



University of Cumbria

ENERGY POLICY

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Introduction

Higher education institutions are uniquely positioned to lead by example in the pursuit of sustainable energy management. With their significant energy consumption, complex operations, and large communities, these institutions must adopt comprehensive strategies to minimize their environmental impact while ensuring reliable and cost-effective energy use.

This Energy Policy outlines the University of Cumbria's commitment to responsible energy management, addressing key risks and implementing robust control measures to support sustainability goals and legislative compliance.

The University of Cumbria recognises the connection between consuming energy generated from fossil fuels and the growing threat of climate change. We understand our contributions to this, namely in 2014/15 our electricity and gas use resulted in the release of circa 5,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

We also appreciate energy and water consumption represents a significant cost to the university (6% of total annual spend excluding salaries), and a possible risk to financial security.

These are issues important to our stakeholders and also have statutory implications. As such, the University is committed to managing the consumption of both energy and water and their associated environmental and financial impacts across the entire estate.

Policy Statement

The University of Cumbria is committed to reducing its carbon footprint, optimising energy efficiency, and fostering a culture of sustainable energy use. We aim to achieve this through proactive energy management practices, investment in renewable energy technologies, compliance with UK legislation, and engagement with employees, students, and stakeholders.

The University is dedicated to achieving a sustainable future by implementing an energy policy which focuses on the following key principles:

- **Energy Efficiency:** We will strive to continuously improve energy efficiency throughout our university's facilities and operations. This includes the efficient use of electricity, fossil fuels, and other energy sources. We will actively pursue energy-saving initiatives, such as the installation of energy-efficient equipment and systems such as Building Management Systems (BMS), implementing energy management practices, and raising awareness among students, faculty, and staff about energy conservation. To achieve that, we will develop and implement a 3-year energy optimisation plan that will identify the areas of improvement in energy management and potential interventions that the University will put in place to optimise energy efficiency in its buildings. This will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.
- **Renewable Energy:** We are committed to reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and transitioning to renewable energy sources. We will expand our pathway with the intension to explore opportunities to generate renewable energy on-site and procure electricity

from renewable sources whenever feasible, and economically viable. Our goal is to increase the proportion of renewable energy in our overall energy mix to allow us to decrease greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use. To achieve that, the University will undertake an assessment of the available options to improve the use of green energy across our campus's, and we will develop a plan to maximise the use of renewables based on this assessment.

- **Monitoring and Measurement:** To ensure the effectiveness of our energy management efforts, we have established a comprehensive monitoring and measurement system which is led by the environmental sustainability committee along with the sustainability team lead. This will include tracking energy consumption, identifying areas of high energy use, and setting energy reduction targets. Regular energy audits will be conducted to assess our performance and identify opportunities for improvement. This approach will be integrated into our governance procedures.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** We will comply with all applicable energy-related laws, regulations, and best practice wherever possible and economically viable. Our commitment extends to the responsible use of energy, including optimising energy consumption during off-peak hours, investigating, and implementing a heat decarbonisation program, reducing standby power, and minimising energy waste in all university operations. It also includes our commitment to the gradual reduction of our carbon footprint to meet government Net Zero targets for 2030 & 2050.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** We recognise that achieving our energy goals requires engagement and collaboration with our key stakeholders. We will actively engage with students, faculty, staff, and the wider community to promote energy conservation, share best practices, and foster a culture of sustainability. Additionally, we will seek partnerships and collaborate with external organisations to advance our energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.
- **Continuous Improvement:** We are committed to a cycle of continuous improvement in energy management. We will regularly review and evaluate our energy performance, set objectives and targets, and implement action plans to drive progress. The University will allocate necessary resources and provide adequate training to support the implementation of energy-efficient practices.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Define the institution's approach to energy management, reduction, and sustainability.
2. Ensure compliance with relevant UK energy legislation and global sustainability standards.
3. Promote energy-efficient practices across campus facilities and operations.
4. Identify and mitigate risks associated with energy use and supply.
5. Support the University's commitment to the UK's Net Zero targets for 2030 & 2050.

To achieve this, the University will:

- Adhere to all relevant legislation, in particular The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and Building Regulations Part L
- Heat buildings in line with our policy principles
- Invest in energy efficiency projects
- Actively monitor energy and water usage and set consumption targets
- Renew the Carbon Management Plan
- Promote energy awareness and stewardship to reduce wastage

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All campuses, buildings, and facilities under the University's operational control.
- All members of the University, including employees, students, contractors, and visitors.
- All activities, projects, and services that impact energy consumption, generation, and procurement.

Policy Principle

General Principles

It is the responsibility of all employees and students to promote and practice good energy efficiency stewardship – the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable behaviours.

Employees and students are expected to isolate sources of energy when not in use (e.g. unnecessary lighting, dripping taps, overheating, etc.) Reporting should be via reception staff, Richmond System, or direct to the Health and Safety Service Team.

It is the responsibility of the University to provide employees and students with a working and learning environment which applies sound environmental principles to its operation and development.

Governance

Leadership and overall accountability for energy efficiency is assigned to the Vice Chancellor. The Vice Chancellor represents environmental sustainability at the highest level available within the University's management structure.

The Estates Operations Manager and the Health and Safety Manager reports on energy efficiency and is supported by the Health and Safety Service Team.

Energy, Water & Carbon Management

The University will maintain an Energy Policy which outlines aims, objectives and policy principles.

To support our CO² emissions target, the University will review and develop a new Carbon Management Plan.

Space Heating and Cooling

The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 stipulate during working hours, temperatures in workplaces should be reasonable. In accordance with this, temperatures in workrooms should be at least 16°C.

The University follows the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 and prescribes to providing the following minimum standards for temperature where practically possible (temperature set point applies to 0.5 metres above floor level).

Areas of normal level physical activity e.g. Offices, classrooms and libraries Heating minimum temperature: 18°C

Areas of higher-than-normal physical activity e.g. Gyms and drama studios Heating minimum temperature: 15°C

Heating Seasons: The University operates a heating season which spans from the 1st of October to the 30th of April inclusive. A heating season is used in order to provide energy savings and sufficient time from May to October for heating system maintenance, overhaul and refurbishment where necessary. For this reason, it may not always be possible to quickly turn systems back on.

Outside of the heating season, should internal space temperatures drop dramatically lower due to abnormal weather conditions, the Estates team will actively monitor conditions and consider if heating is required providing it is possible to do so.

Comfort cooling (air conditioning) will not be permitted unless a frequently occupied space is overheating (There are no defined legal upper limit therefore overheating thresholds will be calculated in line with CIBSE TM52).

Server rooms will be cooled through evaporative or ambient mechanical cooling where possible. Cooling will be limited to 25°C.

The use of personal electrical heating or cooling equipment is not permitted unless approval has been granted from a member of the Estates and Property Management Team.

Energy Reduction

Conduct regular energy audits to identify inefficiencies.

Implement energy-saving technologies, including LED lighting, energy-efficient HVAC systems, and automated controls.

Promote behavioural change through awareness campaigns and training for staff and students.

Procurement

Energy - will consider purchasing energy from a 'Green Tariff' and transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

When purchasing new equipment, items on the EU energy labelling scheme will be preferred and an A++ rating targeted.

Where a piece of equipment will use more than £500 worth of energy and/or water in a year, the whole life cycle cost of the alternatives will be calculated by the project team/consultant. Other than in exceptional circumstances, equipment with the lowest whole life cycle cost will be purchased

Investment

The university will continue to invest capital into delivering energy and water efficiency projects across the estate (e.g. LED replacement schemes).

Investment will be made to renew and extend AMT (automatic monitoring and targeting) equipment in buildings to improve monitoring of energy and water use.

Where feasible the university will install renewable energy technology to reduce demand for energy from the national grid.

All new build and major refurbishment projects will be delivered in line with the following environmental assessment tools:

New build or Major Refurbishment: BREEAM, with targeted rating of very good or above or SKA Rating HE, with targeted rating of Silver

A qualified BREEAM/SKA Rating Assessor will be appointed as part of the design team.

For minor refurbishment projects, the good practice measures proscribed by SKA Rating will be incorporated into the project specification.

To continue to improve our approach to environmental management, the Carbon Management Plan will be renewed, and investment will continue to achieve certification with the Environmental Management System standard ISO 14001.

Awareness

Energy and water awareness will be promoted to employees and students through numerous methods including Corporate Induction, Awareness campaigns, University website and social media.

Energy Security and Resilience

Diversify energy sources to reduce dependency on a single supplier.

Maintain backup power systems to ensure continuity during outages.

Develop a crisis management plan for energy supply disruptions, including regular scenario testing.

Legislative Compliance and Reporting

Adhere to all relevant UK energy legislation, including the Climate Change Act 2008, the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations, and the Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) framework.

Monitor, report, and disclose energy performance data annually in line with statutory requirements.

Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

Engage students, staff, and the local community in energy-saving initiatives.

Partner with external organizations, including government agencies, NGOs, and businesses, to share best practices and innovations in energy management.

Roles and Responsibilities

University Management

- Oversee the development, approval, implementation, and maintenance of the EnMS, including the energy management program.
- Monitor overall performance against institutional sustainability goals.

Directors of Institutes/Services

- Will provide overall leadership and support for energy management initiatives.
- Monitor compliance with the policy and address any issues related to energy.

Head of Estates and Property

- Act as the policy lead and coordinate energy-saving initiatives.
- Develop and implement the EnMS in alignment with ISO 50001 standards.
- Provide regular performance reports to stakeholders.

Line Managers and supervisors

- Will be responsible for implementing energy management practices within their respective areas and ensuring that energy efficiency measures are considered in planning, procurement, and decision-making processes.
- Maintain regular communication with employees/students and ensure that they have the necessary resources and training.
- Ensure workplace energy saving devices are in place.

- Reduce departmental energy impacts.

Health and Safety Service

- Ensure compliance with legislative requirements.
- Conduct energy audits and develop an energy management strategy.
- Provide guidance and support on the development of aspects and impact risk assessments and control measures.
- Offer training and resources to employees and students on Environment and Sustainability.

Estates Service

- Maintain and upgrade infrastructure to improve energy efficiency.
- The Estates Compliance Manager will maintain systems to monitor energy and water use and report data in line with requirements e.g. HESA and Display Energy Certificates guidance.

Employees/Students

- Participate in awareness campaigns and adopt energy-saving behaviours.
- Follow the procedures and protocols established for energy saving approaches.
- Report energy inefficiencies or issues to the relevant department.

Contractors and suppliers

- Comply with the institution's energy and sustainability standards.
- Provide energy-efficient products and services.

Guidance/Procedures to follow

Risks and Mitigation Strategies

1. Energy Supply Disruptions

- Risk: Dependence on external suppliers or fossil fuels.
- Mitigation: Develop on-site renewable energy capacity and establish agreements with multiple suppliers.

2. Rising Energy Costs

- Risk: Increased operational expenses due to fluctuating energy prices.
- Mitigation: Invest in energy-efficient systems and negotiate long-term fixed-price contracts for energy procurement.

3. Non-Compliance with Legislation

- Risk: Fines, reputational damage, and operational delays.
- Mitigation: Conduct regular compliance audits and keep abreast of legislative changes.

4. Stakeholder Resistance

- Risk: Lack of buy-in from employees or students.
- Mitigation: Develop targeted engagement programs and demonstrate the benefits of energy-saving measures.

5. Infrastructure Vulnerabilities

- Risk: Inefficiencies in aging buildings and systems.
- Mitigation: Prioritise retrofitting projects and allocate resources to critical upgrades.

Related Legislation, Policies and Procedures

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012
- Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order
- Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR)
- Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2015
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- Environment & Sustainability policy
- Procurement policy
- Carbon Management plan
- Crisis Management plan
- Facilities Management Operational Guidelines
- ISO 50001: Energy Management Systems
- BREEAM Certification Standards
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Approval, Implementation and Review

This policy shall be approved by the Health and Safety Committee, and implementation of this policy requires the total cooperation of all members of management and staff.

The person responsible for implementing this policy is the Vice Chancellor who will delegate functions.

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Head of Estates and Property in conjunction with the Health and Safety Team and relevant stakeholders or following any significant occurrence or changes in legislation to ensure it remains effective and up to date.

Contact Details

For further information regarding any of the issues covered by this policy please contact:

Health & Safety Manager

Health & Safety Service

University of Cumbria

E-mail: healthandsafety@cumbria.ac.uk

Appendix 1

Definitions

1. **Renewable energy** - is energy derived from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed. Sunlight and wind, for example, are such sources that are constantly being replenished. Renewable energy sources are plentiful and all around us.
2. **Energy efficiency** - is the use of less energy to perform the same task or produce the same result. Energy-efficient buildings use less energy to heat, cool, and run appliances and electronics, and energy-efficient manufacturing facilities use less energy to produce goods. Efficiency is output energy divided by input energy to give you an idea of how much value for your investment you are getting.
3. **Net Zero** - A state where greenhouse gas emissions produced are balanced by removals from the atmosphere.
4. **Energy Management System (EnMS)** - A structured approach to managing energy use, typically aligned with ISO 50001.

Appendix 2

UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA POLICY DOCUMENT CONTROL SCHEDULE

All University of Cumbria Policies must include a completed Policy Document Control Schedule consisting of the Policy Schedule (see front cover), Review Schedule and Drafting Schedule (see below) which should be completed as appropriate.

Document Title	Energy Policy
Owner	Head of Estates and Property
Document Location	
Lead Contact	Health and Safety Manager
Approving Body	Health and Safety Committee
Version Number and Key Amendment	
Date of Last Review	November 2024
Date for Next Review	November 2027
Related Policies, Procedures, CoPs, Legislation and Regulation.	Environmental Protection Act 1990 Climate Change Act 2008 The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2015 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Environment & Sustainability policy Procurement policy Carbon Management plan Crisis Management plan Facilities Management Operational Guidelines ISO 50001: Energy Management Systems BREEAM Certification Standards UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)