ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY POLICY
Our Commitment to Sustainability

Document Control	
Owner:	Rebecca Mills, Head of Sustainability
Contact:	environment@lincoln.ac.uk
Version number:	3.0
Approval date:	October 2024
Approved by:	Senior Leadership Team
Date of next review:	October 2025

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this document is to set out our strategic commitment to managing our impacts on the environment, both positive and negative.

1.2 The University of Lincoln declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019. We are committed to conducting our operations in a way that protects and enhances the environment – for now and for future generations.

1.3 There are two key areas of focus - reducing our carbon emissions (through managing our energy consumption and improving energy efficiency) and protecting and enhancing biodiversity, as part of our Nature Positive University pledge.

1.4 We are taking positive action to improve our environmental performance and encourage sustainable behaviours, through:

- Management of the University Estate
- Research
- Teaching and Learning

1.5 The University aims to establish a culture where sustainability performance is continually improved. This will be achieved through engagement with internal and external stakeholders, managing, monitoring, and reviewing our environmental performance, and setting challenging objectives and targets. We will report our performance through the Annual Sustainability Report and Energy Review.

1.6 This policy will be communicated to staff, students, suppliers, and contractors as everyone has a role in delivering sustainability and protecting the environment. Individuals and businesses working for and on behalf of the University will be made aware of the policy.

2. Scope

2.1 The University will maintain and continually improve its joint Environment and Energy Management System (EEMS), in line with the ISO14001 standard for environmental management and the ISO50001 standard for energy management to enhance environmental performance.

2.2 The EEMS is used to manage environmental and sustainability aspects for all university activities which take place in buildings or on land owned, or leased, and operated by the University of Lincoln. This includes energy used for university business – teaching, research, student accommodation and professional services.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Staff, students, contractors, and visitors are expected to comply with all applicable compliance obligations and this policy, to minimise their environmental impact, protect the environment and prevent pollution.

3.2 The University's Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the university's compliance with this policy. However, the Head of Sustainability has delegated responsibility for the implementation of

this policy and the Sustainability Manager and Energy and Carbon Manager are responsible for the development of the EEMS.

4. Environmental Commitments: Taking Action

4.1 The University shall aim to improve its environmental performance in the following areas:



We will comply with all relevant environmental and energy legal requirements and appropriate codes of practice. We have a register of legislation and conduct regular compliance reviews.



We have identified the environmental aspects and impacts of the University, and will review these annually to manage and minimise risks, and to protect the environment. Emissions and discharges to air, land and water will be controlled and minimised to prevent pollution.



We will monitor energy use across the University Estate, setting objectives and targets to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption. Renewables and energy efficiency will be considered at the design stage of all new build and refurbishment projects.



The environmental impact of our procurement will be accounted for using a proportionate approach. Suppliers bidding for major contracts will be evaluated on environmental issues relevant to the performance of the contract. We will work with staff and students to raise awareness of sustainability considerations in decison making.



Our Sustainable Travel Policy will be used to promote sustainable transport options and initiatives in Lincoln and the surrounding area. We will encourage students, staff and visitors to use alternatives to single occupancy cars to travel to the University. The carbon emissions resulting from staff and student travel will be measured and reported on annually.



The University has a Strategic Plan for Regional and Civic engagement. This involves alignment with all regional and governmental priorities, including net zero and improvements to the built environment. The University will lead and engage with community groups to enhance positive impact on environmental issues.



The University is a Nature Positive University. We aim to monitor, protect and enhance biodiversity within our land holdings, through implementation of Biodiversity Action Plans. The ecological value of natural assets will be promoted and staff will be supported in using these assets as a learning resource for students.



We will seek to offer students opportunities to enhance their skills through sustainability projects. As a signatory of the UN SDG Accord, sustainability awareness will also be integrated into academic teaching, using the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



We will seek to offer students opportunities to enhance their skills through sustainability projects. As a signatory of the UN SDG Accord, sustainability awareness will also be integrated into academic teaching, using the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



We aim to be Net Zero by 2040. The University's carbon emissions (CO2 equivalent) will be measured and recorded. Our Carbon Management Plan, containing carbon reduction targets and the EEMS will be continually reviewed to improve energy performance.

5. Review and Approval

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and will be updated as appropriate.

Approved by:

Professor Neal Juster, Vice Chancellor

Date: October 2024

6. Version History

Version	Approved by	Approved on	Summary of changes
3.0	Senior Leadership Team	October 2024	Addition of community engagement under Section 4: Environmental Actions Updates to text and formatting. Added Nature Positive reference. Updated graphics.
2.6	Senior Leadership Team	06.02.2023	No major changes.
2.5	Environment and Sustainability Committee	15.12.2021	Merging of Environment and Energy Policies, as management systems are integrated.
2.4	Estates & Technology Steering Group	29.06.2020	Updated to reflect ISO14001 certification and commitment to continual improvement of EMS.
2.3	Estates & Technology Steering Group	30.06.2019	Minor amendments and approval.
2.2	Estates & Technology Steering Group	30.05.2018	Approval of the updated Policy.
2.1	Estates & Technology Steering Group	12.04.2018	Updated policy in line with progress in specific areas.
2.0	Estates & Technology Steering Group	13.12.2016	Approval of the Policy.
1.2	Environmental Sustainability Manager	28.11.2016	New format and numbering.
1.1	Draft Version	28.11.2016	New content updated from the 2013 Environmental Policy.