

Environmental Policy

The University of Leeds is responsible for the provision of higher education to over 30,000 students and is committed to the continued creation, dissemination and application of knowledge. Within this context our aim is to become a University with a reputation for outstanding performance on sustainability; a university that challenges the status quo and is renowned for its open, welcoming environment. This aim is developed further in the University's Sustainability Strategy, and is underpinned by this Environmental Policy, along with the University's Community Policy.

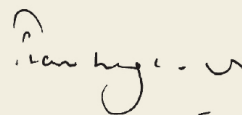
The University's Environmental Management System (EMS) supports the Environmental policy and includes all activities within the University of Leeds campus, University residential portfolio and University sports and conferencing facilities, with the exception of the combined heat and power plant which is managed by a third party on behalf of the University and the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

We are committed to conducting our activities and operations to protect the environment and prevent pollution. In support of this we commit:


- To meet and, where appropriate exceed all relevant UK, European and international legislation, regulatory requirements and other compliance obligations;
- To review all our activities and operations in order to identify, understand and evaluate all the direct and indirect environmental aspects and effects, and prioritise action to address them;
- To ensure that the management of our activities and operations recognise and reflect the urgency associated with international environmental challenges such climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss;
- To reduce energy and resource consumption by promoting effective and efficient reduction methods consistent with best practice;
- To influence our suppliers and contractors to ensure that goods and services procured support the environmental policy and, in turn, that all suppliers and contractors progressively improve their own environmental performance;
- To develop and implement sustainable travel plans for business and commuter travel;
- To avoid the use of toxic materials where such use is not essential for teaching or research purposes;
- To minimise the impact of waste through avoiding and minimising waste generation, and using recovery, re-use and recycling when unavoidable;
- To enhance the biodiversity of University owned grounds and gardens and become an exemplar of urban biodiversity;
- To raise awareness and ensure that all employees and students know their overall environmental responsibilities and appreciate the importance of demonstrating compliance with the environmental policy;
- To integrate environmental management into training programmes for staff and students whose activities have significant environmental impacts;
- To regularly audit our management practices, to verify their effectiveness and validity in achieving environmental objectives;
- To measure and reduce our environmental footprint related to:
 - commuter and business travel;
 - energy use;
 - water use;
 - waste; and
 - other materials use and associated emissions.
- To achieving continual improvement across our environmental management system to enhance environmental performance and protect the environment.

Progress against this Environmental Policy and related strategic actions are reported to the University Executive Group via the Director of Facilities Management. The University Council and other stakeholders are updated on progress through the Sustainability Annual Report.

Signed:



Sir Alan Langlands
Vice Chancellor



Dennis Hopper
Director of Facilities Directorate

