



**Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University**

# **SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

**2022–2026**

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# ABOUT THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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Engaging our communities in issues of sustainable development is a priority across the key themes and goals set out in our Leadership in Sustainability Strategy (2022-26), and recognises that knowledge, skills, and attributes for sustainable development are likely to be gained through the whole university experience for staff and students.

We recognise that sustainability needs to be embedded into the university experience through many different means, including how we deliver Education for Sustainable Development as an integral and essential part of the curriculum, through our university environment and culture, through informal curriculum and professional development, and from the start to the finish of the student journey.

The Sustainability Engagement Strategic Action Plan details our engagement approach for staff and students, and the actions the university will take across a broad range of areas to achieve our 2030 ambition to be a beacon of sustainable development practice where through our education, research, partnerships, and campus, we make a positive difference to society, the environment, and the economy.

This document sets out the actions we will take to equip our students and colleagues with the knowledge and skills to shape a more sustainable future, and to increase awareness, engagement, and expectations of sustainable development for staff and students aligned with our Leadership in Sustainability Strategy (2022-26).

# ENGAGING UNIVERSITY COMMUNITIES

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It is vital that our staff, students, and trade union representatives have an opportunity to engage in the development and on-going review of our policies, strategies, and management plans.

As such, this includes:

- Co-opted Environment Strategy Group membership positions for staff and students
- Actively providing learning opportunities through our research, educational, and extra-curricular offering related to the projects and actions we must deliver to realise our 2030 strategic ambitions
- Creating mechanisms and platforms for collaboration and knowledge sharing in relation to the delivery of the Leadership in Sustainability Strategy (2022-26)
- Consulting with our academic and professional colleagues
- Communicating to our audiences effectively

# RESOURCING THE SUSTAINABILITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

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It is essential that the Sustainability Engagement Strategic Action Plan is supported financially through the allocation of an annual budget which includes:

- **Environmental Education Fund - £50,000**  
The Environmental Education Fund resources our staff and student Carbon Literacy Programme.
- **Student and staff-led sustainability projects - £5,000**  
The sustainability fund supports staff and students in delivering unique and exciting projects linked to sustainability, recognising that student and staff engagement is integral in making continual improvement to sustainable development.
- **Sustainability campaigns - £17,500**  
Sustainability campaigns include a wide range of engagement related activities such as Fairtrade Fortnight, Climate and Social Action Week, awareness weeks and days, sustainability events and communications.

# ACTION PLAN

Activity, project, or initiative to be delivered	Target and date for delivery
Develop and deliver a professional development programme for academic staff to enable staff to embed Education for Sustainable Development and climate education into the curriculum.	2023/24
Review opportunities and develop new processes and practices to further embed ESD and climate education into the curriculum, including:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and Advance HE ESD guidance</li> <li>• QAA ESD collaborative quality assurance enhancement project</li> <li>• UNESCO supported ESD learning design toolkit</li> <li>• Curriculum mapping</li> <li>• Faculty sustainability leads</li> </ul>	2023/24
Develop and deliver professional development and engagement programme for professional services staff to ensure colleagues can deliver aspects of the Leadership in Sustainability Strategy within their roles.	2023/24
Continue to deliver the Carbon Literacy programme to staff and students, working to enhance its effectiveness and uptake from university communities.	Maintain and enhance programme annually
Develop and deliver Carbon Literacy offering (Teach Carbon Literacy) to academic staff to enable its integration into the formal curriculum.	2023/24
Continue our partnership with the NUS Responsible Futures accreditation to embed environmental sustainability and social responsibility into the formal and informal curriculum.	Maintain accreditation biennially
Continue to develop, enhance, and deliver a coordinated informal curriculum and engagement offer to students and staff, delivering an annual engagement programme.	Deliver programme annually
Deliver awareness campaigns and events such as Climate and Social Action week, Fairtrade activities, awareness days and weeks, give it don't bin it campaign, British Heart Foundation resale events, orchard and woodland workshops, bicycle training and maintenance as part of an annual engagement programme.	Deliver annually

Deliver student induction and welcome programme of activities, resources, and materials to increase awareness of the University's sustainability commitments and goals and to engage students in the agenda.	<b>Deliver annually</b>
Deliver sustainability ambassador scheme for students, which provides paid opportunities for current students to deliver sustainability projects and engage their peers and staff in a range of sustainability topics.	<b>Ten opportunities delivered annually</b>
Continue to deliver the Sustainability Fund initiative for supporting sustainability projects led by students and staff, ensuring at least ten projects are funded annually.	<b>Ten projects funded annually</b>
Support and enable at least five student placements, projects, vocational experiences opportunities related to sustainability.	<b>Five opportunities provided by the sustainability team annually</b>
Continue to embed sustainability into staff inductions and develop and enhance induction resources and materials to increase awareness of the University's sustainability commitments and goals, and to outline how staff can engage in the agenda.	<b>2023/24</b>
Ensure collaboration with the University's RISE initiative, to improve awareness and student uptake in sustainability opportunities and events.	<b>Annually</b>
Deliver a range of communications to staff and students that support and encourage sustainable behaviour, and promote our reputation as a leading sustainable University including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital and social media platforms and news channels</li> <li>• University marketing and publications</li> <li>• Departmental communication channels</li> </ul>	<b>Annually</b>
Deliver and communicate key publications, reports and procedures including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy and strategy development and delivery</li> <li>• Annual Sustainability and Carbon Reports</li> <li>• Environmental Management System approaches</li> </ul>	<b>Annually</b>
Submit entries for a range of national and international awards and accolades and ensure top three performance in national league rankings for sustainability.	<b>Annually</b>

# MEASURING SUCCESS AND REPORTING PROGRESS

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We will track and monitor our progress through two strategic performance indicators and associated targets that are set out in our Leadership in Sustainability Strategy (2022-2026), and report on them annually in our sustainability statement. These are to:

- Ensure at least 90% of students and staff are satisfied that they have opportunities to gain sustainable development skills and knowledge by 2026.
- All courses include Education for Sustainable Development and climate change education by 2026.

## **Management and Governance**

The University's Sustainability Manager leads the development and review of the Sustainability Engagement Strategic Action Plan. Its development and delivery is supported by a range of Manchester Met colleagues from academic faculties and professional services.

## **Review**

The Sustainability Engagement Strategic Action Plan is reviewed annually as part of the University's Environmental Management System (ISO 14001:2015) review.

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsible party	Responsible for
Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Sustainability and the Sustainability Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall strategic development, implementation, and review of the Sustainability Engagement Strategic Action Plan.</li> <li>• Liaise with departments, staff and student groups across the University to increase awareness of Sustainable Development (SD) and to deliver activities that contribute to increased knowledge and skills for SD.</li> <li>• Develop processes and practices to embed SD into the formal curriculum.</li> </ul>
Sustainability Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver activities and projects identified in the Sustainability Engagement Strategic Action Plan.</li> <li>• Working collaboratively, ensure effective communications to relevant audiences.</li> <li>• Support and collaborate with the Deputy Pro-VC Sustainability, ESD research associate, and the Carbon Literacy Team to deliver a range of projects.</li> <li>• Effective communications relating to Sustainable Development, to increase stakeholder awareness, and to maintain and improve the University's reputation as a leading sustainable University.</li> </ul>
Education for Sustainable Development Research associate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate and support the delivery of activities related to embedding Sustainable Development into the curriculum and/or research across the University.</li> <li>• Deliver Sustainable Development in teaching, learning and research in the Department of Natural Sciences.</li> <li>• Provide advice to the University Stakeholder groups about learning and teaching practise in relation to Sustainable Development.</li> </ul>
Carbon Literacy Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and enhance the Carbon Literacy offering for students and staff.</li> </ul>
RISE Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure sustainability is a core component of the RISE initiative.</li> </ul>
Staff and Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of staff and students are integral to the delivery of the Sustainability Engagement Strategic Action Plan.</li> </ul>

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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)