

Sustainability Policy

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Business Owner: Chief Operating Officer
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1. PURPOSE

This policy states the vision and commitment of Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki | Lincoln University to respond to global and local sustainability challenges and outlines the actions and governance processes to prepare the university's study programmes, business operations and its students for a carbon zero future.

2. DEFINITIONS

Kaitiakitaka: Responsible exercise of guardianship and trusteeship over environmental resources guided by mātauranga and other knowledge to protect, preserve and promote environmental and climate health.

Lincoln University whānau: current members of university including students, staff, and alumni.

Mana whenua: Local people/kin community represented by marae, hapu and iwi who have ancestrally defined rights and responsibilities to peoples, lands and taonga within their geo-political region. Within the university catchment, the mana whenua are Te Taumutu Runaka.

Matauraka: Māori customs and protocols deriving from kin communities.

Sustainability: supporting people and planet to flourish, ensuring the wellbeing of current and future generations is met without compromising the integrity of ecosystems and the biophysical boundaries of our planet.

Taonga: ancestral tangible and intangible treasures.

3. OUTCOMES

Lincoln University is committed to being an exemplar of sustainable practices for the land-based sector and the ecosystems within it.

4. POLICY

4.1 Over-arching Principles

The policy is based on the following the principles:

- partnership with mana whenua to give effect to kaitiakitaka and to ensure Lincoln University's response aligns with their values and aspirations within the realms of Papatuanuku and Ranginui

- alignment with the Lincoln University Strategy 2019-2028 and Aotearoa New Zealand Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Act 2019 and other relevant environmental policy, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- prioritise the wellbeing of people and planet when making strategic decisions.
- promote engagement and participation in sustainability initiatives amongst the Lincoln University whānau.

4.2 Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi

The Sustainability Policy will give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and kaitiakitaka by:

- recognising that mana whenua have traditional and continuing culturally based relationships and responsibilities in relation to land and water and associated biodiversities that lie within their geo-political region or rohe.
- adopting close partnerships and respectful relationships with mana whenua in decision-making related to sustainability within areas of mutual interest, especially where the university catchment and rohe overlap.
- in consultation and collaboration with mana whenua and Māori advisors, embed an understanding of Māori environmental rights, duties, mātauraka and values in education and research relating to sustainability at Lincoln University

4.3 Sustainability Plan

The Lincoln University Sustainability Plan is the prime mechanism for delivering on our commitment to a sustainable future for people and planet.

The Sustainability Plan sets out the objectives of being sector leaders in education, research, and demonstration of sustainability, and to become carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050.

These objectives will be represented through the following four themes:

1. **Education.** Lincoln University will add value to Aotearoa New Zealand through innovative sustainable teaching practices and content directed towards improving the sustainability of the land-based sector.
2. **Research.** Lincoln University will show global leadership in distinctive and excellent research dedicated to improving the sustainability of the land-based sector.
3. **Demonstration.** Lincoln University demonstration farms will display leadership in the sector and contribute to solving sustainability challenges in the land-based sector. We will utilise our farms for knowledge sharing and solving global sustainability issues.
4. **Campus Environment.** Lincoln University will ensure to have a sustainable campus environment, with onsite renewable energy generation, biodiverse green spaces, and low carbon buildings in order to minimise its carbon footprint.

Progress against the Sustainability Plan will be assessed on an annual basis by the Sustainability Taskforce and where appropriate, revised considering new knowledge, changing circumstances, priorities and changing local, national, and international policy, legislative and other contexts.

4.4 Campus Infrastructure

In alignment with values including kaitiakitaka, Lincoln University will significantly reduce carbon emissions from assets on campus by transforming the main energy source to electricity and reducing the demand for it by improving energy efficiency of the buildings and increasing onsite renewable energy production. Energy and water conservation practices will be actively promoted.

Lincoln University will use the highest environmentally sustainable design principles wherever possible on all building projects, adopt building management systems and minimise water wastage.

Lincoln University will enhance biodiversity within the management of the campus and all university properties with reference to threatened species and native planting.

4.5 Mobility and waste

Lincoln University will reduce the carbon emissions on all university travel by adopting strategies to minimise business travel, using technology to communicate virtually, and promoting sustainable transport such as cycling, electric vehicles, carpooling and public buses. LU will seek to transform its fleet to electric and provide optimal infrastructure on campus to electric vehicle and bike owners.

Waste, including plastic, disposable items, construction, and operation materials, will be minimised through effective management and circular economy, focusing on avoidance, reuse and recycling across the whole value chain, as further expressions of kaitiakitanga and sensitivity towards improving environmental and climate health.

4.6 Procurement

Lincoln University will follow sustainable procurement principles that positively impact the economic, environmental, social, and cultural well-being of the communities we live in. These are outlined in the Procurement Policy. It will support the University's Sustainability principles by integrating Sustainability Plan goals into the requirements of all relevant purchases and ensure that sustainability objectives are actively managed and reported on as part of the contract management process. By doing so, we can enhance accountability and track progress toward achieving our sustainability targets effectively.

4.7 Water and biodiversity

Lincoln University will minimise freshwater and marine pollution from our land-based activities and will undertake practices that promote local aquatic ecosystem health.

Lincoln University will improve biodiversity on campus and seek to identify, monitor, and protect any IUCN Red Listed species and NZTCS listed species in areas affected by university operations.

Both these actions will be undertaken with guidance from mana whenua as appropriate, with a view to knowing, understanding, and promoting practices that ensure taonga species well as freshwater and marine health are protected and/or monitored.

5. Responsibilities

- The Vice-Chancellor has overall responsibility for implementation of the Policy and for ensuring that the University's resources and impacts on the environment are managed sustainably.
- The Sustainability Taskforce champions the successful implementation of the Sustainability Plan, reports on progress against the Plan to the Senior Leadership Team, and as appropriate revises the Sustainability Plan to ensure its ongoing relevance.
- The Sustainability Officer has responsibility of reporting on progress against the Sustainability Plan to the Sustainability Taskforce and Lincoln University whanau, oversee the development of annual carbon reporting, Sustainability Report, and work with internal and external stakeholders to promote sustainable initiatives at Lincoln University
- SAGE (Sustainability Action Group for the Environment) supports 'grassroot' participation by Lincoln University staff and student in sustainability initiatives, through instigating and facilitating initiatives to promote and improve sustainability at Lincoln University and provides a critical and constructive voice to help the University with developing and implementing its sustainability policy and plan.
- LUSA (Lincoln University Students' Association) will inform students on the progress of Lincoln University's sustainability plan and will collaborate on initiatives that, specifically benefits students. As sustainability is vital for LUSA, it will advocate to ensure Lincoln University is maximising its effort to protect the environment and the future of Aotearoa New Zealand