

Sustainability Policy

Last Modified: 1/06/2022
Review Date: 1/06/2024
Business Owner: Chief Operating Officer
Approval Authority: Vice-Chancellor

1. PURPOSE

This policy states the vision and commitment of Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki | Lincoln University to respond to global and local sustainability challenges, and outlines the actions and governance processes to prepare the university's study programmes, business operations and its students for a carbon zero future.

2. DEFINITION

Kaitiakitaka: guardianship and protection of people, environment, knowledge, culture, language and resources for future generations.

Sustainability: supporting people and planet to flourish, ensuring the wellbeing of current and future generations is met without compromising the integrity of ecosystems and the biophysical boundaries of our planet.

3. OUTCOMES

Lincoln University is committed to being an exemplar of sustainable practices for the land-based sector and the ecosystems within it.

4. POLICY

4.1 Over-arching Principles

The policy will be based on the following the principles:

- partnership with mana whenua and working with Māori advisors to give recognition of rights of kaitiakitaka and to ensure Lincoln University's response aligns with Māori values and aspirations
- alignment with the Lincoln University Strategy 2019-2028 and Graduate Profile, Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Act 2019 and other relevant environmental policy, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- prioritise the wellbeing of people and planet when making strategic decisions
- enable engagement and participation in sustainability initiatives among the Lincoln University whānau

4.2 Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi

The Sustainability Policy will give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and kaitiakitaka by

- recognising that mana whenua have traditional and continuing cultural relationships with land, water and other aspects of our local environment
- adopting a partnership approach with mana whenua and Māori advisors in decision-making related to sustainability
- in consultation and collaboration with mana whenua and Māori advisors, embed an understanding of Māori environmental rights, mātauraka and values in education and research relating to sustainability at Lincoln University

4.3 Sustainability Plan

Lincoln University's Sustainability Plan will be the prime mechanism for delivering on our commitment to a sustainable future for people and planet.

The Sustainability Plan sets out the objectives of being sector leaders in education, research and demonstration of sustainability, and to become carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050.

These objectives will be represented through the following four themes:

1. **Education.** Lincoln University will add value to Aotearoa New Zealand through innovative sustainable teaching practices and content directed towards improving the sustainability of the land-based sector
2. **Research.** Lincoln University will show global leadership in distinctive and excellent research dedicated to improving the sustainability of the land-based sector
3. **Demonstration.** Lincoln University demonstration farms will display leadership in the sector and contribute to solving sustainability challenges in the land-based sector. We will utilise our farms for knowledge sharing and solving global sustainability issues
4. **Campus Environment.** Lincoln University will ensure to have a sustainable campus environment, with onsite renewable energy generation, biodiverse green spaces and low carbon buildings in order to minimise its carbon footprint

The Sustainability Plan will be reassessed on a bi-annual basis by the Sustainability Taskforce and, where appropriate, revised in light of new knowledge, changing circumstances and increased ambition at the local, national and international levels

4.4 Campus Infrastructure

Lincoln University will significantly reduce carbon emissions from assets on campus by transforming the main energy source to electricity and reducing the demand for it by improving energy efficiency of the buildings and increasing onsite renewable energy production. Energy and water conservation practices will be actively promoted.

Lincoln University will use the highest environmentally sustainable design principles wherever possible on all building projects, adopt building management systems and minimise water wastage.

Lincoln University will enhance biodiversity within the management of the campus and all university properties with reference to threatened species and native planting.

4.5 Mobility and waste

Lincoln University will reduce the carbon emissions on all university travel by adopting strategies to minimise business travel, using technology to communicate virtually, and promoting sustainable transport such as cycling, electric vehicles, carpooling and public buses. LU will seek to transform its fleet to electric and provide optimal infrastructure on campus to electric vehicle and bike owners.

Waste, including construction and operation materials, will be minimised through effective management and circular economy, focusing on avoidance, reuse and recycling.

4.6 Procurement

Lincoln University will follow sustainable procurement principles that positively impact the economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the communities we live in. It will also maximise its procurement of sustainable goods, services and capital works through the goals outlined in Procurement Policy, and in compliance with all applicable rules, regulations and laws.

5. Responsibilities

- The Vice-Chancellor has overall responsibility for implementation of the Policy and for ensuring that the University's resources and impacts on the environment are managed sustainably
- The Sustainability Taskforce champions the successful implementation of the Sustainability Plan, reports on progress against the Plan to the Senior Management Group and Council, and as appropriate revises the Sustainability Plan to ensure its ongoing relevance
- The Sustainability Officer has responsibility of reporting on progress against the Sustainability Plan to Sustainability Taskforce and Lincoln University whanau, oversee the development of annual carbon reporting, Sustainability Report and work with internal and external stakeholders to promote sustainable initiatives at Lincoln University
- SAGE (Sustainability Action Group for the Environment) supports 'grassroot' participation by Lincoln University staff and student in sustainability initiatives, through instigating and facilitating initiatives to promote and improve sustainability at Lincoln University, and provides a critical and constructive voice to help the University with developing and implementing its sustainability policy and plan
- LUSA (Lincoln University Students' Association) will inform students on the progress of Lincoln University's sustainability plan and will collaborate on initiatives that specifically benefits students. As sustainability is vital for LUSA, it will advocate to ensure Lincoln University is maximizing its effort to protect the environment and the future of Aotearoa New Zealand