Environmental Sustainability Policy

Northumbria University employs over 2,500 staff and provides higher education to approximately 29,000 students.

Our University Strategy commits to enhancing our reputation for sustainability and to supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through our research, teaching, campus and operations. We are a signatory of the SDG Accord and the United Nations Academic Impact in recognition of the positive impact we can make. A large number of the SDGs concern environmental challenges such as Climate Action, Responsible Consumption and Sustainable Cities.

The University recognises that its activities and wider influence impact upon the environment, but, through our policies and Environmental Management System, we wish to minimise these impacts and to grow and develop in a sustainable manner.

Commitments

We are committed to:

- supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals through our research, educational activity, campus and operations;
- the protection of the environment, including the prevention of pollution;
- meeting, and where possible exceeding, all relevant legislation, industry standards and other environmental requirements to which the University subscribes;
- demonstrating continual improvement of the Environmental Management System (EMS) in order to enhance environmental performance.

The development of our Environmental Management System (EMS) provides a framework for achieving our environmental commitments. The scope of the EMS is defined as:

Services and operations in the provision of higher education, research and training including administration, and support services.

In order to help inform and measure environmental performance, we have developed a number of objectives and key performance indicators, supported by our **Environmental Objectives and Actions Plan**. These are mapped to the UN SDGs.

		SDG
Environmental Management System	Continual improvement of the Environmental Management System.	11, 12, 13, 14, 15
Energy & Carbon	To reduce scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, as supported by the **Carbon Management Plan**.	7, 11, 13
Waste & Resource Management	Support circular economy principles. Reduce the volume of waste we produce and maximise recovery and recycling of waste.	12
Water Management	Minimise our use of water.	6
Travel	Minimise the environmental impact of business travel and commuter travel, as supported by the **Sustainable Travel Management Plan**.	11
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity across the University as outlined in the **Biodiversity Action Plan**.	11, 15
Procurement	Minimise the negative, and maximise the positive, environmental, economic and social impacts of the goods and services we buy, as supported by our **Sustainable Food Policy**.	1, 8, 12, 16
Ethical Investment	To responsibly manage direct investments as outlined in our **Ethical Investment Declaration**.	1, 3, 8, 13, 16
Sustainable Buildings	Minimise the environmental impacts of our buildings – from design to occupation, supported by our **Sustainable Construction Guidelines**.	11
Emissions & Discharges	Prevent pollution by minimising local discharges to air, land and water.	11, 14, 15
Education for Sustainable Development	Raise awareness of sustainability among staff, students and the communities in which we work, and develop their skills and knowledge to support sustainability.	4
Research & Living Lab	Undertake research that directly supports the Sustainable Development Goals. Utilise a Living Lab approach to bring together our research, teaching, campus and operations to maximise sustainable output.	All
Climate Change Resilience	To be resilient to risks from weather and climate change.	13
Reputation for sustainability	To enhance the University's reputation for sustainability.	4

KPIs relating to these commitments are listed below.

Our Sustainability Policy is overseen by the University Sustainability Management Group and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Approved on behalf of the University Executive:

Signed: **July 2019**

Area	Aim	KPI	Target	Deadline
Environmental Management System	Continual improvement of the EMS.	Environmental Management System certification.	Maintain ISO14001:2015 certification.	2020
		Number of Major and Minor non-conformances.	10% reduction.	2020
Energy and Carbon	To reduce scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions.	Scope 1 and 2 emissions.	40% reduction from 2005/6	2020
			10% reduction from 2018/19	2020
		Scope 3 emissions.	4% reduction	2020
		Average DEC rating.	D	2020
Waste and Resource Management	Support circular economy principles. Reduce the volume of waste we produce and maximise recovery and recycling of waste.	Total waste produced (tonnes)	5% reduction from 2018/19	2020
		Total waste sent for reuse, composting, anaerobic digestion or recycling (%).	60%	2020
		Non-hazardous waste sent to landfill (%).	0%	2020
Water Management	Minimise the volume of water we use.	Total mains water consumption (m3).	2% reduction from 2018/19	2020
Travel	Minimise the environmental impact of business travel and the travel undertaken by staff, students and visitors to and from the University.	Emissions from Business Travel (CO2e).	4% reduction from 2018/19	2020
		Single Occupancy vehicle rate for commuter travel.	City Campus: Staff- 24%, Students- 7% Coach Lane Campus: Staff - 59%, Students 29%	2023
		Emissions from commuter travel (average CO2e per head).	3% reduction from 2017/18	2023
		Emissions from student start and end of term travel.	1% reduction from 2017/18	2020
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity across the University.	Metres of space considered medium or high value for biodiversity (m^2).	2% increase in moderate / high value from 2017/18	2020
		Hedgehog friendly campus certification.	Bronze	2020
Procurement	To minimise the negative, and maximise the positive, environmental, economic and	Flexible Framework.	Level 2	2021
		Develop a baseline for carbon emissions from procurement.	Establish baseline	2020

Area	Aim	KPI	Target	Deadline
	social impacts of the goods and services we buy.	Food for Life certification.	Bronze	2020
Sustainable Buildings	To minimise the environmental impacts of our buildings – from design to occupation.	Average DEC rating.	D	2020
		SKA Rating of refurbishment projects.	All projects in 2019-20 to achieve a SKA rating.	2020
Emissions & Discharges	Prevent pollution by minimising local discharges to air, land and water.	Reduce scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions.	7%	2020
		Number of significant spills.	0	2020
Education for Sustainable Development	To raise awareness of sustainability among staff, students and the communities in which we work, and develop their skills and knowledge to support sustainable development.	No. staff completing environmental training.	15%	2020
		No. of students undertaking research projects to enhance Northumbria's sustainability performance.	30 students	2020
		No. of annual sustainability-related events.	30	2020
Research & Living Lab	Undertake research that directly supports the UN SDGs. Utilise the Living Lab approach to bring together our research, teaching, campus and operations to maximise sustainable output.	No. of active Living Lab projects (including staff researchers).	3	2020
		United Nations Academic Impact membership.	Maintain membership.	2020
		Research activity in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.	Establish baseline	2020
Climate Change Resilience	To be resilient to risks from weather and climate change.	Production of Climate Resilience Plan and integration with the Estate Masterplan.	1	2021
Reputation for sustainability	To enhance the University's reputation for sustainability.	People and Planet University League	Top 30	2023
		Submit to the THE Impact League.	Participate in the League.	2020
		Student rating for institutional commitment to sustainability.	76%	2020