

University of Oregon Policy Library

Environmental Policy

Last Updated: 04/04/2014

Effective Date: 07/01/1997

Responsible University Office And Contact Person

[Office of Sustainability \(http://sustainability.uoregon.edu/\)](http://sustainability.uoregon.edu/)

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Preamble:

The University of Oregon recognizes global climate change, ecosystem degradation, and loss of biodiversity as major environmental challenges. As established in its mission statement, "The University of Oregon strives to enrich the public that sustains it through the acceptance of the challenge of an evolving social, political and technological environment by welcoming and guiding change." Enacting and implementing an environmental policy will be a positive example and play a significant role in the advancement of environmental stewardship on the campus and in the local and greater community.

Reason for Policy:

To guide the institution's environmental plans, procedures, and practices.

Policy Statement:

The University is committed to environmental stewardship, compliance with the law, and promoting a healthy environment for current and future generations.

Guiding Principles:

I. Planning and Design: The university will endeavor to minimize environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of campus buildings and grounds through careful attention to environmental performance standards in design and construction.

II. Operations and Maintenance:

The university will implement conservation and efficiency strategies that reduce consumption of energy, water, and other resources without compromising high quality learning environments.

III. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The university will monitor, report, and strive to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

IV. Transportation: The university will support alternatives to commuting by single occupancy vehicles and encourage students, employees and guests to use alternatives that minimize environmental impact.

V. Purchasing: The university will strive to obtain "best value" by balancing, as both appropriate and permissible, life cycle costs and social and environmental impacts when purchasing goods and services. Where both appropriate and permissible, the university will write specific purchasing policies to guide decision--making on frequently purchased items.

VI. Materials Management: The university will establish and maintain programs that minimize solid waste (including food waste) through reduction, reuse, and recycling.

VII. Hazardous Materials Management: The university will minimize the use of hazardous materials when possible while recognizing the necessity of some hazardous materials for research, teaching, and operations. The university supports environmentally responsible management and disposal of hazardous material.

Procedures:

Implementation:

The university administration will charge appropriate units with responsibility to integrate these principles into policies, plans, programs, procedures, and practices. The

Office of Sustainability should make relevant documents publicly available.

Reporting:

At least once every three years The Office of Sustainability should make available a public report on the implementation of the Environmental Comprehensive Policy.

The Office of Sustainability has responsibility for monitoring and recommending changes to this policy in consultation with the Environmental Issues Committee.

Who is Governed by this Policy:

University of Oregon faculty, staff, officers of administration, and students.

Who Should Know This Policy:

University of Oregon faculty, staff, officers of administration, and students.

Reviewed and Approved By:

Council of Deans, Faculty Advisory Council, President's Small Executive Staff

Date: 07/01/1997

Issued by:

Vice-President for Administration

Date: 07/01/1997

Revision History:

7/1/1997 – Reviewed and approved by Council of Deans, Faculty Advisory Council, President's Small Executive Staff

10/02/08/2010 Policy number revised from 4.100 to 01.00.135/2013 – Policy revision was submitted to Senate for review.

10/30/2013 – Senate Executive Committee determined that full Senate review on policy revision was necessary

3/12/2014 – Approved by UO Senate

4/4/2014 – Approved by UO President, Michael Gottfredson [[signed document](#)

([/sites/policies.uoregon.edu/files/uploads/Environmental%20Final%20signed%204-4-14_0.pdf](http://sites.policies.uoregon.edu/files/uploads/Environmental%20Final%20signed%204-4-14_0.pdf))]

Original Source:

UO Policy Statement

An equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request.

Contact Us

Office of the Secretary

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UO is deeply committed to diversity and inclusion and affirms and actively promotes the rights of all individuals to equal opportunity in education and employment at this institution. UO does not tolerate any type of prohibited discrimination in any of its programs or activities, including employment. Further, it is required by Title IX and other applicable laws not to discriminate on the basis of sex. Questions regarding prohibited discrimination, including questions regarding Title IX, may be referred to the University of Oregon's Title IX Coordinator or to the Office for Civil Rights. Title IX Coordinator Penny Daugherty, at 541-346-3123 and titleixcoordinator@uoregon.edu, located at 677 E. 12th Ave., Eugene, OR 97403. U.S. Department of Education, Western Region, Office for Civil Rights, at 206-607-1600 and ocr.seattle@ed.gov.