

ACTION GUIDE

ORGANIC CAMPUS



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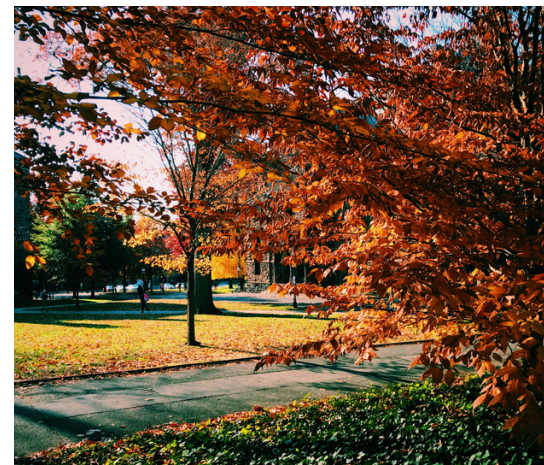
1.0 ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Organic Campus program is designed to foster student engagement by educating and advocating for increased organic options on campus through established campus procurement planning and policies.

The Steering Committee commits to educating about organic on their website and adopting procurement policies to ensure more organic is available at their institution. Steering committees prepare on-campus educational events, and ensure organic education materials are prominently displayed in food service environments to enrich their sustainability stewardship.

Organic Status

- Products making an organic claim must be certified to the Canada Organic Regime or a provincial organic regulation (BC, AB, MB, QC, NS, NB) or adhere to the terms of an equivalency arrangement (USA, EU, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Japan, Taiwan, UK).
- Only products with 95% and higher content are allowed to use the Canada Organic Logo (or logo of equivalency trade partner). Products must contain 70%-94% content of organic ingredients can make an organic claim.
- Products that are certified to provincial organic regulations may only be sold in the province in which they are regulated and regional organic logos (BC, QC) can only be used on products with 95% content and higher.



2.0 ORGANIC CAMPUS

The Organic Campus Program recognizes the colleges, universities and Cégeps demonstrating a strong commitment to organic. Youth-engaged Organic Campus groups help support, strengthen, and advocate for organic across Canada.

2.1 WHY ORGANIC?

Organic is a holistic way of producing products, protecting the earth by caring for the soil, water, animals, and air. Organic cares about all actors in the system, focusing on accountability, traceability, and integrity throughout the entire supply chain.

The Canadian Organic Standards are a detailed set of principles, guidelines, and permitted substances that are used in the organic certification process.

2.2 WHY CAMPUSES?

The Organic Campus program allows campuses to meet their corporate social responsibility and goals of sustainability. Becoming an Organic Campus ensures students and administration play a role and have a voice in diverse and sustainable food options. As well, provide opportunities to students and campus administration to get involved with organic and advocate for organic products, practices, principles, and agriculture.



2.3 ABOUT ORGANIC

Organic labelling



Canada Organic



US Organic



EU Organic

Multi-ingredient products that contain 95% or more organic ingredients may be labelled as organic and may display the Canada Organic logo.

The Canada Organic claim and logo can be used on products that are sold within and outside of provincial and international borders. Due to equivalency arrangements with the USDA National Organic Program and the European Union's Organic Program, either logo may also be used as valid certification, as long as the organic certificate outlines clearly that "The Terms of the Organic Equivalency Arrangement between Canada and US/EU have been met". It is important to double check as without this additional statement, the products are not compliant with Canadian Organic Regulations.



Québec Organic



BC Organic

As the Quebec and British Columbian governments created Organic Provincial Regulations prior to the 2009 publication of the Federal Canada Organic Regulations, each of these regions has their own logo that can only be used to market organic products on within their provincial boundaries. Products only certified to provincial organic regulations may not be sold to other provinces.

For products such as cannabis, pet food, natural health supplements, these products may be voluntarily certified to an organic certification body standards but do not fall under the scope of the Canadian organic regulations and cannot bear the Canada Organic Logo. Textiles, and bodycare/cosmetics do not fall under the scope of the Canada Organic Regulations yet there are clear voluntary standards that are reputable in order to know that the organic claim is valid.



If looking for organic textiles, look for the Global Organic Textile Standard. [Learn more info](#)



COSMOS
ORGANIC



COSMOS
ORGANIC

If looking for organic certified cosmetics and body care, products can be voluntarily certified to organic certifiers private standards. The most common programs for organic cosmetics to look for are [here](#) or the COSMOS standard for cosmetics and body care. Learn more [here](#).

How to source organic products

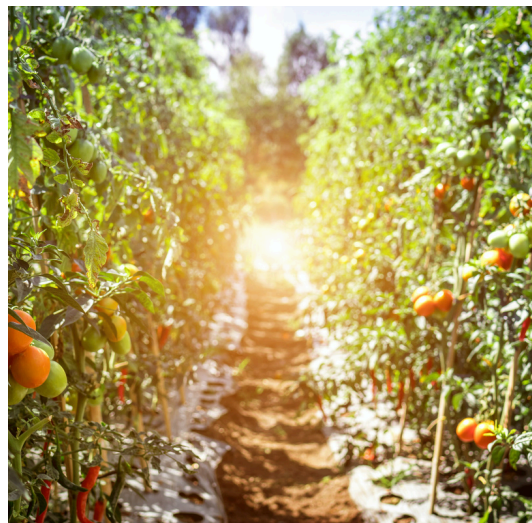
When applying for organic campus designation, COTA is your sourcing partner. COTA ensures campuses have access to resources that allow easy access to organic products, retailers, distributors and more!

As a part of the program, COTA will work closely with campuses to ensure campuses have the opportunity to find products and producers nearest them to support local organic.

COTA has a directory available to find products, retailers, distributors, producers, inputs, and manufacturers with ease!

All you have to do is go to our [website](#)

From there you can input your information and we will get back to you when our directory is up and running.



3.0 REQUIREMENTS



The baseline requirements for Organic Campus are listed below. More details regarding silver and gold requirements can be found in the Organic Campus Requirements document that outlines each tier in depth.

3.1 ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Steering committee which consists of volunteers and campus staff

- 1 top-level university/college staff such as the Vice President, Sustainability Office, Procurement, or another delegated department
- 1 Steering Committee member must participate in Organic Summit and/or Organic Month events
- Receive Organic Orientation and training from Canada Organic Trade Association
- Submit Organic Campus Purchasing Report
- Meet with Campus Administration to understand their supplier options
- Annually report the status of organic requirements to the Canada Organic Trade Association
- Steering Committee members must include student engagement in Organic Campus activations.
- Minimum 2 meetings per year

*Individuals on the Steering Committee may fill multiple roles, as long as they maintain fluid communication with specified departments.

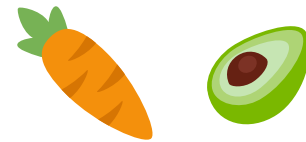


3.2 PRODUCT PROCUREMENT

Product Availability on Campus

- Bronze designation requires 5 products (5 food/beverage/other products)
- Silver designation requires 10 products (10 food/beverage/other products)
- Gold designation requires 15 products (15 food/beverage/other products)
- Organic products are certified organic (compliant with Canada's Organic federal regulations or provincial regulations)
- Of the 5 products above, the products can be food or non-food products (such as textiles).
- Locations include but are not limited to; student-union locations, cafeterias, catering, vending machines, bookstores, coffee shops, stores, restaurants, lounges, events, and offices.

3.3 EDUCATION & AWARENESS



- The Steering Committee commits to educating students and university administration, food providers and others on campus about organic
- The Steering Committee must lead at least one public organic education and awareness event per semester (two per calendar year)
- Prominent signage from the organic material kit must be displayed on campus during events and at venues
- All campuses working towards the status of "Organic Campus" qualify to receive promotional assets to promote organic on campus
- Once status is achieved, information about the official Organic Campus designation must be accessible and available on the university/college official website. Once designation has been formalized, the Organic Campus logo can be used
- A celebration event is encouraged when the campus obtains Organic Campus designation
- Marketing initiatives:
 - Campus and Choose Canada Organic e-newsletter submissions
 - Blog content for Choose Canada Organic website
 - Social Media posts with specific mentions and hashtags

4.0 STEPS TOWARD DESIGNATION

1

Step 1 Form a committee

The initial step to achieving an Organic Campus designation is to establish a Steering Committee. This committee will consist of passionate campus administrators dedicated to food sustainability and committed to promoting, educating, and raising awareness about organic practices. The Steering Committee will incorporate student engagement, involving students in Organic Campus events and the designation process.

3

Step 3 Adhere to criteria for designation

The third step is to ensure the campus is adhering to outlined criteria. Your committee will be trained and supplied with all the tools needed, including marketing materials for visibility, events, and student awareness.

2

Step 2 Complete registration and application forms

The second step is to fill out all the required documents. This includes an application form and commitment to designation requirements. To get started on the submission process, contact kdelallo@canada-organic.ca.

4

Step 4 Advocate & educate through campus engagement

The final step is to promote, advocate, and educate the campus and other students about organic. This promotion of organic will encourage others to learn the benefits of organic and to choose organic products on campus.



5.0 POST-DESIGNATION

You did it! Congratulations on becoming a **Designated Organic Campus**. This status will allow students and administration to meet their sustainability initiatives, and provide more organic options on campus.

What now? Go beyond the baseline requirements and work towards silver and gold Organic Campus designation status!

Continue to spread awareness, advocate, and promote organic on campus.

5.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Organic Campus would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, partners, and students.



5.2 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Organic Campus works with the Canada Organic Trade Association in meeting requirements for organic campus designation. For any questions or inquiries regarding Organic Campus please reach out to kdelallo@canada-organic.ca.

LET'S BRING MORE ORGANIC and CLIMATE-FRIENDLY FOODS TO CAMPUS!





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