



Water Management Policy Statement

CU-ENV-POL-03
Version 2.0
Approval date: Jan 2024

Policy Statement

Cranfield University is committed to achieving net zero carbon by 2030 along with a 50% reduction in water usage on its estate¹ from a 2010 baseline. We recognise that many aspects of our operations use water. We are therefore committed to reducing water use, promoting water efficiency and considering water re-use measures through education and research, our operations and our ambitions. All staff, students, consultants and contractors are expected to collaborate to deliver water consumption reductions and efficiencies.

Context

The UK could face serious water shortages within the next 25 years as our population grows, and climate change brings hotter, drier summers. Without positive action on increasing supply, demand reduction and a significant reduction in wastage, the UK could see future supply deficits across the entire country or focused on specific regions.

Environmental sustainability and climate change are amongst the greatest issues facing societies globally in the twenty first century: Addressing this challenge is a major focus of Cranfield's research and teaching activities and a key responsibility for the staff, students, and governors of the University. In 2022, we signed the Sustainable Development Goals Accord, which committed us to combating poverty, water and food shortages, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and promoting peace and justice. We also created a new Vision, to become a globally valued university for sustainability through our education, research and operations; and launched a new Corporate Plan, [Ambition 2027, creating impact together](#) with sustainability running throughout it. We are measuring our sustainability success through participation in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking which looks at progress against the UN Sustainability Development Goals.

Approach

The University is committed to providing adequate resources to meet the objectives set out in Cranfield's Water Management Plan ([CU-SHE-PLAN-05 Water Management Plan V1.1.pdf \(cranfield.ac.uk\)](#))

To be successful the University needs everyone who works, studies or lives on campus to help achieve this policy, in particular by:

- being aware of how much water they are responsible for using
- preventing waste by turning off taps and all other equipment when not needed
- sharing suggestions for cost-effective improvements in water management
- ensuring we deliver our water management plan
- reviewing our water management plan annually
- communicating our progress
- educating and informing our communities [staff, students, contractors, visitors] of water resources as being one of our highest priorities

¹ Includes COTEC but Shrivvenham estate is excluded.



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The Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) oversees the management of water use across the University estate and holds regular reviews to ensure that adequate progress is being made against these main targets, taking remedial action if not.


The Energy & Environment Team in Facilities coordinates and delivers water management, with support from relevant working groups, reporting progress to EEC.

This policy is communicated within the University and available to the general public, students and all persons working for, in or on behalf of the University.

Where to go for help

If you require any help or advice on any aspect of this policy, please contact Ceri Dawson

Document Control

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