Cardiff University – Corporate Social Responsibility Policy

Cardiff University pursues the principles of corporate social responsibility and sustainable development both in its engagement with external stakeholders and in the management of its internal operations. This is reflected in the key aims of the University’s Innovation and Engagement Strategy, that

"Cardiff University aims to benefit society through making a significant and sustainable contribution to health, economy, education and culture."

As a responsible University, we believe that the long-term future of the University is best served by respecting the interests of all our stakeholders: students, staff, customers, patients, suppliers and the wider community. We look actively for opportunities to improve the environment and to contribute to the wellbeing of the communities in which we operate. We currently work within the 26001 guidance within our Environmental Management Systems which provides a suitable framework for corporate social responsibility which aligns to both 14001 and 18001 which the University subscribes to. We are currently working towards the 26001 framework for Corporate Social Responsibility which aligns to our accredited integrated health, safety and environmental management system (ISO14001 and BS OSHAS18001). This CSR policy sets out the principles we follow and the programmes we have developed to focus on the areas where we have significant impact or influence. This is with the aim to display social and environmental awareness alongside expansion, which is in line with our principles and programmes.

Principles

Honesty and Accountability

We aim to develop and implement social and environmental policies which fit in with the University’s everyday activities and responsibilities and displaying a consistently transparent operation throughout. We will communicate our environmental policies, objectives and performance openly and honestly to our students and staff and to others with an interest in our activities, including customers and suppliers. We will encourage them to communicate with us and will seek their views. Furthermore, we will also commit and show compliance to honest advertising and our educational responsibilities as an institution.

Sustainable Progress

We are committed to improving our performance. We will take into account technical developments, changing scientific evidence, costs and customer concerns and expectations in the development and implementation of all new social and environmental policies and procedures. We will monitor our performance, set objectives for improvements and report our progress.
Demonstrable Compliance

As a minimum, we will meet, or exceed, all relevant legislation. Where no legislation exists we will seek to develop and implement our own appropriate standards.

Programmes

Sustainable Development

We will take all reasonable steps to manage our operations so as to minimise our environmental impact and to promote good environmental practice. We will demonstrate this by:

- Reviewing our Environmental Policies every year.
- Improving our standing in the annual People and Planet Green league.
- Demonstrate our commitment to ethical banking and ethical investment.
- Controlling our carbon emissions through our carbon management plan.
- Working to implement sustainable development in to the curriculum of every course.
- Continuing to reduce our waste sent to landfill.
- Continuing to comply with BREEAM excellent standards and review environmental impacts of all new builds.
- Undertaking the annual “Live Greener programme” including Green Impact awards to engage with staff and students.
- Carrying out the annual Sustainability Week.
- Supporting our ECO network to promote and encourage energy saving actions.
- Actively encouraging and promoting sustainable transport options for staff.
- Continue to support and provide local and Fairtrade produce in our shops and refractory’s.

Communities

We will build relationships with our members, customers, suppliers and the local communities we are part of by encouraging our partners to consider the needs of others and involve themselves in public service. We will obtain a wide range of views on our social and environmental policies and performance. We will encourage our staff and members to actively and positively contribute to the Welsh and local community.

We will demonstrate this by:

- Continuing support for local third sector organisations.
- Work with South Wales Police and Cardiff City Council to positively impact on the community.
- We will report our activities in our impact report.

Staff
We will respect our Staff and encourage their development and training. We will promote equality as differences in responsibilities permit and consider the interests of our Staff, including their welfare and health and safety. We aim to empower our Staff and we will recognise individual contributions and reward our Staff fairly. Our ultimate aim is the happiness of our staff through their worthwhile and satisfying employment in a successful business.

**Relationships**

We will conduct our business relationships with integrity and courtesy and honour our trading commitments. Our aim is to build long-term relationships with our suppliers. We are committed to trading fairly with all our suppliers and will communicate our responsible sourcing expectations to them.