

**Policy Title: Sustainability**

**Policy Owner: Director, Facilities and Services**

**Keywords: Environment Carbon footprint**

**Policy Code: PL249 [ad089]**

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**1. INTENT**

This policy sets the strategic scope of Edith Cowan University's commitment to sustainability in the appropriate management of the organisation and its operations, the engagement of students and staff in principles and applications of sustainability and the engagement of and collaboration with the broader community.

**2. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE**

All ECU students, staff and contractors

**3. DEFINITIONS**

TERM	DEFINITION
Sustainability	Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Sustainable Communities Steering Committee (SCSC)	A committee charged with developing and monitoring of ECU's Sustainable Communities Action Plan, and reporting outcomes to the University Executive.

## 4. POLICY CONTENT

### 4.1. Commitment

ECU is committed to:

- A broad understanding of sustainability that includes personal, social and environmental elements;
- Creating and supporting a sustainable future through the manner in which it conducts its business and the form of the outputs which it generates; and
- Conducting its business in ways that address sustainability and which raise awareness both within itself and the broader community of the needs and requirements for a sustainable future.

### 4.2. Sustainability Principles

ECU staff will:

- encourage all staff and students to establish personal goals for their well-being;
- undertake activities in teaching and research that engage students, staff and the broader community in the principles and applications of sustainability;
- conduct all its operations in an environmentally sensitive manner, minimising waste and maximising efficiency;
- include in its policies and plan, aims and activities to support diversity across staff and student profiles and to support the health and well-being of all ECU staff and students
- engage and collaborate with industry, government and the broader community in environmental decision making and project partnerships; and
- incorporate sustainability considerations in all levels of organisation and decision making.

### 4.3. Reporting Sustainability at ECU

- 4.3.1. All Schools and Service Centres at ECU will include sustainability goals within their annual operational plans.
- 4.3.2. The strategies and activities for Sustainability at ECU will be overseen by the Sustainable Communities Steering Committee (SCSC), for which the Terms of Reference are included as Attachment 1 to this policy.
- 4.3.3. The SCSC will monitor targets and goals for university sustainability activities and report to the University Executive on the outcomes and achievements.

## 5. ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In relation to this policy, the following positions are responsible for the following

### *Policy Owner*

The Policy Owner Director, Facilities and Services has overall responsibility for the content of this policy and its operation in ECU.

Staff, students and contractors are required to comply with the content of this policy and to seek guidance in the event of uncertainty as to its application.

All members of the University community are expected to comply with University Policy.

## 6. RELATED DOCUMENTS:

6.1 Other documents which are relevant to the operation of this policy are as follows:

- *Sustainable Communities Steering Committee (SCSC) Terms of Reference - (attached)*
- [ECU Environmental Declaration](#)
- [Environmental Management of Information Technology \(PL116\)](#)
- [Strategic Procurement Policy \(PL260\)](#)

## 7. CONTACT INFORMATION

For queries relating to this document please contact:

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## 8. APPROVAL HISTORY

Policy Approved by:	Vice-Chancellor
Date Policy First Approved:	11 July 2013
Date last modified:	15 March 2018
Revision History:	Replaced <i>Environment Policy (fs034)</i> on 11.07.2013 Changes to position titles to reflect new organisational structure (August 2017).
Next Revision Due:	February 2021
TRIM File Reference	SUB/49570

## Attachment 1

# Sustainability Communities Steering Committee (SCSC)

## Terms of Reference

1. The SCSC at Edith Cowan University (ECU) is established with the following broad aims and objectives:
  - i. To support the goals and objectives in the ECU Strategic Plan 2017-2021 and participate in setting future objectives;
  - ii. To develop a heightened awareness and practice of personal, social, corporate and environmental sustainability amongst ECU staff, students and communities;
  - iii. To establish, implement and report a vision that embeds personal, social, corporate and environmental sustainability and well-being values, knowledge and skills;
  - iv. To support the continuous improvement of reducing the university's environmental footprint in areas of energy, water, materials, waste, biodiversity and transport;
  - v. To foster continuous improvement in the achievement of sustainability goals and outcomes through the successful implementation and monitoring of an annual ECU Sustainable Communities Action Plan.
  - vi. To address goals and objectives that support cross-sectional institutional activities.
2. Membership of the Sustainable Communities Steering Committee will comprise a representative cross-section of staff which includes Executive Deans of Schools, Centre Directors and senior managers. The Chair of the Sustainable Communities Steering Committee will be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.
3. SCSC meetings will be held quarterly with the business of the meeting revolving around discussion and monitoring of outcomes against the Action Plan and the establishment of future goals and objectives.
4. The SCSC will provide regular reports on outcomes and achievements to the University Executive.