

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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Purpose:

Murdoch University recognises the impacts human actions can and do have on the natural environment and the wellbeing of current and future generations of people, globally.

The University is committed to minimising its ecological impacts by ensuring that planning and operations are consistent with best environmental sustainability practices through application of a range of strategic, technological, behavioural, and operational tools that demonstrate environmentally sustainable development and continuous improvement.

This policy sets out requirements to enhance and improve the University's environmental sustainability performance, reporting, and community awareness of Murdoch University's values and practices to support environmental sustainability.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Alignment:

This Policy contributes toward achievement of the following SDGs:



Audience:

Staff, Students, Authorised Contractors, tenants, visitors, public

Objectives:

- To recognise Murdoch University's responsibility to practice and promote behaviours that support activities which contribute to environmental sustainability within the local, national and international community.
- To develop methods to actualise this responsibility.
- To integrate environmental sustainability principles into land use planning and management.
- To meet and exceed State and Federal Government environmental conservation initiatives and legislation.

- To protect, restore and maintain biodiversity values at Murdoch University's campuses.
- To ensure deceased native wildlife found on campus are made available to researchers as appropriate.
- To inform University stakeholders of environmental management approaches (i.e. tree management, fire, pest control, weeds, pathogens, inappropriate vehicle access and clearing) at Murdoch University.
- To enact conservation and efficiency in resource use at Murdoch University's campuses and sites for which it is responsible. University's campuses and sites for which it is responsible.

Definitions:

Any defined terms below are specific to this document. The definition of common terms appears in the Murdoch University Dictionary of Terms.

- "Biodiversity (biological diversity)" means the number and variety of organisms within a given area, including the variety within and between species.
- "Environmental Sustainability" means the behaviour and development that meets our current needs, with due regard for the needs of future generations, which benefits our natural, cultural and economic assets.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- All individuals and organisations identified as the 'Audience' of this policy are responsible for enacting the objectives of the Policy.
- Where specific actions are the responsibility of a particular Office or School, they will be set out in the relevant Procedure and/or Guideline.

Policy Statement:

1. Environmental sustainability activities are to be implemented through an Environmental Management System (EMS), which is based on ISO14001 standards.
2. To achieve this, the following management principles should be applied to the development of policies, plans and projects:
 - 2.1 Ensure the consultation and participation of relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts in the management of sustainability-related issues.
 - 2.2 Audit and report the consumption of University resources and set reduction or stabilisation targets and indicators of success.
 - 2.3 Determine and incorporate sustainability criteria into University procurement strategies.
 - 2.4 The maximising of recycling and the reuse of goods and materials used by and within the University.
 - 2.5 Minimise pollution and waste from University activities.

- 2.6 Encourage a reduction in car dependency by promoting and facilitating alternative transport options.
- 2.7 Preserve biodiversity by planting local species, retaining and creating habitat, and protecting remnant vegetation and controlling pest species where possible.
- 2.8 Educate, train and assist all employees, contractors and students in respect of environmental policies and practices through the Murdoch e-Learning System (ELMO), outreach events and announcements, and other appropriate tools.

Non-Compliance:

- Compliance with University policy is expected, especially when non-compliance will have reputational, legislative, or safety implications.
- For more information contact the Manager Sustainability, Property, Development and Commercial Services Office.

Performance Indicators:

- Refer to key sustainability indicators as developed by the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Related Documents:

[Murdoch University Environmental Sustainability Charter and Strategy 2014-2017](#)

[Tree Management Procedure](#)

[Disposal of Dead Wildlife Found On Campuses Procedure](#)

[Biodiversity Procedure](#)

Travel Plan for the Perth Campus (2021)

[Recycling and Waste Management Policy](#)

Building Design Guidelines

References:

There are no references.

Approval and Implementation:

Approval Authority:	Associate Director, Strategy and Planning
Responsible Officer(s):	Manager, Sustainability

Approval Authority for supporting procedures:	Associate Director, Strategy and Planning
Contact Officer:	Manager, Sustainability

Revision History:

Approved/ Amended/ Rescinded	Date Approved	Effective Date	Next Review Date	Resolution No. (if applicable)
Approved	24/11/2021			
Approved	04/07/2018		04/07/2024	