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The University of Bristol has been actively involved in addressing sustainability issues within its operations, teaching, research and community for many years.

Introducing one the sectors’ first travel plans in 1999, investing £15million in energy efficiency measures, ensuring sustainability was included in all building projects using the BREEAM scheme. Being the first Russell Group university to be certified to ISO14001 for all its activities. Setting up the interdisciplinary Cabot Institute to lead on sustainable research and most recently delivering the Bristol Futures Sustainable Futures teaching initiative.

The University has won several awards for its sustainability work including 4 sector wide green gown awards, a national energy efficiency award and a times higher sustainable development award – these awards covered a wide range of activity from energy efficiency to teaching and student volunteering.

The university was instrumental in helping the bid to become the first UK city to be European Green Capital in 2015, running a student volunteering program that helped generate 100,000 hours of help for local businesses and organisations.

In 2016 the University set out its vision and strategy, noting 6 key themes, teaching, research, students, global engagement, the physical estate and sustainability. Sustainability of the University underpins and supports our aspirations to be a global civic university.

Most recently the University was the first in the sector to declare a climate emergency, a joint action by students, academic and operational staff.

The University has long understood the benefits of delivering sustainable action, reducing our negative impacts on both environment and society. But also highlighting the positive impacts, enhancing our operations, reducing costs and leading to better learning outcomes for our students.

This new Sustainability Strategy aims to turn the University into a truly Sustainable University, aiming for carbon neutrality, operating using circular economy principles, educating our students to understand sustainable challenges and taking a lead in identifying sustainable challenges and researching solutions.

The strategy covers 15 key themes based on a systems approach via our Environmental Management System (ISO 14001) and informed by the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

We aim to make a sustainable University by, managing our precious resources, maintaining our sustainable standards and minding our impact on our communities.
Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025

Our Sustainability Strategy puts sustainability at the heart of delivering the University’s strategic goals; supporting a high performing, global university in a changing world. The strategy builds on previous policies, strategies and plans. By understanding what the University does (teaching, research and learning), it can identify its sustainability impacts both positive and negative. Using the ISO14001 management system, the following key impact themes have been identified, and this strategy sets out key aims and objectives for these themes.

The key impacts can be summarised by the 15 key themes outlined below;

1. Sustainability through Education
2. Research and Knowledge Transfer
3. Staff and Student Engagement and Behaviour Change
4. Engaging with our Communities
5. Space Utilisation
6. Construction
7. The Living Estate, Biodiversity and the Natural Environment
8. Energy, Carbon and Water Management
9. Sustainable Travel
10. Emissions, Discharges and an Environmental Management System (EMS)
11. Circular Economy
12. Procurement
13. Responsible Investment
14. Ethical and Sustainable Food
15. Governance

Our strategy was developed through systems thinking based on delivering the international standard for environmental management ISO14001, as well as consultation with key stakeholders, staff and students.
Vision and Mission

Vision
To be the world’s leading sustainable University.

Mission
To achieve the highest sustainable standards by collaborative working between Education, Research, Community and Operations. Our students and staff will drive this collaboration.
How we will deliver sustainability

Our sustainability strategy has some challenging objectives and targets to deliver. It will need to be delivered applying the following values and approaches:

- **Innovative** – we push the boundaries of knowledge and thought and seek new and better ways of doing things whether using technology, processes and behaviours.
- **Ambitious** – In the same way as our learning aims are ambitious, our delivery of a sustainable university needs ambitious on all levels.
- **Inclusive** – we are a community that values the contribution that every individual can make, staff, students and community will be at the heart of delivering our innovative and ambitious sustainability plans.
- **Collegial** – we work in partnership across different parts of the institution to deliver our sustainability goals.
- **Integration** – Sustainability touches all we do and cannot be considered in isolation; it has to be integrated into decision making to make a truly sustainable University.
External Landscape

The University has been addressing sustainability issues since the 1990’s, during which time the external political and social environment has changed significantly.

Our sustainability strategy has been developed in response to a number of changing factors.

The most significant recent external events for sustainability have been COP21 (Conference of Parties 21) set in Paris in 2015, where 190 countries under a UN framework committed to each setting out plans to tackle climate change.

During 2015, Bristol was also European Green Capital, which saw active involvement of the University is Sustainable activity across the city, including 100,000 hours of student volunteering involving 10,000 students. Work continues through the Bristol Green Capital Partnership.

The ‘Blue Planet’ effect has helped put a range of issues into the media from single use plastic in the sea to promotion of vegan diets. During this time significant student activity lead to the University stating it would disinvest in fossil fuels.

In October 2018 the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) issued its report discussing the impacts of global temperature rises and the need to limit the emission of greenhouse gases so global temperatures do not increase above 1.5°C. This was followed by a UN report on the threat to Biodiversity and Ecosystems that notes one million species are under threat due to human activity from deforestation to climate change.

The rise of climate change activism within the population, particularly with groups like Extinction Rebellion has led directly to a range of organisations declaring Climate Emergencies, with the University of Bristol being the first University in the UK to do this. This coincides with the growth of setting carbon zero and science-based targets.

Recently polled business in the City of Bristol noted that 60% companies and organisations had declared or were going to declare a climate emergency.

Finally, Brexit dominates the political and economic landscape currently; sustainability, with its economic and social value offers many benefits in reducing the negative impacts of Brexits changes.
Internal Landscape and Aims – University Strategy

The University Vision & Strategy launched in 2016 outlines six key areas:

1. Education and the student experience
2. Research, innovation and partnerships
3. Our staff and ways of working
4. Internationalisation and global relations
5. Physical and digital infrastructure
6. Sustainability

Our Sustainability Strategy will support the delivery of our University Strategy by:

1. Making staff working and student learning environments, warmer, better lit, more natural daylight and ventilation.
2. Offering systems learning, using the campus as a living lab to learn in and offering opportunities to volunteer enhancing graduate attributes and employability.
3. Addressing global challenges like climate change, deforestation, mental health and social inequality provide research opportunities that will enhance the Universities global standing.
4. Utilising space to deliver the right and effective environments for staff and students.
5. Ensuring our physical campus works efficiently will reduce running costs, which will support our teaching and research.
6. And of course, deliver our sustainability ambitions.
Our Sustainability Strategy Themes

Education for Sustainable Development
Research and Knowledge Transfer
Staff and Student Engagement
Engaging with our communities
Space Utilisation
Construction
The Living Estate (Biodiversity)
Energy, Carbon and Water Management
Transport
Emissions, Discharges and Prevention of Pollution
Circular Economy
Procurement
Responsible Investment
Ethical and Sustainable Food
Governance
Reporting
1. Education for Sustainable Development

Through teaching and learning our students will be enabled to have a positive sustainability impact on the world outside of the University.

Aim

Every student to understand the ways in which sustainability challenges may impact their personal and professional lives, and opportunities to engage more deeply (theoretically, practically and critically) through the formal and informal curriculum.

Objectives

1. Integrate discipline-relevant education for sustainable development into every degree program.
2. Make interdisciplinary sustainability educational options and pathways available to all students on non-vocational degree programs, and vocational degree programs where possible.
3. Develop an interdisciplinary community of staff with expertise in sustainability education alongside their discipline expertise and provide appropriate institutional support and recognition.
4. Provide formal extracurricular sustainability experiences for students, including ones leading to official recognition (e.g. Bristol+ award).
5. Create and support a network of engaged students and staff, and bottom-up initiatives which emerge from them.

Actions

1. In wide consultation with staff, develop a strategy as to what extent and how sustainability education should be integrated into different university degree programs.
2. Conduct a curriculum review of existing curricula / units to assess the level Sustainable Development is already integrated into it (building on and updating the previous review.)
3. Building on the existing ESD CREATE module, develop staff training and resources sharing best practice from across the university and beyond.
4. Integrate Education for Sustainable Development approaches to curriculum design, pedagogy and assessment as part of the implementation of Bristol Futures Curriculum Framework across all the University’s programs.
5. Continue to offer the existing interdisciplinary Sustainable Development unit, expanding its availability to further students.
6. Run Green Apple curriculum innovation scheme to support bottom-up activities by staff and students.
7. Together with the SU, support a community of engaged students through events, mailing lists and social media, and link with interested staff.

Benefits

1. Enable students to be change agents to deliver sustainability, within and beyond the university.
2. Enhance our student leadership knowledge and skills
3. Improve student employability

Sustainable Development Themes
• All SD themes will be covered, with differing emphases in different disciplines, as appropriate.

2. Research and Knowledge Transfer

Research is a key aspect of the University and can have one of our biggest sustainability impacts.

Aim

Research on the environment, social justice and development, consistent with addressing the sustainable development goals, will continue to be a strategic priority of the University (exemplified by the URIs and SRIs); and we will similarly prioritise sharing of our research findings with the public and decision makers.

Objectives

1. Promote research that focuses on protecting the environment, improving social conditions and suggesting solutions based on a broad inter-disciplinary evidence base.
2. Promote the broad activity of the URI’s and SRI’s to the University and lead on developing technological and social innovations for sustainability impacts.
3. To develop ‘future sustainability leaders’ through research-led education and postgraduate research, utilizing Living Labs and the University campuses to develop skills and knowledge.

Action

1. Run engagement events with our partners such as the festival of ideas.
2. Strategic priority for inter-disciplinary solution focused research initiatives.
3. Promotion of postgraduate research focused on environmental challenges.

Benefits

1. Sharing our learning from research can have the biggest sustainability impact outside of producing sustainability literate graduates.
2. Solutions focused inter-disciplinary research is critical for addressing complex societal challenges
3. Utilizing research to achieve an environmentally sustainable University

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 3 – Good health and well-being
2. 4 – Quality Education
3. 7 – Affordable and clean energy
4. 8 – Decent work and economic growth
5. 9 – industry, innovation and infrastructure
6. 11 – sustainable cities
7. 12 – responsible consumption and production
8. 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions
3. Staff and Student Engagement

Communication plays a central role in delivering all aspects of Sustainability, helping staff and students to understand the key issues involved in a range of sustainability issues, what the University is setting out to achieve, what actions we can take as individuals, as well as encouraging sustainable behaviours.

Aim

To identify opportunities and methods for effective use of communication to promote sustainability and deliver sustainable change.

Objectives

1. Develop and run an annual program of awareness raising initiatives to increase staff and student understanding of sustainability, across all 14 areas of the University’s Sustainability Strategy, as well as the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Provide sustainability training & skills programs on an annual basis, to enable Staff and students to deliver sustainability improvements.
3. Deliver behaviour change campaigns relating to sustainability issues annually.
4. Monthly sustainability updates for internal and external audiences across a range of communication channels.
5. See an annual increase to more sustainable behaviours as noted within the sustainability segmentation survey over the next 5 years.
6. Investigate how to record impacts of behaviour change campaigns and see a reduction in energy use and waste produced as a result.
7. Develop and deliver an engagement program aimed at community groups and stakeholders to encourage sustainable behaviours and awareness in the wider community and strengthen University connections with the Bristol community.

Actions

1. Run ‘Be the Change’ behaviour change campaign.
2. Develop the student volunteering program called ‘Go Green’.

Benefits

1. To have a highly aware staff and student community, which is enabled to make sustainability improvements.

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 11 – Sustainable cities and communities
2. 12 - Responsible consumption and production
3. 13 - Climate action
4. Engaging with Our Communities

The University sits within a complex network of communities and partners, of which we hope to engage, collaborate and help.

Aim

To create a global civic University, which will be a meeting point for different forms of expertise and experience from across society. We will create a University that ensures that a wide range of individuals and communities have opportunities to participate in and to shape research, education and wider university life.

Objectives

1. Ensure civic partners and communities can shape research and innovation.
2. Embed engagement in our education and pedagogy.
3. Re-set our role as an institutional citizen.
4. Embed relationships ‘beyond the campus walls’.
5. Create inclusive and engaged campuses for all visitors.

Actions

1. Create engaged learning opportunities in the city and region.
2. Develop civically engaged Public Art.
3. Develop ‘twilight’ quarters to bring community to the University.

Benefits

1. Enhanced student experience, employability and learning.
2. Improved relations with local communities and partners leading to enhanced joint outcomes.

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 3 - Good health and well-being
2. 4 - Quality Education
3. 8 – Decent work and economic growth
4. 10 – Reduced inequalities
5. 11 – Sustainable cities and communities
6. 17 – Partnerships for the goals
5. Space Utilisation

Space within our estate, both within buildings and the space around them is a precious resource and needs to be utilised effectively. We wish to maximise our use of space through well planned initiatives, otherwise adverse effects on our teaching and research activity can arise. Operating space is resource hungry, needing maintenance, cleaning, heating, ensuring we can have the right space at the right time and place is essential to improve our sustainability impact.

There is a need to achieve the highest and best use of space within campus centres and finding ways to promote faculty/student interaction.

Organisations globally are responding to new work patterns, greater flexibility, and mobility of staff these give rise to several challenges and equally opportunities.

Aims

1. Adopting a best in class approach to space utilisation via a performance management framework for Space.

Objectives

1. Strategic focus on optimisation of the University’s sunk investment in space; maximising occupancy and improving user experience.

2. Consider the estate as a test bed for new services aiming to reduce friction in use, and access to resources such as wayfinding apps, meeting room management software, desk finding tools etc.

3. Reflecting business demands and external drivers into rational plans of action.

4. Improving stakeholder engagement with the design, build, operate, maintain lifecycle and gain wider appreciation of the nature of our responsibility to be more efficient.

5. Automation of key processes and data capture, turning analysis effort towards enhancement of productivity and user experience.

6. Business Intelligence drawn from live data and created to enable decisions made on forecast rather simple projections.

7. Real time use measured and visualised for most critical space types.

8. Defined KPIs used for Short, Mid and Long-term performance management.

9. Focus on process improvements for moves e.g. on-boarding (the introduction of new spaces, technology and cultural practices) and off-boarding (disposals, waste management processes etc).
Actions

1. Implementing a workplace change agenda.
2. Creating a new standard for the academic and postgraduate community.
3. Creating a space standard for teaching and learning space.
4. Updating the current administrative space standards.
5. Improve how we approach the movement of staff and resources around our organisation to become more efficient.

Benefits

1. Reduced carbon emissions
2. Better use of our assets
3. Improved working environment
4. Enabling improved collaboration

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 11 – sustainable cities and communities
2. 13 – climate action

6. Construction

Like space, our built environment is key to delivering our teaching and research aspirations and like space it is resource hungry. Sustainable construction not only reduces running costs and long-term sustainability impacts but can also reduce capital cost.

Aim

To create sustainable buildings and places through the construction process. This will include aspects like, energy use and carbon emissions, circular economy principles, transport, biodiversity, waste as well as health and well-being of users, engagement with local communities and adaptation to climate change.

Objectives

1. Apply the University agreed ‘BREEAM plus standard’ to all applicable projects.
2. Monitor each applicable project against the standard and report on compliance with the standard.
3. Annually review the standard to refine its use and ensure it is relevant, up to date and keeping University design of buildings at the forefront of sustainable design.
4. Develop a standard to be used for smaller refurbishments and projects.

Actions

1. Review Library and TQEC projects again the BREEAM plus standard.
2. Review sector approaches to sustainable construction within smaller projects to see if there are approaches that can be applied at the University of Bristol.
Benefits

1. Reducing carbon emissions
2. Lower in-use running costs for the University
3. Improved user experience and well-being.

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure
2. 11 – sustainable cities and communities
3. 12 – responsible consumption and production
4. 13 - Climate action

7. The Living Estate (Biodiversity)

Our Living Estate acts as the breathing space for nature within the built environment; a place which increasingly operates as a civic university to visitors and where our staff and students can live, work and play. The living estate fulfils many functions, two important ones are: to provide a green environment for people to ‘recharge their batteries’ and improve their mental wellbeing; and to increasing biodiversity in support of a healthy and therefore sustainable ecosystem.

Aim

The Living Estate plan will enrich habitats in support of regional and local conservation priorities; develop green infrastructure to include water sensitive designs; increase the number of key indicator species whose function, population, or status can reveal the qualitative status of the environment; develop multi layered tree canopy cover and conserve the existing natural environment for the benefit and mental welfare of University students, visitors and staff as well as a visual response to the climate challenge. The Botanic Garden conserves some of the South West’s rare and threatened native flora; forming part of the University commitment to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

Objectives

1. Maintain the established habitats held within, or supported from, University grounds. Bristol City and North Somerset Council Biodiversity Action Plan: Rivers; Woodland; Hedgerows; Species Rich Grassland; Standing Open Water; Open Mosaic Habitats on previously developed land. University recognised habitats: Green roofs; Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces
2. Maintain or improve current tree canopy cover levels for all sites
3. Develop the rich flora and fauna in Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces
4. Work with the appropriate conservation organisations, as well as local communities, to play our part in district wide initiatives to establish, conserve and improve links that make up a network for nature.
5. Map habitats and have a program of surveys for existing biodiversity. Use mapping and survey information as quantifiable data to enhance existing biodiversity.
6. Raise awareness of the living estate and the biodiversity it contains.
**Actions**

1. Work with students, volunteers and staff to actively support and enrich our living estate.
2. Establish a ‘Living Estate Group’ to increase coordination, engagement and awareness of the estate with the Student Union and support groups, such as ‘Student Conservation’ & the ‘Roots Community’, to collaborate on projects such as: The Hedgehog friendly campus, Incredible edible, Green Flag Awards, Bee’s needs, etc.
3. Continue to deliver biodiversity through good land management, the BREEAM process and ‘Building with Nature’ for new developments.
4. Make full use of technologies and social media to monitor, display and communicate a narrative regarding the Living Estate.

**Benefits**

1. Volunteer (Staff, student and external) involvement in the development and management of grounds supports several objectives found in the ‘University Vision and Strategy’
2. The University will be recognised for high standards in estate management; and as a long-standing contributor to Bristol and North Somerset’s natural environment.
3. Being active and taking notice of your surroundings are two of the five main ways to improve mental health (source: Mind.org.uk). Our green spaces offer open areas for exercise, collaboration, observation of wildlife and reflection.
4. Developing flora and fauna for the benefit of plant pollination supports the food supply chain.
5. Growing trees and allowing their canopies to develop naturally reduces Co2, heat island effects, and removes particulate pollutants from the air (40% tree canopy is the ideal percentage for a site)

**Sustainable Development Themes**

14 – Life below water
15 – life on land

**8. Energy, Carbon and Water Management**

The emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are one of the biggest challenge’s humankind faces, the University calling a ‘Climate Emergency’ is a response to this threat. Decarbonising what we do is essential to advert catastrophic impacts on the ecosystem to rely on. Water is grouped here as well as its an equally key resource and we must conserve this as well.

**Aim**

1. To be net zero carbon for our Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2030.
2. To identify a timescale to add building emissions operated by partner organisations, as well as all our scope 3 emissions to our zero carbon aspirations.
Objectives

To reduce our Scope 1 & 2 emissions to net zero by 2030 we will:

1. Optimise our use of space
2. Conserve energy
3. Use energy more efficiently
4. Build and refurbish to the highest cost-effective energy standards
5. Use self-generated heat and electricity from zero/lower-carbon sources
6. Use local externally generated heat and electricity from zero/lower-carbon networks
7. Buy gas and electricity from zero/lower carbon sources
8. Offset of the remaining carbon emissions

To address scope 3 emissions

1. Using scientifically sound carbon targets identify a time scale for delivering net zero carbon
2. Develop Circular Economy and Transport plans which will enable a transition to net zero

Actions

1. Deliver a £5million program of conservation and efficiency measures within our top consuming buildings.
2. Develop scientifically sound science-based carbon targets
3. Develop an in-house carbon off setting scheme linking to biodiversity

Benefits

1. Contributing to reducing climate change
2. Reducing on-going utility costs for the University

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 12 – Responsible consumption and production
2. 13 – Climate action

9. Transport

Transport is a key part of how we operate as an organisation, getting to and between our campuses is a daily, if not hourly requirement. Doing this in a non-polluting, low & zero carbon way is essential to reduce our impact on our neighbours and the environment.

Aim

To minimise the environmental impact from all transport activity generated by the University including commuting, operational fleet transport and business travel.

Objectives

1. Develop and deliver an overarching Travel Plan, that incorporates all university campuses and caters for commuting, operational fleet and business travel.
2. Support the development of the University’s campuses ensuring sustainable travel infrastructure is built into all new builds and refurbishments projects and integrates with the City’s transport networks.

3. Minimise the environmental impacts associated with operational fleet transport and staff business travel, including air travel.

4. Engagement with Bristol City Council, local neighbours/community groups and organisations to ensure collaboration on transport solutions to benefit the Uni and wilder community.

The following targets have been set:

1. Maintain a framework to support sustainable modes of transport to work and study at the University by staff and students (e.g. walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing). Achieving 87% (baseline 79% in 2007) and retaining 96% (baseline 96% in 2008) respectively by 2025 for sustainable modes of transport.

2. Separate targets will be set for business travel during 2020.

Actions

1. Engage with internal and external stakeholders to develop an overarching University travel plan and associated parking policies, including further development of the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus travel plan.

2. Develop and deliver a fleet and business travel strategy, including measures to reduce air travel and emissions from operational fleet transport.

3. Implementation and review of the cycling strategy, which currently includes new infrastructure, cycle training, a free cycle surgery and the sale of discounted locks and lights.

4. Implementation and review of the Bus strategy, which includes management and further development of the Unibus network.

5. Develop a business case for, and implement appropriate transport links (bus, cycle, car club) between TQEC to the Clifton Campus.

6. Supporting faculties and departments to deliver the travel components of their climate action plans.

7. Maintain and develop the University presence at appropriate transport fora in the City, e.g. with Bristol City Council, the Bristol Workplace Travel Network and Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone.

Sustainable Development Themes

11 – Sustainable cities and communities
13 – Climate Action

10. Emissions, Discharges and Prevention of Pollution

The University of Bristol operates under an Environmental Management System, ISO 14001. The scope of which covers all operations, teaching and research. This is a systematic approach to
environmental management, externally audited annually to provide assurance that the University is achieving best practice in environmental management.

**Aim**

Provide a systematic, auditable framework to ensure compliance with legislation, including controls to prevent pollution; working to reduce emissions and discharges to air, land and water as well as minimising environmental impact with a lifecycle perspective. This will also allow the University to balance socio economic needs with environmental impacts.

**Objectives**

1. Use ISO 14001:2015 to manage environmental and social impacts, identify risks and opportunities and achieve environmental compliance
2. Identify aspects of the University’s activities that can have a positive or negative impact on the environment, prioritising those deemed to be significant and developing controls and actions, based on factors relevant to the institution
3. Review business aspects of activities that have both positive and negative impacts on the environment, incorporating whole life and life cycle and identifying business risks and opportunities.
4. Implement and manage processes for prevention of pollution
5. Evaluating environmental performance to help establish operational controls which lead to enhanced environmental performance and continuous improvement
6. Manage internal compliance audits to ensure ongoing best practice is maintained

**Actions**

1. Maintain an aspects and impacts register, reviewing annually
2. Maintain a risk and legislation register, reviewing at least annually
3. Hold university wide management reviews
4. Raise the profile of ISO 14001 principles across the University
5. Review risk assessments and control documents in light the audits and reviews

**Benefits**

1. Achieving financial or operational efficiencies though implementing environmentally sound initiatives
2. Allow the University to respond to changing environmental conditions, manage associated risk and enhance opportunities for improvements
3. Reduce the risk of non-compliance with legislation

**Sustainable Development Themes**

1. 6 – clean water and sanitation
2. 14 – life below water
3. 15 – life on the land
11. **Circular Economy**

The University of Bristol is adopting a Circular Economy approach to managing its resources. This will redefine how our institution manages its resources, away from a linear model of ‘make, purchase, consume and dispose’ to one with the following principles:

**Aims**

1. Align economic and environmental objectives to maximise our resource efficiency
2. Minimise our environmental impact from resource use including; procurement and supply chain; use and lifecycle; end of life management, with a strong focus on the waste hierarchy, ultimately delivering improved cost management
3. Deliver the 7 key principles of Circular Economy within the University’s operational activity.

**Objectives**

To be a University based on Circular Economy Principles;

1. Prioritises the use of regenerative resources reducing environmental impact – reusable, non-toxic, renewable.
2. Preserves and extends the life of what’s already been made – repair, upgrade, upcycle.
3. Turning waste into a resource – reuse, remanufacture, creating a secondary resource, recycling, no-landfill, waste prevention and minimisation.
5. Collaboration – working with the supply chain as partners, within and outside the university, integrating into procurement activity.
6. Rethinking our business model – Whole life costing and life cycle analysis
7. Incorporating digital technology – Offering opportunities to connect organisations in delivering the six principles above.

**Actions**

1. Develop a whole life costing model to be used within the tender process for goods and services.
2. Develop training for purchasers on circular economy principles and how to integrate into operations.
3. Manage in line with the waste hierarchy.

**Benefits**

1. Reduced purchasing and disposal costs for all purchased products
2. Reduced carbon emissions
3. Improved community engagement

**Sustainable Development Themes**

1. All SDG goals
12. **Procurement**

The University of Bristol is a global civic institution which uses its resources, influence and connections to contribute to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the communities in which we all work.

**Aim**

Embed responsible procurement into all aspects of the University’s procurement activities – incorporating sustainability, Social Value, responsible sourcing and supply chain transparency.

**Objectives**

1. Ensuring sustainability, Social Value and supply chain transparency considerations are included at every stage of the procurement process, via the Responsible Procurement Plan.
2. The Procurement Team will continually improve its understanding of sustainability and Social Value to ensure that it takes opportunities to reduce any of the negative impacts of its procurement activities and maximise the value it can bring to the environment and society. As part of the University’s commitment to sustainability and Social Value the team is committed to support several Green Pledges.
3. The University will continue to hold the Living Wage accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation, and for the University to require a corresponding commitment from service providers.
4. The University will continue to hold the University of Sanctuary accreditation from the Cites of Sanctuary Network.
5. The Procurement Team will work with the business community to develop and enhance relations and the procurement experience for small and medium sized businesses (SME’s) as well as play our part in strengthening the local and regional economy. This includes targeted engagement with SMEs from a Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background.
6. The NETpositives project is reviewing procurement documentation to embed Sustainable / Responsible procurement into our processes, enabling Sustainable Procurement and Social Value to be considered in every procurement as a matter of course, developing a practical Whole Life Costing model to be used in the initial stages of a procurement, Improving our Flexible Framework Level and helping the University to achieve its enhanced ISO140001 Standard.
7. Eliminate Modern Slavery and forced labour from our supply chain.

**Actions**

1. Develop a whole life costing element of the Sustainable Impact Assessment model
2. Use a sustainability analysis tool for each tender
3. Implement training for all staff relating to sustainable procurement
4. Publish our Modern Slavery Statement in the industry-leading database (TISCreport) and act where our suppliers appear not to have published a compliant statement, or where there are concerns about the integrity of our supply chain.

Benefits

1. Cost reduction
2. Meeting carbon targets
3. Adding social value

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 1 – No poverty
2. 2 – zero hunger
3. 10 – Reduced inequalities
4. 12 – Responsible consumption and production

13. Responsible Investment

The University’s endowment investments will align closely with the aims set out within the wider Sustainability Strategy. The University has already ended investment in companies deriving more than 5% of turnover from the extraction of thermal coal or oil and gas and from tar sands and it continues to reduce carbon emissions within its investment portfolio.

Aim

To integrate the principles of responsible investment into University of Bristol Endowment funds and other investing activity. There will be focus on fossil fuels and carbon reduction through the investment portfolios, adopting a low carbon investment strategy.

Objectives

1. The University will actively manage its portfolio of energy investments, including those in oil and gas, to deliver a material reduction in the carbon emissions from these investments over the next ten years.

Actions

1. Continued delivery of a low carbon investment strategy, reducing the carbon within the portfolio of investments.
2. Engaging with companies and policymakers to encourage actions consistent with a low carbon future through investment fund managers.
3. Where the University holds an endowment investment in an entity which falls outside of the ethical investment criteria outlined above then a reasonable grace period will be allowed for the entity to return to a state of compliance. If it becomes apparent that the entity is likely to persist in a state of non-compliance, then the investment will be liquidated, and the proceeds reinvested in a compliant investment vehicle.
Benefits

1. Reducing contribution to negative environmental and social impacts
2. Reduced carbon emissions impact

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 1 – No poverty
2. 2 – Zero hunger
3. 13 – Climate action
4. 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions
5. 17 – Partnerships for the goals

14. Ethical and Sustainable Food

The links to health and wellbeing from good diets is well known and the University’s catering outlets reflect this in the high-quality food they provide. Often what is overlooked is the environmental and social impact of food production and waste. Food is often grown far from its point of consumption, often reducing biodiversity and adversely affecting local communities and then flown great distances with a large carbon footprint to end up being wasted - an estimate 7million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK each year.

Aim
We aim to carry out food and drink procurement and service delivery activities in a manner that reduces negative and enhances positive social, ethical and environmental benefits whilst also encouraging and promoting healthy eating. We strive to incorporate sustainability including carbon impacts into our product and service selection process. We recognise that it is our responsibility to encourage our suppliers to minimise negative environmental and social effects associated with the products and services they provide. We will actively seek to engage with all stakeholders and customers in the continued development of policy and procedure in respect of healthy and sustainable food.

Objectives

1. The University will achieve Fairtrade University status with the Fairtrade Foundation by March 2021 for all its food related activities in partnership with stakeholders for non-food related Fairtrade activity.
2. The University will remove all ruminant meats from its offerings by 2021, starting with beef by 2020.
3. The University will deliver all new café or retail units with zero waste packaging for fresh food that has been produced on site from 2020 by promoting reuse, deposit return and take back schemes with whole life costing evidence.
4. Vegan and Vegetarian food will be increased by 30% in all food offerings by 2021.
5. We will map carbon related to all food and drink offerings by 2020 and reduce it by 30% by 2021, by reducing meat-based meals, transport and processing, thus encouraging use of local seasonal and plant-based foods.
6. We will work to reduce the sugar in the foods we retail by 20% by 2021.
Actions

1. Ban sales of all drinks in plastic bottles – March 2020
2. Run Fairtrade.org activities to promote the importance of Fair-Trade schemes including Fairtrade.org, fair for life, fair life etc.
3. Introduce deposit return schemes to University cafes and bars from 2020.
4. Promote the environmental and health benefits of plant-based foods using social media staff and student campaigns in 2020
5. Run education campaigns encouraging staff and students to carry out carbon footprint activities for their diet in 2020
6. We will have every food supplier proactively engaged with our sustainability criteria and reporting as part of their contract KPI’s in 2020
7. We will review accreditation schemes, such as the sustainable restaurant association, soil association etc to pursue the most applicable scheme for the University's activities in 2020.

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 1 – no poverty
2. 2 – zero hunger
3. 3 - Good health and well-being
4. 10 – reduced inequalities
5. 12 – Responsible consumption and production
6. 13 – climate action
7. 15 – governance

15. Governance

Sustainability is intertwined with all areas of University activity. For the University to be a truly sustainable, the thematic areas within this strategy need to be considered through all University strategy, activity and business. Teaching, research, operations and community all need to consider and include sustainability to avoid detrimental impacts to the environment and society.

Aim

To integrate sustainability into all governance streams, ensuring that decision making is aware of and where possible accounts for sustainability impacts.

Objectives

1. To develop a set of sustainability criteria to aid & inform decision making at all levels within the University.
2. To consider implementing a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) methodology for all University committees (using the sustainability criteria noted above) that will identify key impacts of any proposed activity quickly and effectively.
3. To include key sustainability requirements into the Integrated Planning process (IPP).

Actions

1. Deliver sustainability criteria by December 2020
2. Trial SIA within a committee
Benefits

1. To help avoid unintended consequences of decisions that may impact not only on the environment and society but within the University
2. Enhance reputation by embedding sustainability within governance processes

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 10 – reduced inequalities
2. 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions

16. Monitoring and Reporting

To ensure delivery of Sustainability Strategy and its objectives the following monitoring and reporting structure will be in place.

Supporting plans

Each of the themed area will have a delivery plan covering all objectives noted in this strategy plus any other minor objectives, as well as key actions required. These plans will be SMART based.

Delivery plan and dashboard

An overall delivery plan identifying the key actions for the year will also be produced with a RAG dashboard.

Sustainability Council

A University wide senior team reporting to UEB will monitor progress and review deliver for the Sustainability Strategy and delivery plan.

Annual progress report

This will be produced each year to update UEB on overall progress and any corrective action needed. This report will also be used to update staff and students.