



PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY

## **SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

### **THE CONTEXT**

The Welsh Government has a legal duty to promote sustainable development across its function. This duty is currently (2013) being extended through the Sustainable Development Bill, to place a duty on organisations delivering public services to have SD as their central organising principle. Bangor University as part of the Higher Education sector will be subject to this duty and required to report on performance.

### **SUSTAINABILITY – OUR VISION**

*“At Bangor University, sustainability is not a matter of procedures or processes. At Bangor University sustainability is part of everything we do. Sustainability is how we function and sustainability is why we function.”*

*Professor John G. Hughes, Vice Chancellor, Bangor University*

### **SUSTAINABILITY – OUR MISSION**

By 2020, Bangor University will have an international and ‘best in class’ reputation for its commitment to sustainable development. Our graduates will have a demonstrable knowledge of sustainable development considerations and management practices gained from their studies and experiences of the university. By delivering on the commitments outlined in this policy BU will enable its students, staff, partners, businesses, alumni, and the wider community to implement positive change within their spheres of influence and ensure that Bangor University is positioned at the forefront of global sustainable change.

### **SUSTAINABILITY – OUR PRINCIPLES**

**Identifying** the dimensions of ecological, social and economic challenges which we face

**Taking Ownership** of the problems

**Researching and Implementing** solutions

**Ensuring** that appropriate long term considerations underlie immediate choices and decisions

**Valuing** diverse experiences

**Sharing** experiences

**Raising** awareness

**Understanding** the integrated nature of all actions

**Learning** from elsewhere

**Challenging** ourselves to do better

1. **STATEMENT**

Bangor University fully accepts responsibility for the implications of its activities and decisions which impact the environment and broader issues of sustainability, at a local, national and global level.

The University is committed to ensuring that positive net environmental benefit and social progress arises within a resilient economy as a result of its activities. The Welsh Government's aspiration for sustainability to be the central organising principle is fully endorsed by BU. Steps are being taken to ensure that sustainability considerations are embedded in all core business functions of the University and impact decisions and actions at every level of the organisation.

2. **COMMITMENT**

The University is committed to achieving our vision by

- Producing a clear, cross functional sustainability strategy which integrates all of the university's sustainability efforts; identifies actions, timescales, priorities and resource implications and which contains clear accountability for implementation
- Setting demanding, short and long term 'stretch' targets to integrate all aspects of sustainability into our daily operations; to drive our improvement to optimum performance and to enable measurement of our performance
- Thinking differently to identify challenges, risks and opportunities for all areas of our business
- Ensuring effective annual reporting with participation in various disclosure projects including the Global Reporting Initiative<sup>1</sup>
- Protecting resources through informed selection; efficient use, reuse and recycling; reduction of all emissions including pollutants and waste;

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<sup>1</sup> [www.globalreporting.org/](http://www.globalreporting.org/)

- Minimisation of our environmental footprint through energy efficiency; CO<sub>2e</sub> emissions; travel and transport, freshwater use and sewage discharges; landfilled waste; land management and local sourcing
- Ensuring that all staff and students gain ongoing direct training and direct and indirect involvement in and experiences of the practical implementation of sustainable development within the university environment
- Developing standard foundation level course modules for all students which highlight global sustainability resilience issues and which identify leading solutions
- Integrating sustainability within the subject specific credit options of all courses at all levels
- Incorporating an appreciation of the role of language and culture to sustainability across campus and maximising the benefits (and minimising any negative impacts we may create) from being located in a unique cultural and linguistic landscape
- Ensuring that students gain a basic foundational level understanding of change management theories and financial / legal / environmental / employment practices
- Engaging with the students' union to ensure that all the existing and potential student activities (e.g. volunteering, Employability Award, Enterprise by Design, Social Enterprise Accelerator etc.) are promoted, recognised for their contribution to the efforts of BU on sustainability, and for the potential benefits to students in their future employment.
- Ensuring effective Corporate Governance through participation in the UN Global Compact<sup>2</sup>; promotion of our ethical standards and practices (in excess of legal minimum compliance requirements) to staff, students, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers; publication of all human resource material in the languages of choice of our stakeholders; effective training in human rights, ethical and compliance
- Identifying risks and reasons for accidents, injuries and work related ill health and taking forward action to remove the underlying causes
- Working with our supply chain to improve their ability to meet our requirements
- Developing a Sustainable Procurement Policy to make clear our procurement requirements and working with our suppliers to help them meet our expectations and standards
- Establishing a Bangor University Foundation to collaborate with those developing countries which are home to our international students to take forward community environment, education, and empowerment actions and establish a local infrastructure for change

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unglobalcompact.org/>

- Working with businesses, governments and alumni to ensure that Bangor University maintains relevance to their needs and emerging markets and to ensure that we maximise our positive net contribution to the local and regional economy
- Achieving recognition for and being proud of our successes.

### 3. **IMPLEMENTATION**

In achieving these commitments the University will adopt an integrated matrix against which all university activities will be evaluated and which will ensure effective consideration is given to all aspects pertaining to each and every one of the following:



The Welsh government is committed to a ‘One Planet’ Wales. The need for making meaningful connections between the well known environmental themes - energy efficiency, waste reduction, water conservation, sustainable transport, local food, carbon reduction, the estate’s wildlife and biodiversity with people and the economy will be driving our research as well as our teaching.

We are not looking for a dutiful repetition of prescribed rules. Our challenge to everyone will be not ‘how many of these boxes can you tick?’ but ‘how are you securing maximum benefit for people and the planet we inhabit through your actions’.

### 4. **COMMUNICATION**

Bangor University is developing its commitment to Sustainable Development as a clearly communicated, unique selling point; a set of values through which it can clearly differentiate its offer in an increasingly competitive Higher Education market. [www.bangor.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/sustainability).

#### **The key message is:**

The University is committed to ensuring that positive net environmental benefit and social progress arises within a resilient economy as a result of its activities.

#### **External Communication**

External communication on sustainability will support BU in pursuing the overall goals as described in its mandate, mission and strategy.

The first reason for communication is to *recruit students*. External relations (branding, marketing) and alumni and possible relations (name recognition, BU as top-rated institution) play an important role in the external relations of the University.

Second, external communication should *promote overall knowledge and awareness of BU among different stakeholders*. As an international University for the region with goals beyond making profits (competitiveness and environment), BU is accountable to society as a whole.

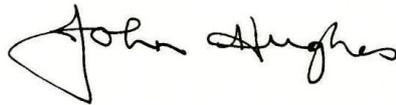
Thirdly, external communication serves the dual purpose of providing transparency to what BU is seeking to achieve in terms of sustainability as well as holding the university to account for its actions and achievements.

### **Internal Communication**

Like BU's goals for its external communication, the main goal of the University's internal communication on sustainability is to support the organisation in achieving the overall goals described in University's mission and strategy. Internal communication strengthens the organisational culture and feeling of commitment among the staff. Mutual information sharing is an important principle to ensure efficient internal communication. Staff also act as a multiplier in reaching target audience (students, other staff etc.)

Communicating sustainability will be embedded in the Communications strategy. 'The Sustainable University' is a working title it will evolve to succinctly convey the aspirations outlined in this policy.

Signed:



**Professor John G, Hughes, Vice Chancellor**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017**