UN Sustainable Development Goals

University of Wolverhampton

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are set out below:

The University is already progressing a number of initiatives that support UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and proposes measures to support them all.

Links to University Strategy 2035

1. Student success

Capturing engagement & satisfaction via teaching excellence

    SDG4 Quality Education,

    SDG5 Gender Equality,

    SGD10 Reduced Inequalities

2. People & Culture

Attracting & retaining talents through inclusivity, empowerment and supportive culture,

    SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing

    SDG 14 Life Underwater

    SDG 15 Life on Land

    SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

    SDG 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institution

3. Operational excellence

Governs efficient operations and sustainable universities,

    SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation

    SDG 7 Clean and Affordable Energy

    SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

    SDG 13 Climate Action

4. Research and knowledge exchange

Delivering quality research and knowledge exchange

    SDG 4 Quality Education

    SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

5. Societal influence and impact

Portraying the role of the university in shaping the future, influencing policy and fostering growth

    SDG 1 No Poverty

    SDG 2 Zero Hunger

    SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals

    SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG – 1 NO POVERTY
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG – 2 ZERO HUNGER
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

What we are doing
- Chaplaincy support for University Community, through the provision of warm spaces and various clubs, Christmas Dinners, assistance for those with financial problems
- Send pre-loved furniture organisations in need.
- Ensure fair Trade and Ethical supply chain.
- Period Poverty mitigation with free products available.
- Combating Digital Poverty
- University provides Dennis Turner Fund Bursary for students in difficulty
- Support for care leavers and underrepresented groups

What we could do
- Work with charities to align goals
- Work with procurement to develop polices etc that ensure all our partners re: working towards this objective and providing measurable evidence of the role they play.
- Food bank facility in Chaplaincy

What we are doing
- Providing fresh, affordable and sustainable, nutritious food choices on campus through the Catering Service.
- Diverting food wastage by using the Too Good to Go App, through Catering Department
- Free Global Lunch for staff and students at Chaplaincy each Wednesday
- Free meals for students in need, delivered by the University catering teams

What we could do
- Business School Breakfast Club (to be launched in FSE Soon)
- Increase grow your own initiatives such as growing fruit and vegetables to encourage healthy eating.
- Ensure supply chain are using sustainable agriculture and local supply chain
- Surplus food project working with local supermarkets to share surplus with students and community.
- Explore composting for food waste and coffee grounds, using compost on site.

SDG – 3 GOOD HEALTH & WELLBEING
Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

SDG – 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

What we are doing
- Student Support and Wellbeing Service.
- Staff Wellbeing Hub including confidential counselling and advice.
- Sports Facilities supporting health and wellbeing with a range of activities offered.
- Reduced rate at WLV gyms at Walsall and City Campus and reduces rates to join Telford private gym
- Care First Employee assistance programme & Togetherall Anonymous Online Community For Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Workplace Policies on flexible and hybrid working.
- Wellbeing Champions
- Sikhs and Football in Wolverhampton
- 'Cubbie' located in library as a safe space

What we could do
- Promote healthy eating
- Promote health and wellbeing days and events

What we are doing
- Provide affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education with apprenticeship prospects
- Inclusion of Sustainability in the School of Business, School of Education and the School of Architecture and Built Environment curriculum in some courses.
- Inclusion of Sustainability in the Hospitality & Leisure courses
- School of Business partnership course with ICAEW
- Sustainable Pavement Research

What we could do
- Incorporate sustainability into curriculum across all disciplines with commitment from schools to embed content that is meaningful and relevant to the course and to students.
- Provide students a Canva introduction to Sustainability at the Campus
- Provide professional development in sustainability for staff through E-learning.
- Link with professional bodies to ensure content is up to date and standardised with other organisations.
- Creation of a Sustainability Society with support from Students Union.
- Revisit values and mission of the University for education ensuring equality and inclusivity for all.
- Contribution to University courses
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in Sustainability challenges through their course.

SDG – 5 GENDER EQUALITY
*Achieve gender equality and empower
all women and girls*

SDG – 6 CLEAN WATER & SANITATION
*Ensure availability and sustainable management
of water and sanitation for all*

What we are doing
- Provide training for all staff on diversity, inclusion, bias, safeguarding and bribery
- Transparent grade pay scales
- Ensure diversity and inclusion policies and practices are implemented
- Women at Wolves Scheme
- Transparent pay scales
- Athena Swan accreditation
- Menopause Working group
- Women's Watercooler moment sessions
- Annual Womens Conference
- LGBTQ+ Network
- Female Leaders Aurora Programme
- Research on Intersectionality and raised awareness amongst staff & students
- Women's' professional group for training and engagement.
- Menopause Cafes
- Workplace Guidance on flexible and hybrid working.
- Nursing rooms

What we could do
- Provide training on mitigating gender bias in curriculum development for all teaching staff
- Improve the representation of women in university leadership positions and senior academic roles tackling the under representation in Research, Professorship & Reader roles
- Ensure 45% participation of women and minority students in sustainability student groups, projects and internship opportunities.
- Address the Gender Pay Gap
- Additional feeding rooms across the University.

What we are doing
- Water fountains available on site
- Measure water consumption across Campuses

What we could do
- Reduce water consumption (monitoring consumption, leak detection, upgrading facilities, specifying WRAS products)
- Apply BREEAM standards in the university planting and design to minimise water use and demand
- Investigating water harvesting, storage and reuse technologies
- Work with organisations such as water aid to support clean water in other nations.
- Fund toilet twinning; contributing to creating toilets where they aren't any.
- Research on Clean Water & Sanitation

SDG – 7 AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG – 8 DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

What we are doing
- Purchasing clean electricity on all assets
- Solar PV on some University Buildings
- Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units in operation
- Embed energy efficiency into Estates maintenance and projects

What we could do
- Investigating renewable technologies such as solar PV and heat pumps
- Consider purchasing 'green gas'
- Investigate energy efficiency projects to reduce energy demand

What we are doing
- Provide supported scholarships & apprenticeships
- Run a Business Board- local entrepreneurs involved to embed feedback in creating contemporary content to increase employability
- Policies on Fair Contractor Pay, Health and Safety, Human Rights, Modern Slavery, Fair Pay
- Working with Procurement to include Sustainability in upcoming contract tenders.
- Apprenticeship Levy
- Conduct Staff Surveys
- Transparent pay scales
- Accredited Real Living Wage (RLW) employer
- Staff survey gathers information about staff experience of workplace. Follow up surveys to take place.
- Workplace Guidance on flexible and hybrid working.

What we could do
- Working with Chambers of Commerce

SDG – 9 INDUSTRY INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

What we are doing
- National Brownfield research and innovation
- Research and Knowledge Exchange events and sub-strategies fostering innovation and research.
- Living Labs (already happening with Oxford Council)
- Work with external organisations and share facilities to rationale building use. (already happening in NBI)
- Research within the built environment on more sustainable buildings and infrastructure
- Future Mobility
- Smart Infrastructure
- Digital Construction

What we could do
- Establish a sharing platform for innovative projects with staff and students
- Aim to create Cyber Buildings (Digital Twins)
- Work with external organisations and share facilities to rationale building use. (already happening in NBI)
- Collaborate with Wolverhampton Zero Hub being set up
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainability research and education such as the Green Innovation Corridor, Future Mobility, Smart Infrastructure, Digital Construction, Living Labs

SDG – 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Reduce inequalities irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

What we are doing
- Inclusive space for staff and students.
- Workplace Guidance on flexible and hybrid working.
- LGBTQ+ Network
- Disability Network
- Provision of Faith rooms
- Race Equality Charter.
- Annual inclusivity conference
- Inclusivity Champions & Committees, working groups
- Annual targets for EDI in yearly plans
- CIDT international commitment (set up start-up businesses in Africa)
- Annual EDI & Respect competition for students
- Reverse Mentoring Scheme
- Faith Settings
- EDI modules (on Level 4)
- Global Majority Groups
- Provide training for all staff on diversity, inclusion, bias, safeguarding and bribery
- Sikh and Punjabi Study Centre/ Hindu Healthy Faith Setting
- Sikh Healthy Faith Setting/ Sikhi Healthy Settings Toolkit
- Deffest- Deaf-led Film & Arts Festival
- Provide equal opportunities for work and education for minority groups
- Increase the breadth of International Students and Partnerships.
- Global gathering : A Students/Faculty get together as a safe space to form stronger friendships and feel valued and respected
- Ensure diversity and inclusion policies and practices are implemented

What we could do
- Provide training on mitigating gender bias in curriculum development for all teaching staff
- Reinstating the African Studies Centre and other study centres.
- Build EDI into all courses
- Work with charities to align goals

SDG – 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

What we are doing
- Some EV Fleet vehicles in use currently
- EV chargers at University car parks.
- Bike Racks and showers at Campuses
- Collating business travel through mileage claims and booking Clarity
- Cycle to Work scheme available

What we could do
- Transition and Promote sustainable transportation and mobility on campus for University fleet vehicles such as bike racks, showers, increased faster EV chargers, rationalised parking, car sharing
- Work with local partners to update travel plans.
- Considering heat network options feasibility
- Rationalising parking associated to distance between home address and work; promoting alternative sustainable transport options.
- Smart Health / Smart Transport/ Smart construction
- Smart Education (during covid)
- Smart Manufacturing
- Increase the use of Bots for food delivery
- Staff EV Car Lease scheme

SDG – 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption, production and efficient management of natural resources.

What we are doing
- Central Waste Contract diverts over 90% general waste away from landfill to for use in recycling, energy recovery, composting and anaerobic digestion.
- WEE waste recycled and exchanged for new white goods.
- Confidential paper waste recycled
- Digital print source and dispose of paper, ink and other materials responsibly
- Sustainable purchasing standards and tender questions during procurement process.
- Recycling used cooking oils and food waste.
- Pre-loved items available from Chaplaincy
- Working with Lenovo to workshop on sustainability going forwards, including adopting biodegradable bamboo packaging

What we could do
- Standardised Sustainable Procurement Strategy and purchasing standards.
- Divert more waste from landfill through reduction and recycling
- Explore composting for food waste and coffee grounds, using compost on site.
- Enhance Waste stream awareness by unifying stickers across campuses and Accommodation.
- Promote circular economy and zero waste programs by exploring reverse vending machines and new technologies.
- Catering to offer sustainable packaging and provide information about the carbon footprint of meals.
- Promote intercampus sharing systems to re-use procured Items.
- Work with Laboratories to reduce waste.
- Explore upcycling for broken furniture.
- Work towards becoming a paperless organisation.
- Work with Accommodation to reduce waste from mattresses and bed packs.
- Reduce waste from refurbishment and construction projects.
- Cleaning without chemicals trial.

SDG – 13 CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG – 14 LIFE UNDERWATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources and coastal ecosystems

What we are doing

- Conduct Decarbonisation audits
- Implementing energy efficiency measures to reduce consumption such as LED lighting and more efficient boilers.
- Conducting estate wide surveys to assess Decarbonisation potential.
- Working with Asset Management and Delivery to review heating and cooling use in buildings to reduce consumption.
- Reviewing Temperature Policy.
- University signed up to Race to Zero committing to zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- Funding (PSDS) secured for heat pumps and Solar PV to decarbonise Walsall Campus.
- Procurement includes Environmental, Social & Economic considerations in all contract tenders.

What we could do

- Develop carbon reduction roadmap for implementation with appropriate funding streams.
- Improved energy and water use monitoring.
- Create Climate Change Impacts Risk Register to monitor, take action, and report on.
- Devise Sustainability impact assessment for all University Policies and budget making decisions.
- Produce guidance for construction projects
- Work with Laboratories to measure and reduce energy consumption.
- Analyse and report on scope 3 emissions in more detail.
- Linking with the Net Zero Government Initiative – Roadmap for zero emissions from Public Sector Buildings.
- Working with Asset Management and Delivery to review heating and cooling use in buildings to reduce consumption.
- Reviewing Temperature Policy.
- Analyse and report on scope 3 emissions in more detail.
- Improved energy and water use monitoring.

What we are doing

- As a University we follow the Marine Stewardship Council guidelines
- The university only procures MSC certified fish for all catering outlets.
- Research into biodegradable polymers and plastic waste reduction through the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT).
- Aquaponics research

What we could do

- Work with Stakeholders to identify additional objectives.
- Raise awareness of polluted rivers.
- Supporting aquatic ecosystems through education and engagement.
- Investigate research contributing to conservation and sustainable utilisation of the aquatic ecosystems.
- Work towards reducing plastic waste on campus.

SDG – 15 LIFE ON LAND
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

What we are doing
- Enhance green space on campus such as Woodland Trust free trees and Planters.
- Construction projects biodiversity net gain.
- Planters outside chaplaincy growing fruit, vegetables and flowers.
- Waste and recycling removed from campus by Operations teams and contractor.

What we could do
- Measure and enhance biodiversity on campus through wildflower meadows, bird boxes, bug hotels, natural vegetation.
- Update university waste policies.

SDG – 16 PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTION
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies and provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

What we are doing
- Have elected representation on the university's highest governing body
- Student Union as a democratic union run by students for students.
- Provide training for all staff on diversity, inclusion, bias, safeguarding and bribery

What we could do
- Produce information for screens around campuses.
- Inclusion of Sustainability in Students Welcome Packs.
- Waste Streams Awareness Campaigns.
- Event weeks such as 'switch it off'
- Engagement with Students Union and relevant Student Societies
- Host conferences with Sustainability themes.

SDG – 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

What we are doing

- Updates to staff and students through newsletters.
- Development of investment and funding opportunities to support Building Decarbonisation measures.
- Sustainability working groups across Schools.
- Host the Digital Services Sustainability Working Group
- Wolverhampton Zero

What we could do

- Embed Sustainability into University Policies and Procedures and include on report coversheets.
- Create webpage to set out proposed Sustainability journey, current position and updates on measures in addition to information for students and staff to support and partake in initiatives.
- Establish Sustainability Champions and working groups representing all Faculties and Departments.
- Create an annual Sustainability Report
- Create clear structures and rewards for contribution such as green rewards.
- Partner with local government, business and communities on sustainability initiatives.
- Devise Sustainability impact assessment for all University Policies and budget making decisions and include on report coversheets
- Seeking additional funding opportunities for Sustainability initiatives.
- Host the Sustainability Working Groups
- Collaboratively apply for innovation funding opportunities.
- Publication of annual SDG report.