



## Environmental Sustainability Policy

Northumbria University employs over 2,500 staff and provides higher education to approximately 27,000 students.

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 University subscribes;
- demonstrating continual improvement of the Environmental Management System (EMS) in order to enhance environmental performance.

The development of our Environmental Management System (EMS) provides a framework for achieving our commitments. The scope of the EMS is defined as:

### **Services and operations in the provision of higher education, research and training including administration, and support services.**

In order to help inform and measure environmental performance, we have developed a number of objectives and key performance indicators, supported by our **Environmental Objectives and Actions Plan**:

- Reduce our scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, as supported by the **Carbon Management Plan**.
- Minimise our use of water.
- Reduce the volume of waste we produce, and ensure all waste is disposed of responsibly and in accordance with the waste hierarchy.
- Prevent pollution by minimising local discharges to air, land and water.
- Minimise the environmental impact of business travel and commuter travel, as supported by the **Sustainable Travel Management Plan**.
- Minimise the negative, and maximise the positive, environmental, economic and social impacts of the items we buy, as outlined in the **Commercial Procurement Policy** and supported by our **Fairtrade Policy** and **Sustainable Food Policy**.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity across the University and promote its benefits for staff, students, visitors and the local community.
- Minimise any significant adverse environmental impacts of new development.
- Raise awareness of sustainability among staff, students and the communities in which we work, and develop their skills and knowledge to support sustainability.
- 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:

February 2019



Area	Aim	KPI	Target	Deadline
<b>Environmental Management</b>	To ensure continuous improvement in our environmental performance.	People and Planet University League	Top 30	2023
		Environmental Management System accreditation.	ISO14001 accreditation.	2020
		Student rating for institutional commitment (NUS annual survey)	65%	2019
<b>Energy and Carbon</b>	To reduce scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions.	Scope 1 and 2 emissions.	32.5% reduction (from 2005/6).	2020
			10% reduction (from 2017-18)	2019
		Scope 3 emissions.	4% reduction	2019
		Average DEC rating.	D	2020
		Energy efficiency of buildings (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> ).	3% reduction	2019
Total Emissions per Student	3% reduction			
<b>Waste and Resource Management</b>	To minimise and manage waste, in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	Total waste produced (tonnes)	5% reduction	2019
		Onsite segregation rate for recycling, composting and reuse (%).	60%	2020
		Non-hazardous waste sent to landfill (%).	0%	2019
<b>Water Management</b>	To reduce the volume of water we use.	Total mains water consumption (m <sup>3</sup> ).	2% reduction	2019
<b>Travel</b>	Minimise the environmental impact of business travel and the travel undertaken by staff, students and visitors to and from the University.	Emissions from Business Travel (CO <sub>2</sub> e).	4% reduction	2019
		Single Occupancy vehicle rate for commuter travel.	City Campus: Staff- 24%, Students- 7% Coach Lane Campus: Staff - 59%, Students 29%	2023
		Emissions from commuter travel (average CO <sub>2</sub> e per head).	3% reduction (from 2018)	2023
		Emissions from student start and end of term travel.	No increase.	2020



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<b>Biodiversity</b>	Protect and enhance biodiversity across the University and promote its benefits for staff, students, visitors and the local community.	Published an up-to-date Biodiversity Action Plan	1	2018
		Increase metres of space considered medium or high value for biodiversity (m <sup>2</sup> ).	Increase in moderate / high value	2020
<b>Procurement</b>	To minimise the negative, and maximise the positive, environmental, economic and social impacts of the items we buy.	Fairtrade University status.	Maintain Fairtrade status	2019
		Food for Life accreditation.	Bronze	2019
		Flexible Framework.	Establish baseline	2020
		Develop a baseline for carbon emissions from procurement.	Establish baseline	2020
<b>Sustainable Buildings</b>	To minimise the environmental impacts of our buildings – from design to occupation.	Average DEC rating.	D	2020
		Developed specifications for sustainable design and build.	1	2019
		Space efficiency	Establish target within Estates Masterplan	2019
<b>Emissions &amp; Discharges</b>	Prevent pollution by minimising local discharges to air, land and water.	Reduce scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions.	7%	2019
		Reduce escape/addition of refrigerant gases (CO <sub>2</sub> e).	2%	2019
		Implement reporting of environmental incidents and set baseline.	1	2019
<b>Education for Sustainable Development</b>	To raise awareness of sustainability among staff, students and the communities in which we work, and develop their skills and knowledge to support sustainable development.	No. of annual sustainability events for staff and/or students and/or the public.	20	2019
		No. of large University-wide sustainability campaigns (e.g. waste reduction, energy reduction).	1	2019
		No. of Green Impact teams	Every Faculty and Service	2019



Area	Aim	KPI	Target	Deadline
		No. of student research projects on sustainability at Northumbria University.	Establish baseline	2019
		Establish baseline of the no. of taught programmes incorporating content linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.	Establish baseline	2019
<b>Research</b>	To undertake research that supports the Sustainable Development Goals, and to use our research to inform our operations in support of sustainability.	No. of student research projects on sustainability at Northumbria University.	Establish baseline	2019
		Establish baseline mapping of how current research currently supports the Sustainable Development Goals.	Establish baseline	2019
<b>Climate Change Resilience</b>	To be resilient to risks from weather and climate change.	Production of Climate Resilience Plan and integration with the Estate Masterplan.	1	2021