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1.0	Authorised by UNSW Council CL95/6	6 February 1995	6 February 1995

1. Preamble

UNSW recognises the strategic importance of an environment policy for enhancing the quality of the University's activities and for providing leadership in an area which is of major concern to the community. Consequently, UNSW aims to ensure that the overall protection and improvement of the quality of the environment is a prime consideration in all of its activities.

UNSW has demonstrated its commitment to environmental responsibility by foreshadowing in its corporate plan for 1994-99 the formulation and implementation of a University environment policy, by establishing the Environment Policy Advisory Committee and the Institute of Environmental Studies, and by being the first Australasian university to sign the Talloires Declaration.

This policy statement provides the focus for continuing and expanding that commitment by establishing a platform for addressing environmental objectives, procedures, action plans and evaluation, and setting up a process that integrates environmental responsibility in all aspects of the University's work.

2. Principles

In pursuit of its environment policy UNSW will:

- promote environmental awareness and sensitivity among all members of the University community
- promote the principles and practices of environmental responsibility by sharing knowledge and experience with other universities, government and private organisations and community groups.
- be aware of and monitor its legislative obligations in relation to the environment; and beyond this, strive for environmental best practice, and as befits an educational and research institution, lead the way in defining best practice.
- contribute to the growth of knowledge of environmental issues in the context of a commitment to sustainable development, through teaching programs and the dissemination and application of research on the environment and its management.
- recognise its obligations both locally and globally, to the present and succeeding generations.

3. Priorities

This policy statement provides a broad framework for guiding environmentally responsible behaviour. In terms of the scope of the policy, UNSW will aim for environmental best practice in all its activities, taking into account its responsibilities in other areas and the human and financial resources available to it.

The following criteria will be used to determine priorities:

- scope of impact
- compliance with statutory requirements
- focus on root causes rather than symptoms

- impact on health and safety
- impact on neighbours and the community
- impact on teaching and research
- support from students and staff
- availability of resources

The Environment Policy Advisory Committee will assess priorities and recommend to the Vice-Chancellor courses of action to be taken.

4. Implementation

Implementation of environment policy involves evaluating options for maximising environmental protection, establishing plans, setting targets, identifying operational responsibilities and allocating resources to programs. A broad range of interests will be considered and opportunities will be provided for people at all levels across the University to participate in these processes. The following actions will be taken to facilitate interaction and achieve environmental objectives:

- Working Groups will be established to assess the University's performance, at least in the following areas:
 - Energy use
 - Open Space
 - Purchasing
 - The Built Environment
 - Transport
 - Waste Management
 - Water use
 - Education for environmental responsibility
- Working groups will recommend practices, processes and desirable outcomes to the Environment Policy Advisory Committee.
- An environmental coordinator will be appointed in each Faculty and Division and a Coordinators' Committee will be established to share ideas for fostering environmentally responsible practice on campus. The Coordinators Committee will elect a Chair who will be appointed as a member of the Environment Policy Advisory Committee.
- Work practices that conserve resources and protect the environment will be initiated and integrated within the University's management systems.
- Incentives such as merit awards, special purpose funds of retention of funds saved, will be used to encourage budget units and members of the University community to undertake projects and introduce initiatives that conserve resources and protect the environment

5. Evaluation

Plans, strategies and priorities will be reviewed regularly by the Environment Policy Advisory Committee to ensure that they continue to be effective. The following mechanisms will be adopted for monitoring performance:

- Benchmarks will be established in relation to the critical areas to be addressed for improvement of the environment.
- Performance indicators will be established to monitor the University's progress in achieving the specific objectives within its environmental policy
- Reporting structures will include channels for stakeholder feedback.
- The Vice-Chancellor will submit an annual report to Council on implementation of the environment policy including actions to be taken during the year to improve the University's environmental performance.

Appendix A: History

Version	Authorised by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Sections modified
1.0	UNSW Council CL95/6	6 February 1995	6 February 1995	

Archived Document