**BINGHAM UNIVERSITY, NEW KARU**



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & ADVOCACY

**KM 26, ABUJA-KEFFI EXPRESS WAY**

**NEW KARU, NASARAWA STATE**

**NIGERIA**

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**Preamble**

Bingham University is a leading private University in Nigeria established in 2005 to grow the youth along best quality education and character. In realization of the need to become more environmentally sustainable, an ad hoc Environmental Protection Committee (EPC) was set for the University. The committee was inaugurated the then Vice Chancellor, Prof. W. B. Qurix on 29th February 2020 with specific tasks to:

1. Evolve policies and strategies for sustainable campus environment
2. Prepare advocacy programmes for the university community
3. Advice management on environmental sanitation on the university.

After inauguration of the committee, there was a global COVID-19 pandemic which led to the suspension of academic activities in the university in line with the Federal Government’s directives. As a result, the committee became inactive. On resumption for full academic activities the committee became active again and met severally and diligently on the subject. Having considered the peculiar situations along general global trends, the committee through wide consultations came up with this document for the university. This document therefore attains to afore mentioned objectives.

The report was completed in 2022 but was not presented to the University Management until the coming of a new Vice Chancellor Professor Haruna Kuje Ayuba in 2024 who ordered for the immediate presentation. This document is intended to operate along with the global environmental best practices, existing related acts and statues of the Federal, State and Local Governments of Nigeria as well as the existing but relevant documents within Bingham University.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This environmental policy has been produced as part of the growing awareness of human effects on the environment. Bingham University recognises that its activities may have effects on the environment. This Policy affirms the University’s commitment to environmental issues and demonstrates intention to address those issues through continual improvement in environmental practices. Bingham University therefore will actively apply the concepts of sustainability and environmental awareness of the local and global environment. This policy defines the environmental obligations of the University and how the implementation of the policy should occur. The policy is in consonance with the University’s Developmental Plan and will enhance the University’s place as a leading research and teaching institution among Nigerian Universities. Commitment to this environmental policy will be met by demonstrating leadership in applying environmentally responsible practices for the purpose of sustainability. The policy also recognises the need to address the wider environmental issues facing the society vis-à-vis its diverse academic and operational activities which can impact on the environment.

**2.0 PURPOSE**

1. This policy is set to play an integral role as Bingham University strives in the development of an environmentally sustainable and economically viable campus that reflects the University’s core values of engagement and accountability.
2. This statement represents a commitment by the Bingham University to meeting the needs of students and staff while preserving the environment for future generations.
3. Bingham University is therefore committed to right advocacy and preparing students to become engaged on environmental issues as citizens not only on campus, but in their own communities and throughout their lives.
4. The University will educate its community about best practices to continuously improve the environmental footprint of the campus and its operations. It will educate its neighbors on environmental care and eco conservation for a sustainable environmental exploitation.
5. This document is not intended to work in isolation, but shall operate in tandem with the existing health policy of the university and with any relevant document that is of value within and outside the university.
6. Pursuant to this, the university will ensure legislative compliance, and, where practicable, exceed this minimum requirement by incorporating sound environmental management policies and practices into the work of all academic and administrative departments.

**3.0 SCOPE**

This policy which extends through the entire university boundary applies to the Bingham University community, including but not limited to:

1. Council members
2. Academic and non-academic staff
3. Students,
4. Contractors
5. Sub-contractors
6. Suppliers
7. Farmers and
8. Visitors to the campus

**4.0 DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions shall apply for the purpose of this policy when they occur, unless otherwise stated:

1. **Environment**: Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including;
	1. People and communities
	2. All natural and physical resources
	3. Amenity values; and
	4. The social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions (including University policy) which affect or are affected by the matters stated in items (i) to (iii) of this definition.
2. **Sustainability**: Sustainability integrates the concern for social, economic and environmental issues, and involves thinking broadly about objectives, considering long-term as well as short-term effects, assessing indirect as well as direct effects, and taking extra care when changes brought about by development might be irreversible.
3. **Environmental management:** includes consideration of amenity values and the enhancement of natural areas.
4. **Environmental care**: deliberate measures taken to prevent, mitigate or reverse negative effects of environmental footprints, before, during or after exploitation of the environment.
5. **Environmental Footprint**: The impact of an organisation in environmental terms such as resource use, waste generation, physical development and environmental changes.

**5.0 OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES/VALUES**

The University recognises its responsibilities to manage the nature and scale of environmental impacts of its activities, products or services. These responsibilities are recognised in the principles and commitment to:

1. The implementation of sustainability, including environmental protection
2. Implementing sustainable and environmentally sound business practices to manage and reduce the negative effects of the University’s environmental footprints.
3. Taking account of intergenerational impacts as part of the University’s decision-making processes.
4. Organisational and personal ownership of this environmental policy.
5. Raising environmental awareness and engagement and providing community leadership.
6. Supporting research and teaching of environmental sustainability.
7. Wide consultation, and to account on environment and sustainability.

 **6.0 OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this policy shall include the following key areas:

1. **Environmental Management:** This environmental policy promotes a clean, safe and healthy environment for members of the University and the wider community. The University is committed to exceeding minimum environmental standards where practicable within the organisation’s financial constraints. The commitment to environmental responsibility involves concerns for both natural and the built environment, for the effective and economically, and also environmentally efficient use of resources. When modifying the natural or the built environment, the University should have particular regard to the key guiding principles and the established design qualities recommendations.
2. **The Natural Environment:** The University will consider the environmental impact of its development, communications, and procurement, curriculum, research and campus activities and will:
3. Aim to exceed environmental standards set by local, state and federal government; including any relevant legislation or regulation and any other requirements to which the University subscribes.
4. Actively seek to enhance the biodiversity of natural areas and investigate opportunities to introduce more natural areas into the built environment.
5. The University will strive to practice ecological responsibility focused on the preservation of its natural woodlands and gardens, reclaim waste lands and checkmate erosion.
6. The University will strive to minimize damage to non-target biological organisms through the elimination of pesticides in lawn and garden applications, with limited exception.
7. Manage the University’s natural and physical resources in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner by encouragingthe conservation of native ecosystems on campus, where possible, and will use these natural classrooms to teach stewardship and environmental responsibility.
8. Checkmate and recover encroachments into the University’s boundaries.
9. **The Built Environment:** The University will:
	* 1. Promote and support the use of environmentally responsible transportation modes such as public transport, fuel efficient vehicles, cycling, or walking.
		2. Avoid the unnecessary use of hazardous substances and processes, and take all reasonable steps to prevent damage to the public or the environment where such activities are essential.
		3. Purchase energy efficient rated appliances, equipment, computers, paper products and general purpose cleaning products certified by relevant bodies.
10. **Use and Re-use of Natural Resources:** The University will:
	* 1. Actively manage the use of energy and utilities (e.g. gas, electricity, water, communication facilities) in order to achieve a reduced cost, reduced level of user demand and more efficient usage of available resources.
		2. Reduce the consumption of fossil fuels by reducing loads through improving energy efficiency of lighting, power, heating and ventilation systems, and by the environmentally sensitive design of new and refurbished buildings.
		3. Develop efficient waste management and recycling procedures throughout the University by reducing waste through avoidance, recycling, reduction and re-use or efficiently using finite resources where alternatives are not available.
		4. The University will provide waste diversion and recycling stations and item-specific collection options in high-traffic areas across campus
		5. Commit to the procurement and use of sustainable and environmentally friendly resources within University financial constraints and where opportunities are available.
		6. Promote a purchasing policy that will give preference, where practicable, to those products and services that cause the least harm to the environment.
		7. Commit to applying ecologically sustainable design principles and requirements to all new construction and refurbishment projects, within University financial constraints and where opportunities are available.
		8. Manage the disposal of liquid and solid waste including consumable resources with environmental sensitivity.
11. **Researching and Teaching Environmental Sustainability:** The University recognises that sustainability and environmental protection are themes that arise in many areas of university teaching and are increasingly important to the future of our community. The intent is that all graduates will leave the University having had the opportunity to develop an understanding of sustainability and environmental protection issues. Accordingly, the University will:
	* 1. Promote and encourage quality research which recognises the importance of sustainability and environmental protection.
		2. Promote and encourage the teaching of sustainability and environmental protection themes within University programs.
		3. Promote and support interdisciplinary academic collaboration within sustainability and environmental protection themes.
		4. Broaden its commitment to environmental education by introducing, where practical, relevant environmental content to curriculum material.
		5. Develop a portfolio of environmentally relevant undergraduate and postgraduate courses building on those courses currently offered.
12. **Environmental Emergency Response:** The University’s emergency response planning:
	* 1. Will address pollution response.
		2. Shall consider the environmental effects of proposed responses and minimise those effects, provided that such minimisation does not compromise the effectiveness of the response.
13. **Community Leadership:** The University will demonstrate and encourage leadership in the promotion of environmental awareness and best practice in the wider community by:
	* 1. Developing partnerships for environmental sustainability within the wider community, including partnerships to raise awareness of greenhouse gasses and climate change issues.
		2. Promoting the University as an environmentally responsible organisation.
		3. Communicating and consulting as appropriate with the wider community on environmental issues.
14. **Social and Cultural:** The University will recognise that social and cultural values and rights are essential to achieving a sustainable future by:
	* 1. Considering the different social and ethnic perspectives on environment and sustainability.
		2. Acknowledging the interdependence of the University’s physical and cultural environment.

**7.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW**

The University will set up an Environmental Committee, with membership drawn from representatives of each Faculty, Campus Services, Communications and Marketing, Finance and the student body as deemed fit. The Committee shall be supported by Campus Services and chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, with the Chair appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. The Committee shall make reports and recommendations through the Committee Chair and liaise with other University units as appropriate. The Committee will act as the champions of this policy and review the University’s actions against the policy objectives by:

* + 1. Monitoring consistency between this environmental policy and existing policies and frameworks, reporting to the Vice-Chancellor.
		2. Conducting annual reporting to measure the University’s environmental footprint and performance.
		3. Developing and submitting annual environmental action plans to the Vice-Chancellor; including defined goals, action points and timelines to facilitate the effective application of this policy and improvement of the University’s environmental footprint and performance over time.
		4. Reviewing and recommending priorities for the implementation of environmental initiatives within an annual budget allocation.
		5. Facilitating the collaboration of lecturers and researchers to share information and promote initiatives to integrate sustainability into academic work where appropriate.
		6. Reporting to the Vice-Chancellor regarding environmental achievements and issues affecting this policy.

**8.0 ADVOCACY**

The university shall ensure that there shall be:

1. Office of environmental advocacy in the University’s Students’ Union Government whose responsibility shall be to link with the University Environmental Policy Implementation Committee. He or she shall ensure right and sustainable environmental behavior of students, and maintain cleanliness of campus environment. It shall include the monitoring of proper use of university’s facilities, furnishing, equipment and social amenities by students on campus.
2. An annual environmental week for the purpose of environmental advocacy. This shall be achieved through public lectures, campaigns, publications and programs that will draw the attention of the general public to the need for environmental sustainability; and participants drawn from staff and students of the university, and external resource persons outside the university.
3. Annual observation of the World Environmental Day at the campuses.
4. Collaborate with relevant NGOs, governmental agencies, statutory organisations and professional bodies or any appropriate external organisation to improve our understanding and attain to environmental problems and their solutions.
5. The University will partner with other educational institutions and government agencies to benchmark on research and development on environmental issues, and improve on best practices in its operations.
6. The university may organize slogan competition and display some of the selected slogans at strategic places within the campuses.
7. The University will maintain a user-friendly sustainability website with tips, links and suggestions for meeting policy guidelines.

**9.0 REFERENCES:**

1. ‘Agenda 21’ , United Nations Environment Programme
2. ‘Enterprise3’, Ministry for the Environment
3. European University Association, Talloires Declaration
4. New Zealand Urban Design Protocol, Ministry for the Environment
5. Our Common Future, World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987
6. Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, United Nations Environment Programme
7. Tertiary Education Strategy
8. Treaty of Waitangi Statute
9. University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, Copernicus-Campus
10. Procedures associated with the Environmental Protection Policy, University of British Columbia, (SC4).

**10.0 COMITEE MEMBERS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Names**  |  | **Signature/Date** |
| 1 | Assoc. Prof. Gandu Yusuf Joe | Chairman  | C:\Users\HP\Pictures\signature1.png29/2/2024 |
| 2 | Prof. Haroun O. Isa | Member  |  |
| 3 | Dr. Philomina Achenyo Attah | Member  |  |
| 4 | Dr. Ebunoluwa O. Popoola | Member  |  |
| 5 | Prof. Modupe Builders | Member  |  |
| 6 | Arch. Ruth Rakiya Martins | Member  |  |
| 7 | Mr. Danbaba Goma | Coopted Mbr. |  |
| 8 | Jacquelyn Mando | Secretary |  |

**11.0 APPENDICES**

 None

**12.0 APPROVAL AGENCIES**

Vice-Chancellor:

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Prof. H. K. Ayuba

Banana

**13.0 CONTACT PERSONS**

The Chairman Environmental Policy and Advocacy Committee- Associate professor Gandu Yusuf Joe (08028620800) may be approached on a routine basis in relation to this policy.