

University of Sussex

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

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Environmental and Sustainability Policy

1. Introduction

It is essential that sustainable development and environmental management are at the core of all activities in the Higher Education sector and at this University. The University of Sussex is a major contributor to society's efforts to achieve sustainability through:

- the environment in which its students learn
- the skills and knowledge that they acquire and put in to practice; and
- its own strategies and operations.

2. Definitions

Sustainability:

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development must address environmental, economic, and social factors and the interrelationships between them.

Environment:

Surrounding conditions, influences, or forces, by which living forms are influenced and modified in their growth and development.

3. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- 3.1 To ensure that all environmental risks are assessed, managed and controlled.
- 3.2 To promote and adopt best practice within the Higher Education sector.
- 3.3 To maintain and develop the University in a sustainable manner.
- 3.4 To keep the University community informed on matters of the environment.
- 3.5 To develop good working relationships with relevant external authorities and bodies.
- 3.6 To develop managers, staff and students by providing training and information on environmental management and sustainability.

4. Application

This policy applies to all activities undertaken by (or on behalf of) the University of Sussex including those of its students and contractors.

5. Policy Statement

The University recognises the importance of the role it has to play in the environmental stewardship of the campus and in promoting principles of sustainability in teaching and research activities.

The University will manage and control its environmental risks in a sustainable manner by complying with relevant legislation and adopting where appropriate best practice.

The University will also endeavour to integrate the principles of sustainability into its strategies, policies and procedures.

In accordance with the policy statement the University will:

5.1 Control its Environmental Risks

5.1.1 Meet the requirements of environmental legislation and commit to a process of continual environmental improvement.

5.2 Promote and Adopt Best Practice

5.2.1 Establish an Environmental Management Plan; to set targets and indicators, measure environmental performance and report progress.

5.2.2 Establish an Environmental Management System;

5.2.3 Promote and adopt sector initiatives;

5.3 Maintain and Develop the University in a Sustainable Manner

5.3.1 Develop a sustainable procurement policy to ensure social, ethical and environmental scrutiny of products and services whilst achieving best value;

5.3.2 Maximise energy efficiency, use of renewable resources and use of low carbon technology;

5.3.3 Minimise waste generation and facilitate repair, reuse and recycling over disposal of wastes;

5.3.4 Maintain biodiversity and enhance the campus grounds;

5.3.5 Promote sustainable travel to and from the campus;

5.3.6 Promote continual improvement in maintenance practices and establish sustainability guidelines for internal and external design teams and contractors working on new build and refurbishment projects.

5.3.7 Develop curricula and extra-curricula activities to enable students to develop the values, skills and knowledge to contribute to sustainable development.

5.4 Communicate and Inform the University Community

5.4.1 Produce an Annual Report;

5.4.2 Produce reports to the Health, Safety & Environment Committee;

5.4.3 Communicate with the Environmental Forum;

5.5 Working with External Authorities and Bodies

5.5.1 Develop good working relationships with all relevant external authorities

5.5.2 Develop links with appropriate environmental bodies and associations

5.5.3 Report any incidents as required

5.6 Development of Managers, Staff and Students

5.6.1 Provide appropriate training and information to the University Community;

6. Stakeholders and Responsibilities

The Organisational Structure and Reporting Lines for Environmental and Sustainability Issues

