

Sustainability Policy

Aston University is committed to integrating sustainability into all aspects of the three corners of our academic triangle, as stated in the missions: “delivering an excellent learning experience for our students, enhanced by the interaction with internationally recognised, relevant research, and linked to innovative support for local companies and engagement with schools and the community, involving students and staff in raising aspirations and attainment”.

The University endorses the World Commission on Environment and Development’s definition of Sustainable Development:

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In doing so we will strive to reconcile the tensions which exist between the three pillars of sustainability – economic prosperity; environmental quality; social equity – both now and for the generations who will engage with the University in the future.

Within the higher education and local community Aston aspires to become an exemplar for others to follow, and undertakes to:

- embed sustainability into the curriculum, research, community, and culture of the University;
- meet, and where appropriate exceed, legislative and regulatory guidelines, and strive to meet indicators and best practice requirements in respect of sustainability;
- raise sustainability awareness and promote sound environmentally and ethically responsible behaviour throughout the Aston community;
- develop and maintain the estate and associated landscape with due regard to environmental impact and social value;
- implement ethically and environmentally responsible procurement and financial management measures, policies and procedures and communicate these to suppliers and partner organisations;
- take a leading role in advancing the sustainability agenda in the West Midlands region, and develop meaningful local, national and international partnerships and networks;
- monitor, annually report and continually strive to improve our sustainability performance, through the setting and achievement of clearly defined objectives and targets.



Aston University

The Sustainability Policy will be supported by a series of policies that reflect specific sustainability issues. This policy has relevance for other University plans, policies and strategies, and should be taken into account as they are revised and developed.

The policy will be implemented, monitored and reviewed by the Environment and Sustainability Team and the Sustainable Aston Working Group (reporting to the University Executive). In line with current procedure, the policy will be reviewed annually.

Last reviewed 24th September 2012, during the annual environmental management review by SAWG