

Environmental Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the heart of this statement is the recognition that the activities of the University and all its members has an effect upon the environment and that through the choices that we make we should look to reduce those that are negative and promote the positive. To be truly sustainable Keele will seek to ensure that as it strives to meet the needs of current generations, we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs also.

This policy seeks to make public the commitment to become more environmentally responsible and to clearly set out the direction of travel in the following key areas:

Greening the Curriculum

Keele will seek to develop graduates and postgraduates who are aware of sustainability issues and will encourage Schools and Faculties to consider embedding environmental content within existing courses and to develop new courses where there is demand for them.

Keele will develop this area further by supporting course development in the areas of environment and sustainability to expand the offering, including making sustainability modules available to all students via electives.

Promoting Awareness and Public Understanding

The University will seek to increase awareness and engagement of staff and students to fulfil corporate and individual environmental responsibilities.

1. High profile projects will be selected and promoted effectively to raise awareness.
2. The University will hold a green week each year to highlight ways in which staff and students can change their behaviour to improve sustainability

Waste Management and Minimisation

The University will seek to minimise waste and pollution and develop and operate environmentally sound waste management procedures that promote reduction, reuse and recycling.

3. The University will achieve year on year reductions in the volume of waste per person and year on year increases in the percentage of waste that is recycled.
4. A University wide office waste recycling scheme will be implemented and there will be provision of recycling containers within all Halls of Residence.

Energy Management

The University will seek to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by 10% in the existing built estate during the period 2005 to 2010 and will develop a strategy to meet the government target to reduce carbon emissions by 60% by 2050.

5. A system will be developed to measure the carbon footprint of the campus, including travel and embedded energy, and targets set to achieve year on year reductions.
6. A strategy to become a carbon neutral campus will be developed.

Water Efficiency

The University will seek to minimise water consumption and increase the use of sustainable drainage systems.

7. Continual monitoring of the underground network to identify and repair leaking pipes, which could potentially reduce water usage across the campus by 15%

Transport

The University will seek to minimise and reduce the number of vehicle trips to the University and to create a safe and pleasant environment on site for pedestrians and cyclists.

8. To use the outcomes of the Public Dialogue exercise to help inform medium to long-term plans for travel.
9. To ring fence the income derived from parking charges to manage parking, to encourage sustainable travel choices and to promote broader environmental initiatives

Procurement and Life Cycle Analysis

The University will seek to develop a procurement policy which prioritises, wherever possible, those products and services which are sustainable.

10. Goods will be purchased, where possible, from sustainable sources
11. To procure paper with a minimum 80% recycled content
12. To develop sustainability accounting practices to reflect this issue within budgets

Sustainable Development

The University will seek to protect and promote a campus environment which embraces sustainability.

13. New buildings will, where possible, meet or exceed BREEAM Excellent standards and building refurbishments will be carried out to at least BREEAM Very Good
14. Projects will be identified on an annual basis to improve the environmental performance of the built estate
15. Staff and student allotments will be supported to promote engagement with local food and the food life cycle

Monitoring of Performance

The University will seek to ensure the publication of objectives, targets and performance information and to develop measurable objectives and targets where they are not yet in place.

16. Strategic Planning Committee to monitor progress against the Environmental Policy annually
17. To appoint an Environmental Officer to help promote and coordinate sustainability issues at Keele.