

<b>Name of Policy</b>	Sustainability Policy
<b>Description of Policy</b>	This policy outlines the University's approach to the application of sustainability principles to its campus developments and operations.
<b>Policy applies to</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University-wide <input type="checkbox"/> Specific ( <i>outline location, campus, organisational unit etc.</i> )
	<input type="checkbox"/> All Staff <input type="checkbox"/> All Students <input type="checkbox"/> Staff and Students
<b>Policy Status</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Existing Policy
<b>Description of Revision</b>	

<b>Approval Authority</b>	Vice Chancellor and President
<b>Governing Authority</b>	Campus Board
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Director, Properties and Facilities

<b>Approval Date</b>	18 June 2018
<b>Effective Date</b>	18 June 2018
<b>Date of Last Revision</b>	
<b>Date of Next Policy Review*</b>	18 June 2021

\* Unless otherwise indicated, this policy will still apply beyond the review date.

<b>Related Legislation, Policies, Procedures, Guidelines and Local Protocols</b>	
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## 1. Background Information

The pursuit of sustainability is directly related to the mission of ACU as a Catholic University. It draws this pursuit from the Catholic Church's long history of social justice teaching on the need to address our impact on our natural environment, on the writings of St. John Paul II (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*), Pope Benedict XVI (*The Environment and Ten Commandments for the Environment*) and most recently in Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si* (Our Common Home), which identifies how "inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace (*Laudato Si*; No.10).

Sustainable practice is also a sound management strategy that has impact by reducing the cost of the University's energy and water consumption and the expense of its waste management systems. Its application to the University's infrastructure can help to promote the health and wellbeing of staff and students through the delivery of better grounds and buildings.

Moreover, as one of the world's leading Catholic Universities, ACU has the ability to influence the global Catholic community to find solutions to environmental and social challenges. ACU is positioned to lead by example locally and globally through its own commitment to sustainable practice founded on Catholic principles.

Consequently, ACU strives to be a leader in sustainable work practices, educational opportunities and research and a role model for responsible environmental corporate citizenship within Australia and abroad. In line with its Mission, the University also recognizes its responsible stewardship to conserve our natural environment while working to foster a focus on the connection between environmental stewardship, the Common Good and the Gospel.

## 2. Policy statement

Australian Catholic University animates its Mission through teaching, research and service, which occur within the framework of its commitment to promote the common good and uphold the dignity of all human life, with particular concern for the poor and vulnerable, who are most affected and least heard.

This responsibility to care for creation is an integral part of ACU's Catholic Mission, and applies to the challenges of social justice, sustainable development and the protection of the ecological systems that enable human life. ACU recognises its duty to minimise its ecological impacts as a vital way to uphold the dignity of human life.

The following principles are intended to guide ACU's practice of sustainability:

### 2.1. Sustainability Principles

The following principles are intended to guide ACU's practice of sustainability:

- i. The University establishes objectives and targets to strategically reduce the University's environmental impacts, promote the wellbeing of its students, staff and the communities that it engages, and enhance its financial sustainability;
- ii. The University publishes sustainability objectives, targets and performance data in online channels accessible to students, staff and to the community, to enable open discussion and understanding of ACU's commitment to sustainability;
- iii. The University provides information and infrastructure to students and staff so that they can adopt sustainable practices at the University;
- iv. All ACU graduates understand how sustainability contributes to a world that protects the natural

systems that support life and promote the dignity of all people;

- v. The development of ACU's campuses promotes the well-being of all staff, students and visitors to the University, and incorporates principles of sustainable design.

## 2.2. Sustainability objectives

ACU identifies the following objectives of its sustainability program:

- i. To become and exemplar of the application of *Laudato Si'* within ACU and the Australian and global Catholic communities;
- ii. To apply resource efficiency, behaviour-change, building design and the application of new technologies to reduce environmental impacts;
- iii. To design, construct and refurbish buildings and grounds to minimise the lifecycle environmental impacts of their operation while improving the wellbeing and productivity of staff and students;
- iv. To integrate the theory and practice of sustainability into students' learning;
- v. To enable research that helps to solve problems of social inequity and environmental degradation;
- vi. To provide opportunities for students and staff to take action on campus to support ACU's sustainability goals.

## 3. Policy Purpose

This policy sets out the principles and responsibilities associated with the practice of sustainability to the plans, policies and procedures at the University.

## 4. Roles and responsibilities

### 4.1 Approval Authority

The Vice Chancellor and President is the Approval Authority for this Policy.

### 4.2 Governing Authority

The Campus Board is the Governing Authority for this Policy.

### 4.3 Responsible Officer

The Director, Properties and Facilities is the Responsible Officer for this Policy

### 4.4 Sustainability Governance

Campus Board will provide oversight of initiatives with respect to sustainable practices and opportunities for improvement in sustainable operations, and will receive reports on activities and outcomes to that effect no less than annually.

The National Manager Sustainability will from time to time consult with ad hoc/informal reference groups of staff and students. The composition of these groups will vary according to the matters under review, such that a group may be composed of a mix of staff and students, or of students only, from all or, by design, from selected campuses, business units and/or faculties.

For staff, membership of any ad hoc/informal reference groups will be composed of those interested to participate in response to a call to be involved from the National Sustainability Manager. The primary

communication channel for alerting staff of the opportunity to participate is ACU's Workplace platform, and in particular, the *Sustainability@ACU* group.

The appropriate communication channel to alert students to the opportunity to provide input or consider proposed initiatives will at all times be determined in consultation and with the approval of the Director, Office of Student Success.

The National Sustainability Manager will coordinate communication to and within interested groups and confirm and record suggestions and feedback which will be reviewed with key stakeholders as well as the Director of Properties and Facilities for consideration of benefits, costs (if any) and subsequent actions.

## **5. Policy review**

This policy will be formally reviewed every three years.

The University may make changes to this policy from time to time. In this regard, any staff member or student who wishes to make any comments about this policy may forward their suggestions to the Director, Properties and Facilities.