

Climate Action Planning Tool

Action Plan for Bristol Veterinary School

By exploring, selecting and prioritising your impacts you have undertaken **a simple materiality assessment** for your department. With a better understanding of your departmental impacts we can suggest actions to include as part of your departmental planning processes. To customise your action plan: Remove any actions not relevant to your department Edit any actions that are presented Add custom actions you wish to include Update to include progress made to date (including adding evidence) The sustainability team will help you develop your action plan in more detail and how you can use it to drive progress.

Buildings

Select actions to explore impacts relating to design and use of your buildings. Select actions from this list that you have in progress, are ready to start or have already completed.

Your issues

1 We have new buildings (or refurbishments) in progress or in planning
Our new teaching building will be completed in September 2024 and will be BREEAM excellent

2 Our staff could be better supported to save energy
Energy efficiency can be as simple as switching off equipment that is not in use or identifying opportunities to promote more sustainable practice. Individual members of staff can be critical to success at a very local level and departments have a role to play in creating a culture of engagement.

Your action plan



Be an advocate for sustainability with the design team *In progress*
BREEAM is applied to all building projects so sustainability is part of standard practice. Departmental champions are key to ensuring sustainability is successfully applied at the design stages and throughout the process.

Evidence

The new teaching building, Blagdon will be completed this September and is on track to be BREEAM excellent.

Evidence last updated: 19 May 2025



Identify equipment that can (and cannot) be switched off across the department *In progress*
Adopt a 'traffic light system' to alert building users to the equipment that can and cannot be switched off. You can print these yourself or contact the Sustainability team for stickers. [Lighting switch off stickers](#) are also available.

Evidence

Stickers are already in place across our research labs, and there are plans to roll out light switch off stickers to all buildings in the School where motion sensors are not already in place.

Evidence last updated: 15 December 2022

Review heating consumption across campus buildings **In progress**

Evidence

A review has taken place of all buildings on the Langford Campus and heating times have been reduced where possible to cut energy consumption. We are working to quantify how much has been saved. The School is also waiting on the System Link roll out in the new year which will be able to monitor energy usage more readily across the School. There are a lot of issues with old heating systems operating very inefficiently and thus using very large amounts of energy. December 23 update Early result (Feb 23) on the energy saved approx £75K on total energy bill across the Langford Campus, including 127 metric tonnes of Co2 on gas consumption. We are hoping to get more accurate results in Autumn 23. (JS) May 2025 The School meets three times a year with the FM team to review all spaces and identify opportunities to reduce energy usage. This year, we turned off the air handling system in the Pearson teaching areas during the Easter break and will turn it off again from June until September, except when events are taking place in the building. We will also be turning off the air handling system in the Student Barn, which will be vacated from July to September due to planned works related to the new teaching building. These are opportunistic measures to reduce energy usage, and we will continue to explore further options wherever possible. A new heating system was installed within the Churchill building, which combines both wet and dry systems. New pipework and thermostatically controlled radiators were installed in corridors and teaching spaces which are run from one boiler (rather than two previously). Laboratories and offices were fitted with air conditioning units, the controls of which are centrally locked, with temperatures set with parameters no more than 2 degrees centigrade difference, to maximise energy efficiency. No data regarding energy efficiency is available as yet, but are working with campus division to generate this.

Evidence last updated: 10 June 2025

Review of buildings across the School which need lighting updated **In progress**

Evidence

An initial review has already found that the Abattoir Building and Pearson Building currently operate on a switch basis. Chris Jones from Sustainability has been asked if there is a plan to change the lighting system to be similar to that installed in Churchill building 2020. ----- No progress due to lack of available funds -----
----- May 2025 Abattoir lighting will be upgraded to LED this summer, The Pearson building is scheduled for financial year 25/26.

Evidence last updated: 19 May 2025

3 Making Wyndhurst Farm more sustainable

The vet School is working on a strategic plan for the farm for the next 5-10 years. The aim is to make the farm carbon neutral.



Assess the environmental impact of the farm **In progress**

Evidence

Various projects are due to start on the farm involving carbon footprint/cows and biodiversity. Plans are already in place for wildflower strips and 'wild' field corners etc. There is also a significant area of permanent pasture that will remain. Crop establishment techniques will continue to be challenged to minimise environmental impacts (soil disturbance, run off and ground cover). From an environmental perspective, Wyndhurst Farm has great potential to showcase how effective management can benefit milk production and biodiversity whilst minimising negative impacts of livestock production. Working alongside researchers, the farm can be used to evidence carbon friendly farming techniques, and whilst it may be impossible to eliminate enteric methane emissions, strategies to create a farming system where the overall climate impact is optimised per unit output of food can be produced. Farming practices to benefit biodiversity can also be implemented relatively quickly. A range of cropping techniques are already employed, and can be developed further, to prevent soil damage and provide wildlife habitats along with maximising carbon sequestration. -

May 2025 The farm has implemented the Sustainable Farming Incentive, which includes practices such as cropping to increase biodiversity and reducing soil carbon release. We are also working on a project to install an anaerobic digester, which would meet all of the farm's energy needs and could also provide a substantial proportion of the Langford campus's energy requirements. This will be a significant capital project, requiring University funding. A business case is currently being developed in collaboration with the Sustainability team.

Evidence last updated: 19 May 2025

4 We could do more to improve departmental energy efficiency
 Departments use energy differently depending on the spaces they inhabit and the activities they undertake. This means they have a significant role to play in translating institutional policy and programmes into their specific contexts.



Review if Farm can be powered by Solar panels Completed
 Farm Board are reviewing the possibility of installing 500m2 of solar panels on the dairy unit or field mounted panels

Evidence
 The Vet School has met with Sustainability and Space Planning team to review this project as well as the large solar farm project. The 500m2 array would create 30KW supply to the farm along with battery storage and is predicted to cost £30-£40K. December 23 Update A paper written by Chris Jones is going to the next Capital Programme Board in the new year May2025 CLOSED due to neighbouring solar farms which the University may plug into

Evidence last updated: 19 May 2025

Consider assigning responsibility to a named individual or departmental group (ensure this extends to or includes special consideration for laboratories)

Completed
 The Sustainability team will be providing guidance on how to establish departmental groups and sharing best practice across departments.

Evidence
 Sharon Holt is leading on our LEAF. Setting up Sustainability Committee for the School. It is expected the Vet School labs will achieve silver status in 2023. December 23 update The School labs achieved GOLD status, the first in the University

Evidence last updated: 14 December 2023

Identify opportunities to build energy efficiency into key departmental policy or process (ensure this extends to or includes special consideration for laboratories) Completed

A review of departmental policy is likely to identify opportunities to adopt more sustainable processes. It is particularly important to identify where existing policy is linked to unsustainable practices. Procurement and travel policy and practice are often a good place to start.

Evidence
 The School is now including CAP in all of its main committee meetings which was a decision made by the School Executive Group in its October 22 meeting.

Evidence last updated: 15 December 2022

Include energy efficiency performance measures in annual departmental reporting mechanisms (ensure this extends to or includes special consideration for laboratories) In progress

Providing your stakeholders with evidence of energy saving progress will increase the credibility of your departmental activity as well as raising the profile of engagement. Simple targets and measures that can be easily included in existing reports might be a good starting point. You can also contact the Sustainability Team (sustainability-estates@bristol.ac.uk) for departmental energy data and access to live consumption NB Not all departments have live consumption capability.

Evidence
 Working with Sustainability to monitor on an individual building basis the levels of energy usage. The School will use the system link package when it becomes available, to allow it to get baseline readings and then set reduction targets. The plan is to make this data public to the School to demonstrate areas of high usage and to develop strategies to reduce energy consumption, projects such as the chill up of -80 ULT freezers, an audit of freezer stock, improved space management will make significant impacts. ----- May2025

Unable to progress due to lack of available data

Evidence last updated: 19 May 2025

Occupy your departmental spaces efficiently *In progress*

Optimising **space use in buildings** including offices, efficient use of storage facilities and sharing resources will reduce the need for new spaces and improve energy efficiency. Space utilisation will be an area of development for the sustainability team.

Evidence

The School now has the Plan-on booking system for the Dolberry building to provide a greater understanding of usage. This has led to a greater footfall within this building for both vet School staff and colleagues from elsewhere in the University also using the space as well. The School still needs to work on better utilisation of the space it has, but this also required more staff to be more accepting that work spaces need to be fluid and not the pre-COVID model.

----- December 23 update Dolberry Building has a de-clutter in April allowing greater flexibility of desk space. Other School Spaces across site are being cleared to allow better use of appropriate buildings to consolidate where possible. (JS) The School ran a survey to understand how people are now working 12 months into blended working. The results are suggesting blended working is here to stay and this means in the new year the School will be reviewing office space usage again to further develop more efficient occupancy of the spaces it has to ensure energy is not being supplied to empty spaces.

----- May 2025 Final moves in Dolberry will be complete in June which will ensure fully optimised usage of the building.

Evidence last updated: 19 May 2025

Consumption

Select actions to minimise the carbon created through the goods and services your department buys. Select actions from this list that you have in progress, are ready to start or have already completed.

Your issues

Your action plan

1 We could do more to embed sustainable purchasing across the department

Procurement activities are part of 'Scope 3' carbon emissions, as we are indirectly responsible for them. Work is being undertaken to better understand and manage these impacts and the Procurement Team is leading on adapting process, practice and reporting.



Ensure the department supports the procurement team to deliver its work on sustainable procurement *In progress*

In collaboration with the **Procurement team**, prioritising areas of highest spend areas and undertaking a Sustainability Impact Analysis and whole life costing exercise will help to identify impacts and develop mitigation plans.

Evidence

The Vet School has met with the Procurement Team and Sustainability colleagues to develop a separate process for the North Somerset Campus where possible to source suppliers which would be able to provide a service to its campus and not the Bristol campuses. This would aim minimise to the carbon footprint of the supplier and for the purposes of the CAP the Vet School as well. An example of this approach is catering suppliers, the tender process will ask for suppliers with low food miles and more importantly low carbon footprint with the food supplied. Any supplier for the North Somerset Campus will not also have to supply the Bristol Campuses as well, which should attract supplier within North Somerset. This procurement process will be developed further for other supplies where possible.

----- December 23 Update A new contract is in place with local food providers

----- May 2025 This has now morphed into a Faculty project and Procurement have provided the data this month to allow a review to start on the rationalising of sustainable purchasing.

Evidence last updated: 19 May 2025

Include sustainable procurement performance measures in annual departmental reporting mechanisms In progress

Departments can report on a range of sustainable procurement activity such as; demand reduction, reduced or more sustainable delivery options, take back schemes for packaging supply or making use of lease or rental models rather than purchasing.

Evidence

The School has started to review all procurement to identify efficiency measure, opting for more sustainable products to include whole life cycle. One example has been a review of the soap used across the School to understand its impact on the environment and whether a more sustainable product is needed, we are waiting for the toxicity report.

December 23 update Campus Division have replaced soap and dispensers across Langford to a foam product. This will reduce consumption of product, whilst still offering the same hygiene levels. The product is Eco friendly.

----- May 2025 As above. We are also looking at streamlining deliveries of stationery to campus, with a revised ordering system

Evidence last updated: 12 June 2025

Ensure your department has strong links with the procurement team and a focus on sustainable procurement Completed

The procurement team provide a range of support and guidance for departments. Ensure departmental procurement plans and policies link to this best practice.

Evidence

December 23 Update. The School is now focused on joint purchasing with a particular focus on stationary. Aim to activate this from January 2024.

Evidence last updated: 14 December 2023

Data usage In progress

Reduce and optimize data storage

Evidence

Following the paper published by Anna Lewis et al. Stuart Pope questioned the options for data storage, specifically for large video files, this led to a lot of online chat about data storage with other CAP coordinators. This then resulted in SP meeting with key academic staff in the School to review current practices and to develop SOPs regard data storage. Prof Andy Dowsey computer scientist in the School is particularly keen on this approach. The School now has further meetings planned with IT

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

2 We have a significant or unique contribution to make in this area (consumption)

Some departments have more impacts in certain areas than others, or are in a position to make a particular contribution.



Ensure you are addressing your areas of most significant impacts relating to consumption Completed

For some departments, consumption impacts will be particularly significant. If this is true for your department ensure that these are addressed, even if they are challenging. For further information or support get in touch with the Sustainability Team: sustainability-estates@bristol.ac.uk

Evidence

For the Langford Campus, this is 300kW, or about 2,628,000 kWh a year. Electricity provider: EDF. Not all of our electricity is renewable at the moment. 20% of our electricity consumption is linked to the output of four windfarms, two in Wales and two in Scotland. Improved metering, to understand better where this baseload comes from BEMS optimisation to make sure that, to the fullest extent possible, energy services are only in use when they are needed. Lights: Dolberry and Churchill on motion sensor detectors. Stuart will ask for other buildings such as Pearson. * Heating control change planned in 2023 for Langford house.

----- Update December 23 Rationalisation and upgrading of the laboratory fume cupboards has reduced the kilo Watt hours(kWh) of electricity used. The old fan was 18.5 kW motor power, running 24 hours per day, therefore 18.5 x 24 x 365 = 162,060 kWh per annum. The new individual fume cupboards with new fans are 0.37kW, therefore 0.37 x 24 x 365 = 3241.2 kWh per FC per annum. This is a total saving of 149,095.2 kWh per annum. No other projects have progressed due to lack of available budgets.

----- May 2025 Now outside of School remit so marking as closed.

Evidence last updated: 19 May 2025

Ensure you are maximising opportunities to take action relating to consumption that may be unique to your department In progress

Some teams are gate-keepers to areas of policy, process or practice that can have impact across the whole university. Is this team in your department? Ensure these opportunities are identified and action is taken. For further information or support get in touch with the Sustainability Team: sustainability-estates@bristol.ac.uk

Evidence

The School is going to work with Sustainability on Chilling Up project to increase -80 freezers to -70 . Academic staff will have to make a case if they need to keep their ULT at -80C. This model would hope to save 25-30% of the energy used currently. The School will also need to introduce a policy for freezer management, which ensure only samples were kept which are absolutely required, again with a clear academic case made.

Freezer project ongoing and forms part of the LEAF accreditation of which we have been awarded GOLD status. The School is also looking into a project to harvest methane from the slurry lagoon on Wyndhurst farm and will be seeking CPB funding in 2024 for multiple CAP projects on the farm.

UPDATE May 2025 - the project to harvest methane from the farm slurry has taken longer to identify a supplier, but we now believe a supplier has been found and the School is working with Sustainability on a business case which it can take to CPB.

Evidence last updated: 12 June 2025

Making the OSCEs more sustainable Completed

Agreement between VN and VS OSCE facilitators that there are limited actions which can be taken regards to the assessments. In VS OSCEs sponges have replaced oasis for injection tasks so that they can be drained and reused. For both programmes cloth surgical gowns are used. In VN and VS practical sessions students are provided with a bag of bandage material and a pair of sterile gloves, these are replaced as they expire. Students are also encouraged to reused needles, syringes and catheters during practice sessions. Tablets have replaced paper marking systems in the VS OSCEs and are being trialed for the Summer 2023 VN OSCEs. The VN OSCE working group will discuss the use of laminated/wipe clean results sheets and determine if the tablets can attach photos to mark sheets. Markers of the VS OSCE will be asked to recycle the milk containers and recycling bins will be provided in stations for the disposal of non-clinical waste PPE. Currently cardboard pet boxes are used, which are quickly damaged, consideration to revert to plastic ones which last longer.

Evidence

Project is complete

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

Solar Farm Completed

Providing agricultural land for a solar farm

Evidence

The School has met with Sustainability colleagues to review the options of installing a solar farm on the campus. Discussion have now led to the School supporting a project to provide 1.7Ha of land on 2 fields with very limited agricultural use to provide an array of 700KW plus a battery system to store the energy to use at key high usage periods. A feasibility paper has already been approved by CPB.

----- Update
December 23 A paper prepared by Chris Jones from Sustainability will be present to the next CPB in January.

----- May 2025 No
longer pursuing due to change in project to seek supply from neighbouring solar farms.

Evidence last updated: 19 May 2025

Carbon Footprint **In progress**

Evidence

Student carbon footprint - links have been viewed and tested and WWF link seems to be favoured option: The Carbon Literacy project uses the WWF one: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>. Student MS Forms sheet being created to collect student responses. Incentive discussed to promote student participation. * Staff carbon footprint: agreed that homeworking and commuting need to be included. Need to decide on a calculator to use and how to collect information.

December 23 Update - We have not been able to progress this as much as we would like and will be looking to work on this early in the new year

----- May 2025
We paused this to allow a team to undertake the Carbon literacy training, which has now been done. The actions will be to engage students at the beginning of the academic year.

Evidence last updated: 19 May 2025

3 We host meetings, events and/or conferences where catering is provided

The University has approved suppliers that are local and use seasonal foods, compostable packaging and offer reusable sundries. Food production and wastage have a huge carbon footprint and staff specifying catering choices are critical to lowering carbon impacts.



Specify food and catering suppliers that are sustainably sourced **In progress**

When ordering food for events, consult the guidance to select more [sustainable catering options](#). There is also a [sustainable events guide](#) that may be helpful.

Evidence

The School is working with Procurement for the new catering suppliers to service the North Somerset Campus. Special arrangement has been put in place to allow tenders just for NCS thus reducing food miles and also as part of this tender the supplier need to show how food is sourced. Further work is also being undertaken through the Abattoir to seek local meet suppliers to provide potential options to reduce food miles even further.

----- Update December 23 The
School worked with Procurement for the the new suppliers tender and now has several suppliers for the NSC , which reduce the food miles significantly .

UPDATE May 2025 the university only uses Fairtrade, organic or sustainably approved caterers - UoB Source catering - We also use Brockley Stores who use local ethical produce and a mainly vegetarian/vegan menu <https://www.brockleystores.co.uk/c...> - Elaines Kitchen – also local <https://www.elaineskitchen.co.uk/s...> The executive administration team also order vegetarian and vegan catering as a standard

Evidence last updated: 30 May 2025

Make staff, students and visitors aware of efforts to champion low-carbon food options **In progress**

Highlighting the sustainable options that are part of the catering offered by your department is a good place to start. Staff could also be directed to consider their [personal actions](#).

Evidence

Beginning the process of determining where our coffee is sourced from.

----- Update December 23
Coffee is sourced from sustainable provider, and the School now uses local caterers options e.g Brockley stores.

----- Source Cafe on campus
actively supports low carbon food options and the School regularly meets with them to ensure low carbon food options remain. The tea and coffee supplied by the school, for staff and visitors to use is Clipper, which is fairtrade and organic (and this has visibility to those who are using it as it is clearly stated) We also use reusable water bottles or jugs for meetings, as well as reusable mugs etc

Evidence last updated: 30 May 2025

4 Our department buys and/or uses items that are 'single-use'

Single use items very quickly become waste. Challenging the use of single-use items and ensuring they can be disposed of sustainably is a procurement activity. As a School we use a lot of single use plastic for clinical areas and labs.



Create a departmental plan to eradicate unnecessary single-use items and ensure sustainable options are purchased where these are essential Completed
Depending on the goods your department uses this could be a significant undertaking, however, it is essential to understand the single-use goods your department relies upon and the options that are available for making these more sustainable. A number of Universities in the UK have committed to going 'Single-use plastic free' and there is good practice to explore and replicate. Have a look at [our own progress](#)

Evidence

The School is working with Source café plan to ban single use cups after the Easter holidays 2023. Stuart Pope is currently looking at installing a cup-rinsing station to ensure Source staff are handed clean cups.

----- Update
December 23 The School worked with Source cafe and now the Langford Cafe is one of two across the University which has no single use cups.

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

Provide recycling points Completed

PPE recycling points around campus for face masks, surgical hats and show covers. Need to advertise locations to students and ensure used during the OSCEs.

Evidence

Highly successful placement within surgery changing rooms in the SAH. Soft plastic bag recycling points have been taken away due to misuse. Formulating an education campaign to ensure they can be returned to campus and used correctly.

----- May2025
Now in place all key areas., with a new addition of pen recycling points

Evidence last updated: 12 June 2025

5 Our department purchases energy intensive equipment

Some departments undertake activities involving equipment with high energy demands. If this is the case for your department, it is particularly important that a whole life cost analysis is part of the purchasing decisions.



Apply a Whole Life Costing approach to replacing electrical equipment In progress
It is particularly important that whole life costs are considered as part of the purchasing of energy intensive equipment. Guidance can be found on the [Procurement web pages](#).

Evidence

Update December 23 When purchasing all products, the following assessments are made to include the costs of maintaining and operating the product as well as its outright purchase, hire or lease price; the cost of consumables, utilities, training; and the cost of disposal at the end of its life.

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

Correct use of IT equipment Completed

The Sustainability Teams advice is to put computers into 'sleep' mode, this advice is the same whenever you leave your PC for any length of time. Monitors and docking stations should be switched off.

Evidence

All staff and PGR students have been emailed as part of the Christmas shut down and there will be regular reminders during the year. We have to balance the requirements for those using the computers with the University's commitment to sustainability, the applied configurations reflect that. Student configuration (labs, open access etc.) Student computers make up approximately 15% of our estate (~3000/~19700). Their function is to provide access to applications used in teaching and provide computing resources in timetabled locations. The critical requirement passed to us is that the desktop is available as quickly as possible, and that no interruptions should occur due to software installation or updates. During business hours: - monitors stay on for up to 30 minutes after the computer becomes idle so as to reduce the chances of users assuming the computer is off and holding down the power button causing an unmanaged reset. - computers stay powered on during the day. This prevents the situation where users have to wait for the computer to resume from sleep. Also until recently the majority of our computers had mechanical hard disk which, while consuming more power than the solid state equivalent, could add minutes to the time taken to get to the desktop from off/asleep. That situation had previously resulted in impatient users holding down the power button and causing an unmanaged reset. Unmanaged resets can be a cause of OS malfunctions and in the worst cases, hardware failure. As presented to us, the more significant issue is delays to teaching as users restart devices, move between devices looking for one that is ready to use. This is exacerbated as if a startup occurs when updates are pending they will be applied immediately potentially adding minutes to the time take to reach a usable desktop. -----

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

Continuation: computer use Completed

Evidence

Outside business hours: The monitor and computer sleep after 10 and 15 minutes of idle time respectively. They wake in the morning to allow time for software and OS updates to take place, but they can only wake if left to go to sleep the day before. The average BVS student computer seems to be active less than the average at the University (see "Comparative computer activity and estimated power consumption at BVS vs UoB" below). Most likely the computers are not being used as intensively as elsewhere so the typical BVS student computer is more likely to be idle or switched off. Staff configuration - as delivered staff computers will sleep after a few minutes regardless of the time of day, the default Windows power management settings apply. - IT Services do not manage power on these devices - users are able to change this configuration as their work demands - e.g. they can disable sleep if they need to access their desktop PC remotely. Comparative computer activity and estimated power consumption at BVS vs UoB. We have to use a notional average computer for comparison as there is such variation in hardware, peripherals and most importantly workload, but our reporting tools are able to determine the power state of each computer throughout the day and therefore we can derive the results of our management policies are against that notional average computer. What's really being measured is activity, there isn't the equivalent of a power monitor set up on each device. Notional average computer In use 0.0267 kW Idle ~0.01 kW Asleep ~0.001 kW Off <0.001 kW Average computer on all day Computer 0.0267kW * 24 = 0.6408 kWh / day Monitor 0.022 kW * 24 = 0.528 kWh / day 0.6408 kWh/day + 0.528 kWh / day = 1.1688 kWh / day Average computer idle all day Computer 0.01kW * 24 = 0.24 kWh / day Monitor 0 kW * 24 = 0 kWh / day 0.24 kWh/day + 0 kWh / day = 0.24 kWh / day

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

Continuation: computer use (2) Completed

Evidence

Average computer asleep all day Computer 0.01kW * 24 = 0.024 kWh / day Monitor 0 kW * 24 = 0 kWh / day 0.024 kWh/day + 0 kWh / day = 0.024 kWh / day Student computers (All UoB) (from power management reporting) 0.4935 kWh / day Student computers (Bristol Veterinary School) (from power management reporting) 0.3728 kWh / day Staff computers (All UoB) (from power management reporting) 0.4598 kWh / day Staff computers (Bristol Veterinary School) (from power management reporting) 0.4665 kWh / day Potential actions Staff might be amenable to a message around retaining the default power configuration, which is relatively strict. For student computers we'd suggest they are left to behave as outlined above. If there are locations where student computers aren't being well utilised it might be worth reviewing provision of computers in those locations, or working with local IT to ensure that the computers, if generally switched off, are regularly switched on to apply updates over night.

Update December 23 Staff and PGR students are regularly sent messages to switch off all devices at the sockets when leaving at the end of the day and also during University closure periods. UPDATE May 25 Staff and PGR students still receive regular message as above.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

6 Our staff could be better supported to make lower-carbon purchasing choices
Understanding the implication of purchasing decisions, especially the end of life for products, is critical to reducing carbon impacts.



Promote and support the circular economy principles championed by the procurement team with direct links from appropriate departmental webpages In progress

All of the waste the University produces has been purchased. Our energy consumption is linked to the performance of the equipment we have bought. Considering whole life costs of the things we buy is essential and most staff have a role to play. [Sharing guidance](#) produced by the Procurement Team will help this become adopted more widely.

Evidence

Update December 23 - All these actions and more form part of the LEAF accreditation of which we have been awarded GOLD status. Update May 2025 The recent financial pressures have led to great scrutiny of all purchases and to ensure value for money and whether equipment is absolutely essential. This has aided this action.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Create a departmental (or inter-department) equipment-sharing database *In progress*

Staff can already make use of [Restore](#) for unwanted items but establishing a local scheme for some departmental specific items might also be appropriate. It is also possible to buy (and sell) [pre-used lab equipment](#)

Evidence

The School now has a database of all research equipment which through an MS Form can be used to ensure greater utilisation of equipment. *Library of Things: surveyed the students within CAP (showed interest). Lists of items and plan for potential roll out scheme developed. Briefly discussed with Centaur leadership alongside a 'sustainability rep'. Awaiting feedback from Centaur committee. Proposal submitted to the library regarding possible space.

----- UPDATE May2025 Centaur now have a sustainability rep.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Consolidate departmental deliveries onto campus where possible *Completed*

Departmental demand drives the number of deliveries that are made onto campus. Better co-ordination of deliveries can have a significant impact on carbon emissions as well as traffic and other disruption.

Evidence

In collaboration with Campus Division the Winscombe Building has been refurbished to provide a central delivery point. This will allow a greater ability to monitor how deliveries could be coordinated.

Evidence last updated: 02 September 2022

Travel

Select actions to lower the carbon impact of your department through travel and transport. Select actions from this list that you have in progress, are ready to start or have already completed.

Your issues

1 Our staff travel as part of their work e.g. for meetings, events, site visits, deliveries

There are choices to be made when staff decide how to travel for business and departments can be instrumental in encouraging sustainable options to be considered.



Your action plan

Establish departmental travel policy and procedure to embed use of sustainable travel hierarchy in all business travel approvals *In progress*

Departments manage the approvals for business travel and so are well placed to establish criteria for approving flights or spending on lower carbon fleet or videoconferencing facilities. Encouraging staff to use our travel management provider for air and rail bookings is a sensible starting point, as is signposting clearly to [sustainable travel options](#).

Evidence

The school have recently put a useful 'Travel' page on the school intranet site under 'sustainability'. <https://uob.sharepoint.com/sites/b...> This page identifies that staff should adhere by the University travel and expenses policy which clearly indicates how to organise travel at the University, (purchasing through Clarity) but also when it comes to flying, which class is approved. On our school site, we clearly identify the reasoning behind not purchasing for business class, and asking staff to consider other ways of travelling to reduce air travel. On this page, we also clearly indicate the environmentally friendly options to travel for students and staff of the school, and provide useful toolkits and cycle routes around the local area. The school have recently introduced the U2 bus tickets free for staff and a selection of students, (who would need to travel from campus to campus more often) so they can benefit from a public service which should significantly reduce the schools carbon footprint.

UPDATE May 2025 no further progress

Evidence last updated: 12 June 2025

Develop a strategy to substitute business travel through remote participation in external meetings, conferences etc, focusing on long-haul destinations *In progress*
Consider your approach to improving and promoting facilities that support mobile, desktop and room-based video conferencing. This might include training and support for staff on the applications such as Skype or Zoom that can *reduce the need for travel*.

Evidence

The School now has three meeting rooms capable of undertaking hybrid meetings and is converting another this year. This will leave only 2 rooms to convert, which will either be done this financial year of next depending on available funds. All staff in the School have fully adapted to blended working which has significantly reduced the need for travel where appropriate.

UPDATE May 2025 - the School is hopeful to have two further rooms available for hybrid meetings.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Develop an action plan to reduce the carbon footprint of vehicle use, including grey fleet *In progress*

Departments should periodically review utilisation and environmental performance of all road vehicles used for departmental operations, including university-owned, leased, rented and staff-owned vehicles. Data sources for this include vehicle usage logs, driver authorisation records, rental vehicle activity reports and staff vehicle expenses data. This will identify opportunities to *consolidate the vehicle fleet*, reduce mileage, shift to zero-carbon logistics and introduce *energy-efficient driving practices*.

Evidence

At the end of the financial year the School purchased a second hand electric van. The School has also actively engaged with Sustainability to replace the current diesel van it also owns when more grants become available. All school vehicles including those used by the farm have gps logging devices The campus now has electric cargo bikes to move equipment. The School is also reviewing the option to introduce an electric community enterprise car to allow students to car share more on extra mural rotations.

----- Update
December 23 The School reviewed the option to hire/lease electric vehicles and the current costs are prohibitive in the current financial environment which do not allow it to progress at this stage. But the School is asking every student to consider alternative methods of public transport or car sharing to reduce their carbon footprint.

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

Measure and report on the cost, mileage and carbon impact of your department's business travel *In progress*

Business travel includes by air, rail, bus/coach, car (pool, hire or private vehicle) and cycling. *Data can be collated* on measuring travel emissions from travel management service, expenses claims, purchasing card statements to support this. Including statements relating to departmental business travel as part of annual reports will help track reductions over time.

Evidence

The school are planning to circulate a Microsoft Form to all staff and PGR students every three months to request anyone who has travelled in the past three months, to complete the form. The form will consist of asking them questions such as: where they travelled, how they travelled, the cost, and the reason behind the travel. This will help us identify and measure travel emissions in the school. The data can be collated on the form through an Excel spreadsheet which the CAP Team can select data ranges etc. The form can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/Res...>

Evidence last updated: 14 December 2022

Review of courier services/planned delivery *In progress*

The School to review courier services for more sustainable transport options. To also look at coordinated purchase ordering process to reduce deliveries and road miles

Evidence

Update December 23 All key stake holders met in November to develop a plan to coordinate deliveries to the campus. The first stage of this has already happened to ensure all stationary products are ordered and delivered using online coordination. In the new year further meetings will take place to progress other areas of purchasing coordination. ----- UPDATE May 2025 This is included in the project regarding procurement.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

2 We host visitors for meetings, conferences and other external-facing events

Travel by external participants will be responsible for a large part of the carbon footprint of any event or meeting. There are a range of ways these impacts can be avoided or mitigated depending on circumstances.



Develop a low carbon conferencing strategy *In progress*

Event organisers should encourage remote participation by designing in virtual conferencing wherever possible. [Support and information](#) is available from the University's Unified Comms team. For participants who are attending in person, joining information should promote sustainable travel options, for example by referring to the University's own [Business Travel Toolkit](#).

Evidence

The school have also improved the function of the hybrid rooms on the Langford Campus. The team have put together useful video guides and documents (to be found online and in the meeting room) so it is easy for staff to set up a hybrid meeting, and becomes less stressful. This should result in many more staff using this facility and avoid any additional travelling. This information can be found on our hybrid meeting room intranet page: <https://uob.sharepoint.com/sites/b...> On the school intranet, we also have a 'Travel' page <https://uob.sharepoint.com/sites/b...> which includes useful links such as the 'Business travel toolkit', this is also referenced in the subject 'Environmentally friendly options to travel' where we ask staff before booking travel, to look at the toolkit, as this could lower their carbon footprint.

Update December 23 The School has purchase a second mobile web cam and bluetooth mic which enable groups to meet using meeting rooms on campus to to part in wider larger meetings. In the new year as part of this strategy the School is going to research the options for staff and PGR students to liaise with other mainland UK research groups to go to UK locations to take part in international conferences rather than flying, or to use train transport instead.

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

3 We have a significant or unique contribution to make in this area (travel)

Some departments have more impacts in certain areas than others, or are in a position to make a particular contribution



Ensure you are addressing your areas of most significant impacts relating to travel. *In progress*

For some departments, issues relating to travel may be a significant impact. If this is true for your department ensure that these are addressed, even if they are challenging.

Evidence

The School will undertake a Carbon Footprint review in the first quarter of 2023 to fully understand where key issues are.

----- Update December 23
Data collection for this is proving difficult but the travel survey will help.

----- UPDATE May 2025
Due to the increase internationalisation of the Veterinary Programme this action is proving very difficult to acheive because of the financial positives in recruiting international students. With the current financial model it is very difficult for the School to increase investment in more sustainable projects to compensate the increase in travel.

Evidence last updated: 12 June 2025

Ensure you are maximising opportunities to take action relating to travel that may be unique to your department. *In progress*

Some teams are gate-keepers to areas of policy, process or practice that can have impact across the whole university. Is this team in your department? Ensure these opportunities are identified and action is taken.

Evidence

Vet School are actively engaged with North Somerset council Sustainability team. A review of tractor usage and contractor usage has already shown since the acquisition of new land travel distance have reduced significantly for normal farm operations and for agricultural contractor work. Further reviews will be undertaken to further reduce diesel usage and the carbon footprint of the farm.

----- Update December 23 It
is hoped the the project to install a methane harvesting system on the slurry lagoon will also allow it to provider energy for a car charging station which on the A38 and also the lease of a tractor which will run off of methane.

----- UPDATE May2025
See comment earlier about slurry project. The School is actively engaged with a local charity which is seeking to link the Strawberry Line cycle path with the Chew Valley cycle path. This involves the option to release some of the farm land to become a new cycle path and to set up a new cycle park on the A38 which would link with the U2 service. We hope to see significant developments with this project over the next couple of years.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

4 We operate on a split site with high levels of daily staff and/or student movements between campuses

Travel between buildings can be responsible for large numbers of very small journeys. Each has an associated carbon impact and should be mitigated where possible by departments.



Develop an action plan for reducing daily movements between sites In progress

Ensure travel is considered as part of timetabling activity with a focus on reducing the need for travel between sites. Promote a departmental culture of supporting virtual meetings between sites to reduce travel.

Evidence

The School has been reviewing the off campus teaching facilities used and is seeking to reduce journey times wherever possible. The School was sending students to Bridgewater College Cannington campus for equine and exotic animal handling classes. This was a round trip of 60 miles by coach and it sent students from BVSc years 1 and 2 on 3 separate visits. The School has moved the teaching to Puxton park, which is a 14 mile round trip. The CAP was one of the key drivers which led to this move. Further reviews are underway for all other teaching related placements to remove the need for single car usage and encourage the usage of public transport. Consideration will be given to reducing travel requirements in timetabling student activities between the North Somerset Campus and Bristol as well as optimising travel efficiency to offsite locations, as part of the new curriculum being developed currently.

----- Update

December 23 The School is continually monitoring the usage of the booked coach service to ensure only coaches are booked which will be used. The introduction of the extended hourly U2 bus service has meant more students are using this in preference to the booked coaches. More staff and students are also using the WestLink service which means less reliance on individual car usage.

----- UPDATE

May 2025 The School new curriculum has taken into account traveling between campuses and reduce the daily usage of coaches. The changes now means more of the 3rd year of the BVSc is taught at Langford and this in turn has led to more students moving to the local area and thus reducing travel between Bristol and Langford.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

5 We are planning to significantly increase numbers of international students

Tensions between growth targets for international students and our response to the climate emergency will need to be explored at the highest level as a priority. For those international students already studying here we may be able to minimise the impact of associated international travel.



Explore offsetting options for international student travel Completed

Consult with the Sustainability team on University-wide offset policy

Evidence

Vet Students have a contact, Alys Laver, who is the site manager at Steart Marsh near Bridgewater. It is a Wetlands and Wildlife Trust site dedicated to restoration and biological development of Steart salt marsh. Alys has given them the contact details for Peter Lee who is responsible for WWT's corporate charitable partnership. They are hoping to explore the possibility of them offering an alternative to woodland carbon credits as salt marsh carbon sequestration is both a faster and more permanent way to sequester carbon and an instant way to raise our offset rate before any onsite planting can catch up. <https://features.wwt.org.uk/blue-c...>

----- Update

December 23 We have been unable to progress this due to resourcing issues.

----- UPDATE May 2025 We

are not able to progress this project

Evidence last updated: 12 June 2025

Develop an action plan to reduce the travel footprint of international students In progress

Explore and implement virtual engagement at all stages of student lifecycle (prospect-application-enrolment-study-graduation-alumnus) to reduce travel by international students where possible. Programmes that encourage students to remain within Bristol over holidays as well as incentives for students to avoid taking flights could also be piloted.

Evidence

Update December 23 At recent CAP coordinators meeting there was a suggestion of coordinating international students across the University to review if scheduled flights would reduce impact. We have been unable to progress this due to resourcing issues. Some international students in later years are staying in the UK to complete their extra mural studies, which is reducing international travel. This action really needs University wide implementation to enable greater economies of scale.

----- UPDATE May 2025 We have been unable to progress this action

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

6 We run overseas field trips and/or have students who take a year, semester or summer abroad as part of their studies.

Overseas field trips and other global opportunities add value to the student experience but also contribute to the University's overall air travel footprint. Steps should be taken to localise the overseas study-related travel wherever possible.



Measure travel carbon footprint of field trips and study abroad *In progress*

Schools should undertake an annual review of all field trips and study abroad opportunities taken up by their students, including destination, main mode of travel and numbers of participants in order to measure their total travel carbon emissions

Evidence

The School monitors all travel request from students and logs them via an excel spreadsheet. This started from January this year and will allow further analysis. The School has an expanding international programme, which will bring significant issues regarding carbon footprint. But the School actively encourages students to undertake Extra Mural Studies(EMS) in their home countries when they go back in the holidays. Vet Students are required to undertake a total of 38 weeks of EMS over the course of the programme.

UPDATE May 2025 The School MSc in global wildlife now encourages more students to undertake projects in the UK than to travel abroad, for their disertation projects.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Switch to more local field trip locations *In progress*

Schools which feature mandatory or voluntary field trips as part of their courses should review locations currently in use to identify alternatives in the UK or Europe which might provide comparable educational/research value

Evidence

Both the Vet and Vet nurse courses advise students to find placements close to their homes for the holiday placements they have to undertake, which will reduce the amount of travel needed. International students who are returning to their home countries are encouraged to undertake placements within their own countries and close to their homes. In the future the School plans to make students who request international placements aware of the carbon footprint impact this will have, and will seek to encourage them to think of alternatives and also to seek off-setting options.

UPDATE May 2025 We have been unable to progress this action

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Promote overland options for all student international travel *In progress*

Schools should encourage students to travel sustainably for all voluntary study-related overseas travel with information, practical support and incentives for travelling by rail and sea.

Evidence

The School will develop resources to promote sustainable travel where possible to international students. These will provide helpful guidance on booking train travel across Europe, and provide information on the carbon saved. The School will also make students traveling on long haul flights to EMS placements outside of their home country aware of the climate impact they are having when making this choice, this will become part of the administrative EMS process for the School

UPDATE May 2025 We have been unable to progress this action

Evidence last updated: 12 June 2025

7 Public transport options

BVS has very limited public transport links with just the U2 service to the main Clifton Campus, and a limited service from Weston. No linkage with Congresbury and the A370 bus services



Developing more public transport options Completed

Working with Sustainability Transport Managers and North Somerset Council on options to develop the A51 bus from Weston to go to Congresbury and loop back via the North Somerset Campus. This would create a public transport link also with the A370 which has fast buses between Bristol and Weston. Increase the U2 bus service to later in the evenings and also run a weekend service.

Evidence

The Vet School is working with the Sustainability Transport Manager to extend the U2 Bus service to run later in the evenings and over weekends, which will further reduce reliance on cars for commuting between the Clifton and North Somerset Campuses. However, due to the current shortage of bus drivers in Bristol, we don't expect this to be in place before August 2023. The Vet School continues to provide coach transport for students in year 1-3 BVSc and 1-2 VN degree courses for the days when they are taught on the North Somerset Campus or at Puxton Park.

----- Update
December23 A new expanded U2 service is in place running an hourly service Monday-Friday and a 2 hourly service Saturday and Sunday.

----- UPDATE
MAY 2025 It is hoped to increase the U2 service further to have a route from Weston to Bristol from the start of the new academic year. Awaiting NSCouncil response to negotiations.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

8 Cycling to campus options

This is possible but there are safety concerns along the B3133 Stock Lane between Congresbury and Langford. A significant number of students and staff would use this route to cycle.



Developing cycle routes In progress

Use School intranet

Evidence

The travel sub team have identified routes which cyclists can take from Yatton and Congresbury. These are publicised on the School Intranet <https://uob.sharepoint.com/sites/b...> but will need to be also made available to undergraduate students, the School is working with students to identify the best ways of communicating this information. -----

UPDATE MAY 2025 See earlier comment about linkage between Strawberry line and Chew Valley cycle route.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Cycle clinics Completed

re-introduce twice yearly clinics

Evidence

This is already been arranged with Sustainability transport team to run a clinic • Wed 22 March • Thus 8 June The clinic will run from 11am-2pm on both dates. There will be two mechanics at each event. The clinics are now scheduled in line with those in place for the the Clifton Campus.

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

9 Many of our staff and/or students commute to the North Somerset Campus from Bristol and beyond

In addition to business travel for work staff and student journeys to and from work also have an impact.



Improve understanding of staff and student commuting footprint In progress

Understanding staff and student travel patterns helps us provide better and more sustainable options. Departments should promote participation in the University's own staff and student survey (taking place bi-annually on alternate years) and the annual [West of England commuter survey](#) undertaken by Travelwest. Managers should also consider the impacts of long or otherwise difficult daily commutes when addressing staff wellbeing. Results of the staff and student [travel surveys](#) are available on our website.

Evidence

The School will engage with all University/North Somerset travel surveys to enable a better understanding of commuting habits. The School will also seek through its Advocacy group to develop an individualised carbon footprint survey to provide further evidence.

----- UPDATE
May 2025 Awaiting publication of Sustainability Travel Plan.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Develop a departmental remote working strategy Completed

Identify scope for increased home working, review departmental home-working policies and determine levels of IT support available that could facilitate increasing this lower carbon option.

Evidence

This is now included within the University blended working policy. Although not reducing remote working the School has Opened the Dolberry Building to the Plan-on booking system which allows staff who live closer to Langford but work in Bristol normally to come and book desks on the North Somerset Campus.

Evidence last updated: 25 November 2022

Support staff and students in making sustainable travel choices for commuting In progress

A range of sustainable travel provision is provided for staff, from season ticket discounts, cycle purchase scheme to events and promotions. Consider how you can actively promote these options to foster a departmental culture of sustainable travel.

Evidence

The Schools new Sustainability section on its intranet is providing the staff with more information about how they can reduce the usage of their cars through initiatives such as car sharing. The School is also seeking to engage with students but is currently work with the student reps on the CAP team to identify the best method of communication.

UPDATE May 2025 The extension to the U2 bus service provides even more options for staff and students to use public transport rather than driving own cars.

Evidence last updated: 12 June 2025

Advocacy

Actions that relate to curriculum, transparency and advocacy are in this final section. Select actions from this list that you have in progress, are ready to start or have already completed.

Your issues

1 We have students keen to make a contribution to sustainability
Young people are increasingly motivated and engaging with global challenges such as climate action. They are keen to incorporate this within or alongside their discipline of study.



Your action plan

Promote sustainability focused informal curriculum activities provided by the University within your department In progress

There are a range of ways students can engage with sustainability. Programmes such as 'Be the Change' are suitable for all students. Consider providing information to students as part of induction processes.

Evidence

We have had discussions with the student society Centaur and they are keen to run or be involved in, organising Sustain vet talks, social media posts, advocacy of sustainability approaches on campus, zero waste pop ups, screening documentaries in the bar, organising clothes drive etc. They will also consider running 'Library of Things' for items students may need every once in a while, but not on regular basis e.g. power hose, lawnmower etc. If the library could be run through centaur, it may reduce consumables across the vet school.

Update December 23 The Vet School CAP group now has members from all the UG programmes and they are actively pushing for greater involvement with the student societies and running events to celebrate actions to be more sustainable. The NUS Sustainability Champion will also now attend all future student liaison meetings as a recognise member.

UPDATE May 2025 Centaur Society now has a Sustainability rep.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Promote opportunities to link sustainability to employability and careers activity In progress

Bristol Futures and Sustainable Futures provide opportunities for students to develop personal and professional skills by engaging with global challenges.

Evidence

We are working with the Alumni Dept to ensure that we have an up to date list of careers which students have already secured, and share this with current and future students. ----- Update December 23
The NUS Sustainability Champion is also the student rep for Vet Sustain which works with all key veterinary professionals to develop CAPs with the commercial veterinary practices in the UK.

UPDATE May 2025 We have been unable to progress this action

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Identify opportunities to build ESD (Education for Sustainability) initiatives into your department or map existing activity. In progress

Curriculum design already considers sustainability but it may be useful to map existing activity. Opportunities for staff and students to collaborate on elements of curriculum development can also support this type of activity. Green Apple Scheme.

Evidence

We have prioritised Sustainability within our new curriculum for BVSc, and completed the mapping exercise as described above. This is will similarly be incorporated within AGEP. -----

1UPDATE May 2025 - New sustainability lectures (5 + 1 Q/A session) introduced in BVSc2 and AGEP1 related to animal welfare and sustainability in the context of livestock production. - A new 1-day long student sustainability conference has been introduced this year for BVSc2 and AGEP1 students. It aims to allow students to work as a group in a topic of their choice related to animals and sustainability. This year students explored topics such as the decline of pollinators, the use of anaesthetic agents in vet medicine, new technologies to reduce cattle methane emissions and so on. The conference also aims to strengthen students' skills in group working, research and research communication.

Evidence last updated: 10 June 2025

Encourage students to explore sustainability within their taught programme/discipline In progress

Students may be able to undertake projects or dissertations linked to sustainability topics with real world partners. To find out more please email: engaged-learning@bristol.ac.uk.

Evidence

We run an MSc in Global Wildlife Health and Conservation, which includes a strong emphasis on sustainability. The Vet Nursing Programme already includes specifically collaborative and teaching from Vet Sustain. We have a specific Sustainability Working Group working on development of the new BVSc curriculum. By Benjamin Lecorps (Chair) - Ilos of all teaching sessions were mapped in BVSc (year 1, 2 and 3) for relevance to the 6 Veterinary Sustainability goals identified by Vet Sustain with suggestions made to teaching staff about opportunities to include sustainability relevant teaching in their sessions. - Ilos were also reviewed for case-base learning (BVSc and AGEP year 1 and 2) with new ilos included in several cases. The work is currently in progress for BVSc year 3. - A new flying high session planned for BVSc 3 on a topic related to sustainability in the clinic environment. These sessions are one hour long and aim to get students more familiar with hot topics in research at the Vet School (in this case research on sustainable use of veterinary medicine). All the above was progressed thanks to the Sustainability Working group which contributions from two Sustainability Champion students.

Evidence last updated: 10 June 2025

2 We deliver public engagement activities

Public engagement activities are a way of communicating our activity in response to the climate emergency. We also have a role in using these platforms to promote dialogue in the communities we are part of.



Consider a departmental contribution to the People's Assembly activity Completed

There may be a role for some departments to be involved in the development or delivery of these events. There will also be opportunity to ensure your department (staff and students) are kept informed about developments as our climate emergency activity progresses.

Evidence

Sustainability and the Climate Action Plan are now a standing items for the School Assemblies and student liaison meetings at both a UG and PG level. Update December 23 - also a standing item at the monthly School Executive Group meetings.

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

Ensure links with professional bodies explicitly consider the importance of sustainability and share this widely Completed

For some departments, associated professional bodies will also be responding to the climate emergency. Find ways to make links or amplify this activity and ensure staff and students are aware and updated.

Evidence

RCVS Standards and Guidance for the Accreditation of Veterinary Degree Programmes 2021 now includes the following for Sustainability. 2.6. The school must demonstrate a commitment to environmental sustainability, including consideration of the impact of delivering the programme on the environment. Additional guidance: • "Sustainability", could relate to a variety of initiatives. Having an awareness of the importance of sustainability, whilst not necessarily important in terms of clinical skills and knowledge, should still form part of a veterinary surgeon's best practice. The AVMA encourages research and education to enhance the understanding of the impacts of climate change on animal, human, and ecosystem health. In the spirit of One Health, the AVMA supports coordination and collaboration among stakeholders to mitigate deleterious consequences to animal, human, and ecosystem health.

Evidence last updated: 14 December 2022

3 We are keen our approach to departmental sustainability is inclusive

The climate emergency affects everyone and demonstrating an inclusive approach is essential.



Ensure sustainability activity is inclusive and explore the potential for developing collaborative projects In progress

Sustainability affects everyone and is often a vehicle for unusual collaborations. As such it is helpful to consider sustainability alongside inclusivity activity.

Evidence

May 2025 The project with the local charity to develop cycle routes is an example of this actions.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Publicise sustainability initiatives as widely as possible Completed

Evidence

We have formulated a systematic method for ensuring all sustainability initiatives are publicised to both the students and staff via: school bulletin, screens across campus, social media and emails to students. We have commenced with publication of the "bring your own coffee cup" initiative, and have also publicised recycling points across Langford campus. The School has also developed a Sustainability section on its intranet to provide further advice on how everyone can do there bit.

Evidence last updated: 15 December 2022

4 We have a significant or unique contribution to make in this area (advocacy)

Each department will have opportunities to communicate the importance of climate emergency activity. It is essential that departments consider the ways they have opportunity to contribute to dialogue in this regard. Particularly in livestock farm and in veterinary science



Ensure you are maximising opportunities to be an advocate for climate emergency activity. In progress

How is your department able to raise the profile of climate emergency planning or activity? Each department will have channels of communication and opportunity to influence a range of audiences and should identify how to use these.

Evidence

We will ensure our initiatives are communicated internally via emails and bulletins but also externally using twitter and press releases.

----- UPDATE

May 2025 The School now actively promotes Sustainability success via the School bulletin and we have an increasing number of academic colleagues who undertake research in sustainable farming.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

5 We have opportunity to run a low carbon farm, and to review re-wilding



Explore ways to quantify increased biodiversity projects at Wyndhurst farm and on campus using evidence based methods [In progress](#)

Evidence

Please reword title as .. Explore ways to quantify biodiversity via research at Wyndhurst farm and on campus and suggest improvement using the evidence base. We have devised a cross faculty group of academics including members of the Biology Dept , vet School botanists, ecologist and animal biologists. We will coordinate a team of students to collect systematic ongoing data to both give us baseline data on biodiversity across all taxa, and hence to make evidence based recommendations of optimal interventions. Also to use subsequent Msc and BSc students to provide longitudinal data to monitor change and the effectiveness of conservation initiatives. In May 2023, the first cohort of five Msc students will commence their research projects on bats, invertebrates, plants, bird and small mammals.

Update December 23 MSc projects were undertaken looking at the Bio diversity of the farm and have led to further projects to be considered for next year. The School has also developed links with colleagues from the Cabot Institute and undertaken high resolution imaging to map current carbon mass of the farm, a wider whole farm project is likely to take place in the new year.

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

6 We could be more transparent about departmental sustainability

Central to the climate emergency declaration is the emphasis on 'telling the truth'. Departmental activity should focus on transparency and honesty. This is likely to be a need to facilitate challenging conversations about the damage caused by existing activities.



Ensure departmental web pages include a climate emergency response (featuring examples of the departmental actions being undertaken) [In progress](#)

The sustainability team will be providing some guidance to help departments communicate their activity clearly. Consider publishing your Climate Action Plan and promoting this activity publicly.

Evidence

We have developed a new Sustainability section for the School. the completed Climate action plan to be published on the Intranet for the Vet School and also to be included in a School Bulletin to ensure access to all

Evidence last updated: 15 December 2022

Provide updates and reports outlining departmental performance in relation to meeting carbon targets [In progress](#)

The sustainability team has some [guidance here](#) to help departments report effectively.

Evidence

We will ensure reports on carbon targets are communicated both internally to staff and students via bulletins and meetings, but also externally via the website. This will be repeated at regular intervals eg as standing agenda items during School assembly and Staff Executive Group meetings

Evidence last updated: 15 December 2022

Provide information to students (and prospective students) about how sustainability is included in their curriculum [In progress](#)

Providing information about how and where sustainability is part of the taught programmes is important. Links to sustainability in relation to appropriate professional bodies may also be useful to include.

Evidence

We have been in touch with coordinators and are exploring ways to include sustainability materials in open days and recruitment events within the school. Including new curriculum materials as described for BVSc described below. We will update the prospectuses and admissions webpages to ensure sustainability content is represented to prospective students. New sustainability ILOs will be communicated to students throughout teaching modules.

----- UPDATE

May 2025 Sustainability is now included in 3 of the 4 taught programmes within the School Active work is under way to include it sustainability within the 4th programme.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Centaur student society - CAP year reps Completed

Evidence

The Vet School student society will consider adding sustainability year reps to their committee from 2023. There is an election in February and the President will run the suggestion by the committee members and check the constitution.

----- Update December 23 This has been superseded by a Vet Sustain and NUS Sustainability Champion. But further work is needed to ensure these roles remain filled in the future.

----- UPDATE May 2025 Centaur Society now has a sustainability rep.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

7 We advocate responsible decision making to our staff and students



Disseminate information on carbon offsetting and impact calculators to enable students and staff to plan travel and other activities as sustainably as possible In progress

Evidence

Update December 23 Now available on the School's travel website.

Evidence last updated: 18 December 2023

Teaching & Learning

Your issues

1 The School now integrates sustainability into its Veterinary and Global Health MSc curriculum

We want to provide students with a range of opportunities to consider sustainability in the context of their formal studies, and equip them for their future careers.



Conduct an assessment of what is currently offered, and what further discipline-relevant content could be included. Not started

The University is currently piloting support for this in a number of schools. If your school is interested in being involved, then please contact chris.preist@bristol.ac.uk for further information.

Appoint a Student Sustainability Champion, through the Student Union champion scheme. Completed

The Student Sustainability Champions provide an excellent way of ensuring the student voice is actively included in ESD plans. You can learn more about the scheme [here](#) If you wish to find out how to be involved, contact: [Shandin Rickard-Hughes](mailto:Shandin.Rickard-Hughes@bristol.ac.uk)

Evidence

May 2025 The School has now done this for the last 2 years.

Evidence last updated: 27 May 2025

Contribute sustainability case studies to the BILT case study collection. Not started

If you already have examples of sustainability integrated into your curriculum, we are keen to hear from you. Please contact: edu4sd-team@bristol.ac.uk We use case studies in ESD events, staff training workshops and university external presentations. Write-ups of case studies are available [here](#)

2 We could support our staff to confidently embed sustainability into the curriculum

Understanding sustainability in a subject-specific context, and how best to embed it into a curriculum area, can be challenging. Directing teaching teams to support and inspiration is likely to provide a useful starting point.



Promote the Education for Sustainable Development Network to staff, and have at least one staff member join. In progress

Information about the ESD staff network, and resources, are available at the network's [sharepoint](#) You can join the network through the sharepoint site, and receive news of upcoming events, funding, etc which are available through it.

Evidence

Ben Lecorps, Stuart Pope are now part of this group.

Evidence last updated: 19 December 2023

Allocate workload for a member of academic staff to coordinate sustainability education through the school/faculty. Completed

If the sustainability strategy objectives are to be met, it is important that a member of academic staff take responsibility and is provided adequate workload to do so.

Evidence

The School has appointed Ben Lecorps to embed sustainability into the Veterinary programmes

Evidence last updated: 19 December 2023

Promote the PGCAP Education for Sustainable Development training workshop to staff Not started

The PGCAP programme run by BILT delivers a half-day training workshop twice a year. This is an optional part of the PGCAP course, and is also open to all staff.

3 We could provide and embed sustainability into curricular projects and extra-curricular activities

Building sustainability into curricular projects and extra-curricular activity is a powerful way to educate and empower students. It can often enhance student opportunities and provide additional skills.



Apply for a Green Apple award to support student activities - curricular or extra-curricular. Not started

The Green Apple scheme provides small grants to staff and students for activities, both curricular and extra-curricular, connected with Education for Sustainable Development. Details are available [here](#)

4 We could support our students in developing skills for sustainability for their future careers.

Sustainability is not just a specialist career, all jobs can be sustainability jobs. Developing sustainability skills should be considered a key part of employability activity. Examples of such skills include: organisational change, negotiation, business cases, communicating science.



Share information about sustainable careers with your students. In progress

Look out for [sustainable careers events](#) . being organised by the Central University, and share these with your students Put together a blog post or news article for students with details of possible sustainable workplaces or careers related to your discipline. Here is an [example](#) from the School of Physics

Evidence

UPDATE May 2025 Students are now made aware of the impact Veterinarians can have on sustainability through their careers following developments within the curriculum.

Evidence last updated: 12 June 2025

Research

Your issues

1 We conduct research relevant to climate emergency and/or other aspects of sustainable development

Many departments are involved in discipline-specific and interdisciplinary research, which makes a positive contribution to climate emergency responses and other sustainability challenges. There is value in collating these across the University in order to promote synergies and demonstrate collective impact.



Your action plan

Explore opportunities to use the campus as a 'Living Lab' In progress

There may be opportunity for researchers to use the campus or operations as a test bed for innovations that would reduce carbon emissions. The sustainability team may be able to facilitate such activity.

Evidence

John Oldacre Centre for Sustainability & Welfare in Dairy Production A dedicated 'living laboratory' for livestock was created in December 2018 thanks to a £1 million donation, establishing the John Oldacre Centre at Wyndhurst Dairy Farm (Langford Campus) Equipped with motion sensors, GPS tracking, and thermographic cameras, it monitors cow behaviour and health, enabling real-time welfare and low-carbon innovations It also trains undergraduates and postgraduates in sustainable livestock practices—an active Living Lab embedded in Vet teaching.

Evidence last updated: 12 June 2025

Collate sustainability research and record and promote it via departmental webpages [In progress](#)

Reporting your research through your Climate Action Plan will allow it to be more widely known through the University. This will promote synergies and interdisciplinary collaboration, and also allow the University to report its contribution more effectively to initiatives such as the [SDG Accord](#) and the new [Climate Commission for Higher Education](#).

Evidence

UPDATE MAY 2025 Research at the veterinary school spans a wide range of topics related to environmental sustainability. Leveraging our expertise in the health and welfare of livestock—particularly dairy cattle and poultry—we explore how different production systems impact aspects of the three pillars of sustainability (economic, environmental and social), including a strong focus on human and animal well-being. Our work also examines the effects of climate change on agriculture and animals, whether on farms or during transportation. In addition, BVS researchers are actively engaged in addressing global challenges such as tackling greenhouse gas emissions, reforestation, water management, ecosystem conservation, and antimicrobial resistance. By pioneering innovative inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to sustainable development and agriculture (alongside disciplines such as data and social sciences), our research aims to generate robust, science-based evidence to inform policies tackling pressing issues in the agri-food sector and beyond.

Evidence last updated: 13 June 2025