



Regents Policy Chapter 4, Planning
Regents Policy RP 4.208, Sustainability Policy
Effective Date: May 21, 2015
Review Date: August 2017

I. Purpose

To set forth policy reflecting the university's leadership role in developing goals, metrics, and plans to implement a comprehensive sustainability program.

II. Definitions:

As used in this policy, sustainability means serving the needs of the present without jeopardizing the needs of the future.

III. Policy:

- A. Within its unique geographical location, the university will serve as a leader in how it stewards the resources of the islands and the world for the benefit of all. The university shall be a global leader and model for the integration of sustainability throughout its teaching, research, operations, and public service. The university recognizes that an important knowledge base in sustainable island systems resides in the indigenous people of Hawai'i and all those for whom Hawai'i is home. The university commits to consult with local cultural practitioners and sustainability experts on best practices in sustainable resource allocation and use for the well-being of our communities, our state, and the world. Critical resources include energy, food, water, land, sea, and space as they are integrated with the relationships of family, culture, community, justice, work, and economy in the present and future.
- B. The University of Hawai'i System shall develop goals, metrics, and plans that include five key areas of the comprehensive sustainability program, and shall report its progress to the Board of Regents on an annual basis:
 1. Operations. The university is committed to continuous improvement in reducing its negative environmental impact and becoming ecologically restorative in buildings, climate, food systems, energy, grounds, purchasing, transportation, waste, and water. Among other things, the university shall:

- a. Establish an Office of Sustainability within the Office of the Vice President for Administration to ensure that sustainability is incorporated into planning, budgeting, and decision-making throughout the institution.
 - b. Develop an energy-management system and commit to minimizing greenhouse emissions and becoming carbon neutral by 2050. Reduce fossil fuel-sourced energy through increased efficiency and use of renewable energy sources to meet or exceed the following energy reduction and renewable targets relative to a 2008 baseline: 10% by 2020; 20% by 2025; 30% by 2030; and 40% by 2035.
 - c. Ensure that all new construction and major renovations will achieve a minimum of LEED “Silver” designation, and will strive for LEED “Gold.”
 - d. Establish metrics and reporting mechanisms to track solid waste reduction, water conservation, fuel efficiency, and sustainable food service practices.
 - e. Establish a Green Purchasing Policy, support imparting a Hawaiian Sense of Place on all campuses, and policies and programs for optional modes of transportation and bicycle and pedestrian-friendly campuses and communities.
2. Curriculum. The university will encourage, facilitate and support curriculum development that advances the principles of sustainability, and enable cross-campus collaborations that integrate teaching and research with solutions at the campus and community levels.
 3. Research & Scholarship. The university will encourage, facilitate and support basic and applied research initiatives that advance the principles of sustainability and enable cross-campus collaborations that integrate teaching and research with solutions at the campus, community and global levels
 4. Campus & Community Engagement. The university is committed to the engagement of students, faculty, staff, and the local community across disciplines to prioritize and implement sustainable practices. The classroom, the campus, and the community comprise an interconnected educational environment.
 5. Cultural Connections. Recognizing the unique and respected Hawaiian host culture, the geographic remoteness of the islands, and the rich diversity of cultures in Hawai‘i, the university will create a sustainable living and learning environment that honors its cultural foundation and addresses the challenges and opportunities of its location. The university will proactively form working

relationships with external partners to understand community, workforce and business needs, to bring higher education, research and service outreach value to the community, and to help shape economic structures, employment opportunities and integrated, 21st Century sustainable solutions for Hawai'i, the region and beyond.

IV. Delegation of Authority:

The president is delegated the authority to promulgate executive policy and shall report annually to the Board of Regents on progress made in reaching goals, metrics, and plans that include the five key areas outlined in the Board of Regents policy for a comprehensive sustainability program.

V. Contact Information:

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VI. References:

- <http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/>

Approved as to Form:

Cynthia Quinn
Executive Administrator and
Secretary of the Board of Regents

Date