The University of Manchester and the Sustainable Development Goals

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide clear guidelines and targets for all countries to adopt in accordance with their own priorities and the environmental challenges the world faces. There are 17 SDGs.

The SDGs define global sustainable development priorities and aspirations for 2030 and apply to all sectors of society and seek to mobilise global efforts around a common set of goals and targets. The SDGs emphasis interconnections between social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability; they focus on implementation, catalysing action for greater impact and facilitate collaboration through dialogue and engagement. The SDGs call for worldwide action among governments, business and civil society to end poverty and create a life of dignity and opportunity for all, within the boundaries of the planet.

Through the research we undertake, especially considering the research beacons, and implementation of processes and initiatives as part of Goal 3 it can be said that we address all 17 goals. More work to identify examples and case studies in each of the SDGs will be completed in the future. In the interim, the table below gives examples of how we are addressing some of these goals through our operations.
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Addressing the SDGs through our operations, sharing some examples

We have a Wellbeing Strategy based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing. Our Living Campus Plan promotes health and wellbeing through encouraging the development of a biodiverse estate and active travel (cycling, running and walking).

Projects within our Capital Programme contain targets to reduce water consumption and staff and student engagement programmes encourage efficient use of water.

Our Capital Programme, energy contract and combined heat and power projects are part of the University’s transition to providing reliable and sustainable modern energy.

Our Capital Programme is building climate resilient infrastructure for the University.

Research projects such as Triangulum and CityVerve are fostering innovation into smart cities.

Our Sustainable Resources Plan outlines our pathways towards sustainable consumption.

Our Environmental Sustainability Strategy and associated plans detail our approach to climate action.

Our Living Campus Plan outlines our approach to protecting, restoring and promoting life on campus.