

Carbon Neutral Strategy: A Ten Point Plan for the Planet

Purpose and Context

In early 2020 the Climate Emergency Steering Group was established at the university to respond to the Climate Emergency. Attended by the Students' Union, researchers in climate change plus representatives from support services including Estates and Facilities Management and chaired by Professor Tim Thornton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the steering group collaborated to produce the Carbon Neutral Strategy: A Ten Point Plan for the Planet.

Adopted by the University Council in November 2020, the plan reflects the university's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality across all areas of the University. It aims to address the breadth of sustainable development whilst establishing new net zero targets for Huddersfield. As part of this plan, University of Huddersfield will achieve net zero carbon emissions for Scope 1 and Scope 2 by 2030, and for Scope 3 by 2045. These commitments build on the university's long-standing dedication to sustainability and environmental improvement.

Scope

The targets and actions presented in this document cover all operations of University of Huddersfield including, but not limited to, all staff, students, visitors, affiliated individuals and organisations, and contractors and suppliers operating on behalf of University of Huddersfield.

Plan

1. Our new-build estate will achieve BREEAM Excellent and WELL Building standards

Responsible: Director of Estates & Facilities

2. We will reduce our travel impacts by investing in alternatives such as conferencing and distance-learning technologies, and supporting public transport and active travel initiatives

Responsible: Director of Digital Information (standing item SPPIB), Director of Estates & Facilities

3. We will invest in digital solutions to reduce our carbon impact

Responsible: Director of Digital Information (standing item SPPIB)

4. We will place sustainability at the heart of our curriculum, ensuring it is at the centre of our understanding of future global professionals

Responsible: PVC Teaching and Learning (standing item UTLC)

5. Our research will enhance the sustainability agenda, and we will disseminate its findings

Responsible: PVC Research & Enterprise (standing item URC)

6. We will enhance biodiversity in the environment on and around campus

Responsible: Director of Estates & Facilities

7. We will partner with White Rose Forest to plant at least one tree for every student who enrolls with us, including work on urban tree-planting and tree-planting with schools, making offset relevant and effective

Responsible: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

8. We will invest £25m in carbon reduction measures in the next six years

Responsible: Director of Estates & Facilities

9. We will achieve net zero carbon emissions for Scopes 1 & 2 by 2030

Responsible: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (standing item SLT)

10. We will achieve net zero carbon emissions for scope 3 by 2045

Responsible: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (standing item SLT)

Scope 1: Emissions from sources directly owned or controlled by the University

Scope 2: Generated by use of energy bought from a utility provider

Scope 3: Occurring from sources that the University does not own or control, for example, emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste, and water.

POLICY SIGN-OFF AND OWNERSHIP DETAILS	
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Related Policies/Procedures:	

REVISION HISTORY			
Version	Date	Revision description/summary of changes	Author
V1.2	Jun 2025	Minor revision	Professor Tim Thornton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
V1.1	Apr 2022	Policy reviewed by Carbon Emergency Steering Group. No changes	Professor Tim Thornton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
V1.0	Nov 2020	First draft of new policy	Professor Tim Thornton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor