

Circular Economy Strategy

2017-2023

INTRODUCTION

The University of Bristol is adopting a Circular Economy approach to managing its resources. This will offer potential cost savings as well as sustainability improvements. This will redefine how our institution manages its resources, away from a linear model of ‘make, purchase, consume and dispose’ to one with the following principles;

- Prioritises the use of regenerative resources – reusable, non-toxic, renewable.
- Preserves and extends the life of what’s already been made – repair, upgrade, upcycle.
- Turning waste into a resource – reuse, remanufacture, creating a secondary resource, recycling, no-landfill.
- Designing for the future – longevity, low maintenance, reusable, adaptable.
- Collaboration – working with the supply chain as partners, within and outside the university.
- Rethinking our business model – Whole life costing and life cycle analysis
- Incorporating digital technology – Offering opportunities to connect organisations in delivering the six principles above.

This strategy will build on work already done in the University around sustainable waste management, moving processes to align with the Waste Hierarchy as defined under the European Waste Framework Directive. The Circular Economy approach will permeate all areas of the Sustainability Policy including Carbon Management, Water, Procurement and Space Utilisation.

AIMS

The aims of the University’s Circular Economy strategy are to:

- Align economic and environmental objectives to maximise our resource efficiency.
- Minimise our environmental impact from resource use including; procurement and supply chain; use and lifecycle; end of life management, with a strong focus on the waste hierarchy, ultimately delivering improved cost management.
- Deliver the 7 key principles of Circular Economy within the University’s operational activity.

SCOPE

The scope is defined by our ISO 14001 standard, ‘Whole Institution – covering all operations, learning, teaching and research and extending through sustainable procurement initiatives to our supply chain’.

OBJECTIVES

Use ISO 14001:2015 to manage environmental impact, identify risks and opportunities and achieve environmental compliance.

1. Use ISO 14001:2015 to include social and ethical criteria into decision making.
2. Continue to integrate Sustainable Procurement principles in to University processes with key stakeholders such as Procurement and Finance. These principles closely align with Circular Economy principles.
3. Space utilisation is a key part of our strategy, utilising one of our most important resources. Agile working practices and efficient storage policies to liberate space and promote resource efficiency reduces the need to further resource use.
4. Ensure that waste is considered a resource by staff and students and managed accordingly.
5. To prevent or minimise waste production wherever possible.
6. To maximise reuse, recycling and composting in line with the waste hierarchy.
7. Maintain resource management practices consistent with best practice and user/business needs; to deliver this in such a manner.
8. Support the development of the Estate ensuring sustainable resource management is key to infrastructure, construction and post construction building use.
9. Minimise the environmental impacts associated with resource use.
10. Reduce carbon emissions in line within the Scope 3 section of the Carbon Management Strategy.
11. Work with external partners and the local community to ensure the environmental impact of the University is minimised within the city.
12. Where appropriate, assist with the delivery of Bristol City Council's 'Towards a Zero Waste Bristol: Waste and Resource Management Strategy'

TARGETS

1. We will introduce robust, measurable procedures and metrics for whole life costs leading to resource efficiency in the key areas of construction, procurement and strategic projects by 2020.
2. We will engage with our supply chain to deliver best practice in environmental management and sustainability from 2017 onwards; and develop metrics to measure this by 2019.
3. We will continue to have an externally auditable Environmental Management System, moving from 14001:2004 to 14001:2015 by 2018.
4. Reduce 'at source' waste production (in tonnes) as defined in the waste hierarchy by 7% per staff and student FTE against a 2017/2018 baseline by 2025.
5. To reuse 8% and recycle 60% of total 'at source' waste produced (in tonnes) against a 2017/18 baseline by 2022.

6. To reuse 10% and recycle 85% of construction and demolition waste (in tonnes) against a 2017/18 baseline by 2022.
7. To reduce food waste arisings (in tonnes) by 10% against a 2017/18 baseline by 2025.
8. To use best available technologies for non-source segregated recycled waste (residual waste) to ensure it is managed in the most sustainable manner, in line with the waste hierarchy, maximising secondary recycling targets with a preference to recovery and energy from waste over landfill. Targeting <1% waste to landfill and secondary recycling in excess of 70% by 2022.

All targets are in line with or exceeding European Targets

ACTIONS

Continued activity in this area includes:

- The delivery of communication, behaviour change and training initiatives for staff and students to encourage sustainable resource management strategies, as well as highlighting their importance.
- Work will continue on diverting waste from landfill and energy from waste by either reuse, recycling or composting.
- Expansion of existing sustainable waste management systems will continue, with the development and implementation of new schemes, in particular for composting. Waste collection points will be centralised as this will help reduce refuse disposal costs, reduce fire risk and release car parking space on the precinct. It will also provide a closer control of waste streams and support awareness activities.
- We meet the requirements of all relevant legislation and other requirements and exceed these requirements where they best support the University's other objectives.
- We continue to manage our activities to prevent pollution.