



Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka

Sustainability and Environmental Management Policy

1. Purpose

The Uva Wellassa University contributes positively to sustainability through its research and teaching. This policy defines the environmental obligations of the University and considers how implementation of the policy should take place. The environmental policy is consistent with the University's Strategic Corporate Plan. We aim to minimize negative environmental impacts associated with our activities and ensure sustainable use of environmental resources by incorporating environmental considerations into our planning, decision-making and implementation processes.

2. Organisational and Environmental Committee Scope

This is a university-wide policy, applying to all council members, staff, students, service providers and visitors of the University.

The scope of the environmental committee is to manage environmental sustainability in Uva Wellassa University ensuring a proactive approach to environmental sustainability across the University by implementing the best practices, and supporting the achievement of the University's vision, values, objectives and strategy.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1 Overarching Objectives

The University recognises its responsibilities to manage the nature and scale of environmental impacts of its activities, products or services. These responsibilities are recognised in the following activities;

- ✓ to identify, promote and support initiatives towards greening of the University
- ✓ to monitor the existing plants and implement plantation programmes
- ✓ to collect information about the waste and implement the proper waste management plans: management of solid waste generation-collection, characterization, separation, treatment and disposal.
- ✓ to collect information about the natural resource consumption and implement proper methodologies for sustainable utilization of natural resources
- ✓ to conduct awareness, study programmes and competitions on "SAVE Environment".
- ✓ to work in close partnership with outside organizations and with the society.

3.2 Specific Objectives

3.2.1 Environmental Management

This environmental policy promotes a clean, safe and healthy environment for UWU family and for the society at large. The commitment to environmental management responsibility involves to:

- ✓ promote sound environmental management policies and practices throughout the University.
- ✓ comply with the relevant legislation.
- ✓ reduce and prevent pollution.
- ✓ adopt targets for improving environmental performance.
- ✓ ensure monitoring and evaluating the current environmental performance.

3.2.2 Researching and Teaching Environmental Sustainability

The University identifies that sustainability and environmental protection in its curricular and intent is that all graduates will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of sustainability and environmental issues. Accordingly, the University will promote and encourage:

- ✓ research which recognises environmental issues and the importance of sustainability.
- ✓ the teaching of sustainability and environmental protection themes within University curricular.

3.2.3 Waste Management

The University will:

- ✓ promote better waste segregation at source
- ✓ increase the rate of recycling of all appropriate materials, based on life-cycle principles.
- ✓ implement sustainable resource management practices, based on reduce, reuse and recycle principles.
- ✓ set and achieve targets for reducing resource use.

3.2.4 Carbon Management

The University will:

- ✓ ensure the uptake of low carbon technologies in buildings and equipment.
- ✓ implement a carbon management strategy, including efficient use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the University.

3.2.5 Water Management

The University will make efficient and environmentally responsible use of water, including identifying opportunities for water reuse.

3.2.6 Operational Activities

The University will:

- ✓ promote green procurement of goods and services.

- ✓ commit to apply ecologically sustainable design principles and requirements to all new construction and refurbishment projects, where opportunities are available.

3.2.7 University Estate

The University will:

- ✓ manage the university’s natural and physical resources in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.
- ✓ manage the university estate with a view to enhancement of biodiversity wherever possible.

3.2.7 Awareness and Training

The University will:

- ✓ raise awareness of staff and students of the university's environmental impact, activities and performance and good practice.
- ✓ provide appropriate environmental educational programmes for staff and students.
- ✓ encourage and facilitate feedback and suggestions on ensuring good practices.
- ✓ communicate internally and externally the University's environmental objectives and performance

4. Implementation and Responsibilities

Whilst the University accepts the main responsibility for implementation of this policy, individuals have a very important role in co-operating with those responsible for safeguarding the environment. The main responsibility for implementation of this policy lies with the Vice Chancellor.

The University has set up an Environmental Committee, with membership drawn from representatives of each Faculty. The Committee shall be chaired by a member, with the Chair appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.

The Heads of Departments and the Directors of the Centres are responsible for ensuring compliance with University Sustainable and Environment Policy within their area of control.

The University will actively monitor the performance of Departments and Divisions in the implementation of the aims and objectives of this Policy in the activities under their control.

5. Policy Document Control Information

Owner	
Approval By	
Approval Date	
Date of Last Review	
Due to Review	