



**ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY**  
**Policies, Procedures and Guidance**  
**Sustainability & Environmental Policy**

<b>Approved by</b>	Strategic Planning and Resources Group Sustainability Advisory Group		
<b>Date approved</b>	April 2014	<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Policy owner</b>	VP Research	<b>Impact assessed</b>	<b>Yes</b>
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## **SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

### **Context**

This sustainability and environmental policy of Robert Gordon University, initiates the process whereby the University recognises the holistic nature of sustainable development across the full range of its activities, and that sustainability encompasses the interdependence of economic, social and environmental streams. In this process the university aims to reduce its impact on the environment.

### **Introduction**

The University recognises that in pursuing its educational and research objectives, it has a responsibility to protect and nurture the environment. By exercising proper control over its activities, the University will promote the use of sustainable resources and discourage wasteful or damaging practices. This Sustainability Policy sets out the University's aims and objectives for:

- Developing, introducing and operating a University-wide sustainable development plan; and
- Safeguarding the environment.

This policy is supported and approved by the Strategic Planning and Resources Group and applies to all land, premises and activities within the control of the University.

### **Principles**

The University will seek to manage its operations in ways that are environmentally sustainable, socially acceptable and economically viable. In doing so, the University, will seek to undertake its business in accordance to the following principles:

- Comply with the requirements of relevant legislation as a minimum benchmark and strive to exceed requirements in key areas of energy, water and waste management;
- Promote sound environmental management policies and practices throughout the University;
- Seek to minimise any adverse environmental impact of any new University development;
- Maintain the University's Estate in an environmentally sensitive way;
- Seek to minimise the adverse environmental impact of the decommissioning and disposal of University assets.

## Implementation

The University acknowledges the step-change required to embed these principles within its activity. It is recognised that this process can only be incremental and therefore annually, under the authority of this Policy, a series of action plans will be employed by the Environmental Sustainability Working Group through the appropriate sub-groups with a series of specific actions aimed at identified strands. These action plans will be used to set out activities and processes for implementing and operating university-wide plans. These strands are:

- An **energy use plan** which aims to make efficient and environmentally responsible use of energy and water;
- A **waste management plan** which aims to minimise waste production as far as is practicable, to reuse or recycle waste where appropriate and to regulate the treatment and disposal of residual waste;
- A **green travel and transport plan** which will aim to minimise the impact of transport on the environment arising from its own vehicles and those brought on to the Estate;
- A **carbon management plan** which aims to reduce the carbon footprint of the university and support compliance with the carbon reduction commitment.

The main responsibility for implementation of this policy lies with the Principal and Vice Chancellor as the University's Chief Executive. The Strategic Planning and Resources Group are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy within their area of control. The implementation of the key objectives within this Policy and the associated action plans will be activity monitored as well as being benchmarked against peers using appropriate measures.

## Communication

In taking forward this policy through the action plans identified above the University will:

- Communicate within the University and to the outside community the University's sustainable development and environmental performance;
- Raise awareness of staff and students of the University's sustainable development and environmental impact, activities and performance and to promote individual good practice.