



<b>Owner:</b>	Sustainability Committee
<b>Version number:</b>	18
<b>Date of approval:</b>	26/09/15
<b>Approved by:</b>	SC
<b>Effective date:</b>	26/09/15
<b>Date of last review:</b>	October 2025
<b>Due for review:</b>	October 2026

## **SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

### **1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This policy is applicable to any member of BU staff, students, external contractors and other relevant stakeholders.
- 1.2 BU's goal is to manage its activities and estate to deliver continual improvements in environmental performance through the adoption of key policy commitments. BU will deliver this Policy through its Environmental and Energy Management System (EEMS certified to ISO14001:2015/EcoCampus Platinum and ISO50001:2018)
- 1.3 The scope of the EEMS is the provision of a fused experience of education, research, professional practice and related support services at Bournemouth University Talbot and Lansdowne campuses, Yeovil and Chapel Gate sites and Student Village and Unit 5, Drewitt's Industrial Estate. Not included in the Scope are satellite sites, Uni-lets and privately run halls, although BU will use its influence with the building owners to support continual environmental and energy improvement.
- 1.4 BU will consider the risks and opportunities associated with its activities and how it can use its control and influence to make a net positive impact on the environment. BU will also consider the impact of the environment on its operations and infrastructure.
- 1.5 This Policy forms part of BU's contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### **2. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2.1 The Chief Operating Officer, on behalf of BU's leadership team, has responsibility for overseeing the implementation of this Policy and embedding sustainability in the organisation.
- 2.2 The Sustainability Committee, which reports to the University Executive Team, has overall responsibility for implementation and monitoring of this policy. Staff, student and trade union representatives sit on the Sustainability Committee.
- 2.3 All staff, students and visitors have a responsibility to adopt behaviours that will contribute to a low carbon, sustainable future.

### **3. LINKS TO OTHER BU DOCUMENTS**

- 3.1 Bournemouth University Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan
- 3.2 Bournemouth University Energy and Water Policy
- 3.3 Bournemouth University Sustainable Construction Policy
- 3.4 Bournemouth University Biodiversity Policy

- 3.5 Bournemouth University Sustainable and Ethical Food Policy
- 3.6 Bournemouth University Sustainable Procurement Policy
- 3.7 Bournemouth University Fairtrade Policy
- 3.8 Bournemouth University Travel Plan
- 3.9 Bournemouth University Sustainable IT Policy
- 3.10 Bournemouth University Ethical Investment and Banking Policy
- 3.11 Bournemouth University Curriculum Guidelines
- 3.12 Bournemouth University Ethical Careers Policy

## Policy

### 4. OVERVIEW

- 4.1 Bournemouth University is a large and complex organisation and is committed to maintaining and wherever possible, enhancing, the quality of this environment, both for people who live and work in the University and for the wider community.
- 4.2 Bournemouth University recognises that its activities have an impact upon the environment at local, regional, national and global levels and acknowledges a responsibility for the protection of the environment and the health of its members and the community.
- 4.3 BU's strategy until 2035 will build on our commitments to sustainability and these will continue to be delivered through the leadership and impact actions to enhance BU's position as a sustainable organisation and manage the environmental impact of our actions.

### 5. AIMS

The University is committed to:

- 5.1 Complying with, and where appropriate, exceeding applicable compliance obligations relevant to its operations.
- 5.2 Preventing pollution and protecting the environment both through its direct actions and through its influence on others.
- 5.3 Maintain and continually improve an EEMS to identify its significant environmental aspects and impacts and drive continual environmental and energy improvement.
- 5.4 Providing a high-quality, accessible and inclusive workplace and study environment to support the health and wellbeing of staff and students.

### 6. OBJECTIVES

This Policy provides the framework for setting and reviewing environment and sustainability objectives and targets. The University is committed to achieving sustainability good practice throughout its activities by:

- 6.1 Embedding the principles of sustainability and global citizenship into the curriculum to ensure all graduates have the opportunity to develop the skills and confidence to deal with issues relating to sustainable development.

- 6.2 Promoting research related to sustainable development and contributing to the development and delivery of BU's strategic objectives. And encouraging research to be carried out in an environmentally sustainable way.
- 6.3 Providing education and training on sustainable development for students and staff so they can make a full contribution to the University's agenda for sustainability and can work and live in an environmentally responsible way.
- 6.4 Implementing a Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan to deliver net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030/31.
- 6.5 Acquiring all electricity from renewable or zero carbon sources, either through the purchase of renewable energy using Green or Zero Carbon Tariff's or Power Purchase Agreements (PPA's), or through an increased use of on-site renewables to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase energy security.
- 6.6 Implementing an Ethical Investment and Banking Policy to ensure BU will not knowingly invest in companies whose activities include practices which directly pose a risk of serious harm to individuals, groups or the environment, or whose activities are inconsistent with the mission and values of the University. The University seeks to access banking options which are more sustainable. We recognise that there are challenges with the sustainability of day-to-day banking and we are limited by the options available in the market. We are working to encourage improvements in the sustainability of the banks we use and to move our deposits to greener options as they become available.
- 6.7 Complying with our Sustainable Procurement Policy to monitor and maximise the social value and minimise the environmental harm of BU's spend on goods and services and support the circular economy.
- 6.8 Promoting the prudent use of natural resources to continue to Refrain - Reduce – Reuse – Recycle resources and dispose of waste responsibly.
- 6.9 Implementing a Travel Plan to encourage reduced dependency on car use, improve local air quality, and improve sustainable transport options available to staff, students and visitors.
- 6.10 Continuing to invest in the estate and IT to reduce energy and water consumption and develop resilience and adaptation to the predicted impacts of climate change.
- 6.11 Continue to optimise our building management to avoid wasting energy when buildings are not in use and operate a workplace approach which maximises the use of spaces to provide an accessible and inclusive environment where everyone can find a space to work, study, relax, socialise or participate in sport.
- 6.12 Implementing a Sustainable Construction Policy to design, build and maintain a world class estate and achieve, as a minimum, the UK Green Building Council Framework Definition for Net Zero Carbon for all major estates projects over £2m in value.
- 6.13 Commit to our pledge as a Nature Positive University by protecting and, where possible, enhancing habitats and biodiversity on campus, including investigating nature-based solutions and engaging students in our journey in a variety of ways.
- 6.14 Providing low carbon, healthy and ethical food and drink choices to encourage informed purchasing by customers on campuses and in BU halls.
- 6.15 Working with suppliers and contractors to ensure they comply with this policy and manage their activities to minimise harm to the environment.

- 6.16 Engaging staff, students and the community about sustainability and the climate and ecological crisis to encourage the adoption of more sustainable action.
- 6.17 Working in partnerships with the local community, the education sector and other key stakeholders to share good practice and implement and celebrate sustainable development. Through partnerships with local organisations including BCP Council, Dorset Council and University Hospitals Dorset we will support our region on its journey to becoming net zero.
- 6.18 Committing through our Ethical Careers Policy to providing a careers and employability service which supports students to apply their skills, knowledge, and experiences in positive ways; enabling students to identify and understand their values and relate this to possible careers. BU will actively promote opportunities to students which have a positive impact environmentally and/or socially and do not contribute to the detrimental effects of the fossil fuels, arms, and tobacco industries.
- 6.19 Use digital and AI skills to increase our ability to use sustainability data from across the university to inform decision making, measure impact, and drive continual improvement.

## Procedures

### 7. PROCEDURES

- 7.1 All Environmental and Energy Management System procedures are related to this policy.

## General

### 8. REVIEW

- 8.1 The University will review and publish this Policy on an annual basis and ensure corrective and preventative actions have been taken to drive continual improvement.
- 8.2 Feedback relating to this policy can be provided to [sustainability@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@bournemouth.ac.uk)

### 9. APPENDICES

None

### 10. SIGNATURE

Sustainability Committee. 21.10.2025.