Environmental and Sustainability Policy Metrics and Targets

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This document collates the targets and baselines for measuring progress in implementation of the Environmental and Sustainability Policy. Where a specific target date is established, the owner is indicated, otherwise a baseline and desired direction of movement is stated, and year-on-year continual improvement is expected.

Headline Targets

Area	Specific Target (with units)	Measurement method	Achievability	Relevance	Target date/ timeline
Construction & Refurbishment	At a minimum, buildings at the new Southgate Campus will be built to BREEAM and WELL Building Standards.	Certification to BREEAM Excellent and WELL Platinum Building standards	Close relationships with BREEAM and WELL consultants embedded in the design and construction process	Policy item 2, metric 2.5 below	Within two years of practical completion (e.g. Current projects - Daphne Steele certification due by Sept 2026)
Emissions & Discharge	Net zero emissions (including scope 1 emissions from F-gas discharges).	Annual calculations using EAUC framework, based on GHG Protocol	Significant reductions are achievable but will likely require use of offsets.	Policy item 1, c.f. metric 1.3.2.6 below	2030
Community involvement	Launch a central Sustainability Champions programme and recruit at least 50 participants	Number of registered Sustainability Champions	Collaboration with other departments	Policy item 3, metric 3.5 below	End of 2026/27 academic year
Biodiversity	Plant a minimum of 2000 trees annually as part of the university's yearly	Tree count per planting site	Partnership with tree planting providers and continued staff-	Policy item 4, metric 4.4. below	End of 2025/26 winter planting season and annually thereafter

Area	Specific Target (with units)	Measurement method	Achievability	Relevance	Target date/ timeline
	tree planting programme.		student volunteer recruitment		
Waste management	Reduce annual operational waste generated on campus to below 700 tonnes from 2008/09 baseline	Tonnes per annum	Commitment to waste hierarchy	Policy item 1, metric 1.1.1. below	2030
Travel and Transport	Increase in proportion of staff commuting by active travel methods (walking, running, cycling) by 20% from 2008/09 baseline	Percent modal split	Will require investment in active travel facilities and incentives	Policy item 5, metric 5.3.2. below	2030
Sustainable procurement	Decrease in scope 3 emissions from procured goods and services from 2019/20 baseline	Total Scope 3 emissions (tonnes CO_2e)	Improved data availability including product-level carbon footprints	Policy item 1, metric 1.2.1 below	Net-zero by 2045
Water	Reduce annual water consumption by 60% from 2015/16 baseline	Annual m^3 water consumption from billing data	Will require major water efficiency measures.	Policy item 1, metric 1.2.2	2030

Full List of Objectives

Policy items	Metric number	Metric	Desired direction	Baseline year	Baseline value	Target	Owner
1. Resource Management							
Recognise waste as a valuable resource in line with the principles of the Circular Economy and develop efficient and effective waste management procedures to implement the waste hierarchy: prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle and responsibly dispose. We will prevent our waste from reaching landfill at all feasible opportunities	1.1.1	Reduction in operational waste generated on campus (tonnes) Includes General waste, food waste, dry mixed recycling (DMR), building materials waste from maintenance activities, metals, Waste Electronic and Electrical (WEEE) Excludes major construction	Decrease	2008/09	1490 tonnes	Below 700 tonnes	Campus Support Manager
	1.1.2	Proportion of waste reused/recovered/recycled (%)	Increase	2008/09	57.3%	60%	
	1.1.3	Proportion of waste used to create energy (%)	Report	2008/09	0%	40%	
	1.1.4	Hazardous wastes managed effectively and safely. Total volumes and types. E.g., asbestos	Narrative report			Below 15 tonnes	
Implement practices and policies to reduce the environmental impact of the goods and services we procure to achieve	1.2.1	Total Scope 3 emissions (tonnes CO_2e)	Decrease	2019/20	17,821 tonnes CO_2e	Net-zero by 2045	Sustainability Manager
	1.2.2	Water consumption (m^3/year)	Decrease	2015/16	50,059	20,000	Sustainability Manager

Policy items	Metric number	Metric	Desired direction	Baseline year	Baseline value	Target	Owner
our Scope 3 carbon neutral target[s].							
Continually improve our energy and water efficiency in our direct operations, reducing our Scope 1&2 carbon emissions to	1.3	Total Scopes 1&2 emissions (tonnes CO_2e)	Decrease	2005/06	7,614 tonnes CO_2e	Net-zero by 2030	Sustainability Manager
	1.3.1	Total Scope 1&2 emissions (tonnes CO_2e) in line with Science Based Targets Initiative 1.5-degree scenario	Decrease	2019/20	5,257 tonnes CO_2e	3,050 tonnes CO_2e	
	1.3.1.1	Total Scope 1 emissions (tonnes CO_2e)	Decrease	2005/06	2,427 tonnes CO_2e	Component of metric 1.3	
	1.3.1.2	Total use of Natural Gas (kWh)	Decrease	2005/06	13,118,334 kWh		
	1.3.1.3	Reduction in gas use per gross internal area of campus space (kWh/m^2 GIA)	Decrease	2005/06	127.0 kWh/m^2		
	1.3.1.4	Use of other fuels combusted in campus operations (excluding use in vehicles) (kWh)	Decrease	2005/06	0 kWh		
	1.3.2.1	Total Scope 2 emissions (tonnes CO_2e)	Decrease	2005/06	5,187 tonnes CO_2e		
	1.3.2.2	Total use of electricity (kWh)	Decrease	2005/06	10,957,233 kWh		

Policy items	Metric number	Metric	Desired direction	Baseline year	Baseline value	Target	Owner
	1.3.2.3	Electricity use per gross internal area of campus space (kWh/m^2 GIA) Includes electricity generated on campus	Decrease	2005/06	106.0 kWh/m^2		
	1.3.2.4	Total use of electricity, including energy supplied from the national grid, and energy generated on campus (kWh)	Decrease	2005/06	24,075,567 kWh		
	1.3.2.5	Total energy use per gross internal area of campus space (kWh/m^2 GIA)	Decrease	2005/06	233.0 kWh/m^2		
	1.3.2.6	Scope 1 emissions from refrigerant leakage (tCO2e)	Decrease	2023/24	188.7 tCO2e		
Reduce our reliance on fossil fuels to heat, cool and operate our campus operations, reducing our carbon emissions and improving our air quality emissions.	1.3.1.2	Total use of Natural Gas (kWh)	Decrease	2005/06	13,118,334 kWh		
	1.3.1.4	Use of other fuels combusted in campus operations (excluding use in vehicles) (kWh)	Decrease	2005/06	0 kWh		
Implement practices to reduce our demand on the national electricity grid, improving	1.5.1	Total Electricity generated on campus (kWh)	Report	2012/13	3,473 kWh		
	1.5.1.1	Electricity generated by Solar Photovoltaics (kWh)	Increase	2012/13	3,473 kWh		

Environmental and Sustainability Policy Metrics and Targets

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efficiency, generating low carbon energy on campus, and encouraging the increase of renewable energy sources generating into the grid through our procurement contracts.	1.5.1.2	Electricity generated through combined heat and power units [CHP] (kWh)	Report	2016/17	5,310 kWh		
	1.5.2	Total energy procured through a renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement [PPA] (kWh)	Report	N/A	No agreement in place at present		
Commit to the prevention of pollution by ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation regarding emissions and discharges.	1.6	Report in the event of a legal breach	Narrative Report				Health, Safety and Compliance Manager
Reduce the use of harmful chemicals in our activities where a practical alternative methodology is available.	1.7.1	Report on methodologies implemented to reduce use of chemicals. - Estates & Facilities Cleaning services - School technical teams	Narrative report			Full reliance on organic-based products	Cleaning Services Manager Technical Services Managers
	1.7.2	Financial spend on chemicals for cleaning per gross internal area of campus space (£/m^2 GIA)	Decrease				Cleaning Services Manager

Policy items	Metric number	Metric	Desired direction	Baseline year	Baseline value	Target	Owner
Ethically source and conscientiously purchase food and materials related to its provision on campus. We will certify to welfare and sourcing standards and actively encourage local food production where possible.	1.8	Please see the Sustainable Food Policy for relevant metrics					
2. Sustainable Buildings							
Close the performance gap between design and operation to ensure new and refurbished buildings have a lower carbon footprint throughout their operating lives.	2.1	Report on methodologies undertaken for each major project	Narrative Report			Component of metric 1.2	Energy Manager
Design our new buildings and refurbish our existing campus buildings to enhance the wellbeing of its users. This includes accounting for access to natural light, thermal comfort, biophilic design principles, improving air	2.2	Report on methodologies undertaken for each major project	Narrative report			Buildings at the new Southgate Campus will be built to the WELL Building Standard. The Jo Cox More in	Sustainability Manager

Policy items	Metric number	Metric	Desired direction	Baseline year	Baseline value	Target	Owner
quality, access to nature both internally and externally, and sourcing of sustainable construction materials and textiles.						Common Centre will maintain its WELL Building Standard at Platinum level.	
Efficiently and intelligently operate our buildings utilising the space(s) we have available through effective space planning and allocation and timetabling of teaching and events. We will move towards the principle of operating based upon need rather than assumption.	2.3	Implementation will lead to a reduction in Scope 1&2 Emissions (1.3.1)	Narrative report			Component of metric 1.3.1	Space Manager
Measure the embodied carbon emissions resulting from major construction projects and put steps in place to minimise and mitigate their impact.	2.4	CO_2e/m^2 gross internal area of construction (including external landscaping)	Narrative report			Scope 3 net-zero by 2045	Sustainability Manager

Policy items	Metric number	Metric	Desired direction	Baseline year	Baseline value	Target	Owner
Implement measurable and reportable sustainability standards and benchmarks in the design and construction of new buildings and major refurbishments, including, but not limited to, BREEAM and the WELL Building Standard. The minimum standards to achieve will be agreed by University Council in approving the undertaking of a project.	2.5	Publicly issue the standards to be achieved for each major construction project	Narrative report			At a minimum, buildings at the new Southgate Campus will be built to BREEAM and the WELL Building Standard.	Assistant Director (Property Services), Estates and Facilities
Design in adaptability and resilience to account for the impacts of the changing climate.	2.6	Report on methodologies undertaken for each major project	Narrative report				Assistant Director (Property Services), Estates and Facilities
3. Engagement							
Annually report on our progress in meeting our agreed targets, key performance indicators and implementation of	3.1	Report annually on activities	Narrative report				Sustainability Manager

Policy items	Metric number	Metric	Desired direction	Baseline year	Baseline value	Target	Owner
the policy statements in this framework.							
Enable research, foster innovation, and where practical implement new technologies, utilising the campus and our operations as a 'living laboratory' for advancement of sustainable development.	3.2	Report annually on activities	Narrative report				Deputy Vice Chancellor
Build and maintain partnerships with local, national, and international organisations to reciprocally reduce our environmental impacts and participate in activities to enhance sustainable development and social responsibility.	3.3	Report annually on activities	Narrative report				Sustainability Manager
Use our global reach to support achieving the targets of the UN	3.4.1	Submission to the Times Higher Impact Rankings	Narrative report				Deputy Vice Chancellor

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Policy items	Metric number	Metric	Desired direction	Baseline year	Baseline value	Target	Owner
Sustainable Development Goals through our research, teaching and operational activities.	3.4.2	Report annually on activities	Narrative report				
Foster a culture of change in the university to improve our environmental performance; supporting Environmental and Sustainability champions to implement improvements in working practices and practical actions throughout our schools, support services and affiliated organisations.	3.5	Report annually on activities	Narrative report			Launch a central Sustainability Champions programme	Sustainability Manager
Engage and collaborate with the Huddersfield Students Union executive board, their affiliated student societies, and the wider student body in their actions to increase	3.6	Report annually on activities	Narrative report			Run a collaborative Sustainability Champions programme in partnership with the	Sustainability Manager

Policy items	Metric number	Metric	Desired direction	Baseline year	Baseline value	Target	Owner
sustainable development and improve environmental performance at the University of Huddersfield.						Students Union	
4. Biodiversity							
Respect wildlife that resides on our campus and actively work to create, maintain, and enhance habitats with a rich variety of native plant species.	4.1	Report on methodologies undertaken	Narrative report				Campus Support Manager
Create cohesive links to habitats outside the estate to create biodiverse Green Corridors.	4.2	Report on methodologies undertaken	Narrative report				Sustainability Manager
Undertake landscaping works on campus that provide a biodiversity net benefit whilst also creating a connection to nature for users to enhance their wellbeing.	4.3	Report on methodologies undertaken	Narrative report			Conduct new green landscaping at suitable locations such as the old Edith Key site and the cantilevered	Assistant Director (Property Services), Estates and Facilities

Policy items	Metric number	Metric	Desired direction	Baseline year	Baseline value	Target	Owner
						overhang of the Barbara Hepworth building.	
Ensure that activities to offset the Universities carbon emissions which include habitat restoration or development, will result in a measurable net benefit to biodiversity, the environment, and the community local to the scheme being undertaken.	4.4	Report on methodologies undertaken	Narrative report			Plant a minimum of 2000 trees annually as part of the university's yearly tree planting programme.	Sustainability Manager
5. Travel							
Enable students, staff, and visitors to campus to utilise active or sustainable travel methods in their journey. This includes enabling the adoption of Electric Vehicles through campus infrastructure and collaboration with	5.1	Report on methodologies undertaken	Narrative report				Assistant Director (Facilities Management), Estates and Facilities

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partner organisation e.g., Kirklees Council							
Reduce the emissions from operating the universities fleet of owned and leased vehicles and increase the adoption of Electric Vehicles in campus operations.	5.2.1	Total fuel used in university-owned (or leased) vehicles (litres). Excludes hire cars, or business travel	Decrease	2015/16	9,853.9 litres		Assistant Director (Facilities Management), Estates and Facilities
	5.2.2	Report on methodologies undertaken	Narrative report				
Encourage the use of active and sustainable travel methods for journeys undertaken by staff and students in our operational activities, utilising technological solutions and avoiding air travel where possible.	5.3.1	Carbon emissions from business travel (tonnes CO_2e) (a component of Scope 3 emissions)	Decrease	2019/20	376 tonnes CO_2e	Net-zero by 2045	Sustainability Manager
	5.3.2	% staff commuting by active travel methods (walking, running, cycling)	Increase	2008/09	10%	20% by 2030	
	5.3.3	% students commuting by active travel methods (walking, running, cycling)	Increase	2017/18	40%	45% by 2030	
	5.3.4	% staff commuting by public transport	Increase	2008/09	21%	30% by 2030	
	5.3.5	% students commuting by public transport	Increase	2017/18	41%	45% by 2030	
	5.3.6	Number of cycle parking spaces	Increase	2024/25	154		