



Environmental Policy

Introduction

The University of Cumbria recognises its role in fostering environmental stewardship hence our commitment to embedding environmental considerations into all aspects of our operations, teaching, research, and community engagement to ensure a positive legacy for future generations.

As a responsible organisation, we intend to develop and grow in a sustainable manner, being fully aware that in doing so we have the potential to impact directly and indirectly on the environment at both a local and global level. This policy statement sets out the university's broad objectives in relation to environmental sustainability.

This policy reflects our dedication to mitigating environmental risks by improving our environmental performance, addressing climate change, and promoting environmentally sustainable practices in alignment with national and international frameworks. We will continue to encourage all members of the university community to develop an environmentally sustainable approach to their work and lifestyle.

We will also ensure that we have due regard for equality, diversity, and inclusion and that policies and actions designed to address one issue do not have undesirable consequences in other areas.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide a framework for managing environmental risks and opportunities.
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation, standards, and best practices.
- Foster a culture of environmental sustainability among employees, students, and the wider university community.

To achieve this, the university will:

- Develop, implement and continually improve a formal environmental management system (EMS) to monitor and manage our environmental responsibilities
- Develop and maintain supporting policies/plans
- Encourage and support employees and students to incorporate principles of environmental sustainability in all areas of their work
- Work collaboratively with our local community, neighbours and partner organisations to promote a better environment for all
- Provide adequate resources to ensure the institution can achieve the above

Scope

This policy applies to all activities, operations, and stakeholders, including but limited to:

- Employees, students, contractors, and visitors.
- Teaching, research, and administrative operations.
- Campus facilities, assets, and external partnerships.
- Outreach activities and collaborative projects.

This policy covers all instances of environmental sustainability, both on university premises and during university-sanctioned activities conducted off-site, including fieldwork, remote working, and any other context where employees and students might find themselves.

Policy

General Responsibilities

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

Employees and students are expected to report environmental incidents or instances of bad practice (e.g. vehicle oil leaks, unnecessary lighting, dripping taps, overheating, littering etc.) Reporting should be via reception, Richmond System, or direct to the Estates and Property Department.

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.

Vice Chancellor

- Ensure that adequate resources are allocated for effective implementation of this policy.
- Oversee the development and periodic review of the environmental sustainability procedures.
- Ensure policy integration across all institutional strategies.

Deans of Institutes/Directors of Services

- Ensure aspects/impacts assessments are completed within their Institute/Service.
- Monitor compliance with the policy.

Line Managers

- Conduct aspect/impact risk assessments, establish control measures, and ensure that employees are aware of and adhere to environmental protocols.
- Maintain regular communication with employees and ensure that they have the necessary resources and training.

Estates and Property

- Provide guidance and support on the development of aspect and impact risk assessments and control measures.

- Monitor progress toward environmental sustainability goals.
- Review and update the policy regularly.
- Offer training and resources to employees and students on environmental sustainability.
- Report to the Business Assurance Board (BAB)

Employees/Students

- Follow the procedures and protocols established for environmental and sustainable approaches.
- Report any incidents, hazards, or concerns related to environmental and sustainable approaches to student services or the Health and Safety Service.
- Participate in training and awareness programs.

University Security:

- Provide support and response in case of environmental emergencies.

Contractors and Suppliers

- Adhere to the university's environmental sustainability requirements.
- Collaborate on sustainable procurement and operational practices.

Governance

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

The Head of Estates and property reports on environmental issues to the Business Assurance Board (BAB) and is supported by the Health and Safety Service Team.

Environmental Management and Statutory Compliance

The university will work towards the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) with a view to achieve certification to ISO14001:2015.

As part of our EMS, the university will:

- Review its environmental aspects and impacts
- Maintain an aspects and impact register
- Maintain an environmental legal register
- Establish SMART objectives and targets for all significant impacts
- Implement operational procedures and controls
- Conduct regular environmental audits

The system will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Health and Safety Service Team.

We will follow operational procedures to enable us to remain compliant with all statutory requirements. All environmental statutory requirements fall within the scope of the university's statutory compliance framework.

Monitoring and Reporting

The Estates and Property Team will collect and monitor a range of environmental performance data including:

- Energy consumption (gas, electricity and other fuels)
- Water use
- Waste generation (both dry mixed recyclables, general waste, food waste and construction & demolition waste)
- Travel activity

The Head of Estates and Property will report to the Business Assurance Board (BAB).

Environmental performance data will also be circulated to employees and students as part of ongoing awareness campaigns.

Stakeholder Engagement

The university will foster and maintain a working relationship with members of the Student's Union who represent the views of the students on environmental matters.

Representatives from the university will liaise with members of the local community (including residents, businesses, regulators and government) to foster a close working relationship and allow issues of environmental concern to be discussed.

Any complaints will be handled in accordance with the university's Complaints Policy.

Related Key Legislation, Policies, and Procedures

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- The Environment Act 2021
- Climate Change Act 2008
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010
- The Water Resources Act 1991
- The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012
- Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2015
- The Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) Regulations 1999
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Carbon Management Plan
- Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Travel and Transport Policy
- Waste Management Strategy
- Ethical Investment Policy
- ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems

- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- HEFCE Sustainable Development in Higher Education Framework

Approval, Implementation and Review

This policy shall be approved by the Business Assurance Board (BAB) and implementation of this policy requires the total co-operation of all members of management and employees.

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

This policy will be reviewed annually or following any significant incidents 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

E-mail: healthandsafety@cumbria.ac.uk

Appendices

Appendix A – Document Control

Appendix B - Definitions

Document Title	Environmental 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	March 2025
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Related Policies, Procedures, CoPs, Legislation and Regulation.	Environmental Protection Act 1990 The Environment Act 2021 Climate Change Act 2008 The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 The Water Resources Act 1991 The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2015 The Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) Regulations 1999 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Carbon Management Plan Sustainable Procurement Policy Travel and Transport Policy Waste Management Strategy Ethical Investment Policy ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) HEFCE Sustainable Development in Higher Education Framework

Appendix B - Definitions

- Environment – The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates. Environment includes the living and non-living things that an organism interacts with, or that have an effect on it. Living elements that an organism interacts with are known as biotic elements: animals, plants, etc. Abiotic elements are non-living things which include air, water, sunlight etc.
- Sustainability - Meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.