

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN, METRICS & TARGETS

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Our strategic action plan, metrics and targets should be read alongside our Environmental Sustainability Commitments and Policy, which together with our Environmental Sustainability Annual Reports (all published on our [website](#)) allow us to transparently exhibit our ambition and advancements to our stakeholders, and monitor our progress.

OVERARCHING COMMITMENT

Creativity is inherently regenerative. Creatives provide fresh ideas, find new solutions and drive progress. We believe that the grand challenges of our age can be met creatively and collaboratively to make a better future.

Our sustainability commitments are informed by who and what we are.

We understand the importance of Falmouth University's contribution to the fight against the environmental and climate crises; as a thought leader in creative education, we can equip tomorrow's change makers with the knowledge and skills they need to make a difference, and as an anchor institution for our region, we must lead from the front, setting an example by minimising the impact of our estate and operations.

Our institutional strategy commits us to being the university for the nexus between creativity and technology. As a conscious community of students, academics, researchers and professionals working in this space, we will utilise both creative thinking and technology initiatives to help us meet our sustainability goals.

We are located across the globe through our online provision, but we were established in Cornwall and our garden campuses, situated by the coast and surrounded by the natural landscape, are a part of our identity. Our proximity to nature is a daily reminder of its importance and our impact on it and will drive specific initiatives that have local impact.

We will deliver this commitment by living our values and reaching out from a foundation of respect – to our partners, to our community, to industry – to share our creativity, knowledge and expertise, to deliver positive environmental and social impact for all.

THREE KEY THEMES

Theme 1 – Learning & Teaching: Creativity is a vital tool for addressing the challenge of climate change. Together with the potential offered by new technologies, it can drive innovation, power communication and catalyse change. By embedding environmental sustainability content across our degree course portfolio, we will equip our students with the knowledge and skills to make a difference throughout their lives after graduation. Not only will our curricula have the theme of environmental sustainability running through it, it will be delivered sustainably too, ensuring that our learning and teaching activities make the minimal environmental impact.

Commitments

- We will develop and adopt new guidance for our curriculum design process that will support the delivery of learning and teaching that has minimum carbon impact.
- We will embed Environmental Sustainability Learning Outcomes in every course across our undergraduate and postgraduate portfolio, on campus and online.
- To roll out a programme of staff development training to support the ongoing, current and industry-connected delivery of an environmentally conscious curriculum.
- To provide innovative, collaborative extra-curricular initiatives for students, staff and our local community to explore environmental sustainability issues, widen their knowledge and embrace opportunities for climate advocacy.

Goal Statement	Complete	Owner	How to Measure	Relevant Commitment	How we report and when	Cost	
THEME 1 - Learning & Teaching							
1	Application across our entire curriculum of a published, peer-reviewed evaluation framework to determine the level of environmental sustainability embedded at the course level.	Sept '26	Russell Crawford Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic Services)	i) no. of different FCL-S themes evidenced per course ('breadth') ii) no. of times individual FCL-S themes were evidenced per course ('depth')	To roll out a programme of staff development training to support the on-going, current and industry-connected delivery of an environmentally conscious curriculum.	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU
2	Establishing evaluative evidence of at least three environmental sustainability themes in every course we deliver, based on target 1 data.	Sept '26	Russell Crawford Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic Services)	i) no. of new FCL-S outputs from targeted course leads ii) resultant qualitative, course-by-course evidence	To roll out a programme of staff development training to support the on-going, current and industry-connected delivery of an environmentally conscious curriculum.	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU
3	Evaluate student "learning gains" at the course level, in environmental sustainability awareness and knowledge / skill acquisition using established OfS guidance.	Sept '26	Russell Crawford Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic Services)	i) distance travelled' data (student feelings, knowledge and agency levels before & after a term / AY) TBC (TEF / OfS-specific criteria / metrics)	To provide innovative, collaborative extra-curricular initiatives for students, staff and our local community to explore environmental sustainability education, widen their knowledge and embrace opportunities for climate advocacy.	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU
4	Implement curriculum-based enhancement of authentic learning related to education for environmental sustainability through assessments and projects (including partners and industry).	Annual	Russell Crawford Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic Services)	i) no. of environmental sustainability-focused projects / briefs delivered	We will develop and adopt new guidance for our curriculum design process that will support the delivery of learning and teaching that has minimum carbon impact.	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU
5	Adopt an audit & improvement approach to action planning within and across faculties to ensure circularity is embedded into our academic infrastructure.	Sept '26	Russell Crawford Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic Services)	i) no of circularity analyses & action plans ii) list of circularity 'actions'	We will develop and adopt new guidance for our curriculum design process that will support the delivery of learning and teaching that has minimum carbon impact.	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU

Theme 2 – Research and Knowledge Exchange: Our research and knowledge exchange is focussed on delivering impact at a national and international scale, but also on creating benefit for the communities we serve. Our research will actively contribute to the generation of new ideas and innovations that contribute to fighting the causes of, and adapting to the effects of climate change, while our knowledge exchange leverages our resources and expertise to support evidence-based, positive action for change across business and society.

Commitments

- To co-ordinate and nurture environmental sustainability-related research to build critical mass across the institution
- To develop a framework that will ensure environmental impact is a key consideration in our approach to research design and delivery
- To leverage our expertise in creativity and technology to support local and regional partners engage with us on environmental sustainability challenges.

Goal Statement	Complete	Owner	How to Measure	Relevant Commitment	How we report and when	Cost	
THEME 2 - Research & Knowledge Exchange							
6	To develop a project-level environmental sustainability tool that will ensure environmental impact is a key consideration in our approach to research design and delivery and to embed the tool across RKE planning processes.	Sept '25	David Prior Pro Vice Chancellor (Research & Knowledge Exchange)	i) scale of embeddedness: number of processes using the tool	To ensure environmental impact is a key consideration in our approach to research design and delivery	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU
7	To create a central intranet repository of guidance on environmental sustainability in research and KE by January 2025 (measurement: engagement)	Jan '25	David Prior Pro Vice Chancellor (Research & Knowledge Exchange)	i) engagement e.g. views	To ensure environmental impact is a key consideration in our approach to research design and delivery	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU
8	To annually audit current environment-related RKE activity via departmental RKE plans to map against external benchmarks, including UN SDGs, UKRI, and People, Place and Planet starting from July 24 (measurement: depth and quality of report drawn from RKE Plans)	Annual	David Prior Pro Vice Chancellor (Research & Knowledge Exchange)	i) depth and quality of report drawn from RKE Plans	To coordinate and nurture environmental sustainability-related research	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU

Theme 3 – Physical Estate and Operations: Our net zero vision will be embedded in every area of our operations. As the university for the nexus of creativity and technology, this means leading the way on understanding and mitigating the emissions created by our digital, as well as physical, activities.

We will respond to issues with local and regional salience, aligned to Cornwall's 2050 strategy. Recognising the unique challenges our rural location presents to tackling environmental sustainability and its dynamic nature we will, within the financial environment of the University, collaborate with partners to deliver new opportunities for a cleaner, greener Cornwall.

Commitments

- We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity.
- We will incorporate digital decarbonisation into our net zero strategy.
- We will employ internal expertise to apply creative and design thinking to explore new ideas that will reduce waste and drive the circular economy on campus.
- We will develop an ethical investment policy with environmental sustainability as the key commitment
- Responding to local environmental sustainability priorities, we will:
 - Remove single use plastics in our commercial operations to reduce our contribution to ocean plastic and support ocean health
 - Invest in our campus grounds to contribute to local biodiversity
 - Support local, sustainable businesses through local procurement

Goal Statement	Complete	Owner	How to Measure	Relevant Commitment	How we report and when	Cost	
THEME 3 - Physical Estate & Operations							
Net Zero & Energy							
10	Achieve Net Zero scope 1 and 2 (energy) emissions by 2040 > 50% reduction by 2025 > 75% reduction by 2030 > Net zero by 2040	2040	Simon Foster (Director of Estates, Planning & Operations)	i) CO2e emissions towards net zero emissions ii) % reduction towards net zero emissions	We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity. We will incorporate digital decarbonisation into our net zero strategy	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB, BoG, public), Annual plan reporting (these are top level institutional strategic KPIs)	£££
11	Achieve Net Zero scope 3 emissions by 2050 > 50% reduction by 2030 > Net zero by 2050	2050			We will employ internal expertise to apply creative and design thinking to explore new ideas that will reduce waste and drive the circular economy on campus. Responding to local environmental sustainability priorities (single-use plastics, invest in campus grounds, support local, sustainable businesses)		£££
Recycling & Circularity							
12	Increase recycling provision in alignment with our scope 3 emission targets with zero waste going to landfill: > Reduce general waste by 1% per year > 5% increase in food waste recycled per year	Annually	Oliver Lane (Director of Campus Services)	i) Tonnes of waste ii) Volume (litres) iii) CO2e emissions iv) Recycling % rate	We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity. We will incorporate digital decarbonisation into our net zero strategy. We will employ internal expertise to apply creative and design thinking to explore new ideas that will reduce waste and drive the circular economy on campus.	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB, BoG, public)	£

Goal Statement	Complete	Owner	How to Measure	Relevant Commitment	How we report and when	Cost
THEME 3 - Physical Estate & Operations						
13	Integrate at least 3 circular economic initiatives across the institution each year	Annually	Simon Foster (Director of Estates, Planning & Operations)	i) Number of projects integrated		Annual Environmental sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public) £
Water						
14	Audit, measure and record water consumption to develop a water saving policy and delivery plan	2026	Simon Foster (Director of Estates, Planning & Operations)	i) M3 ii) CO2e emissions	We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity. We will incorporate digital decarbonisation into our net zero strategy	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public) £
Procurement						
15	Broaden our Responsible Procurement Strategy triple bottom line approach focussing on: > Expanding our local supply chain > Supply chain carbon reduction > Social value integration	2026	Kerry Ray (Senior Head of Corporate Support and Compliance)	i) CO2e emissions ii) £ in local supply chain iii) % local suppliers.	We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity. Responding to local environmental sustainability priorities (single-use plastics, invest in campus grounds, support local, sustainable businesses)	Annual Environmental sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public) BAU
Catering, Retail, Hospitality & Events						
16	Embed a Sustainable Hospitality, Retail and Food Policy that focuses on sourcing, environmental and societal factors	2026	Oliver Lane (Director of Campus Services)	i) CO2e emissions towards net zero emissions ii) % reduction towards net zero emissions	We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity.	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public) BAU

Goal Statement	Complete	Owner	How to Measure	Relevant Commitment	How we report and when	Cost	
THEME 3 - Physical Estate & Operations							
17	Integrate environmental sustainability across campus events and Cornwall Plus	2026	Oliver Lane (Director of Campus Services)	i) CO2e emissions towards net zero emissions ii) % reduction towards net zero emissions	We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity.	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU
18	Remove single use plastic packaging across commercial outlets and operations	2026	Oliver Lane (Director of Campus Services)	i) Measured using products/packaging type	Responding to local environmental sustainability priorities (single-use plastics, invest in campus grounds, support local, sustainable businesses)	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU
Biodiversity							
19	Deliver an environmental net-gain program across our campuses based upon our 2023 baseline:	2026	Oliver Lane (Director of Campus Services)	i) Biometric units (habitats, hedgerows, rivers) ii) Biodiversity projects iii) Bee and butterfly survey iv) Wildflower spaces (acres) v) Trees planted	Responding to local environmental sustainability priorities we will invest in our campus grounds to contribute to local biodiversity.	Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB. BoG, public)	BAU
Buildings & Space							
20	Design new buildings to BREEAM excellent standard. Retrofit/Enerphit existing buildings where funding envelope allows.	Ongoing	Simon Foster (Director of Estates, Planning & Operations)	i) Measured based upon project	We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity.	As projects develop	£££

Travel							
21	Deliver an updated Business & Field Trip Travel policy that aligns with our scope 3 emission targets	2026	Simon Foster (Director of Estates, Planning & Operations)	i) CO2e emissions ii) £ spent on business travel	We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity.	New policy carried on website/intranet	BAU
22	Publish a new Sustainable Commuting Travel Plan that establishes sustainable and active travel modal shift in alignment with our scope 3 emission targets through annual surveys	2026		i) CO2e emissions ii) % modal split		New policy carried on website/intranet	BAU
Environmental Compliance							
23	Maintain our environmental compliance program so that all aspects are compliant within UK environmental legislation	Ongoing	Simon Foster (Director of Estates, Planning & Operations)	i) Measured on risk register scoring	We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity.	Risk registers	BAU
Sustainable Digitisation							
24	Report and measure the energy and carbon impact of our digital programs, assess potential solutions to inform a decarbonisation digitisation policy and implement short term behaviour change initiatives	2026	Simon Foster (Director of Estates, Planning & Operations)	i) CO2e emissions ii) £	We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity. We will incorporate digital decarbonisation into our net zero strategy	To be developed. Ultimately to be reported in Annual Environmental Sustainability Report.	BAU
Ethical Investment Policy							
25	Apply and use the new Ethical Investment Policy in the process of identifying potential investment opportunities.	2024	Simon Foster (Director of Estates, Planning & Operations)	i) 'investee environmental sustainability matrix' outputs ii) £ invested in 'ethical' organisations iii) CO2e emissions	We will develop an ethical investment policy with environmental sustainability as the key commitment.	New policy carried on website/intranet	BAU
26	Within one year, implement a review of the environmental sustainability impacts of our investment portfolio, and disclose this publicly, and every two years thereafter.	2025				Annual Environmental Sustainability Report (AB, UEB, BoG, public)	BAU

Cost key: **BAU** - to be introduced through integration with business as usual / **£** - Some cost but relatively low and introduced into business as usual / **£££** - Significant cost attached.

2 VERSION

2.1 Approved by the Board of Governors on 12 July 2024