

## **University of Brighton Sustainable Development Policy 2006–2010**

### **1. Vision**

The University of Brighton will promote awareness of and engagement in sustainable development through its learning and teaching, research and community and business engagement activities, and will work towards the principles of sustainable development in all aspects of its own activity.

The University aims to become a centre of excellence in building sustainability into research and teaching and learning and will work with local, regional, national and global bodies to help build sustainable learning communities.

### **2. Definition, principles and the University's mission**

Sustainable Development was defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development within the Brundtland Report (1987), 'Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

A set of internationally shared guiding principles are described in the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) as:

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance; and,
- Using sound science responsibly.

This definition and these principles are synonymous with the University of Brighton's mission, which seeks to:

- Discover, test and apply knowledge effectively, creatively and responsibly;
- Be an accessible, dynamic and responsive community of higher education; enhancing lives, communities, disciplines and professions; and
- Secure the best outcomes for its students, staff, and partners.

Sustainable Development potentially has far reaching consequences and requires research and learning as stepping stones to understanding what is sustainable. The University will work with local, regional, national and international stakeholders to create an observatory of Sustainable Development expertise and exploration.

### **3. Implementing the policy**

To achieve this Vision the University will build on existing activity, integrate sustainable development understanding and application into strategies, and define and implement action plans in the following areas of the University life:

- **Learning and Teaching.** The University will encourage the development of new courses that integrate sustainable development learning and promote the inclusion of sustainable development within present curricula and methods of learning and teaching.
- **Research.** The University will identify and create a network of sustainable development research across the university, review opportunities for the development of sustainability research and provide a forum sharing and creating new research opportunities.
- **Management of the Infrastructure.** The University will follow the principles of sustainable development within its own operational management and planning seeking continuously to improve performance in areas such as; use of sustainable energy, waste reduction and recycling, purchasing and fair trade, new buildings, refurbishment and maintenance, biodiversity and landscape resources associated with the estate, sustainable transport, and use of all resources.
- **Community and Business engagement and external partnerships.** The University will contribute, through research, learning and teaching and other forms of action, to local, national and international sustainable development understanding, awareness and responsibility.

There will be specific action plans agreed for each of these four areas.

The University will enable and encourage, through education, training and suitable fora, all members of the University community, students, lecturers, researchers, administration and management staff, to participate fully in this process.

### **4. Monitoring**

Key performance indicators will be identified for the areas identified for action. Schools and departments will be encouraged to measure, and improve their use of all resources, including transport fuels, energy, water and paper.

The progression of annual Action Plans for these areas of focus will be monitored by relevant University committees and the Environmental Policy Management Group. All members of the University will be encouraged to continue contributing ideas and concerns via the Environmental Action Network and through discussion in their departments and Schools.

The University will conduct a rolling review of all its activities in the light of its commitments to sustainable development.

*Approved May 2006*