

UNSW Environment Policy

1. Commitment and Aims

UNSW recognises its environmental obligations to present and future generations both locally and globally. UNSW recognises the strategic importance of an Environment Policy to enhance the quality of the University's activities and provide leadership in an area of major concern to the community.

UNSW aims for environmental best practice and the integration of environmental responsibility in all aspects of the University's work, this policy statement provides a framework for establishing:

- environmental objectives;
- targets;
- action plans;
- procedures;
- review and evaluation mechanisms.

2. Scope and Priorities

The scope of this policy embraces all UNSW activities including:

- teaching;
- research;
- development and maintenance of the UNSW infrastructure and services;
- associated administrative and operational support functions;
- engagement and participation of UNSW community;
- engagement of the broader community.

The following criteria are used to determine priorities:

- impact on the physical and biological environment;
- contribution to innovation and definition of best environmental practice;
- compliance with statutory requirements and other environmental commitments;
- availability of resources.

3. Implementation

The UNSW Environment Policy provides the framework for the development of a 5 year Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The EMP will incorporate a rolling action plan, with annual cycle of review and budget allocation, which in turn provides the mechanism for implementation of the Policy. The Environmental Management Plan will:

- identify and prioritise objectives;
- establish targets;
- document individual actions and time frames to achieve targets;

- allocate resources and responsibilities to enable realisation of the overall Plan;
- set performance indicators and mechanisms to monitor and report progress.

4. Strategies

UNSW adopts the following strategies to implement its Environmental Management Plan:

- Develop and promote a culture of environmental leadership, responsibility and continual improvement across the UNSW community;
- Audit, monitor and ensure compliance with, UNSW environmental legislative and regulatory obligations, organisation policy and other environmental commitments;
- Utilise the resources of the UNSW to lead the way in defining and achieving best environmental practice;
- Advance and disseminate environmental knowledge and applied environmental management through teaching, research and engagement with the wider community.

5. Responsibilities

Successful implementation of the UNSW Environment Policy requires clear identification of the responsibilities and allocation of resource across the University:

- University Council is responsible for the ultimate approval of the UNSW Environment Policy;
- The Vice Chancellor is accountable to University Council for achieving the goals and objectives of the Policy, including allocation of sufficient resources to enable implementation;
- The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Resources) is accountable to the Vice-Chancellor for developing and reviewing of the Environment Policy, preparation and implementation of the Environment Management Plan, and annual reporting on progress towards achieving agreed objectives;
- The Academic Board is responsible for:
 - the integration of environmental issues into UNSW teaching and research practice;
 - ensuring the adoption, promotion and evaluation of environmental literacy as a UNSW graduate attribute;
 - providing leadership in implementing the academic aspects of the UNSW Environment Policy and Environmental Management Plan;
- The Environment Policy Advisory Committee is responsible for providing strategic advice to the DVC (R) in relation to development and review of the Environment Policy and Environment Management Plan, and endorsement of the associated action plan, and endorsement of the annual UNSW Environment Report;
- The Environment Unit is accountable to the DVC (R) for the drafting of the Environment Management Plan, facilitation and implementation of the Plan, and preparation and distribution of the UNSW annual Environment Report;
- In their areas of responsibility, Divisional Heads and Deans are accountable to the Vice-Chancellor for planning and budgeting for the implementation of the Environment Management Plan and reporting on the outcomes;
- UNSW expects all members of the wider university community, contractors, visitors and tenants to be aware of and act in accordance with the UNSW Environment Policy.

6. Evaluation

The Environment Policy Advisory Committee reviews the Environment Policy and advises the DVC (R) of recommended changes. EPAC will review progress of achieving outcomes of each year's Environment Management Plan to determine effectiveness and implementation of the Policy and to inform the UNSW annual Environment Report.

UNSW adopts the following mechanisms to monitor performance:

- Set clear objectives for each priority area;
- Establish performance indicators to monitor progress in achieving these objectives;
- Prepare an annual Environment Report and publicity as appropriate, documenting actions taken during the year to improve the University's environmental performance and identifying opportunities for further improvement in the following year;
- Include channels for stakeholder feedback in reporting structures.

This policy will be communicated to the wider university community and made available to the general public.