

The University of Worcester's Strategic Plan 2019 includes a commitment to harness our people, research excellence, expert knowledge, and infrastructure to help find innovative solutions to the big challenges faced by society and to support the specific objectives set out in this policy.

Through our teaching, research, and knowledge exchange activities, we will promote sustainable communities, services, businesses, and the use of physical resources. We will foster a culture that values sustainability in arts and culture and promotes social enterprise in the region. One of the University's core values is to practice environmental sustainability and social responsibility. We aim to develop the University's physical assets to provide outstanding facilities and opportunities for students, staff, and the wider community.

We are committed to continually improving the Environmental and Energy Management Systems to enhance our environmental and energy performance, protecting the environment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). In July 2019, the University Board of Governors declared a Climate Emergency, giving clear leadership for the University to identify the step-change measures required for net-zero carbon by 2030. This is reported annually to the Board of Governors. The institution will provide the human and financial resources required to implement these, covering all operations at the University.

Objectives and targets have been set to promote sustainable development, prevent pollution, and mitigate the University's environmental impacts. It is our policy to:

1. Ensure the availability of information and transparent reporting, and deploy the necessary resources to achieve our objectives and targets.
2. Manage our estate to mitigate against climate change (through reduction of carbon emissions and other GHG emissions) and to ensure future resilience through engagement in adaptive strategies with the objective of net-zero carbon by 2030
3. Prevent pollution by reducing emissions and environmentally harmful discharges.
4. Optimise resource efficiency and ethical procurement, including Fairtrade, and stimulate a shift to sustainable consumption models.
5. Implement the waste hierarchy- preventing waste from being created, reusing products or extending their lifespan, recycling and reprocessing. Reducing single-use plastics and other disposable items.
6. Reduce our use of natural resources such as energy and water.
7. Encourage sustainable and active transport and implement a sustainable travel plan.
8. Enhance biodiversity and incorporate biodiversity in environmental management, creating new opportunities for wildlife on campus and our local community.
9. Provide projects and programmes that enhance wellbeing, including healthy and sustainable food.
10. Provide appropriate sustainability and environmental training for all our staff and students.
11. Encourage active citizenship locally, nationally, and globally.
12. Ensuring curricula reflect and align with our values for inclusion, internationalisation, and ethical and socially responsible global citizenship.
13. Invest in pedagogic innovation, scholarship, and research on sustainability with global impact.
14. Build beneficial partnerships and collaborations through our sustainability activities and enhance our sustainability reputation internationally.
15. Promote communication with, and information to, internal and external interested citizens and organisations. Responding appropriately to reasonable requests for information about our sustainability performance.
16. Fulfil all the institution's legal and other compliance obligations.

This policy was reviewed by the Sustainable Development Committee on 30 June 2025