

Environmental and Social Sustainability Policy Statement

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UCA is committed to the principle and practice of sustainable development and will promote these values through our teaching, research and operations. We will seek to demonstrate leadership in environmental and social sustainability issues in our role as a leading creative arts institution.

UCA believes that ensuring the highest level of environmental protection and social inclusion is a fundamental part of good institutional practice and that it has an obligation to contribute to the understanding and has a part to play in the resolution of local, regional, national and global sustainability issues.

UCA will seek to minimise the environmental impact of its activities by working towards: making the most effective and efficient use of all resources; reducing carbon emissions (and other greenhouse gas emissions) and waste; ensuring that its operations are conducted with an awareness of environmental best practice; encouraging all members of the University to adopt environmentally sound working practices.

UCA will seek where possible to maximise social inclusion and community engagement within its direct and indirect operations, and will work to minimise adverse social impacts associated with operations at a campus level, in communities and within supply chains.

Therefore the University will:

General

- Develop and maintain processes and procedures for effective management of environmental and social sustainability issues associated with the operation of the University; and

Operations and Infrastructure

- Annually report on progress on the Carbon Management Plan 3.0 2014-15 and 2019-20, which contains a series of prioritised and costed projects to promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and update CMP3.0 where there are significant internal and/or external changes;
- Reduce overall energy demand through the incorporation of sustainable construction and energy efficiency principles into all new builds, extensions and major refurbishments of the university estate; and

- Promote the efficient use of resources and minimise the volume of waste generated;
- Implement a comprehensive recycling system and work toward ensuring that all waste is disposed of according to current environmental best practice
- Minimise waste to landfill and explore more circular approaches to the use of materials through repair and refurbishment of equipment;
- Ensure that there is appropriate consideration of environmental and social sustainability criteria in the procurement of products and services;

Transport

- Promote and encourage the use of environmentally-friendly means of transport by staff, students and suppliers.
- Where appropriate, encourage the use of video-conferencing through Webex and Skype

Education and Awareness

- Develop campaigns to raise awareness of environmental and social sustainability amongst staff and students;
- Provide education and training for staff and students to encourage environmentally and socially responsible work practices;
- Cooperate with colleagues and committees to ensure that environmental and social sustainability issues are integrated into both the delivery and validation of courses;
- Help students to develop an understanding of environmental and social sustainability issues through incorporation of topics into the curriculum;

Research

- Encourage interdisciplinary research on sustainable development themes in line with the University's research strategy; and
- Work in collaboration with other institutions (locally, regionally, nationally and internationally) to pursue environmental and social sustainability research, projects and initiatives.

Funding

- Identify, and where possible obtain capital and revenue funding to support the implementation of this policy.
- Identify external funding opportunities related to Estates and non-Estates environmental and social sustainability related activity

The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for environmental and social sustainability matters in the University and has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

The University will oversee the progress of the environmental and social sustainability issues through the Environmental and Social Sustainability Working Group (ESSWG) chaired by the Director, The Centre for Sustainable Design @.

The ESSWG will approve a series of annual objectives, targets and reports to support delivery of this policy.

This policy statement will be reviewed annually by the ESSWG.