



Environmental Policy 2018 – 2020

INTRODUCTION

The University of Plymouth is renowned for high quality, internationally-leading education, research and innovation. With more than 38,000 students on our main campus and at partner institutions in the UK and around the world, we are committed to advancing knowledge and transforming lives through education and research. Within this context our aim is to be outstanding in terms of the quality of our financial, environmental and social responsibility outputs and to demonstrate sustainability best practice to a high standard across our activities.

Having won a number of high profile accolades for our sustainability practices, our ambition remains to be a socially responsible organisation, ensuring our staff and students are aware of economic, environmental, social and ethical issues and work collaboratively in order to deliver a shared vision for high quality environmental management. We aim to ensure that our activities are carried out in conformance with environmental legislation and compliance obligations, including requirements relating to protection of the environment, prevention of pollution and fulfilment of ISO 14001 requirements. We endeavour to provide and promote a cleaner, safer environment and are proactive in progressing environmental matters.

This Policy complements the University's suite of policies relating to sustainability.

AIMS

High standards for continued improvement and best practice in environmental performance ensure we are regarded as an exemplar in the Higher Education sector, having earned a number of national and international accolades.

To continue our progress we aim to:

- promote resource efficiency and reduce utilities usage, by reducing demand through improved plant and equipment efficiency and more effective and efficient use
- measure and reduce our environmental footprint associated with energy, water, waste, travel and supply chain
- improve waste and recycling by reducing waste generation, promoting reuse and recovery, using recycling and energy recovery when waste generation is unavoidable
- maximise biodiversity on campus through diverse planting and appropriate grounds maintenance procedures and the creation of green environments
- develop a sustainable food culture, providing Fairtrade and local products where possible and working with our partners to increase the demand and supply of seasonal, local and organic food

- minimise the environmental impact from transport associated with our activities through the promotion of sustainable travel for students, staff and suppliers and greater use of video conferencing and other technology to reduce the need for travel
- embed sustainable procurement by ensuring that suppliers operate in a socially, ethically and environmentally responsible manner
- ensure that all staff and students are well informed regarding best practice, by proactively communicating this policy (and related sustainability policies), its obligations and responsibilities to enable a shared vision for high quality environmental management across all our activities
- ensure that our policies related to environment and sustainability are displayed and enforced
- use the campus as a resource for high quality teaching and learning and as a facility for high quality environmental research
- manage the University estate in an environmentally sensitive manner
- fully meet all legal and compliance requirements, including health and safety regulations that may include environmental aspects
- set, monitor and review annual environmental improvement objectives and targets and report progress through the Estates and Facilities Safety Committee
- fully commit to the protection of the environment, and the prevention of pollution to air, water and land
- maintain our Environmental Management System (EMS) to ISO 14001 standard.

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

The EMS Manual contains further detail on implementation of aspects of this policy including roles and responsibilities, codes of practice, associated policies and action plans and compliance requirements. Our vision for high quality environmental management is set out within the Manual.



Professor Judith Petts, Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive

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