



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

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Lead Responsibility	Sara Lynch, Head of Sustainability
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Environmental Policy Statement

As a global institution, we have a major role to play in making a positive impact in our environment.

Our Strategy 2030 sets out how we will embed the UN Sustainable Development Goals across all our activities, from research and education to adopting a leadership role in the promotion of the SDGs, and leading by example in areas such as equality, diversity and inclusion, sustainable procurement and a commitment to disinvestment from fossil fuels.

We are a signatory to the UN Accord, which recognises the key role that global universities have in nurturing a culture of sustainability and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 through research and education.

We are committed to embedding them in every aspect of our activity.

This Policy recognises that the protection of the environment is fundamental to the future health and well-being of all those involved with the institution and the wider community. The University acknowledges its responsibility of demonstrating sustainable leadership in environmental protection and enhancement through its actions as an institution. In providing high quality educational, research, workplace facilities, outreach and engagement, the University is committed to ensuring its environmental impact is minimised. The University also accepts its responsibility to make sure it grows and develops in a sustainable way with continuous improvement in environmental performance embedded into its business model and the culture of the University.

In support of these principles, the University is committed to:

- Complying (and where possible exceeding) with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and other requirements.
- Setting environmental objectives and targets and publicly reporting performance on the Queen's University website
- Communicating our environmental policies and performance to staff, students and other stakeholders
- Monitoring, controlling and improving its environmental performance
- Mitigating the University's negative impact on climate change through the development and implementation of our Net Zero 2040 Plan
- Embracing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals across all our activities, including our research, teaching and learning, operational and outreach activities
- Reducing waste created and increasing recycling, reusing and repurposing through the development of effective resource and waste management strategies
- Avoiding or limiting, wherever practical, the use of environmentally damaging substances, materials and processes and where produced, hazardous materials are disposed safely as detailed by legislation.
- Incorporating sustainable construction principles and practices into the development and refurbishment of the estate
- Promoting sustainable modes of transport including walking, use of public transport, car-sharing and cycling through the implementation of the Travel Plan
- Managing the University's grounds to protect and enhance biodiversity
- Influence our suppliers and contractors to ensure that goods, services and works procured support the environmental policy and Net Zero commitment
- Integrating environmental considerations into University policies and procedures, and assessing those policies and performance against environmental and carbon goals
- Working with local, regional and national partners to realise sustainability projects;
- Promoting environmental awareness and responsibility amongst all staff and students and other university stakeholders

The Environmental Policy is fully supported by the University Sustainability Board and will be reviewed annually. Progress against this Environmental Policy and related strategic actions are reported to University Management Board.

We will publicly report our progress through a range of communications including the University's Annual Report and Financial Statement and, the University Annual Sustainability Report and University website.

Signature 

Date 30.10.24

Professor Sir Ian Greer, Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast