Plymouth University

Our Strategic Ambition for Sustainability is to be a customer focused, socially responsible organisation, demonstrating sustainability in our activities and ensuring our staff and students are aware of economic, environmental, social and ethical issues including the importance of social enterprise, community engagement and volunteering.

We ensure that all of our activities are carried out in conformance with UK legislation and other requirements that may be placed upon it by our partners, local government, customers and neighbouring demands. We endeavour to provide and promote a cleaner, safer environment and are proactive in progressing environmental matters. This Policy compliments the University’s Sustainability Strategy.

High standards for continued improvement and best practice in environmental performance ensure we are regarded as an exemplar in the Higher Education sector. To continue our progress we aim to:

- Promote resource efficiency by:
  - Reducing demand by improving plant and equipment efficiency.
  - Ensuring that staff and students are well informed regarding best practice.
  - Ensuring that our policies are displayed and enforced.
  - Improving waste and recycling.

- Promote sustainable procurement.

- Use the campus as a resource for teaching and learning.

- Manage the university estate in an environmentally sensitive manner.

- Raise staff and student awareness on environmental strategy.

- Fully comply with all legal and other requirements, including health and safety regulations, that may also relate to our environmental aspects.

- Set, monitor and review annual environmental improvement objectives and targets.

- Communicate this policy and its obligations and responsibilities to all staff and students.

- Fully commit to the prevention of pollution to air, water and land.

This Policy and the accompanying Environmental Management System, located on the intranet Environmental Community page, are appropriate to the nature of all our activities.

Responsibility for this Policy resides with the Sustainability Executive Group reporting to the University Executive Group and Board of Governors, but its implementation requires the positive engagement of our student, staff and suppliers.
Targets and Objectives:

We aim to provide and progress the framework for setting the environmental objectives and targets by:

- consultation with appropriate external agencies, both locally, nationally and internationally.
- periodically checking that our compliance is up to date by correspondence with those appropriate external agencies and by checking documentation.
- consultation with all who are associated with the university.
- discussion and involvement with review meetings, staff and students alike.

There is a framework for setting and reviewing our objectives by site inspections, management review and also by further consultation with outside bodies.

The University’s ‘Register of Programmes to Reduce Environmental Aspects and Impacts’ and the University’s policies for energy, water and waste etc. provides details of our targets.

We endeavour to supply our policies and other information to our partners when contractually required. Environmental Management System matters are communicated to our organisation via involvement, notice boards, committees, representatives, publishing and talks.

This policy is also available to the public and other bodies.

Professor David Coslett - Interim Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive

Date: April 2015