

Sustainability Policy

Approving authority	University Council
Approval date	6 August 2018 (3/2018 meeting)
Advisor	Professor Martin Betts, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) m.betts@griffith.edu.au (07) 373 57391
Next scheduled review	2021
Document URL	http://policies.griffith.edu.au/pdf/Sustainability Policy.pdf
TRIM document	2018/0000064
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](#)
- [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#)
- [Workplace Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Policy](#)
- [Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [GSafe Incident Reporting](#)
- [Treasury Policy](#)
- [Losses Policy](#)
- [Management of Space in the University Policy](#)
- [Motor Vehicle Policy](#)
- [No Smoking Policy](#)
- [Purchasing Policy](#)
- [Recruitment and Selection Policy](#)
- [Reporting and Recording Procedures for Incidents, Injuries, Illness, Hazards or Near Misses](#)
- [Risk Management Policy](#)
- [Risk Management Framework](#)
- [Statement of Reconciliation](#)
- [Strategic Plan 2018-2019](#)
- [Student Sexual Assault, Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Policy](#)

[Students with Disabilities Policy](#)

[Student Charter](#)

[Travel Policy](#)

[Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country Policy](#)

[Workplace Rehabilitation Policy](#)

[\[Definitions\]](#) [\[Vision\]](#) [\[Scope\]](#) [\[Responsibilities\]](#) [\[Policy\]](#)

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 aware 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.