

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

PURPOSE

To outline Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE's commitment to integrating sustainability into its practices and services.

SCOPE

The policy applies to all activities of the Institute, its staff and students and members of the community who utilise or service its campuses, such as visitors and contractors.

POLICY

Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE is striving to become an active learning organisation built on sustainability principles and practice. Sustainability aims to balance environmental protection, social justice, economic well-being and diversity. Sustainability is a shared responsibility, requiring action and participation from all Institute leaders, staff and students.

Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE is committed to improving the sustainability performance of the organisation through embedding a culture of sustainability, managing our operations to minimise environmental and social impacts and enabling the integration of sustainability principles and practices into teaching, learning and community engagement.

The Institute will meet this commitment by:

- embedding sustainability into policy, governance and formal structures (including objectives and targets)
- integrating sustainability across product lines and offering new skills for sustainability courses
- operating our campuses sustainably and modelling best practice in projects and initiatives
- enabling Institute staff to integrate sustainability into their educational or operational practices through capability development
- establishing systems to benchmark, monitor and report on continuous improvements in sustainability performance
- increasing staff participation in and ownership of the change towards sustainability
- producing graduates who are change agents, sustainability literate and possess skills for sustainability
- maintaining financial sustainability by achieving efficiencies in operational practices (building management, water, energy, resources) and growing commercial revenue
- developing and strengthening regional, industry, education and community partnerships that address sustainable development
- complying with applicable laws and aspiring to higher standards within the institute

Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE has a vital role to play in building the sustainability literacy of students and staff. Sustainability literacy can provide individuals with skills in *ecological intelligence*, to understand the impact of actions on the ecosystems which support life, *systems thinking*, to gain a holistic picture of inputs, outputs and waste to maximise reuse and recycling, *appropriate technology* and *appropriate design* to minimise the adverse impacts of the technologies employed, and *cultural literacy* to adapt solutions to the prevailing culture.

Responsibility

The Institute Director or nominee of the Institute Director will have responsibility for ensuring the policy is implemented. The Institute Executive Team and Sustainability Coordinator will have responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the Policy.

Legislative and Policy Context**Policy and strategies**

National VET Sector Sustainability Policy & Action Plan

Living Sustainably: The Australian Government's National Action Plan for Education for Sustainability

Shades of Green: The Queensland VET Sector Sustainability Policy and Action Plan (Draft)

ClimateQ: toward a greener Queensland

Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

Department of Education and Training Strategic Plan 2009-2013

EarthSmart: Environmental Sustainability Strategic Plan 2008-2013

Various Federal and State Government Acts and Policies including *Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000; Environmental Protection Act 1994; DETA Waste Management Strategic Plan 2002; QFleet ClimateSmart Action Plan 2007-2010; Environmental Protection Act 1970; NGERs Act; OTTE Energy Management Reporting; Financial Management Act 1994; Annual Reporting Requirements, Report on Environmental Performance.*

National Green Skills Agreement

Organisation

National VET Sector Sustainability Action Group
Ministerial Council for Vocational and Technical Education

Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Department of Education & Training

Queensland Government Department of Climate Change and Sustainability

Queensland Government

Department of Education & Training

Department of Education & Training

Various

Ministerial Council on Training, Education & Employment

Implementation

The Sustainability Policy will be implemented and communicated in the following ways:

- Presentations to the Institute Leadership Team and staff.
- Email to all staff and students.
- Meetings and presentations to key stakeholders.
- Section on Sustainability on Institute website.
- Policies and Procedures section on intranet.
- Printed policy prominently displayed across the Institute.

Acknowledgements

Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE acknowledges the Sustainability Policies of the University of Ballarat and Macquarie University which were referenced in the preparation of this document. The Institute also acknowledges the online Handbook of Sustainability Literacy (<http://www.sustainability-literacy.org/>) which provided information on sustainability literacy.

The policy was developed with funding provided by the Australian Government, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

REFERENCES

All Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE policies will be read in conjunction with this Policy. Sustainability Strategy

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR

Policy Author:	Sustainability Coordinator
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