

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

EFFECTIVE FROM: 1 JANUARY 2020

REVIEW DATE: 1 JANUARY 2021

CONTRACTUAL STATUS: NON CONTRACTUAL

Compiled by the Vice Chancellor's Office

Chief Operating Officer

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

THIS DOCUMENT SETS OUT THE PROPOSED POLICY AND APPROACH OF FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY IN ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THROUGH PUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR TEACHING, LEARNING, AND OPERATIONS.

1. Scope

This policy and all the approach angles involved are applicable to all staff directly employed by, and all students currently studying at, Falmouth University. Through specific approach angles (*see 2. Purpose*), the policy will additionally be indirectly applicable to staff employed by FX Plus, The Students' Union, and the University of Exeter.

2. Purpose

Ultimately, the purpose of this Policy is to commit Falmouth University to operating as a more responsible Higher Education institution that addresses the challenges of sustainable development. Additionally, one that seeks to create a culture within the institution that supports and encourages staff and students to recognise that we all have an element of personal responsibility for the environment and to act on that whilst they study and work at Falmouth.

More specifically, through this Policy Falmouth University aims to:

- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations as well as other requirements to which they subscribe
- Set, communicate and implement clear objectives and targets to ensure continued improvement in environmental performance
- Put in place appropriate controls to prevent pollution
- Communicate the policy to all staff and students and make it available to all stakeholders on our website
- Co-operate, where possible, with others in order to develop, utilise and share best practice in terms of environmental performance at a local, regional, HE sector wide and international level

3. Definitions

Sustainable Development – "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland Report, 1987).

4. Related Policies and Procedures

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Falmouth Policy:

- 2030 Strategy (p11) – for evidence that Falmouth University already recognises sustainability as a key part of achieving its 2030 Strategy.

5. Sustainability in our 2030 Strategy

- 5.1 As an anchor institution in Cornwall we recognise our responsibility for the environment, and the impact of our activities and interactions with the wider community.
- 5.2 Falmouth University educates future global innovators, business leaders and entrepreneurs. We influence our students through our actions, through our curriculum, and through the stewardship of our physical environment.
- 5.3 We will seek out, utilise and share environmental and sustainable best practice and look to drive transformational change wherever we can across the institution.
- 5.4 At a time when student expectations and competition are demanding increased capital investment, we will ensure that our resources are utilised to maximum effect so that we deliver the best value for the institution and our students.

6. Our Approach

- 6.1 In June 2019, Falmouth University joined the University of Exeter in declaring a climate emergency. Falmouth recognises the threat that climate change poses to the environment and communities, both locally and globally. We must act now to galvanise our efforts, in collaboration with staff, students and partners, by using our resources, research and knowledge for the protection and benefit of our planet.
- 6.2 Through bold leadership and in alignment with Government and industry, we will put environmental issues at the forefront of our teaching and learning. We recognise the role we can play in driving policy, changing behaviours and providing new ideas and solutions to difficult global problems.
- 6.3 Our 2030 Strategy commits us to a sustainable future, underpinned by three sub-strategies, representing pillars of the institution: people, portfolio and research and innovation. Through the development of these three pillars, climate awareness and environmental responsibility will be embedded in every element of our work, from our campus operations to our curriculum design.
- 6.4 We will seek to create a culture within the University that supports and encourages staff and students to recognise that we all have an element of personal responsibility for the environment and to act on that whilst we are at Falmouth. We will actively engage with the wider community in order to inspire and catalyse efforts to reduce our adverse environmental impact.
- 6.5 The University will strive to integrate and balance economic, social and environmental responsibilities within all its activities. We are committed to operating as a responsible institution, addressing the challenges of sustainable development.
- 6.6 Fundamental to our operation is the commitment to continually improve, and to meet (or exceed) environmental legislative and regulatory requirements as they relate to all of our activities.
- 6.7 Through this Policy, which applies to the Falmouth and Penryn campuses, Falmouth University aims to:
 - comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations as well as other requirements to which they subscribe

- set, communicate and implement clear objectives and targets to ensure continued improvement in environmental performance
- put in place appropriate controls to prevent pollution
- communicate the policy to all staff and students and make it available to all stakeholders on our website, and
- to co-operate, where possible, with others in order to develop, utilise and share best practice in terms of environmental performance at a local, regional, HE sector wide and international level

7. Specific Commitments & The 3 Themes

Three headline sustainability themes will be supported by specific projects and initiatives.

7.1 Theme 1 - Learning and Teaching

We can have the greatest impact when we equip our students with the skills and knowledge to make a difference in the businesses and industries that they will shape in the future. Therefore, this theme focuses on how we embed sustainable practice and climate literacy into our teaching and learning.

We will:

- design our curriculum to embed sustainability learning outcomes and assessment criteria in all courses
- include sustainability related challenges and projects which are in our Curriculum, aligning with our 'Doing it for Real' philosophy and transdisciplinary approach
- ensure our graduates will leave Falmouth University with a greater awareness of sustainability, and the difference they can, and must, make
- ensure our students have an understanding of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and apply them into business start-up principles.

7.2 Theme 2 - Environment and Operations

As an anchor institution in Cornwall, the University will strive to integrate and balance economic, social and environmental responsibilities within all its activities.

This theme will comprise multidisciplinary activity, including cooperation with our on-campus partners, the University of Exeter, Falmouth Exeter Plus and The Students' Union, to dramatically reduce our environmental impact and nurture our campuses as places of biodiversity.

We will:

- achieve a 50% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2025, 75% by 2030 and net zero by 2040
- achieve a 50% reduction in scope 3 emissions by 2030, and net zero by 2050
- continually improve, and to meet (or exceed) environmental legislative and regulatory requirements as they relate to all of our activities
- maximise the biodiversity of Falmouth and Penryn campuses – regenerate the natural vegetation and wildlife for carbon sequestering in support of the delivery of our agreed carbon reduction targets

7.3 Theme 3 – People and Behaviour Change

Driven by top-down leadership, strong staff engagement through Open Innovation Groups, a Sustainable Champions Scheme and a staff reward scheme, and consistent communication, we will:

- ensure staff and students at Falmouth University have a greater awareness of sustainability and the impact we individually and collectively can have on the environment
- drive measurable change in the behaviours of staff and students at Falmouth University in all aspects of their lives at home and at work

8. Governance

- 8.1 The Penryn Campus has been developed as a joint venture with the University of Exeter and is managed on behalf of both institutions by their wholly owned service provider, Falmouth Exeter Plus. Falmouth Exeter Plus also provides carbon management, procurement and certain other estates and facilities management related services at the Falmouth campus.
- 8.2 Through our Board of Governors we will ensure that an appropriate structure of responsibility and reporting of performance against plans and targets is established and maintained. This will be reflected in our organisational, management and committee structures as well as in plans, policies and procedures as appropriate.
- 8.3 This policy and progress against it will be reviewed regularly by the Vice Chancellors Executive Group (VCEG) and reported to the Falmouth Board of Governors. Executive responsibility for the various aspects of Falmouth's Sustainability Policy rests with individual members of VCEG. This policy is then managed and implemented through normal line management processes as well as through the FX Plus Board, in particular the MD of FX Plus, and the Cornwall Campus Environment and Climate Emergency Board (CCECEB). Representatives from both universities sit on the FX Plus Board and CCECEB.