



UNIVERSITY OF
WINCHESTER

**SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT
STRATEGY
(July 2024)**

Document Title:	Sustainability Engagement Strategy
Responsible Role and Department:	Energy and Environment Estates & Facilities Services (EFS)
Approving Body:	Executive Leadership Team (ELT)
Date of Approval:	30.07.24
Date Effective From:	30.07.24
Review Date:	
<p>Indicate whether the document is for public access or internal access only.</p> <p>Indicate whether the document applies to collaborative provision? <i>(Strikethrough text, as appropriate)</i></p>	<p>Public Access</p> <p>Internal Access Only</p> <p>Applies to Collaborative Provision</p>
<p>Summary:</p> <p>The Sustainability Engagement Strategy details the University's commitment to developing and implementing opportunities for staff, students, and communities to engage with the University in sustainability to reduce our environmental impact.</p>	

Sustainability Engagement Strategy

The Sustainability Engagement Strategy is produced in line with the requirements of all University Policies and Strategies including the Sustainable Development Policy, Environment Strategy, Biodiversity Action Plan, Travel Plan, Carbon Management Plan, Equality and Diversity Policy, and Waste Management Policy.

Introduction

The University is committed to developing and implementing opportunities for staff, students, and communities to engage with sustainability to reduce everyone's environmental impact.

The Sustainability Engagement Strategy details the University's objectives and actions it will take to achieve its aims as identified in the Environment Strategy. It is recognised that the whole experience staff, students, and local communities gain from the University should provide and build upon knowledge and skills for sustainability.

Effective communication and engagement using a variety of platforms and campaigns is essential in raising awareness of the importance of sustainability in our daily lives and the choices we make.

In order to deliver the Sustainability Engagement Strategy, the University will continue and build upon engagement to further develop students, staff and the community capacity and knowledge, and influence wider policies on sustainability.



Strategy Statement

The Strategic Plan sets out the following commitment: We remain committed to the principles of the green economy, defined by the UN as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive, further embedding our commitment to sustainability and social responsibility, in the way that we work together as a University community.

Aims

To continue and build upon sustainability engagement to further develop students, staff and the community capacity and knowledge, and influence wider policies.

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

To encourage behavioural change to adopt more sustainable actions and recognise that even small positive changes can have a substantial affect if we were all to make them.

To encourage staff and students to feel a sense of pride in engaging in sustainable activities and assisting the University in achieving its sustainability and environmental aims.

Student Sustainability Engagement

Targets and Key Performance Indicators:

Establish a baseline figure for number of students that engage with environmental events, including Go Green Week, across the academic year.

Sustainable Engagement Activities:

We will:

- encourage students to engage with sustainability campaigns run in halls of residence and throughout the academic year such as Black Out
- encourage students to improve their environmental housekeeping including by turning off lights when they leave a room, reducing temperature on thermostatic radiator valves and recycling more.
- encourage students to report incidents of energy and water wastage such as leaking taps and rooms that are too hot in winter.
- use images and information on the SDGs to raise awareness of environmental issues and how they can relate to everyday lives.
- support measures to reduce food waste in partnership with the Catering Department
- make it easy for students to recycle, ensuring there are plenty and convenient recycling points with clear labelling.
- encourage student involvement in recycling programmes such as Bag-It-Up
- support and encourage students to reduce their reliance on single use plastics by providing all first-year students with an opportunity to collect a free reusable cup.
- provide sustainability initiatives and information through student induction, Welcome Week, Freshers' Fayre
- support Students' Union on sustainably themed initiatives such as Green Week, and the Student Allotment Society/ Environment Society
- support biodiversity improvement activities with submission of Green Flag Award application
- support and enable students to obtain volunteer and paid work opportunities relating to sustainability.
- support and encourage students to use sustainable travel and transport such as providing a Commuters Lounge and free of charge regular bicycle repair sessions.
- encourage students to reduce the quantity of photocopying and printing they use.
- provide and maintain pages on the University's intranet on sustainability issues.

Staff Sustainability Engagement

Targets and Key Performance Indicators:

100% of new staff to receive information on the environment and sustainability during their induction process.

Sustainable Engagement Activities:

We will:

- support and invest in staff development on sustainability.
- deliver events such as organised local walks with sustainable themes.
- provide a presentation on the environment, transport and sustainability as part of staff induction.
- encourage staff to improve their environmental housekeeping including turning off monitors when they leave a room, reducing temperature on thermostatic radiator valves and recycling more.
- encourage staff to report incidents of energy and water wastage such as leaking taps and rooms that are too hot in winter.
- support measures to reduce food waste through initiatives such as cooking events.

- make it easy for staff to recycle, ensuring there are plenty and convenient recycling points with clear labelling.
- support and encourage staff to reduce their reliance on single use plastics by providing all new starters with an opportunity to collect a free reusable cup.
- support biodiversity improvement activities such as hedgehog awareness events
- support and encourage staff to use sustainable personal transport modes for commuting such as providing free of charge regular bicycle repair sessions.
- support and encourage staff to use sustainable business transport modes such as booking the electric fleet car and providing folding access to electric bicycles.
- encourage staff to volunteer for sustainable community projects.
- encourage staff to reduce the quantity of photocopying and printing they use.
- provide and maintain pages on the University's intranet on sustainability issues.

Community Sustainability Engagement

Targets and Key Performance Indicators:

Increase number of local charities the University engages with by 20% above the base line year of 2017/18 by 2030.

Sustainable Engagement Activities:

We will:

- work with local schools to help them practice, teach and promote sustainable development.
- support opportunities to work collaboratively with the local community.
- continue to enhance the reputation of the University within the community, business and Higher Education sector.
- contribute to networks and share best practice and progress.
- work with local groups and charities on sustainable travel and events
- work with local groups and charities on reducing, reusing and recycling of waste such as local homeless shelters and support charities.
- work with local groups and charities on biodiversity such as the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and The Great British Bee Project
- provide and maintain pages on the University's website about its sustainability efforts.

Measuring performance

We will monitor the effect of the Sustainability Engagement Strategy and related policies through the annual environmental objectives.

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

We will align with the requirements of the EFS Customer Service Excellence standard.

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.