
Sustainability Policy

1. Purpose

This Policy sets out the principles of sustainability at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington (the University).

2. Application of Policy

This Policy applies to Members of the University Community.

Policy Content

3. Principles

- 3.1 The University recognises it has a moral, ethical and financial imperative to increase its contribution to a sustainable future and as such, has committed to the delivery of Te Parahia – the Sustainability Outcomes Framework 2023 – 2030.
- 3.2 The University’s commitment to sustainability is central to its vision and manifests its values – particularly kaitiakitanga, whanaungatanga, responsibility and fairness – that guide its contribution to its community and future generations.
- 3.3 The University’s sustainability initiatives must be consistent with the University’s Te Tiriti o Waitangi Statute, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Framework and support the University’s Strategic Plan.

4. Learning and Teaching

- 4.1 To ensure that its students acquire the skills and knowledge to navigate, support, and accelerate the transition to a sustainable future, the University will:
 - (a) Encourage every programme to provide relevant sustainability material and/or learning objectives in their curriculum;
 - (b) Provide majors/minors/programmes/qualifications focused on sustainability;
 - (c) Increase sustainability-focused research and learning through targeted scholarships;
 - (d) Develop learning opportunities and content through extracurricular programmes for staff members and students;
 - (e) Improve the development of sustainability skills and knowledge across the University through ongoing monitoring, reporting and planning; and
 - (f) Support sustainability-focused professional development courses offered by Kāpuhipuhi–Wellington Uni-Professional Ltd.

5. Research

- 5.1 To deliver more impactful research that helps communities transition to a sustainable future, the University will –
 - (a) Promote and encourage quality research which recognises the importance of sustainability and environmental protection;
 - (b) Factor in sustainability impact as a parameter for internal research funding allocation;

- (d) Give prominence to environmental solutions delivered as part of research commercialisation; and
- (e) Facilitate academic networking activities on sustainability to support transdisciplinary collaboration.

6. Engagement

- 6.1 To generate a deeper understanding of sustainability issues and prompt action among staff members, students, and the wider community, the University will –
- (a) Increase the visibility of sustainability initiatives both on campus and online;
 - (b) Partner with Victoria University of Wellington Students Association (VUWSA), Ngāi Tahu, and other student representative groups to expand student-to-student engagement on sustainability issues;
 - (c) Prioritise sustainability-focused research discoveries, events, and achievements for media releases and alumni engagement;
 - (d) Partner with central and local government, research institutes, NGOs, businesses, and iwi on sustainability issues; and
 - (e) Work with suppliers, landlords, and tenants on improving sustainability performance, including minimising carbon emissions, resource use and waste generation.

7. Operations

- 7.1 To support the social, cultural, financial, and environmental wellbeing of the University itself, its community and the natural world, the University's operational practices will ensure that –
- (a) it works collaboratively to foster a sustainability-conscious culture;
 - (b) its activities within the University Precincts are respectful to nature, protect threatened indigenous species, and enhance restoration of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems;
 - (c) it delivers on the climate commitments in the zero carbon plan, including the achievement of the air travel carbon targets and the continuous improvement of energy management practices and sustainable commuting;
 - (d) its pollution to land, air and waterways is minimised through effective waste management practices and discharge controls; and
 - (e) its resource consumption (including materials, energy, water and food) is reduced through procurement processes, efficiency improvements, waste minimisation and the achievement of relevant certification standards.

8. Governance

- 8.1 To integrate sustainability considerations into its decision-making and governance mechanisms the University will –
- (a) Ensure relevant reporting processes are transparent, embedded across the institution and aligned with recognised standards and external frameworks such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (b) Encourage investment decisions of businesses and foundations associated with the University to support positive environmental, social and governance outcomes through robust investment criteria and transparency;
 - (c) Participate in significant international sustainability rankings and ratings; and

- (d) Collaborate with VUWSA, Ngāi Tauira, and other student representative groups on sustainability plans.

9. Definitions

In this Policy, unless the context otherwise requires:

Members of the University Community	means staff members, students, independent contractors, adjunct and visiting staff, visiting scholars and interns, professors emeriti and any other persons providing services to the University.
Sustainability	means an integrated concern for social, cultural, economic, and environmental issues, and involves thinking broadly about objectives, considering long-term as well as short-term effects, assessing indirect as well as direct effects, and taking extra care when changes brought about by development might be irreversible in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
Staff Member	means an employee of the University.
Student	means any person enrolled in a personal course of study at the University, or a person who is studying at the University under an exchange agreement with another institution and includes a resident in a Hall of Residence.
University Precincts	means all premises, grounds and buildings owned by, in possession of, or administered by the University.

Related Documents and Information

10. Related Documents

[Education and Training Act 2020](#)
[Victoria University of Wellington Act 1961](#)

[Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Framework](#)
[Procurement Policy](#)
[Te Tiriti o Waitangi Statute](#)
[Travel and Expenses Policy](#)
[Treasury Statute](#)

[Campus Master Plan](#)
[Ki te rā: Student Wellbeing Outcomes Framework 2023-2030](#)
[Mai i te Iho ki te Pae – Māori Strategic Outcomes Framework Strategic Plan \(2020-2024\)](#)
[Te Parahia: Sustainability Outcomes Framework 2023 – 2030](#)
[United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

11. Document Management and Control*Essential Record*

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12 March 2024	Tumu Whakarae – Vice-Chancellor	New policy.