

Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Sustainability Policy

The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) understands the impact of our collective landholdings and campus activities to the natural environment, thus we seek to develop a sustainability foundation that sets the framework for our Institutions of Higher Learning to utilize in the development of their individual policies.

Each institution shall develop a campus sustainability policy and implementation procedures. The sustainability policy and procedures should address and encourage sustainability in operations, grounds, materials, and transportation.

- A. The System Energy Management Council is created and shall include representatives from each institution and be representative of students, faculty, staff, administration, and energy management professional and technical staff. The purpose of the council shall be to guide the implementation of energy management and conservation efforts for the IHL System.
- B. Each institution shall create an Energy Management Committee to guide the implementation of energy management and conservation efforts for the institution.
- C. A procurement program that considers the effect of the product on the environment must be developed. Sustainable purchases must consider *Energy Star*® appliances, green seal chemicals, and other environmentally-sound items found on state contract, as well as other sources. Contracts for new construction and/or major repair and renovations must include a sustainable purchase requirement for those items included in the contract for purchase and installation.
- D. All new construction and/or major repair and renovation of existing facilities must be designed to meet energy-efficient goals which exceed ASHRAE 90.1 by 30%, when determined cost effective.
- E. All new construction and/or major repair and renovations of existing facilities must include the requirement for the development and approval of an energy model during the early design stages. The design professional must certify that the model meets the Institutions of Higher Learning's energy program and at the conclusion of the construction and/or renovation (prior to final acceptance) the design professional must certify that the facility has been constructed as designed and modeled.
- F. Renovation of historically significant buildings should meet or exceed ASHRAE 90.1 standards where appropriate for the scope of work and determined cost effective.
- G. No less than 25% of the expected annual recurring savings from completed energy efficiency projects shall be set aside each year in the appropriate fund and used to finance future energy efficiency projects. If the annual recurring savings are dedicated to the repayment of debt, then these funds shall be set aside in the first year after such debt is retired.

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- H. Water efficiency measures, with the goal of reduction of water use on campus and within all facilities, must be a prime goal.
- I. All new construction and/or major repair and renovations of existing facilities must address and consider sound design techniques that maximize wind, solar, aspect, shading and other design expressions embracing our climatic realities. The design criteria must encourage overhangs, natural day lighting, and other passive design techniques and should not be confused with renewable energy.
- J. All new landscape construction, major repair and renovations of landscapes, and any site work in general must consider and encourage the use of resource-efficient plants including native plant palettes, decreasing the use of herbicides and pesticides when possible, while increasing tree canopy through reforestation and by potable water irrigation reductions.
- K. All new landscape construction, major repair and renovations of landscapes, and any site work in general must include the requirement that protects and enhances water quality through innovative storm water best management practices.
- L. A comprehensive waste-minimization program must be developed. The program should address a comprehensive campus wide recycling program that considers such things as the recycling construction spoils/wastes from demolition and construction projects, garbage collection and disposal contracts, disposals of used equipment, furniture disposal, chemical waste, electronic waste, composting, trash, etc.
- M. Where feasible a campus public transit program serving faculty, staff and students should be developed. The program should consider and encourage transit options into off-campus areas where required.
- N. All new streets or campus street renovations should be developed to encourage walking, bikes, and other non carbon producing emission transportation options.
- O. A car share program should be developed where feasible to encourage car-pooling activities. This program should be developed in partnership with adjacent municipalities, community colleges, and high schools, etc., where appropriate and feasible.