

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Policy Statement

This University is committed to the development of sustainable practices in order to minimise the negative environmental impacts of its activities. These impacts may be personal, local, national or global and as such must be managed in the most suitable manner.

1. **Baseline Sustainability Review**

A review and audit of baseline information received will be undertaken to inform the gap analysis, action plan and policy statement.

The University will first and foremost ensure that all relevant environmental legislation is complied with and will examine best practice examples within other institutions for the implementation of environmental improvements. With the increased scope and volume of upcoming environmental legislation, a management structure should be in place to accommodate all legal standards and practices.

2. **Gap Analysis**

The management, mitigation and monitoring of impacts appear to vary in scope, scale and extent. A strategic commitment and approach to sustainable development is required for environmental improvement to be fully realised.

3. **Environmental Management System (EMS)**

As with all operations within the University, development of an effective management system is essential. With the varied processes that will be undertaken at the University a single EMS would be complicated and possibly unmanageable. A more structured approach is to develop building specific EMS's to manage and minimise the environmental impacts within particular offices.

Resources have been allocated to a pilot EMS Team in the form of higher management commitment and the allocation of departmental "Environmental Champions". Following ISO14001 guidelines, compliance will:

- Demonstrate high environmental standards
- Demonstrate compliance with legislation
- Reduce costs
- Improve efficiency

4. **A Sustainable Campus**

With the developments and changes due to the Estates Master-plan, the specific sustainability issues must be addressed. These issues must be considered by the Design Teams over the lifespan of the campus and should fall into the following stages:

- New Builds: As far as practicable build in: energy efficiency, waste management, transport and EMS targets at the design stage.
- Operation: Assessment should be made of the use of recycled materials and high efficiency devices in the day to day running of all buildings
- Decommissioning: Examine possibilities for the reduction of environmental impacts when the building reaches the end of its useful life. E.g. Disposal of obsolete equipment, fabric of the building and consideration of local community during demolition.

The University has appointed a Relocation Officer to examine and attempt to reduce the environmental impacts during the movement of people between the sites. Successful policy that is developed within this department should be mirrored during all major movements.

5. Sustainability Awareness

Raise awareness of environmental issues amongst stakeholders of the new University;

Student Education: The new University will continue to offer students the opportunity to study environmental issues as part of their chosen courses, and also offer an introduction to sustainability on all non-environmental courses.

Staff Education: The new University will educate all staff on sustainability issues, and encourage departmental representation during all environmental decisions.

Visitor Education: The new University will ensure all visitors are aware of, and follow as far as practicable, the Environmental Policy.

6. Sustainable Operation

The new University will endeavour to operate in a manner that does not restrict future development or adversely affect environmental conditions;

Waste Management: As far as practicable:

- Reduce unnecessary usage of resources.
- Maximise opportunities to re-use resources.
- Recycle all possible materials.
- Reduce, as far as practicable, all waste to landfill.

Purchasing: Develop a policy which integrates life cycle analysis of materials and equipment into all aspects of purchasing.

Transportation: Encourage all staff, students, and visitors onto sustainable forms of transport, and evaluate alternatives to travel associated with University business.

Utilities: Monitor the usage of gas, electricity, water and oil within all buildings, and target least efficient areas for immediate environmental assessment.

7. Environmental Performance

The University will benchmark its performance against similar institutions and develop initiatives to continually implement environmental improvements. A series of Environmental Performance Indicators (EPIs) will be introduced to compare departments and buildings.

8. Community

The new University, in conjunction with the local community and partners, will develop initiatives to improve the environment. Also, through promotion of its achievements, to make improvements on a local, national and international, scale.

9. Contact Details

Environmental Officer: 0161 275 2277