



# Environmental Sustainability Policy

## **Introduction:**

The object of this policy is to provide clear direction for UCSA's efforts to become environmentally sustainable.

## **Policy Statement:**

UCSA is committed to being a good neighbour, concerned for the community and the environment. We will continually strive to improve our social and environmental performance, with the objective of ensuring that our activities contribute to the sustainable development of the communities in which we operate.

There is overwhelming evidence that the current rate of resource depletion is unsustainable and renewable resources must be utilized to ensure quality of life for future generations.

The UCSA wishes to move towards adopting and embracing Environmentally Sustainable practices across its operations. The UCSA will educate its staff, students and suppliers and Executive on UCSA's Environmental Sustainability vision.

## **Procedures:**

### **Overview**

Environmental Sustainability should be considered (where possible) in all processes and practices within the UCSA's operation.

UCSA will actively encourage Environmental Sustainability in the corporate activities of all the companies that they deal with.

A description of Financial Sustainability is in the Services Policy.

### **Definition**

Environmental Sustainability shall involve long-term management of natural and physical resource use in a way, or at a rate, which enables the UCSA to provide for its long-term environmental goal of:

Reducing, and or removing, any adverse effect, on the environment and society, in which it operates.

Specifically, this means that UCSA will aim to operate in a way that:

1. reduces its dependence on scarce metals and fossil fuels;
2. reduces its use of toxic and non-biodegradable substances;
3. helps maintain and restore natural processes and indigenous biodiversity;
4. cares for people, including future generations.

### **Implementation**

The UCSA shall on an ongoing basis assess any harmful or potentially harmful impacts of its operations on the environment and society. The UCSA shall create systems to mitigate and reduce these harmful impacts. From time to time, the UCSA shall assess how successfully these systems have operated.

*Harmful environmental impacts shall include such things as –*

- High levels of waste output / Low levels of recycling
- High levels of energy consumption
- High usage levels of undesirable substances

### **Partnership with Staff, Students, Suppliers and the Executive**

The UCSA will establish a widespread commitment on the part of all UCSA staff, students, suppliers and the Executive to reduce the quantity of waste produced by the organization.

With the cooperation of Staff, Students, Suppliers and the Executive, Environmentally Sustainable practices must be integrated into UCSA operations to build a culture of Environmental Sustainability. The initial cost of being Environmentally Sustainable must be recognized as part of a long-term strategy for cost efficiency.

The UCSA General Manager will be ultimately responsible for the implementation, delegation, and supervision of tasks required for compliance with this policy.

### **Partnership with the University**

The UCSA will endeavour to work in partnership with the University of Canterbury wherever possible to achieve environmentally sustainable practices campus-wide, this will include providing representation on relevant University of Canterbury committees to promote environmentally sustainable practices.

### **Environmental Education**

The UCSA will recognise its unique role as a leadership organisation for students and will promote Environmental Sustainability messages and student education in its communications and through its events.