



UNIVERSITY OF
LINCOLN

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

2018 to 2021

Sustainable Futures

1. Introduction

The University of Lincoln is committed to both protecting and enhancing the environment on a local and global scale. It is also recognised that environmental sustainability plays a key part in achieving our strategic aims and objectives. We are therefore actively working towards becoming a more sustainable institution.

This Environmental Sustainability strategy document sets out our vision for transforming the University of Lincoln into a more sustainable organisation by providing an overview of our priorities for the coming years, up to 2021.

The University has already made good progress towards improving its environmental performance, which has included a year on year reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a rolling energy efficiency funding programme, environmental volunteering opportunities offered to students.

For our next phase of the strategy, we have identified three key areas of focus. Each area includes a set of targets, which will drive improvement in our sustainability performance.

2. Sustainable Futures

Our strategy sets out our ambition to link our core activity of providing quality education to over 14,000 students with the enhancement of our sustainability performance. We aim to not only minimise any negative environmental impact, but to make a positive impact on the environment. Similarly, we wish to provide our students and staff with the opportunity to interact with the local environment, and contribute to the success of our sustainability strategy. In doing this, we can equip students with a sense of environmental awareness and give them the opportunity to develop skills in sustainability, by participating in projects and volunteering opportunities. Within our strategy 'Sustainable Futures', we have identified three key themes:

i. Sustainable Campus

Minimising the impact that our operations have on the environment and where possible, using our resources and facilities to leave a positive legacy. This theme encompasses activities including resource use, greenhouse gas emission reduction, energy efficiency and the enhancement of biodiversity.

ii. Sustainable Culture

Creating and embedding a culture of environmental sustainability across the University and providing opportunities for all students and staff to make put forward their ideas for making the University a more sustainable organisation. This will include the option for students and staff to volunteer and support environmentally-related projects and to include sustainability in their studies.

iii. Collaboration for Change

Being a local partner for sustainability initiatives. We know that we can't achieve our sustainability goals alone, so we'll be working with colleagues from across the University, Student Union and beyond to implement sustainability-related initiatives such as the enhancement of the natural environment, contributing to the achievement of Lincoln's Fairtrade City status, and where possible supporting local businesses.

Sustainable Futures

Sustainable Campus

- Making the most of our resources
- Reducing carbon emissions
- Ensuring our new construction projects are as sustainable as possible
- Increasing biodiversity and areas where wildlife can thrive

Sustainable Culture

- Sustainability is integrated into courses
- Sustainability research projects and volunteering opportunities are offered to students
- Staff and students choose sustainable modes of transport to travel to the University

Collaboration for change

- Being a key local partner for sustainable initiatives
- Working with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to support natural resources and wildlife
- Supporting the city to maintain Fairtrade status through our activities
- Encouraging our students to become responsible global citizens
- Sustainable procurement

Supported by accredited Energy and Environmental Management Systems

Our sustainability strategy is supported by a strong foundation of environmental management and energy management. In 2017 our energy management system was accredited to the ISO50001 standard, and we are working towards ISO14001 accreditation for 2019.

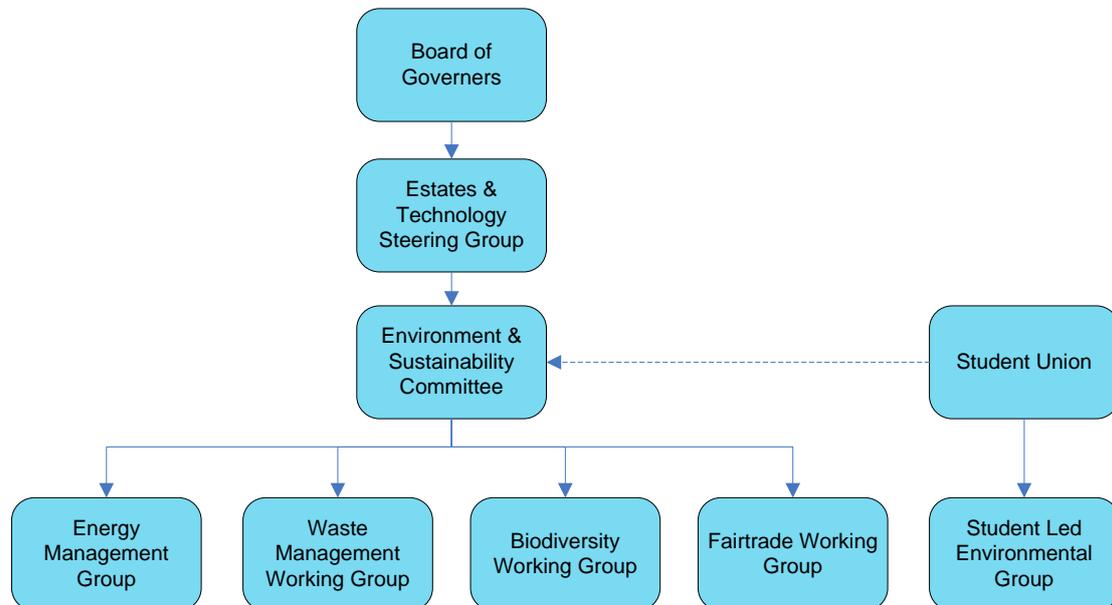
3. Our Commitments

Theme	Area of priority	Strategic aim (by 2020/21)
Sustainable Campus	Waste Management	Reduce the amount of waste we produce by considering environmental impact within purchasing decisions when relevant. The sale of single-use items such as plastics and coffee cups will be reduced in our catering outlets by offering alternatives
		Reuse assets to extend their life and reduce the need to purchase new resources. The reuse of products will be encouraged in refurbishment projects and offices. Students will have the opportunity to donate unwanted items to the British Heart Foundation through the <i>Pack for Good</i> partnership
		Recycle 50% of our waste, increasing from a baseline of 17.5% in 2016/17
	Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction	Reduce our GHG emissions per student head by 43% (against 2009/10 baseline)
	Sustainable Construction	Ensure our new buildings have a positive impact on the environment by using sustainable construction methods as detailed in our Sustainability Construction Policy
Sustainable Culture	Education for Sustainable Development	Provide opportunities for students to integrate sustainability into their learning via the volunteering page on our website
		Provide students and staff with opportunities to enhance biodiversity on campus through projects such as 'the edible campus' and 'living lab' research projects
	Sustainable Travel Choices	Encourage our staff and students to choose low-carbon modes of transport to the University, reducing our Scope 3 GHG emissions arising from single occupancy vehicle travel
Collaboration for Change	Local sustainability networks	Participate in and lead local networks that promote sustainability, working with local businesses and councils to implement new initiatives
	Environmental Partnerships	Work with the Wildlife Trust and other conservation organisations to enhance biodiversity on campus
	Sustainable Procurement	Consider the environmental impacts over the lifecycle of the purchases we are making, as detailed in our Procurement Strategy
	Student Union engagement	Work with our Students Union to deliver joint environmental projects and volunteering opportunities for students

4. Monitoring progress

Specific objectives will be formulated on an annual basis, to focus our activity and highlight our key performance indicators used to track progress. These can be found in our annual 'Environmental Sustainability Targets and Objectives Action Plan'.

5. Governance



We welcome ideas from students and members of staff for new environmental projects and suggestions.

We have student representatives on our environment and sustainability committee and we are pleased to have environmentally-related student societies at the University, who carry out their own projects and initiatives.

We can't deliver this strategy alone, so we're working with teams across the University, including those in academic and professional services, catering teams, facility managers, Student Union and our supply chain. Everyone is encouraged to play their part in making the University a more sustainable place in which to learn and work.

6. How are we doing?

For regular updates on our sustainability performance and case studies of our current projects, please see our [Sustainability web pages](#), or get in touch with us via environment@lincoln.ac.uk.