

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL – ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



The University of Bristol believes that protection of the environment is an integral part of good institutional practice and that it has a duty to satisfy itself that all of its operations are conducted with proper regard for the environment. It is committed to maintaining, and wherever possible, improving the quality of this environment both for the people who live and work in the University, and for the wider community now and in the future. The University seeks to make the most effective and efficient use of all resources, encouraging all members of the University community to develop an ecologically sound approach to their work. This policy builds on existing achievements over the last ten years.

AIMS

- Reduce consumption and costs whilst satisfying the University's needs for energy and water.
- Reduce the environmental impact of the University through better management of its material resources.
- Integrating environmental and sustainable principles into the University's operational procedures and promoting best practice at every level.
- Continually improving our environmental performance wherever practicable.

OBJECTIVES

General

1. Maintain an environmental management structure within the University.
2. Publish and regularly review an environmental policy.
3. Set & publish environmental targets/benchmarks against which environmental performance will be monitored.
4. Review environmental management procedures on a regular basis.
5. Avoid the unnecessary use of environmentally damaging substances and processes.

Legislative compliance

6. Achieve and if possible over-achieve the requirements of all relevant legislation.

Energy, Water & Waste Management

7. Maintain and develop energy & environmental monitoring & targeting systems.
8. Identify and implement cost effective energy & water conservation measures.
9. Maintain an on-going energy/water and environmental management investment fund.
10. Conduct regular environmental site audits (both waste and energy/water).
11. Reduce the amount of waste generated & disposed of by implementing a waste minimization/recycling program.
12. Investigate the cost effective use of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and Renewable Energy sources.
13. Investigate options for the devolution of utility budgets to relevant departments to develop local accountability.

Environmental Procurement

14. Promote a purchasing policy, which will give preference, as far as is practical, to those products and services, which cause least harm to the environment.

Built Environment

15. Introduce sustainable construction principles to all new build, extension and refurbished buildings.
16. Maintain an environmentally sound garden and grounds management policy.
17. Develop policies relating to internal building pollutants.

Transport

18. Encourage modes of transport, which minimize environmental impact and examine the operation of University vehicles.

Noise

19. Actively seek to maintain all noise within national guidelines & to reduce levels, as far as is practical, to a minimum.

Education and Awareness

20. Increase awareness of environmental responsibilities amongst staff and students, encourage good housekeeping measures and provide training where necessary.
21. Highlight the need for interdisciplinary research on sustainable development themes in line with the University's research strategy.
22. Publish an annual progress report and publicise the results to staff and students.
23. Build partnerships with local community and national organizations to progress environmental principles.
24. Identify and promote initiatives for inclusion of sustainability principles within curriculum development.

TARGETS

- a) To reduce carbon dioxide emissions per square meter by at least 20% below 2000/2001 levels by the 2010.
- b) To reduce water consumption per square meter by at least 20% below 2000/2001 levels by 2010.
- c) To reduce waste per FTE equivalent (staff & student) going to landfill by 60% below 1997/98 levels by 2010.