

# Sustainability Policy

The University of Worcester is based on four primary sites; St Johns, City, Severn and Lakeside Campuses. The university has recently acquired land close to St Johns Campus as a development site for student accommodation and student facilities. There are around 1200 employees.

The University of Worcester's Strategic Plan 2013 – 2018 includes an area of distinction that seeks to 'promote principles of sustainability in their broadest sense. Through our teaching, research and knowledge exchange activities we will promote sustainable communities, services, businesses and the use of physical resources. We will foster a culture that values sustainability in arts and culture and promotes social enterprise in the region.' One of the university's core values is to promote sustainable development and active engagement with the community and fully accept our broad responsibilities to society. Our aim is to develop the University's physical assets to provide outstanding facilities and opportunities for students, staff and the wider community. We will do this in ways which promote and champion environmental, economic, social and ethical leadership.

We are committed to continually improve the Environmental Management System (EMS) and our environmental performance, protect the environment and to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) despite our expansion strategy. We have an EMS to achieve this in a structured way. The institution will provide the human and financial resources required to implement this EMS which covers all operations at the University.

We have performance indicators to help us to assess our current and future level of sustainability performance. This enables us to benchmark our performance against similar institutions and sector standards.

Objectives and targets have been set to promote sustainable development, prevent pollution and mitigate the University's significant environmental impacts. It is our policy to:

- Integrate social responsibility and sustainability principles into our day-to-day operations to ensure issues are addressed, whilst providing a quality service to all stakeholders
- Recognise the potential impact of climate change and the strategic and operational need to control, manage and reduce carbon dioxide and other GHG emissions
- Fulfil all the institutions legal and other compliance obligations
- Reduce our use of natural resources such as energy and water
- Reuse resources whenever possible rather than dispose of them
- Encourage sustainable procurement and employ whole-life costing and environmental performance criteria for selection
- Encourage the use of recycled materials and recycling initiatives
- Prevent pollution by reducing emissions and discharges and regularly reviewing practice against benchmarks
- Encourage sustainable transport and implement a sustainable travel plan
- Enhance biodiversity and incorporate biodiversity in environmental management, creating new opportunities for wildlife on campus wherever possible
- Ensure sustainable approaches in all construction and refurbishment and incorporate energy-efficient approaches in all work
- **Provide healthy and sustainable food to our staff, students and visitors.**
- Provide appropriate sustainability and environmental training for all our staff and students and encourage them to support this programme
- Promote communication with internal and external interested parties and respond appropriately to reasonable requests for information about our sustainability performance
- Incorporate sustainability responsibility in all staff job descriptions
- Ensure that this Sustainability Policy is readily available to the general public and all our stakeholders
- Embed inclusion of sustainability principles in the curriculum and support research in relevant areas



Signed: David Green Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive

Board of Governors 18 February 2008, **10<sup>th</sup> Update June 2018.**