

NNLE New Vision University

Sustainability Policy



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Introduction

New Vision University recognizes its critical role in shaping a sustainable future and aims to contribute to the Sustainability Agenda.

New Vision University shares the definition of Sustainability adopted at Brundtland Commission (1987) – “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

As a higher education institution, NVU embraces its role in fostering a culture of environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and supporting economic sustainability.

The policy represents dedication of the university to address the pressing challenges of climate change, resource depletion and social inequality.

By implementing and embracing sustainability principles, NVU aims to minimize its environmental footprint and enhance the well-being of society.

This Sustainability Policy serves as a guiding framework for university's efforts towards sustainable actions. The policy will evolve over time as the university adapts to emerging challenges and opportunities.

The policy was developed by the Strategic Development and Internationalization Committee of the university, with the involvement of the university community. Identifying sustainability as one of the strategic priorities of the university, strategic development and internationalization committee oversees implementation of the university sustainability policies and practices and develops recommendations for further improvements.

1. The core principles of the policy

NVU Sustainability Policy is rooted in the following core principles:

- Promoting sustainability through teaching, research and innovation;
- Environmental sustainability and sustainable operations;
- Public outreach;
- Social equality and wellbeing.

1.1. Promoting sustainability through teaching, research and innovation

University supports environmental education to enable people to better understand and act collaboratively for its protection. By creating and disseminating knowledge university aspires to creating solutions for pressing sustainability challenges, contributing to the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The university, among others, is dedicated to:

- Develop and integrate sustainability-related courses across educational programs;
- Support faculty, through provision resources and other incentives to empower them for contributing to the research, development and teaching of sustainability concepts;
- Support research on sustainability, through provision of grants for sustainability-related research projects and collaboration with other institutions;
- Disseminate the research findings and new knowledge through publications, conferences and events;
- Encourage collaboration between faculty, students, and external parties for addressing the sustainability challenges.

1.2. Environmental Sustainability and Sustainable Operations

New Vision University is committed to protecting and preserving the natural environment through sustainable practices and operations, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving energy and water, managing waste responsibly and striving for a carbon-neutral campus. The university, among others, aims to:

- Achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2030 for scopes 1 and 2. The target for scope 3 will be defined after the precise calculation of scope 3 emissions;
- Track progress in reducing the GHG emissions regularly and improve the reporting accuracy on GHG emissions;
- Continue to encourage energy efficient practices and implementing renewable energy sources on campus. Conduct regular energy audits for efficiency upgrades;
- Continue and improve alongside with the opportunities the responsible approach towards waste according to the principle of the most desirable to the least desirable: avoid and reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, treat or dispose;
- Implement sustainable practices in procurement and investment¹, including in the process of new building designs and renovations;
- Continue to promote sustainable food choices on the campus. Amongst others, promote fair trade and local sourcing, supporting local businesses and reducing transportation-related emissions;
- Promote water-saving practices on campus, invest in water-saving technologies and encourage behavior changes to reduce water consumption;
- Continue to promote sustainable transportation and remote working options, where possible, to reduce carbon footprint.

1.3. Public Outreach

University actively engages with the local and global communities to share knowledge, encourage sustainable behaviors and drive positive change. Among others, the university aims to:

¹ University's sustainable investment and procurement principles is laid out in the chapters 2 and 3 of the policy.

- Organize sustainability-themed events, workshops and campaigns for the university and wider community;
- Promote awareness-raising on sustainability issues among secondary school community and support secondary school students in the implementation of the sustainability projects;
- Partner with and support student organizations to promote sustainability initiatives;
- Develop educational materials and resources on sustainable practices;
- Support business in raising awareness on sustainability and implementation of sustainable practices, including through provision of financial instruments;
- Participate in sustainability networks and initiatives, share best practices and lessons learned through knowledge exchange platforms and forums.

1.4. Social Equality and Wellbeing

New Vision University's core principles lay on promoting equality, equity and diversity. University strives to create an inclusive and equitable environment, where all individuals have equal opportunities to succeed and thrive. Among others, university aims to:

- Ensure effective implementation of the university's diversity and inclusion policy and deliver trainings on diversity and inclusion for faculty, staff and students;
- Promote cultural competency and awareness among staff, faculty and students;
- Support research and initiatives promoting social justice and equality;
- Continue to support the physical and emotional wellbeing of staff and students.

2. Responsible Investment Policy

2.1. Introduction

In line with the university's commitment to social responsibility, NVU ensures that the university funds are invested responsibly.

Investment decisions, based on university investment policy, integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles and enforce the university's vision of supporting economic growth and sustainability.

2.2. Policy Requirements

1. Investment decisions incorporate the environmental, social and governance standards;
2. University will not invest in companies or endeavors that contradict university's shared values and are blacklisted for unethical business behavior (e.g. companies associated with funding war crimes, etc.);
3. University is not invested, nor will be invested in fossil fuel extraction, or coal industry;
4. University funds will not be invested in tobacco manufacture, distribution or retailing;

5. Investments in energy sector will only be aimed at supporting clean and renewable energy production and consumption;
6. While making investment decisions, university will look into the business practices of the company and the organization(s) with commitments to ESG principles and UN Global Compact principles will be in a favorable position;
7. NVU investment decisions are made based on the current needs of the society and support of the local and global sustainable development agenda.

2.3. Review, monitoring and reporting

1. CFO is responsible for reporting on the implementation of the policy.
2. The policy is reviewed yearly to ensure the effectiveness of the policy.

3. Sustainable Procurement Policy

3.1. Introduction

University, whilst making procurement decisions, aims at supporting sustainability policy, reflecting and integrating environmental, social and good governance aspects.

The policy aims to reduce the environmental impacts of the university's supply chains; environmentally-friendly products, having less impact on the environment are prioritized; cooperation is established with suppliers respecting fundamental human and labor rights, environmental protection standards and reducing waste in the supply chain.

3.2. Policy Statement

The goal of the university is to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness and minimize the social and environmental impact.

University, while making purchasing decisions, will:

- Evaluate the need of purchase, as well as its volume;
- Consider options for reuse (through repair and refurbishments);
- Prioritize environmental sustainability by encouraging the procurement of products and services that have a minimal negative impact on the environment;
- Apply a life cycle approach to procurement and consider the environmental impacts of products and services throughout their life cycle – environmental footprint, waste generation, as well as resource consumption;
- Prioritize energy efficient and green technologies while making procurement decisions on appliances and technologies, as laid out in the university energy efficiency policy;
- Take into account ethical considerations of the purchase, where possible, support the purchase of products and services providing for equality and diversity;
- Provide awareness-raising among staff involved in purchasing.

3.3. Mandatory Requirements of the policy

1. The need for purchase of the product must be justified. The product is bought only if reuse and renewal of existing product is not possible.
2. Within the similar cost products, the choice must be made based on the environmental footprint of the products – recycled content.
3. Avoidance of the purchase of the products endangering health and causing significant damage of the environment.
4. If the tender process is announced, consider the evaluation of the supplier with the university's ethical norms and environmental policy of the tender participants.
5. Purchase of electric appliances must be made based on the energy efficiency criteria and according to the energy efficiency policy of the university. All lighting purchased must be LEED.
6. Purchasing decisions must take into account the maintenance and consumables of the different products.

3.4. Policy statement on forced and child labor

1. New Vision University, guided by the values of ethical leadership and justice, remains steadfast in its commitment to the ethical conduct of all activities, ensuring the preservation of human rights and dignity. NVU is dedicated to guaranteeing that entities within its supply chain adhere to lawful and ethical standards.
2. NVU adopts a zero-tolerance policy towards forced labor, child labor and human trafficking. Rigorous measures are taken to ascertain the complete absence of forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking within our services and supply chains.
3. In addition to prohibition, NVU actively promotes awareness and understanding of forced labor and human trafficking, fostering a culture of informed responsibility and vigilance.
4. NVU assumes responsibility for the ongoing monitoring of producers and suppliers of goods and services. The identification of high-risk suppliers concerning human trafficking, forced labor, and child labor is diligently carried out, and the University refrains from establishing business partnerships with entities involved in named activities.
5. NVU is committed to a systematic examination of organizations within its supply chain, conducting comprehensive assessments of supplier data. Each year, key activities will be identified, encompassing awareness-raising initiatives. Annual reports will be published, providing transparency on progress and efforts made.
6. Rooted in the University's dedication to community wellbeing, NVU asserts its role in advocating the protection of human rights.
7. NVU firmly believes that no individual's lawful rights and dignity should be compromised during the production of goods and services within its supply chain.

3.5. Recommended requirements of the policy

1. Purchase of cleaning products that are environmentally friendly.
2. Avoidance of purchase of the products that cannot be recycled.
3. The paper purchased for printing should be utilizing recycled source material and the tissue papers must be made from recycled content.
4. Choose the suppliers applying the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle) to packaging.
5. The major suppliers and contractors should have sustainability policy.
6. The delivery of products in re-usable packaging.

3.6. Implementation, reporting and review

1. Procurement team is responsible for implementing the policy and embedding sustainable procurement within university's procurement procedures.
2. Head of the procurement office is responsible for overseeing the compliance of the procurement procedures and reporting on the policy implementation yearly.
3. The procurement office develops the baseline assessment of university procurement practices.
4. Based on the baseline assessment, improvement measures and KPIs are planned for the following year. The KPIs are developed each consecutive year.
5. The policy is reviewed every year.