

Sustainable Development Policy

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30 November 2018



UNIVERSITY OF
WINCHESTER

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| Document Title | Sustainable Development Policy |
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| Approving Body: | Chair Action on behalf of Senate |
| Review Date: | December 2021 |
| Date latest edition comes into force: | December 2018 |
| Edition (Date of Approval) | Edition 2: |
| Indicate whether the document is for public access or internal access only Indicate whether the document applies to collaborative provision? <i>(Strikethrough text, as appropriate)</i> | Public Access Internal Access Only Applies to Collaborative Provision |
| Summary/Description: | |
| Sustainability is considered a way of life at the University and it aims to incorporate sustainability in to everything it does. | |

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Policy has been produced in support of the University of Winchester's related policies and action plans including the Sustainability Statement, Environment Strategy and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) strategies and plans.

Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, but the most frequently quoted definition is from Our Common Future, also known as the Brundtland Report: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

<http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf>

Policy Statement

A Sustainability Statement was developed collaboratively with input from 100 staff, students, and community members, as part of the National Union of Students (NUS) Responsible Futures initiative, to develop a shared understanding of sustainability and related matters. Their responses were collected online and in person from January – April 2018. It articulates a shared vision for sustainability and deepens the joint ownership across all parts of the University and Student Union community. The Policy is fully supported by the University's Vice Chancellor and the President of the University's Student Union, in recognition of the shared commitment of all students and staff.

To the University, sustainability means living in harmony, acting with kindness, and caring for all living things, now and for future generations. The University will act responsibly, consider the wider implications of its actions, and strive to see staff and student lives having a positive impact on the world.

The University will equip its graduates with the skills to make a difference in their future careers and enable staff and students to consider their individual and collective environmental and social impacts.

The University will take the challenges that the world faces seriously by engaging in meaningful and critical dialogue and ensuring that social justice is at its core.

The University sees sustainability as fundamental to its culture and practice and is considered 'business as usual'.

The University considers itself progressive and pioneering, ahead of its time. Staff and students are engaged in the importance of sustainability and feel confident to engage with finding solutions to the world's greatest challenges.

The University of Winchester is thriving with a deep commitment to teaching and research excellence. Established in 1840 by the Church of England, everything the University does is underpinned by an unrelenting commitment to its values of Individuals Matter, Compassion and Spirituality. The University is a community committed to making a difference, passionate about seeing individuals and communities flourish.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, frame the agenda for the University's work towards 2030. The SDGs are a global agenda, adopted by all United Nations countries in 2015, with a vision of ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



In seeking to be sustainable, the University aims to be ecologically sound, socially just and economically viable across generations. These concepts inform curriculum and research, helping to prepare students to contribute as working citizens for an environmentally sound and socially just society. The University shall function as a sustainable community, embodying responsible consumption of food and energy, treating its diverse members with respect, and supporting these values in the community.

The University views sustainability is a process of ensuring the wise use of all resources within a framework in which environmental, social and economic factors are integrated. In adopting this approach, the University recognises the need to reflect the reality that humanity is affecting the environment in ways which are historically unprecedented and which are potentially devastating for both natural ecosystems and human beings. As universities are an integral part of the global economy and since they prepare most of the professionals who develop, manage and teach in society's public, private and non-governmental institutions, they are uniquely positioned to influence the direction we choose to take as a society. As major contributors to the values, health and wellbeing of society, higher education has a fundamental responsibility to teach, train and carry out research for sustainability. The University seeks to adopt a bold agenda with sustainability and the environment cornerstones of its academic work.

Policy Implementation

In order to meet the Sustainability Development Policy Statement, the University will:

- create awareness of the SDGs and enable staff and students to understand the need for individual and collective action in relation to these global and local challenges.

- equip its graduates with the skills, knowledge and attributes to make a difference in their future careers and lives.
- increase awareness of environmentally sustainable development within the University and externally, including through collaboration with the local and regional communities.
- create and maintain an institutional culture of sustainability, social justice and the SDGs.
- practice institutional environmental sustainability, operating in ways that maximise social and economic benefit while minimising adverse impacts on the local and wider communities.
- develop curriculum content for all students which develops environmentally responsible citizenship.
- ensure staff and students develop an understanding of ecologically sound, socially just and economically viable concepts of sustainable development.
- support and encourage interdisciplinary research on sustainability, social justice and the SDGs.
- invest in staff development, value stakeholder involvement and promote social inclusion and equity.
- work with schools to help them practice, teach and promote sustainable development.
- work in co-operation with local, regional, national and international organisations to help promote a sustainable future.