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## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 CQUniversity is committed to supporting and protecting the environment through the adoption and implementation of sustainability practices. The University will create a culture of environmental sustainability that will be reflected in our learning, teaching and research as well as our general business practices.
- 1.2 This policy outlines the approach and framework the University will adopt to undertake its business in a more sustainable manner in line with the United Nations 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

## 2 SCOPE

- 2.1 This policy applies to:
- employees, students, contractors and visitors of CQUniversity, and
  - business practices undertaken by and for the University.

## 3 POLICY STATEMENT

- 3.1 CQUniversity has a responsibility to educate its employees and students to preserve the quality of life for present and future generations; support the communities the University operates within; and manage business as a global community member. Using the power of place and engagement strategies, the University will seek to identify opportunities to embed environmentally sustainable practice through engaged education and training, research and innovation, service and general business.
- 3.2 Sustainability is about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. CQUniversity is committed to managing all areas of its business in an environmentally sustainable, economically rewarding, socially considerate and technically feasible manner.
- 3.3 Supporting this policy is a framework that will align with the strategic goals of the University and provide practical guidance through the consideration of nine elements that support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- 3.4 This policy and Sustainability Framework will focus on four main key principles:
- environmental sustainability management
  - economic sustainability
  - social wellbeing, and
  - engaged teaching, learning and research that reflects sustainability practice, where appropriate

### **Corporate practice**

- 3.5 The University will effectively manage sustainability by:
- implementing and maintaining a structure that ensures the systematic management of sustainability through the University campuses and sites
  - complying with all statutory requirements
  - minimising its environmental impact and managing its carbon footprint by focused actions on its energy, water and waste management and recycling
  - embedding sustainability in decision making processes
  - providing appropriate training in and communicating relevant sustainability information to all employees, students, contractors, visitors and the wider community
  - showcasing the University as a best practice model in sustainability
  - regularly reporting against progress, and
  - creating targets within the [Strategic Plan](#) for delivery.

### **Teaching and research**

- 3.6 The University confirms its commitment to sustainability in teaching and research and will:
- through teaching, learning and research, where appropriate promote knowledge for students to live sustainably
  - advance the University's contribution to research on sustainability
  - promote sustainability within and beyond the University, and
  - engage with and involve students in sustainability projects and ideas, where appropriate.

### **Community engagement**

- 3.7 The University will:
- share and exchange sustainability knowledge and experience with other universities, community groups, and the public and private sector
  - foster engagement of the University community and wider community in sustainability, and
  - develop strategies to create knowledge and leadership in sustainability among local, national and international communities.

## **4 RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Compliance, monitoring and review**

- 4.1 The Chief Operating Officer and Directorate of Facilities Management are responsible for implementing, monitoring, reviewing and ensuring compliance with this policy.

## Reporting

- 4.2 An annual report will be provided by the end of first quarter of the following year. This report will be recommended to the Strategic Planning and Projects Committee by the University Management Committee.

## Records management

- 4.3 Employees must manage records in accordance with the [Records Management Policy and Procedure](#). This includes retaining these records in a recognised University recordkeeping information system.
- 4.4 University records must be retained for the minimum periods specified in the relevant [Retention and Disposal Schedule](#). Before disposing of any records, approval must be sought from the Records and Privacy Team (email [records@cqu.edu.au](mailto:records@cqu.edu.au)).

## 5 DEFINITIONS

- 5.1 Terms not defined in this document may be in the University [glossary](#).

## 6 RELATED LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

[Environment Protection Act 1993](#) (SA)

[Environment Protection Act 1970](#) (Vic)

[Environment Protection Act 2017](#) (Vic)

[Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#) (Cwlth)

[Environmental Protection Act 1986](#) (WA)

[Environmental Protection Act 1994](#) (Qld)

[Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975](#) (Cwlth)

[Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Act 1989](#) (Cwlth)

[Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997](#) (NSW)

[Strategic Plan 2019-2023](#)

[Sustainability Framework](#)

[Sustainable Development Goals](#) (United Nations)

## 7 FEEDBACK

- 7.1 Feedback about this document can be emailed to [policy@cqu.edu.au](mailto:policy@cqu.edu.au).

## 8 APPROVAL AND REVIEW DETAILS

Approval and Review	Details
Approval Authority	Council
Delegated Approval Authority	Strategic Planning and Projects Committee
Advisory Committee	N/A
Administrator	Director Facilities Management
Next Review Date	23/06/2023

Approval and Amendment History	Details
Original Approval Authority and Date	Council 27/04/2016
Amendment Authority and Date	Council 1/05/2019; Council 23/06/2020; Editorial amendments 05/01/2023
Notes	