

Section	University Management
Contact	Strategic Facilities Management
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Purpose:

To develop the broad statements made in the Massey University Charter, 10 year Plan and Profile regarding environmental issues by defining the environmental interests and obligations of Massey University. The MUEP clarifies the University's objectives in environmental education and sustainable resource management and their relationship to the Treaty of Waitangi and to existing national and international agreements and guidelines on environmental issues.

Environmental Mission Statement

Massey University is committed to the principles of environmental responsibility and sustainable resource management at local, national and international levels. It will meet this commitment through community involvement and leadership in education, research and sustainable management practices.

Policy:

General Principles and Key Concepts

- A commitment to the principles of sustainability and to raising environmental awareness, understanding and responsibility throughout the University, the local communities within which its campuses are situated, and in all the wider partnerships and associations beyond the university;
- A whole-institution response to environmental responsibility and to sustainability, fostered by wide and continuing consultation;
- A commitment to Education for Sustainability as a life-long process for all, through interdisciplinary and holistic learning programmes;
- A commitment to research into environmental issues at local, national and global levels and into the processes of education for sustainability;

The above principles define the general concept of environmental responsibility for the University. They also identify the context for three specific areas of responsibility:

- Education and research for sustainability.
- Sustainable resource management.
- Wider community involvement in environmental issues.

The strategies required to implement environmental policy in these areas of responsibility will be included in the annual Profile.

Objectives:

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Massey University Environmental Policy recognises the central importance which environmental matters will occupy in human affairs in the coming decades, and the need to promote sustainability and environmental awareness, understanding and responsibility in research and teaching. Universities and other tertiary institutions, throughout the world, are committed to environmental responsibility in management, education and research. As part of its long-term development strategy, Massey University aims to be involved in this process and to be recognised as a centre of excellence in environmental education and research, both within New Zealand and Internationally.

This is a commitment, which includes the provision of opportunity for environmental education as a life-long process for all, delivered through inter-disciplinary and holistic approaches to the curriculum. It also recognises that research is needed to increase our knowledge and understanding of the environment in both basic and applied scientific disciplines, in the interrelationships between environment, the individual and society, in the problems which these interrelationships produce, and in the development and adoption of positive actions to address the problems.

The above aim acknowledges the considerable reservoir of environmental knowledge, expertise and commitment already established across the academic spectrum at Massey University, and exemplified in the number of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes listed in the University calendar. To meet the aim specified, the strategy will be to encourage new initiatives within these programmes, and also to develop opportunity for collaboration and co-ordination of activities across discipline boundaries.

Curriculum

Objective: To foster discussion in the University Community of environmental issues.

- ◆ Ensure that papers and courses at the highest academic level are offered based on the University's environmental expertise;
- ◆ Encourage Colleges to incorporate environmental topics in internal and extramural papers where appropriate;
- ◆ Promote sustainable resource management programmes offered by Massey University.

Research

Objective To augment and enhance research into all aspects of the environment, across the range of disciplines

- ◆ Encourage development of research programmes concerned with aspects of the environment and environmental problems.
- ◆ Encourage postgraduate research programmes aimed at the resolution of environmental problems.
- ◆ Actively promote collaborative development of environmental research capability with local, regional, national and international agencies.
- ◆ Promote to funding bodies the importance of inter-disciplinary environmental research, and the need for appropriate funding structures to support such research.
- ◆ Promote dissemination of the results of environmental research.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Massey University acknowledges its commitment to environmental awareness and to the sustainable management of its resources. This commitment is important not only in relation to the University's direct contribution to society's efforts to maintain and enhance the quality of life, but also to the integrity of the links between academic programmes and management practices. It is important to promote the responsible use of the University's resources to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment, so that the University can grow and prosper while meeting the ethical objectives outlined under General Principles and Key Concepts (Section 3).

The commitment to environmental responsibility involves concerns for natural and developed environments, for the effective use of consumable resources, and the development of best management practices on all of the University's land holdings. These concerns are implicit in the following statements of objectives and implementation strategies, which are in keeping with existing Health and Safety legislation, as listed in the Appendix.

Natural Environment

Objective: To manage the University's natural environment in a sustainable manner, and to protect and, where possible, enhance the environmental quality of its natural resources

- ◆ Manage University lands in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.
- ◆ Manage natural resources responsibly and with environmental sensitivity.
- ◆ Minimise the impact of potential pollutants on air and water quality.

Developed Environment

Objective: To continue to enhance the aesthetic values of the University campuses and maintain a stimulating environment for the work, recreation and cultural activities of staff and students

- ◆ Continue to enhance the natural character of the University's environs.
- ◆ Aim for coherence of architectural style and the provision of a healthy work environment.

Resource Conservation

Objective: To continue to develop effective management of procurement, use and disposal of consumable resources and materials, consistent with sound environmental management

- ◆ Develop and adopt environmentally responsible procurement procedures.
- ◆ Manage utilisation and disposal of consumable resources with environmental sensitivity.
- ◆ Develop effective and environmentally sensitive energy and transport management practices

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The environmental Mission Statement defines the University's commitment to the environmental concerns of society at the local, national and international levels. This commitment will be met by the promotion of environmental responsibility at all levels, sharing of resources and information for community education on environmental matters, and providing leadership, as appropriate, in the investigation and development of community-based strategies of

sustainable resource management. In all of these functions the University will seek to interact with community groups and community representatives.

Objective: To play a constructive part in the development and promotion of environmental awareness and best management practices in the wider community

- ◆ Encourage communication with the wider community on environmental issues.
- ◆ Ensure where possible that lessons learned through research and curriculum are made available in a timely and appropriate manner for community use.
- ◆ Facilitate development of community education programmes on environmental matters.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

Implementation of the objectives set out in Section 4 above will be achieved via a web of inter-relating Best Practice Plans, both academic and facilities driven, managed by appropriate departments and monitored through an Environmental Policy Steering Group.

The Environmental Policy will be subject to regular review, on a 3-yearly basis, as part of the University internal policy review process and in accordance with the direction of the University Council.

Audience:

Staff, students and external bodies within the university community.

Legal compliance:

The Best Practice Plans specified above should comply, as necessary, with the specific responsibilities defined in statutory and regulatory legislation, standards and directives. These bodies of legislation include, but are not limited to:

Resource Management Act, 1991 and Amendments 2004
Building Act, 2004
Health and Safety in Employment Act, 1992
Regional Plans/Policy Statements
District Plans
The Education Act, 1989
The Massey University Act, 1963

National and International Agreements and Guidelines:

The MUEP enshrines the concepts of cultural heritage implicit in the Treaty of Waitangi, and the associated concerns for environmental responsibility and sustainable resource management.

In establishing the general principles and key concepts upon which the environmental mission statement and policy are based, the following national and international agreements and guidelines have been taken into account.

Our Common Future (The Brundtland Report), WCED, 1987
Caring for the Earth, 1991 (The new World Conservation Strategy), IUCN, Agenda 21, 1992
The Tailloires Declaration of University Presidents for a Sustainable Future



Environmental Responsibility – An Agenda for Tertiary Education, 1995.
New Zealand Guidelines. New Zealand Natural Heritage Foundation/Massey University.

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