University of Huddersfield Environmental Policy

The University of Huddersfield is committed to the principles of environmental protection and sustainable development.

The University recognises that its activities have a significant impact on the local and global environment, and acknowledges its responsibility for the protection of the environment.

It is committed to maintaining, and wherever possible, enhancing the quality of this environment, both for people who study and work at the University and for the wider community.

The University will endeavour to ensure that the management of its estates is in a manner which as a minimum meets legislative requirements and accords with environmental good practice. It will seek to continuously improve its environmental performance, wherever viable, whilst recognising the academic and wider operational needs of the University.

In particular the University will:

- Seek to minimise waste and continue to take positive steps to adopt the waste hierarchy: Prevent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Responsible Disposal, to achieve landfill avoidance wherever feasible.
- Maintain its current high standards of energy and water efficiency, through engagement with staff, students and visitors, and reduce consumption further wherever feasible through implementing new energy and water efficiency measures.
- Commit to using primary raw materials (including fossil fuels, energy and water) in an efficient manner and promote their conservation, thus helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and where feasible also conserving University resources.
- Endeavour to introduce sustainable factors into all new buildings and refurbishments, and aim for the highest environmental standards possible whilst achieving its academic priorities. To meet this objective the University will employ the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) and aim to achieve as a minimum the BREEAM 'Excellent' rating for all future projects.
- Participate in dialogue and build partnerships with local community and national organisations to reduce its environmental impact within the regions in which it operates.
- Continue to develop and implement its Travel Plan with the aim of helping to reduce pollution and traffic congestion around the University's sites and beyond, and encourage staff and students to consider alternative methods of transport.
- Incorporate a respect for wildlife and the natural environment into the management of its estate, being mindful of the wildlife that resides on its campuses and actively working to maintain, enhance and create wildlife habitats.
- Raise awareness among staff and students about the University's environmental impacts, activities and performance, promote good practice at all levels, and encourage participation in environmental projects.
- Seek to influence its suppliers and contractors through its Corporate, Social and Environmental Procurement Policy, requiring that sustainability and environmental issues are considered in the procurement of all goods and services supplied to the University.
- Commit to prevention of pollution by ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation regarding emissions and discharges.
- Incorporate education for sustainable development into relevant student curriculum.

This policy will be reviewed regularly and made publicly available.

The Vice Chancellor’s Executive Group is responsible for the delivery of this policy and the integration of sustainable development at the University. All staff and students share the responsibility to implement and embed this policy within their working practices.

Signature

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Colin Blair
Director of Estates and Facilities