

Sustainability Strategy Targets

Our sustainability strategy contains SMART targets and action plans across all areas of environmental sustainability. Action plans include named persons responsible for delivering against targets and objectives as well as overall accountability.

A summary of these SMART targets is given below.

Construction & Refurbishment

We have developed our own in-house sustainability assessment framework to ensure that our new build, refurbishment and infrastructure projects consider all elements of sustainability during the planning, design and construction phases of work.

SMART Target - All construction, refurbishment and infrastructure projects over £50k construction value will complete the sustainability assessment framework and achieve a minimum of 60% of in-scope criteria (Annually from November 2024)

SMART Target - Review and update standard specifications for TRVs, Taps, boilers, toilets, taking into account sustainability best practice (December 2026)

SMART Target - Develop campus Climate Resilience Plan for canterbury campus (Dec 2026)

Responsible for delivering SMART Target – Director of Campus Services

Emissions & Discharge

Our Sustainability Policy states we will put in appropriate controls to protect the environment, prevent pollution and work to reduce emissions and discharges to air, land and water. To support this we have identified staff in roles that pose additional risk or control with regards to pollution prevention and deliver training in-house.

SMART target - Achieve Net Zero carbon emissions in our operations (Scopes 1 and 2) by 2040, following a pathway of a 5% year on year reduction compared to our 2018/19 baseline (Annually from 24/25)

SMART target - Ensure that 80% of relevant staff receive spill response training within 6-months of starting work (Annually from June 2024)

Responsible for delivering SMART Target – Director of Campus Services

Community involvement

Community and Civic Mission are at the heart of our sustainability strategy. As well as an education provider, the university seeks to serve its community through providing services, hosting events and through opening our campuses for the local community to enjoy. We also actively engage our staff and students in sustainability.

SMART target - Deliver an annual bioblitz event each year to engage the local community in biodiversity and nature (Annually from May)

SMART target - Provide administrative support to the Canterbury Climate Action Network, supporting businesses, community groups and individuals in the transition to net zero (ongoing)

SMART target - Achieve/maintain Green Flag status (July 27)

SMART target - Deliver the Sustainability Forum - a collaborative space bringing together staff sustainability champions, student societies, and operational staff to design and deliver impactful sustainability initiatives across our campuses. Hold at least 6 meetings per year (ongoing from April 26)

Responsible for delivering SMART Target – Director of Campus Services

Biodiversity

Our overarching aim is to become a nature-positive university and to actively work to regenerate the ecology of our campuses through delivery of biodiversity projects.

SMART target - Complete the biodiversity impact data collection baseline, utilising nature positive universities resource (December 2026)

SMART target - Map 100% of the Canterbury campus to the UK Hab standard by September 2027

SMART target - Deliver our woodland management plan, committing to annual coppicing of campus woodland. Achieve 80% of coppicing rotation (annually)

Responsible for delivering SMART Target – Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education and Student Experience)

Waste Management

Our waste management strategy sets out our action plan to reduce waste, promote reuse and deliver comms and awareness campaigns around waste and recycling

SMART target - Better visibility of waste data – create a power BI dashboard displaying waste data such as overall waste mass, reuse and recycling %, carbon emissions etc (Feb 27)

SMART target - Reduce the amount of waste we produce by 5% per staff and student FTE by 2030 against a 2022/23 baseline

SMART target - Increase the proportion of our waste that is recycled by 5% against a 2022/23 baseline

Responsible for delivering SMART Target – Director of Campus Services

Travel and Transport

Business and commuting travel forms a significant proportion of our scope 3 carbon emissions and as such are included within our net zero targets and overseen by the net zero working group.

SMART target - We will reduce scope 3 business travel emissions by 4% per year compared to a 2022/23 baseline (Annually from 24/25)

SMART target - We will reduce scope 3 commuting emission by 4% per year compared to a 2022/23 baseline (Annually from 24/25)

SMART target - Agree on trial methodology for collection of end-of-term travel data (November 2026)

SMART target - Publish a new business travel policy (December 2026)

SMART target - Install 6 EV charging bays at the canterbury campus (November 2026)

Responsible for delivering SMART Target – Director of Campus Services

Sustainable procurement

Our supply chain emissions make up over 60% of our scope 3 carbon emissions and nearly 50% of our overall carbon footprint and as such are included within our net zero targets and overseen by the net zero working group.

SMART target - Reduce scope 3 supply chain by 4% per year compared to a 2022/23 baseline (Annually from 24/25)

SMART target - Complete annual review of RAG ratings, sustainable procurement processes and standard sustainability questions (March 2027)

SMART target - Produce online (Moodle) training for staff in schools/PSDS with procurement responsibility to include sustainability (September 2026)

Responsible for delivering SMART Target – Director of Finance

Water

Our waste management strategy sets out our action plan to reduce water consumption through identifying and fixing leaks, monitoring consumption and installing water efficient fixtures and fittings.

SMART target - Reduce our water consumption by 2% year-on-year against a 2016/17 baseline (Annually from 24/25)

Responsible for delivering SMART Target – Director of Campus Services