

Energy Policy

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The University of Northampton is one of the youngest Universities in the UK and one of the first to be named as a Changemaker Campus reflecting on social impact. This means that as an institution we work hard to have a positive impact on the world around us, simply put Changemaking is about *‘Spotting a social or environmental problem and having the skills and grit to do something about it’*. The University recognises our activities can have a negative impact on the environment, both locally and globally and we are committed to making sustainable development part of its operations, research and curriculum.

This policy will be reviewed by the Environment & Sustainability Team on a 3-year basis or amended in response to changes in future legislation and/or case law.

2.0 OWNERSHIP

The Environment & Sustainability Team owns and manages this policy on behalf of The University of Northampton.

3.0 ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

This Energy Policy is a corporate policy and applies to all employees (and workers, as applicable) of The University of Northampton including any wholly owned subsidiaries, unless an alternative policy exists, subject to any qualifying conditions.

University activity including teaching, accommodation, research, administrative and operations are under scope of this Energy policy, considering impacts from buildings owned, operated or leased by the University. All staff, students and contractors of the University must adhere to this policy.

4.0 POLICY STATEMENT

The University recognises that energy used for our activities leads to greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change. We are committed to strive for continual improvement of energy performance and efficiency to reduce harmful emissions in accordance with expectations of the Higher Education sector and national government targets. The University of Northampton will ensure sufficient resources are made available to monitor and reduce the consumption of energy, ensuring all legal, regulatory and service requirements are adhered to.

This policy forms part of, and should be read in conjunction with the [University's Environment Policy](#). A breach of this policy may be addressed via the University's disciplinary and code of conduct policies.

This policy is aligned to the three core elements of the University's strategic plan:

- Super Supportive

Doing the right thing, in the right way, with the right people, for the right reason. Successful energy management requires participation and inclusion by all users of the system. Staff, students and contractors are encouraged to be considerate of their energy consumption and are empowered to adapt efficient usage behaviour.

- Social Impact

Betterment of Northampton, Northamptonshire and the wider world.

Greenhouse gas emissions generated by energy usage is a complex, long term problem, effected largely by the ingrained culture of an organisation. This extends to energy consumption, awareness and behaviour at an organisational and individual level. The can-do attitude promoted by the Universities Changemaker campus ensures staff and students have a positive impact on the world around them. This begins by embedding behaviours at the individual level through behavioural change campaigns which result in a University wide culture of social responsibility.

- Future focused
- Forward thinking, innovative and ambitious. The energy sector is an ever-evolving market in a changing World where we thrive to be efficient through sustainable procurement and greening of the grid where feasible. We will use Waterside as our internal source of innovation and embracing smart technological solutions such as our biomass boiler and heat network. Old models of relying on fossil fuel combustion and high carbon sources of energy are no longer acceptable.

Our goals;

- Become an exemplar of environmental best practice in Higher Education
- Fulfil our mission - Transform lives + inspire change
- Be impactful on the University community
- Have a positive impact on our environment, helping the University and wider community to thrive

5.0 KEY PRINCIPLES

We commit to;

- Minimise energy consumption and reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions;
- Strive to exceed Higher Education sector and national government targets by responding and adapting appropriately;
- Implement energy efficiency schemes and initiatives across University buildings;
- Promote our pledge toward 100% renewable energy;
- Innovative use of technology, minimising the need for travel and transport where practical and feasible;
- Promote behaviour change initiatives amongst staff, students and visitors, driving energy efficiency improvements;
- Procure energy in accordance with the University's Ethical and Sustainability Procurement Policy;
- Invest wisely in smart technology, adapting to a changing utility market;

- Investigate the feasibility of working with partners within the local area on the development of a local district heat network as part of our efforts to achieve Net Zero Carbon targets;
- To maintain and develop the University's energy management with the ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems;
- Monitor and adhere to our legal, regulatory and service obligations.

6.0 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- [Environment Policy](#)
- [Energy Action Plan](#) (as part of our liE Manual)
- [Carbon Management Plan](#)
- [Ethical and Sustainable Procurement Policy](#)
- [Travel Management Plan](#)
- [University Strategic Plan](#)
- Construction Policy
- Building Management Guidance

7.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment must accompany this document.

8.0 VERSION CONTROL

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