



## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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| <b>Date first approved:</b><br>23 June 2006                         | <b>Date of effect:</b><br>23 June 2006  | <b>Date last amended:</b><br>(refer Version Control Table) | <b>Date of Next Review:</b><br>June 2025 |
| <b>First Approved by:</b>   | University Council  |  |  |
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| <b>Responsible Division &amp; Unit:</b>                             | Facilities Management Division<br>Environment Unit  |  |  |
| <b>Supporting documents, procedures &amp; forms of this policy:</b> | Environmental Management Plan<br>Principal Environmental Aspects and Impacts Register (FMD-ENV-REF-003) |  |  |
| <b>Relevant Legislation &amp; External Documents:</b>               | N/A   |  |  |
| <b>Audience:</b>  | Public – accessible to anyone   |  |  |

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## 1 Purpose of Policy

1. The Environmental Policy formalises the University's commitment to supporting the principles of environmental sustainability and the need for all staff and students to share a role in achieving the policy objectives.

## 2 Definitions

| Word/Term             | Definition (with examples if required)   |
|-----------------------|--|
| EMP                   | Environmental Management Plan  |
| Environmental Aspects | element of an organisation's activities or products or services that interacts or can interact with the environment.*                  |
| Environmental Impacts | change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation's environmental aspects.* |
| FRC                   | Finance & Resources Committee  |

\*Sourced from AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016 Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with guidance for use.

## 3 Application & Scope - Exclusions or Special Conditions

1. This Policy applies to UOW, its activities and people associated with it such as staff, students, visitors and contractors.
2. The scope of this Policy includes all University of Wollongong (UOW) principal functions as outlined in Section 6 of the *University of Wollongong Act (1989)* (NSW). The Policy may also be utilised as the benchmark for other functions, e.g. commercial functions.

## 4 Policy Principles

1. The University is committed to the principles of environmental sustainability. UOW is working towards addressing the environmental sustainability focused UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reducing the environmental footprint of the University's operations through the responsible consumption of resources, management and minimisation of waste, managing biodiversity values of the campus environments, and reducing the risk of pollution from its activities.

## 5 Aims & Objectives

1. UOW aims to ensure that its research, teaching, administration and engagement activities are aligned with its environmental policy. To facilitate this objective UOW will:
  - a. Implement and maintain systems based on continual improvement to ensure relevancy for UOW's operations;
  - b. Focus on management of energy, water and materials use and minimisation of pollution and waste, and encourage the use of active and public transport;



- c. Communicate and engage with the campus community to foster environmental literacy and awareness;
- d. Integrate the environmental sustainability of campus operations with research, teaching and learning;
- e. Maintain the harmonious built and natural campus environment and manage and protect the biodiversity values of the campus;
- f. Identify, assess, prioritise and record UOW's Environmental Aspects and Impacts;
- g. Comply with environmental law and regulations; and
- h. Set an example to the community and to other educational institutions through the adoption and implementation of principles of environmental protection and sustainability.

## 6 Implementation

1. The UOW Environmental Policy provides the framework for the development and review of the Environment Management Plan (EMP). The EMP will incorporate a rolling action plan that provides the mechanism for implementation of this Policy.
2. A review of the EMP will include the following:
  - a. Set and review environmental objectives;
  - b. Set and review environmental targets;
  - c. Outline the action required to be taken that is appropriate for the nature, scale and impact of the aspect considered; and
  - d. Provide guidelines for monitoring and reporting on performance.

## 7 Roles & Responsibilities

1. The Finance & Resources Committee will oversee the development and implementation of UOW's environmental management program. The aim of UOW's environmental management program is to integrate environmental responsibility into all aspects of UOW's activities and to minimise UOW's environmental impacts.
2. The Environment Unit has the primary task to lead the UOW's environmental management program and assist the University to achieve its environmental strategic goals. The Environment Unit will support an organisational and behavioural shift towards environmental sustainability through education, communication and management of projects that generate better environmental outcomes for UOW. The Environment Unit will also be responsible for the management of the EMP, and associated documents.
3. The EMP is a strategic document that sets objectives and targets outlining environmental improvement and defines the strategies required to achieve the objectives. It outlines the responsibilities of functional units in working towards environmental results for energy management, water management, management systems, materials management, communication and engagement, research, teaching and learning and the campus environment, over a three year rolling period.
4. The Vice-Chancellor has ultimate responsibility for, and is committed to, the effective implementation of UOW's Environmental Policy.



## 8 Version Control and Change History

| Version Control | Date Effective                | Approved By                        | Amendment  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1               | 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2006    | University Council                 | New Policy   |
| 2               | 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2009      | Vice-Principal<br>(Administration) | Migrated to UOW Procedure. Template as per Policy Directory Refresh                                  |
| 3               | 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2010    | Vice-Principal<br>(Administration) | Future review date identified in accordance with Standard on UOW Policy                              |
| 4               | 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2011 | Council                            | Revised Policy   |
| 5               | 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2012 | Vice-Principal<br>(Administration) | Updated to reflect division name change from Buildings and Grounds to Facilities Management Division |
| 6               | 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2014    | Chief Administrative Officer       | Policy review with minor amendments  |
| 7               | 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2016    | Vice-Chancellor                    | Policy review with minor amendments to align with updated Strategic Plan and Branding                |
| 8               | 10th November 2020            | Vice- Chancellor                   | Policy review with minor amendments to align with updated Strategic Plan.                            |