Sustainability Policy

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<tr>
<th>Approving authority</th>
<th>University Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approval date</td>
<td>7 April 2015 (1/2015 meeting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor</td>
<td>Terry Hogan, Principal Policy Adviser, Office of the Vice Chancellor <a href="mailto:T.Hogan@griffith.edu.au">T.Hogan@griffith.edu.au</a></td>
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<td>Next scheduled review</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>TRIM document</td>
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Description

This policy underpins the University’s commitment to embed sustainability across all elements of the University and is integral to the Sustainability Plan. The policy focuses on environmental sustainability, but acknowledges that sustainability encompasses social and economic dimensions which are the foci of other University policies.

Related documents

- Assets Policy
- Business Continuity Management and Resilience Policy
- Business Continuity Management Framework
- Code of Conduct
- Construction Work Policy
- Electrical Safety Policy
- Energy or Water Supply Failure on Griffith University Campuses Policy
- Equal Employment Opportunity Policy
- Equity and Diversity Plan 2014-2017
- First Aid Policy
- Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Inclusive Practices for People with Disabilities Policy
- GSafe Incident Reporting
- Infection Control Procedures
- Investment Policy
- Losses Policy
- Management of Space in the University Policy
- Motor Vehicle Policy
- Purchasing Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Reporting and Recording Procedures for Incidents, Injuries, Dangerous Incidents, Hazards and Near Misses
- Risk Management Policy
- Risk Management Framework
- Staff Counselling Services Policy
- Statement of Reconciliation
- Strategic Plan 2013-2017
- Students with Disabilities Policy
- Student Charter
1. **DEFINITIONS**

1.1 **Sustainability**

Sustainability encompasses environmental, social and economic dimensions. A widely accepted definition of sustainability is: "Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (Brundtland Report, 1987)

1.2 **Carbon Footprint**

Carbon footprint is a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide or CO₂ emitted through the combustion of fossil fuels. In the case of an organisation, business or enterprise, it is the carbon emitted as part of their everyday operations.

1.3 **Natural Resources**

Parts of nature, including, soil, air, water, flora and fauna, which have a real or potential economic, social or cultural value.

2. **VISION**

Griffith University contributes to a robust, equitable and environmentally sustainable society. Through this policy, the University reinforces its commitment to foster a culture of sustainability in our teaching, research, community engagement and corporate practices.

3. **SCOPE**

All staff, students, visitors and contractors should be cognisant of this policy when they are engaged in University activities or provide products and services to the University.

4. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The University's Council and senior management are committed to the principles of sustainability. Managers and Supervisors have overall responsibility for sustainability and are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy within their area of control.

The University's Sustainability Plan includes objectives and targets and associated accountabilities across the University.

5. **POLICY**

The University will strive to continually improve its sustainability practices in its corporate practices, teaching and research and community engagement activities.

5.1 **Leadership in Corporate Practices**

Griffith University will effectively manage sustainability by:

- Implementing and maintaining a structure that ensures the systematic management of sustainability through Griffith University campuses and sites.
● Complying with all statutory requirements.
● Minimising its environmental impact and managing its carbon footprint.
● Minimising the use of natural resources.
● Embedding sustainability in decision making processes.
● Providing appropriate training in sustainability for all staff, students, contractors and visitors.
● Communicating all relevant sustainability information to all staff, students, contractors, visitors and the wider community.
● Showcasing the university as a best practice model in sustainability to the local and global community.
● Regularly reporting against progress.

5.2 Leadership in Teaching and Research
Griffith confirms its commitment to sustainability in teaching and research and will:
● Through teaching, learning and research, facilitate students gaining the knowledge to live sustainably.
● Advance the University's contribution to research on sustainability.
● Promote sustainability within and beyond the University.

5.3 Leadership in Community Engagement
Griffith will:
● Share and exchange sustainability knowledge and experience with other universities, community groups, the public and private sectors
● Foster engagement of the University community and wider community in sustainability.
● Develop strategies to create knowledge and leadership in sustainability among local, national and international communities.