

# Environmental Agreement

The parties to this agreement in the spirit of partnership and with a desire to act in the best interests of the University and its staff also recognise the benefit to the environment in agreeing a positive way forward on environmental action. To this end we affirm the following.

## 1. Policy Statement

In line with UK Government policy the University and Unite are keen to encourage university management, employees and trade union workplace representatives to take responsibility for 'greening' their workplace. This will include a positive dialogue between management, Unite workplace representatives and staff about ways in which their workplace can make better use of energy, implementation of waste management initiatives whilst seeking to promote an ethical and environmental sustainable procurement policy with the aim to reduce CO2 emissions in line with UK statutory and international obligations.

## 2 Application

The success of this initiative is only viable if the University, trade union and staff work in partnership together and engage in a commitment to improving environmental performance and create a sustainable workplace.

All parties aim to reach agreement on how objectives will be implemented, monitored and assessed for success or failure. These will include

- a) Addressing the issues of energy conservation, waste management and the prevention of pollution.
- b) Continue to measure the total "carbon footprint" of the organisation by calculation of utility usage including electricity, gas, oil (or other carbon emitting sources), water, waste and seek to reduce waste and inefficient energy or other systems.
- c) Source and supply environmentally efficient heating, lighting and waste systems and adopt the introduction of environmentally and biologically friendly technology.
- d) Seek to reduce the excessive consumption of materials in the

operation of the organisation and promote reuse and recycling whenever possible.

- e) Seek to achieve improvements in environmental performance whilst giving consideration to the needs and requests of the organisation, the staff and students.
- f) Comply at all times with relevant environmental legislation and work towards influencing the wider environmental agenda with the use of best practice and examples.
- g) Work with suppliers and partner organisations to obtain the lowest environmental impact and best environmental supply or service to ensure there is a minimal impact on the environment while carrying out the work of the organisation
- h) Commit to future building programmes to consider environmental impact and to minimise the impact of buildings, structures (and where appropriate plant and machinery) to minimise visual and noise impact on the local environment
- i) Aim to source procurement (e.g. food, building materials) from local sustainable sources.
- j) Ensure that the whole workforce is engaged in this initiative. This is crucial to ensuring that any policies developed are implemented fully and carried forward in a positive and pro-active way
- k) Encourage trade union representatives to become environmental champions, encourage representatives to undertake training in sustainable development and the creation of a green workplace

## **Implementation**

The University and Unite will work together on issuing a written publicly available environmental policy statement.

As part of the ongoing work and commitment the University and Unite will through a dedicated environmental manager set up a joint environmental committee and shall include within it dedicated Unite environmental representatives.

The environmental committee shall consider ways of continually reducing the University "carbon footprint" including carbon reduction plan with time bound targets for continual emissions reductions.

It shall also consider other related issues such as

## **1. Transport**

- i. Balanced sustainable transport policy and ways of reducing excessive travel to and from and within the university. Such considerations shall seek to engage local authority and other local transport providers.
- ii. The introduction or maintenance of a car sharing scheme
- iii. Car park facility provision.
- iv. The provision of a low cost cycle scheme for use by staff and students
- v. Other integrated transport provisions.

## **2 Energy**

- i. Provision of sustainable energy efficient lighting
- ii. Provision of "green tariff" sourced electricity
- iii. Systematic utilities and building monitoring system (BMS)
- iv. Micro generation (e.g. installing wind turbines or solar panels on buildings)
- v. Construction of a combined heat and power (CHP) plant
- vi. Movement sensor switches, safe automatic power down equipment,

## **3 Recycling**

- i. Provision of localized recycling and better sorting of waste at department or office level.
- ii. Planned segregation at source
- iii. Consideration of equipment exchanges and resource records to avoid the need for re supply or new purchases.
- iv. Use of outside community agencies for old or redundant equipment.

## **4 Data Collection**

- i. Maintain a comprehensive database of utility and carbon use by hectareage, campus, building, floor, department and office level.
- ii. Maintain a comprehensive database of numbers of staff, contractors, students or members of the public using each facility.
- iii. Plan by to reduce utility, carbon usage over time to the lowest level for effective use of a facility.
- iv. Apply ISO 19011 auditing guidelines

## 5 Other innovations

- i. Consideration of home working policies to reduce travel
- ii. Flexible travel
- iii. Fair trade procurement to advance international economies
- iv. Provide reskilling opportunities for employees connected to carbon based energy systems into newer greener based micro generation or combined heat and power plants
- v. Use of biodiversity to give added value to a working environment.
- vi. Set up workplace environmental champions to input into planning and implementation of agreed processes.

## 6 Outside Agencies

- i. Ensure all outside contractors or suppliers are aware of the organisations policies.
- ii. Ensure contractor or service provider compliance with ISO 14001 certification
- iii. Seek the active involvement of all contractors and suppliers to reducing their own environmental waste or carbon footprint.
- iv. Encourage use of those organisations that have an active publicly available environmental policy.

We the undersigned recognise that this agreement is only a start to a long term strategy for a safer greener environment.

The proposals formed within this agreement are not an exhaustive list and we will seek to develop further as better facilities, finance and research allow.

We recognise that the world has finite resources and that we are guardians of our environment for future generations. We pledge to do what we can to protect our world and its environment for the better.

Signed

..... On behalf of University

..... On behalf of Unite

..... Date

