



# One Planet Living

## ACTION PLAN

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## What is it?

The One Planet Living initiative provides a vision and a set of guiding principles for a more sustainable world, a world where people lead healthy, happy lives using their fair share of the earth's resources while leaving space for wildlife and wilderness.

New Zealanders, despite our 100% PURE tagline, would need at least two planets to continue to live the way we do, based on our most recent 'ecological footprint'. By adopting the One Planet Living framework, Unitec has developed a plan to create a more sustainable future.

One Planet Living is a framework created by Bioregional. For more information visit **[www.bioregional.com](http://www.bioregional.com)**





## Why it matters

The world is in trouble. We're consuming natural resources and polluting the environment at an unsustainable rate. If we don't start looking after the planet now, the consequences for us and for future generations, will be devastating. Global warming is the most obvious consequence of our abuse of the planet's resources. Climate change is changing the world we live in with more extreme weather events every year. Our neighbours in the Pacific stand to lose their homes to rising sea levels while in Africa it's estimated that millions of people will die as a consequence of climate change.

As our demand for resources continues we're destroying species at a rapid rate. The number of wild animals on earth has halved in the past 40 years, according to the World Wildlife Fund. Then there's the growing gulf being the haves and the have-nots. The most vulnerable members of our society will suffer the greatest consequences of climate change and the collapse of our ecological systems.

Unitec has been committed to environmental sustainability since the 1990's. Our Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plans were launched in 2011 and sustainability became a core curriculum requirement. Implementing more efficient policies around how we use water, electricity, paper and fuel on campus have led to savings of over \$1 million. Unitec also acknowledges its Commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Practices of Higher Education Institutions. The One Planet Living Action Plan reflects Unitec's determination to take a stand and to make a difference.



## What it means for you

Unitec's One Planet Living Action Plan will focus on teaching, research, collaboration with local communities and industries and a significant investment in greening our campus operations. Over the next fifteen years we have big plans to redevelop our campus and reduce our carbon footprint by 50% from 2014 levels.

"Unitec's One Planet Action Plan will help us play our part in protecting our environment and using the earth's resources more wisely," says Rick Ede, Chief Executive of Unitec. "The plan will help us build a brighter future for our graduates, as we produce leaders in sustainable thinking. We want to help our graduates develop the skills necessary to create a society that values people and the planet, as well as profits, to help address the environmental crisis we face."

Climate proofing the global economy will involve large scale investment in new technologies, buildings and infrastructure, providing much needed employment and an opportunity to transform existing jobs. Research shows that many of New Zealand's young professionals are interested in green-collar jobs. Globally there is unprecedented demand for qualified staff to work in roles with a focus on sustainability and the environment. Green-collar roles will be a key economic driver of the 21st century.

We believe our students want to be part of the solution and work in roles where they can make a difference. Unitec aims to produce graduates with the skills, knowledge and motivation to do just that.

## It begins with kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga means guardianship and protection. It's a way of managing the environment, based on the Māori world view that recognises our interconnectedness with the land and nature.

Unitec acknowledges our responsibility to tangata whenua to act together as kaitiaki in the active management of our campuses in an environmentally sustainable way, respecting ancestral links and cultural practices.



## Creating sustainable practitioners

Our vision is that every Unitec student develops an understanding of sustainability from an individual, cultural and professional perspective. Unitec students will learn the tools and strategies to practice sustainability principles in real-world situations. We will educate students and staff to recognise the importance of sustainability issues and encourage them to join organisations and communities leading change.

Sustainability is a core curriculum component for all programmes. Unitec's focus on real life learning enables students to personalize their study, embrace individual areas of interest and develop transformative solutions alongside their peers, industry and community.

We want our campuses to be microcosms of sustainable, liveable cities. We want our students to question what we are doing to our planet and why. We want to enable and encourage them to make a meaningful contribution towards a more sustainable future. Most importantly we want them to carry those values with them into their future careers and their lives after Unitec.



## Change and consolidation

Unitec is currently spread across three different campuses with a community of 23,000 students and 1,100 staff. Unitec's present campus infrastructure is wasteful, with our buildings used only 37% of the time. This leads to unnecessary electricity, water usage and waste generation.

Over the next ten years Unitec will redevelop and consolidate our campuses to deliver a more modern and sustainable education environment. We'll be refurbishing existing facilities and designing and building new ones to optimise our use of space, energy and water and minimise waste and materials.

Students will benefit from improved transport linkages, shared pedestrian and cycle ways and more on-campus accommodation. We want Unitec to be an exemplar of a sustainable business operating at peak resource efficiency, a green and smart living classroom.



## **One Planet principles –** practicing what we preach

One Planet Living is an international initiative by Bioregional based on ten guiding principles. These principles provide a framework for organisations and individuals to identify, plan, deliver and communicate sustainable development initiatives.

The aim is to make it easy, attractive and affordable for organisations to think and act sustainably, with a focus on green buildings, infrastructure, products and services. Unitec's students and staff have key roles to play in making this happen.



## 1. Zero Carbon

**AIM:** Unitec is committed to working towards zero carbon. This means making our buildings more energy efficient, purchasing renewable energy and generating our own renewable energy on campus. Some of our key Zero Carbon targets include reducing carbon emissions by 50% and increasing the proportion of renewable energy usage to 100% by 2030.

**HOW?:** By dramatically reducing the physical footprint of the Mt Albert campus. Currently we're operating out of 177 buildings. The Future Campus vision will see that consolidated to 12 main buildings. We will include zero carbon principles, strategies and skills in our programmes and invest in projects to demonstrate low carbon technologies and renewable energies on campus.

### CASE STUDY: LIT UP

Many of the older buildings on Unitec's Mt Albert campus don't have automated air conditioning or lighting systems. These large buildings were 'lit up like Christmas trees' at night, leading to massive electricity wastage. In 2013, Unitec's Security staff participated in an after-hours energy audit in Building 1 (the old Carrington Hospital), switching off lights and air conditioning units after hours.

Before:	→	After:	Estimated savings:
90 - 120kWh		30kWh	\$45,000 p.a.

An example of a small action with a big impact.  
That's One Planet Living.







## 2. Zero Waste

**AIM:** We're committed to reducing our waste 30% by 2016 (from a 2010 baseline), with a 5% reduction per annum. In 2014 we sent 312.6 tonnes of waste to landfill, a 24.3% reduction from 2010. The goal is to send zero waste to landfill by 2040.

**HOW?:** Some of the initiatives we've introduced include: food waste compost collections, plastic film and expanded polystyrene recycling, and mixed recycling for glass, cans and plastics. We're working towards bin-less office spaces, more recycling stations and water bottle refilling stations. We're also committed to buying recyclable or compostable products and introducing construction waste recycling.





### 3. Sustainable Transport

**AIM:** The carbon footprint associated with students and staff travelling to and from campus is huge. Staff air travel is also a significant part of our carbon footprint. By consolidating our campus over the next ten years we aim to reduce the need to travel and improve access to sustainable transport options.

**HOW?:** Promote videoconferencing and remote meetings to minimize the need for staff travel. Encourage carpooling, install bike racks and introduce a staff bike fleet. Promote green transport options in collaboration with Auckland Transport (AT) including: public transport, shuttles, fuel efficient driving, car-pooling, video-conferencing, e-learning and working from home. Provide quality facilities to encourage sustainable commuting options - e.g. showers, lockers, drying rooms, bike lock ups.



## 4. Sustainable Materials

**AIM:** Use sustainable products that incorporate the principles of sustainable design including: the elimination of waste and toxicity, durability, bio mimicry, and renewability.

**HOW?:** Buy refillable, renewable and reusable products where possible. Explore becoming a Fair Trade campus and ensure our sustainable practices are also supported by our tenants. We will also encourage research into sustainable materials and product design.







## 5. Local and Sustainable Food

**AIM:** Our food choices have a significant environmental impact. The carbon emissions from food production can make up over a third of an individual's carbon footprint. Unitec aims to support local sustainable food producers and reduce food waste by raising awareness about the environmental and social impact of 'food miles' and the food we choose to eat.

**HOW?:** Educate our students to help them make healthy, affordable and sustainable food choices and lead by example by selling sustainable food on campus. Support research into sustainable food solutions in our communities. Include fruit trees, demonstration vegetable gardens and beehives as the campus is redeveloped.






## 6. Sustainable Water

**AIM:** Raise awareness about the social and economic benefits of sustainable water consumption. Unitec consumes over 82,000m<sup>3</sup> of water a year. Since 2010 we've reduced our water use by over 25,880m<sup>3</sup> by replacing leaking water mains and reducing the need for grounds irrigation.

**HOW?:** Involve our students in creating, identifying, producing and selecting sustainable water management solutions and manage our water consumption as sustainably as possible. Reduce total water use to 59,000m<sup>3</sup> per annum and improve the water quality of Wairaka Puna and Oakley Creek.





## 7. Land Use and Wildlife

**AIM:** Protect and restore biodiversity and create new natural habitats through good land use and integration into the built environment.

**HOW?** Our Mt Albert campus sits on 55ha of green space with over 1,000 trees many of which are regarded as significant specimens. We are committed to an ecological approach to the maintenance of campus grounds and biodiversity, minimizing herbicide use and providing additional habitats of conservation value. The redevelopment is an exciting opportunity to implement a campus biodiversity plan and use it as a learning and teaching opportunity for Unitec students.







## 8. Culture and Community

**AIM:** Unitec's One Planet strategy is focused on enhancing and restoring the mauri of our people and our planet. Mauri is the life principle, vital essence or essential quality and vitality of a being or entity. By respecting all life as kaitiaki through kotahitanga, wairuatanga and whanaungatanga we will change how we treat ourselves, each other and our planet.

**HOW?** Encourage our staff, students, iwi, tangata whenua, pasifika and international students to draw on the richness of their history, cultures and diversity. Our focus is on sharing our rich cultural resources to be a part of the solution to the environmental crisis. Ensure that the history of Unitech's Mt Albert campus is celebrated through the redevelopment with supporting signage, on-line maps and tour resources to include the Pa Harakeke, Wairaka Puna and heritage buildings. We are creating a mauri-o-meter to help measure our progress.





## 9. Equity and Local Economy

**AIM:** Support equity and diverse local employment opportunities.

**HOW?:** Harnessing the benefits of diversity requires an inclusive, flexible and equitable working and learning environment. It also requires that as a major consumer of goods and services in the local economy we support local, environmentally and socially responsible businesses.





## 10. Health and Happiness

**AIM:** All students and staff are encouraged and supported to live active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well-being.

**HOW?:** Ensure that the campus redevelopment is designed to encourage active, social, meaningful experiences for Unitec students, staff and communities.





[www.unitec.ac.nz/oneplanet](http://www.unitec.ac.nz/oneplanet)