



Environmental Policy

1. Overview

The University of Queensland's *Environmental Management Policy* demonstrates a commitment to conducting its activities in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and associated legislation. The policy applies to staff, students and visitors to the University as well as to activities conducted on University premises or under the auspices of the University.

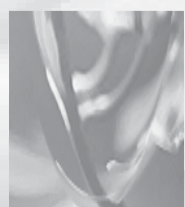
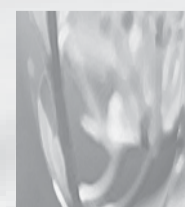
All members of the University community share the responsibility for protecting the environment. The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* incorporates the general environmental duty around which the policy is developed. Section 319 defines this duty as 'A person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm'.

2. The Policy

The University of Queensland acknowledges the importance of protecting environmental values as part of a global community. Through its planning and practice, the University is committed to ensuring the protection of the environment by keeping environmental impacts to a minimum in a sustainable, financially rewarding and technically feasible manner.

In addressing this statement, the University of Queensland will:

- Consider sustainability issues in the decision-making process of planning and managing the University's operations and activities, including capital works projects.
- Facilitate and enhance the decision-making process by seeking opinions, feedback and participation from the University's stakeholders on environmental management issues on University campuses and sites.
- Promote and encourage environmental awareness and training to ensure individuals throughout the University are aware of their environmental responsibilities.
- Strive for continuous improvement of environmental performance by identifying and addressing environmental risk. Make available procedures for minimising risks that comply with local, state and federal environmental legislation with the goal of attaining best environmental practice.
- Make available resources to implement and meet the requirements of the environmental policy.
- Offer, encourage and develop courses, programs and research projects of environmental and sustainable content. Promote external awareness by supporting projects that seek solutions to environmental problems in order to improve the sustainability of the global environment.





1996

- Developed UQ's Environmental Policy and Environmental Management System (EMS)

1997 - 2000

- Developed Environmental Management System for UQ's two marine research stations.
- Implemented Environmental policy and procedures in UQ Schools and Centres at the St Lucia campus.
- Commenced EMS Internal Audits in Schools and Centres to ensure compliance with EMS procedures.

2001

- Developed an Energy Management program.
- Revised the recycling system.
- Developed a Water Management Plan for the St Lucia campus.
- Developed Laboratory Waste Disposal Guides to raise environmental awareness.

2002 - 2003

- Implemented a retrofitting program to reduce water consumption at the St Lucia campus.
- Revised the Environmental Policy to incorporate sustainability principles.
- Joined the Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise program.
- Held a Unigreen Awareness Day to raise environmental awareness on campus.

2004 - 2005

- Developed the first stage of a Green Purchasing Guide to minimise waste at its source.
- Signed up to Greenfleet to offset CO₂ emissions of our fleet vehicles.
- Reduced monthly water consumption at St Lucia campus by 27%.
- Reduced recyclable materials going to landfill from the St Lucia campus by 30% based on 2002 data.
- Opened the first stage of the Gatton campus Environmental Park.
- Piloted a Green Office Program at the St Lucia campus.

2006

- Held Water Forums at St Lucia and Gatton campuses. Expanded the retrofitting program.
- Implemented a Green Office Program at St Lucia campus.
- Developed a Weeds Management Program at the Gatton campus.
- Opened the second stage of the Gatton campus Environmental Park.

2007

- Reduced overall water consumption across all campuses by 60% since water restrictions were introduced.
- Received award for being top water saver in Brisbane City Council area in 2006.
- Expanded the Green Office Program to Ipswich and Gatton campuses.
- Reduced recyclables going to landfill by 47% since 2002.
- Removed weeds and implemented revegetation projects at St Lucia and Gatton campuses and the University Experimental Minesite at Indooroopilly.

2008

- Purchased 2.5% Green Power
- Opened General Purpose North 4 building that includes photovoltaic cells, two 110,000 litre rainwater tanks, as well as energy saving initiatives.
- Completed the Energetics Scoping Report and commenced Stage 2 in late 2008 to establish an overall plan for greenhouse gas emissions management across the University.
- Property and Facilities commenced an ongoing audit to identify opportunities to conserve energy.
- Joined Earth Hour and switched off all lights and non-essential equipment on March 29.
- Increased focus on biodiversity with the University's Experimental Minesite being declared a 'Land for Wildlife' site.
- Formed a Student Sustainability Working Group to incorporate environmental elements into the UQ Student Union complex.

