

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY



This Policy sets out our commitments to the environment, energy and water management.

Version	1.1
Executive Sponsor	Chief Operating Officer
Officer Responsible for Policy/ Procedures	Director of Estates
Consultation Process	Executive Operations Group
Date of Approval and Committee and/or Executive Officer	Executive
Effective Date	1 January 2021

1. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

1.1 Purpose of this Policy

This Policy supports the delivery of the University's Sustainability Strategy.

The University is committed to the responsible use of its energy and water across its operations and controls energy and water consumption to:

- avoid unnecessary expenditure on utilities;
- improve cost-effectiveness, productivity and working conditions;
- reduce our carbon emissions from energy in line with national, sector-wide and institutional targets;
- protect the environment; and
- meet legal requirements.

The University is ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certified. This Policy is designed to deliver adherence with legal requirements and approved codes of practice in addition to satisfying ISO standards. This Policy provides a framework for setting and reviewing energy objectives and targets.

1.2 What is covered by this Policy

This Policy covers all the buildings and land managed at the University on the city centre campus and on at the outdoor recreation centre in Great Barr. Activities covered include teaching and learning, hotel and conferencing facilities and sports facilities.

1.3 Breach of this Policy

Any breach of this Policy may lead to a break down in the University's ISO 14001 and 50001 management system and should be reported to the Director of Estates in a first instance.

1.4 Policy Ownership

The Executive has approved this Policy, the Chief Operating Officer is the Executive sponsor and the Director of Estates is the officer responsible for the Policy.

Led by Estates, the Sustainable Aston Working Group (SAWG) is responsible for approving all documentation linked to these standards, looking for continual sustainable improvement, as well as identify areas of opportunity to strengthen our processes and procedures without effecting our core business. The SAWG is an interdisciplinary group of academics, Go Green Champions, student representatives and professional support staff.

Policy implementation is supported by the Sustainability Strategy Group and Energy Steering Group.

2. THE POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 Guiding Principles

The overarching principles of this Policy are to deliver certain environmental, sustainability, energy and water management commitments.

2.2 Environmental and sustainability commitments

- To fulfil all compliance obligations such as relevant UK and international legislative and regulatory guidelines, and strive to meet indicators and best practice requirements in respect of sustainability.
- To support continual improvement of the environmental management system to enhance environmental performance. This will be achieved by establishing demanding and measurable environmental performance targets, specifically related to energy, transport and waste, which are reviewed regularly and reported upon at least annually.
- Raising awareness within the University community to ensure that everyone recognises and respects their environmental and ethical responsibilities and acts accordingly.
- Implement ethically and environmentally responsible procurement and financial management measures, policies and procedures and communicate these to suppliers, contractors and partner organisations.
- To protect the environment by preventing pollution through reduced waste, reduced emissions and responsible disposal.
- To encourage the use of sustainable transport through the implementation of the Sustainable Transport Strategy.
- Embed sustainability into the curriculum, research, community, and culture of the University.
- Develop and maintain the estate and associated landscape with due regard to environmental impact and social value.
- Take a leading role in advancing the sustainability agenda in the West Midlands region and develop meaningful local, national and international partnerships and networks.
- Monitor, annually report and continually strive to improve our sustainability performance, through the setting and achievement of clearly defined objectives and targets.

2.3 Energy and water management commitments

- Continually improve energy performance through reducing our energy consumption and associated emissions in line with the figures set out in our Carbon Management Plan.
- Continually improve the energy management system.
- Minimise excess water consumption and continue to use water efficiently.
- Comply with applicable legal and other requirements, and strive to meet indicators and best practice requirements in respect of our emissions.
- Monitor our performance and publish an annual Sustainability report as well as reviewing the University's Carbon Management Plan on an annual basis.
- Utilise energy and water from sustainable sources where practicable, including incorporation of renewable and low carbon technologies into building development projects.
- Invest in projects and equipment to reduce energy and water usage across the University, support the purchase of energy efficient products and services that impact energy performance, and support design activities that consider energy performance improvement.
- Raise awareness amongst staff and students of the important contribution each member can make to energy and water conservation.
- Ensure that commitment is obtained from staff at all levels within the University on aspects of energy and water efficiency under their control.
- Implement the Space Heating and Ventilation Code of Practice.



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