



# Sustainability Plan

## Call for Engagement |

A briefing paper on the participation process

# Our Aim

*“As a distinguished research and teaching institution, the University of Melbourne has a social responsibility to lead and engage in public debate and action.*

*Through knowledge, imagination and action the University will help shape a sustainable planet and will be an international exemplar of an ecologically sustainable community.”*

*Sustainability Charter, released March 2016*



## What is the Sustainability Plan?

- The Sustainability Plan will realise the values in the Sustainability Charter
- It will run from 2016-2020
- The Plan will outline priority goals and actions based on engagement with the staff and student community
- Metrics, targets and a reporting framework will be ensure progress and transparency.



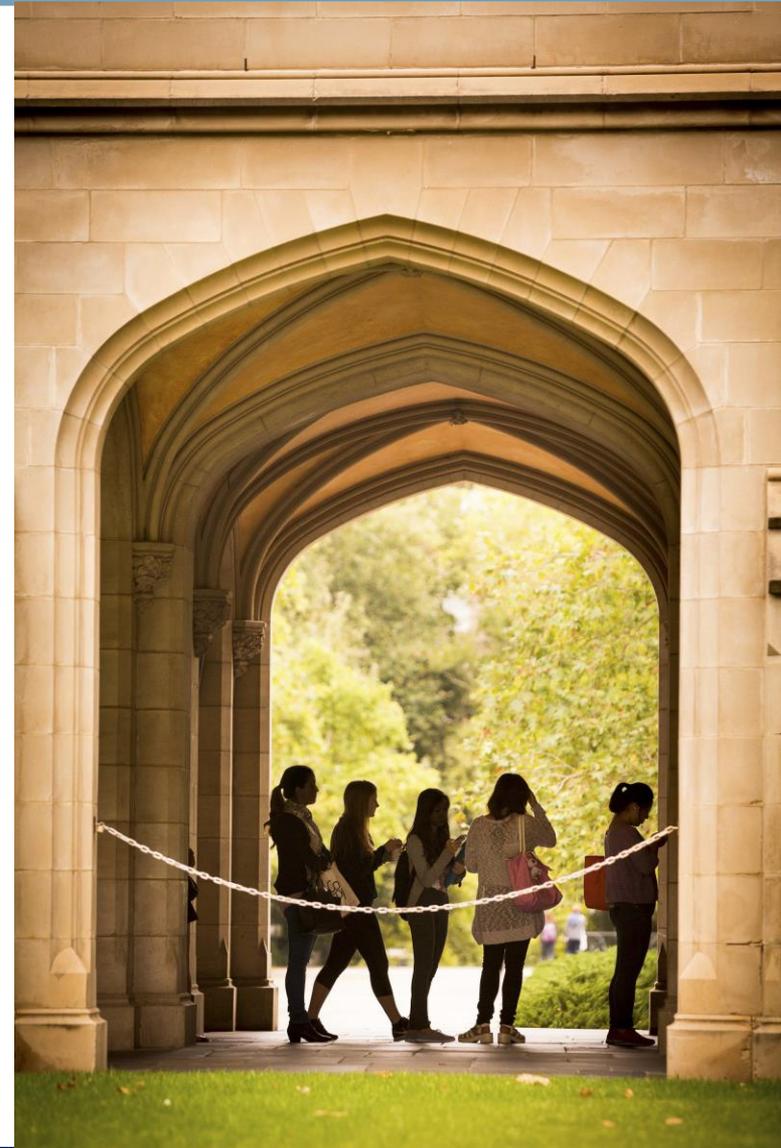


## Why is it important?

Growing Esteem commits to being “recognised as a leader in embedding sustainability in all aspects of the University’s operations, teaching and learning, research and engagement.”

### Our values

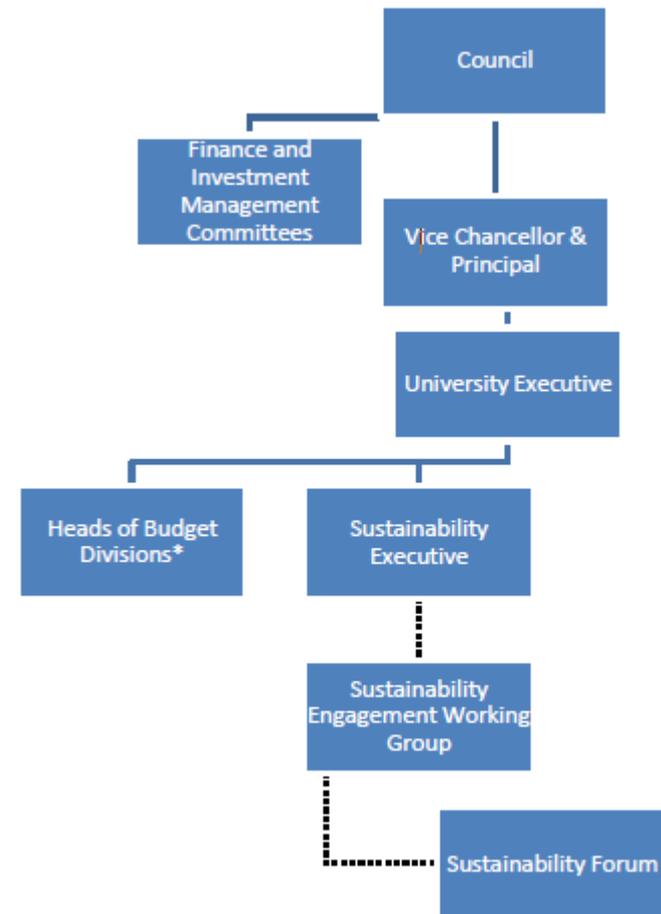
- demonstrate leadership, globally, nationally and locally
- generate interdisciplinary knowledge to underpin community action
- enable active global citizenship for all students and staff
- recognise the past and future contribution of Australian Indigenous peoples to custodianship of the environment
- promote equity in the use of global resources, and
- ensure transparency and accountability in all institutional activities.





## Who is responsible?

- The Sustainability Executive is leading the development of the Plan
- It is chaired by the University's Chief Financial Officer
- The Sustainability Executive includes academics, professional staff members and students who are both passionate about this subject and experts in their field
- It reports to the University Executive.





## Call for engagement

- We call for staff and students to co-design the Plan
- This is an open conversation about how the University can be a thought leader and drive action in sustainability
- This is your Plan and we need your help to advance the University's sustainability performance and achieve its goals.



## How can I get involved?

The participation process will run from April until end August.

The Plan will then be launched at end October.

There are many ways to contribute your ideas:

- Online
- Series of public events and forums
- Interactive workshops
- Student-run surveys.





## Potential themes for feedback

### Research

How can sustainability inform what and how we research?

What can we do to advance sustainability through research?

### Teaching & Learning

How can our learning programs support sustainability?

What activities can support our students to be active and informed global citizens?

### Engagement

How can we engage with the wider community to improve our sustainability performance and drive positive change?

What are the most important ways to engage?

### Operations

How can we model innovative ways to maximise social and environmental value?

What are the priority areas of our operations that should be elevated in the Plan?

### Governance

What actions will embed sustainability in how we organise and run the University?

What governance structures will support the University to be sustainable?



## Sustainability Charter Commitments: Research

Research underpins the University's contribution to creating a sustainable world.

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.

### Research Key Questions

How can sustainability inform what and how we research?

What can we do to advance sustainability through research?

How can the University be a thought leader in the research of sustainability?

What should be our headline sustainability research goals?



## Sustainability Charter Commitments: Teaching & Learning

The teaching and learning programs of the University inspire and support students to be leaders for a sustainable future.

The University will:

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

### Teaching & Learning Key Questions

How can the University be a thought leader in the teaching & learning of sustainability?

How can teaching & learning facilitate the University becoming a fully sustainable community?

What should be our headline sustainability teaching & learning goals?



## Sustainability Charter Commitments: Engagement

The University's staff and students actively engage with all sectors to drive progress towards sustainability.

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 the community on the University's environmental impact and performance.

### Engagement Key Questions

How can we engage with the wider community to improve our sustainability performance and drive positive change?

What are the most important ways to engage?

How can the University be an engagement thought leader in sustainability?

How can engagement facilitate the University becoming a fully sustainable community?

What should be our headline sustainability engagement goals?

E-mail your feedback to [sustainability-plan@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sustainability-plan@unimelb.edu.au)



## Sustainability Charter Commitments: Operations

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
- implement investment strategies consistent with the University's commitment to sustainability and its financial and legal responsibilities.

### Operations Key Questions

How can we model innovative ways to maximise social and environmental value?

What are the priority areas of our operations that should be elevated in the Plan?



## Sustainability Charter Commitments: Governance

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
- involve the University community in decision-making and ensure transparent reporting on progress towards delivering these commitments.

### Governance Key Questions

What actions will embed sustainability in how we organise and run the University?

What governance structures will support the University to be sustainable?

What should be our headline sustainability goals on governance?



## Give us your ideas!

We would like your thoughts on three key questions:



E-mail your feedback to [sustainability-plan@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sustainability-plan@unimelb.edu.au)



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