

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES



# UNSW Environmental Management Plan

## 2008 Action Plan

Approved: Environment Policy Advisory Committee

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2007

## Introduction

This document is the third 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 2008 Environmental Action Plan is informed by the strategic priorities of the Operations Division, in particular the number one priority of “Safety, health, security and environmental responsibility”. This core priority, together with the UNSW Environment Policy, provides the context for the following five strategic priorities for the Environment Unit which are addressed in this Action Plan:

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

An additional priority to facilitate all of the above will be to seek external grant funding to support implementation of measures identified in this Plan wherever appropriate.

## Program areas

The Environment Unit includes the following **program areas** through which the 2008 EMP Action Plan will be implemented:

### **UNSW Greenhouse 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. Currently this report is prepared as the annual UNSW Greenhouse Challenge report, in line with the University's commitment to the AGO Greenhouse Challenge Plus Program.

### **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 establishes and implements environmental compliance induction training for UNSW laboratory staff, 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 the development and maintenance of online information with respect to waste minimisation, energy conservation, workplace ecology and the purchase of environmentally preferred office products.

### **UNSWitch**

This program targets **reduction of energy and water use** at UNSW through demand management, training, and communication in collaboration with the UNSW Energy Manager 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 (e.g. the Green Trail project) 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 Leadership and Achievement Awards**

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**

This cost-neutral program diverts 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**

This program comprises the continuing implementation of the four-year UNSW Water Saving Action Plan, adopted in 2006, including operational projects, training and awareness, and management of capital works to reduce the consumption of potable water from University activities (in collaboration with the UNSW Energy Manager and FM Engineering).

### **Energy Saving Action Plan**

This program comprises the staged implementation of the 2007 UNSW Energy Saving Action Plan, including operational projects, training and awareness, and management of capital works to reduce the consumption of energy from University activities (in collaboration with the UNSW Energy Manager and FM Engineering).

## 2008 Environmental Action Plan

The 2008 Action Plan acknowledges the need for accountability, flexibility, and financial responsibility; it provides a general framework for action in a period of uncertainty. Implementation is predicated on finalisation of the University 2008 Budget, consideration of emerging strategic planning priorities and continuing Senior Management support. This draft has been prepared early to support the FM 2008 budget preparation process (June 2007), and will require revision in accordance with the directions from the COO arising from: the Climate Change Workshop on 5-6 July 2007; ESAP finalisation and EPAC.

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"> <li>1. Continue to implement the Environmental Leadership and Achievement Awards.</li> <li>2. Prepare and present two conference papers relating to UNSW campus environmental management.</li> <li>3. Facilitate and participate in relevant sectoral networks to foster knowledge exchange on key environmental issues.</li> <li>4. Upgrade and maintain “Environment@UNSW” website format and content.</li> <li>5. Provide regular contributions on campus environmental management to UNSW Media and Communications.</li> </ol>
	Deliver environmental training programs to 5% of relevant FTE staff.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Develop online laboratory environmental compliance training package for delivery by Faculties.</li> <li>7. Provide environmental training input to Organisation and Staff Development Unit.</li> </ol>

PRIORITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	ACTIONS
	Ensure staff access to information on UNSW Environment Policy and EMP.	8. Provide induction material for Organisation and Staff Development Unit. 9. Provide induction material for FM Customer Service Centre.
To integrate environmental criteria into UNSW policies, systems and procedures	Document environmental specifications for significant contracts.	10. Work with Facilities Management and Accounting Services across Environment Unit program areas to develop environmental specifications as relevant.
	Provide environmental leadership through annual “cutting edge” environmental reporting.	11. Prepare 2008 Greenhouse Challenge report.
	Maximise the integration of the Environmental Management Plan with UNSW teaching and research objectives.	12. Continue collaboration with the Institute of Environmental Studies, Kensington Group, Environment Network and Faculties to facilitate projects focused on campus environmental management.
To audit, monitor and ensure compliance with the University’s environmental legislative and regulatory obligations and other environmental commitments	Ensure awareness by Faculties of their obligation to manage their environmental compliance responsibilities.	13. Continue staged implementation of the Green Lab program.

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PRIORITIES	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	ACTIONS
<p>To systematically reduce resource consumption and progress to zero waste through best practice environmental management and organisational culture change</p>	<p>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions per EFTSU by 2%.</p>	<p>14. Implement the 2008 recommendations of the statutory UNSW Energy Saving Action Plan.</p> <p>15. Continue and extend delivery of UNSW Landcare program.</p> <p>16. Continue implementation of “Towards Zero Waste” program (specifically, though targeting the diversion of organics).</p>
	<p>Reduce potable water consumption per EFTSU by 3%.</p>	<p>17. Implement the 2008 recommendations of the statutory UNSW Water Saving Action Plan.</p>
	<p>Meet 5% of the University’s electrical maximum demand from renewable sources.</p>	<p>18. Evaluate and select preferred tender for provision of 5% Green Power to UNSW.</p>
	<p>Systematically substitute bore water for non-potable water uses.</p>	<p>19. Install bore water treatment facilities on upper and lower campus; see also Action 17 above.</p>
	<p>Achieve continuous increase in proportion of solid waste stream recovered for high resource value use to surpass NSW government 2014 targets.</p>	<p>20. Continue rollout of integrated waste management program, with priority focus on food waste, recyclable containers, e-waste and batteries.</p> <p>21. Continue and extend the operation of the UNSW food organics composting facility.</p>

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>22. Continue provision of ESD input to C25 Cancer Research Facility project. 23. Continue provision of ESD input to High Street student housing project.</p>
	<p>Achieve benchmark level of occupant satisfaction with UNSW offices, research and teaching spaces and campus open space.</p>	<p>24. Develop and implement post-occupancy evaluation framework for UNSW buildings. 25. Initiate pilot Green Star – Existing Buildings assessment.</p>
	<p>Increase awareness and knowledge of the ecology and functionality of the UNSW campus.</p>	<p>26. Continue to develop and implement campus “Green Trail” project. 27. Continue to develop and implement the Western campus “green precinct”.</p>