

**UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**Mission**

The University of Nevada, Reno is a constitutionally established, land-grant university serving the students and citizens of Nevada since its founding in 1874. The university offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs which emphasize those programs and activities which best serve the needs of the state, region and nation.

“In performing its mission the university seeks to contribute to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge that will help to improve society. Environmental issues dominate the public consciousness and are key to the future of our region. Educating students and the public about the environment is an essential manifestation of the western land-grant mission in the 21st century and will be a focus at this university.” –University of Nevada President John Lilley, 2002.

To educate the students of the university in how best to work with our environment, it is important to institute environmentally responsible procedures in all campus activities. This entails building a culture of environmental responsibility that educates students whenever they are on campus, including not only curriculum changes, but changes in energy use, purchasing, recycling, waste disposal and capital investment. Furthermore, the university strives to conduct its affairs in a manner that safeguards the environmental health and safety of students, faculty, staff and our local community.

**POLICY AREAS**

**Curriculum**

The university encourages the faculty to take steps to incorporate environmental content throughout existing curriculum, increasing environment-related course offerings and research, and to seek more resources to dedicate to environmental research. The faculty is also encouraged to utilize environmental practices in the classroom.

**Natural Features**

The university will strive to protect, restore and enhance natural features, biological diversity, and ecological processes on campus.

**Energy**

The university will strive to minimize energy consumption in accordance with the State Energy Plan, reduce emissions and reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and other non-renewable energy sources.

**Water Consumption**

As we live in an arid environment, the university will strive to minimize the use of water both in its buildings as well as in future landscape design and in maintenance of current landscaping. Efforts will be made to use the best available technology to minimize the use of water, encourage the use of reclaimed water and prevent the wasting of water.

### Transportation

The university will strive to reduce vehicle emissions and to minimize energy consumption and the use of fossil fuels for transportation. To this end, we will encourage use of alternative fuels, alternative transportation, acquisition of fuel-efficient and low emissions vehicles and incorporate strategies in campus master planning to enable efficient transportation systems.

### Hazardous Materials

The university will strive to limit and monitor the use of hazardous materials on campus grounds, in cleaning and in laboratories. Hazardous waste that is generated should be treated, collected and disposed of properly and all efforts will be made to minimize generation of hazardous waste.

### Solid Waste

The university will strive to minimize solid waste production and make reasonable accommodations to divert solid waste to appropriate recycling or composting programs. The university will strive to establish and maintain a campus-wide recycling program, supervised by a Recycling Coordinator.

### Buildings

The university will strive to minimize the ecological impact of the demolition, construction, renovation, maintenance and operation of campus buildings. As new buildings are designed, it will be a priority of the university to incorporate Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) principles, in accordance with the university's Sustainable Building Policy.

### Life Cycle Cost Analysis

Life Cycle Cost Analysis is an inclusive approach to costing a program, facility, or group of facilities that encompasses planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance over the useful life of the facilities and finally any decommissioning or disassembly costs. Life Cycle Cost Analysis considers the net present value of design options as investments. The goal is to achieve the highest, most cost-effective environmental performance possible over the life of the project. Nevada Revised Statutes 338.190 sets the requirements for Life Cycle Cost Analysis that must be performed prior to construction or renovation.

### Indoor Environmental Quality

The university will strive to promote healthy indoor environments and to support the selection and use of materials and products that minimize off gassing of chemicals and other pollutants.

### Purchasing

The university will strive to minimize the ecological impact of the products purchased in support of campus operations and to seek fiscally viable alternatives for any products that are environmentally detrimental. In general, the university will strive to purchase products that include post-consumer recycled content, products that are durable, products that are amenable to repair and products that can be recycled after they are no longer useful.

### **Oversight and Implementation**

An Environmental Policy requires implementation, regular monitoring and continuous evaluation to be effective. As a means to accomplish these goals and achieve campus participation, an Energy and Environment Committee has been established, with the ongoing charge to :

- educate the members of the university community on environmental issues.
- recommend amendments to the Environmental Policy and other university policies.
- develop an implementation plan for this and related policies
- propose adoption of financial incentives to encourage environmentally responsible management and decision-making.
- monitor financial effectiveness of the operation of this and related policies.
- maintain a list of university-based research projects performed on environmental and energy related topics being conducted on campus?.
- recommend that the university seek private gifts to support specific environmental and energy saving projects.
- conduct an annual audit to assess the progress being made toward these goals.
- report the annual audit results and all other significant information to the Provost and the President.

The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) shall be comprised of the following members:

- Vice President for Administration & Finance
- o Representing Facilities, Purchasing, Campus Planning
- Executive Director of the University of Nevada, Reno Academy for the Environment
- Faculty member appointed by the Faculty Senate
- One student appointed by ASUN
- One student appointed by GSA
- One community representative selected by the committee
- Environmental Affairs Manager (ex-officio)

The chairmanship of the committee shall be determined internally by the membership of the EEC.