

University of South Wales Environment and Sustainability Policy

The University of South Wales (USW) is a major player in UK higher education with campuses in Cardiff, Pontypridd and Newport. As a major university, we are aware of the significant carbon impact we can create on the local areas where our campuses are situated as well as the regional and global impact we create from our operations. Decarbonisation is recognised as an essential requirement to operate and maintain a sustainable university environment for all. The university, like all institutions has a responsibility to address decarbonisation and to meet the UK and Welsh Government's targets. We recognise this, and we are working to reduce our carbon emissions wherever possible.

The university takes its environmental responsibilities seriously and has committed to achieving net zero carbon by 2040. To meet this ambitious target, a ten-year carbon strategy and roadmap has been developed to 2030 which provides clear, feasible and cost-effective actions to advance sustainability across our leadership and governance, estate and operations, research and teaching, and our partnerships. The university is committed to following the carbon strategy and roadmap as we begin our journey to decarbonisation. Our 6 strategic targets over the next 10 years are as follows:

1. working with our suppliers to challenge the efficiency of their supply chains
2. reducing our absolute scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 50% by 2030
3. reduce our total volumes of waste by 26% by 2030 and recycling at least 70% of our waste by 2025.
4. creating the processes required to capture and measure staff and student commuting data by 2023/24
5. reducing our water consumption by 10% by 2030
6. developing an internal and external communication plan to publicise our progress and update our stakeholders

To achieve these targets the university commits to the following broad objectives:

General

- Establish a sustainability committee and focus groups to implement environmental initiatives and ensure sustainability is embedded across the organisation
- Set and publish environmental targets and monitor progress against these annually
- Deliver environmental training to all staff and students

Construction & Refurbishment

- Ensure sustainability is a key design consideration of both building fabric and engineering design during any construction, refurbishment and demolition projects.
- Create maintenance/refurbishment policies which consider the impact of the work on the environment e.g., internal building pollutants, refrigerants, waste etc.
- Ensure our grounds maintenance works complement our ambition to enhance biodiversity

Emissions & Discharges

- Reduce the risk and minimise the impact of pollution through controlling our emissions, undertaking our statutory requirements and implementing emergency response procedures via our Health and Safety teams.

Community involvement

- Undertake robust and regular awareness campaigns which involve the university community and encourage environmental improvement
- Liaise with our partners, neighbours, local authorities, suppliers and all relevant stakeholders on our ambition and opportunities to work together to reduce our impact
- Identify and promote initiatives for inclusion of sustainability principles within curriculum development.

Biodiversity

- Increase tree planting and opportunities for increased vegetation on our campuses
- Maintain, review and update our biodiversity action plan and promote awareness of the natural environment on our campuses
- Integrate biodiversity in all large capital projects and refurbishments where opportunities allow

Education for Sustainable Development

- Aim to embed sustainability into our teaching, learning and research and across the curriculum.
- Engage with and incorporate the SDGs into the design and delivery of the USW 2030 Curriculum Principles.

Waste management

- Continue improving our waste minimisation and recycling programmes
- Increase the re-use of resources and identify opportunities to avoid waste being created

Travel and Transport

- Undertake annual surveys to understand commuting habits

- Encourage low carbon and active travel to/from/between all of our campuses including walking, cycling, using public transport and car sharing
- Install electric vehicle charging points and replace our fleet to low carbon alternatives
- Consider inter-campus travel and electrification of our shuttle bus
- Explore options for reducing the need to travel

Sustainable procurement

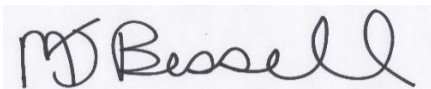
- Work with our biggest impact suppliers to create more accurate carbon reporting and identify opportunities to reduce our emissions
- Develop a strategy and approach to including sustainability in all future tenders
- Develop a purchasing process which will consider the impact of a product/service on the environment and give preference as far as practical to those products/services which cause least harm

Energy and Water

- Minimise energy and water consumption through energy audits, monitoring and targeting
- Procure 100% renewable electricity across our estate
- Increase the number of renewable energy generation installations on our campuses and consider options for offsite generation/supply
- Identify opportunities for low carbon heat
- Undertake feasibility studies to identify opportunities to reduce our utilities and implement a works programme to achieve these

This policy is communicated internally and externally via the sustainability web pages and will be made available to persons working on behalf of the Estates and Facilities department via the site safety induction. It will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Signed:



Date: 22/06/23

Mike Bessell
Director of Estates and Facilities

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