



## **SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

- 1 The University of Aberdeen has, as part of its Aberdeen 2040 strategy, established 'Sustainable' as one of four strategic themes alongside 'Inclusive', 'Interdisciplinary' and 'International'. The adoption and promotion of a sustainability agenda will ensure that decisions are taken, and resources are used within a framework in which environmental stewardship, social responsibility and good governance are integrated alongside financial sustainability.
- 2 Sustainable development is defined as "meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" and is integral to this. The University will seek to promote sustainable development throughout its activities and will look to the globally recognised United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals framework as a mechanism for gauging its impact in doing so.
- 3 The University will take a 'whole institution' approach to its sustainability commitments. To support that approach, four-cross cutting implementation themes have been adopted:
  - Leadership and Communication
  - Estate and Infrastructure
  - Partnership and Engagement
  - Learning, Teaching and Research

### ***Leadership and Communication***

- 4 The University will ensure that consideration of sustainability issues becomes part of institutional culture, informs decision-making and is reflected in strategy and policy.
- 5 Appropriate mechanisms for the communication of sustainability issues will be introduced to engage staff and raise awareness of institutional commitments.

### ***Estate and Infrastructure***

- 6 The University will constantly review its business operations with a view to achieving significant improvements in sustainability in all aspects of estate and infrastructure planning.
- 7 This process will establish and monitor appropriate environmental and social policies and set clearly defined objectives and targets, with responsibility for the delivery of improved performance in areas that include utilities, waste management, net zero, travel and transportation, information technology, biodiversity and the capital programme.

### ***Partnership & Engagement***

- 8 The University will seek to be an environmentally and socially responsible partner and promote shared values in all that it does and will work with its stakeholders to identify opportunities for promoting sustainability in a mutually beneficial way.

### ***Learning, Teaching and Research***

- 9 The University will encourage scholarship and research into sustainable development and will ensure that students can acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute as active, global citizens to the development of a sustainable and just society.

## Targets and Monitoring

- 10 The University's Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) will oversee and ensure the implementation of this and related policies and set objectives and targets.
- 11 SDC will establish effective reporting procedures, commit to a process of continual improvement, and set best practice standards which meet or surpass the requirements of legislation. It will also aim to promote awareness of all legislative, economic, technical and market developments that support the embedding of sustainable development.
- 12 SDC will communicate the outcomes of this process to internal and external stakeholders through the production of formal sustainability and environmental reports as well as through informal communications channels and external benchmarking exercises.
- 13 SDC will report regularly to University senior management through the established committee structure. Each policy area will be assigned to an appropriate member of staff who will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of strategy in conjunction with relevant stakeholders

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<b>Related documents</b>	Aberdeen 2040 Strategy, Net Zero Strategy. See also the Environmental Sustainability Policy and related policies and procedures including those on Sustainable Food, Sustainability in the Curriculum, Sustainable Investment, and Sustainable Procurement.		
<b>Subject / Description</b>	A statement detailing the University's commitment to sustainability, including an articulation of what that means in an HE context.		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	n/a		
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