

## **STRATEGY 2030 AMBITION. SUPPORTING RESEARCH THAT ADDRESSES ISSUES RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND BIODIVERSITY.**

Strategy 2030 is supported by three core strategies, one of which is the Research and Enterprise Strategy. In turn, these are supported by Thematic Strategies one of which is the Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy.

As part of Strategy 2030 UWE Bristol has set the ambition for its Sustainability by Design research beacon to support research that addresses the interlinked climate and environmental emergency. The Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy expects that UWE's research under Sustainability by Design will focus on internationally excellent research with real-world impact, building on our strengths, prioritising challenge-based research and enhancing the student experience. In addressing the climate and ecological emergency UWE's research will be collaborative, agile and student-facing, with local focus and global reach. It specifically will address intractable problems, enable a pipeline of research engagement which will be supported by existing groups, Centres and Institutes. In particular Strategy 2030 expects that UWE will build on our considerable success and further strengthen our support for student enterprise and opportunities, business start-ups, innovation and enterprise, knowledge exchange and collaboration between university researchers, business and other partners. Together these will further strengthen the actions locally, nationally and internationally that will support the development of a sustainable and equitable future.

## **THE CURRENT POSITION AS STRATEGY 2020 DRAWS TO A CLOSE**

UWE has undertaken world-class research in selected areas of research that meets the needs of our community, a sustainable economy and society and feeds the scholarship and enquiry that underpins our learning and teaching. The Research Strategy 2020 set the following objectives:

- To advance knowledge, support sustainable economic growth and development, and enhance health, well-being and the environment.
- To achieve outstanding and far-reaching research impacts on business, government, the NHS and other stakeholders, communities and society.
- To enhance the recognition and profile of UWE Bristol nationally and internationally.
- To integrate research learning and teaching in order to attract students, enrich the student experience, support student retention and enhance graduate employability.
- To drive business and public engagement, innovation and enterprise support, and the role of UWE Bristol as an 'anchor institution' in the city-region and beyond.
- To enhance our capacity to recruit and retain high quality staff, and to promote employee engagement, career opportunities and job satisfaction.

In support of these objective UWE has maintained a vibrant research ecosystem of Institutes, Centres and Groups which are listed at <https://www1.uwe.ac.uk/research/researchportfolio.aspx>, 18 of which undertake research that has addressed one or more of the UN SDGs. Collectively the suite of SDGs has been addressed by UWE research over the lifetime of Strategy 2020. The impact of UWE's research is summarised in a series of case studies, the majority of which address one or more the UN SDGs (see <https://www1.uwe.ac.uk/research/researchimpact.aspx>). Research outputs available on the UWE Bristol Research Repository (<https://uwe-repository.worktribe.com/>) demonstrate the wide range of current and recent work by UWE staff to address environmental,

sustainability and ecological challenges. Together, the existing research ecosystem and its impact and outputs provides a strong foundation for the challenge of Sustainability by Design.

### **RESEARCH AIMS AND AMBITIONS IN THE CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

Strategy 2030 sets out our ambition to achieve globally recognised research beacons that shape the academic character and reputation of the University around Digital Futures, Health and Wellbeing, Creative and Digital Technologies and Sustainability by Design. In support of Climate Action and Sustainability it is expected that all research will be mindful of the need to consider the challenge of sustainability as expressed by the UN SDGs in its goals and in its process of research.

The ambition of 2030 can be summarised as supporting internationally competitive research that addresses the interlinked climate, ecological and environmental emergency. This ambition is supported by the Board of Governors Declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 (<https://www2.uwe.ac.uk/services/Marketing/about-us/pdf/Policies/UWE-Bristol-Board-of-Governors-Declaration-of-Climate-and-Ecological-Emergency-v3.pdf>)

The Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy addresses the challenge of Sustainability by Design in *Understanding Sustainability* and *Adapting to a Changing World*. Through the initiatives of the university's Sustainability by Design research beacon UWE will

- Create new knowledge, technologies, processes and operations that accelerate the development of a sustainable future.
- Seek to shape the health and sustainability of our communities and to create solutions to global sustainability and climate change challenges.
- Share knowledge and resources held and generated within UWE in order to build capacity and capability to address social inequalities and local and global sustainability challenges.
- Support the West of England region to become more sustainable through actively partnership with local authorities, other relevant agencies and third sector organisations;
- Engage with the Local Industrial Strategy and the business community of the city region to provide research and knowledge exchange opportunities alongside new job opportunities for future graduates.
- Support organisations in the city region to develop effective action plans to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate.
- Use our partnerships to create opportunities in the curriculum and research for students to engage with sustainability challenges in different cultures and environments.
- Provide opportunities for our staff and students to enhance their understanding, develop their practice and undertake knowledge exchange and research.

### **HOW PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 GOAL WILL BE MEASURED**

The Transforming Futures Research and Enterprise Strategy will be published later this year and will set out the overall performance indicators for the Sustainability by Design research beacon. This will set out how UWE Research Beacons will support research for sustainability. In particular, it will set the framework for how UWE specifically support research into climate change, environmental challenges and biodiversity and thus deliver the ambitions of the Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy. The processes by which research is conducted will be ethical and

sustainable and in accordance with the expectations set out in Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy. One indicator of success will be the number of successful external bids addressing climate and or ecological emergency issues. It is expected that by 2030 UWE research and knowledge exchange activities will have addressed each of the SDGs.

On a quarterly basis the Sustainability Board will monitor progress in meeting the aims and ambitions of the commitment to support research that addresses issues relating to climate change, environmental challenges and biodiversity.