

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Raising awareness of environmental issues

Oxford Brookes University is based at three sites in Oxford: Headington, Wheatley and Harcourt Hill, and has a presence across numerous other sites including Marston Road, Swindon and Halls of Residence with 2,800 University managed beds.

It has over 2,200 FTE employees and over 12,000 FTE students.

**This policy contributes to the University's Social Responsibility Programme.**

The University is committed to fulfill its compliance obligations, the principle and practice of environmental protection and sustainable development within the academic body, with a focus on continuing improvement and the prevention of pollution.

The University will seek to continually improve its environmental performance in the areas of academic programmes, infrastructure and operations, communication and facilities.

Oxford Brookes University has implemented an Environmental Management System at the Wheatley, Harcourt Hill and Headington campus, in line with ISO14001 certification.

# Objectives

## Academic Programmes

- To give all students the opportunity to raise their awareness of environmental issues through incorporation of material on environment and sustainable development into courses.
- To provide specific courses on a wide range of environmental topics and to promote research related to these as part of the University's central mission.
- To provide education, training and encouragement on environmental issues to University employees so that they can pursue their work in an environmentally responsible way.

## Communications

- To inform staff and students about local and global environmental issues and to involve them in the University's environmental initiatives.
  - To work with the local community and others to develop and pursue environmental initiatives and to provide environmental educational programmes.
  - A series of targets will be identified annually. Progress towards their achievement will be reviewed and reported to the Governors and Academic Board and via the web pages. The University has an Environmental Services Manager who will be responsible for this review and report. The Registrar is responsible at Board level for environmental matters in the University and will be advised by the Social Responsibility Steering Group.
- To assess the environmental impact of all purchases as far as possible in terms of their raw materials, manufacture, distribution, use and disposal in line with both the sustainable procurement policy and the sustainable food and Fairtrade policy.
  - To encourage the use of sustainable means of transport by staff, students and suppliers and to review the operation of University-owned vehicles in line with the Sustainable Travel Plan and Travel Strategy.
  - To halve carbon dioxide emissions from energy consumption by 2020 in line with the University energy strategy.
  - To monitor and reduce water consumption where possible.
  - To be aware of and reduce where possible any harmful environmental impacts of University sites, buildings, and future developments or alterations.
  - To reduce space in line with the University space strategy.
  - To increase biodiversity on site where practicable.
  - To prevent pollution by reducing emissions and discharges and ensure 100% compliance with all legislation relating to emissions to air, water and land.
  - To assess the likely impact of climate change on Oxford Brookes and identify potential adaptation measures.
  - Reduce the environmental impact of the University through innovative IT solutions.

## Infrastructure and Operations

- To reduce the volume of waste produced and to recycle as much as possible with University-wide involvement and responsibility in line with the Waste Strategy.

## Summary of Sustainability Targets

**Alistair Fitt**  
**Vice Chancellor**

**Elena Saldana Quitans**  
**President of the Student Union**

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