

# Transforming Futures

Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy

# 2020-2030



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# 1

## Strategy 2030

The University's Strategy 2030 sets out the ambition and priorities for the University 2020-2030. The Strategy is based on the University's mission and values:

**UWE Bristol transforms futures:** powering the future workforce, supporting local economic prosperity, shaping the health and sustainability of our communities and creating solutions to global challenges.

### Values

#### Ambitious

We are not afraid to shape, challenge and tackle the big issues, to take the initiative and pave the way.

#### Inclusive

We make UWE Bristol a supportive and inspiring place to learn and work – somewhere where diversity of experience and perspective is encouraged, and learning and research is shared and accessible.

#### Innovative

We create new opportunities for the people who work and study with us. We embrace different ideas and pioneer new and sustainable ways of doing things.

#### Collaborative

We have strong connections locally and globally. We help people and organisations be the best they can, building trust throughout our university community and beyond.

#### Enterprising

We instil a thirst for new knowledge, its creation and application, empowering our students and staff to demonstrate a creative questioning approach, a 'can-do' confidence, and ability to navigate uncertainty.

### As we shape our future to 2030 our focus will be on:

#### Our Purpose

Solving future challenges through outstanding learning, research and a culture of enterprise.

#### Our People

Creating opportunities to thrive and flourish.

#### Our Place

Creating an inspiring local and global gateway to the future.

The priorities contained in Strategy 2030 are being driven forward through a series of sub-strategies as set out on page 10.

# 2

## Transforming Futures Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy

Through our Strategy 2030, the University aims to transform futures – shaping the health and sustainability of our communities and creating solutions to global challenges.

UWE Bristol recognises the critical global challenges posed by the climate and ecological emergency and wider issues of sustainability. These include the impact that global warming has had, and continues to have, on our environments and society and the rates of change in natural environments, unprecedented in human history.

We recognise the need to further strengthen our commitment and action across the whole university community, both students and staff and with our partner organisations and communities. Through our Strategy 2030 we have defined ambitious performance measures and sector-leading targets. We will also aim, through all our actions and activities to work towards delivering against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (see annex one).



## 2.1 | Strategic priorities

Through our Transforming Futures Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy our strategic priorities are to:

**Practice Sustainability:** in the operation of our campuses and facilities, student residences, travel and mobility, procurement and supply chains, energy and waste management, both to reduce impacts and to mitigate and adapt to their effects.

**Promote the Understanding of Sustainability:** through teaching and learning to equip successive generations of students with the knowledge and commitment to address the ongoing challenges of sustainability and through research aimed at understanding and contributing to addressing these challenges.

**Influence Sustainability:** working with partners, stakeholders and communities both locally through civic and public engagement, nationally and globally to share knowledge shape and build understanding of the threats and challenges and promote collective solutions.

In order to achieve these goals we will align with our values as set out in Strategy 2030. We will need to be ambitious, innovative and enterprising. We will also need to be collaborative and inclusive in our ways of working.



## 2.2 | How we will measure our progress

Through our practice, promotion and influence, we will drive forward our key commitments as set out in Strategy 2030, along with the related performance measures and targets. We will:

Strategy 2030 Commitment	Performance measure
Be carbon neutral as an organisation, with net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030.	Emission of CO <sub>2</sub> from Scopes 1, 2 and 3 – annual totals and per capita for the combined staff and student population.
Work through UWE Bristol's ISO 14001 standard to set clear targets and action plans to reduce water and energy use, cut waste generation, build on circular economy principles and enhance biodiversity.	Continued certification under ISO 14001. Delivery against targets and action plans.
As signatories to the UK Plastic Pact, eliminate all but essential single-use plastic and meet the 2025 targets for recycling and reuse.	Agreed definition of 'essential single-use'. Annual audit of single-use plastic use.
Establish each of our campuses as a clean air and smoke-free zone.	Concentration of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter on each campus. Effective establishment of smoke-free zones.
Invest in and secure year-on-year improvement in sustainable travel for staff, students and visitors.	Annual improvement in sustainable travel recorded through travel survey.
Work with staff and students to explicitly address climate change and environmental challenges through our teaching, learning and curriculum.	Expectations set and included in all programmes under the UWE Bristol Enhancement Framework and related policies, along with audit of achievement.
Support research that addresses issues relating to climate change, environmental challenges and biodiversity.	Number and percentage of internally and externally-funded projects that address climate and environmental issues and which map onto the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Action plans for each of these seven commitments set out how our University community will deliver the change required, in line with our Transforming Futures Climate Action and Sustainability priorities. Our approach will also be based on the operating principles on the following page.



## 2.3 | Operating principles

- We will be ambitious in our aims and provide leadership in addressing the sustainability challenges.
- In our institutional actions, we will develop an integrated, whole organisational approach.
- We will normalise sustainability in staff and student behaviours and in the mechanisms of university business. Our approach to sustainability will be guided by science and objective evidence. It will be developed within a social justice framework with inclusivity at its heart.
- We will pursue a devolved responsibility model whereby all faculties, professional services and individuals, in their professional and private lives, are empowered and inspired to make sustainable choices.
- We will work in partnership with The Students' Union at UWE Bristol, with city-region agencies and with national bodies.
- We will frame our actions within the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- We will ensure that all UWE Bristol departments understand their sustainability obligations, impacts and opportunities and that appropriate actions are incorporated into annual service and financial planning cycles.
- We will devise new ways of delivering sustainable teaching, research and estates operations.
- We will use our procurement processes and purchasing power to influence our supply chain, through local and ethical procurement, and will work with our suppliers to encourage the highest standards of sustainability performance.
- We will share our knowledge, successes, failures and accumulated expertise on the journey to sustainability.





# Annex one

## United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

**1 NO POVERTY**

**END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE**

**2 ZERO HUNGER**

**END HUNGER ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

**ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL**

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**

**ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFE LONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**

**ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

**ENSURE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL**

**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**

**ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL**

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL**

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION**

**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**

**REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES**

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

**MAKE CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE**

**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

**ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS**

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**

**TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS**

**14 LIFE BELOW WATER**

**CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES**

**15 LIFE ON LAND**

**SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION, HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS**

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

**PROMOTE JUST, PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES**

**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

**REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

# Strategy Implementation

The priorities contained in Strategy 2030 are being driven forward through a series of sub-strategies.

## Core Strategies

Transforming Futures Learning and Teaching Strategy

Transforming Futures Research Strategy

Transforming Futures Community and Business Engagement Strategy

## Thematic Strategies

Transforming Futures Climate Action and Sustainability Strategy

Transforming Futures Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Transforming Futures Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Strategy

## Enabling Strategies

Transforming Futures People Strategy

Transforming Futures Campus Environments and Infrastructure Strategy

These strategies contain further information about the commitments we have set and the actions we are taking to realise our 2030 ambitions. Appropriate cross-references are included in each of the strategies.



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