By its very nature, distance learning is inherently more sustainable than residential HE institutions and The Open University is committed to the principles of environmental protection and sustainable development.

The University acknowledges the definition of sustainable development from the UN’s World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland) as that which ‘meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.

The University also recognises and accepts its ethical and legal responsibilities to minimise its effect on the environment and to comply with, if not exceed, all statutory environmental requirements.

**The University will ensure that the following sustainable business objectives are met:**

- Raising awareness of environmental issues amongst its staff and students.
- Reducing energy consumption and incorporating long-term strategies for energy efficiency into planning and development.
- Monitoring water consumption and reducing leakage, eliminating unnecessary and excessive use.
- Encouraging the use of environmentally friendly means of transport and examining the operation of University-owned vehicles.
- Assessing and reducing the environmental impact of all purchases as far as possible in terms of their raw materials, production, packaging, delivery, distribution and use.
- Reducing the volume of waste produced by [in order of priority] reducing the acquisition of new materials, re-using materials and recycling materials.
- Reducing any harmful environmental impacts of University sites, buildings, and future developments or refurbishments.
- Managing University land to protect and enhance open spaces maintaining biodiversity.

If you require further information please contact Estates Liaison Line. Telephone: Ext. 51000 or 01908 653286 Email: Estates-Liaison@open.ac.uk

Revised June 2020
The OU endeavours to consider sustainability and environmental impact across the University and is working to increase environmental awareness among members of the University community by:

- sharing information across range of platforms, campaigns and materials for individuals to engage with environmental issues and sustainability related topics
- providing opportunities to make positive changes in both the work environment and personal lives through education and empowerment
- leading with environmentally considered instruction and/or training
- incorporating best practice in the management of environmental impacts wherever possible
- ensuring environmental impacts are always considered in the procurement of resources

This approach aims to encourage members of the community to:

- hold a greater awareness and understanding of the climate crisis, environmental impacts and sustainable options
- minimise our consumption of resources (energy, water, plastics etc.)
- minimise the production of waste
- minimise harmful emissions to air, land and water
- become empowered individuals who make positive change

Monitoring and Review

Performance of business objectives is monitored and reviewed based on the environmental information and data provided to the Higher Education Statistics Agency. This is published annually in the Estate Management Record.

Performance of staff awareness will be measured through Go Green activity and developments; engagement figures with information shared; and where possible, data regarding minimising our environmental impact such as reduction in resource consumption in support of this activity.

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