

University of Bolton
**Environmental
Sustainability Strategy
Framework**





Foreword

The University of Bolton has a distinctive approach to Higher Education. Our Teaching Intensive, Research Informed model is underpinned by the philosophy of ‘putting our students at the heart of everything we do’, from curriculum to community, from operations to estates. ‘Putting our students at the heart of everything we do’ also provides the University of Bolton with a lens through which to view our planning for sustainability.

We challenge ourselves to engage in real, transformative action in order to erode the inequality that undermines sustainability. Our widening participation agenda is lived by the University of Bolton community.

The values of the University of Bolton underpin our sincere commitment to improving the life chances of our students and to an ethical understanding of the responsibility we have as educators to send students into the world as active citizens, able to adapt, create and innovate to respond to an uncertain and ambiguous future, to respond to the speed of change, and to protect the natural world.

Our vision is to contribute to a world where we maximise human potential by reducing inequality and where we protect the environment and physical resources through responsible consumption and thoughtful development.

“We challenge ourselves to engage in real, **transformative action** in order to erode the inequality that undermines sustainability.”

Bolton Students' Union (SU)

Bolton SU is proud to support the University's Environmental Sustainability Framework. It is our duty to protect the environment for future generations.

The needs of current students must be met without compromising the needs of future students.

This framework ensures students will graduate with an understanding of environmental sustainability in both their academic and personal lives and be aware of their responsibility as citizens to protect and make change, whether that be on a global or an individual level. The University has put Environmental Sustainability at the heart of everything it does, we wholeheartedly support this mission.



The mission

- To underpin all University operations, developments, learning and teaching with an authentic and applied approach to protecting the planet and reducing the University's impact on the environment
- To put students at the heart of the University approach to environmental sustainability – providing and co-creating learning, facilities and opportunities which benefit our students and prioritise our responsibility to mitigate and prevent current and future environmental harm
- To create a whole University culture of environmental sustainability within which to develop the four themes of University Learning, University Operations, University Life and University Impact - to enhance the student experience and contribute to sustainable communities

Whole university approach

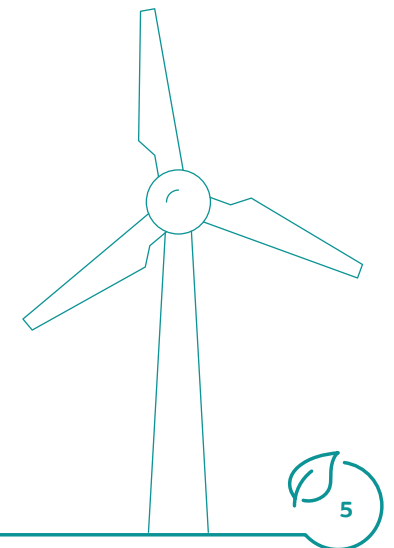
- To work towards a net-zero future through decarbonisation initiatives
- To ensure that environmental sustainability is part of the overarching strategic aims of the University
- To encourage a cultural change, where Environmental Sustainability is a fundamental consideration in all University actions
- To ensure that students are core to this strategic direction – putting students at the heart of what we do
- To create assurance that the desired outcomes are delivered



Context

The University of Bolton will support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through our teaching, applied research and engagement with University Group members and our wider campus community.

We will strive towards reducing our carbon emissions to ensure we are able to honour our role as custodians of the University and we recognise that through consistent collective responsibility we will be able to achieve the reduction targets outlined in our Environmental Strategy Framework, towards net zero.



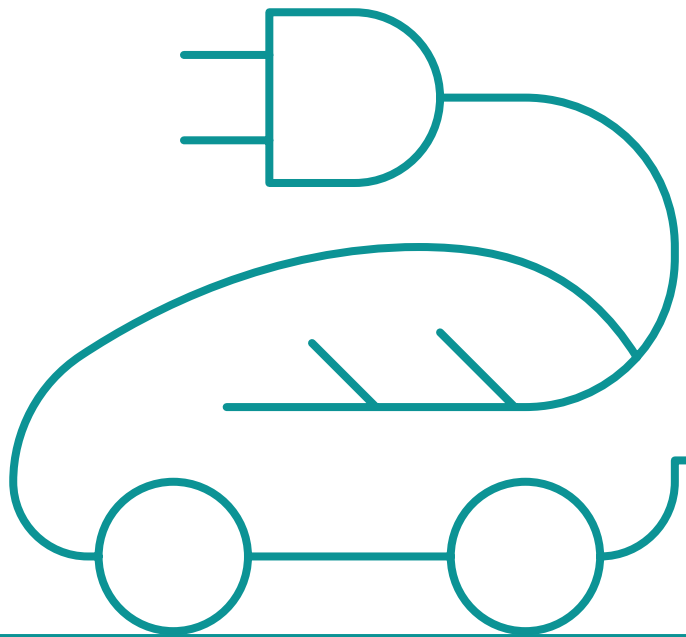
As members of the Universities UK (UUK) network and The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC); an ally of Bolton Council; a partner in The Greater Manchester Universities Civic Agreement and leaders of The University of Bolton Group that includes Alliance Learning, Bolton College, The Anderton Centre and The University Collegiate School.

It is our mission to make a conscious effort to utilise partnerships and allegiances to reduce our carbon emissions for the next generation of change makers.

As a leading employer in Bolton and indeed the North West, we will be using our influence to educate and support the reduction of carbon emissions across our education business group

With the help and support of staff and students we will work on environmental sustainability strategies, education experiences and collaborative ways to make a difference to the environment that we are custodians of.

The Greater Manchester Universities' Civic Agreement ensures we work with local authorities and other universities across Greater Manchester, anchoring our teaching and applied research in environmental sustainability, embedding the acquisition of the knowledge and skills required for a low carbon economy.



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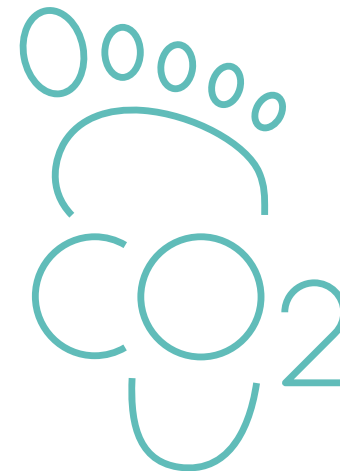


The town of Bolton has formed its Climate Strategy which has been brought together by the Bolton Vision Partnership. The partnership has aligned organisations across Bolton including Bolton at Home, The University of Bolton, Bolton Community and Volunteering sector, Bolton College, NHS Bolton Foundation Trust and Bolton Council. The Climate Strategy is a direct and collaborative response to the Climate Emergency Motion which was brought before Bolton Council in August 2019.

Its purpose is to directly reduce the impact of collective activities on the environment and reduce carbon emissions that contribute directly to increasing climate change. In addition, acting on climate change, this will assist in improving societal inequalities. Time is running out and it is important that there is fast action, collectively, to implement the changes necessary across society, where everyone plays their part.



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Man-made climate change and the effects on our planet are the **greatest challenge** that the human species faces currently.



Sustainability context

Dependence on fossil fuels for energy has contributed to an excessive build-up of carbon in the atmosphere. This has caused global temperatures to rise, having detrimental effects on habitats, crops, particularly for those in the Global South.

The Paris Agreement advises that global temperatures are kept below a 1.5 degree increase from pre-industrial levels. Therefore, action is needed to reach net zero by cutting carbon emissions as much as possible and accounting for the remainder through decarbonising initiatives.

The global goals

The University of Bolton will support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through our teaching, applied research and engagement with University Group members and our wider campus community.

Strategic priorities

The principles of environmental sustainability will infuse into every aspect of University of Bolton operations and culture. We frame our sustainability journey through four strategic priorities.



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University Learning

Strategic Priority

To develop a curriculum that equips students in carbon literacy and climate justice, providing the skills and knowledge to secure employment in a low carbon economy and for staff and students to be sustainable citizens both now and in the future.



Intentions

- To create sustainable citizens both now and in the future by complementing the academic strategy; by providing students with opportunities that will develop their carbon literacy understanding, climate justice knowledge and ensure that graduates leave with a 'green' core skill as part of their employability attributes.
- Through their learned and lived experiences, staff and students to understand what it is to be a leader and shaper of the future. Preparing students for a world of work impacted by climate change; to be cognisant in environmental sustainability and when completing research and knowledge exchange view it through the lens of environmental sustainability.
- To amplify the cultural change and embed environmental sustainability as a strategic decision-making skill. In addition, create opportunities for staff and students to learn from each other and to be proactively involved in updating their knowledge.



University Operations

Strategic Priority

To develop an operational environment which prioritises sustainable consumption, decarbonisation and biodiversity.

Intentions

- To secure the well-being of future generations by halting the decline of biodiversity and increasing access to nature in and around education. To reduce the University's carbon footprint and work towards net-zero by reducing consumption and investing in carbon reducing technology as well as continuing to support the waste to energy programmes in and around Bolton.
- To utilise the national procurement policy statement to guide the streamlining of purchasing across the University campus in order to be climate conscious and ethically effective. To ensure the operations and supply chain are greener.
- To promote and support sustainable modes of transportation to, from and on behalf of the University of Bolton, to increase active and safe modes of travel as well as utilising the use of technology and digital platforms to conduct University business.
- To implement effective data gathering mechanisms to achieve a collective view on how the University is progressing towards net zero and other environmental targets.



University Life

Strategic Priority

To embed environmental sustainability into the culture of The University of Bolton.



Intentions

- To harness the power of University communities to become resilient to climate change and take strong climate action to better the environment. To influence a culture of sustainability and climate change through outreach work, accreditation of skills and awards for the University.
- Through a better understanding of the facts, a greater appreciation of nature and practical opportunities to participate in activities to increase climate resilience, influence the waste to energy agenda and enhance biodiversity, the University commits to empower all to be global citizens in its campaign work.
- To enhance and contextualise climate adaptation measures, including energy and waste use, in order for students to co-create, co-own and participate in the implementation of activities to support their 'green' skills and sustainable jobs for the future.











University Impact

Strategic Priority

To recognise the University as an influencer within our networks and to maximise our impact on a local, national and international scale.

Intentions

- Everyone is empowered to be a leader of environmental sustainability and is encouraged to be innovative in their 'green' solutions. To encourage partnerships and collaboration across the sector to maximise ideas, resources and expertise to achieve more effective outcomes.
 - To build the reputation of The University of Bolton as a beacon in environmental sustainability and to be an advocate of sharing, collaborating and learning from representatives and experts across all sectors of environmental sustainability; to develop initiatives that drive opportunities to increase biodiversity, climate resilience and practical positive action.
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Strategic Priority	Intentions			Responsibility	Associated SDGs
University Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create sustainable citizens both now and in the future by complementing the academic strategy and Campus Plus; by providing students with opportunities that will develop their carbon literacy understanding, climate justice knowledge and ensure that graduates leave with a 'green' core skill as part of their 	<p>employability attributes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through their learned and lived experiences, staff and students to understand what it is to be a leader and shaper of the future. Preparing students for a world of work impacted by climate change; to be cognisant in Environmental Sustainability and when completing research knowledge 	<p>exchange view it through the lens of Environmental Sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amplify the cultural change and embed Environmental Sustainability as a strategic decision-making skill. In addition, create opportunities for staff and students to learn from each other and to be proactively involved in updating their knowledge. 	<p>Pro Vice Chancellor Academic Strategy</p>	
University Operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To secure the well-being of future generations by halting the decline of biodiversity and increasing access to nature in and around education. To reduce the University's carbon footprint and work towards net-zero by reducing consumptions, reconstruction processes and investing in carbon reducing technology as well as continuing to support the waste to compost programmes in and around Bolton. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To utilise the national procurement policy statement to guide the streamlining of purchasing across the University campus in order to be climate conscious and ethically effective. To ensure the operations and supply chain are greener. To promote and support sustainable modes of transportation to, from and on behalf of the University of Bolton, to increase active and safe modes of travel as well as utilising 	<p>the use of technology and digital platforms to conduct University business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement effective data gathering mechanisms to achieve a collective view on how the University is progressing towards net zero and other environmental targets. 	<p>Director of Strategic Property Projects</p>	
University Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the power of University communities to become resilient to climate change and take strong climate action to better the environment. To influence a culture of sustainability and climate change through outreach work, accreditation of skills and awards for the University. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through a better understanding of the facts, a greater appreciation of nature and practical opportunities to participate in activities to increase climate resilience, influence the waste to energy agenda and enhance biodiversity, the University commits to empower all to be global citizens in its campaign work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance and contextualise climate adaptation measures, including energy and waste use, in order for students to co-create, co-own and participate in the implementation of activities to support their 'green' skills and sustainable jobs for the future. 	<p>Director of Student Services & Experience</p>	
University Impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone is empowered to be a leader of Environmental Sustainability and is encouraged to be innovative in their 'green' solutions. To encourage partnerships and collaboration across the sector to maximise ideas, resources and expertise to achieve more effective outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build the reputation of The University of Bolton as a beacon in Environmental Sustainability and to be an advocate of sharing, collaborating and learning from representatives and experts across all sectors of Environmental Sustainability; to develop initiatives that drive opportunities to increase biodiversity, climate resilience and practical positive action. 	<p>Assistant Vice Chancellor Transformation</p>		

Each Strategic Priority has a separate Implementation Plan to deliver against which will be monitored and overseen by the Environmental Sustainability Committee.



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