

Environmental Action Plan

The Next Steps Forward

2014 - 2016



Environmental Management Systems and Legal Compliance



Objective:

To establish and maintain an externally accredited Environmental Management System and comply with all relevant environmental legislation and other requirements.

Targets:

- Achieve Phases 1-3 of the BS8555 Acorn Scheme by September 2014
- Achieve Phases 1-5 of the BS8555 Acorn Scheme by August 2015
- 100% legal compliance at all times

Actions:

We will provide staffing and financial resources to complete the EMS implementation and create a culture where all staff and students are actively engaged with environmental best practice.

We will improve working procedures and emergency preparedness for all activities affected by environmental legislation.

We will develop a schedule for monitoring and reporting levels of legal compliance, taking effective preventative and corrective action against any non-compliance.



Education for Sustainable Development

Objective:

To embed sustainability throughout the curriculum across each of the schools of study

Targets:

- Include Education for Sustainable Development principles within the induction and mentoring programme for all new academic staff by January 2015
- Develop a methodology for incorporating the consideration of Education for Sustainable Development principles within programme validations/re-validation by January 2015, including support for staff on embedding Education for Sustainable Development principles within the curriculum.
- Ensure that Education for Sustainable Development is considered within all programme validations/re-validations from the academic year 2015-16 onwards
- Develop a methodology for measuring the impact of the embedding of Education for Sustainable Development principles across the curriculum on student awareness of sustainability issues by July 2015



Actions:

- We will develop an Education for Sustainable Development toolkit to support academic staff in mentoring new academic colleagues, and in curriculum development/review.
- We will develop a methodology which enables Education for Sustainable Development principles to be considered in an appropriate way for each of the programmes within the RAU at the point of validation/re-validation and will introduce this to the validation/re-validation process by 2015-16, thereby ensuring that sustainability is embedded within all programmes at the RAU by the academic year 2020-21 (i.e. over the normal five year re-validation cycle).
- We will develop a methodology for measuring the impact of embedding Education for Sustainable Development principles across the curriculum on student awareness of sustainability issues, initially through monitoring students' choice of dissertation subjects, and the use of library resources relating to sustainability.



Energy and Emissions

Objective:

To reduce Scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas emissions from the Main Campus and Rural Innovation Centre by 34% by 2020 from a 2005/6 baseline.

Targets:

- Reduce annual energy consumption per student and employee (FTE) by 9% by August 2015 from a 2012/13 baseline
- Increase the annual amount of renewable energy generated on University sites by 5% by August 2016 from a 2012/13 baseline
- Each campus bedroom to have a smart electricity meter installed by October 2016 to enable individual monitoring of energy consumption
- Achieve zero CFC and HCFC leakage from 2014

Actions:

We will review and update the Carbon Management Plan in response to recent progress, adding new targets and initiatives where appropriate.

We will install a new array of Solar Photovoltaic panels on the main campus and create a campus map to outline further possible renewable energy projects and the potential energy produced from each.

We will pilot smart electricity meters in Coad Court bedrooms, developing an integrated system with University software, before rolling out across campus.

Continue to review other possible emissions and discharges, setting targets to minimise impacts if any arise in future.



Water

Objective:

To reduce Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas emissions, resource use and costs associated with water use and wastewater production.

Targets:

- Reduce annual water consumption per student and employee (FTE) by 20% by August 2016 from a 2012/13 baseline
- Increase the use of grey water by 30% by August 2016 from a 2012/13 baseline

Actions:

We will install sub-meters to monitor water use in areas such as the kitchens and laboratories, using the results to develop a fully-costed Water Management Plan to outline potential initiatives.

We will integrate water efficiency measures into all new buildings and refurbishments and also aim to include grey water harvesting systems in the design.



Waste



Objective:

To reduce Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions, resource use and costs associated with waste production and disposal.

Targets:

- Increase the proportion of non-hazardous general waste recycled by 5 percentage points by August 2015 from a 2012/13 baseline
- Reduce the total annual amount of non-hazardous general waste per capita by 1% per year until August 2016, at least
- Monitor rates of hazardous waste production to develop reduction targets by August 2015
- Achieve a minimum 80% recycling rate for all new construction or demolition projects

Actions:

We will conduct a waste audit to evaluate the different University waste streams and their significance, using the results to initiate positive changes across campus.

We will increase the recycling facilities in student accommodation by piloting a two skip waste system, providing further information and training to improve waste segregation.

We will work with contractors to ensure that all new construction projects have robust site waste management plans in place and that accurate data on project recycling rates is provided.



Travel and Transport



Objective:

To monitor and reduce the release of Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas emissions associated with staff and student travel.

Targets:

- Continue to promote car sharing amongst students and staff
- Increase the proportion of staff car-sharers commuting by 5 percentage points by August 2016 from a 2012/13 baseline
- Increase the proportion of students living off-campus who primarily use non-car transport for commuting by 10 percentage points by August 2016 from a 2012/13 baseline
- Develop a method for estimating business travel emissions by August 2016

Actions:

We will create and promote a comprehensive Green Travel Plan outlining a strategy for improvement and providing useful resources to encourage non-car travel amongst staff and students; utilising feedback from staff and student travel surveys.

We will promote sustainable transport by hosting events such as Walk or Cycle to Work Days, marketing the Cycle to Work Scheme and piloting cycle training or a buddy system for students and staff.

We will continue to invest in and promote the RAU Liftshare Scheme to facilitate car sharing amongst staff and students.



Purchasing and Procurement

Objective:

To reduce Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas emissions, resource use, waste production and whole-life costs associated with the University supply chain.

Targets:

- Become an accredited Fairtrade University by November 2014
- All budget holders to attend sustainable procurement training by August 2015
- Develop a methodology for assessing sustainable procurement behaviour and estimating purchasing associated carbon emissions by August 2017



Actions:

We will identify appropriate training for budget holders to raise awareness of the environmental and ethical impacts of purchasing, the principles of whole-life costing and how to practically integrate sustainability into buying decisions.

We will hold regular strategic discussions about how we can improve our sustainable procurement performance through the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Group. The Fairtrade Steering Group will also meet regularly to ensure the objectives set out in the Fairtrade Policy are being met.



Built Environment



Objective:

To improve the sustainability of University buildings across campus by minimising their carbon footprint and use of resources.

Targets:

- All new buildings to have an EPC rating of B or above from 2014
- All refurbishments to have an EPC rating of B or above from 2014

Actions:

We will specify low-energy design features and services in our design briefs, for both new build and refurbishment projects.

We will work with all parties involved with building design and construction to promote a consistent approach to sustainability, throughout the build process.



Biodiversity

Objective:

To monitor and enhance the biodiversity of the University campus, improving the provision of habitats and protecting sensitive species.

Targets:

- Extend the campus Phase 1 habitat survey by undertaking additional species specific surveys by August 2015
- Increase the wildflower coverage on campus by 5% by August 2016

Actions:

We will plant another 80m² of wildflower meadow area on campus, using a flower rich margin mixture of at least 15 species.

We will integrate habitat and species surveys into appropriate courses, allowing students to have a hands-on experience whilst providing a positive contribution to the University.



Awareness and Communication

Objective:

To increase awareness about environmental policy and principles amongst all interested parties (particularly students and staff, but also potential students, University contractors, customers, the local community and the media).

Targets:

- 100% of new employees to be directed to the Environmental & Sustainability Policy and intranet pages during induction by August 2014
- Increase the number of University-wide environmental awareness raising events taking place by 100% in 2014/15 from 2013/14
- Create an active student Environmental Society with at least 10 members by January 2015
- Initiate a staff environmental champion scheme by August 2015
- Develop and implement strategies for communicating with casual or temporary staff, and relevant contractors, suppliers and customers by January 2015

Actions:

We will direct all new staff to the Environmental & Sustainability Policy and intranet pages as part of the employee initial induction. We will also create a Green Induction Checklist and encourage staff to complete it within the first two weeks of their arrival.

We will define and implement the role of a staff environmental champion by consulting interested volunteers, also providing them with appropriate training and resources to promote and expand the scheme.

We will work with the RAU Students' Union to set up a student Environmental Society which incorporates social activities, volunteering opportunities and academic resources. We will promote this to students during Freshers' and Induction events, through academic channels and by using social media.

We will work with the RAU Students' Union 'Community and Marketing Officer' to create a plan of environmental awareness raising events for the 2014/15 academic year.



Reporting and Reviewing

Objective:

To report on progress against all targets on a quarterly basis to all employees and students and to maintain, review and refine this document at least annually.

Actions:

The Environmental Officer is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the objectives and targets and for communicating the progress towards these.

Progress against targets will be discussed at Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group meetings and annually at Senior Management Group.



Version 2

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Approved By

Senior Management Group

Next Review

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