Sustainability Policy 2000

The University of Edinburgh identifies **sustainable development** as development *"meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"*. **Sustainability** is a process of ensuring the wise use of all resources within a framework in which **environmental**, **social** and **economic** factors are integrated. The University is committed to placing sustainability at the heart of its mission:-

- ♦ making sustainability integral to the delivery of research, teaching and operational objectives;
- ♦ taking positive actions promoting continual environmental improvement; and
- ♦ setting and achieving clearly defined sustainable development objectives and targets.

The University seeks to build on its Environmental Policy of 1993 and undertakes to:

1. Make sustainability a corporate priority

- Encourage students and staff to incorporate informed sustainability perspectives within their work
- Develop the capacities of academic staff to promote understanding of the principles of sustainability.

2. Develop and deliver appropriate teaching and research

- Expose all students to concepts of social, ecological and ethical stewardship
- Support and encourage interdisciplinary research into issues of sustainable development.

3. Take a leadership role in sustainability

- Set best practice standards, meet or surpass requirements of environmental legislation and commit to a process of continual environmental improvement
- Promote awareness of all legislative, economic, technical and market developments that assist progress towards sustainability
- Establish an Advisory Group to oversee implementation of this policy and associated programmes.

4. Contribute to stable community building

- Build partnerships and create local information and learning networks for sharing experiences and knowledge of sustainability issues with all stakeholders
- Operate in ways that maximise social and economic benefit while minimising any adverse impacts to the local community
- Invest in staff development, value stakeholder involvement and promote social inclusion and equity.

5. Maintain and develop the University in a sustainable manner

- Promote continual improvement in maintenance practices and establish sustainability guidelines for internal and external design teams and contractors working on new build and refurbishment projects
- Develop procurement procedures with all elements of the supply chain to ensure social, ethical and environmental criteria are integrated into programmes aimed at achieving best value
- Maximise the efficient use of energy and materials, continually improve pollution prevention measures and increase use of renewable resources
- Minimise waste generation in research and teaching activity and encourage repair, reuse and recycling ahead of the responsible disposal of surplus materials
- Promote practical measures to reduce the impact of travel to and between university sites.

6. Monitor and report on progress towards sustainability

- Manage responsibly the social, environmental and economic impacts of all University policies and practices and assess potential improvements within the University's decision-making processes
- Conduct reviews of all University policies, management performance standards and operations against internal sustainability targets and best practice standards
- Make the results of social, environmental and sustainability audits and impact assessments carried out by or for the University available to all stakeholders.

This policy was adopted by University Court 5th June 2000   K:\ENV\Environment\SustainabilityPolicy#Final.doc