# Environment Strategy

Susan Peach, Energy and Environment Manager
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| **Document Author and Department:** | Susan Peach, Estates and Facility Services |
| **Responsible person and Department:** | Susan Peach, Estates and Facility Services |
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| **Summary/Description:** | |
| The Environment Strategy commits the University to reducing its environmental impact and embedding sustainability at every level of the institution and in all areas of the curriculum through the Education for Sustainable Development Programme. | |

# ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

The Environment Strategy is produced in line with the requirements of all University Policies and Strategies including the Equality and Diversity Policy, Sustainable Development Policy, Biodiversity Action Plan, Travel Plan, Carbon Management Plan, Climate Change Education Strategy, Waste Management Policy, Ethical Catering Policy, Sustainability Engagement Strategy, Ethical Banking Policy, proposed Sustainable Buildings Policy and Ethical Investment Policy.



## Introduction

**As a University, we hold people, the planet and all living things in the highest regard.** We seek to make the protection and enhancement of the environment integral to all that we do, for the people who live, work and study here and for the wider community. Our Environment Strategy commits us to reducing our environmental impact and embedding sustainability at every level of the institution and in all areas of the curriculum through the Education for Sustainable Development Programme. These commitments are reflected in the University and Student Union joint Sustainability Statement, published in April 2018.

The University commits to providing the necessary resources and funds to support the Environment Strategy.

## Strategy statement

**The University will implement Sustainable Development Goals within all its operations and curriculum.**

## CARBON EMISSIONS

**Aim – To reduce carbon emissions and carbon footprint of the University through better management of its material resources.**
*We will reduce our Scope 1 and 2 carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions (absolute) by 55% below 2006/7 levels by 2030, and by 65% (Intensity) relative to floor area in metre square (M2) by 2025.*

*We will aspire to be a Carbon Neutral Campus by 2025*
We will adopt cost effective sustainable construction principles to all new build and refurbished buildings, minimising lifecycle environmental impact.
We will invest in electric vehicle technology and replace the University's fleet of vehicles with low/zero carbon alternatives at the end of their lifecycle.
We will raise awareness of the University's work to reduce its carbon footprint through student and staff engagement initiatives such as Campus Blackout.
We will inspire low carbon living amongst our students and staff through awareness-raising campaigns.
We will manage parking, traffic flow and speed on campus to reduce emissions and damage to soft landscaping from vehicles.

## EMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES

**Aim –To reduce pollution by minimising local discharges to air, land and water**
*We will have zero pollution events.*
We will minimise noise pollution by monitoring high output areas and adopting considerate construction management and impacts on neighbours.
We will manage waste to reduce odours and overspill.
We will manage sewage and wastewater to prevent pollution.
We will effectively manage and maintain chemicals, fuels, fume cupboards, maintenance products and mechanical plant to limit discharge of fumes and odours.
We will work with Local Authorities on air quality issues within the city of Winchester.

## Energy

**Aim – To reduce our energy consumption**
*We will reduce energy consumption per M2 by 65% relative to floor area below base line year of 2006/07 by 2025.*
We will only purchase electricity and mains gas generated from 100% renewable sources.
We will endeavor to switch all University Managed Houses to a tariff that supplies 100% electricity from renewable sources.
We will develop opportunities to generate renewable energies on the University's estate.
We will implement energy efficiency measures to including:
- improving energy efficiency in buildings and work practices
- taking advantage of opportunities to improve the environmental performance of existing buildings as part of refurbishment and maintenance programmes
- incorporating environmentally sensitive designs into both new and refurbished buildings complying with relevant standards and good practice
- investigating the feasibility of a District Heating Network in partnership with the University's neighbors e.g. Royal Hampshire County Hospital
- investigating implementing a system whereby students pay for energy on demand rather than bills being included within rent, either individually or per flat
- promoting energy awareness amongst staff and students, encouraging and enabling good environmental practice in their work and study
- identifying and implementing energy saving measures and practice energy efficiency throughout all premises, plant and equipment where it is cost effective to so do
- continuing to improve measurement, reporting and analysis of energy performance

## Water

**Aim - To use water efficiently and develop ways to reduce, reuse and recycle water.**
*We will reduce mains water consumption per M2 by at least 40% below 2006/7 levels by 2025, and per head by at least 20% below 2006/7 levels by 2025,*
We will implement a range of cost effective measures including:
- taking advantage of opportunities to reduce water consumption in existing buildings as part of refurbishment and maintenance programmes
- Working towards eradicating water leaks and managing them promptly
- installing rainwater harvesting, including on all new build projects, and use of grey water
- installing additional water butts for external grounds use where feasible
- seeking added value to our water contract through additional water reduction initiatives from our water supplier
- undertaking awareness raising initiatives with students and staff
- increase our provision of sustainable drainage systems and flood prevention measures.

## Transport

**Aim - Make sustainable travel the norm.**
*We will reduce carbon emissions from students and staff commuting to the University by 30% below the base line year of 2015/16 by 2025.*
*We will reduce carbon emissions from student Move-In/Move-Out weekends by 10% below the baseline year of 2018/19 by 2025.*
*We will reduce carbon emissions from business travel by 30% below the base line year of 2006/07 by 2025.*
*We will reduce staff and student single occupancy car-use to 36.7% and 15.1% respectively by the 5th year of the Travel Plan against the baseline figures of 46.70% and 25.1%*
*We will increase staff and student uptake of the Winchester Park & Ride Service above the base line year of 2019 by 3.5% by 2021*
*We will decarbonize the University's vehicle fleet by implementing a rolling replacement programme of vehicles and switching them to electric or other forms of zero/low carbon power by 2025*
We will continue to improve our sustainable transport offer, including through ring fencing car parking income to subsidise sustainable transport initiatives, including Winchester Park & Ride Service and cycling, and through provision of discounts on public transport.
We will continue to maintain and upgrade University car parks.
We will implement measures outlined in the University's Travel Plan by:
- promoting and encouraging green modes of transport to staff and students
- retaining and improving agreements with existing transport providers and seeking new supplier discounts to increase the suite of options available to staff and students
- surveying staff and students every two years on travel habits and attitudes to sustainable travel
- monitoring the model split to achieve the 3rd year and 5th year modal split targets in relation to the baseline year of 2015
- reducing parking capacity and increasing its cost to staff and students, in line with University Parking Regulations
- increasing the University's electric car fleet to reduce the amount of business use by staff using their private vehicles

- offering interest free green travel loans to staff
- supporting staff to avoid unnecessary business travel and where necessary encourage use of public transport or the University's electric car fleet
- prohibiting domestic air travel unless prior approval is received from a Dean or Director, monitoring departmental international air travel, calculating the costs of offsetting the carbon produced on an annual basis and offsetting unavoidable flights
- increasing the number of charging points for electric vehicles and offering preferential parking for users of these vehicles
- refurbishing and installing new secure covered cycle parking at appropriate locations on campus and providing a monthly bike doctor service to staff and students
- working with Local Authorities to improve external wayfinding and public footpaths to encourage walking for staff and students
- increasing the number of the University's electric cycle fleet for staff and student use

## Waste and recycling

**Aim – Reduce and sustainably manage waste**
*We will increase recycling rates to 80% of all waste generated on campus by 2025.*
*We will divert 100% waste away from landfill.*
*We will reduce waste mass generated per staff and student full time equivalent (FTE) figure by 25% below the base line year of 2009/10 by 2025.*
*We will eliminate use of unnecessary single use plastics in the University by end December 2020.*
We will continue to collect good quality data from Pay-by-Weight data and work collaboratively with other higher education institutions on waste management procurement, seeking innovation through our waste contracts.
To do this, we will reduce the amount of waste generated and disposed of by implementing waste minimisation and recycling programmes including:
- making it easy for staff and students to recycle, ensuring there are plenty and convenient recycling points with clear labelling
- introducing a policy to no longer empty under-desk bins in offices, focusing on centralised waste and recycling points
- continuing to collect food waste from University catering and in departmental kitchens
- introducing food waste collections in student accommodation
- investigating the feasibility of introducing food waste collection points in communal areas or lecture theatres
- supporting measures to reduce food waste through initiatives such as Love Food Hate Waste, Love To Cook cooking sessions and communicating to staff and students in partnership with our Catering and Housing teams
- supplying reusable coffee cups and water bottle provisions along with installing additional water bottle fillers
- hosting biannual waste stakeholder workshops with relevant departments including Catering, Campus Services, Housing and the Student Union
- exploring the feasibility of introducing compostable packaging through dialogue with contractors and small-scale trials on campus
- reducing packaging, but where essential to encourage use of recyclable packaging materials

- improving communication to staff and students on the University's recycling facilities

## Sustainable Buildings

**Aim - ensure all new build and refurbishment projects are built to the highest environmental standards.**
*For new build projects, we will:*
- *achieve net zero carbon emissions* (as defined by the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) Net Zero Carbon Building Framework)
- *achieve WELL Certified Gold Standard as a minimum*
- *ensure 80% of all building materials are Green Guide A or A+*
- *achieve Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of A+*

*For refurbishment projects, we will:*
- *achieve SKA Silver Award*
- *achieve WELL Certified Gold Standard as a minimum*

*We will achieve an average Display Energy Certificate (DEC) rating of B by 2025*
We will support the objectives outlined in the University's Sustainable Buildings Policy by:
- ensuring all contractors working at the University comply to its Standard Specification with regards to energy efficiency
- ensuring all contractors submit waste data and Duty of Care information and maximise recycling of waste
- using DEC as a way of monitoring and targeting the environmental performance of small-scale building refurbishments
- utilising environmentally friendly building materials wherever possible, including Forestry Stewardship Council timber, low Volatile Organic Compound paints and recycled materials

## Biodiversity

**Aim – Enhance biodiversity on campus**
*We will implement actions within the Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 Update by 2020/21.*
We will continue to enhance biodiversity on campus by:
- minimising chemical use in fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides
- increasing pollen and nectar sources in planting schemes
- timing estates works so as not to interfere with the bird nesting season (March-August)
- purchasing and using peat-free compost as standard
- developing a green space metric to track the amount of green space across the University's estate to ensure any development on green space is appropriately mitigated and produces a biodiversity net gain
- supporting use of the campus grounds as an educational and wellbeing resource for students, staff and the community at large
- monitoring and maintaining swift nesting locations in University buildings on campus and in the city, including University Managed Housing
- working with Winchester City Council on conservation tasks at Westhill Cemetery to improve the chalk grassland habitat, recruiting staff and student volunteers for tasks
- improving habitat to encourage bird, bat and small mammal nesting opportunities
- improving planting of native flowers and trees

## Education and Research

**Aim – Every graduate to understand the impact of climate change**
*We will ensure that by 2021 that every graduate has understood how climate change is relevant to their discipline, the effect on social justice, the ubiquitous impact and the urgency of the challenges presented by climate change.*
*We will achieve Responsible Futures accreditation by summer 2019, and continue to maintain accreditation.*
We will do this by:
- supporting the development of the Climate Change Education and Communications Research Centre
- embedding sustainability and building links between formal and informal curricula
- embedding the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in to all areas of the curriculum along with promoting them to prospective students and the wider community
- supporting faculties and degree programmes where needed and inputting on lectures and talks to students
- supporting the Institute of Values Studies and inputting in to the debate and teaching materials on 'nature' in the Contemporary Conversations module
- promoting the campus as a Living Lab, encouraging students to undertake estates projects related to sustainability
- embedding sustainability within the module and programme surveys, tracking student feedback on sustainability, with the aim of seeing further inclusion and satisfaction in this area over time
- fostering an institutional culture of sustainability where collaboration between academic staff, non-academic staff, students and community members occurs organically across the institution
- identifying and promoting examples of good practice for inclusion of sustainability in teaching, learning, and research across the University; including relevant legislative, economic, technical, social and market developments

## Sustainable Procurement

**Aim - Embed sustainability into the procurement process.**
*We will reduce our carbon emissions from procurement by 10% below the baseline year of 2018/19 by 2025.*
The University will ensure that environmental and ethical responsibility is considered in all purchasing decisions, tenders and contracts, in line with the proposed Procurement Policy published in 2016.
We will work with the Procurement and Ethical Supply Chain Manager to ensure procurement decisions seek to ensure that goods and services are procured by:

- questioning whether goods and services are definitely necessary by exploring opportunities of whether the product already exists on campus and is available to use
- not endangering human or environmental health and minimising damage to the environment via obtaining the original resource, resource use, manufacturing methods, pollution, emissions and other waste by-products throughout the life cycle
- running in line with the University's Carbon Management Plan, all electrical goods/services are to be Energy Saving Trust certification minimum A rated and European Union Energy Star rated. Government Buying Standards and Green Public Procurement recommendations should be sought
- having minimal packaging and where possible, utilising recycled and recyclable packaging and operating/offering a packaging take-back compliance scheme
- prohibiting the use of materials derived from threatened ecosystems, species or environments, and avoiding products and services that cause cruelty to animals
- supporting the principles of fair and ethical trade, and social and ecological labels
- selecting in accordance with whole life costs and benefits
- sourcing from recycled materials
- ensuring products are durable, recyclable, repairable, refillable or re-usable as appropriate
- sourcing from suppliers who can demonstrate sound sustainable practices throughout their own supply chain
- sourcing locally and where this isn't possible ensuring sustainable modes of transport are used

## Ethical Banking and Investment

**Aim – Give due consideration to the environment, ethics and social justice when banking and investing**
*We will commit to environmental sustainability through the implementation of our Ethical Banking and Investment Policy.*
*We will not investment in fossil fuels.*
*We will receive no research funding from the fossil fuel industry.*
*We will obtain reaccreditation as a Fairtrade University through the National Union of Students Fairtrade Foundation programme by end December 2019.*
*We will remain accredited by the Living Wage Foundation as a Living Wage employer.*
The use of positive ethical criteria in assessing institutions is firmly incorporated within the University's Ethical Banking and Investment Policy through a process of constructive engagement with business using our ethical assessment criteria for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG).

Where required for major construction and other projects, we will only obtain external funding from ethical sources.

We will continue to engage on a revision of our investment portfolio to ensure funds on deposit are divested.

We will continue to seek further ethical investment opportunities.

We will continue to review treasury management where funds on long term deposits mature for reinvestment.

## Sustainability Engagement

**Aim – Create and maintain a culture of sustainability**

*We will increase the number of local charities the University engages with by 20% above the base line year of 2017/18 by 2025*

*We will ensure by 2021 every graduate will have learnt about and explored issues relevant to climate change*

*We will ensure at least 90% of students are satisfied that the University encourages good environmental practices*

*We will ensure 100% of new staff receive information on the environment and sustainability during their induction process*

*We will ensure that at least 80% of staff perceive the University as an environmentally sustainable institution*

We will continue and build upon engagement to further develop students, staff and the local community capacity and knowledge, and influence wider policies.

We will increase awareness of environmentally sustainable development within the University and externally, including through collaboration with the local and regional communities.

We will create and maintain an institutional culture of sustainability, social justice and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

We will ensure staff and students develop an understanding of ecologically sound, socially just and economically viable concepts of sustainable development.

We will expand our work with the local community to improve initiatives in environmental sustainability by:

- supporting opportunities to work collaboratively with the local community to enhance provision of student learning and volunteering off campus relating to environmental and social sustainability
- continuing to support Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC)
- encouraging participation in environmentally sustainable behaviour and activities amongst staff and students
- continuing to enhance the reputation of the University within the local community, business and the Higher Education sector, which in turn will lead to greater opportunities for collaboration and improved student attraction and retention

We will engage with students to create awareness of the SDGs to enable them to understand the need for individual and collective action in relation to these global and local challenges by:

- equipping our graduates with the skills, knowledge and attributes to make a positive difference in their future careers and lives
- developing curriculum content for all students which develops environmentally responsible citizenship
- supporting and encouraging interdisciplinary research on sustainability, social justice and the SDGs
- working with schools to help them practice, teach and promote sustainable development

We will engage with staff to create awareness of the SDGs to enable them to understand the need for individual and collective action in relation to these global and local challenges by:

- investing in staff development, valuing stakeholder involvement and promoting social inclusion and equality

## Good Management

**Aim – Integrate environmental principles into the University's operational procedures and promote best practice at every level.**

*We will implement a University wide accredited Environmental Management System (EMS) by end of 2020.*

As the University moves towards Integrated Reporting, we will ensure environmental performance targets and metrics are monitored and presented appropriately.

We will establish a Sustainability Committee, made up of relevant staff, students and other stakeholders.

We will ensure all new starters are inducted into environmental practices and are aware of environmental initiatives.

We will review environmental management procedures on a regular basis.

We will achieve compliance with all appropriate legislation.

We will assess the feasibility of devolving energy and other utility budgets to professional services and faculties to enhance accountability and incentivise energy efficiency.

We will publish, promote and regularly review this Environment Strategy, including through the annual Environment Strategy Report.

## Measuring performance

We will monitor the effect of the Environment Strategy and related policies through the annual environmental objectives and the Estates Management Statistics (EMS) submitted as part of the annual HESA return.

We will publish an annual Environment Strategy Report to update on progress, which will be communicated to internal and external stakeholders.

We will strive to improve our position in the annual People & Planet Green League.

We will align with the requirements of the Customer Service Excellence standard, being adopted by Estates and Facilities Services.

We welcome feedback from staff, students and other stakeholders to allow us to continually improve our environmental performance and support others to embrace sustainability, both on campus and outside the University.

## Summary of Targets

| Area | Objective | Key Performance Indicator | Baseline year | Target | Target Ref. No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Carbon Emissions** | Reduce Scope 1 & 2 carbon emissions | % reduction of absolute CO2 emissions Scope 1 & 2 | 2006/07 | 55% by 2030 | 1.1 |
| | | % reduction of intensity by floor area CO2 emissions Scope 1 & 2 | 2006/07 | 65% by 2025 | 1.2 |
| | Reduce carbon emissions and footprint | Achieve carbon neutral campus | n/a | By 2025 | 1.3 |
| **Emissions and Discharges** | Reduce pollution by minimising local discharges to air, land and water | Number of pollution events | n/a | Zero pollution events | 2.1 |
| **Energy** | Reduce energy consumption | % reduction in energy consumption relative to floor area | 2006/07 | 65% by 2025 | 3.1 |
| **Water** | Use water efficiently and develop ways to reduce, reuse and recycle water | % reduction mains water consumption per m2 | 2006/07 | 40% by 2025 | 4.1 |
| | | % reduction in water per head | 2006/07 | 20% by 2025 | 4.2 |
| **Transport** | Make sustainable travel the norm | % reduction in CO2 emissions from student and staff commuting to the University | 2015/16 | 30% by 2025 | 5.1 |
| | | % reduction in CO2 emissions from student Move-in/Move-Out weekends | 2018/19 | 10% by 2025 | 5.2 |
| | | % reduction in CO2 emissions from business travel | 2006/07 | 30% by 2025 | 5.3 |
| | | Reducing staff single occupancy car-use | 2015 | 36.7% by 2019 | 5.4 |
| | | Reducing student single occupancy car-use | 2015 | 15.1% by 2019 | 5.5 |
| | | Increasing staff uptake of Winchester Park and Ride service | 2019 | 3.5% by 2021 | 5.6 |

| Area | Objective | Key Performance Indicator | Baseline Year | Target | Target Ref. No. |
|------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------------|
| | Decarbonising vehicle fleet | Replacement vehicle programme to electric or other zero/low carbon power | n/a | 100% by 2025 | 5.7 |
| **Waste and recycling** | Reduce and sustainably manage waste | Increase recycling rates of all waste generated | n/a | 80% by 2025 | 6.1 |
| | | % reduction in waste mass generated per staff and student FTE | 2009/10 | 25% by 2025 | 6.2 |
| | | Disposal streams for waste | n/a | Zero waste to landfill | 6.3 |
| | | Eliminate use of unnecessary single use plastics | n/a | 100% by end Dec 2020 | 6.4 |
| **Sustainable Buildings** | All new build projects built to highest environmental standards | Net zero carbon emissions | n/a | 100% of projects | 7.1 |
| | | WELL Certified Gold Standard as a minimum | n/a | 100% of projects | 7.2 |
| | | Green Guide A or A* rating of building materials | n/a | 100% of projects | 7.3 |
| | | EPC rating | n/a | 100% of projects to be A+ | 7.4 |
| | All refurbishment projects built to highest environmental standards | SKA Silver Award | n/a | 100% of projects | 7.5 |
| | | WELL Certified Gold Standard as a minimum | n/a | 100% of projects | 7.6 |
| | Improve energy performance of building stock | DEC rating | n/a | Average rating B by 2025 | 7.7 |
| **Biodiversity** | Enhance biodiversity on campus | Biodiversity Action Plan implementation | 2016 update version | 100% by 2020/21 | 8.1 |
| **Education & Research** | Graduates to understand climate change | Understanding of climate change | n/a | 100% by 2021 | 9.1 |
| | | Responsible Futures Accreditation | n/a | By summer 2019 | 9.2 |
| **Sustainable Procurement** | Embed sustainability | % reduction in carbon emissions | 2018/19 | 10% by 2025 | 10.1 |

| | into the procurement process | | | | |
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| Area | Objective | Key Performance Indicator | Baseline Year | Target | Target Ref. No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ethical Banking and Investment** | Give due consideration to the environment, ethics and social justice when banking and investing | Compliance with Ethical Banking and Investment Policy | n/a | 100% compliance | 11.1 |
| | | No investment in fossil fuels | n/a | Zero investment in fossil fuels | 11.2 |
| | | Receive no research funding from the fossil fuel industry | n/a | Zero funding from fossil fuel industry | 11.3 |
| | | Living Wage Foundation Accreditation | n/a | Accreditation | 11.4 |
| | | Fair Trade Accreditation | n/a | Accreditation by end of Dec 2019 | 11.5 |
| **Engagement** | Create and maintain a culture of sustainability | % increase in local charity engagement | 2017/18 | 20% by 2025 | 12.1 |
| | | % of graduates have understanding of climate change | n/a | 100% by 2021 | 12.2 |
| | | % of students satisfied University encourages good environmental practices | n/a | Minimum 90% | 12.3 |
| | | % of new staff receive environment and sustainability information at induction | n/a | 100% | 12.4 |
| | | % of staff perceive University as an environmentally sustainable institution | n/a | Minimum 80% | 12.5 |
| **Good Management** | Integrate environmental principles into operational procedures | Environmental Management System accreditation | n/a | Accreditation by end of 2020 | 13.1 |