



# SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS UK HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS: A RESOURCE HANDBOOK







**Between March and May 2021, the British Council Algeria ran a series of webinars on the following themes:**

- **Future Energy** - Including carbon reduction and achievement of NetZero emissions. Future power generation and efficiency. What can students encourage a university to do?
- **Future Waste** - What happens to our waste and how to reduce this or even eliminate it entirely. What are the implications for sustainable production and what we consume?
- **Future Cities** - Most universities are based in urban areas. What is their role in their city becoming sustainable?
- **Future Foods** - With a fast-growing world population, how will we feed people & what can universities do now to lead this?
- **Future Biodiversity** - The world's plants and animals are in crisis, pushed to the edge of extinction by people and our consumption. How can a university address this?
- **Future Collaborations** - The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have given us a new framework to look at and understand the world. What are the implications of the SDGs to our learning and campuses?

The webinars featured presentations showcasing the sustainability expertise and experience of a number of UK Higher Education Institutions.

As a follow-up to the webinars this brochure aims to help raise awareness of UK strengths and to prompt interest in new potential research partnerships, and UK universities as destination for aspiring Algerian students.



# Contents

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<b>Universities</b>	<b>4</b>
Bournemouth University	4
University of Cambridge	5
City University of London	7
University College London	10
Coventry University	10
University of Edinburgh	13
Glasgow Caledonian University	15
University of Gloucestershire	15
University of Keele	16
University of Leeds	18
Nottingham Trent University	19
University of Oxford	21
University of Strathclyde	22
University of the West of England Bristol	24
University of Winchester	26
<b>Green Algeria Campuses project partners</b>	<b>28</b>
The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC)	28
The Royal Geographical Society with IBG	29
<b>Other resources</b>	<b>30</b>

## Key links:

[Sustainability at Bournemouth University](#)

[BU sustainability Twitter feed](#)

[Waste and procurement](#)

[Energy, carbon and water](#)

**B**ournemouth University's implementation of its Biodiversity Policy and action plan has improved the ecological value of habitats on its campuses. All new buildings have integrated biodiversity net gain features, such as green roofs and bird boxes.

Bournemouth University has also implemented carbon management plans (CMPs) since 2010 and set a target to reduce emissions by 40% by 2020/21. Bournemouth University has been extremely successful in driving down emissions, achieving a 45% reduction over the past fifteen years. This was achieved through investing in our estate and infrastructure, staff and student engagement and the decarbonisation of the national electricity grid. Achieving the 40% reduction target two years early triggered the development of the Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan (CECAP), and our response is shaped by our need to take urgent action to address the crisis.

The CECAP attempts to reach much deeper into BUs organisation and much more broadly across our activities than previous carbon management plans. In recognition of this, we have included a range of recommendations focused on governance, behaviour change, and aligning education and research with our response and wider SDG objectives as well as reviewing all relevant Bournemouth University policies to ensure they support the crisis response.

They also have the advantage that the vast majority will require resource input (i.e. time) rather than requiring capital investment and thus represent good value as part of laying the groundwork for the successful implementation of this first CECAP and future iterations. That said, a number of the recommendations presented will require capital investment, changes to the way existing funding is allocated and spent, new systems to be put in place, or a combination of all of the above.



## Key links:

[University of Cambridge Sustainability Annual Report 2020-21](#)

[Cambridge Zero](#)

[Sustainability at the University of Cambridge](#)

[Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership\]](#)

[Recycling and waste](#)

[Energy interdisciplinary research centre](#)

[Biodiversity conservation](#)

[A blueprint for a green future](#)

## Annual Report 2020-21

The University of Cambridge is committed to making a positive impact through outstanding environmental sustainability performance, and our [Sustainability Annual Report 2020-21](#) demonstrates this commitment and sets our plans for achieving this including objectives, targets and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Last year, we reported on the implementation of our Science Based Target (SBT) for carbon reduction. The target commits the University to reducing scope 1 and 2 emissions to absolute zero by 2048, with an aspiration to be a decade ahead of its decarbonisation pathway at all times and to reach zero carbon by 2038.

Under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, the University has adopted what is known as the Operational Control approach, under which the buildings, activities and operations included in our calculations and reporting are those over which the University has direct control or significant influence. (We work in partnership on this with the Colleges, and other subsidiary organisations which are separate business entities to the University).

This year, we have facilitated the development of SBTs for Cambridge University Press, Cambridge Assessment and the North West Cambridge Development. We have also created a bespoke SBT model for all 31 Colleges and provided guidance and training on how to develop their targets. Some Colleges have now adopted SBTs and are working towards them. There are a range of sustainability actions happening across the University: projects from Schools and Departments, as well the Sustainability Team, Cambridge Zero and the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

Amongst our various targets (you can read more about these in the [Annual Report](#), progress to date includes:

**Biodiversity and ecosystems:** we are making good progress here, creating additional biodiverse habitat, restoring and enhancing existing habitat and communicating and engaging with staff and students to support data collection to measure progress.

**Fossil fuel divestment:** Following the sustainable investment strategy announced in October 2020 by the University's Endowment Fund, all investments with public equity managers specialised in conventional energy investment were terminated in December 2020. In January 2021 the Fund's first investment in a multi-strategy hedge fund was screened to exclude fossil fuels, and in March 2021 the Fund's portfolio announced all fossil fuels to be removed from its investment universe, effective immediately.

**Waste management:** We aim to achieve continuous year-on-year reductions in waste arising per FTE staff and student; construction and operational waste outputs increased slightly in 2021, partly due to activity picking up after the Covid-19 lockdowns, however they remain below the longer-term trend. Efforts are underway to tackle waste generation through the Waste Strategy.

## **Cambridge Zero**

The organisation Cambridge Zero exists to maximise the University of Cambridge's contribution towards achieving a resilient and sustainable zero-carbon world. Cambridge Zero acts as a hub and an umbrella, integrating and enhancing the University's activities, in particular through:

- research and innovation to drive technological and social change,
  - education and training to provide the skills needed to deliver a different future,
  - engaging with a broad coalition of stakeholders to develop solutions collectively, and
  - leading by example by supporting ambitious decarbonisation.
- For more information please see [www.zero.cam.ac.uk](http://www.zero.cam.ac.uk) and the [December 2021 Cambridge Zero Annual Report](#).

## **Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership**

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) is a globally influential Institute developing leadership and solutions for a sustainable economy.

For over three decades we have built individual and organisational leadership capacity and capabilities, and created industry-leading collaborations, to catalyse change and accelerate the path to a sustainable economy. Our Rewiring Leadership framework sets out our model for the leadership needed to achieve this.

### **What we do:**

- Build the leadership capacity of individuals to create the future we want through executive and graduate education.

- Catalyse innovation and solutions through our business and policy leaders groups, and working with individual organisations.
- Develop the capability of organisations and regions to lead this transition through our advisory services and customised programmes.
- Facilitate collaboration and dialogue across conventional boundaries through our business and policy leaders groups.
- Our work is underpinned by multidisciplinary research and grounded in practitioner insights from exceptional people from business, policy, civil society and academia.

We have a leadership Network of over 20,000 senior leaders and practitioners from business, government and civil society who have an impact in every sector and on every continent.

Our work also draws upon an expert group of Fellows and Senior Associates, comprised of business leaders, academics and other influential thinkers who have direct experience of working to address sustainability challenges.

We operate in countries across six global regions – UK and Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. We have offices in Cambridge, Brussels and Cape Town, with delivery partners in Beijing, Chile, Melbourne and the UAE.

**CITY UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON**



## Key links:

[Sustainability at City University of London](#)

[Sustainability policies and reports](#)

[Waste management](#)

[Biodiversity conservation](#)

## Sustainable Development

**W**e are committed to embedding sustainability across everything we do at City. We are actively working to reduce our environmental impact and play our part in responding to the global climate challenge.

## People and Planet

We were ranked 4th in London and thirteenth in the UK in the last People and Planet University League and have committed to reaching net zero carbon dioxide emis-

sions by 2040.

## **UN Sustainable Development Goals**

In 2019 the University and Students' Union Presidents signed a document on behalf of City and the Students' Union, committing us to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Following our first report on our achievements towards the goals at the end of 2020 the Times Higher's Impact Rankings ranked City in the top 200 universities globally.

## **Carbon**

All of our electricity comes from renewable energy sources, we have reduced our carbon emissions by 53 per cent since 2006, and have attained the British Standards Institute's Kitemark for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Verification.

We have joined many Carbon reduction and climate change programmes, committing us to a variety of initiatives, including awareness campaigns, the use of renewable energy sources and the provision of energy saving devices in new and refurbished buildings.

## **Energy Management**

Energy-saving projects put in place since 2006 have saved us over 10,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and halved our gas consumption.

Energy efficient technology and materials are installed where possible on all new and refurbishment projects.

In 2009 we installed 172 solar panels on our roofs. A new powerPerfactor unit was installed in 2011 saving 355 tonnes of carbon emissions per year and in 2012 we installed a Combined Cooling, Heating and Power (CCHP) plant enabling us to generate our own power (this accounted for a third of our energy reduction target).

## **Waste management**

City is committed to ensuring that zero waste goes to «landfill.»

Most waste at City can be recycled, including food and most food packaging. Anything that cannot be recycled is sent to be converted to energy and not to landfill.

Clean clothes, batteries and writing instruments can also be recycled.

## **Biodiversity conservation**

City is committed to mitigating our impacts on biodiversity by incorporating the principles of conservation into estate planning and management, and by preserving and enhancing existing habitats where possible on campus.

Initiatives include: A vegetable garden; Green space in the College Courtyard area; green walls and green roofs; the Drysdale Garden; and beehives on the roof

## **Green travel**

We actively support cycling and walking as part of our Green Travel Plan, which aims to reduce the environmental impacts of travel generated by our staff, students



and daily activities.

We provide secure bike parking facilities, free bike maintenance sessions and a cycle-to-work scheme for staff.

### **Education for sustainable development**

We embed sustainability in our education, through formal and informal initiatives, by providing an education-centred approach to learning, teaching, curriculum design, research and student-led activities.

### **Sustainable food**

We are committed to providing healthy and sustainable food, while at the same time minimising negative environmental and social effects associated with the products and services we provide.

All our catering outlets currently hold a one star Sustainable Restaurant Association Food Made Good rating, which measures 10 environmental, social and sourcing criteria to ensure how and what we serve is good for people and the planet.

We have also been an accredited Fairtrade University since 2010, are signed up to the Sustainable Fish City campaign and the Food Legacy programme.

### **Reusable cups**

We encourage the use of reusable cups, offering discounts on all hot drinks. You can buy a reusable cup from the Students' Union shop.

### **Water**

Free chilled drinking water is provided as part of our participation in the TapWater.org scheme, which provides free drinking water at all participating venues around London and across the UK.

## Key links:

[Sustainability at UCL](#)

[Sustainable UCL Twitter feed](#)

[Plastic waste innovation hub](#)

[Energy institute](#)

**A**t UCL, we believe that everyone has the potential to create new possibilities. That's why our students and staff work together to embed sustainability through our campus and culture. Our world-leading sustainability research informs how we run our institution and provides inspiration for our teaching.

200 years ago we challenged the idea of who could study together at university. We changed ourselves to make inclusivity possible, now we live in a country that embraces diversity in education. That same pioneering spirit drives us forward to become sustainable.

We have been granted a 'First Class' award by People & Planet's University League which ranks UK universities on their environmental and ethical performance. We've also achieved ISO14001 certification in recognition of our commitment to reducing our impact on the environment. Our sustainability research has led us to exciting discoveries and world-changing achievements. But we can do even better.

That's why we've launched an ambitious Sustainability Strategy, our plan for a truly Sustainable UCL. We want to tackle the climate emergency, the ecological crisis and the pressing social and environmental issues facing our local community. Our three signature campaigns: Wild Bloomsbury, Positive Climate and The Loop focus on key areas where we can make a notable impact by applying our teaching and research to our campus and culture.

## Key links:

[Sustainability at Coventry University](#)

[Sustainability at Coventry University : Vision and goals 2016-2021](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[School of Energy, Construction and Environment](#)

[Coventry University and Severn Trent project to convert sewage waste into hydrogen](#)

**A**s an institution, we continue to evolve and adapt to pressing global issues, the views of our community, policy and legislative requirements, as well as innovation and technology, to help us improve upon sustainable development.

Reflecting the global and local importance of this, Coventry has established Sustainable Development as a key enabler in its strategy. This recognises Sustainability as a 'thread' to be fully embedded in our work and operating models. We are a signatory of the UN Sustainable Development Goals Accord which reflects our commitment to the Goals across the institution.

The mitigation of carbon emissions and climate change is critical to how we move forward. This includes our physical spaces, supply chains, travel footprint and the resources we consume. We will evolve in our reporting, projects and processes that support our Net Zero Carbon ambitions in the coming year, learning from best practice. As we improve our on-campus mitigation strategies, we will integrate this in student learning, research, as well as supporting regional and national carbon objectives.

### **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

Knowledge and application of sustainable development and climate change in real world conditions is recognised as key attributes our students need, to enhance employability and to adapt to evolving commercial and ethical working practices. We support staff through interactive workshops to incorporate sustainability into teaching and assessment. We have a toolkit with practical steps to embed meaningful activities into the classroom. Our Students Reps receive training on ESD to guide improvements and we hold the Students Organising for Sustainability Responsible Futures Kitemark.

### **Coventry and Warwickshire Green Business Network**

The Coventry and Warwickshire Green Business Programme supports Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to be more sustainable through energy efficiency as well as in developing low carbon technologies and strategies. The programme is delivered through a partnership between Coventry University and the City Council including workshops, training and grants. In total, the Green Business Programme achieved £89,000 in grant funding for local SMEs in 2021.

### **Net Zero Carbon**

Institutionally, we aim to exceed Government targets in becoming 'Net Zero Carbon.' We want to play our part in tackling climate change and address the devastating consequences.

For this, we will consider all aspects of our operations. Carbon emissions can arise from all activities both in the UK and abroad. Our current projects include:

- Resetting institutional targets to move us closer to achieving Net Zero Carbon
- Re-baselining our emissions to ensure we meet recognised standards and include all our emissions

- Infrastructure feasibility projects to decarbonise our heat networks
- Carbon Literacy Project training for staff and students (over 60 people trained last year).

In the coming year, we will reform our targets based on our Net Zero Carbon ambition and develop plans and projects around this.

## **Sustainable Travel**

Transport concerns many aspects of sustainability. Reducing carbon emissions and vehicle use improves our air quality. Active travel can have benefits on health while reducing congestion in our towns and cities. The new West Midlands Cycle Scheme has benefited Coventry, increasing sustainable and active travel options. We also have a 'Liftshare' scheme, 13 electric vehicles, and regularly host staff and student Dr Bike sessions.

## **ISO14001**

To support management of environmental impacts, Coventry University has held the ISO14001 international standard for environmental management since 2014. This confirms our commitment to environmental protection, risk management and continual improvement. Progress is reported through annual reviews and audits.

## **Engagement**

We understand the importance of working together to share knowledge and create greater impact. Our annual 'Green Week' spans the city, all campuses and is in partnership with the University of Warwick. The event engages staff, students and the community in sustainability, what this means and how to play a part.

## **COP26**

At Coventry we explored COP26 and climate change across our faculties, research, professional services and student groups. This was an opportunity to engage staff and students, considering what COP26 means to us, what our impacts are and how we can influence climate action.

The Faculty of Business and Law's 'Let's go to the COP' competition encouraged collaboration to solve and understand climate challenges, encouraging action from staff and students. Participants were invited to explore the issues and apply problem solving within key themes: 'Climate change and my Future,' 'Climate Change & Inequality,' 'Climate Change & my Community'.

Our '[Institute of Future Transport and Cities](#)' hosted the 'Transport Expo' during COP26. The Institute worked with Coventry City Council to showcase latest research and innovation to tackle climate change, creating environmentally friendly and sustainable modes of transport.

## Research on Sustainability

Sustainable Development is embedded within the work of our [research centres](#), spanning multiple global challenges aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Since 2019, through our research [Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations](#), we have had a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Jijel in Algeria. This has led to a significant research initiative exploring how young people are responding to environmental challenges, the solutions they propose and how they [imagine their futures](#).

UNIVERSITY  
OF EDINBURGH



### Key links:

[Social Responsibility and Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh](#)

[Sustainability at the School of Geosciences](#)

[Climate and Sustainability at the College of Science & Engineering](#)

[Waste and recycling](#)

[Institute for Energy Systems](#)

## Climate Change

The University of Edinburgh is especially strong on climate research, education and impact, with much of our work focussed on simultaneously addressing the climate and nature crises. For instance, our world class expertise in earth observation and data analytics is being used to improve tools for monitoring, forecasting and management of land use and climate change, while our work on energy and climate change spans technical innovations around wind and wave energy generation, right through to the financial, land use and regulatory contexts of bioenergy and of large scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) development.

University staff advise a range of national and local governments on climate action, and include lead authors for both the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Via the [Edinburgh Climate Change Institute](#), the University also works with policy makers and practitioners across city, national and international scales to translate climate research and implement actions.

The University itself has committed to [reaching net zero emissions by 2040](#) and, as part of its climate strategy, is investing in rapidly reducing its emissions, expanding renewable energy generation, and creating its own innovative programme of land-based carbon sequestration. Aligned to this, we are undertaking a curriculum transformation that aims to embed sustainability and climate learning throughout the institution.

## **COP26**

The University's staff and students were engaged in hundreds of events and actions associated with COP26. Edinburgh is also a core member of the [COP26 Universities Network](#), sitting on its steering group and leading its 'Education and Skills' working group. Our COP26 activities included authorship of numerous 'COP26 briefings' for Government and other key stakeholders, covering topics such as [green recovery, net zero, just transition and climate education](#), along with a swathe of events at COP itself and the development of exciting new partnerships focussed on building capacity for climate change action internationally. Our new '[Edinburgh Earth Initiative](#)' launched at COP26 is a perfect example of how the whole University is aligning with the demands of the climate emergency.

## **Work With Us**

Looking ahead to COP27 in Egypt, and the crucial role of universities in providing the research, innovation and learning for global climate action, Edinburgh are spear-heading efforts to enhance accessibility to climate education and green skills. Through governments and international networks of universities we are aiming to share good practice around institutional climate strategies, as well as partner on the co-creation of bespoke programmes and resources that will underpin climate action through a place-based lens.

One specific example of this is the suite of open access climate and sustainability courses that Edinburgh, with the help of organisations like the British Council, are developing [with partners around the world](#) We'd love to keep expanding such partnerships and improving the relevance and accessibility of climate learning resources everywhere - if you're interested in working with us to make this happen, get in touch!

### Key links:

[Sustainability at Glasgow Caledonian University](#)

[Energy](#)

[Sustainability](#)

**G**lasgow Caledonian University (GCU) is a distinctive, inclusive and forward-looking university that is committed to its social mission to promote the common good. The University has declared a climate emergency and committed to carbon neutrality by 2040.

The University draws on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to help realise its sustainability ambitions across all aspects of its operations, from the curriculum, to research and day-to-day operations. To drive sustainability in its day-to-day operations, Glasgow Caledonian University has a well-established environmental management system (EMS), certified ISO14001 that provides a robust, externally-verified framework for delivering improvements.

Through its EMS Glasgow Caledonian University has developed a comprehensive range of thematic action plans, processes and procedures that reduce environmental impacts and enhance performance. In addition to driving environmental improvements, these initiatives also build individual capacity and link into various academic disciplines through hands-on, practical student projects. As a result of this approach, the University is considered one of the most sustainable in Scotland.

### Key links:

[Sustainability at the University of Gloucestershire](#)

[UoG Sustainability Twitter feed](#)

[Energy and carbon](#)

[Waste and water](#)

[Campus environment](#)

The University of Gloucestershire has a reputation for going beyond greening campus operations to transform all aspects of university life. We are known for bringing sustainability into academic experiences – so we create and apply new knowledge that improves all our futures. Since 2008 we have been changing policy and practice through a dedicated sustainability strategy aligned to our corporate plan.

The scale of the sustainability challenge requires new ways of thinking and its urgency brings the need to rethink the curriculum. The challenge is to urgently create learning opportunities that empower people to influence change for sustainability in their professions and industries.

Education for Sustainability (EfS) is the field of educational practice and scholarship geared to this ambition. EfS sees sustainability as more than an optional interest or special topic, to be slotted into existing modules or courses. This approach reshapes the kind of education we provide and resets our curriculum priorities in all subjects.

To develop this capability in our graduates, we have to drive our own development as transformative learning experts for sustainability.

We see EfS as the future direction for academic practice and have pioneered new applied educational research in this field. To build our capacity as transformative learning experts we test and develop this practice across our course portfolio and wider educational activities.

UNIVERSITY  
OF KEELE



## Key links:

[Sustainability at the University of Keele](#)

[Sustainability Hub](#)

[Energy and carbon](#)

[Recycling and waste](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

Keele University was awarded the title of 'Global Sustainability Institution of the Year' in 2021 in the International Green Gown Awards, and several of our staff and students have been recognized nationally as 'sustainability champions' for the sustainability action they drive.

Keele University's approach to sustainability is summed up in our communication strapline, 'embedding sustainability in all that we do', part of our sustainability branding of 'Root and Branch' - with the root the university's own activities, and the branches our sustainability impacts beyond the university itself.



In 2012 we create a dedicated Director of Education for Sustainability position and supporting Sustainability Project Officer role with responsibility for embedding sustainability in the curriculum and wider student experience. We are committed to all of our students, irrespective of discipline, graduating with a 'sustainability lens', able to make decisions in their personal and professional lives through this lens. We achieve this by working with staff to embed sustainability from a discipline perspective, and through sustainability-focused electives that can be taken by any subject area, and through our new Climate Change and Sustainable Futures Global Challenge pathway that students can follow through all three years of their degree. We also have a specialized sustainability degree for students wanting to specialize in sustainability and explore its breadth from many different perspectives.

Just as important as the formal curriculum is supporting and empowering students to drive their own sustainability projects. For over 10 years, our 'Sustainability Student Bungalow' has given the opportunity to four students to explore sustainable living through this campus accommodation, including growing their own food, composting, and supporting other students to learn about more sustainable ways of living and cooking. Our Students' Union shop houses our plastic free 'Weigh to Go' shop; and our Great Donate scheme collects unwanted food, kitchen and equipment at the end of every semester, for distribution to food banks, and to help international students get the equipment they need without having to buy new. All these projects were initiated by our students, and have become a real legacy in how our university now operates.

In 2018 we declared a Climate Emergency, with an ambition of carbon neutrality across scope 1,2 and 3 by 2030. Key to addressing our climate emergency ambitions is our on-site 8.2MW Low Carbon Energy Generation (LCEG) park, which comprises a 5.5MW solar farm, two wind turbines, and battery storage, allowing us to generate at least 50% of the campus energy requirements.

Our LCEG park is linked to our Smart Energy Network Demonstrator, the largest in Europe, which enables us to closely monitor and manipulate our energy demand in order to maximize the use of our onsite generation. Appreciating the interlinkages between different sustainability issues we are actively researching the impacts of the solar farm development on biodiversity and how this can be maximised.

In October 2019 the Keele University campus became the first place in the UK to blend green hydrogen (produced by an electrolyser on our campus) into a live gas grid. The success of this trial has led to a public network trial and is clearly informing the government's hydrogen strategy. These are examples of how we use our 600 acre campus as a genuine 'Living Laboratory' for sustainability solutions.

In 2018 we launched our cross-university Institute for Sustainable Futures which drives interdisciplinary research with external partners to address real sustainability challenges, while linking with our education and outreach and partnership missions as well. We also support the climate and sustainability agenda in the local region working in partnership with local businesses to help them contribute to the low carbon economy, as well as supporting regional multi-sector collaboration for climate action and community groups.



## Key links:

[Sustainability at the University of Leeds](#)

[A Sustainability Strategy for the University of Leeds 2014–2020](#)

[Recycling](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Energy](#)

**A**t the University of Leeds, we are committed to embedding sustainability in everything we do. To us, sustainability means creating value for society by taking responsibility for our economic, cultural, social and environmental impacts. We draw on the diverse expertise of our students, staff and partners to collaborate in finding sustainable solutions to global challenges, and to maintain our position as world-leaders in sustainability.

Sustainability is a journey. Though society may not have all of the answers now, we are committed to using the University's assets to tackle global challenges.

We use the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) to help guide our activity, and we do so inclusively, making sure everyone's voice is heard and considered along the way.

## Key links:

[Sustainability at Nottingham Trent University](#)  
[NTU information for businesses and employers](#)  
[NTU research](#)  
[NTU Global \(international partnerships\)](#)  
[Recycling, let's get it sorted!](#)

**A**t Nottingham Trent University (NTU), our Embracing Sustainability strategy is ambitious and underpinned. By cultivating an intergenerational conversation with our students, colleagues and stakeholders, we hope to realise our ambition of becoming the most environmentally responsible University in the UK.

### **Net Zero by 2040**

Reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2040 is an institutional key performance indicator of the 'Embracing Sustainability' theme under NTU's University, reimagined strategy. In order to achieve this goal, NTU have set specific and challenging targets to reduce the university's environmental footprint and ensure our operations meet the standard of exemplary sustainable practice.

NTU's net zero target encompasses Scope 3 carbon emissions, which means reducing the impact of our supply chain, improving transport and travel initiatives, and creating a culture where students and colleagues make sustainable and wellbeing lifestyle choices. NTU's Sustainability Team will lead our Net Zero Roadmap, yet university wide working groups have been established to deliver action.

### **Sustainability Performance**

NTU is widely recognised as one of the most sustainable universities in the world, ranking 4th in the [UI Green Metric World University Rankings](#) and 3<sup>rd</sup> in People and Planet University League in 2021. Our award-winning Sustainability Team works to embed sustainability across NTU, whilst the Green Academy works to embed sustainability into the curriculum.

From wildlife and habitat conservation, sustainable farming and construction and circular economy, NTU is working in partnership with experts across the globe to find solutions to some of the world's most significant environmental challenges. Initiatives at NTU include Green Flag accreditation at two sites, Soil Association Silver Food for Life across our main catering outlets, BREAMM excellent for all major new developments and Hedgehog Friendly Campus at our three main campuses.

NTU's [Green Rewards](#) programme is working to embed sustainable practices into everyday living for students, staff and the local community. Currently over 3,600 staff are signed up to the programme and have saved 437,230.14 kg CO<sub>2</sub> through 219,300 positive actions. In addition, NTU has a network of 20 staff sustainability ambassadors and 35 student eco-ambassadors, appointed to share and discuss sustainability initiatives and best practice with the Sustainability Team.

### **Research expertise**

NTU is proud to attract research experts from over 160 countries who work across 52 distinct areas of research and analysis. Our researchers are investigating efficient ways to utilise natural water sources, developing systems for sustainable agriculture and exploring how to make our towns and cities greener.

During the 2020/21 academic year, 53 NTU students completed or were in the process of undertaking PhD projects which included research on sustainability topics. Additionally, £3.2m of research income was secured from projects which either incorporated or focused on the Sustainable Development Goals.

In the most recent Research Excellence Framework (2014), 90% of NTU's research was judged to be 'world-leading', 'internationally excellent' or 'internationally recognised'. In 2021, NTU received a Queen's Anniversary Prize for the quality and impact of its Cultural Heritage research.

### **Knowledge exchange**

NTU is actively supporting businesses across a range of industries to solve problems, explore new ideas and create new products and services that can boost profitability, efficiency and innovation. To support this, NTU offers a comprehensive package of support to help businesses to become more sustainable, carbon-lite-rate, and contribute towards an increasingly green economy.

### **Employability**

To complement our Environmental policy, we are committed to embedding the principles of our environmental awareness amongst our colleagues and our students. In 2013, NTU's Green Academy was appointed to embed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into curricular and extracurricular activities across the university. Nationally renowned, the team provides consultancy and training for colleagues to apply ESD to academic disciplines whilst utilising and promoting evidence-based practices to support the success of all NTU students.

## Key links:

[Sustainability at the University of Oxford](#)  
[Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#)  
[Oxford Institute for Energy Studies](#)  
[Waste management](#)  
[Oxford Biodiversity Network](#)

## **The University's current sustainability strategy focuses on ten priority areas:**

- Research - Increase research and engagement in environmental sustainability.
- Curriculum - Offer all students the opportunity to study environmental sustainability, either within or outside the examined curriculum.
- Carbon emissions from University buildings - Reduce carbon emissions related to our energy consumption to a minimal level.
- Biodiversity - Identify and address the University's principal biodiversity impacts through its operations and supply chain, and enhance biodiversity on the University's estate.
- Sustainable food - Reduce the carbon emissions and biodiversity impact of our food.
- Sustainable resource use - Reduce the environmental impacts of our consumption and supply chain.
- International travel - Reduce aviation emissions from University staff and student travel and offset the balance of emissions.
- Local travel - Limit transport emissions by reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport and managing the demand to travel by car.
- Investments - Ensure that the University, as an investor, is part of the solution to climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Learning from the pandemic - Build on the experience of the pandemic and the potential shift to more environmentally sustainable working practices.

## The strategy is underpinned by the following four ‘enablers’:

- Governance - Embedding environmental sustainability in the University’s governance and decision making;
- Reporting - Developing a system of annual reporting of carbon emissions and biodiversity impact within the first twelve months, which will be published in the University of Oxford’s Annual Review and financial accounts;
- Funding - Establishing the Oxford Sustainability Fund, making £200 million available for sustainability initiatives over the next 15 years, to finance the programme of action required to reach net zero carbon and biodiversity net gain by 2035;
- Offsetting - Establishing a policy to guide our use of carbon offsetting and biodiversity offsetting.

UNIVERSITY  
OF STRATHCLYDE



### Key links:

[Sustainable Strathclyde](#)  
[Sustainable Strathclyde Twitter feed](#)  
[Centre for Sustainable Development](#)  
[General waste and recycling](#)  
[Energy Systems Research Unit](#)  
[Biodiversity](#)

Strathclyde’s strategic carbon reduction target required 25% reduction of the 2009-2010 baseline by 2020. This equates to a reduction from 30,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e to 22,500 tonnes. At the end of the financial year 2019/2020, the University’s direct carbon emissions were 20,878 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

### Reductions have been achieved through:

- right-sizing of the estate
- investment in energy efficiency
- investment in a refurbished University Energy Centre
- the creation of a district heating system connecting 18 buildings.

**A number of initiatives are now underway to adapt to climate change issues:**

- The University continues to deliver the aspects outlined in our Climate Change Adaptation Plan.
- Climate change adaptation solutions are being integrated into new building designs, e.g. a green roof on the new Learning and Teaching Building.
- The University is represented on the Board of Climate Ready Clyde, a collaboration between a range of organisations in the River Clyde catchment including Local Authorities, NHS, universities and Scottish Government.

The University continues to make good progress on recycling waste, increasing waste recovered and mixed recycling from 51% in 2018/19 to 67% in 2019/20.

The Reuse, Recycling and Resource Centre at Corn Street, close to the University continues to be a valuable asset in terms of reuse, waste and material management. Our plans are to further enhance the facility to enable bulk recycling to add to the furniture reuse.

The University has successfully removed single use plastics from all 'Nourish' catering outlets. Vegware and compostable catering supplies have been introduced in 2018/19 and have now replaced non-compostable items.

The successful plastic waste reduction project in the Robertson Building conducted in 2018/19 has been rolled out to additional laboratories in 2019/20. This has seen a number of disposable plastic items identified and diverted from the laboratory general waste stream and accepted into the dry mixed recycling collection.

## Key links:

[Sustainability at UWE Bristol](#)

[Research in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management](#)

[Recycling and refuse](#)

[Biodiversity and ecology](#)

[Sustainability Policies, Plans and Reports](#)

[UWE ISO 14001 Certification](#)

[MSc Sustainable Development in Practice](#)

[MSc Environmental Management](#)

[MSc Environmental Consultancy](#)

The University of the West of England Bristol has been on a 28 year sustainability journey. The university has declared a climate and ecological emergency and through our 2030 Strategy we are working to address the urgency of these interlinked crises and to play our part in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The university's Strategy 2030 sets seven interlinked commitments to prepare our students and staff for the sustainability challenges of tomorrow as follows:

- Net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030.
- Clear targets and plans to reduce water and energy use, cut waste generation including food waste, and support biodiversity.
- Eliminate all but essential single use plastic by 2025.
- Establish all our campuses as clean air and smoke free zones.
- Secure year on year improvement in sustainable travel.
- Work with our students to explicitly address climate change and environmental challenges in the curriculum.
- Support research that addresses climate change, environmental challenges and biodiversity.

Sustainability is embedded in our services, culture, research and teaching. We have invested heavily in campus improvements and new technology, with plans already underway to be net zero by 2030. UWE staff and students work in partnership with local stakeholders to address environmental and sustainability challenges and to



support achievement of a net zero future in the Bristol city region.

UWE has ensured that sustainability considerations are present in our taught provision and our sustainability leaders, experts and students are assessing and aligning our progress on an ongoing basis in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Since 2016, 100% of our purchased electricity comes from renewable sources, plus we have invested in solar panel arrays across the university estate. A new Combined Heat and Power station connected to a district heating network provides low-carbon heating and electricity to the Frenchay Campus, saving approximately 650 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

The award-winning Frenchay Beeline is just one example of the many projects which are making a difference.

All UWE's sustainability actions are externally certified to ISO 14001 -2015 standard and have accreditation from the [SOS Responsible Futures Mark](#).

[The Students' Union](#) and its Green Team have contributed hugely to our success with many engaging initiatives and events. The Students' Union has the unique accolade of being the number one SU in the NUS Green Impact scheme for five years in a row.

UWE is a signatory of the [Talloires declaration](#), the United Nations' [Higher Education Sustainability Initiative](#), the [SDG Accord](#) and the [Race to Zero](#) and is a member of the EAUC; the [Bristol Green Capital Partnership](#) and the Bristol SDG Alliance.

## Key links:

[Sustainable Campus and Community](#)

[Sustainable Development Policy](#)

[Carbon management and reduction, energy and water](#)

**A**s a University, we hold people, the planet and all living things in the highest regard. Our strategy commits us to reducing our environmental impact and improving sustainability across the institution. Our third strategic priority for 2015 to 2020 is sustain - we are committed to making a positive environmental impact and contributing to a sustainable future. This is reflected across the institution – from the curriculum to our estate to the food we serve on campus. Read our Sustainability Statement.

In June 2019, the University of Winchester announced its pledge to eliminate all unnecessary single-use plastic by December 2020 and called on individuals and the higher education sector to stand up and take action to combat the climate crisis.

In order to meet its Sustainability Development Policy Statement, the University will:

- create awareness of the SDGs and enable staff and students to understand the need for individual and collective action in relation to these global and local challenges.
- equip its graduates with the skills, knowledge and attributes to make a difference in their future careers and lives.
- increase awareness of environmentally sustainable development within the University and externally, including through collaboration with the local and regional communities.
- create and maintain an institutional culture of sustainability, social justice and the SDGs.
- practice institutional environmental sustainability, operating in ways that maximise social and economic benefit while minimising adverse impacts on the local and wider communities.

- develop curriculum content for all students which develops environmentally responsible citizenship.
- ensure staff and students develop an understanding of ecologically sound, socially just and economically viable concepts of sustainable development.
- support and encourage interdisciplinary research on sustainability, social justice and the SDGs.
- invest in staff development, value stakeholder involvement and promote social inclusion and equity.
- work with schools to help them practice, teach and promote sustainable development.
- work in co-operation with local, regional, national and international organisations to help promote a sustainable future.

# Green Algeria Campuses project partners

## The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC)



### Key links:

EAUC publications

EAUC Twitter feed

Biodiversity on Campus: An EAUC Practical Guide

**A**s the alliance for sustainability leadership in education, the EAUC positions itself as a member led organisation that disseminates information, facilitates networking and actively stimulates the sector through the implementation of national initiatives. Our membership spans across more than 300 colleges, universities, funding councils and company members and seeks to exemplify best practice in order to manifest a shared sustainable future.

The [Sustainability Exchange](#) is just one of a number of projects delivered by the EAUC. It offers the first sustainability information portal that has been created with the support of top sector organisations.

The EAUC administers the Green Gown Awards which recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges. For more information on the Green Gown Awards, visit [www.greengownawards.org](http://www.greengownawards.org).

The EAUC also delivers the Sustainability Leadership Scorecard, a comprehensive, planning and self-assessment tool specifically for colleges and universities to improve social responsibility and environmental performance through a whole institution approach.

In addition, the EAUC is the global Secretariat for the UN Race to Zero, which will see Universities and Colleges:

- Pledge to reach (net) zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions as soon as possible, and by mid-century at the latest.
- Within 12 months of joining, explain what actions will be taken toward achieving both interim and longer-term pledges.
- Take immediate action toward achieving (net) zero, consistent with delivering interim targets specified.
- Commit to report publicly both progress against interim and long-term targets, as well as the actions being taken, at least annually.

Algerian institutions can join in now [by clicking here!](#)

## Key links:

[39 ways to save the planet](#)

[Geography and climate change](#)

[Geovisualisation](#)

[Earth photo competition](#)

[Ideas for sustainability fieldwork](#)

**T**he Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) is the learned society and professional body for geography. Formed in 1830, their Royal Charter of 1859 is for ‘the advancement of geographical science’. Today, they deliver this objective through developing, supporting and promoting geographical research, expeditions and fieldwork, education, public engagement, and geography input to policy – including promoting the work of geographers in the face of the global climate crisis.

Geography as a discipline is uniquely located at the intersection of the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities. This equips geographers to be adept systems-thinkers and focus on the state of our planet and our relationships with it. The learning, teaching, and practice of geography is central to the challenges presented by global climate change. However, geographers can do much more than present an analysis of these challenges. They also have a vantage point from which they can point to the kinds of thought and action that can deliver a better tomorrow for every person on Earth.



# Other resources

## British Council

Climate Action in Language Education

Climate Action in Language Education Lesson Plans

The Climate Connection: Climate action in language education podcast

Research in focus: How the global ELT sector is responding to the climate crisis

## Other

Nature-based solutions can help cool the planet — if we act now







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