Energy & Water Policy

Purpose
The University strives to be a leader in reducing its impacts on the local as well as global environment, by embedding a culture of sustainability throughout its teaching, research and operations.

This policy sets out the University’s commitment to robust and sustained energy and water management practices and to continual improvement in energy performance. Energy and water are not only major environmental aspects; they are a significant expense for the University, accounting for approximately 6% of all non-salary expenditure.

The University commits to the following objectives and practices:

University Senior Management
- Include energy and water management considerations in strategic decisions made by the University
- Ensure that necessary information and resources are available to achieve objectives and targets
- Engage staff and students to take responsibility for the efficient use of energy and water in all areas of the University
- Ensure sufficient resources are in place to meet the requirements of the Energy Management System
- Ensure relevant information is made available and communicated in a timely manner across the University to enable the achievement of objectives and targets
- Review and update the appropriateness, scope and ambition of energy and water reduction targets annually

Carbon emissions
- Continually reduce overall carbon emissions and water consumption in line with the University’s Carbon & Water Management Plan
- Continually improve energy and water efficiency in terms of use per m²
- Invest in new energy and water efficient technology where this can cost-effectively improve energy performance
- Maintain an up-to-date carbon and water reduction plan

Estates management
- Consider energy and water efficiency opportunities in the design, modification and upgrade of new and existing facilities, equipment, systems and processes, adopting them where practical
- Consider whole life costs in mechanical, electrical and building design, including consideration of suitable sustainable technologies including renewable energy and water conservation solutions
- Consider the energy implications of appropriate maintenance regimes in the operation of energy/water intensive equipment

Monitoring and targeting
- Monitor and measure energy and water performance on an on-going basis
- Ensure all new and modified buildings are appropriately metered, linking all metering automatically to the University’s utilities database
Engagement and communication
- Continually engage staff and students in the efficient use of energy and water throughout the University
- Invite and respond to feedback and suggestions for on-going efficiency improvements
- Report carbon emission and water performance annually, both internally and externally

Procurement
- Consider whole life energy and water costs in the purchase of new products, equipment and services
- Purchase equipment with good energy ratings wherever practical and appropriate

Energy procurement
- Purchase energy and water cost-effectively
- Consider the environmental impacts of utility supplies in utilities purchasing contracts, purchasing certified green energy where available

Legislation
- Comply with all current energy efficiency legislation and other requirements related to energy and water use, consumption and efficiency
- Anticipate and prepare for future legislation where practicable

Signed

St. David Bell
Vice Chancellor
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