

# SBME Sustainability Committee: Terms of Reference

## I. Purpose

The SBME Sustainability Committee has a mandate of elevating and advancing ideas, policies, and practices to transform sustainability advocacy into action. The Committee will identify, advise, assist, and make recommendations on the ethical, environmental, and social practices taking place within the School. In doing so, the Committee will help to integrate and enhance sustainability themes into daily operations across the School, and engage the SBME community in climate change awareness and initiatives.

## II. Background

In December 2019, UBC declared a [global climate emergency](#). UBC had previously outlined a [20-year sustainability strategy](#), which has seen considerable progress since its inception, and UBC continues to build on past successes to work towards our overall goal of becoming 100% carbon neutral by 2050. To this end, UBC approaches sustainability as a societal conversation about the choices we make as individuals and as communities. By taking actions to inform our understanding of the ecological, social, economical, and ethical consequences of our everyday actions, we can strengthen our commitment towards climate action and social responsibility.

SBME is active on the UBC campus in teaching, learning, research, and operations. We represent a community with a diverse footprint and ample opportunity for optimizing green efficiency. The SBME Sustainability Committee is committed to demonstrating leadership, advocacy, and engagement in climate justice within the many roles that our community participates in on the UBC campus.

## III. Objectives

The SBME Sustainability Committee shall prioritize the following goals:

- Ensure our sustainability projects align with the [UBC Climate Action Plan](#).
- Integrate opportunities to learn about and enact sustainability principles within the academic curriculum, in learning and teaching spaces, and in day-to-day operations.
- Promote opportunities to engage SBME community members in team-based sustainability endeavours.
- Implement strategies to:
  - reduce energy consumption, water, waste, and greenhouse gas emissions;
  - promote sustainable food, recycling, and purchasing; and

- encourage greener modes of transportation to and from campus.
- Gather data on SBME operations to monitor progress on sustainability initiatives and policies.

#### **IV. Membership**

The SBME Sustainability Committee shall be comprised of faculty, staff, and student representatives. Committee membership is a minimum of a two-year appointment and will aim to have at least two representatives of the following communities within the School:

- Faculty (including Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Associates)
- Staff (administrative and research)
- Graduate students
- Undergraduate students

The Committee will select one chair and one alternate chair from within the group.

#### **V. Responsibilities**

- The committee shall meet every two months virtually or in person (determined prior to each meeting date).
- Special meetings, if required, shall be held at the call of the chair.
- Committee members shall:
  - Recommend and participate in the development of policies and procedures to support sustainability at the School.
  - Review existing SBME policies regularly to improve workflow and minimize the School's carbon footprint.
  - Promote the [UBC Climate Action Plan](#) and ensure that SBME contributes towards our institutional sustainability goals
- The committee can make recommendations to other SBME committees to support sustainability.
- A committee member shall report its activities at periodic SBME faculty meetings, to the SBME Leadership Team, and via the School's various newsletters.

#### **VI. Amendments and review**

These Terms of Reference may be amended by vote of the SBME Sustainability Committee. Amendments shall be noted in the meeting minutes.

The Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually:

- Initial review date: June 2021
- Review at first meeting: June 2021
- Next review date: June 2022