PROPOSED SUSTAINABILITY POLICY
OF THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-ILIGAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Explanatory Note

By taking an active and proactive role in sustainability leadership, Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) works to fulfill its commitment to the holistic development of individuals and society, and to the realization of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1]

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a *"shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future"[2]*. It envisions a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality, and non-discrimination. These goals and its 169 associated targets transcend national boundaries, fostering multilateral engagement across governments, civil society, businesses, and academia. The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by 2030.

As pivotal stakeholders, academic institutions play a critical role in furthering sustainable development, fostering innovation, raising awareness, and underscoring a shared commitment, and intergenerational responsibility in tackling global challenges. The SDGs provide an integrated framework to demonstrate how universities contribute to global and local well-being substantiating the university's influence, impact, and relevance. Furthermore, the SDGs also provide opportunities for collaboration among individuals as global citizens wanting to make meaningful contributions to society and the environment, thus contributing to holistic and lifelong education.

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY OF THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-ILIGAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

ARTICLE I
TITLE

This Policy shall be known as the *Sustainability Policy of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT)*. For brevity, it shall be referred to as *Sustainability Policy*, hereafter.

ARTICLE II
SCOPE

This policy applies to all students, faculty, and staff across academic practices, facilities, and operations at Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology. This shall also cover outsourced service providers operating on behalf of MSU-IIT within or outside its campuses; and external parties and service providers operating within MSU-IIT premises such as canteen concessionaires and other concessionaires during special events such as, but not limited to, Tabo sa IIT, Palakasan, etc.

ARTICLE III
PURPOSE

This policy aims to:

1.1 Reaffirm MSU-IIT's commitment to advancing sustainability principles and practices across all areas of the University; and
1.2 Serve as a guide that directs the University's actions, decisions, and initiatives towards fostering a holistic culture of sustainability.

ARTICLE IV
DEFINITION

Sustainability is defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" [3] and recognizes the indigenous knowledge systems [4] as a resource for sustainable practices and development.

ARTICLE V
SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

The Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology is committed to providing quality education for the sustainable development of the nation and the global community. It envisions a sustainable campus that fosters a culture of social responsibility, environmental stewardship, gender sensitivity, economic resilience, and the promotion of peace and development, inspiring positive and sustainable change within the university community and the broader society. Hence, it shall strive to

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[3] https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/sustainability
[4] http://web.mnstate.edu/robertsb/307/Indigenous_Knowledge.pdf

integrate sustainability principles into all aspects of its operations, academics, research, and community engagement, cultivating a sustainable future for both present and upcoming generations.

The University shall observe the following principles as it strives to contribute to the SDGs.

Section 1. Local Global Perspective. MSU-IIT is conscious that its activities have an impact beyond the borders of the University because of its innate connections to the local, national, and international communities. The University is dedicated to changing all aspects of the take-make-waste system, including resource management, product creation and consumption, and material disposal. It recognizes that through this, the MSU-IIT community can create a thriving circular economy that extends natural resource use as opposed to a throw-away linear economy that can cause environmental degradation and social imbalance.

Section 2. Whole Systems Approach. Long-term economic, social, and environmental factors are considered during the University's strategic decision-making processes to improve sustainability outcomes. The University recognizes that the land, climate, oceans, and water are all part of one Earth life-support system in which humans are intimately embedded. Changes in one affect changes in all. The University understands that a thorough grasp of cultural context and respect for cultures that affect local, national, and regional contexts are inherently necessary to achieve the SDGs. This necessitates consideration of what success in achieving a certain SDG implies in a local or regional context before deciding on an implementation approach. The University also seeks to capture synergies across goals to boost overall impact and effective resource use. It is likewise imperative to understand that the goals to achieve and their synergies are set within the backdrop of what the University can do and cannot do. It can start small and build up as our resources and expertise expand.

Section 3. Shared Accountability. The sustainability performance and results of the university community are the responsibility of all its members. This ensures that all university stakeholders operate under common standards of performance, fostering appreciation and satisfaction, and elevates respect for team commitments to meeting deadlines and delivering on expectations. This also includes establishing the means for team members to challenge and support one another when individual performance falters. The MSU-IIT community also embraces dialogue within the organization, and cross-functionally, to overcome obstacles and accelerate the implementation of our sustainability initiatives.

Section 4. Inclusion and Participation. To enable all stakeholders to actively participate in the entire process of achieving sustainability, MSU-IIT ensures comprehensive and effective inclusion and involvement. This includes creating safe spaces, removing obstacles to enable all stakeholders, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, status, gender, or other factors, to meaningfully engage in all opportunities on an equal footing, fostering a culture of respect and a sense of belonging within the university community. This acknowledges that participation infrastructures that bring agencies and community members together for developing cooperative action and lasting trustworthy relationships between and within communities, professionals, and organizations, are essential for ongoing engagement, co-creation, and participative decision-making for sustainability.

Section 5. Transparency. MSU-IIT openly communicates actions and progress and involves students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community in decision-making processes relating to the sustainability outcomes of its activities.

Section 6. Commitment to Continuous Improvement. MSU-IIT works to improve sustainable performance over time in terms of the integrity of the environment, financial viability, social equity, and diversity. It engages with stakeholders in the move toward more sustainable practices. It also

ARTICLE VII
GUIDELINES ON SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

f. Implement greenhouse gas emission reduction programs,
g.

c. Adopt and implement policies on non-discrimination of transgenders, protecting those reporting discrimination, non-discriminatory admission of students, and recruitment and employment discrimination,

d. Provide disaggregated data on the university community by marginalized group, sex, gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, cultural beliefs, and socio-economic status to help ensure meaningful inclusion of vulnerable groups in the whole process of policymaking; all reports of the university must have disaggregated data,

e. Make available on the website the University Demographic Profile in accordance with the Data Privacy Law, and

f. Ensure representation and active participation of stakeholders who are underrepresented and with disabilities and special needs in relevant University steering committees, associations, and organizations to promote awareness of sustainability issues and determine how these can be addressed.

Section 3. Heritage and Indigenous Knowledge (SDG 4, 8, 11). MSU-IIT shall Identify and conserve the cultural and natural heritage of the University, including properties, buildings, landscapes, traditions, and knowledge, taking their intrinsic value and fragility into account. Specifically, the University shalliefs, and socio

Section 3. Research and Extension Services (SDG 4, 10, 16, 17). MSU-IIT is committed to assisting communities, businesses, governments, and non-profit organizations to develop in sustainable ways anchored on the WE CARE Framework. Specifically, the University shall:

a. Support the efforts of integrating sustainability into the community, and research initiatives that expand the understanding and practice of sustainability,
b. Promote interdisciplinary research that addresses sustainable development challenges,
c. Encourage involvement of key stakeholders such as, but not limited to, employees, customers, suppliers, and local communities, in the sustainability planning process,
d. Organize workshops, webinars, and community events to foster discussions about the SDGs,
e. Abide by policies and legislations that adequately protect indigenous communities from misappropriation of indigenous traditional knowledge and recognition of indigenous peoples as equal stakeholders and the legitimate holders of their knowledge, and
f. Adhere to ethical principles when doing research and community work.

ARTICLE X
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition. There shall be a Sustainability Committee responsible for implementing this policy and monitoring the progress of the implementation. The members composing the Sustainability Committee shall be designated by the Chancellor.

Section 2. Functions. The Sustainability Committee shall regularly report on sustainability initiatives, progress, and outcomes to stakeholders and the public. Specifically, it shall perform the following functions:

a. Sustainability Committee

a.1 Oversee the overall implementation of this policy,
a.2 Recommend to the Chancellor programs, activities, and projects that will enable the University to achieve its sustainability goals and targets,
a.3 Recommend implementing rules and guidelines on provisions in this policy that do not specifically outline the corresponding implementation mechanism; otherwise, provisions of this policy shall be implemented as stipulated; provided, that any implementing rules and guidelines shall be covered by a memorandum,
a.4 Ensure that sustainability indicators are established to enable accountability, to communicate specific goals, and to monitor and report progress,
a.5 Establish systems to monitor and measure our environmental performance, and
a.6 Ensure that the University reports annually to its community on progress toward achieving its sustainability goals through a University Sustainability Report.

b. Secretariat

b.1 In coordination with the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Planning and Development and/or the Office of Institutional Planning and Development Services, facilitate the crafting of and any activity to update the MSU-IIT Sustainability Roadmap and corresponding action plans in support of this policy,
b.2 Ensure that all relevant stakeholders are involved in any university-wide Sustainability-related planning activity,

b.3   Ensure periodic monitoring and reporting of and regularly update a sustainability plan with specific goals and objectives,

b.4   Gather and submit data needed for the University's participation in any sustainability-related university ranking bodies (e.g., THE Impact Rankings, QS Sustainability Rankings, UI GreenMetrics),

b.5   Craft and endorse guidelines and mechanisms to ensure efficient and effective compilation of data to determine achievement of sustainability performance indicators set in the MSU-IIT Sustainability Roadmap, and

b.6   In coordination with the Office of Public Information, maintain and update the MSU-IIT Sustainability website.

ARTICLE XI
MONITORING AND REPORTING

Section 1. There shall be a semi-annual monitoring and assessment of the achievement of sustainability targets for the periods January to June and July to December of every year, following the principle of continuous improvement.

Section 2. The MSU-

Section 4. Effectivity Clause. This policy shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Board of Regents.