

# Accommodation Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2024-2028

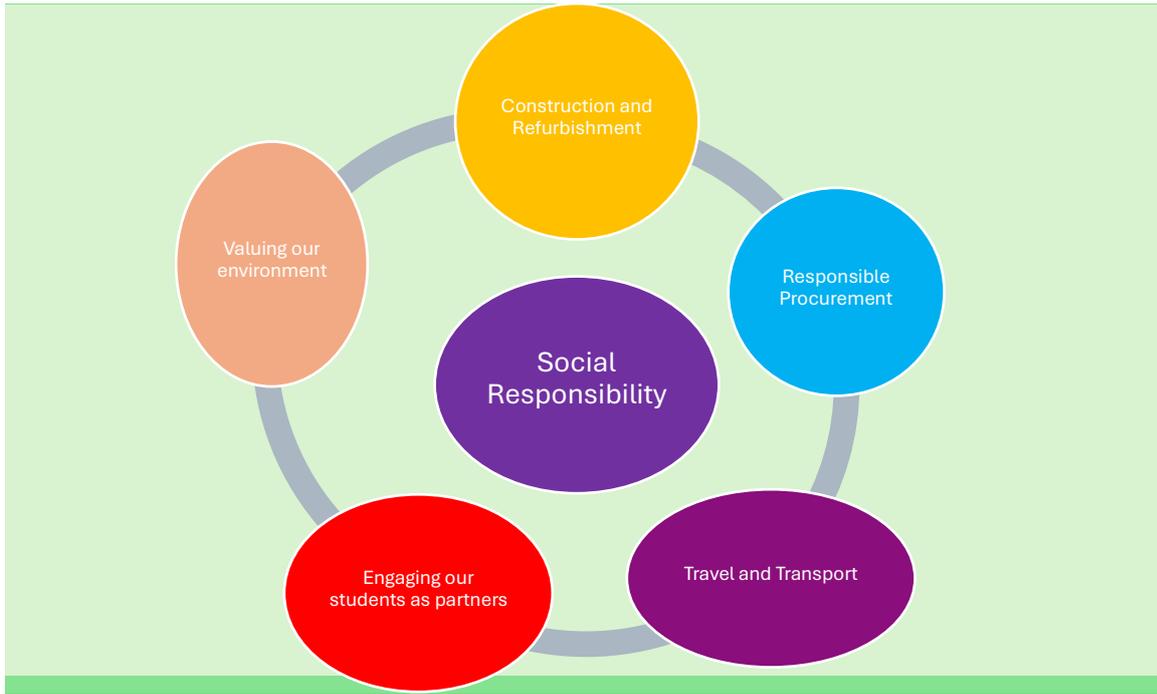


## **Introduction**

The world faces extraordinary environmental challenges and the University, and its students have a crucial role to play in addressing these. The University's purpose is to advance education, knowledge, and wisdom for the good of society. We need to apply this purpose to protect and enhance our residential environments and prevent uncontrolled climate change.

Our strategy sets out some of the practical steps we are committing to in support of the University's 5 year Our Sustainable Future Strategy. We aim to reduce our carbon footprint through effective building design and considered refurbishments and promote sustainability through working in partnership with our staff, students and suppliers. The University has already substantially reduced its' carbon footprint by 35% since 2007 from 81,000 tonnes to under 53000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022 and ended endowment in fossil fuel investments. We will continue to ensure that we behave ethically and in ways which promote sustainability and support the broader University Sustainability Strategy.

Our responsibility stretches beyond students living within our halls. We have worked with Manchester Student Homes and local community groups and engaged in projects which contribute to creating a more sustainable environment. Social responsibility is one of the University's 3 core goals and we are committed through Stellify, student volunteering and the ethical grand challenges programme to developing our students' sense of environmental, ethical and social responsibility. We will continue to work in partnership to increase our impact and to ensure we maximise our civic contribution.



Our objectives, commitments and actions will support the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



◀ The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

# Engaging Our Students as Partners



## **Our Objective**

To actively engage our university community in addressing responsible consumption, innovating sustainable solutions, and contributing to our civic responsibilities as citizens of Manchester.

## **Commitments**

- To work with our new residents, student leaders, our staff, and the student union in promoting environmental sustainability via e induction, welcome fairs and through regular campaigns as to how we do things in Manchester that influence positive behaviours.
- To co-create a calendar of events that provide opportunities to support students' learning and awareness of ethical and social responsibility and promote a call to action.
- To provide educational opportunities to gain recognition towards the Stellify award, making a difference award, improving carbon literacy and student volunteering.
- To provide data where available on our consumption of services to demonstrate students impact.
- To link our work with the six ways of well-being in promoting sustainability and the links to good health and wellbeing.
- To being active and responsive in our local neighbourhoods.
- To support student initiatives and projects that foster innovation and provide solutions in support of our goals.
- To roll out food waste collection facilities across our halls.

# Valuing Our Environment



## **Objective**

To value our living environment and create a strong sense of place and belonging that sits at the heart of the student experience. We believe our living environments should contribute to the health and wellbeing of our staff, students, visitors, and local community.

## **Our commitments**

- To work with university partners using job opportunities, bursaries and hardship funds to ensure students are supported and do not experience poverty.
- To provide green spaces for student study, relaxation and wellbeing that can be shared with local wildlife to increasing biodiversity on campus.
- To work with contractors to limit impacts on wildlife from their activities e.g. pest control.
- To integrate biodiversity themes into current and future residential strategy projects.
- To provide opportunities for residents to get involved in environmental projects on campus and within our local neighbourhoods.
- To show leadership and act responsibly by reducing waste to landfill and offering increased recycling operations.
- To further development partnerships that support the circular economy.
- To increase staff volunteering opportunities in support of university and local community projects.

# Construction and Refurbishment



## **Objective**

To continually develop and deliver a zero-carbon residential strategy for the University which supports the University's public commitment to achieving zero direct carbon emissions by 2038.

## **Our Commitments**

- To ensure that refurbishments and new developments meet or exceed University targets for zero carbon and are recognised as excellent by industry construction standards.
- To replace plant with lower carbon alternatives and use University negotiated and ethical utility agreements.
- To explore opportunities for renewable energy generation on and around our buildings.
- To minimise construction and development waste.
- To embed sustainability into all our maintenance activities.
- To upgrade our vehicle fleet by moving to electric vehicles and reducing vehicle emissions.
- To provide infrastructure that supports green travel for our staff and residents.
- To raise staff awareness around climate change and promote individual action.
- To engage with communities of best practice and those leading on sustainability.
- To develop minimum environmental product standards for furniture and fixtures that we buy.

# Responsible Procurement



## Objective

To ensure that our purchasing activity and support the University's environmental, social and economic priorities.

## Our Commitments

- To work with suppliers and organisations committed to net zero and working to ISO20400 Sustainable procurement standard.
- To ensure we work to principles of the zero-waste hierarchy.
- To support the measurement of the carbon footprint of commercial catering operations in accommodation and minimise food waste.
- To achieve Fairtrade University and College accreditation for all catering.
- To ensure our staff and suppliers adhere to the payment of the real living wage.
- To encourage local small and medium sized enterprises in the supply chain.



# Travel and Transport



## **Objective**

To reduce the impact of travel and transport decisions on people and the environment.

## **Commitments**

- Decarbonising our vehicle fleet to reduce emissions.
- To promote active travel for students through the provision of bicycle storage facilities, subsidised bike locks, second hand bicycle sales and provision of bike repair stations on campus.
- Encouraging use of Bee bikes.
- Creation of local walking maps
- Encouraging virtual meetings where appropriate to avoid travel where possible.
- Collaborate with other organisations to maximise the benefits of sustainable travel schemes e.g. public transport providers.
- Investigate safe cycling scheme training.

