FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

This policy recognises the importance of Falmouth University's contribution to the fight against the environmental and climate crises, and sets out the framework for the delivery of the University's environmental sustainability commitments which are broken down into the three key themes of Learning & Teaching, Research & Knowledge Exchange, and Physical Estate & Operations.

ORGANISATION: FALMOUTH UNIVERSITY

AUDIENCE: STAFF AND STUDENTS

POLICY OWNED BY: UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

REQUIRED CONSULTEES: UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY: UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

DATE APPROVED: FRIDAY, 12 JULY 2024

REVIEW DATE: FRIDAY, 16 JULY 2027

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1 PURPOSE

1.1 This policy recognises the importance of Falmouth University's contribution to the fight against the environmental and climate crises, and sets out the framework for the delivery of the University's environmental sustainability commitments which are broken down into the three key themes of Learning & Teaching, Research & Knowledge Exchange, and Physical Estate & Operations.

1.2 The environmental sustainability commitments are underpinned by this policy and a strategic action plan, which includes supporting metrics and smart targets.

2 SCOPE

2.1 This policy is applicable to all staff directly employed by, and all students currently studying at Falmouth University. This policy will additionally be indirectly applicable to staff at FX Plus and The Student's Union

3 KEY RELATED INFORMATION

Published on our Environmental Sustainability webpage:
a) Environmental Sustainability Commitments
b) Environmental Sustainability Strategic Action Plan, Metrics and Targets
c) Environmental Sustainability Annual Reports

4 OWNERSHIP

4.1 The Board of Governors is collectively responsible for 'promoting a culture which supports inclusivity, diversity and sustainability across the University[1]', and is the approving authority for the environmental sustainability commitments and targets and public annual environmental sustainability report.

4.2 University Executive Board is collectively responsible for the delivery of the environmental sustainability commitments and targets approved by the Board of Governors.

4.3 Within the commitments, each theme has a dedicated senior strategic lead, who is responsible for leading the delivery of the commitments and targets for their specialist theme, engaging with relevant stakeholders (internal and external, as appropriate) to accelerate progress.

4.4 'All Falmouth University staff are expected to have regard for the impact their personal and professional behaviour has on the University, colleagues, students, customers, the environment and the local community'[2].

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[1] Statement of Primary Responsibilities of the Falmouth University Board of Governors
[2] Falmouth University Staff Code of Conduct

4.5 'All Falmouth University students are expected to 'protect our environment, actively contribute to our green ethics and participate in the green campus initiatives'[3].

5 GOVERNANCE

5.1 The commitments are underpinned by a strategic action plan, with supporting metrics and smart targets, and with dedicated governance oversight of environmental sustainability performance and progress against targets.

5.2 University Executive Board has established an Environmental Sustainability Steering Group to steer, measure, constructively challenge, monitor and report on progress to University Executive Board and the Board of Governors.

5.3 The Membership of the Environmental Sustainability Steering Group encompasses the executive leads for each commitment theme, as well as relevant specialist staff that support and enable progress and stakeholder engagement.

5.4 Compliance with legal and other environmental requirements relevant to the University's activities is monitored via our Corporate Compliance risk register, which is regularly reviewed by University Management Committee, University Executive Board, Audit & Risk Committee and the Board of Governors as part of a well-established institutional risk review cycle.

5.5 An environmental sustainability impact assessment is embedded alongside social and other considerations into our governance templates, ensuring that environmental sustainability is consistently considered within decision-making processes.

6 REPORTING

6.1 Progress is reported on a quarterly basis to University Executive Board via the Environmental Sustainability Steering Group.

6.2 Progress is reported to Academic Board, University Executive Board and the Board of Governors as well as internal and external stakeholders via our Environmental Sustainability report, which is available publicly via our Environmental Sustainability website.

7 COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

7.1 The policy and commitments are promoted to staff, students and key stakeholders who are appropriately engaged to foster shared ownership across the University and its campus partners.

7.2 Annual reports and noteworthy developments are published and promoted on our Environmental Sustainability website, along with a range of supporting policies.

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[3] Falmouth University Student Charter