

Sustainability Steering Group Terms of Reference

Purpose of the group

The SSG exists to provide directional guidance on delivering the requirements of the UN Sustainable Development Goals Education Accord signed by Karen Cox in February 2018 and for leading development and implementation of a University-wide Sustainability and Net Zero Strategy.

The steering group will support the University's Environmental Management System (EMS) by providing relevant information on request, agreeing or specifying actions arising and preparing or contributing to reports to EG or relevant boards.

The Steering Group has authority to direct actions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and key commitments of the Sustainability and Net Zero Strategy across the whole institution through the sustainability sub-groups and working groups.

Functions of the group

- Develop and monitor progress towards key commitments set out in the University's Sustainability and Net Zero strategy.
- To develop the University's Sustainability policy
- To support the Environmental Management System Management Review, agreeing or specifying actions arising.
- To direct and support sub-groups and working groups to deliver against key commitments
- To monitor and ensure sufficient internal skills and resources to deliver our sustainability commitments
- To ensure that sustainability is included in the financial decision making of the University and that we monitor our investments in line with the ethical investment policy.
- To provide robust Leadership for sustainability across the organisation.
- To produce and present an annual sustainability report to council.

Meetings

Meetings will be held quarterly and be chaired by the Chief Operating Officer and University Secretary. Meetings will be minuted and an action list produced for all the members following each meeting. Quorum will be 6 members

Governance

Our Sustainability and Net Zero strategy and the certification of our Environmental Management System to the ISO14001 standard will be overseen by the Sustainability Steering Group.

Delivery of our key strategic commitments and operation of the Environmental Management System will be undertaken across 2 core sub-groups and 2 working groups.

Sub-Groups

- Sustainable Campus Operations (SCO)
- Sustainable Curriculum and Research (SCR)

Working groups

- Net Zero
- Biodiversity

Delivery of targets and objectives under the Sustainable Partnership, Engagement and Student Experience stream will be met across a number of existing teams and groups overseen by the Sustainability Manager.

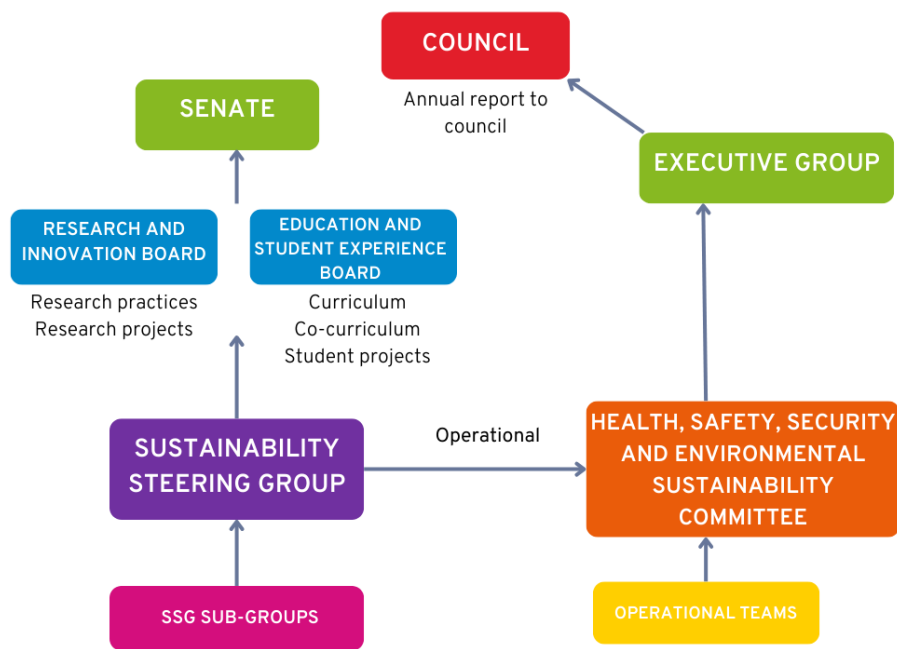
At least 2 members of each sub-group and working group will attend SSG meetings. Sub-groups and Working groups will report to the SSG quarterly and through updates to the sustainability dashboard as appropriate.

Membership:

Chair	John Duffy (Chief Operating Officer and University Secretary)
Convenor	Catherine Morris (Sustainability Manager)
SCO Sub-Group Chairs	Helen Holland (Assistant Director Estate Planning), Gary Law (Assistant Director Estates and Corporate Services)
SCR Sub-Group Chairs	William Collier (Director of Education), Sideeq Mohammed (Director of Education, KBS)
SPESE Sub-Group Chairs	Catherine Morris (Sustainability Manager)
Net Zero Working Group Chairs	John Kingsland (Energy Systems Engineer), Max Hubbard (Procurement)
Biodiversity Working Group Chairs	Emily Mason (Sustainability Coordinator), Jake Bicknall (Senior Lecturer, DICE)
Kent Student Union	Teslimat Bello (VP Welfare)
HSES	Graham Salter (Head of HSES)

Reporting structure

The Sustainability Steering Group will formally report to the Health, Safety, Security and Environment Committee through to EG or to the relevant board(s). The group also has a reporting line to Council and will provide an annual report on Sustainability.



In addition to this structure, each of the sub-groups reports both formally and informally to a number of committees and boards as follows.

Sustainable Campus Operations (SCO)

- Campus Facilities and Experience Board (internal CS&E)

Sustainability Partnerships, Engagement and Student Experience (SPESE)

- Education & Student Experience Board
- Campus Facilities and Experience Board (internal CS&E)

Sustainable Curriculum and Research (SCR)

- Education & Student Experience Board
- Research and Innovation Board

Net Zero Working Group

- Campus Facilities and Experience Board (internal CS&E)

Biodiversity Working Group

- External Spaces Group
- Campus Facilities and Experience Board (internal CS&E)

Sub-Groups and Working Groups

All sub and working groups are required to determine their own Terms of Reference and action plans.

Sustainable Campus Operations (SCO)

The sustainable campus operations sub-group is an internal Commercial Services and Estates department group. Its core responsibility is delivering on our key commitment to develop and operate a sustainable campus. Some members of this sub-group may also be part of the Net Zero & Climate Risk, and Biodiversity working groups.

This sub group will deliver on the operational elements of the University's environmental management system related to the following environmental aspects:

- Energy
- Water
- Waste and Recycling
- Landscape and Biodiversity
- Buildings and Infrastructure
- Emissions and Discharges
- Transport
- Hazardous materials storage

The group must develop targets and objectives related to achieving our core strategic objective and to report regularly on progress towards these via the sustainability dashboard.

Sustainable Curriculum and Research (SCR)

The sustainable curriculum and research sub-group is a cross-institutional group comprising academic, research and professional services staff. Its core responsibility is delivering on our key commitment to sustainability in education related to the following activities:

- Curriculum
- Research
- Student projects and dissertations
- Employability
- Internationalisation activity

The group must develop targets and objectives related to achieving our core strategic objective and to report regularly on progress towards these via the sustainability dashboard.

Net Zero and Climate Change Working Group

The function of this working group is to coordinate and drive activity towards achieving the University's Net Zero target and in identifying and adapting to climate change risks. Specific activities include:

- Develop a carbon accounting methodology procedure for all scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions
- Implement the carbon accounting methodology to collect data across scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions
- Collate emissions data using the Standardised Carbon Reporting Framework
- Develop interim targets for all scope 3 emissions towards net zero by 2050.

- Develop delivery plans across all scopes in conjunction with relevant departments and groups
- Annually review the climate change risk register and adaptation plan, ensuring risks are embedded into relevant University departmental plans.

Biodiversity Working Group

The function of this working group is to coordinate and drive activity towards achieving Biodiversity net gain. Specific activities include:

- Develop the methodology procedure for calculating Biodiversity net gain
- Develop targets for biodiversity net gain
- Develop delivery plans of biodiversity projects across all habitat types
- Support the integration of teaching, learning and research into using the external spaces
- Provide a forum for feedback and development of biodiversity project
- Engage with external partners that we can work with and learn from e.g. Kent Wildlife Trust, Canterbury District Biodiversity Network

Sustainability Partnerships, Engagement and Student Experience (SPESE)

The sustainability partnerships, engagement and student experience sub-group is a cross-institutional group. Its core responsibility is delivering on our key commitment to sustainability in partnerships and engagement related to the following activities:

- External partnerships/Civic mission
- Staff and student engagement
- Communications, Marketing and Recruitment
- Right to Food/Sustainable food
- Events and conferencing
- Student experience
- Kent Community Oasis garden

The group must develop targets and objectives related to achieving our core strategic objective and to report regularly on progress towards these via the sustainability dashboard.