

## Terms of Reference

Nov 2021

### *Committee Name/Type*

- *Climate Emergency Action Committee (Standing)*

### *Members*

Two co-chairs or a chair and co-chair, and a secretary-treasurer will be appointed by volunteering, and by vote if necessary, of sitting members, to serve for 1 year. We will have a minimum of 5 members and a maximum of 12 members.

Chair(s) will schedule regular meetings and report to the EC and table officers.

Secretary-Treasurer will take meeting notes.

Members can volunteer to join; ideally we would like to have at least one representative from each Faculty/area of the DCFA.

We will also invite other interested members of the DC community to participate.

We will also invite one non-voting student member, selected by the DSU, to sit on our committee.

All regularly participating members will have a vote.

### *Purpose/Scope/Jursidiction*

The DCFA Climate Emergency Action Committee was created because post-secondary institutions are recognizing the urgency of the climate emergency, as outlined by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#). This report states we have only until 2030 to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to keep the Earth within 1.5 °C of warming.

Our purpose is:

- to advocate for a comprehensive climate action policy at Douglas College that embraces the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- to advocate for the creation and pursuit of concrete “Social and Environmental Objectives,” as outlined in Theme 3 of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan
- to advocate for the creation of courses, certificates, programmes, and degrees that address climate change and ecological concerns
- to offer the DSU support in creating and developing climate change groups and initiatives
- to advocate for a comprehensive Sustainability Policy, currently being drawn up by the Sustainability Policy Committee, that embraces the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#), and to gather feedback from the wider Faculty on this draft
- to liaise with FPSE’s Climate Action Standing Committee to ensure that the DCFA implements best sustainability practices in line with FPSE.
- to liaise with Administrative staff and the wider college community to offer our support in pursuit of implementing best practices at the college

## Goals/Outcomes/Objectives

Our goals are:

### SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

- provide substantive feedback to the Sustainability Committee before a draft is circulated to the college community on DC Connect
- solicit feedback from the college community once the draft is circulated and ensure that faculty concerns are incorporated into the new policy, with an especial focus on pedagogy and community outreach
- campaign for a more accurate carbon accounting of the college, including international travel, commuting, photocopiers, cafeteria food, in addition to HVAC
- lobby the college to create a “Sustainability and/or Climate Hub” on its website (see Camosun College and UBC) which would collect climate change and ecological resources, including lists of current course offerings in these areas at the college
- advocate for more transparency regarding the college’s investment in fossil fuels
- investigate the possibility of the college enrolling in an evaluative program such as AASHE: [www.stars.aashe.org](http://www.stars.aashe.org)

### STRATEGIC PLAN

- advocate for the the creation and pursuit of concrete “Social and Environmental Objectives,” as outlined in Theme 3 of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan
- advocate for these specific objectives to be linked to the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- advocate for a sustainability position (coordinator) at the college
- advocate for an environmental certificate that students can receive on their transcript (e.g. environmental stewardship)

### DCFA

- lobby the College/SMT to declare a climate emergency
- consult with the DCFA Bargaining Committee regarding climate friendly initiatives in the next bargaining round, such as the option for Faculty to opt for transit passes over free parking benefits

### FPSE Ad Hoc Climatic Committee

- ensure that the DCFA implements FPSE’s best practice recommendations

### ADVOCACY/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **continue to organize the climate emergency speaker series on a yearly basis**
- liaise with relevant unions associated with other workers at the college (CUPE, BCGEU)

## Meetings

The Climate Committee will meet once a month, virtually or in person, depending upon circumstances, and as necessary in response to the Sustainability Committee or other urgent concerns. We will use TEAMS for sharing documents and for our monthly meetings, which will take place on the first Friday meeting block.

## Resources and Budget

The Climate Committee will request **a minimum of** \$1500. from the DCFA for a budget to support a Climate Emergency speaker series and forums/dialogues for the college community as well as the community at large.

## Governance

The committee will aim for consensus on all decisions; where consensus is not possible, decisions will be reached by majority vote. Quorum consists of 50% of total members attending the meeting.

***Review***

As this is a new committee, we will review the ToR once a year; next review date: 18 nov 2022.

***Reporting***

The chair will report to the EC and table officers after our first meeting. We will offer further communications with the membership/DCFA as required.