

Environment & Sustainability Policy

The University of Southampton is a world-leading, research-intensive university, with a strong educational offering, renowned for our innovation and enterprise. Sustainability has been recognised as a core principle, ensuring our actions lead to financial, social and environmental sustainability. The University community is committed to managing our environmental impacts and continual improvement through the implementation of our Environmental Management System (EMS) that is integrated within business operations and is accredited to the ISO 14001:2015 standard.

Our [sustainability strategy](#) will be embedded into all university operations by 2030. We have identified six goals which will enable us to achieve this:

- Goal 1** - Achieve net zero emissions for Scope 1 and Scope 2 by 2030
- Goal 2** - Measure our total emissions footprint and set targets for Scope 3 emissions reductions
- Goal 3** - Adopt a value-based approach to reduce emissions from business travel
- Goal 4** - Ensure that sustainability is a part of every University education programme by 2025
- Goal 5** - Make sustainability a cornerstone of UoS' research and societal impact
- Goal 6** - Implement a sustainable and ethical investment policy

This Policy provides a framework for establishing objectives, targets and key performance indicators by outlining our commitments:

Biodiversity: Maintain, create and enhance habitats for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Carbon: Reduce carbon emissions in line with the Sustainability Strategy targets.

Climate change: Ensure the implementation of the Sustainability Strategy enables the reduction of climate change risk.

Education for sustainable development: Equip our students with knowledge, understanding and skills to contribute to environmental, social and economic wellbeing.

Energy: Reduce the demand of energy in our buildings through energy-saving initiatives, low-energy new builds and investment in our existing buildings.

Engagement: Engage students, staff and the community with the principles of sustainability.

Environmental Management System: Make continual improvements to our EMS and set objectives to enhance environmental performance.

Pollution prevention and legal compliance: Ensure that we protect the environment through pollution prevention, fulfilling our compliance obligations and other specific commitments relevant to the context of the organisation.

Procurement of goods and services: Manage our supply chain by considering the economic, ethical and environmental impacts and whole-life costs of purchasing decisions.

Sustainable Buildings: Design, build and refurbish our estate in an environmentally responsible and resource-efficient way.

Travel: Encourage active travel for staff and students and explore opportunities to reduce the need to travel. Improve transport options available to staff, students and visitors to reduce car use.

Waste: Manage our waste according to the waste hierarchy – reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, dispose.

Water: Continue to promote water-saving initiatives to reduce water use.

Progress against these objectives will be reported via our EMS and on the [University Sustainability website](#).

This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the EMS Management Review.



Professor Mark E. Smith CBE
President and Vice Chancellor
December 2021