



Institute of Canterbury

Ara rau, taumata rau

# SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

August 2020



Toitū te marae o Tāne  
Toitū te marae o Tangaroa  
Toitū te iwi.

*When land and  
water are healthy,  
people are healthy.*

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## Sustainability at Ara

Ara actively incorporates sustainability into its operations across the following four dimensions.

### ENVIRONMENT



**Goal:** To continuously evaluate and improve our environmental impact across all areas of the organisation.

### SOCIETY



**Goal:** To be widely acknowledged as a values-led organisation, where sustainability is core to our beliefs and operating practice. To support and encourage sustainability initiatives and objectives, both on and off campus, and act as a key partner in community collaborations.

### CULTURE



**Goal:** To build and sustain a culturally competent and confident workforce that embraces diversity, is aware of our differences and similarities, empowered to give effect to our institution's bi-cultural aspirations, and feels connected to each other and the planet.

### ECONOMY



**Goal:** To be an economically sustainable organisation that is efficient, productive and anticipates market needs, adapting to the changing economic environment in New Zealand and globally.

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## Principles of Sustainability at Ara

- Sustainability is everyone's business
- Recognise the connections between our people and place, economy and environment
- Find optimal solutions that integrate all elements of sustainability
- Meet our needs today while safeguarding the needs of tomorrow

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## Our Sustainability Vision

Building strength and resilience in our organisation and communities through restoring the integrity of the natural environment these things rely on.

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## Principles in Action

### **Ara commits to the following principles to become more sustainable:**

1. Sustainability is embedded in every aspect of our operations, learning and teaching, and investments.
2. We enable our graduates and colleagues, and influence our communities and partners, to practice sustainably.
3. We take the visible actions and tell the stories that can make sustainability positive and meaningful for every person and group we impact.
4. We model leadership towards sustainability every day in our: learning and teaching; resource and operational efficiency; and management and governance.
5. We build our learning and teaching environment to exemplify sustainability to all.
6. We use our external relationships and our purchasing power as opportunities toward sustainability, buying locally and seeking low-carbon solutions whenever feasible.
7. Our investments are intergenerationally focused and consider total lifetime costs and benefits, both internal and external, of purchase and ownership for current and future users.
8. We share our sustainability performance openly with our staff, students, and communities.
9. We listen to our community, prioritising those material economic, environmental and social impacts that matter the most.
10. We consider wider impacts, both positive and negative, of our decisions, and the connections between our environment, people and economy.
11. We harness the innovation, resources and commitment of our sustainability champions, whoever and wherever they may be in Ara.
12. We collaborate with others and use globally recognised accreditation and assurance when this creates value for all involved.
13. Our council, colleagues, students and the partners and suppliers we choose to work with are all accountable for becoming more sustainable.
14. Our management systems, graduate profiles and reporting help us navigate on our sustainability journey.
15. We adhere to sustainable procurement practices.

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## Our Roles and Responsibilities Under This Charter

### **The Ara Board will:**

- Maintain governance and oversight of sustainability to ensure the principles, vision and actions in this charter are realised

### **The Chief Executive and Te Kāhui Manukura (TKM) will:**

- Ensure that this charter is given effect and support all colleagues to develop sustainable practices in their work

### **The Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) will:**

- Be the governance group for strategic sustainability projects
- Ensure the principles in the Sustainability Charter are given practical effect; and
- Provide leadership and make recommendations to the Chief Executive on strategic development, implementation, monitoring and reporting related to sustainability

### **All colleagues will:**

- Be accountable for their own sustainable practice, within the institute's capability framework; and
- Ensure they are accountable for sustainable practices in their work

### **Ara will:**

- Ensure that students have opportunities to learn about principles of sustainability and to graduate with a better understanding of sustainable practice relevant to their field of study

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## Sustainability Strategy

### **The Sustainability Strategy will:**

- Explain how the vision, principles, and actions in this charter will be achieved; and
- Be confirmed by TKM







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