

Environment & Sustainability Policy Statement

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The University of Northampton recognises that our activities can have a negative impact on the environment, both locally and globally and we are committed to making sustainable development part of its operations, research and curriculum. Estates & Campus Services own and manages the Environment & Sustainability policy on behalf of The University of Northampton with the policy reviewed by the Environment & Sustainability Team on a 3-year basis or amended in response to changes in future legislation and/or case law.

This Environment & Sustainability Policy Statement is a corporate policy and applies to all employees (and workers, as applicable) and students of The University of Northampton including any wholly owned subsidiaries, unless an alternative policy exists, subject to any qualifying conditions. Detailed arrangements for implementing this policy are given in separate subject specific Environment & Sustainability Policies.

In order to achieve its aim, the University is committed to:

- By 2030 no student leaves the University without an understanding of climate change and sustainability, and the role that they can play in reducing their impact on the environment in their personal and professional lives.
- Require catering outlets to offer sustainably sourced food that incorporates environmental, ethical, and animal-welfare considerations, including local and seasonal produce.
- Reducing the use of meat and dairy products by catering outlets with a view to eliminating all red meat use by catering outlets by 2030.
- Reducing our staff and student carbon emissions associated with travel, to included but not limited to, commuting to and from UON, field trips, international student travel and university business travel in line with our Net Zero Carbon by 2050 target.
- Developing and embedding environmental awareness and principles with staff and students; encouraging a university-wide participation in environmental activities, training, and programmes.
- Developing and delivering the University Travel Plan.
- Protecting the environment and preventing pollution, taking direct responsibility for the environmental impacts associated with all activities and operations in pursuance of high standards of environmental management across the estate.
- Development, maintenance, and improvement of an externally audited Environmental Management System (EMS) to maintain continual improvement of performance and environmental best practice. This also ensures that UON fulfils its compliance obligations.
- Setting environmental objectives and targets and reporting performance annually on the UON website.
- Communicating the Environment & Sustainability Policy to employees and all interested parties.
- Developing programmes and initiatives for energy conservation, improving energy efficiency, and instilling personal responsibility for conserving natural resources. Specific work includes maintaining and updating carbon management plans in line with UON Net Zero Carbon targets, which include specific carbon reduction targets and Government strategies.
- Minimising waste generated through effective management, focusing on avoidance, reuse, and recycling and to calculate associated carbon emissions in line with our Net Zero Carbon by 2050 target.
- Minimising water wastage and optimising the use of water saving to calculate associated carbon emissions in line with our Net Zero Carbon by 2050 target.
- Protecting the environment by enhancing biodiversity within the management of the existing estate as well as with any new developments, including the appropriate management of protected and invasive species. Specific work includes maintaining and updating Management Plans for Biodiversity, which include specific targets and linked to relevant Government strategies.

- Ensure sustainable procurement policies take a long-term view of purchasing decisions, focusing on reducing environmental impacts and increasing the benefits that the University has on society.
- Take appropriate actions to enhance the environmental performance of the University estate, including consideration during construction and refurbishment.
- Enhancing UON's place in the community, proactively working with external organisations to promote a better environment and encouraging best practice principles.
- Acknowledge a responsibility for protection of the environment and the prevention of pollution. across UON estate, at local and national levels.
- Encourage staff, students and contractors to be actively involved in environmental improvement on the University estate and in engaging with the wider community.