

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES



UNSW Environmental Management Plan

2007 Action Plan

Approved: Environment Policy Advisory Committee

Date: 13th November 2006

environment unit

Introduction

This document is the second annual Action Plan prepared to support implementation of the 2005-10 UNSW Environmental Management Plan. The actions summarised herein are consistent with the UNSW Strategic Plan, the UNSW Environment Policy, the Kensington Campus 2020 Master Plan, and the ongoing accountability of the Environment Unit:

“To develop and promote a culture of environmental leadership, responsibility and continual improvement across the UNSW community”.

Strategic priorities

The following **six priorities** for the Environment Unit were identified during the development of the Facilities Management Business Plan for 2007, which in turn forms part of the 2007 Divisional Business Plan:

1. **Safety, health, security and environmental responsibility;**

This is seen as a key priority across the Division of the Chief Operating Officer, and includes the following performance indicators and targets for which all Divisional units are responsible:

- Zero lost time injuries;
- Reduce lost time injury frequency rate by 20%;
- Zero environmental incidents;
- 100% on time completion of environmental action plan items;
- Reduce unplanned absences by 20%;
- Security measure

The remaining priorities relate specifically to the role of the Environment Unit, and provide the strategic framework for this Action Plan:

2. To facilitate the active participation of the UNSW community in reducing the collective environmental impact of the organisation;
3. To integrate environmental criteria into UNSW policies, systems and procedures;
4. To audit, monitor and ensure compliance with the University's environmental legislative and regulatory obligations and other environmental commitments;
5. To systematically reduce resource consumption and progress to zero waste through best practice environmental management and organisational culture change;
6. To continually improve the quality of the UNSW built environment, conserve and enhance biodiversity and minimise adverse environmental impacts on UNSW property.

Program areas

The Environment Unit includes the following **program areas** through which the 2007 EMP Action Plan will be implemented:

UNSW Environmental Reporting

The UNSW Environment Policy requires the University to prepare, publish and distribute an annual **State of the Environment Report** as a tool to track progress in implementing the EMP, celebrate successes, identify gaps and support continual improvement in University environmental management.

Green Buildings

UNSW has committed to the goal of 5 stars or better for new buildings and major refurbishments – a minimum of Australian best practice – through the Green Building Council **Green Star rating** system. This program supports this goal through development and implementation of systems and guidelines for environmentally responsible planning, design, construction and operation of the University's built fabric.

Green Laboratory

This program maintains a legal/regulatory **compliance register for UNSW laboratories**, conducts environmental compliance and management audits, and targets areas of priority for achieving fundamental compliance with environmental regulations. The program works directly with Schools and non-academic units to develop staged **environment improvement plans**, and to facilitate continual operational improvement in environmental performance.

Towards Zero Waste

This program develops and implements **integrated waste management** strategies and services to minimise waste and maximise resource recovery, reduce greenhouse impacts and conserve resources. One-stop-shop access to UNSW recycling and waste management services is provided on-line at: <http://www.recycling.unsw.edu.au>.

Green Office

This program helps UNSW staff **reduce the environmental impact of office work** through waste minimisation, energy conservation, workplace ecology and the purchase of environmentally preferred office products. Through training, awareness and practical action the program aims to make environmentally responsible alternatives easy, convenient and cost-effective for University staff.

Environmentally Preferred Procurement

This program focuses on the supply chain to **reduce the environmental impacts of products and services** purchased by the University. Implementation and integration of environmental purchasing policy and procedures into the University's financial systems will minimise product life cycle impacts, meet ethical and OHS criteria and provide value for money.

UNSWitch

This program targets **reduction of energy and water use** at UNSW through demand management, training, and communication to foster a culture of environmental responsibility and active participation among staff and students.

Green Campus

This program directly **engages the UNSW community** to participate in practical campus-based projects to reduce the University's ecological footprint, targeting key areas of the Environmental Management Plan.

EcoColleges

This program provides expertise, support, and practical opportunities for **involving College residents and staff** in improving the environmental design and operational performance of UNSW student housing.

UNSW Landcare

This program coordinates the involvement of staff, students and friends of UNSW in revegetation projects on UNSW properties and other significant sites to **offset the University's transport-related greenhouse gas emissions**.

Environmental Achievement and Leadership Awards (*from 2007*)

This program will provide **recognition to UNSW leaders** in applied environmental management, identifying individuals, Schools and non-academic units as role models, encouraging emulation across Faculties and Divisions and promoting UNSW as an environmental exemplar among the Go8 Universities.

Composting Facility (*from 2007*)

This cost-neutral program will divert food waste from UNSW food outlets and student housing waste streams for processing into composted products for application to UNSW grounds; thereby reducing associated greenhouse emissions and UNSW waste service costs.

Water Saving Action Plan (*from 2007*)

This program comprises the staged implementation of the statutory UNSW Water Saving Action Plan, including operational projects, training and awareness, and management of capital works to reduce the consumption of potable water from University activities.

2007 Environmental Action Plan

The 2007 Action Plan acknowledges the need for accountability, flexibility, and financial responsibility; it provides a general framework for action, not a rigid prescription. Implementation is predicated on finalisation of the University 2007 Budget, consideration of emerging strategic planning priorities and continuing Senior Management support.

PRIORITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	ACTIONS
To facilitate the active participation of the UNSW community in reducing the collective environmental impact of the organisation	Achieve national recognition of UNSW as a leader in applied environmental management.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate Environmental Achievement and Leadership Awards. 2. Prepare and present two conference papers relating to UNSW campus environmental management. 3. Facilitate and participate in relevant sectoral networks to foster knowledge exchange on key environmental issues. 4. Upgrade “Environment@UNSW” website format and content. 5. Provide regular contributions on campus environmental management to UNSW Media and Communications.
	Deliver environmental training programs to 5% of FTE staff.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Develop online laboratory environmental compliance training package for delivery by Faculties. 7. Provide environmental training input to Organisation and Staff Development Unit. 8. Continue implementation of Green Office seminar program.
	Ensure induction of all new staff includes information on UNSW Environment Policy and EMP.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Prepare staff induction material for Organisation and Staff Development Unit.

PRIORITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	ACTIONS
<p>To integrate environmental criteria into UNSW policies, systems and procedures</p>	<p>Incorporate lifecycle costing and triple bottom line criteria in University accounting procedures.</p>	<p>10. Develop and obtain endorsement for Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy. 11. Include environmental criteria in UNSW tendering policy and procedures.</p>
	<p>Provide environmental leadership through annual “cutting edge” environmental reporting.</p>	<p>12. Prepare 2006 UNSW State of the Environment Report. 13. Prepare 2007 Greenhouse Challenge report.</p>
	<p>Maximise the integration of the Environmental Management Plan with UNSW teaching and research objectives.</p>	<p>14. Continue collaboration with the Institute of Environmental Studies, Kensington Group, Environment Network and Faculties to facilitate projects focused on campus environmental management.</p>
<p>To audit, monitor and ensure compliance with the University’s environmental legislative and regulatory obligations and other environmental commitments</p>	<p>Achieve full compliance with environmental legislative and regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>15. Continue staged implementation of Green Lab program to ensure awareness by Faculties of their obligation to manage their environmental compliance responsibilities.</p>
	<p>Conduct audits and establish and monitor environmental improvement programs for 10% of UNSW laboratories.</p>	
	<p>Achieve continuous reduction in quantity and toxicity of biological, hazardous and liquid trade wastes.</p>	

PRIORITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	ACTIONS
To systematically reduce resource consumption and progress to zero waste through best practice environmental management and organisational culture change	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions per EFTSU by 2%.	16. Continue delivery of “unswitch” and “Spot It and Stop It” demand management/resource conservation programs. 17. Continue rollout of asset maintenance and infrastructure works to improve operational energy efficiency. 18. Develop and initiate implementation of the UNSW Energy Saving Action Plan as required by the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability.
	Achieve 100% offset of greenhouse emissions from UNSW vehicle fleet.	19. Continue and extend delivery of UNSW Landcare program.
	Reduce potable water consumption per EFTSU by 3%.	20. Implement the 2007 recommendations of the UNSW Water Saving Action Plan.
	Meet 5% of the University’s electrical maximum demand from renewable sources.	21. Evaluate and select preferred tender for provision of 5% Green Power to UNSW.
	Systematically substitute bore water for non-potable water uses.	22. Install bore water treatment facilities on upper and lower campus; see also Action 17 above.
	Achieve continuous increase in proportion of solid waste stream recovered for high resource value use to surpass NSW government 2014 targets.	23. Continue rollout of integrated waste management program, with priority focus on food waste, recyclable containers, e-waste and batteries. 24. Establish food organics composting facility.

PRIORITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	ACTIONS
<p>To continually improve the quality of the UNSW built environment, conserve and enhance biodiversity and minimise adverse environmental impacts on UNSW property</p>	<p>Ensure all new buildings and major refurbishments achieve five stars or better under the Green Star rating scheme.</p>	<p>25. Continue provision of ESD input to C25 Cancer Research Facility project.</p>
	<p>Achieve benchmark level of occupant satisfaction with UNSW offices, research and teaching spaces and campus open space.</p>	<p>26. Develop post-occupancy evaluation framework for UNSW buildings. 27. Initiate pilot Green Star – Existing Buildings assessment.</p>
	<p>Increase awareness and knowledge of the ecology and functionality of the UNSW campus.</p>	<p>28. Complete campus “Green Trail” project. 29. Initiate Western campus “green precinct”.</p>