

8. Energy, Carbon and Water Management

The emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are one of the biggest challenge's humankind faces, the University calling a 'Climate Emergency' is a response to this threat. Decarbonising what we do is essential to avert catastrophic impacts on the ecosystem to rely on. Water is grouped here as well as its an equally key resource and we must conserve this as well.

Aim

1. To be net zero carbon for our Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2030.
2. To identify a timescale to add building emissions operated by partner organisations, as well as all our scope 3 emissions to our zero carbon aspirations.

Objectives

To reduce our Scope 1 & 2 emissions to net zero by 2030 we will:

1. Optimise our use of space
2. Conserve energy
3. Use energy more efficiently
4. Build and refurbish to the highest cost-effective energy standards
5. Use self-generated heat and electricity from zero/lower-carbon sources
6. Use local externally generated heat and electricity from zero/lower-carbon networks
7. Buy gas and electricity from zero/lower carbon sources
8. Offset of the remaining carbon emissions

To address scope 3 emissions

1. Using scientifically sound carbon targets identify a time scale for delivering net zero carbon
2. Develop Circular Economy and Transport plans which will enable a transition to net zero

Actions

1. Deliver a £5million program of conservation and efficiency measures within our top consuming buildings.
2. Develop scientifically sound science-based carbon targets
3. Develop an in-house carbon off setting scheme linking to biodiversity

Benefits

1. Contributing to reducing climate change
2. Reducing on-going utility costs for the University

Sustainable Development Themes

1. 12 – Responsible consumption and production
2. 13 – Climate action

