University of Lincoln Environmental Policy

UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

1. Introduction

As a rapidly-growing University with over 14,000 students and 1,500 staff, the University of Lincoln acknowledges that its activities will have an environmental impact on both a local and global scale. It is also recognised that environmental responsibility plays a key part in achieving our strategic aims and objectives.

We are committed to conducting our operations in a way that protects and enhances the environment. The University is taking actions to make a positive contribution by promoting environmental and sustainability awareness across the institution.

This policy has been developed to outline the University's commitment to the environment. It will be promoted amongst staff, students, suppliers and contractors as everyone has a role in delivering environmental sustainability and protection.

The University will establish a culture where environmental performance is continually improved. This will be achieved through regular reviews and the setting of challenging objectives and targets.

2. Responsibilities

Staff, students, contractors and visitors are expected to comply with all appropriate environmental legislation, to assist with minimising their environmental impact and to ensure environmental protection.

3. Environmental Management System

The University will introduce and maintain an Environment Management System (EMS) that covers all of its sites and activities and manages environmental risks in a structured way. The aim is for the EMS to be accredited to the ISO 14001 standard.

4. Environmental Actions

The University will aim to improve its environmental performance through the following areas:

- **Legal & Regulatory Compliance:** Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and appropriate codes of compliance. A register of relevant legislation will be developed, maintained and made available within the University.

- **Environmental Protection and Prevention of Pollution:** The environmental aspects and impacts of the University will be reviewed annually, recorded and managed to ensure that any risks are minimised and the environment is protected. Emissions and discharges to air, land and water will be controlled and minimised in order to prevent pollution.

- **Energy and Carbon:** The environmental impact of energy use will continually be monitored and targets to reduce energy consumption will be set. Emissions of carbon dioxide due to energy usage will be measured and recorded. Our Carbon Management Plan, containing carbon reduction targets, will be regularly reviewed and we will maintain accreditation to the ISO 50001 standard.

- **Waste Management:** We will minimise waste through the efficient use of resources and materials and aim to increase recycling opportunities. Correct storage, collection and

disposal of waste will be ensured. We will work with our waste management contractors to send zero waste to landfill where possible. A waste and recycling engagement programme will be used to encourage the correct separation of waste and minimise contamination in the recyclable waste stream.

- **Sustainable Procurement:** The environmental impact of our procurement will be accounted for using a proportionate approach. Suppliers bidding for major contracts will be asked to demonstrate that they have established environmental standards and where appropriate, suppliers will be evaluated on environmental issues relevant to the performance of the contract. The environmental impacts over the lifecycle of purchases will be considered.

- **Water Management:** Water consumption will be monitored, measured and reported on. Targets to reduce water consumption will be set and actions to reduce usage will be implemented. The University has several water courses in the immediate vicinity of its estate and will take appropriate action to prevent contamination.

- **Biodiversity:** The University will ensure that important habitat areas within its land holdings are protected. Ecological surveys will be used to identify projects that enhance biodiversity around the estate. The ecological value of natural assets will be promoted and staff will be supported in using these assets as a learning resource for students.

- **Sustainable Transport:** Our Sustainable Travel Plan will be used to promote and support sustainable transport options and initiatives in Lincoln and the surrounding area. Working with external partners, we will encourage students, staff and visitors to use alternatives to single occupancy cars to travel to the University. The carbon emissions resulting from staff and student travel will be measured and reported on annually.

- **Education for Sustainable Development:** As part of our commitment to raising awareness of environmental sustainability, the University will seek to offer students opportunities to volunteer and enhance their skills with sustainability projects. Where appropriate, sustainability awareness will also be integrated into academic teaching.

5. Environmental Targets and Reporting

The University will set challenging objectives and targets, with an aim to continually improve the overall environmental performance of the organisation.

Environmental performance against the objectives and targets will be reported on in the Annual Environmental Report.

6. Policy Availability

This policy will be made publicly available and will be communicated to staff and students. In addition, individuals and businesses working for and on behalf of the University will be made aware of the policy.

7. Review

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and will be updated as appropriate.

Signed:

Date: June 2019

Version History

Version	Approved by	Approved on	Summary of changes
2.3	Estates & Technology Steering Group	30.06.2019	Minor amendments and approval
2.2	Estates & Technology Steering Group	30.05.2018	Approval of the updated Policy
2.1	Environmental Sustainability Manager	12.04.2018	Updated policy in line with progress in specific areas
2.0	Estates & Technology Steering Group	13.12.2016	Approval of the Policy
1.2	Environmental Sustainability Manager	28.11.2016	New format and numbering
1.1	Draft Version	28.11.2016	New content updated from the 2013 Environmental Policy