

The University of Manchester Environmental Sustainability Team Priorities 2021-2022

The Environmental Sustainability Team's purpose is to guide, support and challenge the University's actions on the environment in all aspects of its work. We give strategic advice to leaders on current and future trends, suggest action which needs to be taken to reduce and ideally remove environmental impact and offer guidance to colleagues and students across the University about putting policy into practice.

In 2022 we will publish a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy. Until then, this is a brief summary of the team's priorities for the 2021/2 academic year.

We welcome any comments or suggestions. Please contact us by emailing ES@manchester.ac.uk, visiting our [website](#) or following us on social media @UoMSust.

- We will create a "Zero Carbon Masterplan", a document which will describe the steps the University needs to take to become zero carbon by 2038 at the latest and within our "carbon budget". The plan, developed in association with Siemens, will address energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation, renewable energy generation and procurement and funding options.
- Once we have decided how to implement the Masterplan, we will engage with and seek approval from the University's Senior Leadership Team. We will then work with our colleagues in our Directorate, Estates & Facilities, to begin the practical work.
- We will launch 50,000 Actions, the updated version of our award-winning engagement platform which encourages users to take at least one positive social or environmental action. While the previous version, 10,000 Actions, was aimed at staff, the revised version will be for both staff and students. The new platform launches in the 2021 autumn term and will feature all-new content and features.
- We aim to revise and strengthen the University's Travel Policy and introduce a carbon reduction target which reflects the radical impact the pandemic has had upon the way we all work. The Environmental Sustainability Team will support the new policy and target with a series of measures which will aim to ensure staff are aware of the changes and how they can contribute to the target while continuing to deliver world-class research and teaching.
- We will work with our colleagues in Estates & Facilities to ensure we manage our grounds on campus in a sustainable way.

- We will develop a plan to ensure every student, no matter what subject they are studying, will leave the University with a solid understanding of key sustainability issues – including climate change and biodiversity – and have the skills and motivation to take positive action on these issues throughout their lives.
- We will research and develop a scheme which enables staff, students, alumni and any other volunteers to support activities which will capture carbon and enhance biodiversity. We will look for external partners to help us deliver the scheme, with the aim of eventually providing the opportunity to participate through giving or joining volunteering sessions locally, nationally and even internationally.
- We will develop and deliver a campaign which seeks to inform staff and students as to our progress on the elimination of single-use plastic and inspires them to take action, reducing their use of disposable items and using the right material in the right situation.
- We will work with our Procurement team to develop a strategy for further engaging with our suppliers on sustainability and tackling our “Scope 3” (indirect) carbon footprint.
- We will offer “Sustainable Lab” certification through the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) and aim to get participants to at least Bronze level.
- We will write and seek approval for a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy for the University. The strategy will align with the University’s wider strategic plans and cover our operations, our teaching and learning, research and public engagement. Students and staff will be encouraged to contribute to the development of the strategy.
- We will update our website as and when appropriate to ensure our plans are accessible to all and clear to understand.

Richard Smith, Head of Environmental Sustainability 27th September 2021