

Environmental Policy 2018

This policy statement operates within the wider context of the University Framework for Sustainability, which describes our vision, commitment, approach and responsibilities with respect to this key cross-cutting theme within the University Strategic Framework (2015-2020).

As a large organisation, with some 1,500 FTE staff and about 17,000 students at multiple locations within Kent, we recognise that we have a significant impact upon the local and global environment. We are committed to minimising, within the constraints imposed by financial sustainability, any negative effects the delivery of our activities might have. As such, we will adhere to environmental best practice and have set a high level KPI to maintain an ISO14001:2015 certificated Environmental Management System.

We will demonstrate this commitment by:

- Implementing our Carbon Management Plan to reduce our contribution to climate change.
- Promoting resource efficiency, minimising waste and preventing pollution by implementing sustainable procurement practices and management of all waste streams in line with the waste hierarchy.
- Implementing sustainable Travel Plans to ensure an environmentally sound approach to transport and travel within the context of a multi-campus University.
- Ensuring that assessment of environmental risk is undertaken for all physical and operational changes to the University's estate and operations.
- Managing the grounds and buildings of the University in order to maintain and enhance biodiversity and minimise the impact of new and existing buildings.
- Working with universities, colleges, businesses and local communities to promote and develop environmental good practice.
- Promoting environmental awareness and responsibility amongst staff and students.
- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and other requirements.

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 the member of SMT with responsibility for sustainability who, working through the Sustainability Strategic Management Group, will ensure delivery of the sustainability objectives outlined in the strategic plan.

Heads of School or Department are responsible for ensuring compliance with this 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 Senior Management Team accepts the main responsibility for implementation of this policy, individual students and staff have a very important role in co-operating with those responsible for safeguarding the environment. Individuals are required to take personal responsibility for their impact on the environment whilst working for or studying at the University.