

Environment & Sustainability Policy

The University of Southampton is a world-leading, research-intensive university, with a strong educational offering, renowned for our innovation and enterprise. Our Strategy recognises sustainability as a core principle ensuring our actions lead to financial, social and environmental sustainability. The University community is committed to managing our environmental impacts and continually improving our environmental performance by implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS) that is integrated within business operations and processes and conforms to the requirements of the ISO 14001:2015 standard.

This Policy provides a framework for establishing objectives, targets and key performance indicators by outlining our key commitments as set out below:

Biodiversity: Maintain and where possible create and enhance habitats for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Carbon: Reduce carbon emissions

Climate change: Ensure the University builds resilience to weather, minimise and mitigate climate change risks.

Education for sustainable development: Equip our students with knowledge, understanding and skills to contribute to environmental, social and economic wellbeing.

Engagement: Engage students, staff and the community with the principles of sustainability.

Environmental Management System: Make continuous improvements to our EMS and set objectives to enhance environmental performance.

Pollution prevention and legal compliance: Protect the environment; prevent pollution; fulfil our compliance obligations and other specific commitments relevant to the context of the organisation.

Procurement of goods and services: Manage our supply chain by considering the economic, ethical and environmental impacts and whole-life costs of purchasing decisions.

Sustainable Buildings: Design, build and refurbish our estate in an environmentally responsible and resource-efficient way.

Travel: Improve transport options available to staff, students and visitors to reduce car travel.

Waste: Manage our waste according to the waste hierarchy – prevent, reuse, recycle, recover, dispose.

Water: Reduce water use.

This Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the EMS Management Review.



Professor Mark Spearing
President and Vice-Chancellor
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