Policy Title: Environment Policy

Descriptors: 1) Environmental Sustainability  2) Resource Conservation

Category: Facilities and Services

1. Title

Environment Policy

2. Purpose

This policy sets the strategic scope of Edith Cowan University’s commitment to environmental sustainability in the appropriate management of the organisation and its operations, the engagement of students and staff in principles and applications of sustainability and the engagement of and collaboration with the broader community.

3. Organisational Scope

All staff, students, contractors and visitors to Edith Cowan University campuses and annexes.

4. Policy Statement

Edith Cowan University will conduct its activities in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

5. Definitions

*Sustainability* - Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
The University - Edith Cowan University

6. Principles

Edith Cowan University is committed to reducing the environmental impact associated with its operations by implementing strategies and technologies that minimise waste of resources and demonstrate environmentally sensitive development, innovation and continuous improvement. The University is committed to facilitating education and research aimed at the resolution of real environmental problems and raising awareness throughout the University and broader community of the need to move towards a sustainable future.

The University has adopted the following sustainability principles to guide our Environmental objectives:

6.1 Environmental education and research – the University will strive to offer academic choices that engage students, staff and the broader community in the principles and applications of sustainability.

6.2 Resource conservation - the University will strive to conduct its operations in an environmentally sensitive manner, minimising waste and maximising efficiencies.

6.3 Community engagement - the University will strive to engage and collaborate with industry, government and community in environmental decision making and project partnerships.

6.4 Organisational sustainability - the University will strive to incorporate environmental sustainability principles throughout all levels of the organisation and decision making processes.

7. Content

7.1 Environmental Education and Research

a) The University is committed to developing and encouraging sustainability-focused research.

b) The University will engage with staff and students in environmental education, awareness raising and behavioural change programs.

7.2 Resource Conservation

a) The University will strive to minimise consumption of water, energy, materials and other resources in all areas and maximise reuse and recycling.

b) The University will strive to minimise waste and ensure that disposal is safe and efficient.

c) The University will strive to minimise the impacts associated with transport to, from and within the University through appropriate management of the University fleet and by facilitating and encouraging staff and students to commute via alternative forms of transport (ie: walking, cycling, public transport, car pooling etc).
7.3 Community engagement

a) The University will engage with the community including government, industry and the professions, in supporting university research, education, policy formation and information exchange on environmental sustainability.

7.4 Organisational Sustainability

a) The University is committed to developing and maintaining an Environmental Management System as a mechanism for implementing this policy, incorporating:

- A commitment to strive for continuous improvement in environmental performance;
- A commitment to ensure that resources are made available to implement and meet the requirements of the environmental policy;
- A commitment to monitoring, auditing and reporting including annual Faculty/Centre review and annual University reporting; and
- A commitment to comply with the relevant State and Commonwealth legislation, environmental policies and initiatives.

b) The University will incorporate sustainability principles and life cycle costing in all decision making processes.

8. References

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<td>Policy Owner:</td>
<td>Manager, Building and Services, Facilities and Services Centre</td>
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<td>Date Approved:</td>
<td>May 2006</td>
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- ECU Construction and Renovation of future buildings principles of sustainable design (draft)

9. Contact Information

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