

Sustainability Strategy

2020–2025



Royal Fort annual meadow

This area has been planted with *Rigby Taylor's Rainbow Annuals mix*. It was planted by student volunteers 'Roots community' with the assistance of Gardens and Grounds staff. The display is only one of many University biodiversity strategies, part of *My Wild University**. Flowers include:

Alyssum white	///	Cornflower	///	English poppy
Coreopsis	///	Cosmidium	///	Cosmos
Californian poppy	///	Baby's-breath white	///	Pot marigold
Flowering flax red	///	Flowering flax salmon	///	

*For further information about projects leading to 'My Wild City' please see Aeon Wildlife: <http://www.aeonwildlife.org.uk/>

"My Wild City's vision is for anyone living and working in the Greater Bristol area to help transform gardens and open spaces into a city-wide nature reserves."

University of
BRISTOL



The University of Bristol has been actively involved in addressing sustainability issues within its operations, teaching, research and community for many years.

This has been reflected through the introduction of one the UK higher education sector’s first travel plans in 1999, an investment of £15million in energy efficiency measures, applying the BREEAM scheme in all new building projects, and being the first Russell Group university to be certified to ISO14001 for all its activities. Establishing the interdisciplinary Cabot Institute to lead on sustainable research and most recently delivering the Bristol Futures Sustainable Futures teaching initiative is a demonstration of the University’s commitment to sustainability across its entire portfolio of activity.

The University has won several awards for its sustainability work, including 4 sector-wide Green Gown awards, a national energy efficiency award and a Times Higher sustainable development award – these awards covered a wide range of activity from energy efficiency to teaching and student volunteering.

The University was instrumental in supporting Bristol’s bid to become the first UK city to be European Green Capital in 2015, and ran a student volunteering program that generated 100,000 hours of help for local businesses and organisations.

In 2016 the University set out its Vision and Strategy, which covered 6 key themes:

- 1. Education and the student experience
- 2. Research, innovation and partnerships
- 3. Our staff and ways of working
- 4. Internationalisation and global relations
- 5. Physical and digital infrastructure
- 6. Sustainability

Sustainability underpins and supports our University’s aspirations to be a global civic university.

Most recently the University was the first in the sector to declare a Climate Emergency, in a joint action by students, academic and professional services staff.

Though much has been done, our sustainability journey is at its relative infancy. Being a sustainable university requires significant long-term change.

This new Sustainability Strategy expresses significant ambitions for the University: aiming for carbon neutrality, operating using circular economy principles, educating all of our students to understand sustainability challenges and taking a lead in identifying sustainability solutions through research. We invite our staff, students and stakeholders to help deliver our vision of a sustainable University.

The strategy covers 4 key pillars: Education, Research, Community and Operations, between them delivering activity in 15 key themes based on a systems approach via our Environmental Management System (ISO 14001) and informed by the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025

Our Sustainability Strategy is at the heart of delivering the University's strategic goals; supporting a high performing, global civic university in a changing world.

The strategy builds on previous policies, strategies and plans. It uses a systems approach via our Environmental Management System (ISO14001) to identify our key activities, their impacts and prioritises actions.

The strategy looks to deliver sustainability via four key pillars: Education, Research, Community and Operations.

The four pillars contain 16 themes:

- Sustainability through Education;
- Research and Knowledge Transfer;
- Staff and Student Engagement;
- Engaging with our Communities;
- Space Utilisation;
- Construction;
- The Living Estate, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment;
- Energy, Carbon and Water Management;
- Sustainable Travel;
- Emissions, Discharges and an Environmental Management System (EMS);
- Circular Economy;
- Procurement;
- Responsible Investment;
- Ethical and Sustainable Food;
- Governance;
- Reporting.



Vision and Mission

Vision

To be a sustainable university contributing towards a sustainable world.

Mission

Delivering our Education and Research goals as a world leading Civic University in a manner that effectively addresses the challenges of sustainability.



How we will deliver sustainability

Our sustainability strategy has ambitious objectives and targets to deliver. In doing so we will apply the following values and approaches:

Innovative

We will push the boundaries of knowledge and thought and seek new and better ways of doing things.

Ambitious

As in everything that we do as a University, our approach to sustainability needs to be ambitious on all levels.

Inclusive

We are a community that values the contribution that every individual can make to sustainability.

Collegial

We will work in partnership across different parts of the institution to deliver our sustainability goals.

Integration

Sustainability touches all we do and cannot be approached in isolation. It must be integrated into decision making to make a truly sustainable University.



External Landscape

The University has been addressing sustainability issues since the 1990s, during which time the external political and social environment has changed significantly.

Our sustainability strategy has been developed in response to a number of changing factors.

The most significant recent external events relating to sustainability have been COP21 (Conference of Parties 21) set in Paris in 2015, where 190 countries committed to each setting out plans to tackle climate change under a UN framework.

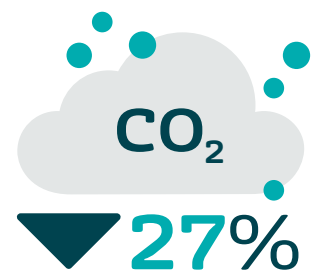
The city of Bristol was European Green Capital in 2015, which saw active involvement of the University in sustainable activity across the city, including 100,000 hours of student volunteering by 10,000 students. Work continues through the Bristol Green Capital Partnership.

The 'Blue Planet' effect has helped put a range of issues into the public spotlight, ranging from single-use plastic in the sea to the promotion of plant-based diets. Significant student activity has led the University to commit to disinvesting from fossil fuels.

In October 2018 the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) issued its report discussing the impacts of global temperature rises and the need to limit the emission of greenhouse gases so that global temperatures increases do not exceed 1.5°C. This was followed by a UN report on the threat to Biodiversity and Ecosystems that notes that one million species are under threat due to human activity.

The rise of climate change activism within the society, exemplified by groups like Extinction Rebellion, has led directly to a range of organisations declaring Climate Emergencies. The University of Bristol was the first University in the UK to do this.

Absolute carbon emissions down



Internal Landscape and Aims – University Strategy

The University Vision & Strategy launched in 2016 outlines six key areas:

1. Education and the student experience
2. Research, innovation and partnerships
3. Our staff and ways of working
4. Internationalisation and global relations
5. Physical and digital infrastructure
6. Sustainability

Our Sustainability Strategy will support the delivery of our University Strategy by:

1. Making staff working and student learning environments, warmer, better lit, more natural daylight and ventilation.
2. Offering systems learning, using the campus as a living lab to learn in and offering opportunities to volunteer enhancing graduate attributes and employability.
3. Addressing global challenges like climate change, deforestation, mental health and social inequality provide research opportunities that will enhance the Universities global standing
4. And of course, delivering our sustainability ambitions.




50%
population
growth on the
University
estate

Our Sustainability Pillars

1. Education

We aspire for students to understand the ways in which sustainability challenges may impact their personal and professional lives, and opportunities to engage more deeply with sustainability through the formal and informal curriculum.

2. Research

Conducting world-class research on the environment, social justice and development, consistent with addressing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, will continue to be a strategic priority for the University (exemplified by the URIs and SRIs); and we will prioritise sharing our research findings with our communities and policy-makers.

3. Community

We aim to create a global civic University which will be a meeting point for different forms of expertise and experience from across society. We will create a University that ensures that a wide range of individuals and communities have opportunities to participate in and to shape research, education and wider university life as they relate to sustainability.

4. Operations

The need to operate the University in a sustainable manner. We will use a minimum of materials, space and energy to meet our Education, Research and Community objectives whilst comprehensively and sufficiently addressing the climate and ecological crisis.

Our Sustainability Strategy Themes

1. Education
for Sustainable
Development

2. Research
and Knowledge
Transfer

3. Staff and
Student
Engagement

4. Engaging
with our
Communities

5. Space
Utilisation

6. Construction

7. The Living
Estate
(Biodiversity)

8. Energy,
Carbon and
Water
Management

9. Transport

10. Emissions,
Discharges and
Prevention of
Pollution

11. Circular
Economy

12.
Procurement

13. Responsible
Investment

14. Ethical and
Sustainable
Food

15. Governance

16. Reporting



1. Education for sustainable development

Through teaching and learning our students will be enabled to have a positive sustainability impact on the world.

Aim

We aspire for students to understand the ways in which sustainability challenges may impact their personal and professional lives, and opportunities to engage more deeply with sustainability through the formal and informal curriculum.

Objectives

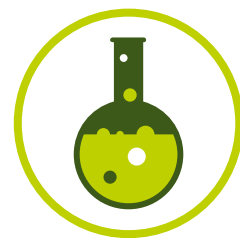
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Integrate discipline-relevant education for sustainable development into every degree program. | degree programs, and vocational degree programs where possible. | 4. Provide formal extracurricular sustainability experiences for students, including ones leading to official recognition (e.g. Bristol+ award). |
| 2. Make interdisciplinary sustainability educational options and pathways available to all students on non-vocational | 3. Develop an interdisciplinary community of staff with expertise in sustainability education alongside their discipline expertise and provide appropriate institutional support and recognition. | 5. Create and support a network of engaged students and staff, and bottom-up initiatives which emerge from them. |

Actions

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|---|--|--|
| 1. In wide consultation with staff, develop a strategy as to what extent and how sustainability education should be integrated into different university degree programs. | 3. Building on the existing ESD CREATE module, develop staff training and resources sharing best practice from across the university and beyond. | bottom-up activities by staff and students. |
| 2. Integrate Education for Sustainable Development and the Climate Emergency into the University Curriculum Enhancement program and other program development and review processes used by University of Bristol. | 4. Continue to offer the existing interdisciplinary Sustainable Development unit, expanding its availability to further students. | 6. Together with the SU, support a community of engaged students through events, mailing lists and social media, and link with interested staff. |
| | 5. Run Green Apple curriculum innovation scheme to support | |

Benefits

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1.
Enable students to be change agents to deliver sustainability, within and beyond the University. | 2.
Enhance our student leadership knowledge and skills. | 3.
Improve student employability. |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|



2. Research and knowledge transfer

Research is a key aspect of the University and can have one of our biggest sustainability impacts.

Aim

Conducting world-class research on the environment, social justice and development, consistent with addressing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, will continue to be a strategic priority for the University (exemplified by the URIs and SRIs); and we will prioritise sharing our research findings with our communities and policy-makers

Objectives

1. Promote research that focuses on protecting the environment, improving social conditions and suggesting solutions based on a broad inter-disciplinary evidence base.
2. Promote the broad activity of the URI's and SRI's to the University and lead on developing technological and social innovations for sustainability impacts.
3. To develop 'future sustainability leaders' through research-led education and postgraduate research, utilising Living Labs and the University campuses to develop skills and knowledge.

Actions

1. Run engagement events with our partners such as the festival of ideas.
2. Strategic priority for inter-disciplinary solution focused research initiatives.
3. Promotion of postgraduate research focused on environmental challenges.

Benefits

1. Sharing our learning from research can have the biggest sustainability impact outside of producing sustainability literate graduates.

2. Solutions focused inter-disciplinary research is critical for addressing complex societal challenges

3. Utilising research to achieve an environmentally sustainable University.



3. Staff and student engagement

Communication plays a central role in delivering all aspects of Sustainability by helping staff and students to understand the key issues involved in a range of sustainability issues. We need to have a shared understanding of what the University is setting out to achieve, what actions we can take individually and collectively, as well as encouraging sustainable behaviours.

Aim

To identify opportunities and methods for the effective use of communication to promote sustainability and deliver sustainable change.

Objectives

1. Develop and run an annual program of awareness raising initiatives to increase staff and student understanding of sustainability, across all 14 areas of the University's Sustainability Strategy, as well as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Provide sustainability training & skills programs on an annual basis, to enable Staff and students to deliver sustainability improvements.
3. Deliver behaviour change campaigns relating to sustainability issues annually.
4. Monthly sustainability updates for internal and external audiences across a range of communication channels.
5. See an annual increase to more sustainable behaviours as noted within the sustainability segmentation survey over the next 5 years.
6. Investigate how to record impacts of behaviour change campaigns and see a reduction in energy use and waste produced as a result.
7. Develop and deliver an engagement program aimed at community groups and stakeholders to encourage sustainable behaviours and awareness in the wider community and strengthen University connections with the Bristol community.

Actions

1. Run 'Be the Change' behaviour change campaign.
2. Achieve Bronze Laboratories Environmental Assessment Framework (LEAF) by the end of 2021 and Silver LEAF by the end of 2024.

Benefits

1.
To have a highly aware staff and student community, which is enabled to make sustainability improvements.



4. Engaging with our communities

The University sits within a complex network of communities and partners, with which we aim to engage and collaborate.

Aim

To create a global civic University, which will be a meeting point for different forms of expertise and experience from across society. We will create a University that ensures that a wide range of individuals and communities have opportunities to participate in and to shape research, education and wider university life.

Objectives

1. Ensure civic partners and communities can contribute to the shaping of our research and innovation agenda.
2. Embed engagement in our education and pedagogy.
3. Re-set our role as an institutional citizen.
4. Embed relationships 'beyond the campus walls'.
5. Create inclusive and engaged campuses for all visitors.

Actions

1. Create engaged learning opportunities in the city and region.
2. Develop civically engaged Public Art.
3. Develop 'twilight' quarters to bring community to the University.

Benefits

1. Enhanced student experience, employability and learning.
2. Improved relations with local communities and partners leading to enhanced joint outcomes.



5. Space utilisation

Space within our estate, both within buildings and the space around them is a precious resource and needs to be utilised effectively. We wish to maximise our use of space through well planned initiatives to optimise their positive impact on our teaching and research activity Operating space is resource hungry, needing maintenance, cleaning, heating, ensuring we can have the right space at the right time and place is essential to improve our sustainability impact.

There is a need to achieve the highest and best use of space within campus centres and finding ways to promote faculty / student interaction.

Aim

Adopting a best in class approach to space utilisation via a performance management framework for space in support of our sustainability objectives.

Objectives

1. Strategic focus on optimisation of the University’s sunk investment in space; maximising occupancy and improving user experience.

2. Consider the estate as a test bed for new services aiming to reduce friction in use, and access to resources such as wayfinding apps, meeting room management software, desk finding tools etc.

3. Reflecting business demands and external drivers into rational plans of action.

4. Improving stakeholder engagement with the design, build, operate, maintain lifecycle and gain wider appreciation of the nature of our responsibility to be more efficient.

5. Automation of key processes and data capture, turning analysis effort towards enhancement of productivity and user experience.

6. Business Intelligence drawn from live data and created to enable decisions made on forecast rather simple projections.

7. Real time use measured and visualised for most critical space types.

8. Defined KPIs used for Short, Mid and Long-term performance management.

9. Focus on process improvements for moves e.g. on-boarding (the introduction of new spaces, technology and cultural practices) and off-boarding (disposals, waste management processes etc).

Actions

1. Implementing a workplace change agenda.

2. Creating a new standard for the academic and postgraduate community.

3. Creating a space standard for teaching and learning space.

4. Updating the current administrative space standards.

5. Improve how we approach the movement of staff and resources around our organisation to become more efficient.

Benefits

1. Reduced carbon emissions

2. Better use of our assets.

3. Improved working environment.

4. Enabling improved collaboration.



6. Construction

Like space, our built environment is key to delivering our teaching and research aspirations and like space it is resource hungry. Sustainable construction not only reduces running costs and long-term sustainability impacts but can also reduce capital cost.

Aim

To create sustainable buildings and places through the construction process. This will include aspects like, energy use and carbon emissions, circular economy principles, transport, biodiversity, waste as well as health and well-being of users, engagement with local communities and adaptation to climate change.

Objectives

1. Apply the University agreed 'BREEAM plus standard' to all applicable projects.
2. Monitor each applicable project against the standard and report on compliance with the standard.
3. Annually review the standard to refine its use and ensure it is relevant, up to date and keeping University design of buildings at the forefront of sustainable design.
4. Develop a standard to be used for smaller refurbishments and projects.

Actions

1. Review Library and TQEC projects against the BREEAM plus standard.
2. Review sector approaches to sustainable construction within smaller projects to see if there are approaches that can be applied at the University of Bristol.

Benefits

1. Reducing carbon emissions.
2. Lower in-use running costs for the University.
3. Improved user experience and well-being.



7. The Living Estate (Biodiversity)

Our Living Estate acts as the breathing space for nature within the built environment; a place which increasingly operates as a civic university to visitors and where our staff and students can live, work and play. The living estate fulfils many functions, two important ones are: to provide a green environment for people to ‘recharge their batteries’ and improve their mental wellbeing; and to increasing biodiversity in support of a healthy and therefore sustainable ecosystem.

Aim

The Living Estate plan will enrich habitats in support of regional and local conservation priorities; develop green infrastructure to include water sensitive designs; increase the number of key indicator species whose function, population, or status can reveal the qualitative status of the environment; develop multi layered tree canopy cover and conserve the existing natural environment for the benefit and mental welfare of University students, visitors and staff as well as a visual response to the climate challenge. The Botanic Garden conserves some of the South West’s rare and threatened native flora; forming part of the University commitment to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

Objectives

1. Maintain the established habitats held within, or supported from, University grounds. Bristol City and North Somerset Council Biodiversity Action Plan: Rivers; Woodland; Hedgerows; Species Rich Grassland; Standing Open Water; Open Mosaic Habitats on previously developed land. University recognised habitats: Green roofs; Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces	2. Maintain or improve current tree canopy cover levels for all sites 3. Develop the rich flora and fauna in parks, gardens and open spaces 4. Work with the appropriate conservation organisations, as well as local communities, to play our part in district wide initiatives to establish, conserve and improve	links that make up a network for nature. 5. Map habitats and have a program of surveys for existing biodiversity. Use mapping and survey information as quantifiable data to enhance existing biodiversity. 6. Raise awareness of the living estate and the biodiversity it contains.
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Actions

1. Work with students, volunteers and staff to actively support and enrich our living estate 2. Establish a ‘Living Estate Group’ to increase coordination, engagement and awareness of the estate with the Student Union and support groups, such as ‘Student Conservation’ & the	‘Roots Community’, to collaborate on projects such as The Hedgehog friendly campus, Incredible Edible, Green Flag Awards and Bee’s needs. 3. Continue to deliver biodiversity through good land management, the BREEAM process and ‘Building with Nature’ for new developments.	4. Make full use of technologies and social media to monitor, display and communicate a narrative regarding the Living Estate.
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7. The Living Estate (Biodiversity)

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Benefits

1.

Volunteer (staff, student and external) involvement in the development and management of grounds supports several objectives found in the 'University Vision and Strategy'.
2.

The University will be recognised for high standards in estate management and as a long-standing contributor to Bristol and North Somerset's natural environment.
3.

Being active and taking notice of your surroundings are two of the five main ways to improve mental health (source: Mind.org.uk). Our green spaces offer open areas for exercise, collaboration, observation of wildlife and reflection.
4.

Developing flora and fauna for the benefit of plant pollination supports the food supply chain.
5.

Growing trees and allowing their canopies to develop naturally reduces Co2, heat island effects, and removes particulate pollutants from the air (40% tree canopy is the ideal percentage for a site)



8. Energy, carbon and water management

The emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are one of the biggest challenges facing humankind; the University declaring a Climate Emergency is a response to this threat. Decarbonising what we do is essential to advert catastrophic impacts on the ecosystem to rely on.

Aim

- 1. To be net zero carbon for our Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2030 and to continuously test the timescale for delivery.
- 2. To identify a timescale to add building emissions operated by partner organisations, as well as all our scope 3 emissions to our zero carbon aspirations.
- 3. Develop an integrated Climate Change adaption plan for the University.

Objectives

To reduce our Scope 1 & 2 emissions to net zero by 2030 we will:

1. Optimise our use of space.

2. Conserve energy.

3. Use energy more efficiently.

4. Build and refurbish to the highest cost-effective energy standards.

5. Use self-generated heat and electricity from zero/lower-carbon sources.

6. Use local externally generated heat and electricity from zero/lower-carbon networks.

7. Buy gas and electricity from zero/lower carbon sources.

8. Offset of the remaining carbon emissions.

To address Scope 3 emissions

1. Using scientifically sound carbon targets identify a time scale for delivering net zero carbon

2. Develop Circular Economy and Transport plans which will enable a transition to net zero

Actions

1. Deliver a £5million program of conservation and efficiency measures within our top consuming buildings.

2. Develop scientifically sound science-based carbon targets.

3. Develop an in-house carbon off setting scheme linking to biodiversity.

Benefits

1. Contributing to reducing climate change

2. Reducing on-going utility costs for the University



9. Transport

Transport is a key part of how we operate as an organisation: getting to and between our campuses is a daily, if not hourly, requirement. Doing this in a non-polluting, low & zero carbon way is essential to reduce our impact on the environment and the communities that we serve.

Aim

To minimise the environmental impact from all transport activity generated by the University including commuting, operational fleet transport and business travel.

Objectives

1. Develop and deliver an overarching Travel Plan that incorporates all university campuses and caters for commuting, operational fleet and business travel.

2. Support the development of the University’s campuses ensuring sustainable travel infrastructure is built into all new builds and refurbishments projects and integrates with the City’s transport networks.

3. Minimise the environmental impacts associated with operational fleet transport and staff business travel, including air travel.

4. Engagement with Bristol City Council, local neighbours/community groups and organisations to ensure collaboration on transport solutions to benefit the Uni and wider community.

The following targets have been set:

1. Maintain a framework to support sustainable modes of transport to work and study at the University by staff and students (e.g. walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing). Achieving 87% (baseline 79% in 2007) and retaining 96% (baseline 96% in 2008) respectively by 2025 for sustainable modes of transport.

2. Separate targets will be set for business travel during 2020.

Actions

1. Engage with internal and external stakeholders to develop an overarching University travel plan and associated parking policies, including further development of the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus travel plan.

2. Develop and deliver a fleet and business travel strategy, including measures to reduce air travel and emissions from operational fleet transport.

3. Implementation and review of the cycling strategy, which currently includes new infrastructure, cycle training, a free cycle surgery and the sale of discounted locks and lights

4. Implementation and review of the Bus strategy, which includes management and further development of the Unibus network.

5. Develop a business case for, and implement appropriate transport links (bus, cycle, car club) between TQEC to the Clifton Campus.

6. Supporting faculties and departments to deliver the travel components of their climate action plans.

7. Maintain and develop the University presence at appropriate transport fora in the City, e.g. with Bristol City Council, the Bristol Workplace Travel Network and Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone.



10. Emissions, discharges and prevention of pollution

The University of Bristol operates under an Environmental Management System, ISO 14001. Its scope covers all operations, teaching and research. This is a systematic approach to environmental management, and is externally audited annually to provide assurance that the University is achieving best practice in environmental management.

Aim

Provide a systematic, auditable framework to ensure compliance with legislation, including controls to prevent pollution; working to reduce emissions and discharges to air, land and water as well as minimising environmental impact with a lifecycle perspective. This will also allow the University to balance socio-economic needs with environmental impacts.

Objectives

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

2. Identify aspects of the University's activities that can have a positive or negative impact on the environment, prioritising those deemed to be significant and developing controls and actions, based on factors relevant to the institution.

3. Review business aspects of activities that have both positive and negative impacts on the environment, incorporating whole life and life cycle and identifying business risks and opportunities.

4. Implement and manage processes for prevention of pollution.

5. Evaluating environmental performance to help establish

operational controls which lead to enhanced environmental performance and continuous improvement.

6. Manage internal compliance audits to ensure ongoing best practice is maintained .

Actions

1. Maintain an aspects and impacts register, reviewing annually.

2. Maintain a risk and legislation register, reviewing at least annually.

3. Hold university wide management reviews.

4. Raise the profile of ISO 14001 principles across the University.

5. Review risk assessments and control documents in light the audits and reviews.

Benefits

1. Achieving financial or operational efficiencies though implementing environmentally sound initiatives.

2. Allow the University to respond to changing environmental conditions, manage associated risk and enhance opportunities for improvements.

3. Reduce the risk of non-compliance with legislation.



11. Circular Economy

The University of Bristol is adopting a Circular Economy approach to managing its resources. 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;

Aims

1. Align economic and environmental objectives to maximise our resource efficiency
2. 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
3. Deliver the 7 key principles of Circular Economy within the University's operational activity.

Objectives

To be a University based on Circular Economy Principles;

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritises the use of regenerative resources reducing environmental impact: reusable, non-toxic, renewable. 2. Preserves and extends the life of what's already been made: repair, upgrade, upcycle. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Turning waste into a resource: reuse, remanufacture, creating a secondary resource, recycling, no-landfill, waste prevention and minimisation. 4. Designing for the future: longevity, low maintenance, reusable, adaptable. 5. Collaboration: working with the supply chain as partners, within and outside the university, integrating into procurement activity. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Rethinking our business model: Whole life costing and life cycle analysis 7. Incorporating digital technology: Offering opportunities to connect organisations in delivering the six principles above. |
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Actions

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|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a whole life costing model to be used within the tender process for goods and services. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Develop training for purchasers on circular economy principles and how to integrate into operations. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Manage in line with the waste hierarchy. |
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Benefits

1.
Reduced purchasing and disposal costs for all purchased products.

2.
Reduced carbon emissions.

3.
Improved community engagement.



12. Procurement

The University of Bristol is a global civic institution which uses its resources, influence and connections to contribute to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the communities which we serve.

Aims

Embed responsible procurement into all aspects of the University's procurement activities – incorporating sustainability, Social Value, responsible sourcing and supply chain transparency.

Objectives

1. Ensuring sustainability, Social Value and supply chain transparency considerations are included at every stage of the procurement process, via the Responsible Procurement Plan.
2. The Procurement Team will continually improve its understanding of sustainability and Social Value to ensure that it takes opportunities to reduce any of the negative impacts of its procurement activities and maximise the value it can bring to the environment and society. As part of the University's commitment to sustainability and Social Value the team is committed to support several Green Pledges.
3. The University will continue to hold the Living Wage accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation, and for the University to require a corresponding commitment from service providers.
4. The University will continue to hold the University of Sanctuary accreditation from the Cites of Sanctuary Network.
5. The Procurement Team will work with the business community to develop and enhance relations and the procurement experience for small and medium sized businesses (SME's) as well as play our part in strengthening the local and regional economy. This includes targeted engagement with SMEs from a Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background.
6. The NETpositives project is reviewing procurement documentation to embed Sustainable / Responsible procurement into our processes, enabling Sustainable Procurement and Social Value to be considered in every procurement as a matter of course, developing a practical Whole Life Costing model to be used in the initial stages of a procurement, Improving our Flexible Framework Level and helping the University to achieve its enhanced ISO140001 Standard.
7. Eliminate Modern Slavery and forced labour from our supply chain.

Actions

1. Develop a whole life costing element of the Sustainable mpact Assessment model.
2. Use a sustainability analysis tool for each tender.
3. Implement training for all staff relating to sustainable procurement.
4. Publish our Modern Slavery Statement in the industry-leading database (TISCreport) and act where our suppliers appear not to have published a compliant statement, or where there are concerns about the integrity of our supply chain.

Benefits

1.
Cost
reduction.

2.
Meeting
carbon
targets.

3.
Adding
social
value.



13. Responsible Investment

The University's endowment investments will align closely with the aims set out within the wider Sustainability Strategy. The University has already ended investment in companies deriving more than 5% of turnover from the extraction of thermal coal or oil and gas and from tar sands and it continues to reduce carbon emissions within its investment portfolio.

Aims

To integrate the principles of responsible investment into University of Bristol Endowment funds and other investing activity. There will be focus on fossil fuels and carbon reduction through the investment portfolios, adopting a low carbon investment strategy.

Objectives

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The University will actively manage its portfolio of investments to deliver a material reduction in the carbon emissions from these investments over the next ten years. 2. The University will actively manage its portfolio of investments to not invest in endowment funds that generate returns from tobacco, pornography, the manufacture of anti-personnel weapons, the operation of betting | <p>or gambling or have a record of human rights contraventions, as set out in the University's Endowment Policy. It is inevitable in a diversified and indirectly managed investment portfolio that some exposure may appear in some funds and therefore it is not possible to demand absolute exclusion. However, exposure will be monitored and reported on, to ensure that the proportion of the [endowment</p> | <p>fund] with such exposure remains negligible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The University will investigate options for investment in companies and organisations which are developing green technologies and processes. 4. Investigate the application of responsible investment principles to 'operational cash' holdings. |
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Actions

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued delivery of a low carbon investment strategy, reducing the carbon within the portfolio of investments. 2. Engaging with companies and policymakers to encourage actions consistent with a low | <p>carbon future through investment fund managers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Where the University holds an endowment investment in an entity which falls outside of the ethical investment criteria outlined above then a reasonable grace period will | <p>be allowed for the entity to return to a state of compliance. If it becomes apparent that the entity is likely to persist in a state of non-compliance, then the investment will be liquidated, and the proceeds reinvested in a compliant investment vehicle.</p> |
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Benefits

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing contribution to negative environmental and social impacts. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Reduced carbon emissions impact. |
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14. Ethical and sustainable food

The links to health and wellbeing from good diets is well known and the University's catering outlets reflect this in the high-quality food they provide. Often what is overlooked is the environmental and social impact of food production and waste. Food is often grown far from its point of consumption, often reducing biodiversity and adversely affecting local communities and then flown great distances with a large carbon footprint to end up being wasted - an estimated 7 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK each year.

Aims

We aim to carry out food and drink procurement and service delivery activities in a manner that reduces negative and enhances positive social, ethical and environmental benefits whilst also encouraging and promoting healthy eating and enabling cultural diversity. We strive to incorporate sustainability including carbon impacts into our product and service selection process. We recognise that it is our responsibility to encourage our suppliers to minimise negative environmental and social effects associated with the products and services they provide. We will actively seek to engage with all stakeholders and customers in the continued development of policy and procedure in respect of healthy and sustainable food.

Objectives

1. The University will achieve Fairtrade University status with the Fairtrade Foundation by March 2021 for all its food related activities in partnership with stakeholders for non-food related Fairtrade activity.
2. The University will remove all ruminant meats from its offerings that do not reach agreed animal welfare, low carbon and positive environmental standards by 2022.
3. The University will deliver all new café or retail units with zero waste packaging for fresh food that has been produced on site from 2020 by promoting reuse, deposit return and take back schemes with whole life costing evidence.
4. Vegan and Vegetarian food will be increased by 30% in all food offerings by 2021, whilst ensuring these foods provide positive environmental and low carbon benefits.
5. We will map carbon related to all food and drink offerings by 2020 and reduce it by 30% by 2021, by reducing meat-based meals, transport and processing, thus encouraging use of local seasonal and plant-based foods.
6. We will work to reduce the sugar in the foods we retail by 20% by 2021.
7. Investigate where we can remove unsustainable palm oil from our offering.

Actions

1. Ban sales of all drinks in plastic bottles – March 2020 .
2. Run Fairtrade.org activities to promote the importance of Fair-Trade schemes including Fairtrade.org, fair for life, fair life etc.
3. Introduce deposit return schemes to University cafes and bars from 2020.
4. Promote the environmental and health benefits of plant-based foods using social media staff and student campaigns in 2020.
5. Run education campaigns encouraging staff and students to carry out carbon footprint activities for their diet in 2020.
6. We will have every food supplier proactively engaged with our sustainability criteria and reporting as part of their contract KPI's in 2020.
7. We will review accreditation schemes, such as the sustainable restaurant association, soil association etc to pursue the most applicable scheme for the University's activities in 2020.



15. Governance

Sustainability is intertwined with all areas of University activity. For the University to be a truly sustainable, the thematic areas within this strategy need to be considered through all University strategy, activity and business. Teaching, research, operations and community all need to consider and include sustainability to avoid detrimental impacts to the environment and society.

Aims

To integrate sustainability into all governance streams, ensuring that decision making is aware of and where possible accounts for sustainability impacts.

Objectives

1. To develop a set of sustainability criteria to aid & inform decision making at all levels within the University.

2. To consider implementing a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) methodology for all University committees (using the sustainability criteria noted above) that will identify key impacts of any proposed activity quickly and effectively.

3. To include key sustainability requirements into the Integrated Planning process (IPP).

Actions

1. Deliver sustainability criteria by December 2020

2. Trial SIA within a University committee

Benefits

1. To help avoid unintended consequences of decisions that may impact not only on the environment and society but within the University.

2. Enhance reputation by embedding sustainability within governance processes.



16. Monitoring and reporting

To ensure the delivery of the Sustainability Strategy and its objectives the following monitoring and reporting structure will be in place:

Supporting plans

Each of the themed area will have a delivery plan covering all objectives noted in this strategy plus any other minor objectives, as well as key actions required. These plans will be SMART based.

Delivery plan and dashboard

An overall delivery plan identifying the key actions for the year will also be produced with a RAG dashboard.

Sustainability Council

A University wide senior team reporting to UEB will monitor progress and review deliver for the Sustainability Strategy and delivery plan.

Annual progress report

This will be produced each year to update UEB on overall progress and any corrective action needed. This report will also be used to update staff and students.