Navigating paradoxes of sustainability

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- 17,000 EFTS
- 2,073 FTE staff
- 119 years old
Ecological Economics

Navigating Paradoxes with a Sustainability Compass
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXtnUH9rJIE
Challenges for sustainable universities in service of sustainable development

• Leadership vacuum or lack of groundswell
• Cost of implementation of known solutions
• Inter- and trans-disciplinary research and perverse incentives
• Resistance to changing curriculum
• Engagement and funding organizations
Leadership

- Inspiring ‘what’s important’; now and in the future
- From cost/shortage to benefit/abundance model
- Sustainability targets and follow up
- ‘Sustainability is everyone’s issue’; carrot and stick
- From entry to exit and beyond; how do students experience a university through a sustainability lens?
- Understanding the demand for sustainability research

Capital thinking. Globally minded.
Building on good progress; what’s next?

Pre 2006: Independent academic work

2006: Environmental Policy endorsed; Environmental Manager appointed

2007: Energy Strategy; Carbon Reporting; Travel Plan;

2011: PVC Science appointed to chair Environmental Committee; Teaching and Research included in scope

2014: Prof Grant Guilford appointed VC; AVC (Sustainability) role established

2015: Divestment from Fossil Fuels

2016: Sustainability Office established

2021: Sustainability Office next generation

Capital thinking. Globally minded.
Vision

Victoria University of Wellington will be a world-leading capital city university and one of the great global-civic universities.

Mission and Purpose

Victoria University of Wellington’s mission is to undertake excellent research, teaching and public engagement in the service of local, national, regional and global communities.

Primary Strategies

1. Adopt a distinctive academic emphasis
2. Enhance research quality, quantity and impact
3. Provide a holistic learning, teaching and student experience that is second to none
4. Secure the intellectual potential put at risk through experience of disadvantage
5. Deepen engagement with alumni, benefactors and communities
6. Deepen Victoria University’s intellectual influence in the Asia-Pacific region

Enabling Strategies

1. Double the community of world-class scholars choosing Victoria
2. Attain the scale, quality and academic profile of leading public universities
3. Optimise the University’s organisation, processes, facilities and use of resources
4. Increase and diversify sustainable revenue
5. Communicate the quality, values and distinctiveness that define Victoria

Values

Victoria University of Wellington’s core ethical values are respect, responsibility, fairness, integrity and empathy. These values are manifested in our commitment to civic engagement, sustainability, inclusivity, equity, diversity and openness. We prize intellectual rigour and independence, academic freedom, critical inquiry and excellence.
Strategic Plan

‘Sustainability Strategic Plan’

Annual Report

‘Annual Sustainability Report’
**Purpose:** The reason the Sustainability Office exists

**Mission:** Master plan for creating value

**Vision:** Shared picture of mission success

**Strategic Goals:** What we want to accomplish in 5 years

**Priority areas**

**Enablers**

**Values**

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**Sustainability Strategic Framework**

To inspire leadership for a sustainable future

- Mainstreaming sustainability through excellent research, teaching, operations and public engagement
- Victoria will be a world-leading capital city university in sustainable development
- Accelerate a measurable transition to peaceful living within ecological carrying capacity.

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**Research**

- ‘Sustainability and Resilience’ theme for academic distinctiveness

**Teaching**

- Interdisciplinary practise for teaching and research

**Leadership**

- Stakeholder partnerships

**Engagement**

- Demonstrating sustainable business practise

**Operations**

- 'Context' for university success

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**Responsibility**

- Kaitiakitanga

**Respect**

- Manaakitanga

**Fairness**

- Rangatiratanga

**Integrity**

- Whai Mātauranga

**Empathy**

- Whanaungatanga

**Akoranga**

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**Manaakitanga**

**Whanaungatanga**
Research

- Disciplinary, inter- and trans-disciplinary distinctions
- Collaborative research
- Analysis and synthesis
Enhancing what's important

Victoria is committed to helping New Zealand and the world develop a sustainable and resilient future, and being a leader in sustainable practice.

Enhancing resilience and sustainability of our natural heritage and capital

This involves developing ways to work within our ecological limits and having the ability and strength to respond positively to current and future challenges.

To meet these challenges, Victoria is taking an inter- and trans-disciplinary approach, combining expertise from many areas across the University. We are also advancing our own capability and forming strong relationships and partnerships with other organisations working in the areas of sustainability and resilience.
Enhancing a distinctive VUW teaching model through a sustainability lens.

Various existing and proposed programmes illustrate how sustainability can feature, e.g.:

- Matauranga Maori and Sustainability
- Data Science and Sustainability
- Sustainable Business
- Design & Architecture and Sustainability
- Master’s in Innovation
- Master’s in Climate Science and Policy
- Bachelor’s in Health
Capstone Sustainability
24 lectures

- Architecture & Design
- Vic Business School
- Toihuarewa
- Education
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Engineering
- Law
- Science
Minor or Major
Faculty Core

Natural Sciences

Introduction to Sustainability
Key stone paper

Social Sciences

Collaborative Skills

Integration Skills

Communication Skills

Capital thinking. Globally minded.
Recognizing building blocks for developing and featuring Sustainability skills

- **Capstone paper**: Introduction to Sustainability
- **Natural Science**: 1-2 papers in relevant natural science topics.
- **Social Science**: 1-2 papers in relevant social science topics.
- **Integration skills**: 1 paper in modelling, data visualization, qualitative or quantitative research methods.
- **Communication skills**: 1 paper in writing, media training, video making etc.
- **Collaborative skills**: Collaboratory; using Campus and Wellington as a classroom / laboratory for collaboration.

- **Builds on Applied, Service or Engagement**: VicPlus, VicInternational, VicLink, Vic Advanced
Engagement and partnerships

*City as our classroom*

- Zealandia
- Wellington City Council
- Sustainable Business Council
- Sustainable Business Network
- United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- Talloires Network
- Australasian Campuses Toward Sustainability
- International Consortium of Synthesis Centres
Demonstration & Communication

Finding and understanding audiences
Regular reflections from Sustainability Office
Learning-by-doing
Host events and outreach programmes
Celebrate success!
Who wants change?

Who wants to change?
And the 2017 Green Gown Award goes to……

What does success look, feel, taste, smell like?