



University of Brighton

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY
2013-15**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

EDUCATION FOR A ONE-WORLD FUTURE

We want Brighton staff and students to be known for their commitment to positive impact, engaging with local and global communities and sustainability in their chosen field: University of Brighton Strategic Plan 2012-15

Sustainable development is widely understood as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (Brundtland Report)

Everything we do has long-term implications, and we need to balance the multiple and interacting dimensions – social, environmental, economic and cultural – of our actions.

OUR VISION of sustainable development is to embed principles and practices within the institution and contribute to developing more sustainable local and global communities. We understand it in a broad sense, intrinsically linked to other values such as partnership, collaboration and engagement

We believe that the most effective way of developing our understanding of sustainable development is to focus on actions. This implies an on-going process of critical engagement in all our activities as an educational institution for future world citizens, as a centre of learning and research, as a major regional employer, and as a facilitator for knowledge exchange.

OUR COMMITMENTS

OUR OVERARCHING COMMITMENTS are to:

- Take a whole institution approach, embedding considerations of how all the core activities of the university can contribute towards local and global sustainable development;
- Maintain and build on our achievements in a higher education sector with growing commitment to sustainability.
- Achieve the demanding targets set out in our environmental policy and carbon management plan

KPI: We will sustain our position in the top 10 of the People and Planet Green League.

This work will be developed across the themes in the University's Strategic Plan:

LEARNING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: We will work to inspire staff to think about the sustainability 'lens' that is relevant to their area of work, and how Education for Sustainability reinforces other agendas such as internationalisation, global citizenship and developing students as researchers. This work will be integrated with the aspirations in the Learning and Teaching Strategy to continue develop a curriculum that is fit for purpose. We are committed to:

- Increasing the role of sustainable development practices and content in our curricula, building on existing curriculum development processes and partnership work in the UK and abroad;
- Providing all students with the opportunity to join in related extra-curricular and community engagement activities alongside more formal opportunities for external engagement (see KPI 4a);

KPI: There will be an increase in the number of courses engaging with Education for Sustainability : Audit 2013 to set benchmark

RESEARCH, ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP: Our university's research and economic and social engagement activities are rich in their positive impact on people and the planet and we are proud to be a leading UK institution for community partnership work – an intrinsic aspect of sustainability. We are committed to:

- Continuing to support socially purposeful research and raise the university's collective profile of relevant research, economic and social engagement activities;
- Continuing to include Sustainable Development as a major strand in these areas, developing new projects through academic schools and faculties that support our external engagement work across Sussex and beyond.

KPI: We will work with partners to secure external funding to contribute to regional sustainable development

SUSTAINABLE CAMPUSES: A strong, well-publicised environmental policy is crucial for reducing our environmental impact and enabling sustainable practices among students and staff. We are committed to:

- Continuing to develop our profile in the sector as a university committed to sustainability;
- Reducing emissions and discharges, and working to prevent all forms of pollution;
- Meeting and where appropriate exceeding all relevant legislation and other requirements;
- Demonstrating continuous improvement in our activities which impact on the environment through continual review and exemplar management.

KPI: We will achieve our target to cut carbon emissions by 50% by 2015 (baseline year 2009-10)

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES are central to our aspirations of sustainable development which includes *how* we do it: human-centred governance and institutional processes. We are committed to:

- Continuing to be a learning institution with opportunities for meaningful participation for all members of the institution;
- Putting sustainable practices into university governance, reflecting our understanding of a healthy and just society;
- Continuing to support informal networks of staff and students, and to develop effective and responsive communications.
- Continuing to promote and reward ethical practices in our work.

KPI: We will grow participation in our grassroots networks for all students and staff across all sites

The Sustainable Development Policy has been co-created by engaging with departments throughout the university and will be implemented via related strategies and action plans outlined below. The policy is approved by the Board of Governors and supported by the Senior Management Team, which has ultimate responsibility for setting and reviewing sustainability objectives and targets. All staff, students, visitors, contractors and relevant external stakeholders share this responsibility. The policy and related activities are reviewed regularly by the Sustainable Development Management Group.

Prof. Julian Crampton
Vice-Chancellor

Date

RELATED POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS:

Environmental Policy	Sustainable Development Action Plan Ethical
Investment Policy	Sustainable Procurement Strategy
Sustainable Food Policy	Carbon Management Plan
Travel Plan Strategy	Biodiversity Action Plan