

# Environmental Sustainability Policy

As a purpose-driven institution UWE Bristol recognises the Climate and Ecological emergency. Strategy 2020 stated ‘*The university is not afraid to shape, challenge and tackle the big issues, to take the initiative and to pave the way.* This is reaffirmed through our 2030 Strategy “we will work to address the urgency of the challenges that these present and strive to fulfil our role in the achievement of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals”.

Throughout our teaching, research, partnerships, estates operations and supply chain we will extend our influence through the lifecycle of our activities to drive environmental sustainability: to implement and promote positive solutions to sustainability challenges at the local, regional and global level.

This policy commits UWE Bristol to:

- Compliance with legal and other environmental requirements relevant to our activities; UWE Bristol will always strive to exceed minimum regulatory requirements.
- Measuring, monitoring, reporting and continuous improvement in environmental sustainability performance. We will set clear targets and plans to reduce water and energy use, cut waste generation including food waste and unnecessary single-use plastics, and support biodiversity.
- Progress will be reported annually to our Board of Governors and via our sustainability report, which will be available publicly. Environmental metrics will be made digitally available to relevant stakeholders.
- Pursuit of partnerships to share and learn from best environmental sustainability practice
- We will embed principles of sustainable development into our teaching curriculums and find learning opportunities across a range of environmental sustainability measures, including matching study projects to UWE Bristol’s real-world sustainability issues.
- We will act to protect the environment and prevent pollution to air, land and water.
- Through resource efficiency measures and readiness to adopt innovative practices in line with circular economy principles we will reduce our consumption of natural resources.
- We will promote biodiversity onsite and through partnerships, and provide appropriate wildlife habitats on the UWE Bristol estate, so as to bring benefits to both wildlife and people, while endeavouring to assess and mitigate our impacts on biodiversity from UWEs wider activities.
- We will work with our suppliers, contractors and utility providers to continually improve environmental sustainability performance through our supply chain.
- We will provide an accessible, comfortable and healthy environment conducive to learning and working.
- We will adapt our operations and services appropriately in response to the risks and opportunities presented by external environmental factors such as climate change, as well as mitigate where required.
- We will embed environmental sustainability alongside a range of ethical and social responsibility considerations into our investment decisions, including never investing into fossil fuel companies.

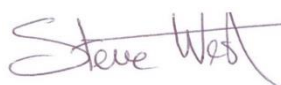
We will endeavour to bring our organisations to net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. This document covers the period through to January 2028 and provides a framework for more detailed objectives set out in our sustainability strategy and underpinning action plans, which can be found [here](#). We will communicate these commitments to all staff and key stakeholders and work with colleagues across the university to foster shared ownership of these commitments.

*The Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Environment and Sustainability is responsible for environmental sustainability at the University. All staff and students share this responsibility, aided by the University’s Sustainability Board, supporting expert groups and suitably qualified professionals.*

**Chair, Board of Governors**

**Vice-Chancellor**

**President, Students’ Union**


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