

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy in the Policy and Procedure Manager (PPM), the electronic policy management system (EPMS), to ensure you are referring to the latest version.

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.

The *Environmental Sustainability Policy* combines previous environment and sustainability-related policies including the *Biodiversity Policy*, *Principal Environmental Policy*, *Tree Management Policy*, and the *Disposal of Dead Wildlife Found on Campuses Policy*. The *Environmental Design Building Policy* will be incorporated into the *Environmental Building Policy*. These policies now form the basis of Procedures, which set out how those portfolios are to be implemented.

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 in the Environmental Sustainability, Biodiversity, Tree Management and other related Procedures (should this be Policies).

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 Smart Action Plan

[Recycling and Waste Management Policy](#)

Building Design Guidelines

References:

There are no references.

Approval and Implementation:

Approval Authority:	General Manager Campus Operations and Services
Responsible Officer(s):	Manager Sustainability
Approval Authority for supporting procedures:	General Manager Campus Operations and Services
Contact Officer:	Manager Sustainability

Revision History:

Approved/ Amended/ Rescinded	Date Approved	Effective Date	Next Review Date	Resolution No. (if applicable)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