UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Environmental Sustainability Policy
www.exeter.ac.uk/sustainability
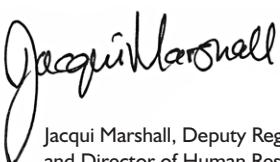
Environmental Sustainability Policy

Our commitment

The University of Exeter is a leading, internationally recognised higher education institution whose core business is the generation and dissemination of knowledge, which specifically includes Climate Change and Sustainable Futures. As an organisation, we will take a progressive approach, adopting 21st Century solutions to ensure that we improve the sustainability of our estate. We lead by example, transforming our own institution to be both flourishing and sustainable, and to produce new generations of graduates and staff that are agents of positive social and environmental change.

The Environmental Sustainability Policy supports the delivery of our Strategic Plan (2016 – 2021) and applies to all activities and services carried out by the University of Exeter, across all campuses and we will integrate environmental principles into our operations, wherever possible. Where the University of Exeter operates on sites in partnership with other organisations, we will work with them to adopt a policy in accordance with the commitments laid out within this Policy.

Mike Shore Nye, Registrar and Secretary

Jacqui Marshall, Deputy Registrar and Director of Human Resources
May 2017

Sustainability research, impact and influence

Through the delivery of our Research Strategy and Sustainability Vision and Change Catalyst Group (SVCCG) annual plan, we will:

- deliver interdisciplinary research which focuses on some of the most fundamental environmental issues facing humankind today;

- use our environmental research expertise to inform our campus operations;

- develop collaborative relationships with interested parties at a local, regional and national level, in order to facilitate knowledge exchange and influence sustainability policy and practice;

- actively promote expertise and research in sustainability.

Teaching and learning

Through the delivery of our Education Strategy and Green Consultants programme, we will:

- ensure graduates will leave Exeter with a commitment to actively engage in society and have an awareness of sustainability issues by supporting sustainability related curricular and extracurricular activities;

- provide opportunities for students to develop skills for sustainability and actively shape our on-campus sustainability endeavours by using our campus as a living laboratory.

Communication and engagement

Through our environmental communication and engagement strategy, we will:

- ensure that the Environmental Sustainability Policy is communicated to all students and individuals working for or on behalf of the University and to provide training and awareness for staff and students where appropriate;

- provide information regarding the University's environmental performance to staff, students, visitors and all other interested parties;

- support our managers and employees to make local changes through a devolved culture for environmental management;

- engage with our interested parties to understand their needs and expectations;

- actively support students in becoming agents for environmental change.

Wellbeing

Through our Sustainable Travel Plan, Biodiversity Strategy and Positive Working Environment (PWE) and Wellbeing plans, we will:

- provide a healthy working environment and provide opportunities to enhance personal wellbeing through the promotion of active travel, participation in volunteering activities and the ability to connect with our natural environment.

Biodiversity

Through our Biodiversity Strategy, we will:

- take positive action to conserve and enhance biodiversity on sites that the University manages or owns, where local conditions allow;

- develop and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the external estate.

Construction and refurbishment

Through our Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment Strategy, we will:

- ensure new building developments and refurbishments take into account sustainable construction principles.

Energy and carbon management

Through our Low Carbon Commitment Strategy, we will:

- reduce energy use in buildings;

- reduce carbon dioxide emissions arising from our fleet, buildings and staff and student commuting;

- through the procurement process, we will reduce the environmental impact of our electricity supply by selecting low carbon or renewable tariffs.

Procurement

Through our Sustainable Procurement Policy, we will:

- continue to influence the environmental performance of suppliers, goods and services;

- use whole life costing approach as standard.

Resources

Through our Sustainable Procurement Policy, Water Strategy and Waste Management Strategy, we will:

- reduce the environmental impact of the University by conserving and making the most of our resources.

Travel

Through our Sustainable Travel Plan, we will:

- encourage more sustainable means of transport for staff commuting; and student term time commuting;

- encourage more sustainable fleet transport;

- develop new approaches to sustainable travel and build partnerships to facilitate improvements.

Waste management

Through our Waste Management Strategy, we will:

- put in place measures to promote sustainable waste management in accordance with the waste hierarchy: Prevent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover and Dispose.

Environmental management systems and legislative compliance

Through our certification to the ISO14001 International Standard for Environmental Management Systems, we will:

- fulfil all environmental compliance obligations and seek to exceed regulatory requirements where possible;

- develop an integrated approach to environmental management and environmental issues in all University activities and operations;

- protect our environment by prevention of pollution and minimising local discharges to air, land and water;

- provide a framework for setting environmental objectives;

- ensure continual improvement in our environmental management systems to enhance environmental performance.

Management roles and responsibilities

Safety, Health and Wellbeing Service is responsible for writing, consulting and gaining approval of the Environment Sustainability Policy and underpinning Standards. The team will deliver training and carry out policy monitoring and audit. They will give competent advice to managers and employees when required. Monitors the progress and performance of the Environmental Sustainability Policy, environmental sustainability strategy, the implementation of the environmental management system (ISO14001) and reports on progress to the Dual Assurance team, Council and via the annual report. They advise the Dual Assurance team and the Compliance, Governance and Risk of any risks and propose mitigation as appropriate.

Sustainability Vision and Change Catalyst Group (SVCCG) is a subcommittee of the Dual Assurance team. It is responsible for developing the University's vision for sustainability, acting as a link for sustainability research and education and actively facilitating action through change agents. The group monitors progress towards meeting the commitments, objectives and targets of the Environmental Sustainability Policy and Strategy, and report risks, opportunities and challenges to the Dual Assurance team.

Campus Environment Management Group (CEMG) is a subcommittee of the Dual Assurance team and is responsible for ensuring that environmental performance targets that are set for our estate are met, and that continual improvements in environmental performance are achieved.

Sustainability Coordinators promote and encourage improvements in sustainability within the University and support the delivery of the University's sustainability policies.

Infrastructure and Environment Dual Assurance team is responsible for approving the Environmental Sustainability Policy. Within the University's devolved management structure, the Dual Assurance team will through receiving audit results ensure that people are fulfilling their responsibilities and that targets for continual improvement are set and reviewed. The Dual Assurance team will take assurance that environmental risks are effectively identified, articulated and managed.

Independent Council Lead provides assurance to Council (the governing body) that environmental sustainability is being managed effectively and that decisions have been reached following due process and appropriate consultation.

Vice-Chancellor/Chief Executive has overarching duty on behalf of Council and nominates the Registrar and University Secretary as the executive lead for environmental sustainability.

Registrar and University Secretary is the executive lead (member of the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Group) and Chair of Infrastructure and Environment Dual Assurance team who has responsibility for scrutinising and taking assurance that the Environmental Sustainability Policy is delivered effectively and providing strategic direction.

Deputy Registrar and HR Director has executive responsibility for environment sustainability risk reporting and ensures that competent environment advice is available with the Safety, Health and Wellbeing Service (HR services) via the appointment of a competent and experienced Environment and Sustainability Adviser.

Deputy Vice-Chancellors are responsible for championing environmental sustainability within their area of responsibility and providing strategic direction.

Provost is responsible for ensuring that the University environmental policy and associated standards are fully implemented by the PVC's.

Director of Campus Services is the Campus Services Management lead for environmental sustainability and in addition to the duties set out for all directors they are responsible for setting, monitoring and meeting energy, carbon, waste, sustainable travel, water, biodiversity and sustainable construction and refurbishment targets. Responsible for allocation of resources in these areas, chairing the CEMG and reporting against targets set to Dual Assurance team.

Pro Vice-Chancellors (PVC), Executive Deans and Directors of Professional Services are responsible for ensuring that the University Environmental Sustainability Policy and standards are implemented within the College/Service and that adequate systems and processes are in place to maintain compliance. They will ensure that suitable and sufficient actions are taken to address non-compliances and take proactive steps to support improvements in environmental performance.

College Registrars will support the PVC to ensure that all relevant environmental standards and processes are in place. They will ensure that all academic and professional services staff working within the College are supported to achieve the highest environmental standards.

Director of Research and Director of Innovation, Impact and Business will also be responsible for ensuring sustainability is integrated into the University's research, knowledge transfer and impact activities.

Academic Dean for Students is responsible for ensuring that graduate attributes are met via academic programmes.

Head of department, managers and supervisors (all employees with line management responsibilities) are responsible for the environmental performance of their area/activity of responsibility. They will ensure that: all relevant environmental standards are implemented effectively; environmental information is provided; staff attend training; and any actions required within the team or service are taken forwards.

All employees have a responsibility to support the Environmental Sustainability Policy, contribute to the achievement of objectives and targets, report environmental incidents, to suggest improvements and familiarise themselves with environmental standards and local environmental advice.

Duties of others working or studying on our campuses:

Tenants are responsible for ensuring that they comply with all environmental standards requested of them.

Partners eg, FXU, Guild, FXPlus, and UPP are responsible for ensuring that they comply with all environmental standards agreed with them.

Students will ensure that they actively embrace all environment arrangements put in place to protect our environment. Students are encouraged to report incidents and opportunities for improvement.

Contractors are responsible for ensuring that they comply with all environmental standards requested of them.

Key:
- Environmental sustainability groups and committees
- Individuals translating strategic direction into policy/action and individual duties
- Duties of individuals

Arrangements for environmental management

Policy and standards

The University of Exeter has one overarching policy for environmental sustainability which sets out how environmental issues will be managed and by whom. In addition, the University has a set of environmental standards. The standards set out what environmental arrangements are required and how audit will be used to measure how well each area is performing.

Implementation of policy and standards

Once approved, University environmental standards are cascaded throughout the Colleges and Professional Services. Colleges and Professional Services are responsible for ensuring that all relevant standards are fully implemented. In some cases there may be a need to agree how a specific standard will be implemented. Standards are short documents that give information and instruction on what is required. Standards also include links to tools such as risk assessment templates and guidelines for further information.

There is a person assigned from the University Safety, Health and Wellbeing Service (or associated departments such as Campus Services) to lead on every environmental standard. These advisers are available to support managers and employees.

Training and support

There is a range of support and advice in place to enable managers and individuals comply with environmental legislation and reduce the environmental impact of their work area. These include comprehensive sustainability website, guidance notes, Green Exeter departmental accreditation programme, environmental training courses and Sustainability Coordinator network.

Monitoring and auditing

The implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Policy will be monitored annually and results will be reported to the Council and the Estates and Environmental Sustainability Dual Assurance team. All standards are monitored (measured) and there is a programme audit in place. The Safety, Health and Wellbeing Service carry out these audits. Any actions required following these audits are fed back to the Colleges and Professional Services. Audit results will also be presented at CEMG and SVCCG for action as necessary and Dual Assurance for information.

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Photography by Charlie Tyjas, Bristol Contemporary Photography

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