

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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Applicability:	Bond University Staff, Volunteers and Students
Policy Owner	Director, Facilities Management
Contact Person:	Director, Facilities Management
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Related policies:	

1. OVERVIEW

As Australia's first private non-profit university, Bond University seeks to be recognised internationally as a leading independent university, imbued with a spirit to innovate, a commitment to influence and a dedication to inspire tomorrow's professionals who share a personalised and transformational student experience.

Bond University values:

- Respect and concern for our students and colleagues
- Truth, inquiry and the pursuit of advanced knowledge
- Excellence in everything we do and pride in achievements
- Effective collaboration and teamwork
- Accountability for performance, actions, and learning
- Productive engagement between students and staff

In line with its mission and values, Bond University acknowledges that it is accountable for its environmental actions, performance and learning and supports the concept and practice of [sustainability](#).

Bond University aims to achieve this outcome by establishing policies and practices of natural resource conservation, [waste](#) reduction (see [Waste Management Procedures](#)) and pollution prevention throughout its operations.

This Policy details Bond University's commitment to sustainability and establishes a framework of procedures that will allow the University to fulfil its commitments.

2. THE POLICY

This Policy applies to all Bond University practices including:

- Teaching;
- Research;
- Development and maintenance of the Bond University infrastructure and services;
- Associated administrative and operational support functions;
- Engagement and participation of the Bond University community.
- Engagement with the broader community.

2.1. Commitments

To fulfil its commitment to sustainability, Bond University will:

- 2.1.1. Introduce practices aimed at developing and promoting an institutional culture of environmental awareness and responsibility across the Bond University community;

- 2.1.2. Identify and comply with applicable environmental legislation, regulations; obligations as well as any other environmental commitments to which Bond University subscribes;
- 2.1.3. Establish practices for reducing or preventing waste and emissions wherever possible;
- 2.1.4. Consider, where relevant, sustainability in the decision-making process when purchasing goods and designing and maintaining facilities;
- 2.1.5. Where required, provide the necessary resources to fulfil these commitments.

3. DEFINITIONS

Sustainability Sustainability (also known as sustainable development) was defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) as:

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

Waste Waste includes anything that is (a) left over, or an unwanted by-product, from an industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity; or (b) surplus to the industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity generating the waste. A thing can be waste whether or not it is of value.

4. RELATED PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES, AND FORMS

[Waste Management Procedures](#)

WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Waste Management Hierarchy

To fulfil its commitment to sustainability, all waste produced by Bond University shall be managed in accordance with the Waste Management Hierarchy.

The Waste Management Hierarchy lists waste management practices in the preferred order of adoption:

- Waste avoidance
- Waste re-use
- Waste recycling
- Energy recovery from waste
- Waste disposal

Definition of Waste

Waste includes anything that is (a) left over, or an unwanted by-product, from an industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity; or (b) surplus to the industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity generating the waste. A thing can be waste whether or not it is of value.

Waste Avoidance

Waste avoidance is preventing the generation of waste or reducing the amount of waste generated. Examples of practices for achieving waste avoidance:

- input substitution
- increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water or land
- process redesign
- product redesign
- improved maintenance and operation of equipment
- closed-loop recycling

The Bond University Procurement Policy will assist Bond University to avoid waste by preferring goods and services that minimise waste.

Waste Re-Use

Waste re-use involves using waste again, without first substantially changing its form. Examples of re-using waste include:

- recovering solvents, metals, oil, or components or contaminants
- from catalysts and re-using them for a secondary purpose
- applying waste to land in a way that gives agricultural and ecological benefits
- substituting waste for virgin material in a production process

Waste Recycling

Waste recycling is defined as treating waste that is no longer useable in its present form and using it to produce new products. An example of waste recycling is the production of plastic bollards from two litre milk bottles.

Energy Recovering from Waste

Recovering and using energy generated from waste may involve, for example, burning waste or using excess heat to heat water in an industrial process.

Waste Disposal

Waste disposal involves disposing of waste, or treating and disposing of waste, in a way that causes the least harm to the environment. Examples of treatment before disposal include:

- employing a bio-treatment to degrade material into a compound or mixture
- employing a physical-chemical treatment (for example, evaporation, drying, calcination, catalytic processing, neutralisation, precipitation or encapsulation) to obtain a compound or mixture
- blending or mixing waste to obtain a compound or mixture
- storing or repackaging waste
- employing thermal processes, to convert waste into a non-hazardous material

Examples of disposal:

- disposal to a landfill
- destroying thermally without recovering heat or another secondary product.