

SHARPENS YOUR THINKING
SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1 VISION

The University's approach to sustainable development is underpinned by a holistic approach which has at its core:

- The positive contribution that we can, and do make, to society's understanding and good practice in the sustainability agenda.
- Setting an example through the teaching of our students who will become future professionals in a wide range of disciplines, and in the development of our staff and partners.
- In the research and development that we carry out which contributes to future understanding as well as the provision of the new solutions which are needed to become more sustainable.
- Managing resources efficiently and effectively.
- Anticipating and planning for new and updated regulations and legislation.

2 COMMITMENT

The University recognises its responsibility and is committed to ensure sound, environmentally and socially responsible, operational practice in all its activities on a cost effective basis.

We recognise the need to ensure that the teaching and research undertaken by the University encourages the concept of sustainable development.

The University is committed to continually improving its sustainability performance and role within the wider community.

We are committed to achieve the aims of this policy independently and in co-operation and partnership with others.

3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Sustainable development at the University includes the following activities:

- Continually improving our environmental management performance, including reducing negative environmental impacts: in particular in relation to energy and water, waste, transport and carbon emissions.
- Taking action to prevent pollution from our activities.

- Improving the environmental performance of our estate, including supporting biodiversity and improving the environment of our buildings, grounds and public realm.
- Our procurement and investment activities, including operating as a Fair Trade status organisation.
- Social responsibility in particular in relation to the operational impact of our activities and that of our students in the local community.
- Complying with relevant regulations, legislation and other obligations
- Incorporating sustainable development principles in our curriculum and research activities.
- Raising awareness of sustainable development and the contribution that they can make, in our staff, students, suppliers, business contacts and partners.

This is an overarching policy which sets out the commitment for the University's sustainability performance. Due to the complexity and number of strands which contribute to the sustainability agenda, this policy is underpinned by other subject specific policies and their supporting plans which describe relevant priorities, objectives and targets.

Details of these policies are set out in the appendix to this document.

4 IMPLEMENTATION

University Faculties and Directorates will each adopt the policy at a strategic level as appropriate to achieve its aims.

In addition, each of the underpinning policies and their detailed plans identify specific responsibilities for implementation of that subject area.

5 TRAINING AND AWARENESS

The University will provide education, information, incentives and opportunities to enable staff, students and stakeholders (such as suppliers) to minimise their environmental impact and make a positive contribution to sustainable development while at work and in working with and studying at the University.

6 REGULATORY AND LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

The University will continually monitor and adhere to developments in sustainability related regulations and legislation. Where appropriate, auditing will also take place to inform the University's performance in relation to compliance.

7 MONITORING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Progress towards the achievement of the University's aims will be monitored and evaluated, using targets, benchmarking and auditing exercises as appropriate and will be communicated on a regular basis to the University community.

The results of these monitoring and evaluation exercises will inform the changes needed to continually improve.

8 REPORTING

A sustainability report detailing the University's performance will be published annually after approval by the University Executive and the Board of Governors.

9 RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Estates and Facilities has overall responsibility for the development and implementation of this policy.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Student Experience, Learning and Teaching) has responsibility for academic activities.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Transfer) has responsibility for research activities.

The Community, Sustainability and Residential Development Manager is responsible for the development of the policy and stakeholder consultation, taking recommendations for approval forward to the Director of Estates and Facilities.

The Assistant Director Estates Development and Sustainability has the responsibility for the monitoring, review and dissemination of this policy.

Each of the underpinning policies and their detailed plans identify specific responsibilities relevant to that activity.

Staff, students, visitors and stakeholders will be made aware of and encouraged to recognise their potential contribution as well as their responsibilities in the achievement of a sustainable University.

10 REVIEW

Sustainable development is currently a fast changing and evolving subject as society becomes more aware and eager for change.

This is creating pressure for governments, businesses and other highly influential agencies globally, nationally and locally to change practices and introduce new rules, regulations and ways of working.

This policy will be reviewed as appropriate in line with these changes in addition to the University's own need to continually improve.

Therefore a review of this policy will take place as a minimum every two years.

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