

Fossil Fuel Statement on behalf of UWE Bristol by Assistant Vice Chancellor for Environment and Sustainability

Recently the Sustainability Board has received several enquiries about the university's policy and practices regarding investments and use of fossil fuels. This statement summarises the current position at the university.

No Fossil Fuel Investments by UWE Bristol

The university has no investments in stocks and shares and specifically never has had any investments of any kind in any oil, coal or gas extraction, distribution or use enterprise and thus has no direct investment in any fossil fuel industry. The university's published policies regarding Ethical Investment and Environmental Sustainability preclude any investment in fossil fuels. The policies can be viewed at <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/about/corporateinformation/sustainability/policiesplansandtargets.aspx> and apply to banking practices and to procurement. The university indirectly holds shares through the Avon Pension Fund. Over the last few years the university has worked with the Fund to develop and implement a new Responsible Investment Policy (see <http://www.avonpensionfund.org.uk/responsible-investing-policy-2016>). The policy requires the Fund to give greater weight to good Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance and to benchmark the carbon footprint of the fund's shareholding and reduce it over time.

Energy Supply at UWE

From October 2016 all the electricity supplied to the university is from renewable sources and this provenance is verified by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin certification. See <http://info.uwe.ac.uk/news/uweneews/news.aspx?id=3437>. The university also generates its own electricity from the PV arrays on the Centre for Sport, R and T block on the Frenchay Campus and at Bower Ashton. At the time of installation, the T block array was the largest single roof mounted system in the HE sector. Plans are well advanced for the installation of a Combined Heat and Power station later this decade. The PV and CHP together will save the emission of around a thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. Further details of the university's energy supply and management policies and practices including the Carbon Management Plan can be viewed at <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/about/corporateinformation/sustainability/sustainabilityservices/carbonenergyandwater.aspx>

Travel accounts for approximately half of the overall carbon emissions at UWE Bristol and the university encourages staff, students and visitors to make sustainable travel choices to get to UWE Bristol by walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing. The university is committed to electrification of its vehicle fleet and has 13 electric or hybrid vehicles, representing almost 30 per cent of its fleet, this is expected to reach 50% by 2020. On the Frenchay Campus there are 16 free electric charging points. In recognition of the university's commitment to promoting electric vehicles UWE was awarded 'Go Ultra Low Company' status in 2016. UWE is one of only a handful of universities with this designation and the only one in the south West.

<http://info.uwe.ac.uk/news/uweneews/news.aspx?id=3438>

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