

Policy

Environmental Policy

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Approved by: **Operations Board**

Version No. **1.0**

Owner: **Estates, Facilities & Services Directorate**

Date first published: **Feb-2016**

Date updated: **Feb-2016**

Review Date: **Feb-2019**

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Background

- 1 Buckinghamshire New University (Bucks) recognises that its activities have an effect on the environment both locally and at a wider level.
- 2 These activities include providing Higher Education for all undergraduate and postgraduate students across all campuses. In addition professional and support services are also provided at all locations.

Purpose Statement

- 3 The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate that Bucks is committed to embedding sustainability across all its activities, helping to reduce the effect it has on the environment.

Applicability and Scope

- 4 This policy applies to all staff and students as their actions and behaviour whilst on any campus will have a direct effect on the University's environmental performance.
- 5 The scope of this policy covers all education, research and support services across all the operational sites of Bucks New University.

Responsibilities

- 6 Leadership of this policy lies with the University Senior Management Team.
- 7 The Sustainability and Energy Manager will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the document to reflect good practice and changes to relevant legislation and guidance from regulatory bodies, making recommendations for its improvement.
- 8 Staff and students are responsible for ensuring that their activities do not contradict the aspirations set out in this policy.
- 9 All enquiries relating to this policy should be directed to the Sustainability and Energy Manager in the first instance.

Definitions

- 10 In this policy the meaning of sustainable development is taken from the 1987 Brundtland report as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".
- 11 Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM) is an established method of assessing, rating and certifying the sustainability of buildings.

Key Policy Actions

- 12 The University wishes to minimise the effect it has on the environment and in order to achieve this the University will:
 - a Continually strive to improve its environmental performance;
 - b Manage its activities to protect the environment, including prevention of pollution;
 - c Comply with all compliance obligations, including applicable environmental legislation and other requirements to which the University subscribes relating to its environmental aspects;
 - d Set objectives and targets to measure and reduce its environmental impact;
 - e Reduce carbon emissions in line with the Carbon Reduction Implementation Plan;
 - f Follow the principals of the waste hierarchy to reduce the quantity of waste produced and to increase recycling rates;
 - g Reduce water consumption across all its sites;
 - h Improve space utilisation of all space categories, taking into account accessibility considerations and the need for reasonable adjustments;
 - i Ensure spaces are used efficiently to maximise the efficiency of heating, cooling and lighting an area;
 - j Encourage and promote sustainable transport to staff, students and visitors;
 - k Promote biodiversity across its campuses;
 - l Promote sustainable construction principals in new build and refurbishment projects, aspiring to a BREEAM “very good” design;
 - m Engage with the Bucks Students’ Union, community and interested stakeholders on sustainability issues;
 - n Champion and drive sustainable development into the curriculum;
 - o Take sustainability into consideration when making purchasing decisions for goods and services supplied to the University;
 - p Use working groups on environmental issues to improve the University’s performance and engage with staff and students;
 - q Develop, maintain and continually improve an accredited environmental management system to enhance environmental performance;
 - r Maintain sustainability credentials with recognised external bodies;
 - s Make this policy available to staff, students and the public.