ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The University of Reading is a leader in research and higher education and is at the forefront of research into sustainability and the environment. Success in this area brings with it responsibilities to show leadership in our own environmental practices. The University is committed to ensuring that we take appropriate steps to enhance our environmental performance.

The University of Reading’s sustainability vision is “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 is applicable to the scope of the University’s ISO14001 Environmental Management Systems.

Aims

The University of Reading takes its environmental responsibilities seriously and will aim to manage its operations in ways that are environmentally sustainable, economically feasible and socially responsible. The University is committed to protecting the environment and minimising the impact of its operations in order to achieve the highest standards of environmental performance. The University aims to minimise its impacts on climate change and embed a culture of sustainability into its business processes.

Procedures will ensure that all of its operations meet the requirements of environmental legislation and applicable best practice. Systems shall exist to protect the environment, prevent pollution and mitigate the University’s significant environmental impacts by considering a life cycle perspective and embedding sustainability into wider University activities and processes.

A specific policy on Energy and Water has also been issued to embed efficient resource use. The University will set challenging objectives and targets to continually improve its environmental performance. The University of Reading will continue to raise environmental awareness through various communication channels and the development and training of its employees.

Policy commitments

1. Compliance Obligations and Management Systems

The University will comply fully with all applicable legislation, regulations, accreditations, agreements and other compliance obligations. The University will establish and maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) which will; manage our negative environmental impacts in order to reduce them; recognise our positive environmental impacts in order to enhance and promote them; and identify risks and opportunities which will assist us in continually improving the system and our environmental performance.

2. Preventing Pollution

Reduce the risk and minimise the impact of pollution from campus activities by controlling emissions, meeting regulatory standards implementing emergency response procedures.

3. Water Consumption

Minimise the use of water in line with the University’s Energy and Water Policy.
4. Waste

Minimise the impact of waste on the environment by promoting and facilitating the consideration of the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle) whilst diverting waste away from landfill where possible and managing waste in a responsible and compliant manner. This will be achieved via the University's Waste Strategy and Waste Procedures.

5. Energy

Reduce our carbon emissions through our Carbon and Water Management Plan which includes measures to ensure we meet our carbon and water reduction targets. This is in line with the University's Energy and Water Policy.

6. Travel and Transport

The University will promote and facilitate sustainable modes of travel including walking, cycling, travelling by public transport and car sharing. The University will also explore options for reducing the need to travel. This will be actively progressed via the Travel Plan.

7. Procurement

Promote sustainable and efficient resource management practices. Ensure that sustainability is an embedded part of the University's end to end procurement process.

8. Conservation and Biodiversity

Promote awareness of the natural environment and operate in a manner that protects and enhances biodiversity.

9. Estate Development and Maintenance

Manage the University's property portfolio by considering appropriate sustainable construction, refurbishment and maintenance practices.

10. Communication and Community Involvement

Engage with staff, students and the wider community to raise the profile of sustainability. The University will communicate its environmental objectives and targets promote best practice and encourage actions to reduce our collective environmental impact.

11. Noise and Nuisance

Minimise the impact of noise and nuisance on the local community from University activities.

Signed: [Signature]
Sir David Bell
Vice Chancellor
Date: 26-02-18