



University of  
Nottingham

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# Environmental Sustainability Policy

February 2023



## University of Nottingham – Environmental Sustainability Policy

The University is committed to maximising the positive impact it has on the local and global environment. It aims to reduce its environmental impact via a continued commitment to institutional-wide environmental sustainability excellence. The University recognises that it has a range of roles and interacts with several key stakeholders. It is an educator of future generations, the change agents of tomorrow; it is a significant local landowner, whose decisions can have a large impact on the local environment; it is a stakeholder in the community, committed to helping local people build a sustainable future; it is championing pioneering research, which could help address some of the biggest environmental challenges we currently face.

This policy sits alongside and compliments the University's [Strategic Delivery Plan for Environmental Sustainability 2021-30](#), to set out overarching principles that will drive our work.

The University of Nottingham is committed to the following principles:

- Continue the University's contribution to advancing the environmental sustainability agenda within the local community, region, and the national and international Higher Education sector.
- Contribute to the global enhancement of the environmental sustainability knowledge base for future generations through innovative research and teaching.
- To act responsibly - being accountable for the environmental impacts associated with University activities and operations.
- To meet and, wherever possible, exceed all relevant UK, European and international legislative and regulatory compliance requirements and voluntary agreements.
- To continually improve and enhance environmental sustainability performance through an established Environmental Management System. Specifically, we will:
  - Facilitate the active participation of the University community in reducing the collective environmental impact of the organisation, through both formal and informal engagement activity, in order to foster a culture of environmental sustainability citizenship.
  - Drive reductions of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions in line with our science based carbon reduction target, including continually improving the carbon performance of the University's physical infrastructure by moving towards net zero carbon by 2040, as detailed in the [Carbon Management Plan](#).
  - Actively promote and encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport across the University, acknowledging business needs, the University's research-led focus, and its internationalisation agenda.
  - Actively work/engage with the University's suppliers and contractors to reduce emissions associated with the goods and services procured by the University and ensure environmental sustainability standards progressively improve their own working practices.
  - Transition to a modern, integrated, clean energy system, delivering reliable energy supplies at an affordable price, whilst meeting environmental sustainability and net zero greenhouse gas emissions targets.
  - Provide the campus community with a sustainable food offering, focused on ethical sourcing, seasonal produce, and healthy ingredients.

- Reduce resource consumption through a circular economy approach and to minimise waste through best practice environmental management, cultural change, and smart procurement decisions.
- Prevent, and where prevention was not possible, limit and control any pollution or emissions that could be harmful to any receptors, including human health, air, land, and water, from sources created as a result of university operations.
- Reduce water consumption whilst increasing the efficiency of our water systems.
- Make space for nature on our campuses to ensure that biodiversity can survive and thrive on our estate and beyond, whilst promoting carbon sequestration via our green spaces.
- Ensure that all new development and deep refurbishment projects utilise best practice environmental sustainability standards to drive a greener campus built environment, and that other projects apply these principles.
- Embed environmental sustainability in the curriculum and encourage the recognition of student achievement that promotes employability, respects diversity, is based on our research strengths, and meets our commitment to environmental sustainability.
- Promote and encourage the use of technology to reduce the environmental impact of university operations and activities.

### **Implementation & Review**

This Policy is owned and championed by the University's Environmental Sustainability Committee. Progress towards achieving the above aims and principles will be reported on at least an annual basis by the Sustainability Team to the Environmental Sustainability Committee, as part of the Sustainability Annual Report. The Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant and achievable.