ENVIRONMENTAL & ENERGY POLICY

The University of Reading is a leader in higher education and is at the forefront of research into sustainability and the environment.

The University of Reading takes its environmental responsibilities seriously and aims 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 on the environment and embedding a culture of sustainability.

The University commits to the following undertakings:

1. **Compliance Obligations and Management**

   - Comply with applicable legal requirements, accreditations, agreements and other compliance obligations.
   - Establish and continually improve an integrated Energy and Environmental Management System (EEMS) in order to:
     - o Enhance the University's environmental performance;
     - o Manage its negative environmental impacts in order to reduce them;
     - o Recognise its positive impacts in order to communicate and promote them;
     - o Ensure that necessary resources are available to achieve objectives and targets.

2. **Prevention of Pollution**

   - Reduce the risk, and minimise the impact, of pollution from campus activities by controlling emissions, meeting regulatory standards and implementing emergency response procedures.

3. **Energy and Water Consumption**

   - Continually reduce energy and water consumption and overall carbon emissions in line with the University's Carbon and Water Management Plan.
   - Continually improve energy and water efficiency, using absolute and relative metrics to assess performance.
   - Invest in new energy and water efficient technologies, and support relevant design activities, where these cost-effectively improve performance.
   - Work towards appropriately metering all buildings, linking all metering automatically to the University's utilities database.
   - Ensure the availability of information by monitoring, measuring and reporting on energy and water consumption on an on-going basis.

4. **Waste**

   - Minimise the impact of waste on the environment by promoting and facilitating the consideration of the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, dispose); whilst diverting waste away from landfill where possible and managing waste in a responsible and compliant manner.
   - Maintain and actively progress a University Waste Strategy.

5. Travel and Transport

- Promote and facilitate sustainable modes of travel including walking, cycling, travelling by public transport and car sharing.
- Explore options for reducing the need to travel.
- Maintain and actively progress a University Travel Plan.

6. Procurement

- Promote sustainable resource management practices and support the purchase of energy efficient products and services that positively impact energy performance.
- Purchase energy and water cost-effectively and from certified renewable energy suppliers where available.
- Ensure that sustainability is an embedded part of the University's end to end procurement process.

7. Conservation and Biodiversity

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

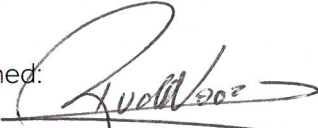8. Estates Development and Maintenance

- Manage the University's property portfolio by considering appropriate sustainable construction, energy and water efficiency opportunities in the design, modification, and refurbishment of new and existing facilities and maintenance practices where practical.
- Consider the whole life costs for mechanical, electrical and building design, including considerations of suitable sustainable technologies and renewable energy options.

9. Communication and Community Involvement

- Engage with staff, students and the wider community to raise the profile of sustainability, ensure environmental responsibilities are clearly understood, and actions to reduce individual and collective environmental impacts are encouraged.
- Communicate the University's environmental, energy and water performance annually, both internally and externally.
- Invite and respond to feedback and suggestions for on-going environmental improvements and promote best practice.

10. Noise and Nuisance

- Minimise the impact of noise and nuisance on the local community from the University's activities.

Signed: _[signature]_   Date: 22 August 2019

Prof. Robert Van de Noort
Vice Chancellor

Version: 1.0
Issue Date: 04/07/19
Next Review Date: 03/07/21