Sustainability at Cardiff University – our ambition

Environmental Sustainability information for Staff and Students

Cardiff University has declared a Climate Emergency:

As institutions and networks of higher and further education from across the world, we collectively declare a Climate Emergency in recognition of the need for a drastic societal shift to combat the growing threat of climate change.

- 1. Mobilizing more resources for action-oriented climate change research and skills creation;
- 2. Committing to going carbon neutral by 2030 or 2050 at the very latest;
- 3. Increasing the delivery of environmental and sustainability education across curriculum, campus and community outreach programmes

- We are signatories to the 'Race to Zero' which is the UN-backed, global campaign to rally leadership and support from all non-state actors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery.

What kind of University do we want to be?

To make sustainability an integral part of our values and to embed sustainability in all of our operations. 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.

[Welsh Government Well-being Goals](#)

What kind of University do we want to be?
Our Key Priorities include:

- To be a carbon neutral institution for scope 1 and 2 by 2030 and for scope 3 no later than 2050.

- We will promote sustainability education and dissemination and enable students and staff to make positive changes to our environmental impact

- 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

What kind of University do we want to be?

Our Key Priorities include:

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

- To reduce carbon emissions from travel by using less polluting modes and promoting technological alternatives

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

What kind of University do we want to be?

Our Key Priorities include:

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

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

[Read more about our Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#)

The purpose of the SDG Accord is:

- To inspire, celebrate and advance the critical role that education has in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the value it brings to governments, business and wider society.

- The Accord is a commitment learning institutions are making to one another to do more to deliver the goals, to annually report on each signatory's progress, and to do so in ways which share the learning with each other both nationally and internationally. An objective is that sector SDG reporting metrics will be presented at the annual United Nations High Level Political Forum.

- Read our summary report to find out more about our work towards the SDGs

Environment Management System

What are we doing regarding environmental management?

- The University has an ISO 14001 certified Environmental Management System (EMS)
- All areas have a local environmental aspects register
- Environmental Objectives and Targets set
- Managed through University's Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Steering Group

Environment Management System

Students - find out more about ECOcampus

- Find out more about ECOcampus
- Register here to get FREE access to:

  - Information about environmental management systems
  - Information about why ECOcampus is important
  - FREE sustainable development course (certified for continuing professional development)
  - FREE carbon literacy courses

Carbon

- We spend £18.3 million on Utilities (Gas, Electricity and Water)

- Carbon Management Plan
  - We achieved a Carbon reduction of 20% by 2020 on our 2005 baseline.
  - We currently have 270KW solar photovoltaics on our roofs
  - We are upgrading to high efficiency lights and sensor systems
  - We are installing water saving technologies

Scope 1 emissions encompass the direct burning of fossil fuels within buildings and vehicles owned or operated by the University.
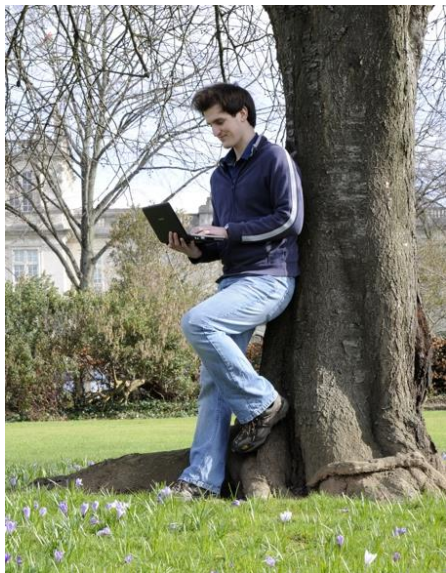Scope 2 emissions encompass the indirect burning of fossil fuels to supply electricity and water to University buildings.

- Raise awareness of impacts and alternatives
- Encourage active travel
  - Changing Steps Cardiff (betterpoints.app)
- Encourage the use of public transport
- Interest free travel season ticket loans
- On street bike hire scheme
- Promote alternative business and working practices.

- More info:
- Staff Intranet https://intranet.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/services/travel-and-transport/sustainable-travel
- Student Intranet: https://intranet.cardiff.ac.uk/students/campus-life/sustainability/sustainable-travel

Sustainable IT and Libraries

We aim to minimise the environmental impact of IT and Library services; and also use those services to improve the sustainability of the wider University:

- Energy efficiency, including PC powerdown
- Electronic working and resources
- Remote working and collaboration services

Sustainable Procurement

Reflecting the commitments set out in the University's Environmental Sustainability Policy and supporting the University's overarching Procurement Strategy, the University aims to embed sustainable procurement within its culture by committing to:

- Working with suppliers, schools and departments to raise awareness of sustainability
- Identify and review the sustainability risks and impacts of the products and services we procure
- Ensuring that workers in our supply chain are employed ethically and in compliance with UK and International laws
- Optimise the use of natural resources and maximise the use of renewable energy sources
- Supporting the management of our carbon impact
- Effectively manage waste in the supply chain and the delivery of goods and services

University Social Responsibility

- We are a Living wage employer
- We have had Fairtrade status for over 10 years
- Charitable groups and donations across the University
- We have many social and community development activities
- Potential for increased coordination and promotion.
- We work with a number of schools and colleges in the area to improve the whole education ecosystem
- We support the work of the Future Generations Office to help develop a more sustainable future for the people of Wales

Sustainable Food

- Fairtrade University for 15 years
- Healthy Options Gold award in all our restaurants
- Green Shoots vegan/vegetarian cafe
- Food for Life Charter Mark for all Catering and Bars
- KeepCups available in Coffee shops
- Reduction in single use plastics
- Food waste composted, waste cooking oil turned into bio-fuel

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Our aim is to divert as much waste as possible away from landfill
- By 2023, we will reduce our waste sent to ERF/RDF to no more than 30% inline with Welsh Government targets
- We have Implemented a 7-stream recycling across campus
- By following the waste hierarchy we will work towards achieving the Welsh Government recycling target of 70% by 2024/25.
- The secure disposal of IT data assets and all other Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) related items
- Advice on how to recycle any specific material is contained in [A-Z waste guide](#)

Biodiversity

- Through the University's <u>Ecosystems Resilience and Biodiversity Action Plan (ERBAP),</u> we will enhance the University's green infrastructure by ameliorating the environmental conditions of 30% of the green estate by 2023.

  - Environment Act – Section 6 duty
  - Bee friendly status via WG pollinator friendly initiative
  - Pharmabees project
  - Greening Cathays
  - Green Flag Community Award – Redwood building
  - Great Bluebell project – planting native Bluebells
  - Creation of natural habitat
  - <u>Hedgehog Friendly Campus Silver award</u>
  - Wildflower planting – 10 community gardens

Sustainability research

- World-leading research across a wide range of disciplines
- Biodiversity, Climate, Earth, Energy, People, Places, Water.
- Influencing policy and behaviour worldwide.

LEAF – Sustainable Laboratories

- A program that aims to work with lab users to improve lab sustainability
- Nationally recognised certification
- Workbook including calculators to assess usage and savings made
- Bronze, Silver and Gold awards
- Sign up by e-mailing leaf@cardiff.ac.uk
- [leaf-laboratory-efficiency-assessment-framework](#)

What can you do?

- Take part in LEAF – Sustainable Labs
- Take part in Sustainability week
- Join the conversation:
  - Sustainability Strategy Yammer Group
  - Leaf Yammer Group
  - Cardiff University Bees Yammer Group
  - Cardiff Wildlife and Wildflower Group

Contact details

Where can I find out more?

- Local Environmental Compliance Officer (ECO)
- Join our Yammer group
- Sustainability - our profile
- energy@Cardiff.ac.uk
- environment@Cardiff.ac.uk
- Leaf@cardiff.ac.uk