

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Introduction

Canterbury Christ Church University is a large organisation with some 1600 staff and 17000 students across 5 campuses and centres in Kent. The University recognises that an institution of this size has an impact upon the environment both locally and globally and is committed to minimising, within the constraints imposed by financial sustainability, any negative effects the delivery of its core activities of teaching, research and knowledge transfer might have. The University is committed to sustainability development based on clear key performance indicators to ensure management is focused on key objectives and that targets are met. This policy statement, together with the section on sustainable development in the supporting documents of the Strategic plan, details the nature of this commitment.

The University is committed to continually improve its environmental performance and is developing an environmental management system (EMS) to achieve this in a structured way. The University will provide the human and financial resources required to implement this EMS.

The Principles

The University will:

1. Comply with all relevant UK and EU environmental legislation, regulations and requirements.
2. Integrate environmental management into the day-to-day operations by developing an environmental management system (EMS) that seeks to manage environmental risk and continually improve environmental performance.
3. Through curriculum development, research and training engage students and staff in the critical debate on environmental issues.
4. Incorporate best environmental practice in curriculum design as a key aspect of programme development, based on clear guidelines and inclusion in programme validation processes
5. Reduce the University's use of natural resources and thereby its carbon footprint, by creating a carbon management action plan and adopting a measurable and target driven approach to sustainable energy management.
6. Minimise waste and pollution through the reduction of emissions and discharges, sound purchasing strategies, reuse of resources, recycling waste and effective operating procedures.
7. Use the transport strategy to ensure an environmentally sound approach to transport and travel within the context of a multi-campus University.
8. Develop environmental procurement procedures in order to minimise the University's indirect impact on the environment.

9. Improve the efficiency of use of the University estate and incorporate best environmental practice in its future development.
10. Maintain the grounds and buildings of the University in an environmentally sensitive way having due regard to fragile habitats and the enhancement of biodiversity.
11. Work with others at local and national level to promote and develop environmental good practice.
12. Promote communication with all University stakeholders in relation to environmental performance ensuring that this policy is publicly available.
13. Provide environmental training and development for all staff in order to support this policy.

The main responsibility for implementation of this policy lies with the Vice-Chancellor as the University's Chief Executive. The Vice Chancellor will normally delegate responsibility for the development of the policy to one of the Pro-Vice Chancellors who, working through the Environmental and Sustainability Committee and its sub committees, will ensure delivery of the sustainability objectives outlined in the strategic plan.

The Heads of Department are responsible for ensuring compliance with University Environmental and Sustainability Policy within their area of control. The University will actively monitor the performance of Departments in the implementation of the key objectives of this Policy in the activities under their control.

Whilst the University accepts the main responsibility for implementation of this policy, individuals have a very important role in co-operating with those responsible for safeguarding the environment. Individuals are required to abide by rules and requirements made under the authority of this policy.

The University will continually monitor and review its procedures in respect of its commitment to sustainable development. This policy will be reviewed at least annually and revised as appropriate in line with the objectives determined as part of our Environmental Management System.

Pro Vice Chancellor (Learning & Quality)

January 2010