Sustainability Policy

The Sustainability Policy models institution-wide excellence in integrating sustainability into all activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Governance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Effective date</td>
<td>24 April 2012</td>
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<td>Owner</td>
<td>Chief Operating Officer</td>
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<td>Version no.</td>
<td>1.1</td>
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to express RMIT’s commitment to advancing its sustainability ambitions as an organisation that models institution-wide excellence by embedding sustainability principles and practices throughout learning and teaching, research and operational activities.

2. Overview

RMIT is signatory to the both the UN Global Compact and the Universities Commitment to the Sustainable Development goals (SDSN Australia/New Zealand 2017).

RMIT acknowledges that its identity, location and capabilities, afford a particular sphere of influence that predisposes RMIT as a significant force to advance learning, research and collaboration to shape a sustainable future.

3. Scope

This policy is applicable to all staff, students, contractors, service providers, clients, customers and visitors when they are engaged in University activities and is applicable at all RMIT locations whether in Australia or overseas.

4. Principles

4.1. Governance

a) Make sustainability an organisational priority – embedding sustainability principles into all University activities.

b) Behave as a socially responsible organisation and ensure that our activities have a positive impact on the communities in which we operate.

c) Ensure our supply chains and partnerships meet fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.
d) Be transparent in our sustainability journey, regularly monitoring and reporting on our performance to stakeholders.

4.2. Tertiary education

a) Engage students at all levels in learning about relevant sustainability concepts (knowledge, skills and values), identifying issues of importance and taking actions in order to empower them as future leaders in industry and society.

b) Embed sustainability capabilities/competencies within disciplinary and professional contexts and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration.

c) Support academic and teaching staff to develop high levels of discipline relevant sustainability literacy so that they are able (competent and confident) to facilitate sustainability learning.

d) Support our students to drive innovation and sustainable enterprise.

4.3. Impact

a) Adopt a leadership role at a national and international level to shape a sustainable environment and society, contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

b) Enhance RMIT’s research contribution to advance the sustainable development agenda.

c) Make RMIT a living laboratory, encouraging research and learning that engages with internal infrastructure, process and people.

d) Proactively engage in partnerships and projects with industry, government and communities on sustainability.

4.4. Infrastructure and operations

a) Exceed wherever possible, all legislative and regulatory requirements for sustainability and aim to achieve exemplary sustainable practice in all University operations.

b) Minimise the consumption of resources through sustainable procurement, reuse and recycling.

c) Protect and enhance biodiversity, particularly native species.

d) Utilise best-practice sustainable design and innovative technologies to deliver efficient, resilient and adaptable buildings.

e) Ensure that RMIT’s greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and actions enable a transition to a low carbon future, whilst adapting the University to the impacts of climate change.

f) Provide infrastructure and initiatives which encourages the use of sustainable transport modes.

5. Responsibilities

5.1. The RMIT Sustainability Committee will be responsible for oversight and implementation of this policy.

5.2. The performance of this policy is tracked in the Sustainability Annual Report which is prepared in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standard.
6. Review

6.1. The Sustainability Committee is responsible for review of this policy and supporting documents.

7. Definitions

As a signatory to both the UN Global Compact and the Universities Commitment to the Sustainable Development goals (SDSN Australia/New Zealand 2017), RMIT defines sustainability as:

- Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.

For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonise three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected, and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals, societies and ecosystems.

8. Procedures and resources

- Corporate Social Responsibility Framework
- Responsible Investment Principles

Document history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Approval date</th>
<th>Effective date</th>
<th>Summary of changes</th>
<th>Approval authority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>21 March 2012</td>
<td>24 April 2012</td>
<td>New policy</td>
<td>RMIT Council</td>
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<td>1.1</td>
<td>1 April 2019</td>
<td>2 April 2019</td>
<td>Minor amendment and alignment to Policy Governance Framework</td>
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See also

- RMIT Values - Sustainability [www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-values/sustainability](http://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-values/sustainability)
- RMIT Graduate Attributes [https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/teaching-supporting-students/teaching-at-rmit/program-design-and-delivery/graduate-attributes](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/teaching-supporting-students/teaching-at-rmit/program-design-and-delivery/graduate-attributes)