

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION UNIV University Administration		POLICY NUMBER UNIV 5.50
POLICY TITLE University Environmental Policy Statement		
SCOPE USC System		DATE OF REVISION June 17, 2025
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER President		ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Office of the President

PURPOSE

The University of South Carolina represents an intellectual community committed to the advancement of theoretical and practical knowledge. Recognizing our role as a positive force in the state's economic and social advancement, we believe it is incumbent upon us to lead the way toward a more sustainable future through our curriculum, research, campus and community engagement, and planning and facilities management.

DEFINITIONS

As Applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

Our goals are informed by the university's roles as an institution of higher education and as an operational facility.

- A. Students, faculty, and staff will have a basic understanding of their impact on sustainability through the following:
 1. Incorporating sustainability issues into the university curriculum.
 2. Increasing student engagement opportunities for integrative, practical, beyond the classroom experiences focused on sustainability issues.
 3. Encouraging research that aids in understanding of issues and solutions to sustainability challenges; and
 4. Increasing and incentivizing community engagement opportunities for faculty, staff and students that address sustainability within the institution and foster sustainable thinking within the larger community
- B. The university community will serve as an example in operational sustainability through the following:
 1. Conserving resources through waste reduction, recycling, energy, local sourcing, and water use minimization.
 2. Minimize negative impacts of the university on the environment; and
 3. Promoting the use of recycled or remanufactured goods, locally sourced products and native species in natural landscapes where possible.

PROCEDURES

The university will evaluate and monitor progress toward these goals on a continuing basis through the following:

- A. Implementing an institutional mechanism for collecting USC sustainability data.
- B. Quantifying savings from sustainable practices.
- C. Regularly convening the President's Sustainability Council to advance planning and implementation of sustainability goals.
- D. Including sustainability for consideration into campus strategic planning; and
- E. Producing an annual USC Sustainability report under the leadership of the President'

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES

As Applicable

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
October 19, 2000	New Policy Approval
November 29, 2016	This policy has been revised to reflect current university practice and strategic planning.
June 17, 2025	Policy reviewed to update procedures