

## Sustainability Policy

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**Business Owner:** Chief Operating Officer  
**Approval Authority:** Vice-Chancellor

### 1. PURPOSE

This policy states Lincoln University's commitment to be an international and national leader in promoting and achieving ecologically, socially and economical sustainable development. This commitment is in compliance with Lincoln's strategic direction and will be implemented by the whole university community, in all aspects of the university's activities: research, curricula, extension, building design, facilities management and operational practices, including all university properties and farms.

### 2. DEFINITION

**Definition of Sustainability:** Lincoln University recognises that healthy ecosystems and environments are necessary to the survival of humans and other organisms and that the economy is a subsystem of society within the bio-physical environment and that there are limits within which human economies and societies must operate if we are to function in a sustainable way. These limits are the constraints placed by the natural systems of our planet.

**Sustainable Development:** is maintaining a delicate balance between the human need to improve lifestyles and feeling of well-being on one hand, and preserving natural resources and ecosystems, on which we and future generations depend.

### 3. OUTCOMES

This policy seeks to:

- Ensure Lincoln University's research and teaching outcomes advance ecological, social and economic sustainability and demonstrate leadership in these fields.
- Ensure Lincoln University demonstrates local, national and international leadership in ecologically, socially and economically sustainable management of its property and farms.
- Ensure Lincoln University phases out use of fossil fuels and achieves carbon neutrality by 2030.
- Ensure that Lincoln University becomes a zero-waste campus by 2030.

## 4. POLICY

### 4.1 Over-arching Principles

The policy will be based on the following principles:

- that the University will commit to making sustainability and environmental protection central to all its practices and programmes
- that the management of University assets and resources will assess their impact on future generations
- that the University will work in partnership with local iwi, the community and community groups in the implementation of this policy
- that the whole University community are encouraged to take responsibility for implementing this policy

### 4.2 Policy Objectives

#### 4.2.1 Research and Scholarship

Lincoln University will continue to be a leader in research and innovation in developing sustainable options for land-based communities and industries. The University will use its distinctive ability to use interdisciplinary systems-based thinking to address the global challenges relevant to feeding the world, protecting the future and living well, and to support the development of sustainable technologies and enterprises.

#### 4.2.2 Teaching and Learning

Lincoln University will advance sustainability through helping students to gain a greater awareness of the world, including an understanding of their dependence on healthy functioning societies and ecosystems, and empowering them to actively contribute to positive social and environmental change.

Whilst it is important to develop specialist courses and research programmes in sustainability, the University will integrate sustainability throughout all of its research and teaching in a way that reflects the long-term vision that will equip students to be world citizens of a finite planet.

The actions and attitudes of the staff and the way the university is run will be role models allowing students to learn through practical experience.

#### 4.2.3 University Operations

Lincoln University will continue to improve our sustainability performance, involving all of our staff, students, including subsidiary and partner organisations, and act as a role model for sustainability for them and for our local, national and international communities.

##### 4.2.3.1 Energy, transport and climate change: The University will:

- Minimise use of materials and embedded energy used in construction and operations, and those containing harmful substances.
- Maximise the re-use of all construction and operations materials including electronic waste, relocate or recycle all materials that cannot be re-used, minimise land fill waste and waste containing materials harmful to our



ecosystems.

- Maximise composting and use of organic waste.
- Where use is unavoidable, use best management practices to dispose of chemicals and other toxic substances.
- Maximise production and use of renewable energy and phase out reliance on fossil fuels.
- Promote energy efficiency for heating, cooling, lighting, transport and for landscape management and farming operations.
- Promote the use of sustainable transport options both for University operations and by staff and students travelling to the University, including greater use of; electric vehicles, public transport, carpooling, cycling and walking.
- Promote carbon offsetting by staff and students when travelling especially by air and start actively planting trees and encouraging the regeneration of native bush as a way to mitigate climate change

#### **4.2.3.2 Water:**

##### **The University will:**

- Promote the design and practice of water conservation, water reuse and rainwater collection on campus

#### **4.2.3.3 Land Use and Native Biodiversity: The University will:**

- Maximise regional scale native biodiversity on University lands.
- Ensure Lincoln University supports sustainable land use on its campus and farms by staff and students, and within the wider community.
- Ensure Lincoln University lands are designed to demonstrate an aesthetic that encourages sustainable land use while supporting Lincoln's scenic resources and heritage.
- Enhance amenity and ecological values, especially indigenous biodiversity, on campus and all university properties.

#### **4.2.3.4 Procurement and purchasing:**

**The University will endeavour to purchase** materials, products, and services that are produced in a sustainable way that includes environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and social equity.

#### **4.2.3.5 Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi**

The University will promote and enhance partnership with Maori during the implementation of this policy by:

- Recognising that Ngai Tahu as the *tangata whenua* of the Lincoln campus has an important natural role to play in its sustainability;



- Understanding the significance of supporting an understanding of Maori environmental rights, lore and values in research and teaching related to sustainability.

#### **4.2.3.6 Comply with all relevant local and central government environmental legislation.**

### **4.3 Implementation**

Lincoln University will:

- Develop a clear 5 year Strategic Sustainability Plan outlining the steps being taken and the targets and timeline towards achieving the economic, social and ecological outcomes outlined in this policy. The Strategic Sustainability Plan will be reviewed and modified after 3 years and fully reviewed and updated every 5 years.
- Ensure the Strategic Sustainability Plan is underpinned by clear goals and long-term and short-term targets with indicators for achieving these which are reviewed annually.
- Produce an annual statement of its environmental sustainability in relation to the outcomes specified in this policy.
- Promote a culture of sustainability and commit resources, both human and financial, to ensure the Strategic Sustainability Plan is successfully implemented.

## **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 Senior Management Group (SMG) will set and report on annual targets for the implementation of this Policy and will report to the Vice-Chancellor
- The Sustainability Action Group for our Environment will support and advise the SMG.

