

Newman University

Environmental Policy 2021/2022

Introduction

Newman University is committed to improving its environmental performance and to the ethical stewardship of the planet and our natural resources. As a University, we recognise that we have a responsibility to make a meaningful contribution to reducing our impact on our environment. We acknowledge that activities at Newman University impact on the environment and we are committed to minimising such impacts and to developing more sustainable policies and procedures to reduce any negative effects of our operations on the environment.

A commitment to improving environmental performance has been introduced through an environmental management system (EMS). The University will provide the necessary resources required to implement strategic goals in reducing our University's environmental impact.

We have implemented a Carbon Management Plan and have environmental key performance indicators to assist in monitoring our current and future environmental performance against similar organisations in the higher education sector.

The Carbon Management Plan and the EMS will cover all one, two and three scopes of environmental impact as identified within the University's Carbon Management Plan.

In 2017 the University achieved the Eco Campus Gold reaccreditation award and in March 2019 Newman University achieved both the ISO 14001 Environmental award and ISO 50001 energy award, both ISO awards are audited every 12 months.

A commitment to environmental performance will continue through the monitoring of the objectives to ensure continual and measurable outcomes.

The Policy

It is our policy to:

- Integrate our environmental management system (EMS) into day to day operations, to ensure environmental issues are addressed and negative impacts minimised, whilst providing a high quality of education
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and requirements
- Reduce our use of natural resources such as energy and water
- Encourage the use of recycled materials and implement recycling systems across the University
- Prevent and minimise pollution by reducing emissions and discharges and setting targets for year on year improvement
- Increase awareness of environmental issues amongst employees, students and contractors
- Integrate EMS into Newman University's Masterplan capital development programme and seek to achieve the highest possible standards in all new development with the aspiration of a minimal EPC rating of B or above

- Give due consideration to environmental issues and energy performance in the acquisition, design, refurbishment, location and use of buildings
- Encourage all staff, students and visitors onto sustainable forms of transport, and evaluate travel alternatives across all activities
- Continuously improve our environmental performance and integrate recognised environmental management best practice into our business operations where practical
- Encourage staff and students to extend this lifestyle outside of the University environment
- Measure and take action to reduce the carbon footprint of Newman University
- Manage waste generated from the University's operations according to the principles of the waste management hierarchy
- Ensure environmental, including climate change, criteria are taken into account in the procurement of goods and services
- Maintain both Environmental awards relating to the ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Standard) and ISO 50001 (Energy standard) awards
- Promote communication with internal and external interested parties
- Ensure that all our employees, students and general public can access and understand this policy
- Support and promote the Fairtrade Policy
- Review smart targets as defined within our Carbon Management Plan, these targets have been agreed and are specifically identified within the Newman University Energy Policy for 2017 to 2020: a review and update of the Carbon Management plan will take place in 2021
- Increase the impact of biodiversity through planting and landscaping schemes
- Promote, support and encouragement Green Week at our University.

Internationalisation

Newman University Environmental Policy aims to encourage and facilitate opportunities for engagement with Internationalisation through the promotion of staff/student initiatives, such as the Faculty of Education developing additional partnerships in Africa.

Academic Considerations

In order to implement the policy a baseline review will be undertaken focusing upon Education and Research for sustainability development, which will assist in actively encouraging and supporting the teaching and research of environmental sustainability within the University.

Implementation

In implementing this policy the University will:

- Identify and ring fence appropriate resources for both short and long term change, as identified within the annual budget cycle
- Communicate policy objectives to all members of staff and students
- Develop a clear action plan with associated targets and monitoring criteria.
- Review the policy and action plan regularly and report to the University operations Team when appropriate

- Identify alternative funding routes for environmental improvements.

Targets

The following targets are our commitment to energy and environmental impact reduction.

Carbon Emissions

- Newman University will become a carbon negative University by the year 2035. The updated Carbon Management Plan will outline the University's roadmap to becoming carbon negative.

Waste Management

- Our original target was to reduce the total waste being disposed of by 80% by 2020 against the performance of 2009/10. Newman University has already achieved a 93% reduction in disposal of waste to incineration; this will continue to be monitored.
- To minimise construction waste and reuse wherever possible.
Refer to the Waste Management Strategy for details.

Water

- We will reduce our water usage by 5% based on the usage of 2020.

Electric

- We will reduce our electricity consumption by 5% based on 2019/2020 usage.
Refer to the Energy Strategy for details.

Gas

- We will reduce our natural gas consumption by 5% based on 2019/2020 usage.
Refer to the Energy Strategy for details.

Green travel

- We are committed to and support green travel.
Refer to the Travel Plan Strategy for details.

Academic

- We will include a requirement to discuss and address Education for Sustainable Development in all programme validations and re-validations.

Tony Sharma
Chair of the Environmental Committee