

Sustainability Policy

INTRODUCTION

Charles Darwin University aspires to be a champion of sustainability. The University recognises it has a responsibility to provide leadership in protecting and improving the environment in which it operates, and more broadly, and to comply with prevailing community standards, best practice and relevant legislation relating to sustainability.

The University is committed to becoming a recognised innovator in sustainability education, research and community engagement – addressing the non-sustainable impacts of human activity on our environment; inspiring positive outcomes for people, communities and society; and promoting environmentally and socially responsible business practice and governance.

The University recognises that for sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonise the three interconnected core elements of sustainability – environmental protection, social inclusion and justice, and economic growth.

The University is a member of the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability group (ACTS) and a signatory of the United Nations University Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

The authority behind this policy is the [Charles Darwin University Act 2003](#) part 3, section 15.

COMPLIANCE

This is a compliance requirement under the [Charles Darwin University Act 2003](#).

INTENT

The intent of this Policy is to provide a framework for the University's efforts and activities relating to sustainability.

RELEVANT DEFINITIONS

In the context of this document

Sustainability means living within the resources of the planet without irreparably damaging the environment now or into the future; and

Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

POLICY

The Principles of this Policy are as follows:

The University will advance its performance towards improved sustainability in the following areas:

- **Leadership and Governance** - Advance sustainability initiatives through leadership and supporting frameworks to create a culture that supports all members of the University community to contribute to the achievement of the University's sustainability goals;
- **Learning and Teaching** - Empower the University's learning and teaching community to contribute to a sustainable world through awareness, understanding and appropriate skills;
- **Research** - Ensure that research is conducted in a sustainable way and, through research outcomes, contribute to knowledge on how to achieve sustainable development;
- **Facilities and Operations** - Minimise the impact of the University's operations on the environment through changes to design, infrastructure, procurement, transport, and resource use, as well as protection of biodiversity; and
- **Community and Engagement** - As an education and research provider and member of the Northern Territory community, become a model for sustainability and contribute to community sustainability initiatives.

The Charles Darwin University Sustainability Leadership Group will be responsible for the oversight and implementation of this Policy through the Charles Darwin University Sustainability Plan.

ESSENTIAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Internal

Sustainability@CDU

[CDU Sustainability Plan.](#)

[Corporate Social Responsibility Policy](#)

[Responsible Conduct of Research Policy](#)

External

[Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability](#)

[United Nations University Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Document History and Version Control

Last amendment:	Aug 2019	Next Review:	Aug 2022
Sponsor:	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Operations		
Contact Officer:	Manager - Strategic Projects		

Version	Date Approved	Approved by	Brief Description
1.00	Date	Vice-Chancellor	Creation of original document and upload to CDU website.