

Sustainable Cardiff



CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD

Section 1

Our ambition

Sustainability at Cardiff University



Globally Responsible

We are minimising the environmental impact of our activities, promoting responsible consumption, and extending our positive influence through education, research, partnerships, and governance.



Resilient & Healthy

We are integrating climate adaptation, nature-based solutions, and resilience thinking into our estates and decision-making, enhancing institutional resilience and well-being.



Prosperous & Innovative

We are leveraging our data and campus as a hub for innovation, facilitating sustainability-focused work experience and cross-sector partnerships for innovation and inclusive growth.



Inclusive & Connected

We are creating cohesive communities by empowering ourselves with knowledge and skills to take sustainability action in everyday practice, fostering shared purpose and promoting equitable participation.

Our University Strategy charts our course to 2035 through 3 lenses:



Culture, cynefin and community

Our values and work will align in a socially responsible university that strives to make Cardiff and Wales, as well as the world beyond, a better place.



A vibrant and thriving place

We will improve our campuses' sustainability and the shared experience of being here. We will take seriously the challenge of climate change & decreasing biodiversity, tackle our carbon footprint, & enhance our green infrastructure.



Co-creating futures

We will drive decarbonisation & develop transformational technologies through our research. We will provide our students with future-proofed knowledge & skills, developing them further into resilient, critical, problem-solving change makers.

Our Headline Commitments

Culture, cynefin and community

- Engage & collaborate with the university community to develop knowledge & encourage sustainability in all processes and activities
- Be carbon net zero for Scope 3 emissions in relation to purchased goods and services by 2050
- Hold a net zero investment portfolio by 2050



Our Headline Commitments

A vibrant and thriving place

- Achieve carbon net zero for scopes 1 & 2 emissions
- Enhance the biodiversity and natural ecosystems on our Estate
- Reduce the environmental impact of our development and maintenance activities
- Reduce the estate area per staff & student FTE
- Minimise waste & increase recycling participation across the University in line with the Welsh Government's circular economy strategy
- Minimise emissions associated with transport across the University



Our Headline Commitments

Co-creating futures

- Engage with Learning & Teaching to improve the visibility of Education for Sustainable Development
- Support the University Research Integrity Action Plan by developing guidance/tools for researchers on 'environmental protection', 'environmental impact' and 'sustainability'



Our work is underpinned by global & national goals/standards

- We are certified to ISO14001, the international standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS);
- We have signed the SDG Accord, a commitment to embed the Sustainable Development Goals into everything we do;
- We are guided by the Welsh Government's Wellbeing of Future Generations Act's [Wellbeing Goals](#)



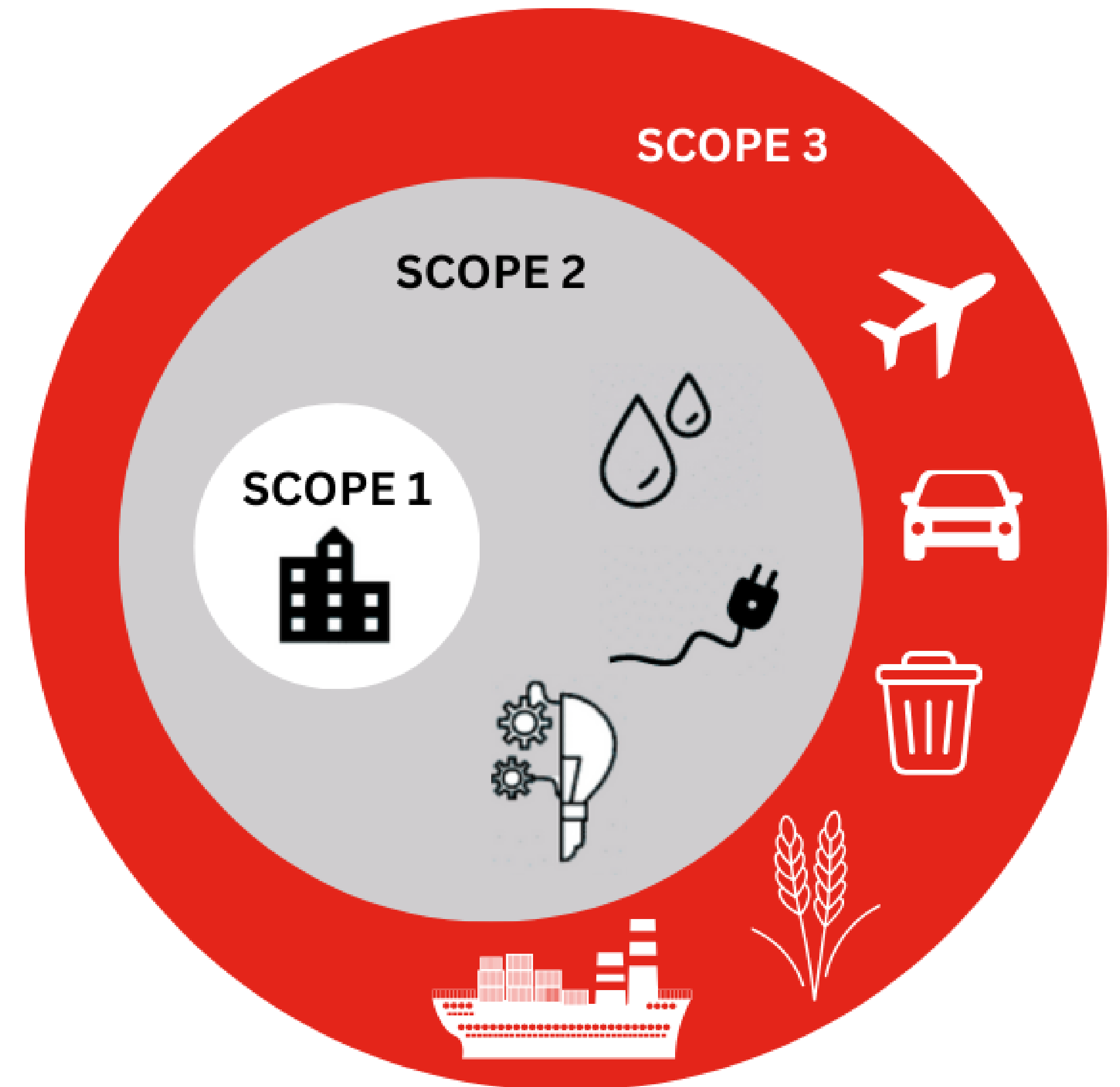
Section 2

Carbon Reporting

Carbon reporting

We are working hard to reduce carbon emissions across the whole university, including both our direct and indirect impacts. This includes:

- **Scope 1 emissions:** direct emissions produced by the burning of fossil fuels within buildings and vehicles owned or operated by the University;
- **Scope 2 emissions:** indirect emissions produced by the burning of fossil fuels to supply electricity and water to University buildings;
- **Scope 3 emissions:** indirect emissions from everything else the University does, such as our purchases, the waste we produce, travel, commuting, investments and water consumed.



Carbon reporting

To show our commitment to carbon reporting and enable us to benchmark with other universities, we submit our scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions annually to:

- the Welsh Government [Carbon Reporting Guidelines](#) and
- the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC) [Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework](#).
- This reporting data is available through our [Cardiff University website](#).



Section 3

An institution-wide
approach

Governance

Environmental sustainability at Cardiff University is governed by the **Sustainability Steering Board (SSB)**, chaired by the [University Dean for Environmental Sustainability](#). The SSB provides strategic oversight for the delivery of Sustainable Futures: Environmental Sustainability Plan 2025-35 and monitors performance across all areas of the University's sustainability commitments. It reports to the **University Executive Board (UEB)**, ensuring that environmental sustainability is embedded at the highest levels of institutional decision-making. The [Vice-Chancellor](#) sponsors sustainability on the UEB.



Decarbonising our built environment

Transforming our buildings and enabling sustainable travel

- Over 500KW of solar photovoltaics on our roofs
- A dedicated Net Zero programme including energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures, such as upgrading to high efficiency LED lighting in many of our buildings, increasing solar PV and improving building fabric
- Improved cycle parking facilities and shuttle bus service
- Investment in Electric Vehicles (EV) & charging points



Sustainable purchasing & consumption



Responsible procurement

Our [Responsible Procurement Policy](#) aims to minimise demand for irresponsible goods and services and enhance ethical and sustainability standards for suppliers



Sustainable food & drink

- Healthy Options Gold award in all our restaurants
- Food for Life Charter Mark for all catering and bars
- Green Shoots veg/vegetarian café
- Food waste composted, waste cooking oil turned into biofuel
- Reduction in single use plastics



Waste minimisation & recycling

- Providing recycling bins across all Academic and Residential sites.
- Encouraging reuse through [Warp-it.com](#)
- Repurposing & repairing IT devices where feasible
- Recycling IT equipment which has gone beyond its useful life

Enhancing biodiversity & building climate resilience

- Our [Ecosystem Resilience and Biodiversity Action Plan \(ERBAP\)](#) sets out how we are working to enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience across our campuses
- [Hedgehog Friendly Campus](#)
- Piloting [Nature Friendly Grounds scheme](#)
- Bee-friendly status via Welsh Government pollinator friendly scheme
- No Mow May and new management scheme for green spaces
- Creation & enhancement of natural habitats for wildlife
- Local schools and community engagement
- [Green Prescribing](#)



A Global-Civic University

Being a Global-Civic university means co-creating cultural, economic, environmental, and social value, in Cardiff, Wales, UK and the world, for current and future generations, through everything that we do.

- Living Wage employer
- Fairtrade status for over 10 years
- Future Generations Thinking: Our civic mission and public engagement will support the Well-being of Future Generations Act to achieve impact for current and future generations.
- Supporting the [Future Generations Commissioner's 'Cymru Can'](#) strategy mission of *Climate and Nature* - working with society to create a sustainable future by finding solutions to achieve a net-zero and nature-positive future.
- [Community-led engagement activities](#)
- [Local schools and colleges engagement to improve the whole education ecosystem](#)
- [Fundraising for our Research](#)



Section 4

Get involved with
sustainability

Get involved - Staff

- Staff working in offices or teaching spaces can [join a Green Impact team](#) and earn rewards for implementing sustainable practices locally
- Staff working in Labs can [register with LEAF](#) to improve the sustainability and efficiency of their lab
- Use the campus as a testbed to research sustainability solutions (contact sustainablecu@cardiff.ac.uk)
- Supervise student 'Living Lab' projects (contact sustainablecu@cardiff.ac.uk)



Get involved - Students

- Become a [Green Impact Project Assistant or Auditor](#)
- Research sustainability solutions on campus through a 'Living Lab' project
- Join a [sustainability society](#)



Get involved – Staff & Students

- Volunteer/engage with our biodiversity activities: Biodiversity Hubs; [Pharmabees](#); [Greening Cathays](#); Wildflower & Tree Planting; [National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme hub](#)
- Participate in the University's Switch Off competitions
- Earn rewards for sustainable & active travel via the ['Changing Steps Cardiff' challenge](#)
- Benefit from free bike maintenance at our Dr. Bike sessions
- Attend sustainability events, including Sustainability Week

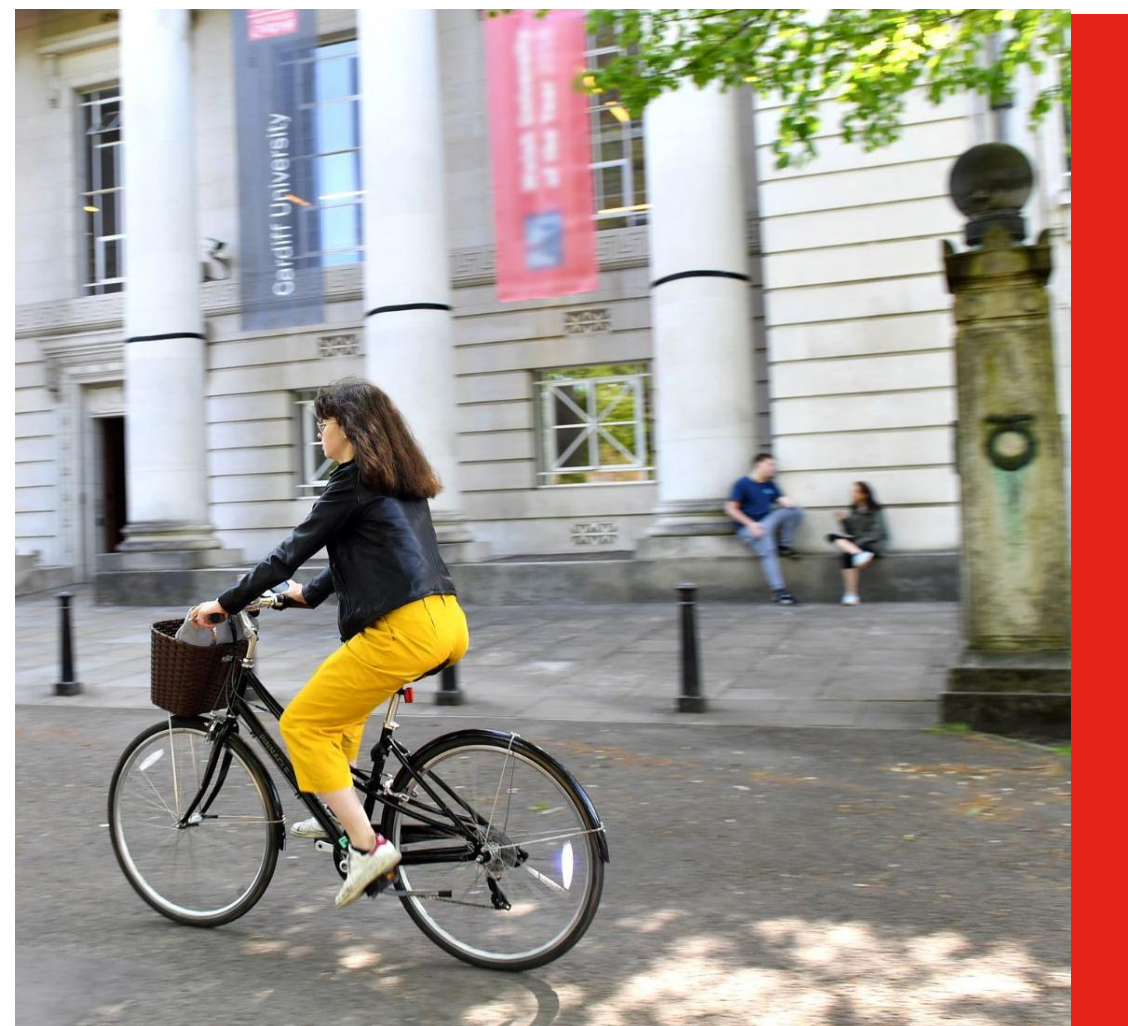


Section 5
Reduce your
environmental impact



Conserve energy

- Switch off non-essential equipment at the end of the day and during University closures
- Participate in our Switch-Off competitions



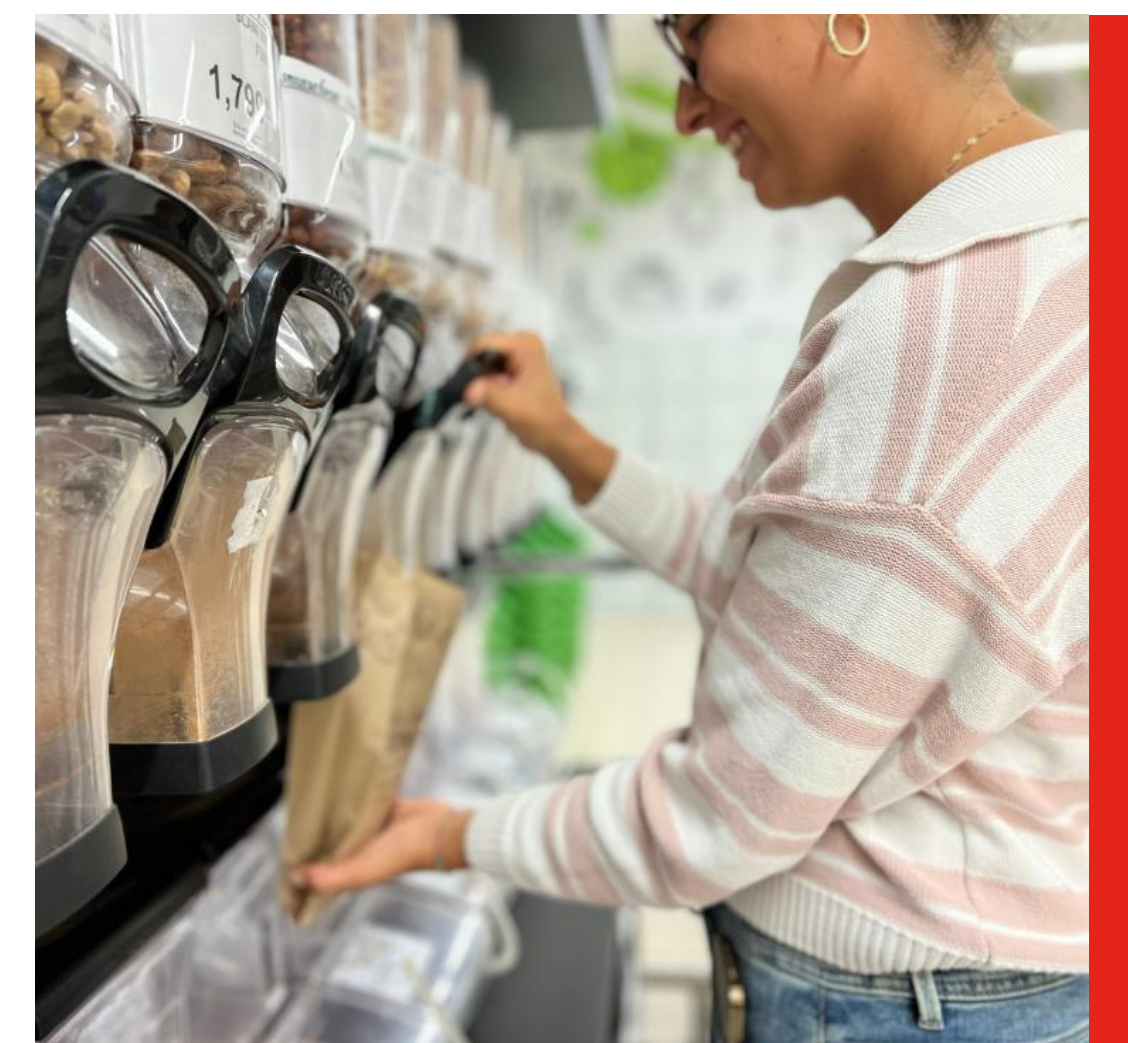
Travel sustainably

- Earn rewards for active & sustainable travel through the [‘Changing Steps Cardiff’ challenge](#)
- Take advantage of our [cycle to work](#) and [interest free season ticket loan](#) schemes (staff)



Reduce, reuse, recycle

- Rehome/reuse University items on [Warp-it.com](#) (staff only)
- Purchase a KeepCup from our coffee shops or bring your own
- Ensure you place the correct materials in our recycling bins



Buy more sustainably

- Familiarise yourself with our new [Responsible Procurement Policy](#)
- Buy sustainable & ethical alternatives
- Consider whole-life costs at the pre-procurement stage

Section 6

Sustainability resources
and contacts

Sustainability Resources and contacts

- [Our sustainability homepage](#)
- [Policies linked to sustainability](#)

Area	Contact
Dean for Sustainability	mourshedm@cardiff.ac.uk
Sustainability in research	hoodk1@cardiff.ac.uk
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	gwilliamja@cardiff.ac.uk
Carbon net zero team	energy@cardiff.ac.uk
Biodiversity officer	costamb@cardiff.ac.uk
Sustainability engagement officer (inc. Green Impact)	sustainablecu@cardiff.ac.uk
Environmental safety advisor (EMS)	environment@cardiff.ac.uk
Responsible procurement	procurement@cardiff.ac.uk
Waste minimisation	taubmang@cardiff.ac.uk
Sustainable Food	catering@cardiff.ac.uk
Sustainable Travel	travelplan@cardiff.ac.uk
LEAF	LEAF@cardiff.ac.uk
Research and environmental compliance (IT)	dickson@cardiff.ac.uk
UCU environmental officer	ucu-environmental-officer@cardiff.ac.uk





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Thank you