

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

**Environmental  
Sustainability**



# **The University of Manchester: Environmental Sustainability Strategy**

Building on our heritage to create a sustainable future



The University of Manchester is the largest single-site university in the UK, with over 38,000 students, more than 12,000 staff and an annual income of £1.01 billion. There are 240 buildings (24 of which are listed) across 270 hectares. These include Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, John Rylands Library Deansgate and Jodrell Bank. The impact the University has through its research, teaching, operation, engagement and people can help lead the way to a truly sustainable world, from the heart of Oxford Road to the very edge of the universe. This Strategy sets out steps to realise this opportunity as part of our third goal of social responsibility, where we seek to make a difference to society and the environment.

The University has a mission by 2020 to be recognised globally for the excellence of its research, outstanding learning and student experience, and social responsibility.

Our vision is for the University to use its full range of knowledge and influence to support a world that is environmentally sustainable.

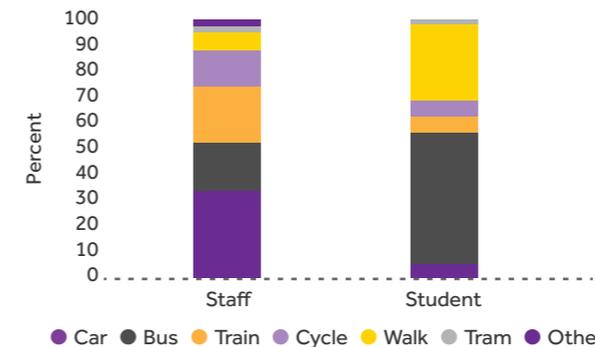
# Environmental Sustainability: Summary of Our Achievements, 2012-2015

There are 98 Green Impact Teams throughout the University

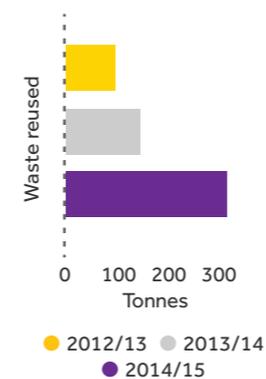


- PSS (25.51%) ● Engineering and Physical Sciences (20.41%)
- Humanities (11.22%) ● Life Sciences (18.37%)
- Medical and Human Sciences (23.47%)
- Institutes of Affiliated (1.02%)

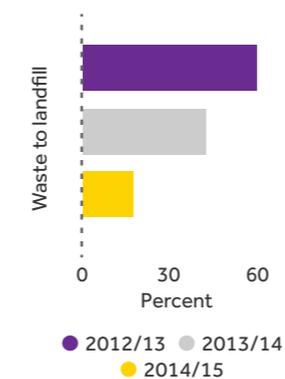
62% of staff and 96% of students commute sustainably



3.5x increase in reuse



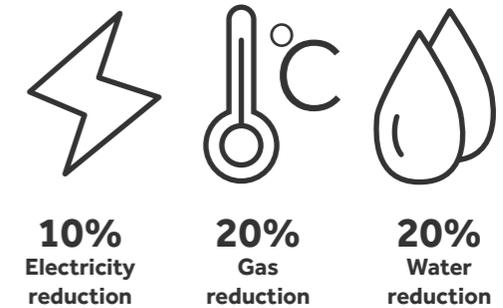
Less waste to landfill



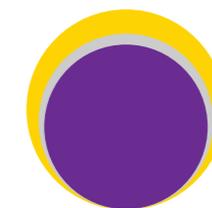
give cycling a go

Over 1000 University of Manchester Bicycle User Groups Members

The University reduced consumption per square meter of electricity, gas and water during 2012-2015



Fleet vehicles consumed 12% less fuel leading to lower carbon emissions

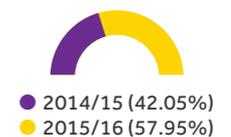


● 2012/13 ● 2013/14 ● 2014/15

Over 10% of fleet vehicles are electric



Over 300 journey made in our electric pool car





## Environmental Sustainability Objectives 2016 – 2020

Building on the previous strategy (2012-2015), our achievements to date and lessons learnt, this new strategy (2016-2020) will focus on four key objectives, each set within our overall approach to social responsibility as detailed in The University of Manchester's Strategic Plan 2020<sup>1</sup>.

### Environmental Sustainability Strategic Objectives

**1. Research with impact:**

We will showcase the positive impact of our research that is addressing some of the world's most fundamental sustainability challenges.

**2. Socially responsible graduates:**

We will equip students with the knowledge and experience to positively contribute to our world as professionals, leaders and citizens of tomorrow.

**3. Responsible processes:**

We will ensure our organisational processes such as campus development, procurement, energy and resource management will create opportunities for the efficient use of natural resources, with the additional benefits of financial savings and an environment that enhances health and wellbeing.

**4. Engaging our communities:**

We will engage with staff, students and alumni to embed a culture of environmental sustainability, and we will partner with people and organisations in pursuit of shared goals around sustainability.

<sup>1</sup>The University of Manchester's Strategic agenda is called Manchester 2020, further details can be found at <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=25548>

# Environmental Sustainability Objectives

2016 – 2020

## Objective 1: Research with Impact

The University is at the forefront of tackling key global challenges such as climate change, population growth, rapid urbanisation, overconsumption, food and water security, loss of biodiversity and pollution. Our research also contributes to sustainability challenges closer to home, working in partnership with organisations across Manchester and the North West to help improve the quality of our environment and peoples' lives.

- We will showcase the positive impact of our research that is addressing some of the world's most fundamental sustainability challenges.

The delivery of **Objective 1** will be supported by:-

- Encouraging cross-disciplinary networking, facilitating high quality knowledge exchange with external organisations.
- Where possible, applying the research that we carry out across Greater Manchester.
- Focusing on the net benefits our research delivers while trying to minimise the environmental impact of carrying it out.

### Key Performance Measures

1. Research with impact cases developed with environmental sustainability as a focus
2. Research projects having positive interactions with the campus / City

## Objective 2: Socially Responsible Graduates

Environmental sustainability is the responsibility of each and every one of us. We can all make a difference and play a part. Through our teaching, volunteering, programmes and projects the University is providing our students with the opportunities to gain understanding and experience to tread lightly on our planet.

- We will equip students with knowledge and experience to positively contribute to our world as professionals, leaders and citizens of tomorrow.

The delivery of **Objective 2** will be supported by:-

- Embedding sustainability as a key theme across all learning and aspects of the wider student experience.
- Providing opportunities to use the campus as a living laboratory for teaching and research.
- Building on the Student Social Responsibility Signature Programme Ethical Grand Challenges, specifically year 1, providing opportunities for continued learning and engagement.

### Key Performance Measures

1. Student awareness of the complexity of sustainability issues after taking part in Ethical Grand Challenges' September 'Sustainability Challenge'
2. Student engagement on environmental sustainability issues and projects

# Environmental Sustainability Objectives

2016 – 2020

## Objective 3: Responsible Processes

The University of Manchester has ambitious goals matched by an ambitious construction programme to 2022, one of the biggest investments in facilities undertaken in the higher education sector, with £750 million spent so far and a further £1 billion to follow by 2022.

These ambitions create both opportunities and challenges for the University's delivery of its goal of social and environmental responsibility. We will focus on the opportunities to provide processes which support sound environmental behaviour and choices, while at the same time minimising the environmental impact, such as the ongoing development of our campus. The investment of over £1 billion provides an opportunity to design and lock in features that support day-to-day sustainability into the future.

- We will ensure our organisational processes such as campus development, procurement, energy and resource management will create opportunities for the efficient use of natural resources, with the additional benefits of financial savings and an environment that enhances health and wellbeing.

The delivery of **Objective 3** will be supported by:-

- Exploring smarter ways of doing things and implementing programmes to reduce our use of and dependency on natural resources.
- Providing biodiverse and functional greenspace to enhance staff and student wellbeing, as well as increasing resilience to the predicted impacts of climate change.
- Ensuring long-term sustainability is embedded within the maintenance, development and planning of our estate and IT infrastructure and through the goods, services and work procured.

### Key Performance Measures

1. Reduced consumption of natural resources, including the University's high level KPI for 40% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 2020 (from 2007-08 baseline)
2. Provision of quality and functional greenspace across the University estate

## Objective 4: Engaging our Communities

Environmental sustainability should be an integral part of every individual's role and activities. The University supports its staff and students to take action for environmental sustainability. It is important that we articulate the value of sustainability, creating a narrative to support understanding and opportunity for impact.

- We will engage with staff, students and alumni to embed a culture of environmental sustainability, and we will partner with people and organisations in pursuit of shared goals around sustainability.

The delivery of **Objective 4** will be supported by:-

- Empowering people to make change and take action, helping to promote opportunities to engage with sustainability, particularly through the Social Responsibility Staff Signature Programme '10,000 Actions'.
- Prioritising processes and infrastructure that support positive environmental behaviour and decision-making.
- Ensuring people are recognised for their contribution.

### Key Performance Measures

1. Awareness of the complexity of sustainability issues after taking part in 10,000 Actions
2. Engagement of staff, students and alumni on environmental sustainability issues and projects

# Making It Happen

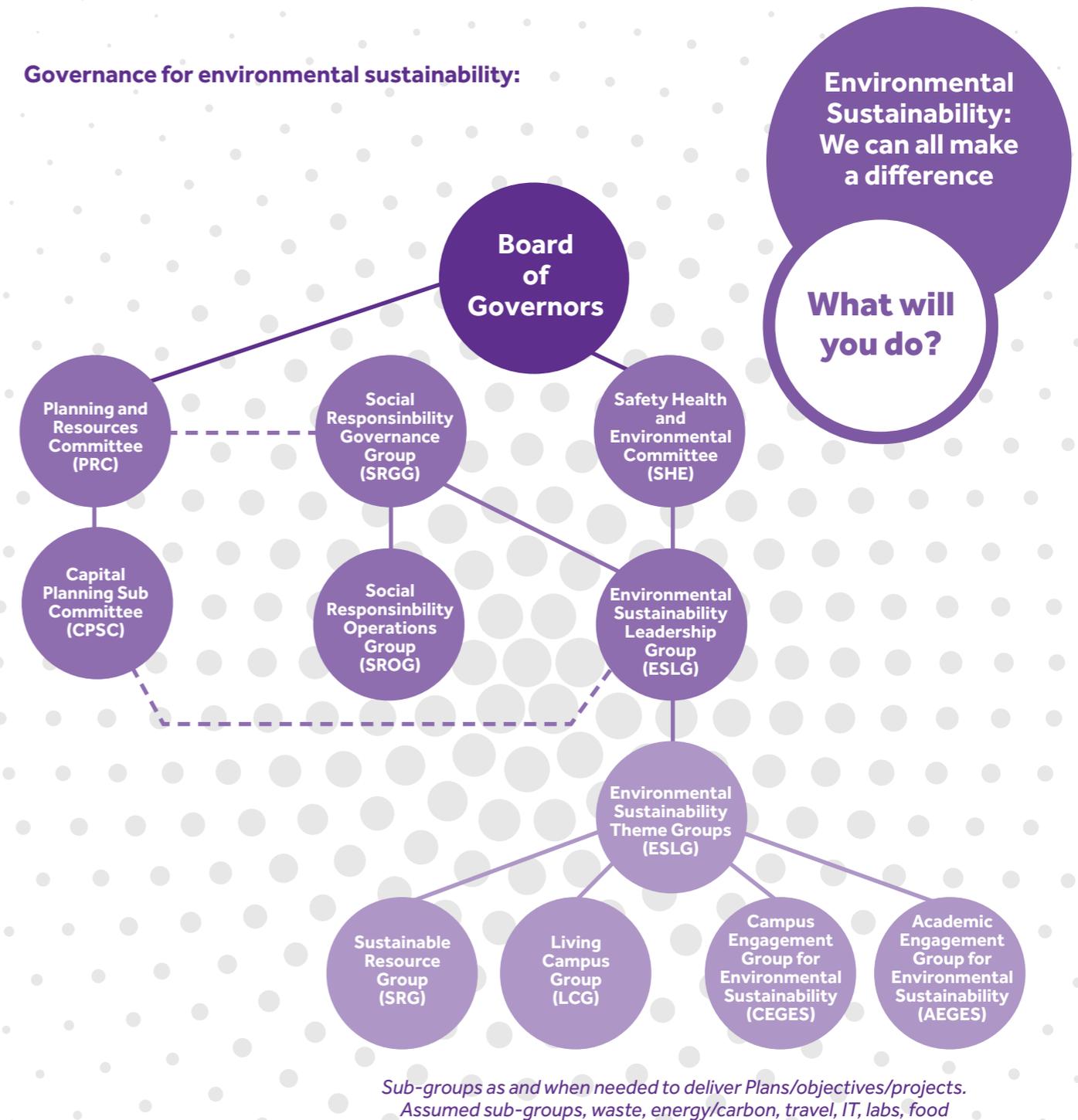
Our objectives will be delivered through two core plans The Sustainable Resources Plan and The Living Campus Plan and defined engagement goals, all which have specific targets, actions and programmes. For a list of targets see [www.manchester.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/sustainability). A progress report will be produced annually.

| Sustainable Resources Plan   | Living Campus Plan  |
|--|---|
| Owned by the Environmental Sustainability Team, in collaboration with the University's Sustainable Resources Group.<br>: Focus on energy efficiency, carbon management, water conservation, sustainable transport, waste, sustainable buildings and procurement.   | Owned by the Environmental Sustainability Team, in collaboration with the University's Living Campus Group.<br>: Focus on biodiversity, greenspace, climate change resilience, health and wellbeing and cross-references elements of active travel and sustainable buildings. |
| Environmental Sustainability Engagement  |   |
| Led by: Environmental Sustainability Team and Academic Lead for Environmental Sustainability, in collaboration with the Environmental Sustainability Engagement Groups.<br>: Focus on Social Responsibility Signature Programmes, Green Impact (plus), sustainability across learning and the student experience, and capturing the positive impact of research. |   |

## Leadership for environmental sustainability:

Leadership is split across senior management within PSS, Faculties and Schools, and is largely coordinated through the Associate Vice President for Social Responsibility, Head of Environmental Sustainability, The Environmental Sustainability Team, Academic Leads for Environmental Sustainability and Faculty Vice Deans for Social Responsibility. For further information see [www.manchester.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/sustainability).

## Governance for environmental sustainability:



Working with colleagues across the University, environmental sustainability issues at the University are managed by a dedicated team of professional staff. For further information please see [www.manchester.ac.uk/sustainability/team](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/sustainability/team) or contact [es@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:es@manchester.ac.uk)

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Environmental Policy

The University of Manchester is the largest single-site university in the UK, with the biggest student community. The University has over 38,000 students, more than 12,000 staff and an annual income of £1.01 billion. The University has a mission by 2020 to be recognised globally for the excellence of its research, outstanding learning and student experience, and social responsibility. In support, one of the biggest investments in facilities undertaken in the higher education sector is underway, with £750 million spent so far and a further £1 billion to follow by 2022. There are currently 240 buildings (24 of which are listed) across 270 hectares. Buildings include visitor attractions, Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, John Rylands Deansgate and Jodrell Bank.

As a consequence of the University's activities there are inevitable negative environmental impacts; however there are also numerous positive impacts. The University will make a difference to the social and environmental wellbeing of our communities and wider society through our teaching, research, engagement and operations.

Our research, teaching, engagement, infrastructure and processes are guided by our commitment to environmental sustainability. We want to support our staff and students to have a positive impact on the environment and enable them to make a difference in the areas in which they operate, influence and control. Our priorities reflect those of our wider social responsibility work.

- Research with impact. Through our significant research groupings and networks, the University is at the forefront of tackling key global challenges such as climate change, population growth, overconsumption, food and water security, loss of biodiversity and pollution. We will encourage cross-disciplinary networking, facilitate high quality knowledge exchange with external organisations and apply the research that we carry out to our own campus.
- Responsible graduates. We aim for every graduate to leave the University empowered with the knowledge and practical skills to make a positive environmental impact in their personal and professional lives. We will support sustainability as a key theme across the curriculum and in all aspects of the wider student experience, and will provide opportunities to use the campus as a living laboratory for teaching and research.

- Engaging our communities. We will embed a culture of environmental sustainability across the University and work in partnership with our staff, students, alumni and wider society on shared environmental goals. We will help to promote opportunities to engage with sustainability, particularly through our '10,000 Actions' staff programme, empowering people to take positive action and make positive change.
- Responsible processes. We will prioritise processes that support positive environmental behaviour and decision making. We will ensure long-term sustainability is embedded within the maintenance, development and planning of our estate and IT infrastructure; through the goods, services and work procured; across our research and teaching activities. This includes protecting the environment to ensure:-
  - o Natural resource efficiency (energy, water, waste, materials, food);
  - o Climate change mitigation and adaptation;
  - o Sustainable design and construction;
  - o Provision of functional quality greenspace and wildlife corridors; and
  - o The prevention of pollution.

The University's Environmental Sustainability Strategy and supporting plans will deliver the aforementioned through a series of environmental objectives which have been signed off by senior members of the University and will be reviewed annually.

The University commits to this policy which extends to a commitment to:-

- Investigate steps towards BS EN ISO14001: 2015;
- Fulfil its compliance obligations; and
- Continual improvement of environmental management to enhance environmental performance.



