ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The University of Reading is a leader in research and higher education and is at the forefront of research into sustainability and the environment. Success in this area brings with it responsibilities to show leadership in our own environmental practices. The University is committed to ensuring that we take appropriate steps to enhance our environmental performance.

The University of Reading’s sustainability vision is “to be a leader in reducing its impacts on the local as well as global environment, by embedding a culture of sustainability throughout its teaching, research and operations”.

This policy is applicable to the scope of the University’s ISO14001 Environmental Management Systems.

Aims

The University of Reading takes its environmental responsibilities seriously and will aim to manage its operations in ways that are environmentally sustainable, economically feasible and socially responsible. The University is committed to protecting the environment and minimising the impact of its operations in order to achieve the highest standards of environmental performance. The University aims to minimise its impacts on climate change and embed a culture of sustainability into its business processes.

Procedures are being implemented to ensure that all of its operations meet the requirements of environmental legislation and applicable best practice. Specific policies on Water and Energy Management have also been issued to embed efficient resource use. The University will set challenging targets to continually improve its environmental performance. The University of Reading will continue to raise environmental awareness through various communication channels and the development and training of its employees.

We have developed an Environmental Management System (EMS) to achieve this in a structured way. Objectives and targets have been set to protect the environment, prevent pollution and mitigate the University’s significant environmental impacts by considering a life cycle perspective and embedding sustainability into wider University activities and processes. These objectives and targets are communicated throughout the organisation and will be reviewed and updated annually.

Policy commitments

1. **Compliance Obligations and Management Systems**

   The University will comply fully with all applicable legislation, regulations, accreditations, agreements and other compliance obligations. The University will establish and maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) which will: manage our negative environmental impacts in order to reduce them; recognise our positive environmental impacts in order to enhance and promote them; and identify risks and opportunities which will assist us in continually improving the system and our environmental performance.

2. **Preventing Pollution**

   Reduce the risk and minimise the impact of pollution from campus activities by controlling emissions, meeting regulatory standards implementing emergency response procedures.
3. Water Consumption
Minimise the use of water in line with the University’s Energy and Water Policy.

4. Waste
Minimise the impact of waste on the environment by promoting and facilitating the consideration of the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle) whilst diverting waste away from landfill where possible and managing waste in a responsible and compliant manner.

5. Energy
Reduce our carbon emissions through our Carbon Management & Reduction Plan which includes measures to ensure we meet sector targets. This is in line with the University’s Energy and Water Policy.

6. Transport
Promote and facilitate sustainable modes of transport including walking, travelling by bus, car sharing and cycling.

7. Procurement
Promote sustainable and efficient resource management practices. Ensure that sustainability is an embedded part of the University’s end to end procurement process.

8. Conservation and Biodiversity
Promote awareness of the natural environment and operate in a manner that protects and enhances biodiversity.

9. Estate Development
Manage the University’s property portfolio by adopting sustainable construction and refurbishment practices where possible.

10. Communication and Community Involvement
Engage with staff and students as well as the wider community to raise the profile of sustainability, promote best practice and encourage actions to reduce our collective environmental impact.

11. Noise and Nuisance
Minimise the impact of noise and nuisance on the local community from University activities.

Signed: [Signature]
Sir David Beil
Vice Chancellor
Date: 08-03-17