

University of Brighton Environmental Policy 2018

Sustainability has long been a core value of the University of Brighton, and is listed as one of its four key values in the *University Strategy 2016-2021*. This policy addresses the theme of "Sustainable Campuses" and the university's commitment to a pro-active, highly visible set of aspirations in relation to the environment.

The University has five campuses spread across 35 miles of the South Coast, with sites in Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings. The university caters for over 25,000 students and employs over 3,500 members of staff. There is a very diverse mixture of buildings at each site, ranging from the oldest secular building in Brighton through to multi-million pound purpose built learning environments.

This Environmental Policy sets out specific targets to help us meet this objective, based on the underlying intention to:

- Continue to develop our profile in the sector as a university committed to sustainability;
- Commit to protect the environment, including prevention of pollution, and reduce emissions and discharges
- Meet and where appropriate exceed all relevant compliance obligations;
- Demonstrate continual improvement of our Environmental Management System to enhance our environmental performance, through continual review and exemplar management.

Key objectives:

- **Carbon:** to cut our carbon by 50 per cent by 2016 from the 2009/10 baseline;
- **Waste:** to promote a zero waste culture of 'rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle', in order to significantly reduce waste and increase recycling across all areas of the university estate;
- **Procurement:** to meet the targets outlined within the Carbon Management Plan for reducing carbon from procurement and encouraging sustainable practices through fulfilment of our Sustainable Procurement Policy;
- **Transport:** to promote the use of sustainable transport and support students and staff to reduce emissions from travel;
- **Water:** to minimise our use of water across the estate and establish a system for monitoring water use;
- **Construction and refurbishment:** to ensure that all new build projects achieve BREEAM 'Excellent' standard and all refurbishment projects achieve either BREEAM 'Very Good' or SKA rating 'Gold';
- **Biodiversity:** to increase biodiversity across the university's sites, and ensure that all new developments include only native species and that non-native species are not used;
- **Sustainable food:** to continue to improve the sustainability of the university hospitality services and work towards actions set out in the Sustainable Food Policy;
- **Ethical investment:** to ensure that all finances of the university are invested ethically, as outlined in the Ethical Investment Policy.

In order to achieve these targets, staff and student engagement are critical. Our University Strategy states that we will engage with students and staff to stimulate work on improving sustainability, and will embed this across the university. In particular we are committed to:

- **Engagement and communication:** to engage students and staff from across the university in the implementation of this policy, ensuring all have ownership over sustainability at the university;
- **Campus management:** to embed sustainable practices throughout the management of our campuses
- **Community involvement:** to provide all students and staff with the opportunity to participate in sustainability related extra-curricular and community engagement activities;

This Policy is supported by the Environmental Policy Action Plan which aims to align all of our current targets around operational sustainability and expand upon how these will be delivered.

The University of Brighton's University Executive Board and Sustainability Governance Board fully support the commitment and objectives outlined. It is the responsibility of all staff, students, visitors and contractors to help embed this policy in the everyday life of the university community.



Professor Debra Humphris, Vice-Chancellor
March 2018