



Our ambition

Cardiff University is committed to leadership in sustainability and improving our environmental performance. Our vision is towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for our community and to bring about environmental benefits not only to Cardiff and Wales but to the wider world. It is crucial to develop environmental sustainability as an integral part of our values and to embed sustainability in all aspects of our academic and professional services activities.

We will empower our students, graduates and staff to become sustainable citizens who make a positive contribution to society and are active within their communities. We will ensure sustainable development is a key consideration in all senior decision making, promote sustainability issues and principles with all staff, students and stakeholders and enable the application of our innovative research to improve global sustainability.

Underpinning goals

Our underpinning goals are adapted from the United Nations sustainable development goals and the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations Act, Well-being Goals. These are as follows:

A prosperous University	An innovative, productive and low carbon community which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately including acting on climate change
A resilient University	A University which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience particularly the capacity to adapt to change
A healthier University	A University which provides facilities for and encourages staff and students to make healthier food, lifestyle and travel choices which in turn help to improve wellbeing and reduce pollution both locally and globally
A globally responsible University	A University which will take account of the impact of its activities on global sustainable development and global well-being. We will purchase clean energy and adopt responsible consumption practices for all goods and services we use. We will also actively enable our innovative research to improve global sustainability

Building on previous work

Building on the University's Value of Environmental and Social Sustainability work, we will ensure continual improvement across the University. We have drawn on our academic expertise and taken advice from leading academics in the development of our strategy.

We want to firmly embed sustainability into everything we do. This will include taking measures to reduce our carbon emissions and our use of energy, water, finite resources and plastic, minimising pollution and waste by reducing, re-using and recycling wherever possible. We will maintain certification to ISO 14001, adopt EcoCampus and achieve the Platinum Corporate Health Standard which focuses on sustainable development.

Making this happen

Our key priorities for the lifetime of the strategy will be:

- ▶ **We will prioritise and phase out the use of single-use plastic such as plastic water bottles to the fullest extent possible, and will improve recycling facilities of all kinds throughout the University.**

We have chosen an action in which everybody throughout the University and beyond can participate. Plastic is a durable material, yet a third of it is used once and then discarded. We will start work on a campaign around this immediately to reduce the use of single-use plastic and identify where improvements can be introduced to our recycling scheme.

- ▶ **Align University targets with Welsh Government proposals to decarbonise public sector bodies by 2030 and to demonstrate significant progress toward these targets.**

This indicator relates to actions that we have direct control over and can measure. Scope 1 emissions encompass the direct burning of fossil fuels within buildings and vehicles owned or operated by the University. Scope 2 emissions encompass the indirect burning of fossil fuels to supply electricity and water to University buildings. We have already had considerable success in reducing our carbon footprint on these measures. In the 10-year period from 2005/06 to 2015/16 our carbon emissions fell by 6.7% from 31,795 tonnesCO₂e to 29,663 tonnesCO₂e.

- ▶ **To measure and then reduce carbon emissions from travel by using less polluting modes and promoting technological alternatives.**

In addition to the indicator detailed above, we recognise the impact of travel and will endeavour to reduce carbon emissions from travel by using less polluting modes and promoting technological alternatives.

- ▶ **We will reduce our demand for non-sustainable goods and services, whilst minimising waste production.**

We will embed opportunities for sustainable procurement practices into University wide processes and management procedures. This will enable the University to consider sustainable alternatives during the planning and tender process.

- ▶ **To source goods and services responsibly, taking into account their sustainability impact and being ethical in our business practices when dealing with our supply chain.**

To assist Schools and departments in embedding sustainability considerations, including lifecycle analysis, into decision making, summaries have been prepared for common categories of goods and services, of the likely impacts of making the purchase and opportunity areas for mitigating negative impacts or taking positive action.

- ▶ **To ensure environmental sustainability is embedded into all academic and business processes including internal and external events.**

We will audit academic and business processes to ensure environmental sustainability is considered. We will use the principles contained within ISO 20121-Sustainable events, for internal and external events.

- ▶ **To provide a staff, student and stakeholder behaviour change programme that promotes sustainability issues and principles.**

This indicator builds on the established behavioural change programmes run. A sustainability induction is available to all and a sustainability week is run annually. Themed Campaigns will be identified over the life of the Strategy focusing on one each academic year.

- ▶ **To enhance the biodiversity of our campus by promoting pollinator planting across our green spaces.**

Building on the work of the award-winning Pharmabees project, we will increase the area of University estate covered by wildflower meadow. This effort will increase local biodiversity, provide additional forage by including pollinator friendly plants identified by Cardiff University research and increase carbon sequestration.

Environmental sustainability key performance indicators

- We will baseline our procurement of single-use plastics, identifying waste streams and working to eliminate single-use plastics across our catering facilities where appropriate.
- All new and renewed contracts over £25,000 will be assessed using a Sustainability Risk Assessment and/or Impact Assessment. The results will be used to form the decision making process.
- Carbon modelling to establish lifecycle costings for all new buildings and assets based on realistic life expectancy of each asset.
- We will baseline the environmental impact of the University's travel mileage by managing the University's vehicle use through a smarter sustainable Travel Policy, resulting in setting appropriate targets to reduce our CO₂ Emissions and Duty of Care Risks.
- To be Carbon neutral (for scope 1 and 2) for estates and campus facilities operations by 2023. Measured against the source of the energy.
- All Schools and Professional Services to take part in environmental sustainability behavioural change programme by academic year 2019/2020.

An accompanying action plan(s) will detail milestones.

Reporting our performance

Achievements will be reported through the Governance structure and to our external stakeholders through the University Annual Review. In addition we will hold an annual Sustainability Forum, promoting the values of the University, which will report and recognise environmental sustainability performance and seek feedback from staff, students and stakeholders.

Contact details

e-mail: environment@cardiff.ac.uk website: [environmental sustainability](http://environmental.sustainability.ac.uk) yammer: [Sustainability Strategy](#) twitter: [@CardiffUniSD](#)