

## **Sustainable Construction Policy**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The University of Northampton is one of the youngest Universities in the UK and one of the first to be named as a Changemaker Campus reflecting on social impact. This means that as an institution we work hard to have a positive impact on the world around us, simply put Changemaking is about *'Spotting a social or environmental problem and having the skills and grit to do something about it'*. The University recognises our activities can have a negative impact on the environment, both locally and globally and we are committed to making sustainable development part of its operations, research and curriculum.

This policy will be reviewed by the Environment & Sustainability Team on a 3-year basis or amended in response to changes in future legislation and/or case law.

### **2.0 OWNERSHIP**

The Environment & Sustainability Team owns and manages this policy on behalf of The University of Northampton.

### **3.0 ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE**

This Sustainable Construction policy is a corporate policy and applies to all employees (and workers, as applicable) of The University of Northampton including any wholly owned subsidiaries, unless an alternative policy exists, subject to any qualifying conditions.

## 4.0 POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 The University of Northampton is committed to building and refurbishing our buildings to high sustainability standards. We want to ensure our buildings minimise environmental impact during construction, refurbishment and operation, consider the health and wellbeing of staff and students, protect ecology and enhance the wider community in which it operates.

This policy forms part of and should be read in conjunction with the University's [Environment Policy](#).

Our goals;

- Become an exemplar of environmental best practice in Higher Education
- Fulfil our mission - Transform lives + inspire change
- Be impactful on the University community
- Have a positive impact on our environment, helping the University to thrive

## 5.0 DEFINITIONS

5.1 [BREEAM](#). BRE Environmental Assessment Methodology sustainability assessment method for [masterplanning](#) projects, [infrastructure](#) and [buildings](#). It recognises and reflects the value in higher performing assets across the built environment lifecycle, from new construction to in-use and refurbishment.

5.2 [Wellbeing Standard](#). The WELL rating is a performance-based system for measuring, certifying and monitoring features of the built environment that impact human health and wellbeing. It aims to prevent chronic diseases by improving the nutrition, fitness, mood, sleep patterns and performance of buildings occupants.

5.3 [SKA](#). SKA rating is an environmental assessment method, benchmark and standard for non-domestic fit-outs, led and owned by RICS.

5.4 [EPC](#). An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rates how energy efficient your building is using grades from A to G (with 'A' the most efficient grade).

5.5 [DEC](#) Display Energy Certificates are designed to show the energy performance of public buildings.

## 6.0 KEY PRINCIPLES

- To promote and adopt best practice for sustainable design, construction and post occupancy management within the HE sector;
  - BREEAM
  - Wellbeing Standard
  - SKA
  - EPC and DEC ratings
- To ensure all environmental risks are assessed, managed and controlled to minimise the impact of new build, refurbishment and maintenance projects;
- Work with the Environment & Sustainability Team on alignment with sustainability targets;
- To align our own practices in sustainable construction with our position as an institution for teaching and research in the built environment and energy;
- To ensure that ecological best practice is considered and implemented where practicable
- To consider and reduce whole life costs for new build and refurbishment project;
- To maintain and develop the University in a sustainable manner to reduce costs and meet the requirements of the Campus Masterplan, and Energy, Water and Carbon Management Plan;

- To keep the University community informed of this policy and its application across the University estate;

## 7.0 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- [Environment Policy](#)
- [Energy Action Plan](#) (as part of our liE Manual)
- [Carbon Management Plan](#)
- [Ethical and Sustainable Procurement Policy](#)
- [Travel Management Plan](#)
- Energy Policy
- Waste Policy
- [University Strategic Plan](#)

## 8.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment must accompany this document.

## 9.0 VERSION CONTROL

Version Control	V1	Approval record	
Author:	Environment & Sustainability Team, Estates & Campus Services	Approval:	TU Liaison – 17/11/2020 Sustainability Board – 23/11/2020
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Record of Amendments			

Date	Version number	Details of Change	Approval