

Edith Cowan University Environmental Declaration

Edith Cowan University is committed to environmentally sustainable development; that is, development

that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. ...in the end, sustainable development is not a fixed state of harmony, but rather a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are made consistent with future as well as present needs.

(World Commission on Environment & Development, 1987, 9-10)

The members of Edith Cowan University community join with others in seeking to make positive proposals and fundamental changes to the ways in which we conduct ourselves environmentally. The University acknowledges the scale and scope of the environmental problems facing the world today. It also recognises and promotes the opportunities that exist for developing innovative responses that contribute to the resolution of these problems.

Universities have a major role to play in education, research, policy formation and information exchange necessary to achieve environmental sustainability. Edith Cowan University aims to provide leadership and support, and to mobilise internal and external resources to respond to these challenges. The University will do this by:

1. Raising public, government, industry, foundation and institutional awareness by publicly addressing the need to move towards an environmentally sustainable future.
2. Encouraging staff and students to engage in education, research, policy formation and information exchange on population, environment, and environmentally sustainable development.
3. Offering programs and conducting research in environmental management, sustainable economic development and related fields that enhance the environmental literacy of its graduates.
4. Setting an example of environmental responsibility by establishing and maintaining processes of resource conservation, recycling and waste reduction within the University.
5. Encouraging the involvement of the community including government, industry and the professions, in supporting university research, education, policy formation and information exchange in environmentally sustainable development, and developing solutions to environmental problems.
6. Encouraging collaboration between academic leaders and environmental practitioners to develop research, policy and information exchange programs for an environmentally sustainable future.

7. Establishing appropriate partnerships with primary and secondary schools to support programs that educate about population, environment and environmentally sustainable development.
8. Working with relevant international, national and local organisations to promote a worldwide university effort towards an environmentally sustainable future.
9. Fostering environmental literacy within the University community.
10. Integrating this Declaration into University policy, planning, procedures, and quality reviews as considered appropriate.

References:

World Commission on Environment & Development, (1987), *Our Common Future*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

This declaration is modelled on the Talloires Declaration. Grateful acknowledgment is made to its authors. For the full, original text see <http://iisd1.ca/educate/declarat/tallore.htm>.