

Statement on Sustainability  
Calvin College

progress can be made in many other areas. It is the objective of the Environmental Stewardship Committee that this statement will enhance our efforts, in all we say and do, wherever we may be, to further the Kingdom of God on earth.

### **Intent**

This statement is intended to challenge all of us to lead lives of meaning and purpose in relationship to the physical world, lives that promote healing and reconciliation among all elements of the creation. This statement challenges us to move forward and presents many examples and starting points for education and action. We recognize not everything can be done at once, and that although the guidelines are enduring, some of these examples and suggestions will be altered or deleted, and additional suggestions may be added. We also recognize that tensions may exist between some listed goals, yet we offer this document to assist us all to move closer to the coming shalom.

Implementation

## GUIDELINES

### **1. Teaching and Research**

Examples and suggestions that could be studied and analyzed for education and action include:

- Develop a Biblical understanding of stewardship as it relates to sustainability activities both in our personal and institutional lives.
- Strengthen and prioritize environmental studies and research.
- Teach energy and environmental literacy to all students.





Create residential water conservation plans with Student Leaders.  
Pursue water conservation technologies.  
Protect ground water and storm run-off by minimizing use of salt for ice-melting.  
Use drought-resistant plantings and minimize irrigation.

## **6. Hazardous Materials**

The college acknowledges the importance of the safe management of ignitable, corrosive, reactive and toxic materials. We are committed to the protection of human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste. We will explore ways to reduce the amount of hazardous materials generated and ensure that waste management is environmentally sound. Examples and suggestions that could be studied and analyzed for education and action include:

Meet or exceed legal “haz mat” handling, collection, disposal, and tracking requirements  
Educate campus hazardous waste generators about minimization and proper disposal techniques.  
Investigate new concepts for reducing and reusing hazardous materials.  
Undertake toxic use reduction and pollution prevention planning.

Maximize housing options on campus to encourage students living on campus and not driving to classes.

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## **10. Building Construction: New and Renovation**

"The built environment has a profound impact on our natural environment, economy, health and productivity. In the United States, (construction of) buildings account for 36% of total energy use, 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, 30% of raw materials use, 30% of waste

## **12. Investment Policies**

The goal of socially conscious investing by individual shareholders is investment in companies that operate ethically, provide social benefits, and are sensitive to the environment. Because Calvin College currently invests in “funds of funds” rather than picking individual stocks, we have limited opportunities to exert shareholder influence on corporations. That notwithstanding, the college should not neglect opportunities to serve as an “agent of shalom” in evaluating investment options. Examples and suggestions that could be studied and analyzed for education and action include:

Establish environmental criteria for financial investments.

Use stockholder influence to encourage environmentally responsible business practices.

## **13. Outreach.**





The members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee are:

Phil Beezhold	<a href="mailto:pdb2@calvin.edu">pdb2@calvin.edu</a>	Director, Physical Plant
Henry De Vries	<a href="mailto:hdevries@calvin.edu">hdevries@calvin.edu</a>	VP Administration
Frank Gorman		