



LIVERPOOL HOPE
UNIVERSITY
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Liverpool Hope University

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

2025-2028

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Contents

Introduction	3
Vision, Mission and Values	4
Vision Statement	4
Mission Statement	4
Values	4
Strategic Objectives	5
University Commitment	6
Key Themes	7
Carbon Emissions	8
Utility consumption	8
Travel and Transport	9
Waste Management	9
Estates Development	10
Procurement	10
Awareness and Engagement	11
Education for Sustainable Development	11
Delivery, monitoring, reporting and review	12
Governance	13
Resources and Delivery	14

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Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025-2028

Introduction

Liverpool Hope University recognises its moral and ethical responsibility to create a more sustainable planet and to contribute to a better quality of life for present and future generations.

We strive to manage our operations in ways that are environmentally sustainable, economically responsible and socially just with a continued and focused improvement. We acknowledge both the positive and negative impacts of our activities locally, nationally and globally. As a higher education institution, we are uniquely placed to make a significant and lasting contribution through our teaching, research, partnerships, influence on students and staff, and the management of our campuses and operations. A collaborative and collective effort is required to deliver meaningful and lasting change.

The climate and ecological emergencies represent systemic risks to society, the economy and to the long-term resilience of higher education. The UK Government's commitment to Net Zero by 2050, the Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended), the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and the Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education all place an expectation on

all education institutions to accelerate emission reductions and climate resilience planning. Locally, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority launched its 'Pathway to Net Zero' in 2022 to achieve Net Zero by 2040 and Liverpool City Council published its action plan to become a net zero city by 2030 focusing on Buildings and Heat, Power Supply, Transport and Waste.

This Environmental Sustainability Strategy is the overarching document which sets out how Liverpool Hope University will contribute to national and local ambitions, contributing directly to the Sustainable and Future Ready pillar of the University's Strategic Plan 2023–2028 and the Estates Strategy 2025–2028. This Environmental Sustainability Strategy builds upon and streamlines previous sustainability documents and sets out the strategic direction and objectives to be developed and considered within the University's operations and development of the estate; with a focus on key themes critical to supporting the University's longer-term successes.

By 2028, Liverpool Hope University will be continuing its journey towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient, climate-resilient, flexible and dynamic estate; delivering sustainability through education and research; and empowering its community to contribute positively to environmental change.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision Statement

Liverpool Hope's vision for its estate to 2028 is:

"To develop a sustainable, dynamic, and flexible estate that fosters academic excellence and growth, supports diverse student and staff needs, and engages the broader community."

Mission Statement

"Our mission is to enhance the University's teaching, learning, and community engagement by developing an estate that is functional, adaptable, sustainable and future ready."

Values

The following values guide the University's estate planning, ensuring alignment with the institutional purpose, mission and ambitions:

- Sustainability
- Excellence
- Innovation
- Inclusivity
- Collaboration
- Community Engagement
- Responsiveness
- Positive change.

Strategic Objectives

Aligned to the University's Strategic Plan and Estates Strategy, the University commits to:

- Achieving Net Zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2040
- Delivering a 25% reduction target in Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2027-2028 from a 2022-2023 baseline
- Achieving Net Zero Scope 3 emissions by 2050; and reviewing this target following the establishment of a robust baseline
- Achieving a top 50 position in the People and Planet League Table by 2028

Whilst the University has already taken significant steps, we recognise that sustainability is not something that is achieved but is constantly worked towards and therefore we will continually review our practices and reassess our assumptions and commit to a continued and focussed improvement.



University Commitment

The University endeavours to nurture staff and student passions, energies and concerns to make a positive difference in the world and to enable them to make a difference for the world of good, and as such we are committed to:

- Embedding sustainability and responsible practices and behaviours into the University's governance, management, culture, decision making, and operational procedures; including academic, curriculum, and financial planning (including banking and investments)
- Supporting the University's strategic ambitions for sustainability, public engagement and place-leadership as outlined within the Strategic Plan and Estates Strategy
- Providing the capacity and resources necessary for the successful delivery of this Strategy
- Promoting and encouraging environmental awareness and responsibility amongst staff, students and the wider community
- Maintain compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations, standards and recognised good practice
- Monitoring, reviewing and regularly reporting performance
- Implementing systems to support environmental auditing; performance evaluation; and setting clear, quantifiable objectives and targets to ensure continual improvement
- Working collaboratively with Higher Education counterparts, strategic partners and external bodies to benefit from shared knowledge, exchange of best practice, develop skills and action for sustainability
- Continuing to support and engage with relevant campaigns and commitments, including People & Planet's Fossil Fuel Declaration, signed in 2024

Key Themes

There are eight interconnected themes in this Strategy aligned to the University's ambitions, Strategic Plan and Estates Strategy.



1. Carbon Emissions

Aims

Collect, analyse and monitor all material Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions and deliver sustainable reductions progressing towards net zero.

To do this, we will

- Collect, analyse and monitor all material Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions using the Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework
- Establish a robust Scope 3 baseline and reduction pathway aligned to Net Zero by 2050 by the end of 2027-2028
- Manage and reduce those emissions through the implementation of the Carbon Reduction Plan
- Deliver projects (including resource efficiency, increased awareness and engagement and investment in mitigation technologies) to advance carbon emission reductions
- Implement the University's Heating Decarbonisation Plan, focusing on the transition from fossil fuels to electrified systems and low-carbon heat sources
- Explore the feasibility of procuring low- or zero-carbon energy by the end of 2026
- Take steps to understand and mitigate the impact of its financial arrangements.

Key documents

Carbon Reduction Plan (to be ratified by end of 2025-2026); Digital Strategy, Estates Strategy; Our People Strategy.

2. Utility consumption

Aims

Reduce energy and water use by actively monitoring consumption, eliminating unnecessary usage and installing more efficient equipment and technologies.

To do this, we will

- Interrogate data from smart metering and monitoring systems to monitor consumption and prioritise reduction projects
- Deliver projects (including resource efficiency, increased awareness and engagement and investment in mitigation technologies) to reduce consumption
- Develop reduction targets and KPIs
- Explore onsite self- and low-carbon generation and storage technologies

Key documents

Estates Strategy 2025-2028; Energy and Water Plan (to be developed by end of 2026-2027); Heating and Cooling Policy.

3. Travel and Transport

Aims

Reduce emissions associated with commuting, business travel and fleet operations by minimising non-essential journeys, promoting purposeful travel, and prioritising low-carbon sustainable choices.

To do this, we will

- Develop robust methodologies for the collection of Scope 3 travel data by the end of 2026
- Establish a robust Scope 3 baseline by the end of 2027-2028
- Develop reduction targets and KPIs
- Promote and encourage active and sustainable travel choices; including the promotion of public transport and the University's Cycle2Work scheme
- Mandate business travel procurement via the University's Travel Management Company
- Enhance the Travel and Expenses Policy to embed travel hierarchies which prioritise low-carbon travel by the end of 2026
- Develop an understanding of the impact of the current recruitment strategies on business and international student travel
- Maintain and enhance travel planning for all campuses
- Explore the installation of electric vehicle charging points across all campuses.

Key documents

Travel Plan (to be developed by end of 2027-2028), Travel and Expenses Policy, Car Parking Policy.

4. Waste Management

Aims

Reduce resource consumption and waste generation, and improve resource efficiency.

To do this, we will

- Maintain 100% of non-recyclable waste being sent to Energy from Waste
- Improve data collection to ensure accurate reporting
- Audit current waste arisings to understand what actions are required
- Baseline Scope 3 emissions from construction waste by the end of 2027-2028
- Develop reduction targets and KPIs
- Increase reuse, recycling and sustainable materials management
- Prevent pollution by reducing harmful waste, emissions and discharges.

Key documents

Waste Management Plan (to be developed by end of 2026-2027).

5. Estates Development

Aims

Integrate sustainability into the operation, and investment, of the estate and at all stages of maintenance, refurbishment and new build.

To do this, we will

- Align minor and capital works planning with decarbonisation priorities
- Streamline and implement improved space management processes to optimise space usage; occupy buildings responsibly, and identify opportunities to consolidate activities
- Maximise the effectiveness of the estate BMS systems and introduce SMART campus technologies where appropriate
- Develop guidelines, targets and procedures for embedding sustainability into estates projects (general maintenance, refurbishments, minor works and capital works) by the end of 2026-2027
- Develop a climate mitigation, resilience and adaptation management approach by the end of 2027-2028
- Strengthen our resilience against future environmental risks by reviewing our existing risk management processes
- Protect, enhance and promote biodiversity and green spaces across all campuses.

Key documents

Estates Strategy 2025-2028; Space Management & Timetabling Policy; Core Principles of Timetabling; Sustainable Events Guide (to be developed by end of 2027-2028); Climate Adaptation Plan (to be developed); Biodiversity Action Plan (to be developed).

6. Procurement

Aims

Promote sustainable procurement standards and responsible resource management.

To do this, we will

- Review the Procurement Policy and tender criteria to ensure sustainable and responsible procurement is embedded by the end of 2026
- Engage with strategic suppliers on carbon reporting
- Ensure internal processes are structured to enable accurate reporting
- Develop reduction targets and KPIs by the end of 2027-2028
- Maintain, or improve, our two-star Sustainable Restaurant Association Food Made Good Standard award by the end of 2026.

Key documents

Procurement Policy, Sustainable Catering Policy.

7. Awareness and Engagement

Aims

Increase awareness, engagement and understanding of sustainability and its practical applications amongst staff, students and the wider community through formal and informal learning opportunities, training, campaigns, events and other engagement activities.

To do this, we will

- Provide regular sustainability awareness and engagement programmes to our community about current initiatives, targets, strategy development and practical guidance to bring about positive change
- Work collaboratively with the student body to embed and promote sustainability; including the Student's Union, SU Environmental Society, and the residential life team
- Build an active network of staff and students and build links to the local community.

Key documents

TBC.

8. Education for Sustainable Development

Aims

Address environmental sustainability in the curriculum; ensuring that every student has learning opportunities and gains the skills and resources required to apply their knowledge in ways that give a clear sense of their social, ethical and sustainability responsibilities.

To do this, we will

- Embed sustainability into the curriculum, Hope Online and research agendas and activities
- Explore embedding a specific Sustainability module into all taught courses
- Facilitate and support sustainability-focussed interdisciplinary research undertaken
- Actively showcase and promote research and engagement activities undertaken
- Strengthen partnerships that contribute to local and regional sustainability goals
- Promote collaboration between operational and research-led activities to use the campus as a living laboratory for research and applied sustainability projects

Key documents

Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy; Research, Scholarship & Knowledge Exchange Strategy.

Delivery, monitoring, reporting and review

Delivery of this Strategy, and Strategic Objectives, will be supported by robust monitoring, transparent reporting and the development of ambitious, inspiring and targeted action plans, standards and guidance. Actions will be prioritised based on impact feasibility, affordability and alignment with strategic risk.

Achieving these objectives, and ultimately the targets we set will require commitment, conviction, skills development and the challenging of conventional approaches and behaviours.

The Sustainability Manager will maintain the Strategy, monitor KPIs, and maintain compliance with the Estates Management Record and other regulatory reporting. Our progress will be reported on regularly to senior managers; publicly reported through the University's annual financial statements; and in an annual report published on the website. Environmental data will continue to be reported within

the Higher Education Statistics Agency returns and our progress towards net zero will be aligned to the Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework.

This Strategy covers the period 2025-2028 and will be formally reviewed annually, with a full refresh aligned to the next University Strategic planning cycle.

Governance

Overall responsibility, and accountability, sits with the Office of the Vice Chancellor and University Council. The Vice Chancellor represents environmental sustainability at the highest level within the University's governance structure.

Operational oversight, including progress and any barriers, will be provided through the Estates Planning Group who are responsible for setting, reviewing and monitoring sustainability objectives and targets, and ensuring delivery of the commitment's outlines outlined in this strategy. The group will have a particular focus on the Estates operational themes and will meet at least once per term. The minutes of the Estates Planning Group are reported to Finance and General Purposes Committee, Senate, and ultimately University Council.

Heads of Faculties and Professional Services are responsible for ensuring compliance and embedding sustainability within their areas of responsibility. They

play a key role in raising awareness, encouraging innovation, and translating strategic ambition into operational practice.

All staff, students, contractors, visitors and business partners share responsibility for environmental stewardship. Individual choices and behaviours collectively determine our impact, and everyone is encouraged to contribute ideas and actions that support delivery of this Strategy.



Resources and Delivery

Delivery of this Strategy will be supported through:

- Capital investment aligned to the Estates Strategy
- Access to third party funding for decarbonisation projects
- Cross-departmental sustainability working groups
- Staff and student engagement initiatives
- Ongoing review of policies, strategies and plans.







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