

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Northumbria University employs over 2,500 staff and provides higher education to approximately 27,000 students. It comprises of three main campuses: the City Centre Campus in Newcastle upon Tyne, the Coach Lane Campus on the outskirts of Newcastle upon Tyne and our London Campus.

The University recognises that its activities and wider influence impact upon the environment, but through our policies we wish to minimise these impacts and to grow and develop in a sustainable manner.

Commitments

We are committed to:

- the protection of the environment, including the prevention of pollution;
- meeting, and where possible exceeding, all relevant legislation, industry standards and other environmental requirements to which the organisation subscribes;
- demonstrating continual improvement and enhancing environmental performance.

The development of our Environmental Management System (EMS) provides a framework for achieving our commitments.

In order to help inform and measure environmental performance, we have developed performance indicators and supporting plans relating to our sustainability objectives:

- Reduce our energy consumption and associated carbon emissions, as supported by the **Carbon Management Plan**.
- Minimise our use of water as detailed in the **Water Management Plan**.
- Reduce the volume of waste we produce, achieve a high recycling rate, and ensure all waste is disposed of responsibly, as detailed in our **Waste Management Plan**.
- Promote and support sustainable travel options for commuting and business travel as supported by the **Sustainable Travel Management Plan**.
- Establish procedures to ensure sustainable procurement, as outlined in the **Commercial Procurement Policy** and supported by our **Fairtrade Policy** and **Sustainable Food Policy**.
- Preserve and enhance the biodiversity of the estate, in accordance with the **Biodiversity Management Plan**.
- Engage and motivate staff, students and stakeholders to engage with sustainability through initiatives outlined in the **Sustainability Engagement Plan**.
- Minimise any significant adverse environmental impacts of new development in accordance with the **Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment Management Plan**.
- Embed sustainability within the curriculum and support sustainability through research, as detailed in our **Education and Research for Sustainable Development Plan**.

Our Environmental Sustainability Policy is overseen by the University Sustainability Management Group and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Approved on behalf of the University Executive:



Signed: July 2017

Area	Target	Deadline	Responsibility
Environmental Management System	Gain ISO14001 certification.	2020	Sustainability Adviser
Energy and Carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32.5% reduction in scope 1 and scope 2 emissions against the 2005/6 baseline. Improve the efficiency of the campus buildings by at least 3% each year (based on energy use per m²) 	2020	Carbon Manager
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce total waste per student by 2% annually. Increase on-site recycling segregation to 60%. 	2020	Sustainability Adviser
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce mains-fed water usage by 2% per year (litres per student). 	2020	Carbon Manager
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce emissions from Business Travel by 4% annually. Reduce average emissions associated with staff and student commuter travel by 3%. Reduce modal commute by car (alone): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Campus Staff: 24% City Campus Students: 10% Coach Lane Campus Staff: 60% Coach Lane Campus Students: 40% 	2018	Sustainability Adviser
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and implement guidelines for dealing with protected species and habitats. To undertake an estate-wide biodiversity audit every 2 years and to maintain or increase the variety of biodiversity on the estate. 	2018	Sustainability Adviser
Procurement	To achieve Flexible Framework Level 4.	2020	Procurement
Construction	All new buildings to achieve a DEC rating of B or better and to aim for a BREEAM rating of 'Excellent' with a minimum requirement of 'Very Good'.	2020	Head of Campus Planning & Development
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have at least one active Green Impact team in every Faculty and Service. To deliver a full programme of sustainability events and activities for students, staff and the wider community. To learn from and contribute to sustainable practices within the communities of which we are a part. 	2018	Sustainability Adviser
Education & Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide opportunities for all students to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding relating to sustainability challenges and solutions. To undertake a comprehensive research portfolio relating to sustainability and to use this knowledge to influence operations at the University, with our key Partners and within the community. 	2020	Sustainability Adviser