

1. Introduction

The University of Sussex is set in an attractive campus bordered by the South Downs National Park between Brighton and Lewes. The University has over 18,000 students and over 2,200 members of staff. The campus comprises of 94 hectares of land and approximately 260,000m² of buildings, 18% of which is listed.

As reflected in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). Over 75 per cent of research activity at Sussex is categorised as world leading (4*) or internationally excellent (3*) in terms of originality, significance and rigour. This result confirms the University among the leading 40 multi-disciplinary institutions by GPA in the UK.

At Sussex, our senior management has initiated and gives full support to our environmental policy. As a responsible institution, we intend to grow and develop in a sustainable manner.

This policy is annually reviewed, adjusted where required to ensure that the Universities momentum on sustainability activities is maintained.

2. Objectives

The University of Sussex is committed to achieving platinum accreditation of the EcoCampus environmental management scheme by:

- Continually improving its environmental performance within the context of best value and sound corporate governance;
- Integrating environmental management into its everyday operations to ensure environmental issues are addressed, whilst providing a quality service to all its stakeholders;
- Reducing its overall carbon emissions (43% Reduction from the 2004-5 baseline year, 22,174tCO₂) across the campus by 2020.
- Ensure protection and enhancement of campus biodiversity by increasing native plant species by 10%

3. Operations Management

The University of Sussex recognises that its operations have an impact on the environment, and is committed to reducing these by:

- Developing environmental performance indicators to help assess and continually improve its current and future environmental performance;
- Ensuring that all environmental risks are assessed, managed and controlled to prevent pollution whilst reducing emissions and discharges;
- Promoting and adopting best practice within the Higher Education sector;
- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and requirements;
- Maximising energy efficiency, the use of renewable resources and low carbon technology;
- Minimising waste generation and promoting the reduction of, re-using of, and recycling of waste;
- Promoting biodiversity through habitat improvement schemes, complementing the native species of the surrounding area.
- Communicating to all persons working for and studying at the University this policy, and
- Ensuring that this policy is available to the public.

4. Integration

The integration of our environmental aims and objectives with other strategic plans of the University of Sussex will be achieved by:

- Developing the campus in a sustainable manner in accordance with the Strategic Framework to 2025;
- Supporting the use of non-car means of transport through its Sustainable Transport Policy;
- Developing the Fair Trade policy and maintaining its accreditation status;
- Developing the sustainable procurement policy across the supply chain to ensure social, ethical and environmental scrutiny of products and services whilst achieving best value.
- Developing a formal process to embed sustainability across the curriculum and ensure that current and future graduates take an intelligent and creative approach to dealing with sustainable development issues, as part of both curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- Work with the Procurement Team to ensure that University purchasing decisions make a positive impact on sustainability.

5. Communication

The University of Sussex will ensure effective communication by:

- Developing staff and students by encouraging them to support this policy. For example, by providing appropriate environmental training and information on environmental management;
- Promoting communication with internal and external interested parties by contributing to the economic, educational and cultural life of the locality;
- Ensuring that the policy and supporting environmental performance information is widely available to staff, students and the general public.

Signed:

Michael O'Sullivan

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