

# ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



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<b>Summary:</b>  This Strategy is intended to contribute to the achievement of the University’s Sustainable Development Policy. The University seeks to make the protection and enhancement of the environment integral to the all that it does, for the people who live, work and study in the University and for the wider community, continually improving our environmental performance wherever practicable.	

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## INTRODUCTION

This Strategy is intended to contribute to the achievement of the University's Sustainable Development Policy. The University seeks to make the protection and enhancement of the environment integral to the all that it does, for the people who live, work and study in the University and for the wider community, continually improving our environmental performance wherever practicable.

The Strategy has been informed by policy steers and good practice advice from a range of external bodies including Hefce, the National Union of Students, the Carbon Trust, the Government, the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges and Higher Education – Environmental Performance Improvement.

## AIM

To change the way the University works to become an environmentally sustainable organisation so that its present needs can be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

## OBJECTIVES

### Carbon footprint

Establish the University's carbon footprint and then agree and implement the changes required to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per square metre by at least 30% below 2006/7 levels by 2015

Ensure the University complies with the carbon impact figures required from 1 October, 2008 when Display Energy Certificates and Energy Performance Certificates are required for certain buildings.

Make the most effective and efficient use of all resources, encouraging and requiring all members of the University community to develop an ecologically sound approach in all that they do.

Reduce the environmental impact of the University through better management of its material resources.

Adopt cost effective sustainable construction principles to all new build and refurbished buildings, minimising lifecycle environmental impact.

Adopt a cost effective environmentally sound grounds management policy.

### Research and Teaching and Learning

Develop curriculum content for all programmes to embed sustainability principles aimed at developing students as environmentally responsible citizens.

Develop the capacities of academic staff to promote the understanding of the principles of environmental sustainability.

Support and encourage interdisciplinary research on sustainability both within the University and in collaboration with others, concentrating on a humanities approach to climate change

## **Energy**

Reduce energy consumption per square metre of space by at least 30% below 2006/7 levels by 2015 through a range of cost effective measures including:

- improved energy efficiency in buildings and work practices
- taking advantage of opportunities to improve the environmental performance of existing buildings as part of refurbishment and maintenance programmes
- incorporating environmentally sensitive designs into both new and refurbished buildings complying with relevant standards and good practice
- investigating the cost effective use of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and Renewable Energy sources
- changing student behaviour in residences, for example by having them pay for energy on demand rather than inclusive rents, either individually or per flat
- promotion of energy awareness amongst staff and students, encouraging and enabling good environmental practice in their work and study
- identify and implement energy saving measures and practice energy efficiency throughout all premises, plant and equipment where it is cost effective to do so
- much improved measurement, reporting and analysis of energy performance
- purchasing fuels at the most economic cost and maximising the use of fuel types which cause least harm to the environment
- consider establishing a rolling energy management investment fund
- Investigate using Display Energy Certificates for all buildings, including those not required by law, as a measure of monitoring building carbon performance

## **Water**

Reduce water consumption per square metre of space by at least 30% below 2006/7 levels by 2015 through a range of cost effective measures including:

- taking advantage of opportunities to reduce water consumption of existing buildings as part of refurbishment and maintenance programmes
- introducing water saving features
- eradicating leaks
- water harvesting and greater use of grey water

## **Transport**

To implement the University wide green travel plan, continuing to develop and implement green transport practices, including:

- promoting and encouraging green modes of transport to staff and students
- introduce pay on use parking
- reduce entitlement to on site parking to boost use of the new park and ride facility from 2010

- reducing parking capacity and increase its cost to staff, visitors and students
- over time, making the University vehicle fleet low carbon
- continue to offer interest free travel loans to staff
- avoid unnecessary business travel but where it is necessary encourage sustainable methods of transport
- Installing charging points for electric vehicles and offering preferential parking for users of these vehicles
- review all cycling facilities on site by December 2013

## **Waste**

### **Increase recycling rates to 70% of all waste generated on campus by 2015**

Reduce the amount of waste generated and disposed of by implementing waste minimization and recycling programmes including:

- making it easy for staff and students to recycle, for example by ensuring there are plenty and convenient re-cycling points
- remove waste baskets from all offices, offering only re-cycling points
- securing waste management contracts which offer high recycling rates
- use only recycled printer ink cartridges
- bring pressure to bear on suppliers to use minimal and recycled packaging
- reduce food waste
- compost all food waste
- compost all suitable grounds waste
- utilising pay by weight schemes for waste disposal
- implement food recycling schemes across all academic buildings and run trials in student accommodation

## **Construction and Refurbishment**

Ensure all construction and refurbishment projects are built to the highest environmental standards possible

From 2011, achieve, as a minimum, the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) 'Excellent' rating for all major estates projects over £2m in value and a minimum 'Very Good' rating for projects below that threshold and student accommodation units.

Ensuring all contractors working at the University work to the University minimum specification with regards to energy efficiency. (e.g. use of low energy/LED lighting, lighting controls, efficient plant and controls, water use minimisation measures).

Ensure all contractors submit waste data and Duty of Care information for the projects they are involved in and maximise recycling of waste

Utilise environmentally friendly building materials wherever possible. E.g. FSC timber, low VOC paints, recycled materials etc.

Increase insulation levels in all refurbished buildings.

## **Biodiversity**

**Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan undertaken by Hampshire Wildlife Trust in summer 2012,** possibly including the following:

- Adopt sustainable practices in the maintenance of the grounds, including environmentally friendly methods of horticulture
- Investigate low carbon grounds equipment such as lithium-ion battery powered hedge cutters, trimmers and blowers, and if viable purchase by January 2012
- Practice low intervention horticulture to allow cover for wildlife
- Establish a grassland conservation area, leaving some areas of grass un-mown for parts of the year
- Identify and maintain sites for bird and bat boxes
- Identify and conserve any rare plant species
- Minimise chemical use in fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides
- Time estates works to reduce the impact on breeding, feeding and hibernating species
- Work with partners to maintain biodiversity in the local area
- Make and use mulch from composted green waste
- Endeavour to maintain the existing proportion of developed and undeveloped land by using existing footprints and brownfield sites
- Enhance the biodiversity of vegetation and habitats
- Develop the grounds as an educational resource and green sanctuary for students, staff and the community at large
- Create staff and student allotments on campus
- Create a biodiversity garden at WDSV

## **Community**

Work with the local community to improve initiatives in environmental sustainability.

Continue to support Winchester Action on Climate Change and encourage participation in environmentally sustainable behaviour and activities amongst staff and students

Enhance the reputation of the University within the local community and the HE sector, which in turn will lead to greater business opportunities and improved student attraction and retention.

## **Education**

Create an institutional culture of sustainability

Increase awareness of, promote, enable and incentivise where appropriate environmental good practice and personal responsibility amongst staff and students

Publish an annual progress report on the implementation of this Environment Strategy and publicise the results to staff and students

Identify and promote initiatives for inclusion of sustainability principles within curriculum development

Work with the local community to implement education initiatives in the field of environmental sustainability

Encourage private landlords to improve the environmental performance of houses let to students

Increase awareness and understanding of environmentally sustainable development within the University and contribute to those in the City and the wider locality (through involvement in Winchester Action on Climate Change)

Help partner schools to develop their capacity for teaching about sustainable development through our teacher education programmes

Provide development opportunities and training to staff to help them implement the Sustainable Development Strategy and Environment Strategy in their everyday work

Promote awareness of all legislative, economic, technical, social and market developments that assist progress towards environmental sustainability

### **Procurement**

Implement procurement policies and strategies that help cut waste and promotes sustainable practices amongst suppliers in line with the Procurement Strategy

- Assess the lifecycle environmental impact of products purchased by the University
- Incorporate whole life costings in best value procurement processes
- Only use re-cycled paper
- Make minimal and recycled packaging a criteria for tendered goods and services
- Use Fairtrade principles as a tender criteria where appropriate for goods and services
- Source Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance and Organic and local food products where available

### **Emissions and Discharges**

The University is committed to pollution prevention and compliance with relevant environmental legislation and other requirements. The University endeavours to prevent pollution at source and seeks to reduce emissions and discharges to water, air and land. This is particularly relevant to hazardous waste management e.g. HCFC's from refrigeration units, the management of liquid fuels and waste water drainage

### **Good Management**

Establish an Advisory Council open to all staff and students to meet annually to review performance against targets and seek advice on future strategy and tactics

Integrate environmental principles into the University's operational procedures and promote best practice at every level

Include responsibility for environmental management in job descriptions as appropriate

Establish and publish environmental performance targets against which progress can be monitored

Review environmental management procedures on a regular basis.

Avoid the unnecessary use of environmentally damaging substances and processes.

Achieve compliance with all appropriate legislation

Assess the feasibility of devolving energy and other utility budgets to professional services and faculties to enhance accountability and incentivise energy efficiency

Publish, promote and regularly review this Environment Strategy

### **Measuring performance**

The baseline environmental performance of the University will be established at the outset to inform an agenda for continual improvement and to implement the necessary changes

Monitor and analyse energy and water efficiency to inform actions to increase them

The University will publish an annual sustainability report which will be communicated to all internal and external stakeholders

Consideration will be given to whether to adopt the Business in the Environment (BiE) Index to measure performance on environmental sustainability and monitor change

### **Resource implications**

It is intended that much of the work that needs to be done is undertaken as part of the normal duties of existing staff.

There will be a need for capital investment in the estate and in environment management systems. This will be funded out of planned increases in the relevant budgets and from accessing external funding streams including Salix. All resource requirements will be addressed in the annual budget rounds annually.