



Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement

The University of Leicester is a significant institution with over 4,000 staff and 18,500 students and recognises that its activities have the potential for both positive and negative impacts upon the environment at local, national and global levels.

The University is committed to influencing positive change in our world through the creation of world-changing research and research-inspired education. Environmental Sustainability is one of the University’s four [strategic guiding principles](#) that are used to inform its decision-making. As Citizens of Change, our approach is holistic – from reducing our negative environmental impacts to increasing positive actions by engaging with local, national and international policymakers at all levels.

Responsibilities

Ultimate responsibility for ensuring that environmental management-related legal duties are discharged rests with the Council and the President and Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor has nominated the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Science and Engineering as the Executive Board’s representative to oversee the strategic approach to environmental sustainability at the University. They also chair the University’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy Board.

The University is a complex organisation involving Colleges, Schools, Divisions, Departments, employees, contractors, suppliers, students, visitors, and, in some cases, staff from NHS trusts or other third-party organisations. It is therefore important we work collaboratively to ensure that environmental sustainability is embedded in our culture and all our activities.

The University will encourage staff, students and contractors to work together in such a way they comply with all appropriate environmental legislation and contribute to reducing the negative environmental impacts associated with their activities.

Environmental Management System

The University seeks to achieve continual improvement in how it understands and responds to its environmental impacts, and to underpin this, is introducing an Environmental Management System (EMS). As such, the University is committed to:

- Protecting the environment and preventing pollution
- Fulfilling its compliance obligations
- Continually improving its Environmental Management System to enhance its environmental performance
- Setting environmental objectives and targets using an agreed framework
- Collecting data to measure its environmental performance and inform future actions, reporting performance annually to the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Board

Links to University Strategy

- **Education:** Embedding education for sustainable development into the formal curriculum, promoting both informal and formal opportunities.

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- **Research:** University operational and academic staff work closely to ensure a robust, evidence-based approach to environmental sustainability.
- **Our Citizens:** Working with local, regional and national partners to realise sustainability projects, particularly through the Civic University Agreement.

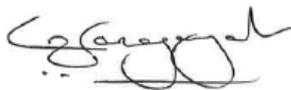
Environmental Sustainability Masterplan

In accordance with the Environmental Sustainability Masterplan, the University is committed to taking action in the following ways:

- **Carbon management:** Reducing carbon emissions in line with its ambition to become net zero by 2040.
- **Energy:** Improving the energy efficiency of its estate and reducing energy consumption in day-to-day operations. The University aims to use 100% renewable electricity by 2040, from a combination of on and offsite generation.
- **Responsible consumption:** Reducing its resource and water consumption, and reusing resources whenever possible, incorporating circular economy principles. The environmental impact of the University's supply chain will be addressed by encouraging responsible purchasing, considering all stages of the product lifecycle.
- **Travel:** Providing infrastructure and procedures that enable staff and students to follow the University's sustainable travel hierarchy of Avoid unnecessary travel, Reduce travel, Choose efficient low-carbon travel, Maximise the benefits of the travel.
- **Biodiversity:** Achieving biodiversity net gain across its estate by enhancing natural habitats and encouraging local wildlife in line with local and regional action plans, particularly the Leicestershire Nature Recovery Plan.
- **Health and wellbeing:** Supporting staff and students in acknowledging and addressing impacts of climate change on their physical and mental health.
- **Adaptation and resilience:** Ensuring that environmental requirements are considered during the acquisition, design, development and refurbishment of its estate, in accordance with its Design Guides
- **Staff and student engagement:** Building awareness of environmental issues and responsibilities amongst staff and students, providing training and other engagement opportunities.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed by the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Board and updated in the event of significant change to the estate, activities, environmental legislation or, in the event of no significant change, annually.



Nishan Canagarajah

President and Vice-Chancellor

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