



# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY ENABLING PLAN

2020 TO 2025

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# FOREWORD



Solent University is committed to environmental and social justice. Environmental sustainability is a foundation of the Solent University Strategy 2025 and plays an important part in developing our students as responsible, world-ready citizens. The global challenges we face today mean there has never been a more important time to take action.

As a signatory of Southampton City Council's Green City Charter, our Environmental and Sustainability Enabling Plan aligns with the Council's Green City Plan, ensuring that our environmental work supports the creation of a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable city. We support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and through our institutional activities we will strive to progress against many of the targets and indicators underpinning those goals.

Delivering Solent's commitments depends on an institution-wide approach to sustainability. Environmental sustainability is everyone's responsibility and integral to the way the University operates. Our students, staff and wider community all play a key part in effecting positive change through the actions they take.

Paul Colbran,  
Chief Operations Officer



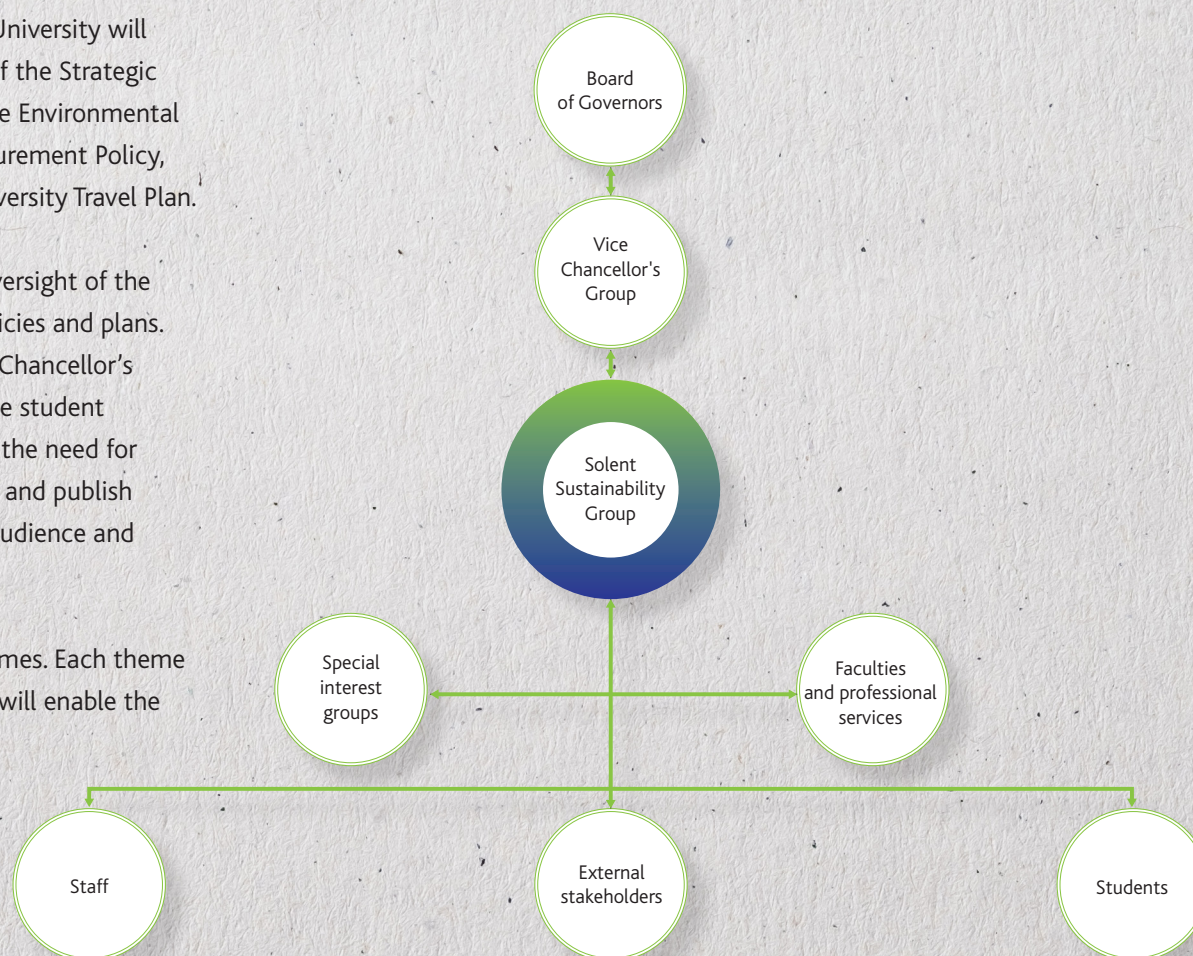
# LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



The Environmental and Sustainability Enabling Plan outlines how the University will deliver its environmental and sustainability commitments in support of the Strategic Plan. It is supported by key institutional policies and plans including the Environmental Policy, the Carbon Management Plan, the Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy, the Sustainable Food Policy, the Ethical Investment Policy and the University Travel Plan.

Solent Sustainability Group provides the strategic management and oversight of the Environmental and Sustainability Enabling Plan and environmental policies and plans. The group is chaired by the Chief Operations Officer, reporting to Vice Chancellor's Group. Members of the group are drawn from faculties, services and the student body. Special interest groups are established for specific projects, or as the need for consultation or expertise arises. We will regularly monitor our progress and publish an annual sustainability report, which will be available to an external audience and presented to Vice Chancellor's Group.

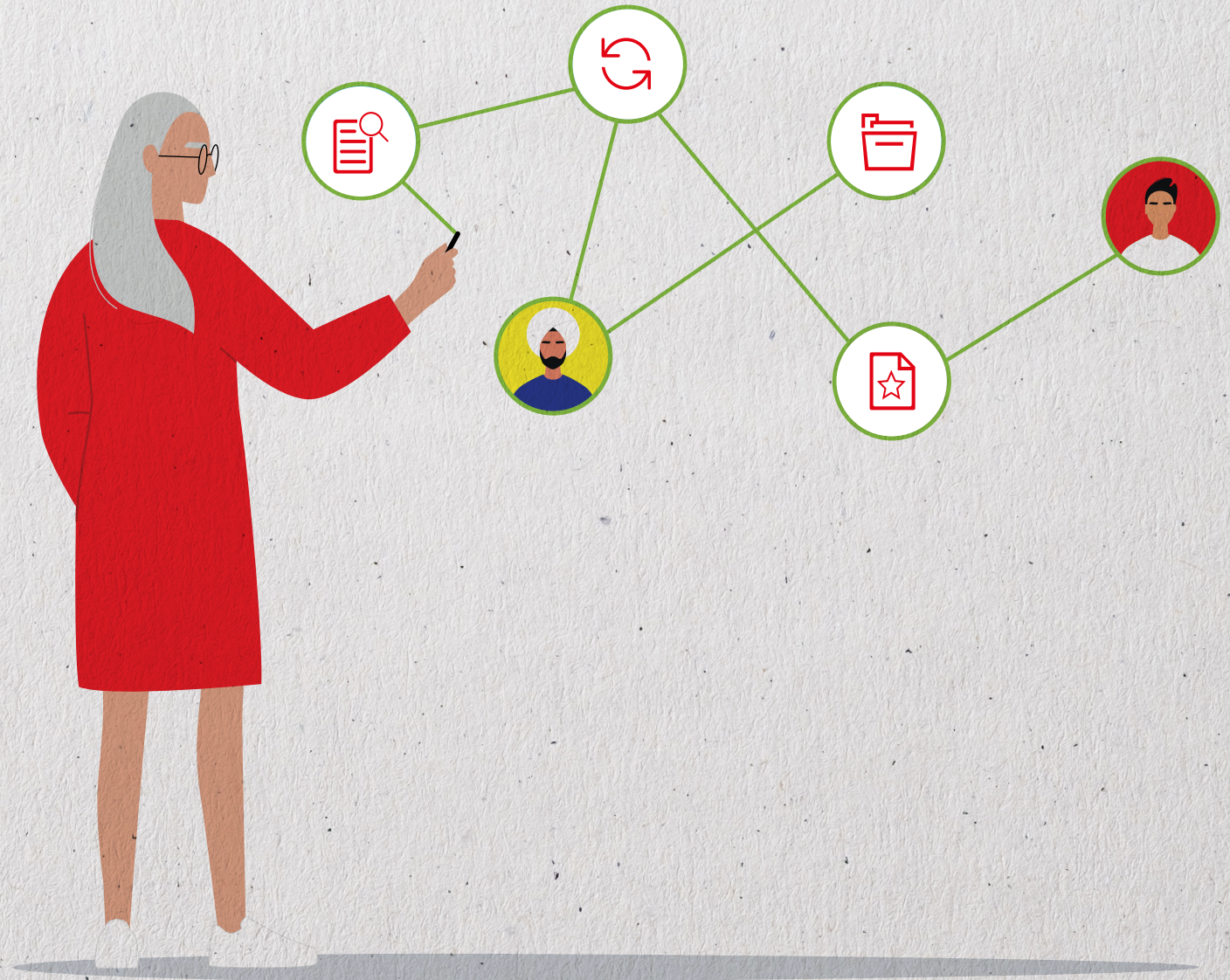
The Environmental and Sustainability Enabling Plan comprises five themes. Each theme is mapped against the UN SDGs and features targets and actions that will enable the University to deliver its environmental commitments.



# OUR VISION



To be an environmentally sustainable university and one which makes a substantive contribution, through its teaching, research and public engagement, to addressing the challenges presented by the climate and ecological crisis.





## MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS THROUGH A CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



The Environmental Management System (EMS) is a framework for all environmental and sustainability initiatives at the University and ensures that we are reducing environmental impacts and continually improving our environmental performance. The EMS provides assurance of continual environmental improvement through a certified and externally assessed standard (ISO 14001:2015). It identifies environmental aspects, impacts and legal requirements, contains registers and documented processes, and records reporting, progress and responsibilities. Compliance with the ISO standard is monitored through regular audits.

### **We will:**

- operate a certified Environmental Management System to ISO14001:2015 standard
- fully document the system and ensure that all relevant staff and contractors are aware of the requirements
- undertake regular audits to ensure continued compliance and improvement
- embed a Life Cycle Approach towards the institution's activities to ensure that environmental, social and economic impacts are taken into consideration at every opportunity
- promote the EMS to students and staff and ensure that they understand their role in helping the University to protect and improve the environment.



## MINIMISING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, WATER AND WASTE



### ENERGY USE

Energy use constitutes the largest environmental impact under the direct influence of the University. The University is committed to minimising environmental impacts and costs arising from energy use in buildings; as well as meeting the requirements of legislation and sector targets. Our Carbon Management Plan will contain detailed information about the University's approach to energy reduction and target net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 on on Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

#### **We will:**

- implement the Carbon Management Plan to 2030
- continue to reduce CO2 emissions from energy use, and identify and implement energy efficiency and emission reduction projects in line with the Carbon Management Plan
- aim to procure all electricity from renewable sources
- review options to reduce carbon emissions from gas and district heating
- implement a certified energy management system, such as ISO 50001:2015 or equivalent
- incorporate low energy/low carbon/sustainability features in estate developments.



### WATER USE

The University aims to minimise water consumption and exceed national targets. Control over water discharges is also essential to minimise environmental impact and prevent pollution.

#### **We will:**

- reduce environmental impact and costs arising from water use, and improve water management
- improve leak detection and speed of repair
- reduce water consumption by 10 per cent by 2025 (against 2015–20 mean average)
- reduce the risks of contamination of water bodies by regular monitoring.



## WASTE

The University is committed to minimising waste by improving waste handling, reducing unnecessary procurement, increasing reuse and recycling rates, and converting food and contaminated waste to energy.

### We will:

- reduce waste arisings to 25kg waste mass per staff/student FTE by 2025
- recycle 55 per cent of waste by 2025
- reduce food waste by 20 per cent by 2025 (against 2018/19 levels)
- improve the accuracy of waste measurement from construction and refurbishment activities
- continue a programme of user education and involvement
- work with partners to reduce the amount of single-use plastic and other disposable items used on campus
- adopt purchasing practices that contribute to the circular economy to reduce waste and ensure sustainable resource use, in line with the University's Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy.







## ENGAGING STUDENTS, STAFF AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY



The University's commitment to social justice means that we seek to make a difference to the people who live, work and study here and to the wider community. We want to foster an ethos of environmental sustainability on campus and empower our students and staff to be a force for positive change in the world. The participation of staff, students and community partners is critical to the delivery of our environmental and sustainability objectives and commitments.

### We will:

- work closely with Solent Students' Union to enhance student engagement, awareness and participation, including through behaviour change programmes
- enhance staff engagement in environmental initiatives and the adoption of positive environmental behaviours, including through activities and programmes
- work with our contract catering partner to continue to improve the environmental and ethical credentials of the food served on campus, including through the increased use of reusables and the increased provision of plant-based dishes and locally sourced produce
- work with our partners in the wider community to share best practice and collaborate on environmental and sustainability initiatives
- support the Southampton City Council Green City Plan, contribute to the delivery of targets where appropriate, and participate in relevant activities.



### SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

The Travel Plan commits the University to reduce the adverse impact of travel, including congestion and pollution, to reduce single-occupancy car mode share and short trips, and to promote more sustainable alternatives, especially walking, cycling and public transport. It also seeks to establish a long-term management strategy to deliver sustainable transport objectives.

### We will:

- achieve specific targets listed in the University's Travel Plan
- reduce carbon emissions from vehicle travel through increased occupancy and facilitating low carbon vehicle use
- run campaigns and activities to engage staff and students in sustainable travel and to embed sustainable behaviours.



## EMBEDDING SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT AND SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES AND PROTECTING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY



### PROCUREMENT

Purchasing goods and services has significant economic, social and environmental impacts, and the University is committed to minimising these impacts and embedding responsible procurement practices.

#### **We will:**

- support the delivery of the University's Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy
- implement the Flexible Framework to level 4
- support purchasing practices that contribute to the circular economy
- support the Finance Service in implementing actions to reduce the consumption of goods and services, including the unnecessary procurement of furniture, office and other equipment
- work closely with suppliers and contractors to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of goods, services and supply chains and to deliver net positive impacts and social value.



### BIODIVERSITY

The University is committed to conserving, enhancing and, where possible, creating spaces for wildlife on campus and in turn providing a pleasant and sustainable working environment for staff and students. A Biodiversity Action Plan, developed with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, is in place for the East Park Terrace and Warsash campuses, and an Environmental Management Plan is in operation at Timsbury Lake.

#### **We will:**

- comply with relevant legislation
- produce an updated Biodiversity Action Plan covering all sites, including baseline information and a monitoring programme to measure progress
- protect and enhance existing green spaces and work with project teams to incorporate habitat features into new developments and refurbishments
- improve promotion and interpretation, and access for staff and students
- support opportunities for student and staff volunteering on conservation and wildlife activities and opportunities for academic collaboration
- carry out habitat management and conservation activities at Timsbury Lake in line with the Conservation Management Plan.



## SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

New construction and refurbishments create significant environmental impact, and the University is committed to meeting high environmental standards when conducting these activities. For recent construction projects, the University has used the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) to rate the environmental impact.

### We will:

- incorporate appropriate environmentally assessed targets for new developments and refurbishments (for example, BREEAM, SKA standards)
- develop and implement a Sustainability Design Guide to minimise operational resources and energy consumption for new developments and refurbishments
- adopt a whole-life methodology covering operation and embodied emissions for building and refurbishment projects.





THEME  
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## EMBEDDING EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (UN SDGS)



As a university, the most substantive contribution that we can make to environmental sustainability is through education. Through our teaching and research, we will support our students to develop the skills and attributes which will help them address the challenges of the twenty-first century. We want to ensure that all students are given the opportunity, through their degree programmes, to learn about sustainable development and how they can shape a positive future when they graduate.

### We will:

- aim to achieve a top 33 per cent placing in The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings by 2025
- support academic staff with the integration of education for sustainable development into undergraduate and postgraduate programmes
- work with colleagues across the University to map the UN SDGs against existing and planned activities in the curriculum
- formalise a programme to demonstrate our contribution to the UN SDGs through teaching and research.





Solent University, East Park Terrace, Southampton SO14 0YN

T: +44 (0)23 8201 3039 E: [sustainability@solent.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@solent.ac.uk)

[www.solent.ac.uk](http://www.solent.ac.uk)