



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

Swansea University Sustainability Strategy: 2016 - 2020

Working Together to Create a Brighter Future



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1 Foreword



1 - Foreword

Universities are a major force in creating a more sustainable future, both in the way they conduct their operations and how they build future capacity around sustainable development issues. The pursuit of sustainable development is an exciting challenge for Swansea University, it presents us with the opportunity to play a crucial leadership role in the region, the UK and internationally.

Swansea's research innovations are having profound implications in the UK, with our work helping to drive sustainable development forward in many parts of the world. Closer to home, the low carbon jobs sector has been identified as key to South West Wales into the future, putting Swansea University in an excellent position to play a major role in this aspect of regional growth. Our growing dual campus University is making a significant research impact in areas which will help create a more sustainable, low carbon future.

This strategy demonstrates our commitment to the University having a net positive impact on sustainable development in how it operates its business. The University, over the last five years, has been increasingly recognised as a leader in its thinking around organisational sustainability, and is committed to continue to implement new ways of thinking and working to contribute to a brighter, more sustainable future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Nowell', written in a cursive style.

Craig Nowell
Director of Estates and Facilities Management, April 2016



swell

Sustainability and Wellbeing
Swansea University

Students Sustainability League

2 - Sustainability at Swansea University

2 - Sustainability at Swansea

2.1 Context

There are numerous definitions of sustainable development (SD), with that coined by the Brundtland Commission (1987) being the most widely accepted and commonly cited: “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

In Wales, our Government wishes to put sustainable development into practice by “enhancing the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations, in ways that:

- promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
- enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect its limits – using only our fair share of the earth’s resource and
- sustaining our cultural legacy.”

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is a significant Welsh development that sets out how public bodies (including HEFCW) will progress, monitor and report on how their actions are improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, and aimed at achieving a set of well-being goals.

Swansea University has around 50 pieces of legislation and other requirements on its legal register – covering a range of areas such as waste, carbon, nuisance, pollution and biodiversity. As well as the significant legal risks the University faces, other drivers for continual improvement in our sustainability performance include:

- the annual Guardian-published People and Planet University League (the “Green League”);
- HEFCW’s requirement for us to have a robust Carbon Management Plan and Environmental Management System in place;
- peer performance and advantage; and,
- growing student and stakeholder expectations.

2.2 Delivering Sustainability

All members of the Swansea University community have a role to play in moving our organisation towards a more sustainable future. To ensure a targeted approach to Sustainability, the University has a formal strategic management and reporting structure. Our governance structure involves cross university representation and aspires to link students, academic and administrative functions.

2.3 Sustainability Governance

The Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Committee, chaired by the Registrar Mr Raymond Ciborowski, will guide sustainable development strategies and actions within the University. The Committee will consider and approve reports and recommendations from the Sustainability, and other relevant working groups. It will comment on individual items, including policies, audits, procedures and management reports. The SHE Committee provides the reporting link between those responsible for governance of the University and the operationalisation of our sustainability strategy across the range of colleges and professional service units.

The Sustainability Working Group includes the core contributors to sustainability across the University. Representation, where needed, from other University committees and working groups is incorporated to allow effective liaison. Invitation is extended to programme or project leaders when appropriate. There is dedicated secretarial support for the group.

The Working Group meets triennially to: review the overall programmes of work set out in this document and in all of the associated plans, including the Carbon Management Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan, and also oversees the operation of the Environmental Management System (ISO14001). The Group identifies new risks and opportunities for continual improvement in sustainability performance, addressing a range of cross cutting management issues.

2.4 Engagement

The University has a network of Environmental Coordinators who are a vital way of communicating news and movement on our sustainability initiatives, driving the continual development of the Environmental Management System (EMS) and other initiatives.

The Students Union also provides a key communication channel for sustainability at the University. Through involvement in the range of thematic working groups relating to this strategy, the Union are able to promote sustainability and help recruit interested students to join our numerous initiatives and projects. The Students Union has, over the last few years, been a critical partner in initiatives such as Green Impact, Blackout, Student Switch Off, Brighter Futures and the Swansea Sustainability Award. A sustainability and wellbeing newsletter - SWell - is published quarterly and disseminated to all staff and students

As well as the necessary training and professional development activities undertaken by those tasked with delivering the work programme set out in this document, a range of other training opportunities will be provided at Swansea University. These include:

- Training for staff as part of the Environmental Management System, to include waste management, legal compliance, and environmental auditor training.
- Training provided at staff induction around environmental management at Swansea University and what is expected.
- Training for student volunteers, delivered by internal and external experts, involved in initiatives as part of the Swansea Sustainability Award.
- Training opportunities provided to students involved in placements or project work as part of formal courses at the University.
- Temporary (summer) employment opportunities offered to undergraduates, postgraduates and alumni by the Sustainability Team each year.



3 Our Key Sustainability Opportunities

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For ease of management and narrative, we have identified eight main sustainability opportunities at the University. A comprehensive workstream, management plan and governance structure is associated with each opportunity. Overall progress across the areas will be reported annually via the governance structure set out above.



3 Our Key Sustainability Opportunities

3.1 Our 1st Opportunity: Lower Carbon

How can we...

...heat, cool and power University buildings in ways that reduce carbon emissions and other negative impacts, whilst allowing the University's core activities to continue?

Aim

- What will this look like?**
- Reduced energy consumption per student.
 - Reduced water consumption per student.
 - Well managed utility expenditure (currently c. £4m per annum).
 - Compliance with all relevant legislation and commitments including Display energy certificates, Carbon Reduction Commitment & HEF CW's Carbon Management Strategy.
 - Improved user comfort & perception of energy/water management.
 - Sustainable design & management practices in renovations, refurbishments & new builds.

Objectives

- What will we do?**
- Ensure corporate commitment to the range of projects set out in the Carbon Management Plan 2016-20.
 - Develop a carbon reporting process for better staff and student engagement.
 - Improve sub metering to enable better monitoring and control of energy, heat and water, and targeting of efficiency works.
 - Work with Low Carbon Swansea as a key regional partner.



- How will we manage this?**
- Stakeholders:** Sustainability, Environmental Coordinators, Maintenance, Projects, ISS, Energy consultants, Carbon Trust, Low Carbon Swansea.
- Management:** Carbon Management Plan Working Group.
- Plan:** Swansea University Carbon Management Plan 2016-2020.
- EMS targets:**
- C1** Reduce absolute carbon emissions (Scope 1 and 2) from buildings energy by at least 35% by 2025/26 based on 2015/16 baseline.
 - C2** Increase KWh of electricity generated by onsite renewable sources year on year.
 - C3** Reduce water consumption to 1m3/m2 by 2018/19.
 - C4** Incorporate sustainability and energy-efficient into all new build projects.
 - C5** Incorporate sustainability and energy-efficient into all renovation and refurbishment projects.

3 Our Key Sustainability Opportunities

3.2 Our 2nd Opportunity: Minimal Waste

How can we...

...use resources efficiently to reduce our production of waste; and manage waste in ways that minimise negative environmental impact and maximise positive social impact?

Aim

WHAT WILL THIS LOOK LIKE?

- Compliance with all legal and other requirements relating to waste and recycling.
- Minimised waste generation and maximised recycling.
- Opportunities for reuse of materials identified and implemented.
- Zero waste sent to landfill.
- Reduction in waste produced per student/staff FTE.
- Reduction in waste disposal costs.

Objectives

WHAT WILL WE DO?

- Implement source segregation on all campuses by the end of 2016.
- Review and upgrade all internal and external recycling bins by 2017.
- Monitor, analyse & communicate performance information on waste generation, reuse and recycling by area.
- Ensure that all tender documents include a requirement to minimise waste and all suppliers must remove/ collect delivery packaging waste.
- Work with colleges/PSUs to ensure that, where practical, purchased consumables are made from recycled materials, are recyclable or biodegradable.
- Work with catering outlets to reduce the volume of non-recyclable cup waste & food packaging.
- Provide university departments with a facility to offer unwanted furniture and equipment for reuse via a central campus repository service.
- Establish new relationships with local charity reuse schemes.
- Work closely with Campus Services staff to develop a 'waste warden' element to their role to monitor waste disposal and contamination and report back via stakeholder meetings.



HOW WILL WE MANAGE THIS?

Stakeholders: Sustainability, Campus Services, Catering, Procurement, Residential Services, Grounds, Students Union, Waste Management Contractor.

Management: Waste Contract meetings, Waste Stakeholders meetings.

Plan: Waste Management Plan for Bay and Singleton campuses

EMS targets:

- W1** Increase recycled waste proportion to 63% by end of 2018/19 in line with the University's WMP.
- W2** Raise awareness of updated waste management practices at the University in staff, students, contractors, visitors and other stakeholders.

3 Our Key Sustainability Opportunities

3.3 Our 3rd Opportunity: Biodiverse Campuses

How can we...

...protect and enhance the biodiversity of our campuses, and communicate their value as important green corridors?

Aim

What will this look like?

- Staff, students and visitors will be aware of the range of wildlife using our campuses.
- There will be visible support for biodiversity and conservation on both campuses.
- Work to enhance the wildlife value of the campuses will complement works in the wider area.
- There will be full compliance with all legal and other requirements relating to biodiversity.

Objectives

What will we do?

- Maintain an active, public and comprehensive Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Swansea University campuses.
- Ensure that the BAP forms the basis of all habitat and species management on our campuses.
- Ensure that all relevant staff are familiar with the BAP and its requirements. Develop and promote the University's Nature trail to communicate the value of biodiversity to the University and wider community.
- Initiate new biodiversity projects each year.
- Play an active role within the Local Biodiversity Partnership. Ensure biodiversity is a key consideration within our Environmental Management System (EMS).



How will we manage this?

Stakeholders: Sustainability, Biosciences, Maintenance Team, Contractors, Swansea and NPT Biodiversity Partnership, local community, interest groups.

Management: Biodiversity Working Group.

Plan: Swansea University Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2016-2020.

EMS targets:

B1 Monitor and report against the University's Biodiversity Action Plan annually.

3 Our Key Sustainability Opportunities

3.4 Our 4th Opportunity: Sustainable Travel

How can we...

...move large numbers of staff and students to and between campuses in the most sustainable manner practicable?

Aim

What will we do?

- Improve monitoring of the Swansea University Travel Plan through staff and student surveys, to obtain more accurate information and data relating to transport usage.
- Promote the Swansea Uni Liftshare scheme amongst staff and students who drive to work to encourage car sharing.
- Optimise uptake of current staff discounts at local cycling outlets, and promotion of the Bike to Work scheme.
- Continue to negotiate pricing with key stakeholders for staff and students using P&R and Public transport.
- Engage with staff and students on all sustainable travel through training, presentations, workshops and events.
- Improve infrastructure to facilitate cycling such as showers and changing facilities.



What will this look like?

- An effective and equitable car parking strategy.
- Car sharing maximised at the University.
- The University Travel Plan equitably developed, publicised and managed.
- A significant proportion of staff and student walking and cycling to the University.
- Maximised numbers of staff and students commuting via Public Transport.
- Increased number of students travelling from further afield using the Park and Ride site as a viable parking solution, rather than non-sustainable options such as on street or campus parking.

Objectives

How will we manage this?

Stakeholders: Sustainability, Commercial services, Projects, Public Transport Providers, Police, Local Authorities, Local Business Community, Students Union, Travel Plan Coordinator.

Management: Travel Plan Working Group.

Plan: Swansea University Travel Plan 2015-2020.

EMS targets:

- T1** Increase proportion of staff who regularly chose to commute sustainably (non-car) by July 2020.
- T2** Increase the number of EV charge points on Singleton Campus year on year.
- T3** Increase the % of fleet vehicles that use alternative fuels year on year.
- T4** Increase proportion of students that commute sustainably (non-car) to two-thirds by July 2020.

3 Our Key Sustainability Opportunities

3.5 Our 5th Opportunity: Positive Procurement

Aim

How can we...

...encourage staff and students to make more sustainable choices and motivate University suppliers and contractors to offer sustainable products and services?

What will this look like?

- Sustainable procurement is embedded throughout the University.
- Staff are confident that environmental and social issues are taken into account in tendering and other processes and activities.
- We are an active Fairtrade University.
- We have the Soil Association's Food for Life Mark.
- We are affiliated with the Workers' Rights Consortium (WRC) and other ethical organisations relevant to Higher Education.
- We are compliant with all relevant procurement legislation and guidance.

Objective

What will we do?

- Continue to promote our Ethical Investment policy.
- Use the Welsh Assembly's Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework biannually.
- Encourage staff to review the consumption of resources and reuse/recycle to avoid purchasing.
- Enhance the staff skills and knowledge relating to sustainable procurement to reduce costs and the environmental and social impact of our goods and services. Investigate other affiliations to progress ethical and eco procurement at the University.
- Undertake annual audits of selected suppliers and contractors to review their environmental and ethical performance.



How will we manage this?

Stakeholders: Sustainability, Catering, Procurement, Students Union, Environmental coordinators, all departments.

Management: Sustainable Procurement and Fairtrade Working Group.

Plan: Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework (SPAF) Action Plan.

EMS targets:

- P1** Develop and publish a Positive Procurement Action Plan by July 2019.
- P2** Achieve Soil Association Bronze as a minimum at all eligible Campus Catering outlets (n.b. eligible outlets are where 75% of the food is prepared on site) by July 2019.
- P3** Achieve Sustainable Restaurant Association Award & increase sustainability rating by July 2019.
- P4** Achieve Carbon Trust and Soil Association accredited Green Kitchen Award by July 2019.

3 Our Key Sustainability Opportunities

3.6 Our 6th Opportunity: Wellbeing and Health

Aim

How can we...

... support and improve the health and wellbeing of staff, students and the wider University community?

What will we do?

- Support the Healthy University Group and Strategy.
- Achieve Corporate Health Standard Bronze and Silver in 2016, Gold in 2017 and Platinum in 2018.
- Develop and promote advice and services that enhance staff mental and physical health and wellbeing.
- Increase the availability of healthy, sustainable food on campus.
- Promote physical exercise (from sports to nature walks).
- Promote the ORACLE as a contemplative space for staff and link the classroom to wellbeing activities.
- Champion volunteering schemes and ecotherapy.
- Feature and promote health and wellbeing initiatives on the staff engagement portal – SWell.

What will this look like?

- The University holds the Public Health Wales Corporate Health Standard award.
- Equitable and effective services enhance the health and wellbeing of staff and students.
- Close links between sustainability and well being are researched, understood and communicated at the University.
- Healthy, happy and more



Objectives

How will we manage this?

Stakeholders: Sustainability, Wellbeing, Safety, Occupational Health, Student Services, Catering, Compliance, Public Health Wales, Sports centre, Human Resources, Travel Plan Coordinator.

Management: Healthy University Group (HUG).

Plan: HUG Strategy, SWell Engagement Plan (annual), Corporate Health Standard Action Plan.

EMS targets:

WH1 Achieve Gold level of the Welsh Corporate Health Standard in 2018/2019.

3 Our Key Sustainability Opportunities

3.7 Our 7th Opportunity: Culture and Community

How can we...

...support a culture of engagement and collaboration around sustainability issues within our local and wider community?

Aim

- What will this look like?**
- A comprehensive Environmental Management System embedded across the University that manages resources, risks and ensures resilience.
 - Staff inducted, trained and supported to conduct their activities in an environmentally responsible manner.
 - A community volunteering culture through which staff wellbeing and environmental performance are improved.
 - Strong links and support for local charities and other social and environmental organisations.
 - No penalties for breaches of legislation relevant to environmental management.

Objectives

- What will we do?**
- Ensure staff receive training, induction and support.
 - Initiate new community volunteering projects each year.
 - Run events and projects to engage staff, students and the wider community.
 - Develop collaboration between charities and University departments (e.g. computers to IT Schools Africa end of year clear-outs for the British Heart Foundation and food banks). Undertake annual internal and external EMS audits.
 - Develop partnerships with staff/students through forums and working groups.
 - Identify and manage significant environmental risks from research especially laboratory usage.



- How will we manage this?**
- Stakeholders:** Sustainability, Safety, Compliance, Internal Auditors, Contractors and Suppliers, staff, students, charities and community groups.
- Management:** EMS Working Group, Sustainability Engagement Group.
- Plan:** Annual EMS Action Plan, SWell Engagement Plan (annual).
- EMS targets:**
- CC1** At least 60% of staff registered on the University's Sustainability engagement portal (SWell) by July 2019. Increase % staff engaged with SWell on a weekly basis.
 - CC2** To hold at least 12 sustainability events, workshops or campaigns for students and staff in 2018/19.
 - CC3** Achieve full legal compliance on environmental emissions and discharges.
 - CC4** To continue to embed and improve the Environmental Management System across the University.

3 Our Key Sustainability Opportunities

3.8 Our 8th Opportunity: Knowledge and Skills

How can we...

... equip staff and students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to create a more sustainable future?

Aim

What will this look like?

- Strong links between estates/ operations and academia using the campus as a teaching resource.
- Our infrastructure and grounds used for research purposes with the campus utilised as a 'living lab'.
- Students and staff involved in a wide range of sustainability initiatives to increase their employability and improve transferable skills.

Objectives

What will we do?

- Raise awareness of sustainability and wellbeing initiatives and share achievements with students/staff via SWell (our online engagement platform).
- Provide a University study and work environment which facilitates more sustainable living and learning (e.g. ORACLE).
- Promote sustainability and environmental issues and skills via the Employability Award System.
- The Sustainability Team will host undergraduate and postgraduate students for research projects, dissertations and coursework, and will provide guest lectures across the Colleges.
- Provide practical working experience to students through internships, week of work (WOW) and SPIN.
- Promote and progress Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship (ESDGC) across the University.

How will we manage this?

Stakeholders: Sustainability, Employability Academy, Students Union, all colleges

Management: Sustainability Engagement Group.

Plan: SWell Engagement Plan (annual).

EMS targets:

KS1 At least 500 students to be registered to the University Sustainability Award in year 2018/2019.





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