

This policy sets out the University of Worcester's commitment to environmental sustainability and social responsibility, aligned with the Strategic Plan 2026–2030. It establishes how we will deliver positive environmental, social, and economic impact through our teaching, research, operations, and civic leadership.

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 our Environmental and Energy Management Systems to enhance our environmental and energy performance, protect the environment, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In July 2019, the University Board of Governors declared a Climate Emergency, providing clear leadership for the University to identify the step-change measures required to achieve 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 University operations.

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. We support the procurement of energy-efficient products and services that impact energy performance.
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 16 June 2026