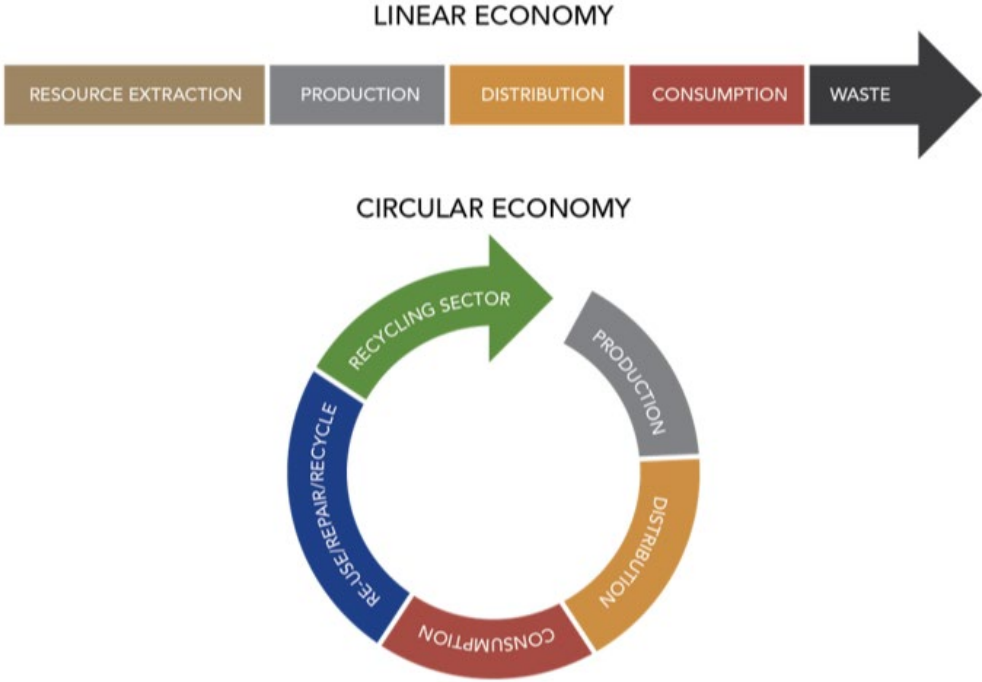


# Circular Economy Plan

UWE Bristol



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*This plan has been developed through discussion with university and Students' Union colleagues across a range of specialisms, through the Food Waste Action Group, Plastics Action Group, Climate Action and Sustainability Group, Furniture Sustainability Special Interest Group, the Estates and Facilities Executive, and the Procurement team.*

# 1. Rationale and context

The time for action to deliver Circular Economy principles at UWE is now. The UN has described 2020 – 2030 as a Decade of Action in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals, which demand urgent action on climate change while ensuring a [Just Transition](#) to new ways of working.

We have all witnessed the speed and efficacy with which change can be implemented in response to the clear and present danger of a global health emergency in the shape of COVID 19. The climate crisis is the younger generation's health emergency, and it is vital that we include the views and expectations of our students when deciding upon our vision for the future. The dual challenges of climate and biodiversity crises will only be solved through major transformation across all sectors in the way we shape our economy and consume materials. Maintaining traditional patterns of consumption is not an option. The university's core strategy for 2030 contains ambitious sustainability commitments, expanded upon through the Transforming Futures Climate Action and Sustainability (CAS) Strategy.

This document is one of the implementation plans for the CAS Strategy. It details how the university will embed circular economy principles into its operations, thereby reducing both our consumption and our waste, as well as reducing the carbon emissions in our supply chain. This updated version focuses on the actions which need to be taken by 2026 to keep on track with 2030 commitments.

In order to respond adequately to the climate and ecological emergency this plan aims to:

- Enable sustainable and circular consumption
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Take a holistic 'whole-institution' approach
- Promote joint working across communities of interest (i.e. local authorities, third sector and other higher education institutions)
- Influence our supply chain

This document also explains the connection between UWE Bristol's commitment as an academic supporter of the WRAP UK Plastics Pact and circular economy principles and sets out how our research will support the aims of the Plastics Pact.

The plan provides a sufficient level of detail that departments and services can – in collaboration with colleagues and suppliers – significantly reduce waste generation and adopt circular resource systems. The plan also contains a set of sustainability standards relating to materials with higher environmental risk.

This plan should be understood in the context of other sustainability action plans implemented in pursuit of the aims of the Transforming Futures CAS Strategy. To avoid duplication, this plan signposts to other documents where appropriate. Appendix 2 demonstrates how this plan contributes to the other Strategy 2030 sustainability objectives.

## 2. Understanding circular economy in a university context

This section summarises what is meant by the term ‘Circular Economy’ and describes how it applies in the context of UWE Bristol. There is a key distinction between a linear economy – summarised as a ‘take, make, dispose’ model of resource use – and a circular economy. The latter aims to keep materials and resources within circulation. In simple terms, a circular economy eliminates the need for the environmentally damaging resource extraction phase in material lifecycles. This is done by using the outputs (waste) from consumption as inputs into new production but also by keeping materials in use for as long as possible before they become waste.

### Circular economy and embedded carbon (Scope 3)

According to the Carbon Trust, up to 90% of an organisation’s carbon and ecological footprint is in its value chain – through the consumption of goods and services. This is because of accumulated impacts throughout material lifecycles: extraction/agriculture → transportation → manufacture → processing → further transportation → packaging, etc. all before the goods have even arrived with us.

Through circular economy measures we can reduce consumption of, and eliminate impacts associated with, the primary extraction phase of material lifecycles, and therefore reduce overall carbon emissions.

A distinction can be made between the goods that are under institutional control (i.e. that the university purchases, uses and then discards) and those that are consumed by our people in their everyday lives on campus. The measures that we will adopt via this plan will be tailored to meet both categories.

However, it is not possible for us to establish a circular economy confined to the university. Our various functions and operations require the consumption and discarding of a variety of items and materials within the context of a wide and complex web of material lifecycles. For the university to fully integrate circular economy principles into its operation, it will be necessary to not just consider this as an issue of waste management, but to consider the complex lifecycle impacts in our purchasing decisions, and to design our operations – in collaboration with our many suppliers and partners - in such a way as to eliminate the need for primary resource extraction.

**This plan therefore takes a lifecycle approach to resource management – with measures aimed “up the pipe” as well as “down the pipe”.**

### 3. Actions and progress towards Sustainability Plan 2020

Since the first iteration of the Circular Economy Plan in 2020, some progress has been made:

Year	Total waste, tonnes (excluding construction waste)	% change year on year	Recycling rate %	Reuse rate %
2018/19	1,756		55.7%	2.9%
2019/20	1,698	-3.3%	57.2%	1.0%
2020/21	1,633	-3.8%	59.2%	3.7%
2021/22	1,624	-0.55%	55%	2.1%
2022/23	1,629	+0.30%	56.6%	2.6%

However, delivering on the Circular Economy Plan will require more reuse, both as an alternative to recycling or disposal activity, and importantly within procurement activity. Reusing more should also decrease overall waste tonnages.

#### Successes

Several successful interventions have impacted how the university manages waste materials up the waste hierarchy:

- Sustainability Hub opening on Frenchay Campus, which has delivered the following activity between February 2023 and May 2024.

Items swapped	14,973
Weight of items swapped	4.2 tonnes
Footfall in the Hub	10,320
Carbon equivalent saved	30.5 CO2e tonnes

- New waste contract with Suez for General Waste and Recycling across the UWE estate; providing accurate tonnage and segregated recycling streams.
- Contract with Stone has diverted 1000s of IT and tech devices for reuse, with zero to landfill accreditation.
- Annual student facing Big Give campaign to divert unwanted items to British Heart Foundation (BHF) charity shops, which during Move Out period in 2023 resulted in 2994 bags donated to charity.

## Lessons learnt and what to take forward

### Reuse and waste prevention focus

Reuse and waste prevention require more resources, time and engagement work than recycling activity – but as outlined above moving to viewing waste as a resource; whether internally or externally is the only way to deliver on a truly circular economy at UWE.

Section 5 describes our plan for taking this further and enhancing our current work and introducing new circular economy activities.

### Communication and engagement

Behaviour change in resource management, by both staff and students, is an ongoing task. UWE's recycling rate has stagnated around 50 – 60%, pushing this higher, in particular on food waste recycling continues to be a priority but is very challenging.

In addition, impactful communications will be required to give context and calls to action around further reuse; for example acceptance of high-quality reused items in place of new in specific areas of procurement. Section 4 expands upon this.

### Item quality

Reuse potential within existing UWE stock is limited by the quality and style of the originally purchased items. As a society and in the university, we often dispose of more things than necessary due to a lack of reuse potential (because durability or reparability is not specified or valued). It will be necessary to work with our suppliers to innovate on circular economy practices, consider whole life costs in our purchasing decisions (Section 4), and be ready for wider changes and innovations that will be required with the UK waste and resources strategy.

### Material choice

Decisions that have been made with the best of intentions can have unintended consequences. For example, the university has moved towards biodegradable packaging in its food service in response to stakeholder pressure to move away from petrochemical-derived plastics. This *may* be preferable environmentally by some measures, but if we are to achieve carbon neutrality, we will need to understand the lifecycle carbon impacts of these choices.

Compostable packaging is still a single use disposable material and does not decompose in the natural environment to avoid many of the same littering and pollution issues as traditional plastics. Currently single use compostable coffee cups can only be disposed of into the general waste. This is an example of where working with the wider waste and resources sector will be essential to find a scalable solution.

Section 4 expands on the university's general approach to responsible procurement and with the intention of adopting a more systematic approach, a set of sustainability standards has been produced and will be expanded throughout the decade leading up to 2030. (Appendix 1).

## Carbon management

The university is committed to being carbon neutral by 2030. This commitment includes Scope 3 carbon, the majority of which is embedded within the materials we purchase. In many cases increasing circular economy activity within procurement (i.e. purchasing reused items) will deliver a triple bottom line: reducing Scope 3 emissions, reducing use of raw materials and providing a cost saving for the university. Section 4 outlines this activity in more detail.

## National policy and regulation

The new *Resources and waste strategy for England* has introduced policy drivers that will affect how the university must manage its waste, including:

- extended producer responsibility for packaging
- potential taxes on certain materials e.g. plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content
- improved management of chemicals and hazardous waste
- improved consumer information on sustainability of purchases
- supporting the market for remanufactured goods
- measures to support cutting down on food waste
- a move away from tonnage-based reporting towards carbon and natural capital accounting
- eliminating avoidable plastic waste

The application of national strategy will result in changes that we will have to adapt to, as well as measures that present opportunities for UWE Bristol to be involved in supporting research and innovation in finding solutions.

Students, as our key stakeholder, are likely to continue to have interest in, and expect action on the climate crisis. Therefore, resource management risks and opportunities range from operational (e.g. material selection and diversion into correct bins) through to strategic (e.g. embedding the latest thinking within our teaching, the potential for new research and entrepreneurial activity). In addition, resource efficiency and waste prevention can improve staff engagement, collaboration across departments and reduce risk (e.g. of resource scarcity) whilst also realising direct and indirect cost savings<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The real cost of waste (i.e. including material purchase, time spent handling, storage etc) is estimated as 5-10 times the direct cost.

## 4. Waste prevention and circular economy through sustainable procurement activity

Effective procurement policy and strategies help eliminate unnecessary consumption and can prevent waste from occurring. This section covers measures that we will introduce that will reduce and eliminate waste from arising throughout the procurement cycle.

We will continue to lead on influencing of Purchasing Consortia in considering sustainability, including circular economy thinking, within the framework agreements on offer.

As part of the management of commercial risk, UWE Procurement will continue to work with internal stakeholders to ensure that we promote circular economy thinking within tenders whilst ensuring we remain compliant with relevant procurement legislation.

Procurement will monitor best practice in this area and seek to provide updates on innovative thinking via the UWE Sustainability Executive Committee and its sub-groups.

### Identification and assessment of procurement need

We will explore if the goods need to be bought in the first place. If there is a market for making the purchase as a service (e.g. leasing) this should be further explored through market research and market engagement. Buying high quality reused items will feed into the national circular economy system and reduces Scope 3 carbon emissions significantly.

### Market engagement

For significant procurements, conducting supply chain analysis for the goods will allow us to identify where resource use risks exist, explore maximising lifespan and identify end of life scenarios. Where we are making significant or higher risk service purchases, supply chain analysis should identify how and where goods are being used so that these can be considered from a circular economy perspective. This activity will also help identify Scope 3 carbon hotspots enabling us to manage these down, towards our net zero target.

Engagement with suppliers helps to ensure our needs are fully understood and tested and that we understand what the market can do through innovation. Through this engagement we can also explore whether suppliers offer a buy-back service for goods at the end of our intended use.

Research will help us establish if items are adaptable and easily refurbished, or modular so that individual components can be replaced, and items can be easily dismantled for end of life disposal.



## Agreeing the procurement strategy

Ensuring we have clear ownership of supplier relationships and contract outcomes allows us to monitor performance effectively and drive improvements in the management of the lifecycle for the goods. We will consider longer term contractual arrangements where relevant for the longevity of resources allowing us greater flexibility to work in partnership with the supply chain.

Determining relevant contract Key Performance Indicators at this stage ensures we can effectively align measures and any targets with those at a UWE corporate level and that suppliers fully understand these at the time of bidding.

## Issue tender

Where appropriate, we will provide support and explanation of the circular economy considerations to suppliers e.g. through answering questions through our procurement portal or for more complex procurements, offer webinars open to all suppliers.

## Evaluation and award

Where relevant, we will work with stakeholders to ensure criteria are included for the approach towards circular economy and given proportionate weightings.

Using whole life cost assessment rather than assessment of purchase cost only will allow us to price in potential end-of-life factors. This will require us to include relevant considerations in the procurement process (warranty, service/repair, packaging, return to supplier, etc). Procurement will lead on establishing a set of tools to assist with this analysis within procurement exercises.

## Contract management

Adopting supplier engagement tools will help us to develop understanding and collaboration on circular economy opportunities across our supply chain, to build on our supplier engagement to enhance sustainability and social value.

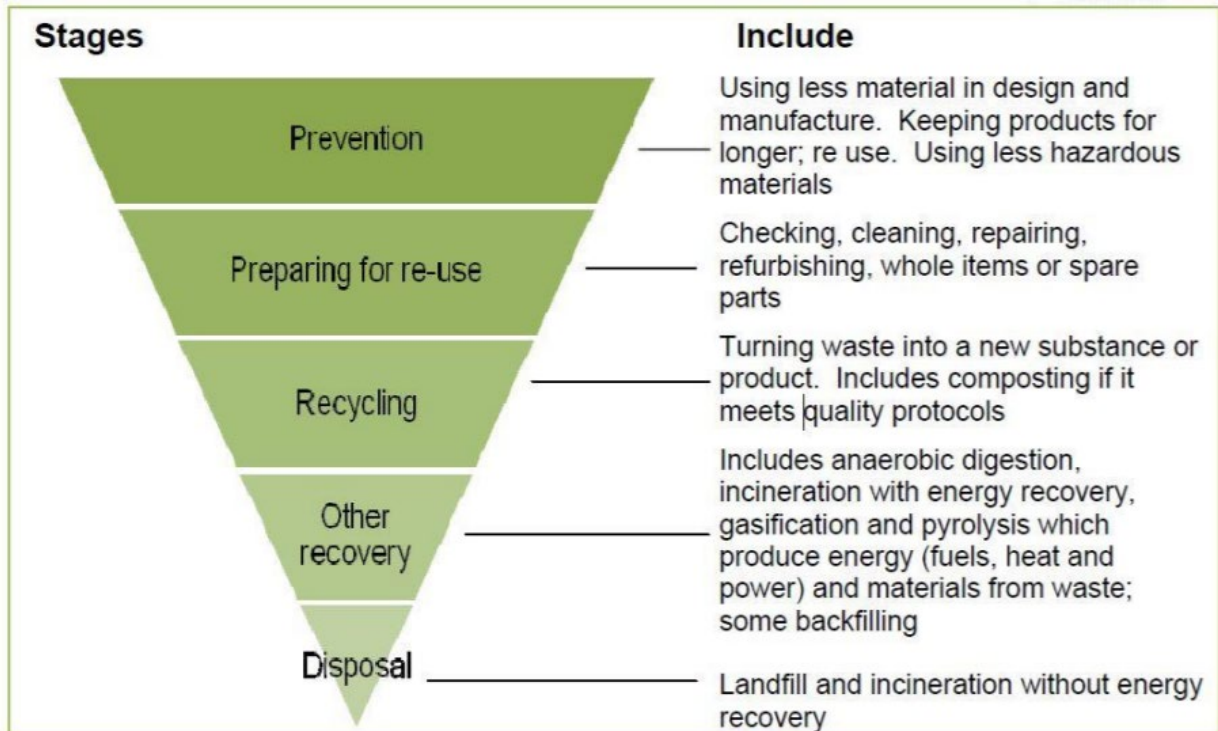
Ensuring that sustainability remains a standing agenda item for contract review meetings to ensure that circular economy activity is considered and reviewed regularly. These discussions should cover reporting against agreed measures, new innovations and opportunities to further improve waste reduction. Procurement will encourage and support the generation of cases studies that can be used to help promote good practice within the University and with peers.

## End of contract

Procurement will support stakeholders to ensure that contractual obligations are met in terms of end-of-life considerations. For significant procurements a lessons learnt exercise will be conducted to ensure that for repeat purchases, the procurement strategy is modified to seek improvements in future outcomes.

## 5. Developing a culture of circularity

This section describes the measures the university will take to develop greater resource circularity, and what has been achieved to date. The waste hierarchy in the diagram below shows the order of preference to follow in making resource management decisions, and will be used to guide university activity.



### Systematic sharing, repairing and reusing

We will enable and promote physical and software solutions to facilitate a sharing economy across and beyond UWE, as set out below.

Green rows in the table are either complete or ongoing activity.

Action step	Timeframe*	Responsibility	Anticipated cost
Expand our reuse activity in the Frenchay Sustainability Hub to include electrical items with PAT testing and function testing. Additional Hubs at other campuses to be in place by Dec 2025.	Complete / ongoing	Head of Circular Economy  Reuse Coordinator  Students' Union	Within current UWE staffing  Modest training costs (<£1k)

Mandate all furniture purchasing to first use existing surplus furniture - requisition workflow process to include step to review reuse availability.	Complete / ongoing  Within Design Guide 2024	Procurement Director	Within current UWE staffing
Include specification within refurbishment projects to reuse furniture and other items.	Complete / ongoing  Within Design Guide 2024	Director of Estates	Significant cost savings
Develop a programme of pop-up reuse and repair events aimed at students and staff.	Complete / ongoing  Regular repair cafes run through M.A.K.E.R.S programme at Frenchay	School of Engineering  Head of Circular Economy  Students' Union	Managed through existing staffing, and via external funding (secured to July 2024).  Continuation of repair café funding dependant (remit with School of Engineering).
Clothing reuse offer to include Placement Uniform Swap Shop at Glenside, as well as Green Team Pop Up Swap Shops at Bower Ashton and Frenchay in the Students' Union.	Ongoing	Community Team at Students' Union	Within existing staffing
Community Corner initiative at Bower Ashton to offer book, clothing and Community Larder (food items) at Bower Ashton.	Started Jan 2024 / ongoing	Community Team at Students' Union	Within existing staffing
Continued promotion of 'Too Good to Go' or equivalent to enable sharing of surplus food.	Ongoing	General Manager Hospitality	Already underway

Introduction of an online furniture and equipment reuse platform at UWE.	Complete / ongoing  Reuse Marketplace launched June 2024 for all staff.	Head of Circular Economy  Reuse Coordinator	Within existing staffing and systems (hosted on UWE intranet).  Significant cost savings projected.
Library of Things set up at UWE to allow students and staff to borrow key items (DIY and tools, cleaning equipment, camping and outdoor items) and avoid buying new.	Short  Opportunities being explored with Share Bristol June 2024	Head of Circular Economy	Within existing staffing, minimal cost or risk if created through partnership.
Establish managed reuse pods for commonly used student project materials.	Medium	Head of Circular Economy  Sustainability Leads in Colleges	£5-10k capital 0.5FTE support

*\*Indicative timeframe – short: < 6 months, medium: 6-18 months, long: 18-24 months*

## Food service – moving away from single-use disposables

As catering operations recover following the COVID-19 pandemic we will continue to move away from single-use disposable packaging for food service, by implementing the following strategies:

Action step	Timeframe*	Responsibility	Anticipated cost
Ensure effective coverage and maintenance of water 'hydration stations' across the estate.	Ongoing	Director of Estates	Within existing UWE design guide
Consideration given to the lifecycle impacts of materials selected for food service packaging and pro-active consideration given to necessary new	Ongoing	General Manager Hospitality  Procurement Director  Head of Circular Economy	Within UWE staffing  Student placements (£5k per annum)

waste streams that may be required.			
Facilitate and promote refillable systems for food service within our catering operations.	Short	General Manager Hospitality	Nil cost
Adopt policy that customers must request disposable/takeaway packaging as opposed to this being the default option.	Short	General Manager Hospitality	Nil cost  Staff training time
Continue and extend the disposable item levy to include a wider range of disposables and increase to 50p per item.	Short	General Manager Hospitality	Income, though impact on sales would need to be considered
Continue and extend reusable items on sale at catering outlets e.g. cutlery, lunchboxes.	Short	General Manager Hospitality	Cost neutral if sold "at cost"
Investigate deposit return and reverse vending technologies to facilitate and incentivise circular foodservice packaging.	Long (need to understand DRS impact on existing recycling methods)	General Manager Hospitality  Head of Circular Economy	Capital expenditure £12k indicative

*\*Indicative timeframe – short: < 6 months, medium: 6-18 months, long: 18-24 months*

## Waste and recycling

To maintain effective waste and recycling infrastructure we will:

Action step	Timeframe*	Responsibility	Anticipated cost
Conduct waste reviews across departments and services to identify resource efficiency opportunities and optimum recycling bin placement.  Also to remove under desk general waste bins from offices.	Ongoing	Waste & Resources Manager	Within current UWE staffing
Review waste and recycling systems in student halls beginning with a waste composition analysis within the first 6 months of the plan.	Complete/ Ongoing	Waste & Resources Manager	Within current UWE staffing  2 FOC waste analysis session per year in Suez contract
Conduct training aimed at operational staff involved in waste management and arrange contractor site visits to broaden team knowledge of the sector.	Ongoing / complete	Waste & Resources Manager	Within current UWE staffing
Review and update the external litter bin provision and enhance recycling on the go options.	Medium	Waste & Resources Manager  Grounds Manager	£20k
Conduct annual anti-littering campaigns.	Short	Sustainability Engagement Coordinator  Internal Comms	Within current UWE staffing  Modest campaign costs (<£1k)
Review waste removal strategy to identify optimum treatment/disposal methods including methods for effectively returning organic nutrients to the soil.	Medium	Waste & Resources Manager	Within current UWE staffing

\*Indicative timeframe – short: < 6 months, medium: 6-18 months, long: 18-24 months

## Waste removal contracting

We will continue to specify resource management solutions to achieve the optimum environmental and social outcomes.

### Reuse

We will maintain and extend ongoing arrangements with external third sector partners as a means of sharing the value of surplus items.

### Recovery

This should come as a last resort once other options have been exhausted but effective energy recovery via incineration of waste materials is a preferable solution over landfill.

## 6. Action on Plastics

### Background and work to date

In the context of the Circular Economy [single-use plastics are problematic](#) because they create high volumes of waste which are difficult to reuse or recycle. While many plastics *can* be recycled, with the potential to become recycled content in new packaging, the reality is most single use plastic packaging is not effectively recycled in the current system.

Plastics consumption also has an impact on our carbon emissions due to most plastics being made of fossil fuels, in addition to carbon impacts throughout the material lifecycle. Despite this context plastics have become embedded in the operation of the University. For example, plastics are pervasive in our food and drink service packaging, cleaning supplies, incoming goods supply packaging, stationery supplies, medical equipment, information technology, and estates fixtures and furniture.

To date, the University and the Students' Union have carried out various actions minimise the negative environmental impacts of plastics. Some examples include:

- Trial in 2023 with City to Sea to test a returnable coffee cup at 3 outlets on Frenchay campus;
- New contract with Suez to collect plastics and cans as a separate recycling stream across the UWE estate (allowing closed loop recycling);
- MSc Projects focused on waste data visualisation;
- Bi-annual Plastic Action Group; public meetings including local entrepreneurs, students and waste contractors;
- Supporting a transition away from non-recyclable plastic food packaging and single-use beverage cups to potentially compostable food service disposables;
- Promotion of refillable drinks containers including the introduction of a 20p levy on hot beverages served in disposable coffee cups;

- Installation of a fleet of water refill stations across the estate;
- Selling reusable coffee cups at cost;
- Elimination of plastic bags at the Fresher’s Fair;
- Elimination of plastic straws in all catering outlets.

## Targets

UWE Bristol is an Academic Supporter of the UK Plastics Pact which is a coalition of many sectors and is focused on manufacturers of plastics, therefore not all the actions are relevant for UWE Bristol. Nevertheless, many of our plastics targets for 2025 align with theirs. These are outlined below:

UK Plastics Pact commitments for 2025	Operational Actions	Academic Supporter Actions
100% of plastic packaging will be recyclable, or compostable	We do not manufacture packaging or plastic products. Through our procurement process we will lobby suppliers to increase availability of recyclable and/or compostable packaging.	Support at least two UG and at least two PG projects that contribute to meeting the five UK Plastics Pact commitments, per academic year. We will not specify which commitment they consider.
70% will be effectively recycled or composted	<p>UWE Bristol has an existing target to recycle 70% of all waste. This aligns with the Plastics Pact target, but we do not collect plastics as an individual waste stream so any reporting will show plastic recycling within a broader recycling rate.</p> <p>Greater transparency on plastic recycling rates is part of strategic waste contract objectives.</p> <p>UWE Bristol Sustainability Team will brief at least five staff per year who deal with deliveries and ordering to exploit Extended Producer Responsibility Legislation, e.g. trialling new ways of packaging items for reuse.</p>	Undertake analysis of bin contents to ground truth post-processed data from waste contractor, twice per academic year.



<p>An average recycled content of 30% in plastic packaging</p>	<p>We do not manufacture packaging or plastic products. Through our procurement process we will lobby suppliers to increase recycled content in plastic packaging.</p> <p>By 2025 audit top 20 suppliers of goods (by spend) to understand what plastic UWE procures (via packaging or for direct use) and recycled content.</p>	<p>At least two UG and at least two PG projects that contribute to meeting the five UK Plastics Pact commitments, per academic year. We will not specify which commitment they consider.</p>
<p>Eliminating 100% of unnecessary single use packaging</p>	<p>We cannot control the market fully in respect to single use packaging so cannot commit to 100% elimination.</p> <p>UWE Bristol will work with wider university purchasing consortia to lobby suppliers to reduce single use plastics within campus activities where possible. We will trial new ways of working.</p>	<p>At least two UG and at least two PG projects that contribute to meeting the five UK Plastics Pact commitments, per academic year. We will not specify which commitment they consider.</p>
<p>Finding innovative solutions for film and flexible packaging recycling</p>	<p>UWE Bristol Sustainability Team will investigate separate ad hoc film and flexible packaging recycling points.</p>	<p>At least two UG and at least two PG projects that contribute to meeting the five UK Plastics Pact commitments, per academic year. We will not specify which commitment they consider.</p>

This fits within our wider Strategy 2030 commitments:

The following are the commitments shown in the image:

- Be carbon neutral as an organisation, with net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030.
- Work through the ISO 14001 standard to set clear targets and plans to reduce water and energy use, cut waste generation including food waste, and support biodiversity.
- As signatories to the UK Plastics Pact, eliminate all but essential single-use plastic and meet the 2025 targets for recycling and reuse.
- Support research that addresses issues relating to climate change, environmental challenges and biodiversity.
- Work with our students to explicitly address climate change and environmental challenges through our teaching, learning and curriculum.
- Establish all our campuses as clean air and smoke-free zone.
- Invest in and secure year-on-year improvement in travel sustainability for staff, students and visitors.

UWE Bristol has also pledged to be carbon neutral as an organisation, with net-zero emissions of green-house gases by 2030. Single use plastics are counted within Scope 3 carbon emissions.

## Categorising single use plastics and our plans for reduction

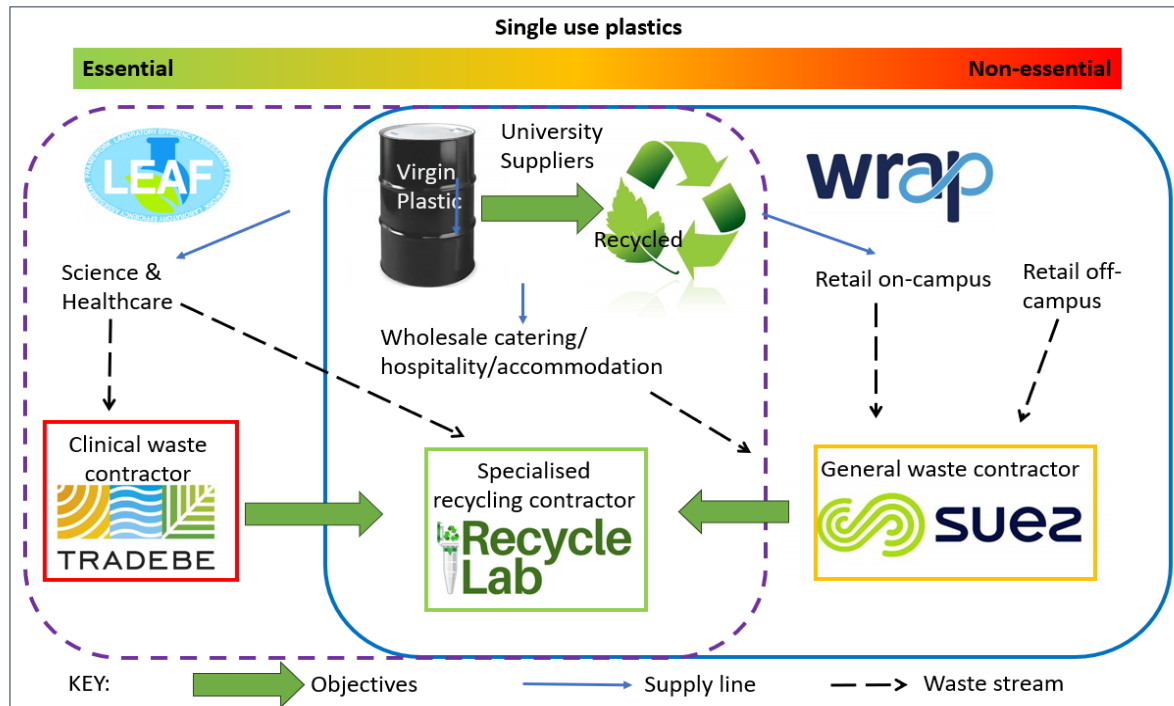


Figure 1.

The above summarises the major single use plastic supply lines, waste streams, reduction schemes and the objectives these address. Single use plastics range from non-essential (e.g. product lines that can be bought in non-plastic packaging) to essential (e.g. single-use sterile or DNA-free laboratory consumables).

Where reductions in use are constrained, we are seeking to increase recycled plastic content and direct it away from hazardous and standard waste streams to specialised contractors. Some of this comes within the remit of the LEAF sustainable labs programme, some through our commitment to the WRAP.

Given the broad spectrum of plastics used across the University, it is important to understand which are in scope in terms of UWE targets and commitments. The following categories outline our approach.

### Within scope for plastics which UWE will reduce in the short term (by 2025):

- single-use plastics (made wholly or partly of petrochemical or plant derived plastics)
- which are procured as empty packaging for use in takeaway drink or food sales
- typical examples are disposable hot drink beverage cups and lids, cutlery, straws, stirrers, takeaway boxes.
- promotional give-aways, plastic wrap and polystyrene from deliveries (food, ICT, retail, cleaning).

### Within scope for plastics which UWE will reduce in the medium term (by 2030):

- plastic drink bottles, pre-made sandwich and other food containers, disposable wipes, containers for cleaning products.

### Out of scope:

- Single-use plastics used in healthcare educational settings or laboratory settings, such as petri dishes and syringes.
- Single use plastics purchased elsewhere by staff, students and visitors and brought to site.
- Plastics used in construction and infrastructure (e.g. pipework).

Plastics deemed out of scope of the elimination commitment will still be subject to actions to bring about greater resource circularity in line with the wider UWE Bristol circular economy plan.

## Engagement on plastics

The University will use its research and teaching activities to build awareness and engagement amongst students, employees, partners, and the public about the issues associated with the use of plastics products. The following steps will be taken to achieve these objectives:

1. Establish Plastics Action Group to work with departmental and academic sustainability staff through internal audit and action plan workshops to identify opportunities to reduce plastic and oversee progress of these actions.
2. Scope the options for availability and provision of reusable alternatives for staff and students
3. Establish communications plan to increase staff and student engagement.

## Data collection

The University monitors its waste quantities, and in 2023 moved to separate plastic and cans collection across the estate. Wheelie bins are now accurately weighed each time they are collected. However, plastic is not collected completely separate from all other materials.

In March 2024 a waste audit of plastic and cans bins was carried out in the Central bin store at Frenchay campus. Extrapolating the results of the audit, it is estimated UWE produces 27.2 tonnes of plastic waste via plastic and cans recycling. However, we know not all plastic is captured for recycling on campus and estimate as much as 150 tonnes is disposed of via general waste. Based on Defra conversion factors approximately 600 tonnes of carbon emissions are associated with the production and disposal of this quantity of plastics.

The following steps will be taken to achieve these objectives:

1. Devise method for accurately estimating plastics waste volumes and disposal routes

2. Require and audit end destination data from waste removal companies
3. Devise method for measuring or accurately estimating incoming plastic to establish baseline figures for plastics identified in 2019-20 plastics survey.
4. Aggregate data from the Procurement, Hospitality, Printing and Stationary Services, and the Students' Union annually.
5. Work with the Procurement and Hospitality teams and other major plastics users (e.g., labs), establish targets for the removal of all non-essential single-use plastics.

## 7. Communication and engagement

The principles of circular economy need to be embedded in all of our communications and engagement work.

Our work will contribute to the Carbon Literacy training of staff and students, and the Climate Action Programme and will be guided by the Sustainability Communications and Engagement Framework. We will work closely with the Students' Union, the Trades Unions and other services within the university to ensure clarity, prioritisation and synchronisation of messaging.

Action step	Timeframe*	Responsibility	Anticipated cost
Inclusion of circular economy elements in Climate Education Module, 10 credits. Available for all UWE students to take.	Ongoing	Carbon Action Manager  Learning Development Centre	Within current UWE staffing
Inclusion of circular economy elements in Climate Action Cafes	Ongoing	Sustainability Engagement Coordinator	Within current UWE staffing
Review and update Accommodation Services' literature	Ongoing/ annual	Waste & Resources Manager  Head of Circular Economy  Accommodation Services	Within current UWE staffing
Promotion of "Too Good to Go" food app	Ongoing	General Manager Hospitality	Already underway
Inclusion of messaging in relevant student communications / student newsletters	Ongoing	Student comms team  SU	Within current UWE staffing
Students' Union events and activities. Specifically	Ongoing / annual	Students' Union Community Team	SU staffing

Sustainable Period Product Trial encouraging staff and students to consider alternative period products.			
Inclusion of CE in online staff induction and at the staff welcome fairs	Ongoing	Sustainability Engagement Coordinator	Already underway
Staff communications such as the weekly e-news.	Ongoing	Sustainability Engagement Coordinator	Already underway
Inclusion in student inductions within the curriculum	Ongoing	Sustainability Engagement Coordinator	Already underway
Building relationships with external organisations	Ongoing	Head of Circular Economy  Waste & Resources Manager	Within current UWE staffing
Volunteering opportunities at the Sustainability Hub to support circular economy activity will be publicised via campaigns and activities through the Students' Union at UWE Green Team and UWE Volunteering.	Ongoing	Head of Circular Economy  Sustainability Engagement Coordinator  SU  UWE volunteering	Already underway
Communications and engagement associated with UWE ambition for plastic free approach. City to Sea Coffee Cup Pilot in 2023 resulted in communication and engagement around single use coffee cups.	Ongoing / Short	Sustainability Engagement Coordinator  Head of Circular Economy	Already underway
Heads of Colleges will produce Sustainability Action Plans which outline the specific work each academic area will take to reduce consumption of raw materials, and increase circular economy activity. This will be reported at	Short/ Ongoing	Heads of College	Within current UWE staffing

Sustainability Executive Committee meetings.			
Updated posters to be displayed at all bin banks (where possible).	Short	Waste & Resources Manager  Logistics  Cleaning	Already underway
UWE wide recycling campaign bringing colleges, SU, accommodation and sustainability teams together to share UWE expectations around recycling via an engaging message on recycling.	Ongoing	Head of Circular Economy  Sustainability Engagement Coordinator  SU	Already underway
Supplier and market engagement, and comms relating to circular economy to be reviewed.	Short	Head of Circular Economy  Senior Procurement Manager	Within current UWE staffing
Annual food waste reduction campaign in student halls.	Short / annual	Waste & Resources Manager	£3000 to £5000 p.a.
Training of staff involved in operations that relate to the management of food waste.	Medium	Waste & Resources Manager  Other relevant HoDs	External support (< £5,000)
Promotion of refillable options for food service.	Short	Catering department  SU	Minimal cost
Case study content writing e.g. blogs, vlogs, pops ups, articles within work based learning and student placements.	Short	Sustainability Engagement Coordinator	Within current UWE staffing

*\*Indicative timeframe – short: < 6 months, medium: 6-18 months, long: 18-24 months*

## 8. Circular Economy in the curriculum

The inclusion of circular economy principles within the curriculum has direct relevance to numerous programmes e.g. Product Design, Economics, Business, Entrepreneurship, Engineering, ABE, Human Geography, Environmental Law; and a lesser but no less compelling relevance to the Social Sciences, Education, Creative Arts (such as Film, Fashion and Drama), Environmental Psychology, Science and Communication.

To ensure inclusion of real-world circular economy principles, proactive contact with relevant courses will be made on an ongoing basis, prioritising those which might be most interested e.g. Sustainable Economics, Geography and Environmental Management. In all presentations sustainable behaviours will be identified and encouraged as a matter of course. The development of the materials and training will need updating regularly in the light of feedback from our audiences and changes in the operational and cultural context.

Building on work in the past, courses that use significant amounts of materials will be identified and prioritised in terms of changing practise and embracing the circular economy in how they procure, promote, use and dispose of materials (e.g. Architecture, Product Design, 3D printing, Textiles and Fashion, The Fabrication centre at City Campus), both in their day to day running and their degree shows.

Real world learning opportunities with the Sustainability Team will be offered to students within the curriculum. Research and student placement opportunities to work on specific persistent materials will be pursued and offered via academic colleagues, in partnership with private companies.

## 9. Reporting requirements and targets

Progress will be reported in annual university sustainability reporting mechanisms at an appropriate level of detail e.g. material focus, staff/student, department etc.

In addition, progress will be monitored via Sustainability Executive Committee meetings, with updates from key stakeholders.

### Quantitative measures

- Annual total waste quantity (tonnes)
- Recycling rate (%)
- Reuse rate (%)

Construction waste will continue to be monitored but will be recorded separately from other waste, recycling and reuse tonnages, to ensure year on year comparisons can be made (large construction projects create anomalies in wider waste data).

## Material specific measures

The materials over which we introduce sustainability standards may also be subject to more granular monitoring and reporting, details of which are included in the relevant sections of Appendix 1.

## Targets

Non-construction waste (arising from student accommodation, offices, teaching spaces, catering outlets on UWE estate):

- Annual total waste – annual 3% reduction in relative arisings against 2018/19 base (not including construction waste)
- Recycling rate: 70% by mass of all waste to be recycled by 2026
- Reuse rate: 10% by mass of all waste to be reused by 2026

For construction the following targets have been set:

- <5% construction waste to landfill
- 70% of all construction waste materials recycled
- 10% reuse (by weight)



## Appendix 1: Material sustainability standards

A suite of UWE Bristol ‘Sustainability Standards’ covering materials with known high carbon and ecological impacts has been produced and will be expanded on as additional materials become more prevalent within the University. Further CE/sustainability standards will be developed to cover construction materials, paper and electrical and electronic equipment.

### Appendix 1A - Food and food service



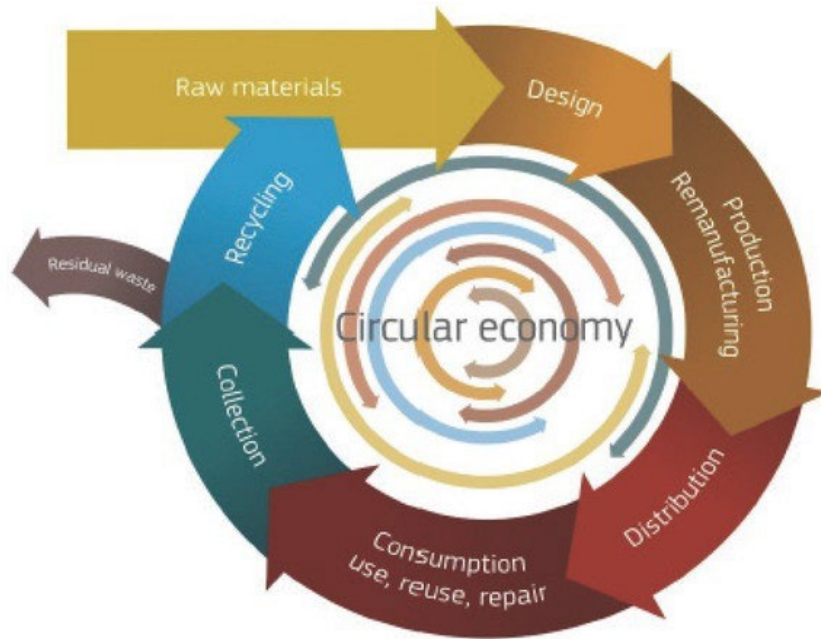
Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation

<i>Sustainability standard for food and food service</i>	
<i>Relevant departments/functions</i>	Hospitality services Accommodation services Students Union catering operations UWE Waste and Resources Manager Scope 3 Lead
<i>Environmental / sustainability risks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food waste: major social and environmental inefficiency and reputational risk of inaction</li> <li>• High carbon and ecological impacts of certain foods and ingredients; associated cultural and reputational issues</li> <li>• Embedded carbon in transportation</li> <li>• Ethical and socio-economic equality considerations in supply chain</li> </ul>
<i>Estimated annual Scope 3 carbon</i>	694 tonnes for 2022 - 2023 from UWE Hospitality figures only i.e. SU, Accommodation services carbon not included.
<i>Annual expenditure</i>	£1,399,055 average annual spend over 3 years (2020 – 2023)
<i>Existing measures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set of sustainability measures within UWE Hospitality Service as detailed <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• Segregated food waste collection sent to AD facility for conversion to electricity and fertiliser</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual report on food waste arisings</li> <li>• Intermittent engagement of students and staff via targeted campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste</li> <li>• Student Union Bring your own bowl initiatives</li> <li>• Decrease in meat consumption and increase in local seasonal veg/fruit</li> <li>• Fairtrade University status</li> <li>• Community Larder for nonperishable food set up by the SU at Frenchay, Glenside and Bower Ashton. £4,000 worth of food donated by Jan 2024. Supporting students with cost-of-living crisis.</li> <li>• Opening of Wild Kitchen – catering outlet on Frenchay Campus which only sells plant-based food.</li> <li>• Continue to provide collection points in accommodation reception blocks for unwanted food at end of term.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Additional measures (for actioning by July 2026)</i></p>	<p><b>Food sourcing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage local and community producers and growers to expand direct supply of food to university</li> <li>• Identify and eliminate products with potential for supply chain deforestation and other high sustainability risk elements</li> <li>• Extension of vegetarian and vegan options and further reduction of meat and fish on offer</li> <li>• Actively promote sustainability of food sourcing to customers</li> <li>• Transition to new NUS/SOS Fairtrade University accreditation</li> </ul> <p><b>Food waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual food waste prevention campaign aimed at staff and students; particular focus on resident students</li> <li>• Promote Too Good to Go and other app-based solutions that redistribute surplus food</li> <li>• Trial a community fridge for resident students supporting cost of living pressures as well as reducing food waste</li> <li>• Review food waste collection system in residences to see if improvements are needed</li> <li>• Review and expand existing food waste reduction initiatives across full range of hospitality services’ offer</li> <li>• Cooking classes for students in halls (focus on leftovers – love food hate waste campaign)</li> <li>• Provide training to all staff involved in operations that relate to the management of food waste</li> <li>• Produce a business case for on-site composter Food for Life extended to other campus locations</li> </ul> <p><b>Food service system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable food service training for catering staff</li> <li>• UWE Bristol-wide roll out of carbon information at point of sale</li> <li>• Food for Life extended to all campus locations</li> <li>• Extension of levy to wider range of disposables</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate and promote refillable systems for food service within our catering operations</li> <li>• Continue and extend refillable items on sale at catering outlets e.g. cutlery, lunchboxes</li> </ul>
<i>Related plan/policy</i>	<p>Circular Economy Plan Material Sustainability Standard: plastics</p> <p><a href="#">Sustainable food plan 2030</a></p> <p><a href="#">Carbon and energy management plan</a></p>

## Appendix 1B - Plastics



Source: Environmental Protection and Natural Resources; The Journal of Institute of Environmental Protection-National Research Institute

<b>Sustainability standard for plastics</b>	
<b>Most relevant departments/functions</b>	Hospitality services Procurement Conferencing and events Print & Stationery Services UWE Estates department Students' Union Waste and Resources Manager Sustainability Engagement Coordinator
<b>Environmental / sustainability risks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High carbon and ecological impact of plastics – associated reputational issues</li> <li>• Health concerns around use of plastics for containing food and drink</li> <li>• Longevity resulting in unacceptable marine and land pollution and bioaccumulation in the food chain</li> </ul>
<b>Estimated annual Scope 3 carbon</b>	This cannot be calculated currently – procurement data does not define what material products are made from, so an accurate account of plastic procured and related Scope 3 Carbon is not available.
<b>Annual expenditure</b>	This cannot be calculated currently – procurement data does not define what material products are made from, so an accurate account for spend on plastic is not available.
<b>UWE Bristol Strategy 2030 commitment</b>	As signatories to the UK Plastic Pact, support research into alternatives to single use plastic and increased recycled content in plastic packaging. Contributes to 2026 targets i.e. reaching 70% recycling rate

<p><b>Policy note</b></p>	<p>Transition to a plastic free operation aligns with the university’s Environmental Sustainability policy in acting “to protect the environment and prevent pollution to air, land and water” available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Measures taken should factor in unintended consequences e.g. reduced hygiene, increased food waste or potential increased lifecycle impacts of switching to alternative materials. Plastics use in some applications is appropriate and can offer the most sustainable solution (hence starting out by defining which plastics are in scope of the elimination commitment).</p>
<p><b>Governance</b></p>	<p>Action on plastics reported via tracker at Sustainability Executive Meetings.</p>
<p><b>Definition what is “in scope” of UWE’s reduction plan</b></p> <p>Short term = by 2025 Medium term = by 2030</p>	<p>Plastics which are within scope for UWE in the short term (by 2025) include: single-use plastics (made wholly or partly of petrochemical or plant derived plastic) which are procured as empty packaging for use in takeaway drink or food sales. Typical examples are disposable hot drink beverage cups and lids, cutlery, straws, stirrers, takeaway boxes. In addition, promotional give-aways, plastic wrap and polystyrene from deliveries (food, ICT, retail, cleaning).</p> <p>In the medium term (by 2030), UWE will target wider supply chains including single use pre-packaged goods including: plastic drink bottles, pre-made sandwich and other food containers, disposable wipes, containers for cleaning products.</p> <p>Single-use plastics used in healthcare educational settings or laboratory settings, such as petri dishes and syringes are <b>out of scope</b>. Single use plastics purchased elsewhere by staff, students and visitors and brought to site are also <b>out of scope</b>. Plastics used in construction and infrastructure (e.g. pipework) are <b>out of scope</b>.</p> <p>Plastics deemed out of scope of the elimination commitment will still be subject to actions to bring about greater resource circularity in line with the wider UWE Bristol circular economy plan.</p>
<p><b>Existing measures</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition away from non-recyclable food packaging and single use beverage cups to compostable food service disposables</li> <li>• Introduction of a 20p levy on hot beverages served in disposable cups</li> <li>• Selling reusable keep-cups at cost</li> <li>• Elimination of plastic bags at the Fresher’s Fair</li> <li>• Elimination of plastic straws in all catering outlets</li> <li>• Installation of a network of free water stations to reduce reliance on bottled water</li> <li>• Trial of returnable coffee cup at 3 outlets with City to Sea in 2023</li> <li>• Plastic Free Period Products Campaign by the SU including free plastic free products available to staff and students</li> <li>• UWE Bristol is signed up as academic supporter of UK Plastics Pact.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Proposed additional measures (for actioning by July 2026)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new buildings and refurbishments to install and promote water refill stations</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage (via revised design guide &amp; tender processes) high secondary material content in material inputs – e.g. recycled plastic in tarmac, floor tiles, furniture etc</li> </ul> <p><b>Customer facing measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the use of reusable crockery &amp; cutlery and continue with 20p levy on disposable items</li> <li>• Catering outlets to sell other reusable items as well as keep cups (e.g. bottles, lunchboxes, cutlery, straws)</li> <li>• Investigate and trial alternative food &amp; drink service delivery mechanisms such as returnable cups and containers</li> <li>• Phase out issue of plastic water cups adjacent to water coolers</li> <li>• Review optimum material for food service (pending elimination of single-use materials): traditional or plant-based plastic?</li> </ul> <p><b>Supply chain innovation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Much of the plastic consumed through UWE Bristol activity can only be avoided via sometimes complex changes along supply chains. UWE Bristol and its Students' Union will encourage sector purchasing consortia and NUS to consider how single use plastics can be reduced and eliminated via tender processes and supplier engagement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Waste management measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review recycling infrastructure suitability</li> <li>• Continue to raise stakeholder awareness of preferred end-of-use outcomes (e.g. home composting versus industrial composting solutions for biodegradable packaging options)</li> <li>• Investigate and trial on-site recycling options for post-consumer plastic packaging</li> <li>• Investigate collection and recycling solutions for plastic film</li> </ul>
<b>KPI and targets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve data quality and availability (by July 2026)</li> <li>• When possible report quantity of non-essential plastics within scope</li> <li>• By 2026 - 70% of all essential plastics within scope to be effectively captured for recycling/composting</li> </ul>
<b>Related plan/policy</b>	<p><a href="#">Sustainable food plan 2030</a>  <a href="#">Carbon and energy management plan</a>  <a href="#">Plastics Pact</a></p>

## Appendix 1C - Furniture and associated items

<i>Relevant departments/function</i>	<i>Estates &amp; Facilities Space management Procurement Sustainability team College technical and support teams</i>
<i>Estimated annual Scope 3 carbon</i>	<i>214 tonnes, 3 year average tCO<sub>2</sub>e (2020 – 2023)</i>
<i>Annual expenditure</i>	<i>£968,416, average annual spend (2020 – 2023)</i>
<i>Annual waste (tonnes)</i>	<i>15 to 20 tonnes (depending on refresh work being carried out)</i>
<i>Annual reuse saving</i>	<i>Approximately £100,000 p.a. over last 5 years</i>
<i>Reuse target</i>	<i>10% by weight</i>
<b><i>Sustainability standard for furniture (for actioning by July 2026)</i></b>	
<p><i>UWE Bristol departments to adhere to Design Guide specifications when purchasing new furniture. Greater uniformity across the university, will, over time, allow for significantly increased internal reuse of furniture and facilitate greater resilience and flexibility in furnishing rooms at short notice.</i></p> <p><i>We will create and promote an online platform for sharing unwanted furniture between departments, and for UWE Bristol staff to reuse at home. In addition, where items cannot be rehomed within the university, we will build a network of charity partners to donate items to.</i></p> <p><i>Where possible we will make use of refurbished items and receive furniture via sharing platforms to offset the need for new purchases.</i></p> <p><i>We will review intranet guidance associated with furniture procurement, reuse and disposal and align it with the intentions of this standard.</i></p> <p><i>When procuring new furniture UWE Bristol will take a “whole life” approach, allowing us to factor in-use and end-of-use costs to the decision process. We will aim to purchase furniture that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Has high secondary material content of recycled, refurbished and reused wood, metal, plastics and textiles.</i></li> <li><i>• Is modular and has long production runs to ensure that individual items or components can be replaced</i></li> <li><i>• Is designed to aid disassembly - to facilitate reuse, refurbishment, repair and ultimately recycling, either in part or as a whole.</i></li> <li><i>• Has readily available spare parts to facilitate refurbishments and repair</i></li> <li><i>• Only contains certified sustainable timber i.e. FSC or PEFC</i></li> </ul>	

- *Is delivered in returnable packaging systems – i.e. for multiple use (all associated supply packaging to be removed by the supplier for reuse by themselves)*
- *Minimises hazardous chemicals used in the manufacture of items*

*Supplier “take back” of end-of-use and legacy items will be increasingly anticipated in supply contracts in order to maximise producer responsibility. Services employed by the university for furniture disposal will be procured in a way that ensures best outcomes for sustainability and reuse.*

*We will aim to encourage sector purchasing consortia to adopt circular economy drivers such as the above, or equivalent standards, as the norm for future tenders.*

## Appendix 1D – Construction materials

Relevant departments/function	<i>Estates &amp; Facilities Sustainability Team Scope 3 Lead Procurement Senior Executive</i>
Estimated annual Scope 3 carbon	<i>5,663 tonnes CO2 equivalent, 3 year average (2020 – 2023)</i>
Annual expenditure	<i>£28,583,812 average annual spend (2020 – 2023)</i>
Annual waste (tonnes)	<i>796 tonnes (2022-2023 EMR data)</i>
Annual reuse saving	<i>Currently unknown</i>
Reuse target	<i>10% reuse by weight</i>
<b><i>Sustainability standard for construction (for actioning by July 2026)</i></b>	
<i>UWE Bristol has committed to the following targets specifically for construction:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>&lt;5% construction waste to landfill</i></li> <li>• <i>70% of all construction waste materials recycled</i></li> <li>• <i>10% reuse (by weight)</i></li> </ul>	
<i>The Design Guide 2024 has been updated to include the following:</i>	
<i>UWE Bristol policy is to undertake sustainability assessment of projects from the earliest project stages to mitigate environmental risk and align to UWE's 2030 net zero ambition. Projects will be assessed for their sustainability impacts using a whole lifecycle approach, and via a wide view of sustainability (i.e. covering all aspects of environmental sustainability as well as socio-economic aspects). The highest level of industry recognised sustainability accreditation will be targeted.</i>	
<i>All projects from their inception must determine and communicate i) what standard is being utilised, ii) the level targeted and iii) how it will be assessed. It will be the responsibility of</i>	



the project board to determine the desired approach, and the responsibility for adequate assessment will lie with the project.


In addition, Passivhaus or EnerPHit must be targeted for all new builds and major refurbishments (use the decision tree in section 3.6 of Chapter 3 to determine if your project falls into this category). Projects that fall outside of the new build or major refurb category must use the net zero trigger points checklist to determine if any other action must be taken to reduce carbon emissions within the scope of each project.

All projects with an impact on the external landscape or public realm must be designed and delivered to the Building with Nature standard.

## Appendix 1E – Paper

Relevant departments/function	<p>Conferencing and events  Print &amp; Stationery Services  UWE Estates department  Procurement  Students' Union  Cleaning Team  Waste and Resources Manager</p>
Estimated annual Scope 3 carbon	280 tonnes CO2 equivalent (average 3 years 2020- 2023)
Annual expenditure	£2,745,468 annual average over 3 years (2020 – 2023)
Annual waste (tonnes)	122 tonnes (average from 2023/24 Suez data, extrapolated from 6 months of real data)
Annual reuse saving	n/a paper reuse not at a scale to result in saving
Recycling target	70% recycling rate by 2025
<b>Sustainability standard for paper (for actioning by July 2026)</b>	
<p>UWE Bristol will continue to reduce paper consumption through promotion of “think before you print” tagline – shared via staff emails. In addition, print controls are set up across staff printing which require swipe access to release any printing (preventing accidental printing or duplication).</p> <p>Paper and cardboard recycling bins are provided across the university estate, in particular in high demand areas like next to printing stations, across all levels of the library and within studios where paper-based media are used.</p> <p>UWE Bristol has committed to purchasing “environmentally friendly” paper used, <a href="#">this brand</a> in 2023.</p> <p>Cleaning are moving to air hand dryers and removing paper towels as part of estate wide toilet refresh works.</p>	

## Appendix 1F – Electrical equipment and ICT

Relevant departments/function	ICT team Procurement Heads of College Head of Circular Economy Scope 3 Lead Senior Executive
Estimated annual Scope 3 carbon	4341 tonnes, 3 year average tCO <sub>2</sub> e (2020 – 2023)
Annual expenditure	£10,120,447 annual average spend for 2020 - 2023
Annual waste (tonnes)	Approximately 30 tonnes (2022-23) depending on refresh activity taking place.
Annual reuse saving	£17,589 (average 2020 -2023 figures). Rebate depends on what ICT refresh activity is happening and therefore what devices are made available for Stone.
Reuse target	10% reuse target (both purchasing of reused, and post UWE reuse).
<b>Sustainability standard for electrical equipment and ICT devices (for actioning by July 2026)</b>	
<p><i>This activity will consider both upstream and downstream reuse options. The purchase of reused or remanufactured electrical and ICT devices provides a triple bottom line; saving money and carbon as well as ensuring UWE Bristol is part of the wider circular economy. While purchasing reused or remanufactured can be complex to set up, suppliers are moving in this direction and the university will utilise tendering activity to increase demand in the sector for these devices.</i></p> <p><i>Onward reuse of devices which UWE Bristol no longer needs is well established. Currently the contractor collects devices, wipes all data and sells these on, the university benefits from a rebate from this.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, UWE Bristol will work to enable the following by 2026:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Make devices available to students and staff as an output of rolling staff refresh activity.</i></li> <li><i>• Donate devices and equipment to local charities and third sector organisations</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The following life cycle principles have been developed through the <a href="#">Circular Economy HEPA working group</a>, and should be applied throughout the life of the device.</i></p>	
 <p>ITC Guidance Doc FINAL.pdf</p>	

## Appendix 2: Circular Economy Plan contribution to the sustainability commitments in Strategy 2030: Transforming Futures

Transforming Futures Sustainability Commitments	How this plan impacts on these
Be carbon neutral as an organisation, with net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from “procurement of goods and services” and waste disposal.</li> <li>• Supplier engagement to result in refined data on supply chain carbon emissions.</li> </ul>
Work through the ISO 14001 standard to set clear targets and plans to reduce water and energy use, cut waste generation including food waste, and support biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cutting waste generation, including food waste and plastics is a key element of the Circular Economy Plan.</li> <li>• ISO14001 processes will be used as a framework to embed material sustainability standards and to monitor progress.</li> </ul>
As signatories to the UK Plastics Pact, eliminate all but essential single-use plastic and meet the 2025 targets for recycling and reuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a key element of the Circular Economy Plan – see Appendix 1 (plastics).</li> </ul>
Establish all our campuses as clean air and smoke-free zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures within this plan will have an indirect impact on the campus clean air commitment through reducing the numbers of supplier deliveries.</li> </ul>
Invest in and secure year-on-year improvement in travel sustainability for staff, students and visitors.	
Work with our students to explicitly address climate change and environmental challenges through our teaching, learning and curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of real-world circular economy challenges and solutions into the curriculum.</li> <li>• Articulating linkage between circular economy and climate action.</li> </ul>
Support research that addresses issues relating to climate change, environmental challenges and biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing real-world circular economy challenges and solutions through UWE research community.</li> <li>• Linking UWE Bristol research community to UK Plastic Pact research opportunities.</li> </ul>

