

The University of Melbourne Sustainability Charter for Consultation

[draft as at 12 October]

The Earth is a finite environment whose physical systems are tightly interconnected with all life on the planet. Humanity is now in the historic position of changing the global balance of both the physical and biological environments, with unintended consequences.

As a distinguished research and teaching institution, The University of Melbourne has a social responsibility to lead public debate and action towards a sustainable future.

Through knowledge, imagination and action the University will help shape a sustainable planet. The University will be an international exemplar of a fully sustainable community in all of its activities.

The University's commitments are based on six fundamental principles:

- *Leadership*, through example, globally, nationally and locally;
- *Interdisciplinary research*, integrating knowledge from wide-ranging disciplines;
- *Active global citizenship*, for all students and staff;
- *Equity*, in the use of global resources;
- *Transparency and accountability*, in all institutional decision-making and activity; and
- *Action*, urgent if necessary

As committed to in Growing Esteem, this Charter frames sustainability values and principles to be embedded throughout the University's operations, and identifies the commitments required to achieve a sustainable society. In delivering the objectives embodied in the Charter, we will fulfill the aspiration of the University's motto: *postera crescām laude* – we shall grow in the esteem of future generations.

COMMITMENTS

Research underpins the University's contribution to creating positive social change. The University will:

- conduct research that contributes significantly to knowledge and action across the interdisciplinary dimensions of sustainability;
- support researchers across different fields to work collectively on environmental problems; and
- use sustainability principles to guide decisions about research funding, conduct and communication.

Graduates of the University are active, informed citizens who contribute to change for sustainability. The University will:

- offer an education that enables graduates from all disciplines to develop knowledge, values and skills to be societal leaders;
- provide specialist interdisciplinary education in environment and sustainability; and
- develop people who have the skills to create, define and succeed in the future careers and industries of sustainable societies.

The University actively engages with all sectors to drive progress towards a sustainable future. The University will:

- be a leading voice in raising public awareness and advancing and influencing policy discussion and debate;
- work strategically with partners to create innovative solutions to sustainability challenges; and
- engage in ongoing dialogue and collaboration with stakeholders on its environmental impact and performance.

Sustainable practices are embedded in all of the University's operations, modelling innovative ways to maximise social and environmental value. The University will:

- develop and maintain its campuses as living laboratories of sustainable communities;
- lead technological, financial and social innovation through applied sustainability projects;
- instil sustainability principles in procurement decisions, across product life cycles and supply chains; and
- strategically focus investment priorities on sectors and organisations that lead in the delivery of a low carbon and ethically sound future, while ensuring the University's long-term financial position.

The University integrates sustainability principles into its decision-making and the management of the organisation.

The University will:

- build and maintain the planning, decision-making and governance framework required to enact the commitments of this Charter; and
- be consultative, open and accountable in reporting progress towards delivering these commitments.