

ENABLING STRATEGY

LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY

2022–2026



FOREWORD

Sustainability is core to our University. Ensuring Manchester Metropolitan is environmentally sustainable and socially responsible benefits our communities and is vital to deliver exceptional higher education and pioneering research. Our commitment to sustainability makes us an attractive employer and place to study, enhancing our competitive position and supporting our financial strength.

This strategy sets out how we will remain a leading, sustainable university and play our part in tackling the environmental and societal challenges facing our world. It builds on the great progress we have already made, defines our ambition to 2030, and gives us a definitive plan of action through to 2026.

Our ambition is bold and far-reaching, building on our substantial achievements in transforming our campus into a low-carbon environment. We will maintain this momentum by embedding sustainable development into our research and educational offer. In the coming years, our impactful research will identify innovative ways to protect the environment and contribute to both economic growth and sustainable, just societies.

We begin from a strong base; we are already working with businesses to shape the capabilities and technologies needed to deliver a net zero economy as well as helping those businesses reach their sustainability goals. By equipping our students and employees with sustainability skills, we will enhance their career opportunities while helping society to realise a zero-carbon future.

Nowhere are the benefits this will bring more important than in our home city-region. We share Greater Manchester's ambition to deliver a great quality of life for its people, and we will aim to ensure everyone within our own community is committed to shaping a sustainable future for us all. As Chair of Manchester Metropolitan's Environment Strategy Group, I am proud of our reputation as a leading sustainable university and excited about how we will enhance the lives of our students, staff, and stakeholders through this strategy for leadership in sustainability.

Professor Steve Decent, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Chair of the Environment Strategy Group

CONTEXT FOR OUR AMBITION

Climate-related impacts on our world will increase over the next decade. Society expects our sector to respond to the challenges they will bring, calling on us to be more ambitious in our commitments and the speed in which they are delivered.

Students also demand that learning around sustainable development is integral to our curricula, and our employees expect sustainability to be a core part of their working practice and professional development.

In 2015, the United Nations set out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that seek to address many of the world's greatest challenges. We make positive contributions across the SDGs through our educational, research and operational activities, focussing efforts on our areas of strength to ensure our contribution has maximum impact.

As we implement our new strategy, we will maintain this momentum. We remain driven by our dedication to making a positive contribution to the world.

Through to 2030, Manchester Metropolitan is focussed on two core goals: providing excellent education and delivering research with impact. Maintaining our leadership in sustainability is key to how we will achieve both.

OUR AMBITION WHERE WE ARE GOING

We will be a beacon of sustainable development practice. Through our education, research, partnerships, and campus, we will make a positive difference to society, the environment, and the economy.

OUR GOALS

THE PATH TO ACHIEVE OUR AMBITION IN SUSTAINABILITY

Our ambition is guided by our long-term University strategy – our Road to 2030 – which sets the direction and focus of our strategy for leadership in sustainability.

In working to deliver our ambition, we have set out four long-term goals to 2030, underpinned by more detailed priorities to 2026.

OUR GOAL TO 2030

LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY

Throughout the decade, we will be a thought leader in climate change and sustainable development.

Sustainability will be embedded in everything we do and viewed as a priority and a shared responsibility. Our people will have the relevant knowledge and skills to integrate sustainable development into our activities and decision making, and our contribution to sustainable development will be widely acknowledged and celebrated.

In working to deliver this goal, from 2022 to 2026 we will:

Ensure sustainability underpins all we do and embed it as a key strategic consideration across the University, integrating it into all core strategies and decision-making processes.

Increase awareness, engagement and raise expectations of sustainable development for staff and students.

Maintain and continually improve our sustainability performance – including in relevant rankings – through the delivery of an ambitious sustainability programme.

OUR GOAL TO 2030

ACADEMIC INNOVATION AND IMPACT

Throughout the decade, we will equip our students and colleagues with the knowledge and skills to shape a more sustainable future and deliver high-quality research and innovation to contribute to the world's sustainability agenda.

We will deliver effective Education for Sustainable Development and climate change education in all disciplines so our students and staff know about, understand, and can contribute to sustainable development, helping to equip them to succeed in their chosen field. We will strive to be world leaders in high-quality research in aspects of sustainable development with demonstrable real-world impact. In several different fields, our sustainable development research work will be outstanding and offer solutions to global challenges.

In working to deliver this goal, from 2022 to 2026 we will:

Embed Education for Sustainable Development and climate change education into formal and informal learning and professional development to equip all students and staff with the knowledge and skills required to help shape a more sustainable future.

Identify relevant areas where we can make the greatest impact on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through our **high-quality, responsible research**, and focus and invest around those research strengths to ensure critical mass and significant impact on sustainable development.

Win significant research income in areas of relevant focus and excellence, and ensure research is highly cited and widely accessible to raise the profile of and sustain the beneficial impacts to our University.

OUR GOAL TO 2030

SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS AND PRACTICES

Throughout the decade, we will embed sustainability into our campus, practices and processes, achieving our carbon targets, maximising social value, and futureproofing our organisation.

Our campus will be a living model of sustainability – an innovative and solutions-focussed environment that makes positive contributions to the health and wellbeing of people, planet, and the economy.

In working to deliver this goal, from 2022 to 2026 we will:

Implement our carbon management plan to stay on track to **reduce our carbon emissions** related to our fuel and energy use (scope 1 and 2) to zero, and our carbon emissions related to our value chain (scope 3) to net zero before 2038.

Embed **sustainability and net zero into new and refurbishment building projects**.

Implement services and systems that **support and enable sustainable behaviour**. These include sustainable procurement practices, food offering, resource use, waste, and travel management, and protecting and enhancing green infrastructure and biodiversity across the campus.

Undertake responsible investment practices as outlined in our Ethical Investment Policy.

Identify our **climate change business risks** and vulnerabilities and address the issues.

OUR GOAL TO 2030

ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the decade, sustainability will add value to our local, national, and international engagement activities.

We will be a global university and our work with partners will bring tangible environmental and social benefits, locally, nationally, and internationally, amplifying our impact.

In working to deliver this goal, from 2022 to 2026 we will:

Add value to our local, national, and international engagement activities through our leadership in sustainability and **support our city-region on its journey to becoming zero carbon by 2038.**

OUR TARGETS TO 2026

We will monitor the progress of our strategy to 2026 through a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and targets. These targets are ambitious and will ensure continual improvement in our sustainability performance.

Strategic goal	KPI	Definition	2026 Target
Leadership in sustainability	Sustainability recognition	Membership of United Academic Impact (UNAI)	Maintain
		People and Planet University League	Maintain top 3 position
	Accreditations	ISO 14001 certification	Maintain
		Responsible Futures accreditation	Maintain
Academic innovation and impact	Education for Sustainable Development	Students satisfied that they have opportunities to gain sustainable development skills and knowledge	90%
		Courses that include Education for Sustainable Development and climate change education	100%
	Research contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals	Membership of United Academic Impact (UNAI)	Maintain
Sustainable campus and practices	Carbon reduction	Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions	44% reduction (6,400 tonnes CO ₂ e) and zero carbon before 2038 ¹
		Scope 3 carbon emissions	On track to net zero before 2038 ²
	Sustainable buildings	BREEAM rating level for new buildings	Excellent with aspiration of Outstanding on completion
		SKA rating level for major refurbishment projects	Silver with aspiration of Gold on completion
		Sustainability tracker targets achieved for new buildings and major refurbishment projects	80%
	Biodiversity	Area of amenity grass on campus converted into biodiverse habitat	100m ² annually
	Food	Sustainable food policy targets	80%
	Travel	Business travel policy compliance	Develop and maintain
	Waste	Reuse and recycling rate	60%
	Water	Reduction in water consumption per m ²	10%
	Procurement	Tendered projects over £30k with environmental sustainability and social value as key contract criterion	100%
		Tier 1 supply chain partners compliant with Modern Slavery Act (where applicable) and identifying risks for modern slavery in their own supply chains	100% by 2023, onwards to 2026
	Ethical investment	Ethical Investment Policy compliance	Maintain
	Climate change adaptation and resilience	Climate change business risks	Identify risks
	Engagement and partnerships	Partnerships for sustainable development	Membership of United Academic Impact (UNAI)
Community involvement		Sustainability projects co-created with local community	10 projects

¹ Manchester Met is working towards zero carbon for scope 1 and 2 carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions by 2038, as defined by the Tyndall Centre's proposed science-based targets and definition of zero carbon for Manchester ('Playing our full part').

² Manchester Met's approach to achieving net zero for scope 3 emissions will be to implement actions to avoid and reduce emissions, before investing in high-quality offsets for its remaining emissions.



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We are committed to ensuring that all of materials are accessible.
This brochure is available in a range of formats, such as large print, on
request via [**marketing@mmu.ac.uk**](mailto:marketing@mmu.ac.uk)