



# Sustainability Policy

## About this Policy

**EAUC Mission:** *We will lead, inspire and equip Members and other stakeholders with a shared vision, knowledge and the tools they need to embed sustainability within curriculum and operations.*

The EAUC Sustainability Policy is the Association's public 'Statement of Intent' that reflects our commitment to improve the sustainability performance of the tertiary education sector and carry out our activities in a sustainable way. The Policy commits the EAUC to strive to use sustainability best practices in all it does. In addition the EAUC is committed to continual improvement across all of our sustainability performance.

As a sustainability leader, the EAUC recognises and welcomes our role as an exemplar. Being an office-based organisation, the potential direct negative impacts of the EAUC's activities arise from resource use, energy and water consumption, transport, waste, procurement as well as the economic and social implications of what we do. In addition the EAUC recognises the potential positive impacts we can have on our employees and the wider community. In particular we have an obligation to positively impact our Members in our work to inspire and support them as they embed sustainability across their institutions.

Annually the EAUC Board set key performance targets and indicators to drive and measure the achievement of this policy and the Mission and Strategic Objectives. Our performance is publicly reported each year.

The EAUC use the LiFE Priority Areas to ensure that all aspects of sustainability are embedded in this Policy. This approach recognises the organisations environmental origins but ensures that it works harder to embrace economic and social aspects of sustainability.

## Leadership and Governance

### 2013-2017 Strategic Aims

- To make sustainability a key principle in tertiary education sector decision making
- To build capacity in the tertiary education sector to facilitate whole institutional change through practitioners, educators, leaders and learners

We will achieve this by:-

- Integrating sustainability into all decision making and activities;
- Promoting sustainability awareness among our employees and encourage them to work in a sustainably responsible manner;
- Train, educate and inform employees about sustainability issues that may affect their work and personal lives;
- Ethically invest and bank in line with this policy;
- Procuring services locally where possible, such as legal and financial services;
- Leading the way in supporting sustainability commitments such as HESI and WRAP;
- Publically annually report on performance, including a year by year comparison, with relation to carbon and implementation of this policy;
- Operating in compliance with all relevant sustainability legislation;
- Ensuring the organisation has the capacity and other resources necessary to deliver this Policy.

## Teaching Learning and Research

### 2013-2017 Strategic Aim

- To promote and advocate the embedding of Education for Sustainable Development as a core graduate attribute across tertiary education

We will achieve this by:-

- Ensuring our staff have the understanding and skills they need to deliver this Policy
- Researching how we can further improve our own and our Members sustainability performance;
- Communicating our sustainability commitment to our Members, Strategic Partners and the public and encourage them to support it and promote good practice;
- Promoting sustainability awareness and the sustainable actions we have taken in all of our activities, specifically in our events and catering.

## Estates and Operations

### 2013-2017 Strategic Aim

- To run EAUC sustainably supporting the sector for long term benefit

We will achieve this by:-

- Providing a safe and healthy workplace for our employees and promote, measure and further improve organisational wellbeing;
- Setting annual targets to reduce our carbon footprint;
- Promoting efficient use of materials and resources throughout our operations including water, electricity, raw materials and other resources, particularly those that are non-renewable;
- Setting annual targets to reduce waste through reuse and recycling;
- Promoting sustainable procurement by purchasing recycled, recyclable, refurbished or ethical products and materials wherever possible;
- Working to further raise sustainability and ethical standards into our supply chain and recruitment of Company Members;
- Avoiding unnecessary use of hazardous materials and products, seek substitutions when feasible, and take all reasonable steps to protect human health and minimise the impact when such materials must be used, stored and disposed of.

## Partnerships and Engagement

### 2013-2017 Strategic Aim

- To build national and international alliances as a leading representative and strategic advocate which will share good practice and facilitate dialogue and policy development

We will achieve this by:-

- Striving to continually improve our sustainability performance and minimise the social impact and damage of activities by periodically reviewing our sustainability policy in light of our current and planned future activities;
- Offsetting our annual carbon footprint by partnering with Climate and Development experts ClimateCare (<http://climatecare.org/>)\*
- Treating staff in a fair, honest and open manner;
- Working with partners and Company Members to raise sustainability and ethical standards within their own organisations;
- Promoting the value of volunteering and encourage our Members and employees to volunteer.

This policy will be reviewed in line with the Strategic Plan in 2017. Approved by the EAUC Board on 4 December 2013.

\*Amended on 6 January 2015 to include annual carbon offsetting.