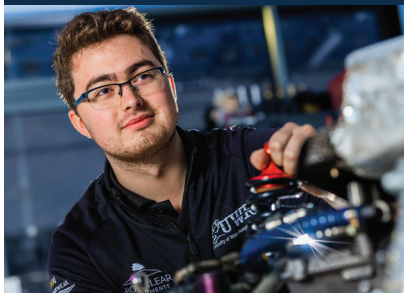


Environmental, Social, and Governance Strategy 2035



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THE UNIVERSITY IS
COMMITTED TO REDUCING
ITS IMPACT ON THE
ENVIRONMENT BY REDUCING
CARBON EMISSIONS AND
LEADING CUTTING-EDGE
RESEARCH TO CONTRIBUTE
TO GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY
GOALS

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Approval

Version	1.0	Author / Owner	Charlotte Connor and Zainab Own
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Review Date			

Foreword



The launch of our first Environmental, Social, and Governance Sustainability Strategy for the University of Wolverhampton comes at an exciting time for the university following the establishment of Strategy 2035, the Estates Masterplan and the collaborative Green Innovation Corridor development.

The origins of the University of Wolverhampton go back nearly 200 years when it was established as a Tradesmen and Mechanics' Institute in 1827. These origins continue to influence the mission of the university, its character, courses, research, knowledge exchange and role as an anchor institution. This strategy builds on these foundations to

lay a collaborative approach to sustainable environmental social and governance priorities to ensure the university is fit for the future.

Over the past twelve months, we have explored how we ensure that the university builds on its foundations to embed fair and just sustainability ambitions to safeguard the future for our students and communities. The university has an overriding objective to make a positive difference for our students and staff, for our city and region, and for the nation and globally. The university is committed to reducing its impact on the environment by reducing carbon emissions and leading cutting-edge research to contribute to global sustainability goals. This strategy lays the foundations for inspiring and equipping the future leaders of tomorrow with knowledge and experience of real-world sustainability actions and solutions.

This strategy encompasses the insights, ambitions and aspirations of our students, staff and partners. It reaffirms our identity as a civic institution powered by our sense of place and connections to our local and global communities and commits the university to play a leading role in delivering a more inclusive, productive and sustainable society. We look forward to you joining us on our ambitious journey ahead.

Dr Pete Cross
Chief Financial Officer
University of Wolverhampton

Background and purpose

The University of Wolverhampton is deeply committed to embedding sustainable environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards. This ESG strategy embraces the responsibility of the university to benefit communities with pioneering research, exceptional educational offerings and transparent governance in line with the university's overarching long-term Strategy 2035. This ambitious strategy provides a framework for the university to address many of the world's global challenges by creating opportunities for positive contributions to the United Nations' sustainable development goals (UN SDGs).

The university's UN SDGs commitment

At the University of Wolverhampton, we will make an unwavering contribution to the UN SDGs through our education, research, knowledge exchange, operations and engagement. This displays our commitment to minimise our environmental impact and to support a just and sustainable future. This strategy is aligned with the university's Strategy 2035 to "create opportunity, transform lives and deliver a more inclusive, productive, and sustainable society". Success hinges on the collective actions of the entire university community through transparency and ambition.

Our vision

To Create Opportunities

We integrate key ESG aspects in our educational offerings and operations to support the creation of sustainable growth and prosperous societies.

Develop People

We empower our students, staff, and partners with ESG skills and engagement opportunities to increase awareness, enhance lives, and help realise sustainable futures.

Shape the Future

We ensure our learning, research and operations foster net zero environments to actively increase our sustainable development contributions.

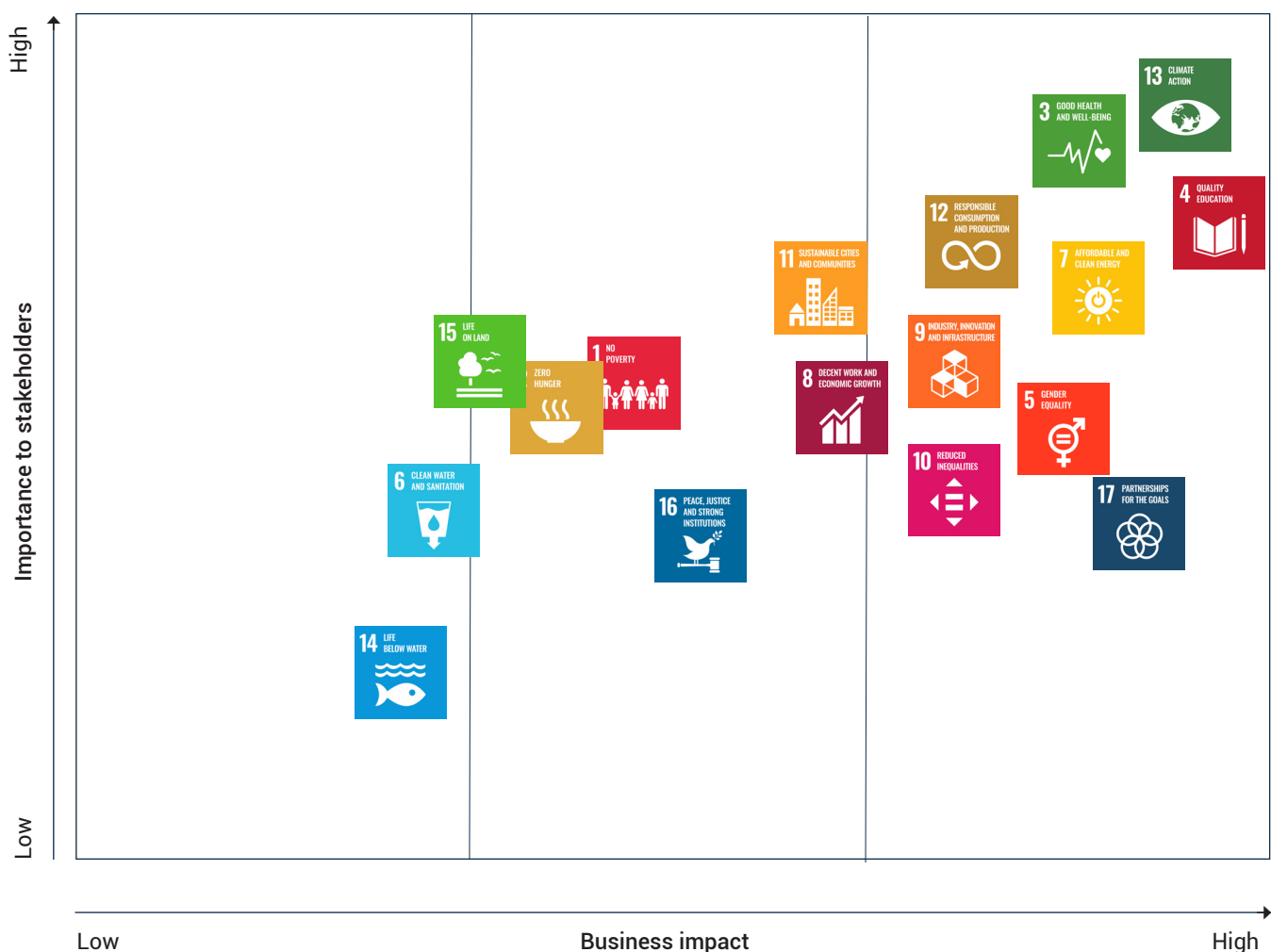


Priorities

The UN SDGs provide an internationally recognised framework for sustainable development with 17 global goals. The university has assessed the importance and impact of the goals to support prioritisation. Our ESG strategy supports the University of Wolverhampton's vision and Strategy 2035. To establish the strategy priorities, a double materiality¹ review was conducted. The materiality

review considered importance to stakeholders, and this was assessed through a staff and student survey, semi structured consultation meetings in addition to activities already undertaken at the university. The business impact of these topics was assessed to their correlation to the university strategy, risk register, financial impact and business drivers.





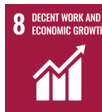




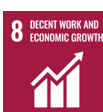














UN Sustainable Development Goals materiality to University of Wolverhampton



¹Double materiality is a concept in sustainability reporting that considers the business (risk, financial, legislation) impacts of sustainability issues to the organisation and the organisations impacts on society and the environment.

Outcomes

Outcomes are key to the university to ensure the and success of sustainability.
During this Strategy, the University will:

Commitment	Supporting UN SDGs
Develop and implement a carbon reduction programme to facilitate the university's transition to net zero.	  
Create opportunities for students to participate in sustainability-focused education and research offerings including opportunities from the UNITAR-associated network for customised sustainable development research and training to promote global collaboration.	  
Work collaboratively to progress university-wide initiatives to positively contribute to global challenges and achieve the six priority areas of the UK Research and Innovation (UK R&I) Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice.	  
Work with the City of Wolverhampton Council, the University of Wolverhampton Science Park, and stakeholders to deliver the Green Innovation Corridor to realise the benefits of local sustainable growth and knowledge sharing.	  
Promote principles of the circular economy with students and staff to implement the seven Rs of waste management: rethink, refuse, reduce, repurpose, reuse, repair, recycle.	 
Engage with students, staff and communities to positively contribute to sustainability efforts	
Advocate for embedding environmentally sustainable practices with our national and international partners offering university-accredited courses.	  
Continue to support and strengthen the university's commitment to social mobility, equality, diversity, inclusion, health and wellbeing through well-established programmes and policies.	   
Assess the sustainability impact of key university decisions and improve the reputation and reputation for the university.	 

A comprehensive set of SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) targets have been developed with key stakeholders and shall be reviewed periodically.

Responsibility and implementation

The ESG strategy shall have oversight from the Board of Governors to support its implementation, with regular monitoring through the Finance and Resources Committee. Delegated responsibility for management of targets is cascaded to key stakeholders to ensure adequate resources will be appointed to the ESG Group. Stakeholders shall represent their areas of expertise and define success metrics and progress actions, ensuring that ESG is embedded successfully and communicated clearly. The strategy implementation will adapt to emerging university goals, legislation updates and evolving trends.

Monitoring and reporting

The university will report on its ESG progress annually through a published report. Regular monitoring of targets will take place in the Planning and Performance Committee, up through the University Executive Board to the Finance and Resources Committee through interim updates.

Information and resources

For queries, please contact the university's sustainability managers, Charlotte Connor and Zainab Own by email: C.Connor@wlv.ac.uk and Z.Own2@wlv.ac.uk

