

Mission Statement for Environmental Management and Sustainability at TH Wildau – Technical University of Applied Sciences

The Technical University of Applied Sciences (TH Wildau) bases its actions on the principle of sustainable development as defined by the Brundtland Commission. The goal is to use resources responsibly, meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In this context, resources include not only natural raw materials, but also time, physical and mental health, and social relationships.

Sustainability is an integral part of our university's development and a binding framework for all areas of activity. As a university, we take into account the specific requirements of teaching, research, transfer, and campus operations, as well as the expectations of our internal and external stakeholders. Our actions are guided by the Whole Institution Approach (WIA) as well as by selected United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the areas of health (#3), education (#4), innovation (#9), sustainable cities (#11), consumption (#12), climate action (#13), and partnerships (#17).

TH Wildau is committed to complying with all relevant environmental and energy regulations as well as other binding obligations. Environmental aspects are systematically identified, assessed, and integrated into decision-making processes. In doing so, we take into account both direct and indirect impacts of our actions—particularly in the areas of energy and resource consumption, mobility, procurement, waste, land use, and digital infrastructure and data processing. The goal is to avoid or reduce environmental impacts and to continuously and measurably improve our environmental performance.

On this basis, we define goals and measures that are in line with the TH Wildau 2030 strategy process and the university development plan 2024–2029. Responsibilities, resources, and timelines are clearly defined. We regularly review the implementation and effectiveness of our measures using appropriate key performance indicators and derive further improvements from them.

Sustainability is integrated into our organizational and decision-making processes. Clear responsibilities and appropriate participation formats enable the active involvement of students, teachers, and staff. At the same time, we are expanding collaborations with regional and national partners to jointly advance sustainable development.

In teaching, we systematically embed sustainability in degree programs, certificates, and continuing education offerings and promote accessible, inclusive, and flexible teaching formats. We use digital technologies responsibly and in a resource-efficient manner—through efficient

data management, mindful storage management, and a thoughtful use of AI while taking into account energy consumption, transparency, and legal requirements.

We highlight sustainability competencies and continuously develop them. In research and transfer, we take sustainability aspects into account when planning and implementing projects. Key areas of focus include sustainable value creation, future-proof mobility, and effective administration. We use research infrastructures as resource-efficiently as possible—including through the shared use of equipment, laboratories, and software. Responsible data practices include data-minimal collection, structured archiving, and energy-efficient processing and use of data. Collaborations with industry partners help to develop and implement sustainable solutions.

We manage campus operations based on an environmental management system in accordance with EMAS—the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme. The goal is the continuous improvement of energy and resource efficiency as well as compliance with legal requirements, particularly the Energy Efficiency Act. We promote sustainable mobility, reduce waste volumes, optimize energy use, and employ energy-efficient technologies as well as concepts for improved land use. At the same time, we continue to develop the campus as a barrier-free and health-promoting place to live and work.

We actively support and recognize students' commitment to sustainability. Students are involved in decision-making and implementation processes. Health-promoting, social, and athletic activities complement this commitment. Sustainable development requires collective action. Therefore, we promote open dialogue among all university groups as well as with external partners and embed sustainability as an integral part of our organizational culture. We regularly provide information on goals, measures, and progress and publish this transparently in our EMAS Environmental Statement.

Our environmental management follows the principle of continuous improvement. Through regular monitoring, internal audits, and management reviews, we assess the effectiveness of our measures and further develop our system. Compliance with our commitments is systematically monitored. The goal is a measurable improvement in our environmental performance as well as the long-term safeguarding of the sustainability of TH Wildau.