

Birmingham City University

Environmental Policy

January 2011



Birmingham City University is a higher education institution engaged in teaching and research activities as well as the transfer of technology to business and commercial consultancy. We recognise that we have a responsibility to ensure that we safeguard our environment, and the community in which we operate, as well as educating our students and staff on sustainable practices.

We are committed to complying with relevant environmental legal requirements and wherever practicable exceeding those requirements. We are also committed to the prevention of pollution and demonstrating continual improvement in our environmental performance. To ensure that we meet our environmental obligations we have therefore made the following commitments. We will:

- Develop an Environmental Management System, (EMS) with clear objectives and targets and with defined responsibilities for achieving those targets. We will allocate appropriate resources to ensure that we meet these objectives and targets.
- Reduce our carbon emissions through the implementation of our Carbon Management Plan.
- Make efficient use of our resources to minimise our waste production and increase our reuse and recycling where the prevention of waste could not be avoided.
- Manage and reduce our water consumption and discharges.
- Reduce the negative impacts associated with our travel by implementing a Sustainable Travel Plan promoting walking, cycling, the use of public transport and car sharing.
- Consider appropriate environmental criteria when procuring products and services, and engaging contractors and suppliers, to ensure that good environmental performance can be demonstrated in line with this policy and our Sustainable Procurement Policy.
- Incorporate environmental best practice into the design of construction projects.
- Implement appropriate recommendations from our Biodiversity Survey to conserve and promote biodiversity on our estate.
- Work to incorporate the principals of sustainability into our wider curriculum and teaching activities.
- Communicate the Environmental Policy to our staff and students and provide relevant environmental training for our staff, and where appropriate our suppliers and contractors, to ensure good environmental performance.
- Make the Environmental Policy, objectives and targets, and other relevant environmental information, publically available via our intranet and internet sites.

This policy, and the associated commitments, will be reviewed annually by the Vice Chancellor and his Directorate. However, the Corporate Management Group accepts delegated responsibility for the implementation of the policy and environmental objectives and targets.

Professor David Tidmarsh

Vice Chancellor

Tom Thompson

Students' Union President

Birmingham City University's commitment to equality means that this policy has been screened in relation to equal access, the use of comprehensible, inclusive language, recognition of the needs of disabled people, promotion of the positive duty in relation to all protected characteristics and avoidance of stereotypes. This document is available in alternative formats on request.