



## Sustainability Policy

<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Vice-Chancellor
<b>Approved by</b>	Vice-Chancellor
<b>Approved and commenced</b>	March 2015
<b>Review by</b>	March 2018
<b>Relevant Legislation, Ordinance, Rule and/or Governance Level Principle (GLP)</b>	<i>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (Cth)</i> <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i> <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas)</i> <i>Litter Act 2007 (Tas)</i> <i>Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act 2002 (NSW)</i> <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203 (NSW)</i> <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)</i> <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001 (NSW)</i> Governance Level Principle 7 – Procurement and Contracts Governance Level Principle 9 – Environmental Sustainability Governance Level Principle 10 – Built Environment University By-laws 1993
<b>Responsible Organisational Unit</b>	Senior Management Team

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## 1 Objective

The objective of this Policy is to provide the framework for expressing the University of Tasmania's commitment to the incorporation of sustainability principles and practices in its teaching, research, community engagement and operations.

## 2 Scope

This Policy applies to all University employees, staff, students and agents engaged in University activities or activities reasonably considered related to the University in all University locations.

## 3 Policy Provisions

### 3.1 Principles

The University Sustainability Policy is based upon seven principles, outlined below:

- **Open participation:** There will be opportunity for broad and transparent involvement in decision-making processes related to sustainability across the University community, including academic and professional staff and students.
- **Integration:** Long-term economic, social and environmental considerations will be integrated into the University's decision-making processes; considered in strategic and operational planning; central to student experience, research, learning and teaching and community engagement; and enabled through sustainable practices.
- **Shared responsibility:** All members of the University community share responsibility for the University's sustainability performance and as such will be made aware of their role through induction, professional development, the provision of necessary educational and material resources, and ongoing training and awareness-raising.
- **Leadership, innovation, creativity and best practice:** Creative and innovative approaches will be employed to implement and continuously improve sustainability outcomes. Evidence-based and innovative research for sustainability will be complemented by monitoring and analysing best practice in the higher education and other sectors to ensure the University maintains or leads best-practice in relation to sustainability wherever possible.
- **Global perspective:** The University's sustainability activities will reflect awareness that its influence reaches beyond the confines of its own organisation and current generation.
- **Precautionary principle:** The lack of full understanding will not be used to justify postponing measures to prevent degradation where there is any risk of irreversible environmental or social damage.

- Student-focussed: The University will ensure that graduates are equipped and motivated to contribute to sustainable futures.

### 3.2 Sustainability Themes and Goals

#### Leading for change

- Embed, promote and progress sustainability into learning and teaching, research, student experience, and community engagement strategies and activities.
- Embed, promote and progress sustainability across the University and within the broader community.

#### Managing systemic impacts

- Reduce waste and pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reduce resource consumption through sustainable procurement, improved design, efficient use and prudent practices.
- Protect and improve the natural environment through direct initiatives and reduced resource consumption.
- Improve environmental and social outcomes from procurement and contracting activities.
- Increase resilience of the University and its adaptability to a changing environment.

#### Managing operational impacts within the University

- Improve energy efficiency and reduce overall energy use.
- Increase use of sustainable transport to and from the University.
- Increase resource recovery and reduce waste to landfill.
- Improve water efficiency and reduce overall water use.
- Improve environmental and health outcomes from the built environment.
- Improve environmental management of University landholdings, including improving biodiversity outcomes.

### 3.3 Sustainability management framework

The sustainability management framework consists of this policy, a strategy, management plan and annual action plans as required.

## 4 Responsibilities

The Vice-Chancellor is committed to, and has the ultimate responsibility for, the effective implementation and coordination of this Sustainability Policy and, via the Senior Management Team and the Sustainability Committee which reports to it, will direct initiatives to:

- Develop and implement a sustainability strategy.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

- Continuously improve environmental, social and economic performance and go beyond compliance to maximise social good and minimise adverse environmental impacts.
- Promote, facilitate and integrate principles of sustainability within curriculum and teaching programs, and research in sustainability.
- Lead by example in addressing University impacts on the community and the environment.
- Raise awareness and encourage action for sustainability through training and general education of staff, students and the wider University community.
- Require all independent operators and contractors on University campuses and property to comply with the requirements of this policy.
- Monitor and evaluate performance on a regular basis, using agreed targets and indicators.
- Records and Information that support these activities will be created, managed and retained in accordance with University Records Management Policy, Procedures and Guidelines.

## 5 Definitions and Acronyms

Term/Acronym	Definition
<b>Sustainability</b>	Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Brundtland Commission Report, 1987)
<b>Sustainable Development</b>	Development that improves the quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends. (Australian National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development)
<b>Talloires Declaration</b>	Ten-point action plan, signed by the University of Tasmania in 2009, for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities. It has been signed by over 350 university presidents and chancellors in over 40 countries.

## 6 Supporting Documentation and Relevant Existing University Policies

- UTAS Statement of Values
- UTAS Sustainability Mission Statement
- UTAS Open to Talent 2012 – Onwards
- UTAS Strategic Plan for Learning and Teaching 2012-2014
- UTAS Research Strategy
- UTAS Sustainable Transport Strategy 2012-2016
- Authorised Vehicles Minimum Standard
- Design Guidelines
- General Purchasing Policy and Guidelines
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Policy and Procedure
- Records Management Policy

- Smoke-free Area Minimum Standard
- Sustainable Built Environment Designs Policy
- Sustainable Event Guidelines
- Talloires Declaration
- Workplace Environment Procedure

7 **Versioning**

<b>Version(s)</b>	Version 1 – <i>Sustainability Policy</i> ; approved March 2015.
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