

Employer Sustainability Guidance for Career and Employability Events & Activities here at the University of Leicester:

We are very proud of our track record here at the University of Leicester (UoL) in terms of our commitment to sustainability. In terms of context, in the [2024 QS World University Rankings for Sustainability](#) we recently came 185th in the world and 37th in the UK!

UoL also ranked 49th out of 1591 universities in the world, among the top 3.08% of institutions at the [2023 The Impact Rankings](#) for our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In addition, UoL was one of the first universities in the UK to sign the [SDG Accord](#), which is a commitment made by academic institutions to one another to do more to deliver the goals across all operations and beyond.

For the University of Leicester sustainability is a key strategic goal and one of the University's four [strategic guiding principles](#) and our [Environmental Sustainability Masterplan](#) is set against 5 theme areas of *Responsible Consumption, Energy, Travel, Biodiversity and Health & Wellbeing*.

Not only is sustainability a significant University goal but our students are also very climate conscious and research has shown that almost all believe employers should be taking action on environmental sustainability and 71% of our students think that it is important to work for an organisation that makes a difference to social and environmental issues ([Sustainability Skills Survey](#) results 2024).

Therefore, we've put together some guidance and top tips to help you with regards to sustainability, when visiting us for any careers & employability activities or events.

Sustainability commitment	As mentioned above sustainability is a key strategic goal and commitment for us all. In most cases, this will resonate and align with your own companies' goals and commitments too. As Citizens of Change , our approach is holistic – from reducing our negative environmental impacts to increasing our positive handprint by engaging with local, national and international policymakers at all levels. In addition, 80% of UK students are looking for roles that also support the sustainability agenda and so recruitment fairs and events are a great way to showcase this, i.e through work you may have achieved within local communities or through accreditations. It would also be of interest in terms of promoting any of your relevant policies and or commitments e.g net zero goals!
Travel	To find us please see our campus map The University has a travel plan which takes best practice principles and locally specific initiatives, and creates a set of measures that staff, students and visitors can use to make more sustainable choices in their travel.

	<p>When attending an employer event, we would appreciate it if you can consider the most sustainable and feasible travel option for your business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We understand there are times when businesses need to use cars to accommodate the transportation of event equipment, please consider the travel hierarchy for making sustainable choices. • If you can, use public transport or active travel to lower the emissions of your journey. • Are colleagues able to car share on these occasions to reduce emissions and costs for your company? <p>These travel actions help contribute to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in areas such as: Good Health & Wellbeing, Climate Action and Sustainable Cities & Communities.</p>
Merchandising	<p>We at the University of Leicester are committed to Responsible Consumption and reusing resources wherever possible. Our student feedback indicates that they prioritise useful and sustainable merchandise products so you are most welcome to bring merchandise, but we encourage it to be sustainable and reusable.</p>
Resources and Brochures	<p>We at the University of Leicester are trying to reduce our use of resources, including paper and appreciate any support to achieve our sustainability goals. Our suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitising resources where feasible e.g. setting up a QR code that can be shared with the students visiting you at an event or stand at a recruitment fair perhaps directing them to your specific roles and careers page to promote your company. • We would suggest you bring your own re-usable table cloth to dress your stand at the event. • For recruitment fairs, you will have space on your allocated stand to bring pop-up/roller banners (up to 2 small banners or 1 larger banner) • If you are using promotional banners, consider <i>excluding</i> event-specific information (e.g. event names and dates), so they can be used repeatedly to exhaust the full life cycle of the product. • We would also request when using paper is absolutely necessary, for this to be recyclable (usually matt paper not glossy).
Refreshments and Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage you to bring reusable cups and water bottles to our events. There will be access to water points and fountains, please take advantage of your closest drinking fountain for refilling • We do have a variety of food outlets on campus, but you are also most welcome to bring your own food too or your own container, to minimise packaging waste.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leicester Services Partnership have committed to a number of excellent sustainability practices including turning their waste cooking oil into bio-diesel to run delivery vehicles and dedicating an outlet to 100% plant-based foods.
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 12% of our waste was sent to landfill in 2022/23 and priority is given to recycling and energy recovery. You can watch a video about what happens to our waste here. We offer many disposal points across campus for non-recyclables, recyclables, vapes, food and liquid waste. We would appreciate your support to avoid contamination. Internal signage is re-used as much as possible and also “props” such as the flags, showing what opportunities your company might offer.
Green Careers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research has shown increasing numbers of UK students are interested in “green careers and roles” – do you have any opportunities that you can promote at our fairs? Considerable numbers of students nationally report climate or eco anxiety so be prepared for their questions and interests in your company’s “green” agenda