and economic issues impacting the college. Camosun’s four strategic corner posts are:

1. The Student Experience
2. An Engaged Community
3. Innovation and Creativity, and
4. Sustainability for the Environment & Society.


These strategic posts guide Camosun’s work to enhance and create life-changing learning opportunities for students. Across the College we collaborate on these complimentary priorities; our work reflects a shared commitment to our students and our broader community.



Sustainability is important to Camosun students, employees, across our organization, and the broader community. The *Sustainability Plan 2018 - 2021* identifies a three-year path towards a longer-term vision and aspirations. It builds on the efforts and dedication of a diverse team of students and employees across the College over many years.

This is Camosun's plan; it reflects the College's identity – who we are, what we value, and our vision for inspiring life-changing learning. The leadership on sustainability is in the context these strengths. The priorities and actions in this plan reflect an extensive consultation process (with a particular focus on student involvement), and discussions over the last year. Students are at the centre of everything Camosun does, and they are at the heart of this plan. Students place a high value on sustainability and are keen on challenging and motivating the college to continuously adapt and improve its approach.

Sustainability is embedded into the values, expectations and lifestyles of our students. As an institution, Camosun aspires to “walk the talk” through our operational and administrative practices and policies. More importantly, as a college, we will strive to educate, enable, and empower the leaders of tomorrow.



A simple dictionary definition of sustainability is the “capacity to endure.” It strives to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This requires a broader view beyond recycling and “being green.” A holistic definition of sustainability includes, like human and ecological health, diversity, social justice, and the consumption of resources.


Sustainability asks us to:

- strive to ensure we do not take or use more resources than what we need; and leave a healthy earth and resilient communities for future generations.
- fostering relationships, respect, and a deeper understanding of differences, problems, and solutions that lead to a better future.

Camosun developed this plan via a comprehensive consultation process that started in fall 2017 and lasted through to spring 2018. However, the college's sustainability work and commitment has spanned many more years than that. This is a brief timeline of sustainability at Camosun since 2012.








Through the Sustainability Plan Refresh process of 2017/18, Camosun solicited a wide array of feedback from our campus population through student engagement, face-to-face conversations, student and employee surveys, workshops and interviews. The Camosun College Student Society, Student Sustainability Director and the co-op student hired by Ancillary Services, provided immense support in communicating to students and were active, valued contributors in the entire process.

Throughout the consultation, students and employees expressed a desire for Camosun to take bold and proactive leadership on sustainability, and demonstrated a readiness to become more engaged themselves. We also heard Camosun positively influenced the understanding of



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Sustainability is a strategic corner-post for the college, and reflects Camosun's vision of inspiring life-changing learning. Sustainability supports our role in transformative education, in which learning in all its forms challenges the status quo - both institutionally and personally. Camosun's *Sustainability Plan* supports the college's mission to build a better future for our community with relevant, innovative and applied education.



## *Action Plans and Integrated Priorities*



College-wide workshops and action planning sessions focused on the following four sustainability priority areas. These sessions articulated long-term aspirations, key performance indicators, three-year goals and actions. Camosun will build upon work to date, collaborate across departments and schools, and engage students wherever possible.





In addition to the above, the college community identified the following priority areas as important to its overall sustainability approach. These priorities will be holistically integrated across the college, and sustainability actions will support and complement them wherever relevant.



## How we will do it – Students at the he

Student engagement and feedback has been critical to informing this plan, identifying the priority areas we will focus on, but also *how* we will approach these areas.

As it relates to the college's sustainability approach, students expressed a

- special events and activities
- integration with courses and applied learning
- sustainable campus operations (and awareness building to help students play their part)
- online information

These focus areas have been emphasized when determining actions and outcomes with sustainability priority area.

As Camosun implements the plan, the College will continue to work along with the Camosun College Students Society, clubs, classes and individuals to ensure the success of our work.

And ha is ho change happens.

One ges re. One person.

One moment a time”



# Where Are We Going?

Camosun will achieve the following with respect to energy and emissions by 2050:

- Greatly reduced its greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 2007 levels<sup>8</sup>.
- Its buildings model energy leadership and are powered by 100% renewable energy.
- Its students and staff are the future renewable energy experts of BC.

By the end of 2021, Camosun will have:

- A net-zero energy building.
- A 100% renewable energy portfolio.
- A clear energy strategy (i.e. how much is purchased from BC hydro, how is on-site renewable generated)

By the end 2021, Camosun will have:

1. Established a sustainability committee supported by an advisory board.
2. Established an energy savings fund where savings from reduced energy use can fund further sustainability initiatives.
3. Established a utility reporting in all buildings through smart meters for electrical, gas, water and hydro.
4. Developed and launched a program in renewable energy.
5. Developed a curriculum with a focus on interdisciplinary learning and sustainable energy.

<sup>8</sup> Consistent with international, federal, provincial and municipal commitments and directions. Included in this, the Paris Accord (an agreement reached at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) held by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)) sets a target to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

<sup>9</sup> Necessary to achieve the long-term aspirations. The Energy Plan will include metrics, as well as initiatives related to energy and water reduction, implementation of renewable energy, integration with learning, student engagement opportunities, and considerations for climate adaptation and resiliency.











## Food

*Modern industrial food production often has harmful environmental and social impacts. Institutions can use their food purchases to support their local economies; encourage safe, environmentally friendly and humane farming methods; and help eliminate unsafe working conditions and alleviate poverty for farmers. These actions help reduce environmental impacts, preserve regional farmland, improve local food security, and support fair and resilient food systems. Dining services can also support sustainable food systems by preventing food waste and diverting food materials from the waste stream, by making low impact dining options available, and by educating its customers about more sustainable options and practices.<sup>12</sup>*

### Where Are We today?

Camosun currently delivers food offerings in two ways: a contract with Aramark and through three academic programs.

-  delivers food services to both campuses. At Lansdowne, it operates the Campus Cafe and By the Books coffee shop. At Interurban, Aramark operates the Urban Diner, Java Express and the Trades Café. Aramark also provides a broad range of catering options and brings food trucks to both campuses from September to April.
- The  operates the Interurban Cafeteria. Students in Camosun's Professional Cook Training program prepare meals and provide on-campus catering. The Culinary Arts program has made a commitment to sustainability and to operating as a Living Lab.
-  operates the Dunlop House Restaurant at Lansdowne. The public restaurant features bistro style dining using locally sourced, organic, and sustainable offerings.
-  provides its students with practical, entry-level

- Camosun is regularly engaged in projects that contribute to sustainability in the community.
- The Camosun College Student Society runs a and provides food for different events in campus.
- Existing through the Camosun College Students' Society, Human Resources Healthy Together program and Fitness and Recreation help promote the importance of diet and nutrition to the college.

## Where are We Going?


Camosun will achieve the following with respect to food by 2030:

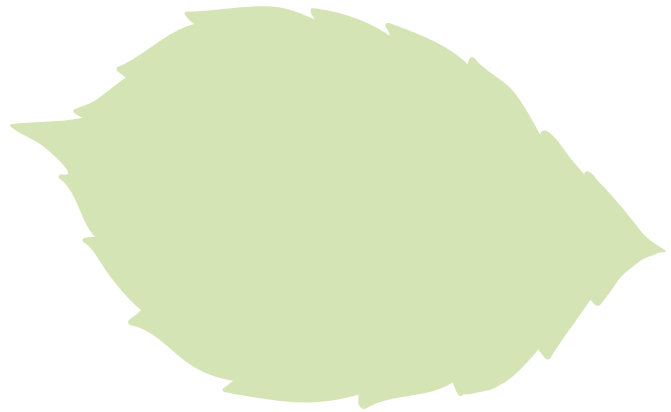
- exemplify and educate about sustainable food.
  - This includes the study and implementation of food technologies, along with traditional (indigenous) and resilient food models; sharing information about nutritious, low carbon, plant-based and affordable diets to empower people to make their own sustainable food choices.
- as much as possible.
  - The college will engage with local farms and growers to source a maximum amount of fresh

2. Increased awareness and engaged students on:

a) the  and

b) the availability and choices of 

3. Increased awareness and engaged students and employees to 





## Transportation

Transportation is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants that contribute to health problems such as heart and respiratory diseases and cancer. Due to disproportionate exposure, these health impacts are frequently more pronounced in low-income communities next to major transportation corridors. In addition, the extraction, production, and global distribution of fuels for transportation can damage environmentally and/or culturally significant ecosystems and may financially benefit hostile and/or oppressive governments. Institutions can positively impact human and ecological health and support local economies by modeling sustainable transportation systems.<sup>14</sup>

### Where Are We Today?

Camosun strives to provide convenient, environmentally responsible and affordable access to the College's campuses as guided by our Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan.

The Office of Sustainability, Transportation and Parking manages daily transportation operations at the college. This includes administering the College's TDM plan and parking. The most recent mode split count<sup>15</sup> (April 2018) showed that overall single occupancy vehicles (SOV) account for 48% of arrivals on campus. However, there was a significant difference in mode split between the two campuses in that while transit and cycle use were similar between campuses, SOV use was much higher at Interurban and walking and transit was more common at Lansdowne.

### Transportation Demand Management

- Transportation Demand Management has been a focused effort at the college since 2009. The College's 2018 *Transportation Demand Management Plan* ("TDM Plan") will articulate transportation goals and objectives consistent with the College's over-arching organizational and sustainability goals.
- Student receive a *Transit Pass* as a part of their student levies. This pass is valid on any BC Transit busses in the region.
- The *Interurban Shuttle* is a pilot shuttle service between Interurban and Lansdowne campuses, free for students and employees.
- Camosun offers *Bicycle Parking* for bicycle commuters.
- Camosun has a relatively *low carbon footprint* with very little contribution to the college's overall greenhouse

## Where Are We Going?

Camosun will achieve the following with respect to Transportation by 2030:

- Increased use of active transportation.
- Reduced vehicle miles travelled through a variety of solutions (e.g. pricing structures, carpool matching and apps, etc.).
- Camosun students are involved in transportation planning through applied learning opportunities.


- Track transportation metrics, including % of people using active transportation, transit, and single occupancy vehicles
- Monitor transportation trends (via biannual transportation surveys)

By 2021, Camosun will have a refreshed TDM plan that includes<sup>17</sup>:

1. A comprehensive audit of all transportation use, infrastructure and policies at Camosun.
2. Improved transit service to Camosun through enhanced transit partnerships.
3. A regular program to encourage and support active transportation to students and employees.

<sup>16</sup> Active transportation refers to any form of human-powered transportation – walking, cycling, using a wheelchair, in-line skating or skateboarding. There are many ways to engage in active transportation, whether it is walking to the bus stop, or cycling to school/work. Camosun considers transit an active mode of transportation because of the walking component.

<sup>17</sup> The development of the TDM is underway and will integrate sustainability three-year goals as inputs. Since they are integrated, the Sustainability Plan will be updated with the final results of the TDM.



Camosun's Strategic Plan identifies four distinct but mutually supporting corner posts – The Student Experience, Supporting People in an Engaged Community, Creativity & Innovation, and Sustainability for the Environment & Society.

Through the sustainability consultation, the college community identified Indigenization; Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; and Wellness as sustainability priorities. These existing focus areas and values are holistically integrated across the college. They have a fundamental connection to sustainability; our actions will support and complement them wherever relevant.





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## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

*In order to build a sustainable society, diverse groups will need to be able to come together and work collaboratively to address sustainability challenges . . . [A] proactive approach to promoting a culture of inclusiveness [is] an important component of creating an equitable society. Higher education opens doors to opportunities that can help create a more equitable world, and those doors must be open through affordable programs accessible to all regardless of race, gender, religion, socio-economic status and other differences. In addition, a diverse student body, faculty, and staff provide rich*



## Wellness

*Health promoting universities and colleges infuse health into everyday operations, business practices and academic mandates. By doing so, health promoting universities and colleges enhance the success of our institutions; create campus cultures of compassion, well-being, equity and social justice; improve the health of the people who live, learn, work, play and love on our campuses; and strengthen the ecological, social and economic sustainability of our communities and wider society.<sup>20</sup>*

### Where Are We Today?

At Camosun, the well-being of students and employees is fundamental to our success. The well-being of people, their environment and the planet are interconnected. Wherever we come from, each of us depends on the Earth's life supporting ecosystems that provide oxygen, clean water, food, a liveable climate, beauty, spiritual experiences, livelihoods and places to recreate, connect with each other and make our homes. Wellness is multi-dimensional.

Camosun is working to promote physical, mental and social well-being through a variety of efforts and channels including:

- Health education and academic programming that advance human health and wellness (e.g. Programs in the family of Nursing, Sport & Exercise Education, Dental, Indigenous Family Support, etc.)
- Student wellness initiatives which include:
  - Student Society Student Wellness and Access Collective which acts as an advocate for those affected by both physical and mental health concerns
  - The Camosun International Peer Connections Program, which facilitates connection, support and transitional adjustment for international students.
  - “Healthy Minds and Healthy Campuses” initiative, a partnership with the student society and Camosun counsellors that targets the improvement of mental health for students.
  - The Camosun *Student Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy*

- Operational efforts to create healthy indoor and outdoor environments, such as clean air, water, non-toxic cleaners, restricted use of pesticides and creating physical spaces for people to connect with each other and nature, reducing stress and promoting relationship buildings.
- The creation and use of the Na'tsa'maht Gathering Place by the Eyá Sq'lewen Centre for Indigenous Education & Community Connections.
- Constructing the new Centre for Health and Wellness, dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the people in the south island region. It supports a focus on interdisciplinary, Indigenous, and holistic education and practice for students, employees and community members together.
- Creativity and Innovation Project grants that awarded with a focus on wellness including the Farmers

