

Swansea University Sustainability Policy 2026 - 2027

Swansea University is engaged in innovative research and teaching with profound implications for understanding and stewarding the environment at local, national and global levels. For example, this includes zero carbon projects playing a significant role in driving the UK towards decarbonised energy systems, environmental and energy law, climate change and glaciology, biodiversity and conservation, and sustainable aquaculture - plus the environmental psychology needed to understand how human behaviours play a role in environmental stewardship. These research and teaching activities are a major contribution the University makes towards addressing global sustainability challenges.

With an annual turnover in excess of £300m, a community of over 20,000 students and staff, we also recognise the need to manage our operations in a sustainable and responsible manner for the benefit of all, whilst utilising the university as a “living lab” to provide solutions and skills to address global challenges, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Wales’ Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015. We have committed to deliver net zero and nature positive campuses by 2035 as part of the University’s Sustainability Strategy ¹, recognising the climate and ecological emergencies faced by current and future generations. This Sustainability Policy will be reviewed annually, made available to the public and all interested parties and communicated to students and staff.

Swansea University commits to:

1. Decarbonise and deliver net zero campuses by 2035.
2. Promote biological diversity and become a nature positive university.
3. Demonstrate sustainable approaches to the built environment in our construction, refurbishment and maintenance projects.
4. Set targets to actively reduce the consumption of primary raw materials, including fossil fuels and water, while avoiding waste, diverting materials from energy recovery, and promoting a circular economy by going beyond recycling.
5. Embed sustainable and ethical approaches into the procurement and life cycle of university goods and services.
6. Enable the active and sustainable travel practices of staff, students and visitors.
7. Promote education for sustainable development (ESD) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) throughout research, Innovation and in formal and informal curricula.
8. Support more sustainable knowledge, skills and behaviours across the university and wider community by working with the Students’ Union and other partners to enhance the sustainability of both the university and local communities.
9. Adapt to climate change, ensuring resilience and continuity of operations and services.
10. Protect the environment through the prevention of pollution and other relevant commitments, while fulfilling our environmental compliance obligations and continually improving environmental performance through ISO 14001 Environmental Management accreditation by setting, monitoring, reviewing, and publishing relevant objectives that demonstrate continual improvement in our environmental performance.

Signed on behalf of the Senior Leadership Team:



Name and position: Professor Paul Boyle, Vice-Chancellor / **Date:** 17th June 2026

¹ subject to financial sustainability and funding sources.

