



UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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¹ This document has been translated from Swedish into English. If the English version differs from the original, the Swedish version takes precedence.



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1. Description

This Environmental and Sustainability Policy describes the main focus for the University's employees and students with regard to considering the environment and sustainable development within the University's operations. Through this policy, the University ultimately aims to contribute towards achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals in Agenda 2030 and society's climate goals.

2. Background

Umeå University's Environmental and Sustainability Policy provides overall guidance, and is the basis for the direction of the University's environmental and sustainability work.

A new environmental review was carried out in spring 2024, and a new Action plan for climate and sustainability has been approved. This action plan includes two new overall targets, as well as broadening several of the previous 13 targets to include social aspects, primarily aspects linked to the University's work for a healthy campus. The revised policy has been established with this in mind.

3. Environmental and Sustainability Policy

With a proactive approach and innovative working methods, Umeå University will work towards a climate-neutral society and achieving the goals in the 2030 Agenda by:

- providing education in a sustainable way that gives students skills and competences that are relevant to their future working lives and their future roles as decision-makers regarding sustainable development, and ensuring that teaching staff have the knowledge and ability to put their subject into a sustainability context;
- carrying out third-cycle research and education that contributes towards increased knowledge of – and for – sustainable development; and
- collaborating with actors within society, taking part in public debate, and disseminating knowledge and good examples of – and for – sustainable development.

In our work, we actively strive for continuous improvements within areas where the University has a significant impact on the environment and sustainable development.

This means that we set requirements for environmental, social and labour law considerations when carrying out purchasing and procurement. It also means that, through innovative, climate-smart solutions and sharing services, we streamline energy consumption and increase the use of existing premises while also enabling a sustainable study and working life, and that our campus outside spaces provide the right conditions for wellbeing, good health and biodiversity. Furthermore, we always strive to ensure opportunities for travel-free meetings, and when travel does take place, this is primarily via public transport and in the most environmentally friendly and safest way possible. By phasing out and substituting chemicals that are harmful to the environment and health, and by reusing equipment and sorting waste at source, we strive to achieve toxin-free cycles and reduced use of natural resources. In our environmental and sustainability work, we make good use of employees' and students' knowledge and commitment.



4. Follow-up

Follow-up takes place through the annual environmental management report for government agencies compiled by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, as well as through the University's annual report, including climate accounts and the University's sustainability report.