

## Teaching and learning for sustainability

Ensuring the sustainability of our planet is the biggest challenge facing humanity in the 21st Century. Sustainability cuts across all subject areas, and requires a truly interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning.

### Our commitment

Through our teaching, volunteering, programmes and projects, we are 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. We will showcase the positive impact of our research that is addressing some of the world's most fundamental sustainability challenges.

This objective will be delivered 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 Sustainability Challenge by providing opportunities for continued learning and engagement.

Key performance measures

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

Our commitment to education for sustainability is outlined in

- [Our Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#)
- [Our Social Responsibility Strategy](#)

We also have a [dedicated academic lead](#) in this area, Professor Amanda Bamford.

### Review

We review and report on the progress of the integration of education for sustainability through the [Environmental Sustainability Academic Engagement Group](#). This group feeds into the [Environmental Sustainability Leadership Group](#).

### Supporting academic staff

Support for academic staff has been provided through

- [Seminars](#). The next seminar for staff and students will be run during Go Green Week in February 2019.
- [Guidance](#).
- [Case studies](#).
- [Funding available](#) for embedding sustainability into teaching.
- Recognition through the [Making a Difference Awards](#) outstanding teaching innovation in social responsibility category.
- Membership of the [Environmental Sustainability Academic Engagement Group](#).
- Staff can share progress they are making in this with the rest of the University community through our flagship [10,000 Actions programme](#).

## Opportunities for students

We provide [applied project opportunities](#) to our students, set by the University to encourage research on campus linked to the sustainability of the University and other local organisations. Examples of these can be seen in our [Environmental Sustainability Review](#).

Students from all degree disciplines can also take credit-bearing units through our [University College for Interdisciplinary Learning](#) (UCIL). UCIL introduces students to new topics and ways of thinking, tackling the key questions facing society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Current courses related to sustainability include

- Climate change and society.
- Global citizenship and society.
- Crisis of nature: issues in environmental history.

As part of the [Ethical Grand Challenges Programme](#), all first year students take part in our award winning [Sustainability Challenge](#) during Welcome Week. Students learn more about sustainability and how to make the most of opportunities while at Manchester to help build a more sustainable future.

We have a number of [massive online open courses](#) (MOOCs) relating to sustainability that anyone can take for free, wherever they are in the world. All that is needed is an internet connection:

- Teaching responsible management.
- Water supply and sanitation policy in developing countries.
- Greening the economy: sustainable cities.
- Our Earth: its climate, history and processes.

## Audit

We audit and highlight research and teaching related to the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). [Comprehensive research](#) has recently been concluded looking at all of our research and teaching, mapping and aligning them to the SDGs. A report on our findings will be publically available in Spring 2019 alongside a website with more detail.

**Written by:** Lucy Millard, Environmental Sustainability Manager

**Approved by:** Amanda Bamford, University Lead for Environmental Sustainability

**Last updated:** December 2018

**Review date:** August 2019

**Contact:** [es@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:es@manchester.ac.uk)