

10. Emissions, Discharges and Prevention of Pollution

The University of Bristol operates under an Environmental Management System, ISO 14001. The scope of which covers all operations, teaching and research. This is a systematic approach to environmental management, externally audited annually to provide assurance that the University is achieving best practice in environmental management.

Aim

Provide a systematic, auditable framework to ensure compliance with legislation, including controls to prevent pollution; working to reduce emissions and discharges to air, land and water as well as minimising environmental impact with a lifecycle perspective. This will also allow the University to balance socio economic needs with environmental impacts.

Objectives

1. Use ISO 14001:2015 to manage environmental and social impacts, identify risks and opportunities and achieve environmental compliance
2. Identify aspects of the University's activities that can have a positive or negative impact on the environment, prioritising those deemed to be significant and developing controls and actions, based on factors relevant to the institution
3. Review business aspects of activities that have both positive and negative impacts on the environment, incorporating whole life and life cycle and identifying business risks and opportunities.
4. Implement and manage processes for prevention of pollution
5. Evaluating environmental performance to help establish operational controls which lead to enhanced environmental performance and continuous improvement
6. Manage internal compliance audits to ensure ongoing best practice is maintained

Actions

1. Maintain an aspects and impacts register, reviewing annually
2. Maintain a risk and legislation register, reviewing at least annually
3. Hold university wide management reviews
4. Raise the profile of ISO 14001 principles across the University
5. Review risk assessments and control documents in light the audits and reviews

Benefits

1. Achieving financial or operational efficiencies though implementing environmentally sound initiatives
2. Allow the University to respond to changing environmental conditions, manage associated risk and enhance opportunities for improvements
3. Reduce the risk of non-compliance with legislation

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 6 – clean water and sanitation
2. 14 – life below water
3. 15 – life on the land