

Aston's Sustainability Aims

In order to develop a strategy to address the subject of 'sustainability' and the opportunities it offers us, it is proposed that we consider three key themes – community, research and teaching. It will be important to define clearly what is meant by 'sustainability' at the outset such that all understand what is being discussed and to ensure coherency can be developed in this dynamic area.

Community

The Aston University Community – making Aston University an exemplar for others to follow

- Developing a commitment to the values of 'sustainability' through strong leadership
- Development of an Aston environmental policy
- With a policy in place, introduce an environmental management system consistent with ISO 14001
- Propose Estates as a major focus for engagement
- Communicate widely to engage students and staff in all initiatives

The Wider Community - transferring best practice with the benefit of a raised Aston profile

- Identify the local and regional opportunities
- Engage with community organisations e.g. Advantage West Midlands, Birmingham City Council, Chamber of Commerce, industry bodies etc.

Research

Creating a 'sustainability' focused research strategy aimed at impacting the local and regional community in a practical way

- Develop a local and regional 'sustainability profile' to identify problems and opportunities
- Identify the skills and expertise Aston has and needs to consider developing
- Expertise can be communicated through a cross-university seminar series to share and also stimulate discussion, innovation and collaboration
- Develop a matrix that brings together business processes / technology / key areas for action
- Key areas suggested so far include energy, transport, construction, SME's
- Using the matrix, themes for action will be identified and projects initiated
- Engage with the local industry and commerce at every stage

TEACHING

Making sustainability part of the Aston teaching culture.

Embed 'sustainability and ethics' across the curriculum – all years, all schools



- Explore current best practice e.g. universities, professional bodies such as the Royal Academy of Engineering, industry
- Consider options for specialism in existing and new degree offerings
- Outreach to the wider community to communicate best practice and thinking through CPD opportunities and short courses
- Develop a multi-disciplinary approach to teaching

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