

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT

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Creativity is inherently regenerative. Creatives provide fresh ideas, find new solutions and drive progress. We believe that the grand challenges of our age must 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.

<p><b>Falmouth University net zero vision:</b></p>
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<p>Scope 1 &amp; 2 emissions: 2040</p>
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<p>Scope 3 emissions: 2050</p>
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### 1 **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.

#### **Learning & Teaching Commitments**

- 1.1 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.

- 1.2 We will embed Environmental Sustainability Learning Outcomes in every course across our undergraduate and postgraduate portfolio, on campus and online.
- 1.3 We will roll out a programme of staff development training to support the ongoing, current and industry-connected delivery of an environmentally conscious curriculum.
- 1.4 We will 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.

**Strategic lead:** Pro Vice-Chancellor: Academic Services

## **2 THEME 2 - RESEARCH & 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.

### **Research & Knowledge Exchange Commitments**

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

**Strategic lead:** Pro Vice-Chancellor: Research & Knowledge Exchange

## **3 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.

### **Physical Estate & Operations Commitments**

- 3.1 We will demonstrate sustainable operations across all our estates and operations activity.
- 3.2 We will incorporate digital decarbonisation into our net zero strategy.

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 We will develop an ethical investment policy with environmental sustainability as the key commitment
- 3.5 Responding to local environmental sustainability priorities, we will:
- 3.6 Remove single use plastics in our commercial operations to reduce our contribution to ocean plastic and support ocean health
- 3.7 Invest in our campus grounds to contribute to local biodiversity
- 3.8 Support local, sustainable businesses through local procurement

**Strategic lead:** Executive Director, Estates, Operations & Planning

#### **4 ANNEXES**

- a) Environmental Sustainability Policy
- b) Environmental Sustainability Strategic Action Plan, Metrics and Targets

#### **5 VERSION**

- 5.1 Approved by the Board of Governors on 12 July 2024