

## Water Use Policy

<b>Operational Owner:</b>	Head of Sustainability
<b>Executive Owner:</b>	Chief Operating Officer
<b>Effective date:</b>	June 2019
<b>Review date:</b>	January 2025
<b>Related documents:</b>	Sustainable Procurement Policy Energy Policy

### Approval History

Version	Reviewed by	Reason for review	Approved by	Date
1.3	Thomas Parrott	New Policy	Executive Sustainability Steering Group	17/04/2019
1.3	Thomas Parrott	First approval of new policy	Executive Board Estates Committee	05/06/2019
1.4	Thomas Parrott	First approval of new policy (inclusion of equality statement)	Executive Board	25/06/2019
1.5	Andy Chalklin	Minor amendments to update owners and review dates	Andy Chalklin	04/11/2022
1.6	Will Davies	Minor amendments to update owners and review dates	Will Davies	31/10/2023

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 The purpose of this policy is to set out objectives that the University needs to meet in order to reduce its water use, thereby limiting its consumption of a resource under considerable pressure.

### 1.1.2 Scope

1.2.1 The policy applies to all students, staff, consultants and contractors.

### 1.3 Definitions

#### 1.3.1

Greywater Use – Wastewater (excluding sewage) which is most commonly used in flushing toilets to avoid the use of freshwater for this purpose.

Rainwater Harvesting – The collection and storage of rainwater via roof capture and storage tank systems. The water can be re-used in toilet flushing or irrigation.

Whole Life Costing – Often referred to as lifecycle cost analysis. In this context WLC is defined as an assessment of the financial benefit of a particular technology or building component based on its impact on operational costs and not just the up-front capital cost.

## 2. Policy Vision

### 2.1. Global Context – UN Sustainable Development Goals

The University of Surrey has a moral, financial and legislative responsibility to reduce water use through efficient practices. By reducing water use, the University reduces its consumption of a resource that is already coming under considerable pressure.

From a global perspective, there is a lack of clean, accessible water. This risk is clearly represented in the Sustainable Development Goals which were adopted in 2015 and set a series of targets for 2030. These targets address global challenges including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity and peace and justice. There is a goal linking to the conservation and efficient use of water:

- Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.

Sub-objectives of this goal includes target 6.4 'By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity'.

Making progress towards this objectives set out in the policy statement will contribute towards meeting this objective and the associated sub-targets for goal 6.

## **2.2. The 15% reduction target**

This policy establishes a 15% water reduction target on a 2017/18 academic baseline year which should be delivered by the end of the 2020/21 academic year.

The ability to meet the 15% reduction target has been assessed by reviewing the current water reduction projects underway and planned (funded) and the water savings that are likely to result. It has also been reviewed against the University's likely development plans and forecast changes in student numbers.

The target has been set using SMART criteria and is therefore Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound.

## **3. Policy Principles**

The principles underpinning the Water Policy are set out as below. These principles guide the policy statement. The emphasis on these principles will change as the University progresses towards meeting its targets and the policy will be reviewed accordingly to reflect this. New objectives may also be introduced, or existing ones replaced at review.

### **3.1. Monitoring and Measuring Water Use**

Using existing sub-meters, the University will monitor water consumption at the entrance point to site and buildings. Additional sub-meters will be installed where there is a lack of visibility. Major water consuming equipment will also be monitored. By understanding the usage trends and patterns, abnormal usage will be identified including areas suspected of having leaks.

### **3.2. Compliance**

The University will ensure that its operations meet and where practicable, exceed the legislative requirements pertaining to water conservation and management.

### **3.3. Conserving Water**

The University will evaluate water using equipment including washroom facilities and where practicable, replace equipment with water efficient equipment. This is also particularly relevant in halls of residence. For example, ageing washroom/bathroom facilities use considerably more water than modern fittings and in some instances have the facility to be left running. Replacing such fixtures via a targeted programme of work across the University and halls of residence will reduce water use.

### **3.4. Greywater / Rainwater Harvesting**

Where practicable, the University will consider the capture and re-use of water in new buildings via systems of greywater and rainwater harvesting. The systems will be evaluated on a whole life costing basis which also considers the carbon cost of pumping water from collection tanks.

### **3.5. Building and Maintenance Standards**

The University's development plans mean the construction and refurbishment of buildings across the estate. In the construction of new buildings it is essential that the best standards of water efficiency are pursued to minimise water use and associated costs over the operational lifetime. This process begins at the project inception in the assessment of proposed water reduction technologies.

Good standards of maintenance are fundamental to reducing water use on site. The importance of repairing leaks as they are identified cannot be understated due to the cumulative effect of this water use. Maintenance teams frequently visit back of house areas and are therefore crucial in identifying leaks which would otherwise go unnoticed.

### **3.6. Procurement**

The University will establish procedures for assessing the water efficiency of new equipment. This will require a cross-department approach working with procurement teams.

### **3.7. Engagement and Collaboration**

Key to success in reducing water use is the engagement with both staff and students across the University. On a day-to-day basis, staff and students influence water use. The University will establish behavioural change campaigns for staff and students to educate and empower them to take action in reducing water use.

Collaboration will also follow in the form of supporting student and academic projects by providing water data and where required, expertise whilst facilitating the implementation of onsite-demonstrator projects. This will enhance the University's research bids by providing on-site projects whilst contributing to an increased chance of research success.

## **4. Policy Statement**

- 4.1.** University of Surrey recognises that many aspects of its operations use water and is therefore committed to reducing water use and promoting water efficiency. In 2017/18, the University used 420,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water. The University has set a target of a 15% reduction in water use to be delivered by the end of the 2020/21 academic year. All staff, students, consultants and contractors are expected to collaborate to deliver water consumption reductions and efficiencies.

University of Surrey is committed to providing adequate resources to meet the following objectives across all UoS sites:

1. Monitor and measure water consumption and identify significant and abnormal water use including leaks
2. Meet and where possible exceed all relevant legal requirements
3. Improve the water efficiency of existing buildings and facilities with a targeted capital programme of works
4. Investigate and develop opportunities for rainwater / grey water harvesting based on a whole life costing approach

5. Minimise the use of water through best practice maintenance & cleaning routines
6. Achieve the highest practicable water efficiency standards in the development of the Estate; with a BREEAM rating of 'Very Good' as a minimum for new builds with an aspiration of 'Excellent'
7. Integrate a whole-life costings approach in assessing the value for money of building and construction specifications against operational water savings
8. Introduce standards for low water consumption equipment as part of procurement processes
9. Engage with University of Surrey students and staff to inspire them to take actions to reduce water consumption
10. Collaborate with University of Surrey academics on water efficiency research projects
11. Communicate with staff and students to encourage water saving behaviour

Progress against the 2020/21 target will be reported on a quarterly basis to the Estates Board Executive Committee.

## **5. Governance Requirements**

### **5.1. Implementation / Communication Plan**

The draft was circulated at the Executive Sustainability Steering Group as well as Head of Departments whose activities will be directly affected by the policy objectives. The Executive Sustainability Steering Group includes members from both academic and professional services at head of department and director level as well as student representation from The Union and People and Planet society.

The policy will be communicated both internally and externally. The policy will be communicated on the University's external facing website as part of the existing policy library. Staff will be made aware of the policy in the University's induction programme as part of a new sustainability module.

The launch of the policies will be communicated on the My Surrey and Surreynet platforms.

### **5.2. Exceptions to this Policy**

5.2.1. There are no exceptions to this policy.

### **5.3. Review and Change Requests**

5.3.1. This policy will be reviewed on a 2 yearly basis. The policy will be submitted to the Executive Sustainability Steering Group and the EB Estate Committee and Executive Board for renewal.

Minor interim changes such as changes to rhetoric or minor amendments to objectives will be managed by the Operational Owner with the approval of the ESSG.

Major changes to the policy including the meaning, nature or substantial changes to the statement objectives will be managed by the Operational Owner, with agreement from the

Executive Owner, approval of the ESSG, EBEC and the Executive Board.

#### **5.4. Reporting**

Performance against the target established in this policy will be monitored on a monthly basis by the Sustainability Team. The outcome will be reported to the following boards by the Head of Energy & Sustainability at the following frequencies as part of the overall Sustainability Report.

- Estates Board Executive Committee – 3 Monthly
- Executive Board – 6 Monthly
- In the University Annual Report – Annually

### **6. Stakeholder Statement and Consultation**

#### **6.1. Mandatory**

##### **6.1.1. Health & Safety**

The Director of Health & Safety has reviewed this document and is satisfied with the content

##### **6.1.2. Equality**

The University is strongly committed to equality of opportunity and the promotion of diversity for the benefit of all members of the University community. The University's approach is to promote equality across the full range of its activities, in employment, teaching and learning and as a partner working with and within local, national and international communities. Equality Analysis is a process which examines how the impact of the policy has been considered on the diverse characteristics and needs of everyone it affects. This policy has been reviewed and no negative impact on equality has been identified.

In the communication of the policy, a full range of media and techniques will be used to promote inclusion. This is essential so as not to discriminate against any particular member of the University community who may not be able to access or use media in a particular format.

#### **6.2. Other Relevant Consultation**

The policy was approved by the members of the Executive Sustainability Steering Group on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The group comprises senior academic and professional service staff from across the University.

A formal stakeholder consultation has been undertaken with key parties likely to be affected by the recommendations of this policy. This consultation captured Directors and Heads of department that sit outside of the ESSG group. This included the Director of Estates, Director of Procurement, Deputy Director of Capital Projects, Head of Facilities and Maintenance and others.

### **7. Legislative context**

**7.1.** Objective 3 states that the University will meet and where possible, exceed all relevant legal requirements. Examples of the water related legislation that the University must comply with are set out below. This list is not exhaustive and a full register is held in the Estates, Facilities and Commercial Services department.

Water Industry Act 1991

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations SI 2016/1154

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations SI 2016/1154

Anti-Pollution Works Regulations SI 1999/1006

Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations SI 1999/1148

Water Resources Act 1991



## UNIVERSITY OF SURREY WATER POLICY

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