

The University of Manchester Environmental Policy

September 2016

The University of Manchester is the largest single-site university in the UK, with the biggest student community. The University has over 38,000 students, more than 12,000 staff and an annual income of £1.01 billion. The University has a mission by 2020 to be recognised globally for the excellence of its research, outstanding learning and student experience, and social responsibility. In support, one of the biggest investments in facilities undertaken in the higher education sector is underway, with £750 million spent so far and a further £1 billion to follow by 2022. There are currently 240 buildings (24 of which are listed) across 270 hectares. Buildings include visitor attractions, Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, John Rylands Deansgate and Jodrell Bank.

As a consequence of the University's activities there are inevitable negative environmental impacts; however there are also numerous positive impacts. **The University will make a difference to the social and environmental wellbeing of our communities and wider society through our teaching, research, engagement and operations.**

Our research, teaching, engagement, infrastructure and processes are guided by our commitment to environmental sustainability. We want to support our staff and students to have a positive impact on the environment and enable them to make a difference in the areas in which they operate, influence and control. Our priorities reflect those of our wider social responsibility work.

- **Research with impact.** Through our significant research groupings and networks, the University is at the forefront of tackling key global challenges such as climate change, population growth, overconsumption, food and water security, loss of biodiversity and pollution. We will encourage cross-disciplinary networking, facilitate high quality knowledge exchange with external organisations and apply the research that we carry out to our own campus.
- **Responsible graduates.** We aim for every graduate to leave the University empowered with the knowledge and practical skills to make a positive environmental impact in their personal and professional lives. We will support sustainability as a key theme across the curriculum and in all aspects of the wider student experience, and will provide opportunities to use the campus as a living laboratory for teaching and research.
- **Engaging our communities.** We will embed a culture of environmental sustainability across the University and work in partnership with our staff, students, alumni and wider society on shared environmental goals. We will help to promote opportunities to engage with sustainability, particularly through our '10,000 Actions' staff programme, empowering people to take positive action and make positive change.
- **Responsible processes.** We will prioritise processes that support positive environmental behaviour and decision making. We will ensure long-term sustainability is embedded within the maintenance, development and planning of our estate and IT infrastructure; through the goods, services and work procured; across our research and teaching activities. This includes protecting the environment to ensure:-
 - **Natural resource efficiency (energy, water, waste, materials, food);**
 - **Climate change mitigation and adaptation;**
 - **Sustainable design and construction;**
 - **Provision of functional quality greenspace and wildlife corridors; and**
 - **The prevention of pollution.**

The University's Environmental Sustainability Strategy and supporting plans will deliver the aforementioned through a series of environmental objectives which have been signed off by senior members of the University and will be reviewed annually.

The University commits to this policy which extends to a commitment to:-

- Investigate steps towards BS EN ISO14001: 2015;
- Fulfil its compliance obligations; and
- Continual improvement of environmental management to enhance environmental performance.