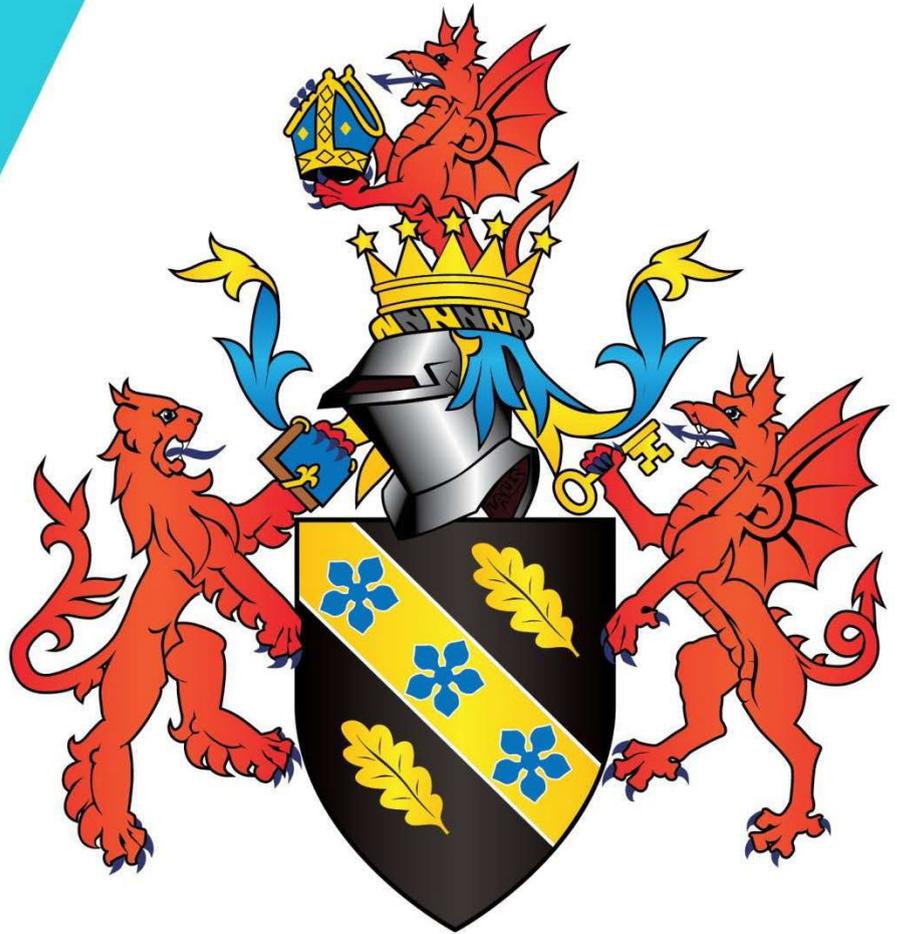




Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



Sustainability Plan 2022-2025

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1. Introduction and Scope

This sustainability plan (2022-25) is designed to provide a direction of travel in both supporting the UWTSD's Group Strategic commitments whilst also supporting the sustainability agenda, with a move towards a net zero carbon 2030. This statement is relevant to all campuses and is set out in a way that works towards ensuring that our students, our staff and our wider community benefit.

It aims to meet the requirements of the Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 whilst also Increasing biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems¹ as outlined in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and ensuring that we undertake our duties in the Universities Wales – Civic Mission Framework. Woven throughout the Universities approach are actions towards the Sustainable Development Goals all of which demonstrates our commitment to Sustainability and the Environment.

Sustainability is a whole group undertaking and as such our overarching aims and goals in this area, as articulated by the University Strategic Plan 2022-25, are supported, and enacted throughout the institution, particularly in addressing the ambition to achieve wellbeing, resilience, sustainability, and effectiveness.

The Sustainability team through this plan and working in partnership with staff, students, and our surrounding communities as we progress towards meeting net zero targets, in line with Welsh Government ambitions articulated in the [All Wales Plan 20212-25: Working Together to Reach Net Zero](#).

2. Vision

Our vision is to build on our existing position as a leading UK university in sustainability by striving for excellence in financial, environmental, and social responsibility – and demonstrating sustainability best practice, knowledge generation and ideas - across all our activities.

UWTSD is a University that:

- **adds value** to the learning experience through a distinctive 'system-based' approach that combines traditional higher education with vocational, professional, and academic research activities, delivered with academic rigour.
- **offers a well-defined undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum**, which delivers distinctive graduate attributes in the areas of employability, enterprise, sustainable education, and global citizenship.
- is **dedicated** to realising the potential of each individual student and to supporting students at all stages of their education.
- is **pioneering** new approaches to work-based learning and professional practice that enhance workforce and enterprise capabilities; and
- is **committed** to all aspects of sustainable development.

The University through its [Strategic Plan](#) and Environmental Policy Statement articulates its values of Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship:

Sustainable development, by behaving in a way which ensures that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and by systematically embedding this principle in our approach to teaching and learning.

The concept of global citizenship, through the development of multi-national activities and opportunities for our learners, staff, and partners.

Strategic Priority 4: A University for Wales provides Measures of Success linked to sustainable development agendas and commitments, linked to Welsh Government priorities:

- Incorporation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals and ways of working into the strategic planning of faculties and professional departments
- Implementation of sustainability commitments within Faculty and Departmental strategic plans
- Completion of curriculum audits to support wellbeing and sustainability commitments
- Recording environmental sustainability data and carbon management plan information to underpin sustainable campus environments

Key Performance Indicator 8 (Estates and Infrastructure) contains sustainability-linked measures which include: energy consumption, cost of core utilities, Scope 2 emissions.

Progress in relation to sustainable aims is monitored through annual strategic plan reporting and Key Performance Indicator Reporting provided to the Resources and Performance Committee and University Council.

3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Much of the activity linked to Sustainability supports and aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG's). For this reason, the University's activity is mapped against these goals and reviewed as part of the Sustainable Development Group. The work linked to the UN SDG's is captured [here](#).

4. Objectives

The overarching target for the University is currently the drive to Net Zero by 2030. The University aims to achieve this along with other crucial Sustainability and Environmental Targets.

Biodiversity

The university is looking at improving biodiversity across all campuses with special regard to the habitats in the section 7 species register. To achieve this, the plan seeks to operate a program of continual improvement of biodiversity and habitat improvement.

- Our [Biodiversity Action Plan](#) report highlights the priority species located within our main campuses and sets a baseline of the biodiversity already available.
- We are aiming to improve biodiversity through improved wildflower meadows, establishment of natural ponds, improvement in native flora diversity across campuses, additional bat & bird boxes, hedgehog houses,
- We are looking to monitor species numbers through internal and external biodiversity audits annually with the results published on the website and as part of the [Section 6 Review](#).
- Annual review of audits will be undertaken and presented to the biodiversity steering group to regularly review priority areas and species

Water

The university in line with its overall strategies aims to minimize its impact on the regional and national water supply. We are aiming to actively reduce consumption, through improvements in estates infrastructure and education. We are looking at ways we can improve natural ground water recharge and reduce capacity load on council infrastructure during climate induced flooding event intervals. The university is ensuring through our sustainable use of our water resources we ensure we do not impact adequate supply to other stakeholders or future generations as outlined in our [Water Management Plan](#).

Baseline 2012/13: 49,611m³ total and 5.46m³ per FTE

Reduction target 2025: 5% year on year reduction on GIA and FTE equivalent consumption.

Energy

We are in transitional stage in line with Welsh Governments Net Zero 2030 carbon for Scope 1 and 2 emissions. We are required to reduce and consider our global impact in energy use. For the University to achieve net zero we must review and reduce internally every aspect of energy consumption. The university is using a data driven targeted approach to reduce consumption through infrastructure upgrades, educational driven behavioural change, onsite green energy production projects.

Targets relating to carbon reduction and associated action plans are contained in the [Carbon Management Plan](#).

Travel and Transport

The University seeks to reduce Scope 3 emissions by encouraging and supporting staff to avoid or reduce single person fossil fuelled modes of travel. The Travel and Transport Plan outlines how the University facilitates and promotes convenient, low carbon options for staff, students, and other stakeholders to travel to and between our campuses.

This strategic direction is supported by the following objectives:

- Provide attractive alternatives to single occupancy car journeys.
- Enhance staff and student wellbeing via safe and convenient active travel options.
- Minimise the impact of business travel.
- Accurately quantify the impacts associated with travel and transport on the environment.
- Deliver a safe and affordable parking service.

Waste

As major employer and educational body we a large producer of waste, it is our responsibility to be a sector leader to ensure we divert reusable items away from waste streams. We are developing new reuse programs across Digital Services, WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) and furniture waste streams to ensure reuse is the major route for items

that are not deemed end of life. We are following targeted approach to achieve high recycling rates and minimize our energy from waste footprint. We are adopting a zero waste to landfill policy for any waste stream where an alternative use exists. Our [Waste Management Plan](#) and action plan further details the current program and reduction targets.

Baseline 2018/19: Total waste 512.5t and a 54% Recycling Rate

Target 24/25: 10% reduction in total waste based on FTE figures and a 90% recycling rate

Food

Our [sustainable food plan](#) details via clear objectives how we are ensuring the agricultural success of our local communities going into the future. It ensures we are following an ethical procurement framework and developing more sustainable and healthy eating habits for our students, staff, and other customers. All our onsite food waste anaerobically digested to produce fertilizers for further food production alongside biogas for heating and cooking. We are looking to implement other diversion streams for excess food to ensure edible food is not wasted and where possible donated to community food banks or other groups using food or cooking to support the local community. Onsite menus always offer a lower carbon vegan or vegetarian option, and our locally sourced produce helps to drive down our scope 3 emissions. All students leaving halls can donate any unwanted food and the Operations team facilitates a large donation to the local food bank.

Ethical Decisions

University of Wales Trinity Saint David carefully considers the ethical, social, economic, and environmental consequences of all its investments and activities. Our key principles and our commitment to implement and monitor an ethical decision-making process with regards to investments are outlined in our [Ethical Investment Policy](#). As stated, the University is committed to divesting from fossil fuel companies and will not knowingly undertake new investments in arms companies or corporations complicit in the violation of international law.

Procurement and contracting – Our [Procurement Policy](#) has sustainability built into the heart of the document. Resources are precious and the need to ensure that we are not only achieving financial ‘value for money’ but to also ensure that we are also achieving social value too is just as important. Our procurement unit supports this and clearly highlights this within their interaction with contractors and tender documentations. The approach accounts for the whole life cycle of the purchase to ensure that future implications are considered at purchase point.

Wellbeing & Engagement

The University of Wales Trinity Saint David has the opportunity through students, staff, and stakeholders to make a real impact through people and resources to help the drive to Net Zero, increase awareness, develop habitats, and ensure environmental matters are considered in everything we do. The Sustainability Team have developed a plan of engagement to maximise the opportunities for involvement across our students, staff, and stakeholders. The importance of nature and greenspaces for mental health and wellbeing is recognised and the University seeks to develop ‘Wellbeing Walks’ on every campus by 2024.

Our annual sustainability engagement plan can be found [here](#).

Buildings, Construction and Refurbishment

The University Estate is a complex mix of historic listed buildings dating from 1822 to new innovative spaces with further construction on the horizon.

The University pledges to ensure all new builds meet BREEAM Excellent status or equivalent. All refurbishment activity will seek to achieve a minimum DEC (Display Energy Certificate) rating of C by 2025.

The [DEC Energy Building Action Plan](#) is developed in line with DEC recommendation reports, it provides an energy efficiency based priority matrix for ongoing refurbishment and maintenance work across the existing university estate.

Education and Sustainable Development

Training and Development - The University is keen to ensure that both staff and students have access to knowledge related to the sustainability agenda, we already have a non-accredited module that was developed on the release of the Wellbeing and Future generation Act (Wales) 2015 and we are working with our European colleagues to develop further modules that will enhance knowledge about the 17 UN SDGs with a view for this to be available through the medium of both Welsh and English as we move towards the Academic year 2022-2023. The staff induction for 22/23 will also include a Workplace Sustainability module to support staff be more aware of personal responsibility to the drive to Net Zero and other environmental impacts. This module may also be available to students; however, all staff and students have access to LinkedIn learning where a range of Sustainability and Environmental Awareness modules are contained. To enhance this, the Sustainability Team will engage with the Library and Learning Resources unit to find opportunities in providing skills development and learning resources.

Curriculum development - The PV2a document is the verification document for all modules delivered in the University. Each section must be completed prior to module approval. UWTSD requires all modules to provide detailed commentary on this statement; *'In this section, please reflect briefly on the way you have embedded Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) within the programme(s) as a whole'* to ensure that this is woven through all academic courses across the University.

Students Union - The University actively works with the TSD Student Union and encourages students to engage in activities that can help steer the direction of travel for the University. The Students' Union undertakes [SOS UK's Green Impact Scheme](#), this activity and continued commitment is endorsed and is supported by the University. The partnership between the University and Students' Union is cross-departmental to ensure that the student voice in relation to sustainability is heard consistently.

INSPIRE Internships – The University in collaboration with the Student Union, currently has an INSPIRE Internship scheme that support some of the key issues highlighted within the sustainability agenda. With University senior managers providing direction and the students' union taking a lead on the management of the day-to-delivery. These [internships](#) provide paid (via bursary) experiential learning within the field of sustainability; enhancing student employability and literacy of sustainability.

Civic Mission – through the work of INSPIRE, we encourage students to develop other skills in order that they are ready for when they move forward in their journey in life. These skills enhance their commitment to social values, research and enterprise whilst providing them with opportunity to develop important networks, business acumen and research techniques.

The University also offers free LinkedIn Learning courses to all staff and students and these include ['The Employees Guide to Sustainability'](#) and ['Navigating Environmental Sustainability – A guide for Leaders'](#)

Community and External Partnerships

Universities Wales Civic Mission Network – the University engages with other universities in Wales within this network Group to identify opportunity to work together towards such issues related to the sustainability agenda but in line with the Civic Mission Framework (Annexe B)

Cenedlathol Cymraeg – We are a bilingual University and through this institution we can help support both staff and students to embrace and celebrate the Welsh language and its rich heritage.

Public Service Boards – The university is and invited member of three PSBs in which we have our main Welsh Campuses. (Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, and Swansea). We regularly contribute to the development and implementation of the key areas of their various local wellbeing plans. We also work with several the individual organisations to ensure that we can make a difference to our communities with regards to the sustainability agenda.

Local Community Groups – as a University we recognise that our immediate community is just as important, and we work with local schools and community groups to be able to ensure that our students and staff can contribute to the wider changes needed working towards Net Zero carbon

Measures of Success

- Achievement of targets set out in the action plans associated with Sustainability and the Environment
- Increased awareness of personal and organisational responsibility towards the environment
- Increased positioning in the People and Planet League Table
- Maintain the Green Dragon Level 5 Accreditation
- Greater awareness of the university's successes related to Sustainability

Implementation / Monitoring Progress

The University is certified to Green Dragon Level 5. This is equivalent to, and in fact requires a greater environmental commitment in respect to public reporting and carbon emissions than ISO14001 and EMAS. Monitoring is carried out through the annual EMS Certification via the Green Dragon Audit along with the Section 6 Annual Review which also must be submitted to the Welsh Government every three years as part of our duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems. Also, the quarterly updating and review of the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Framework. KPI, Estates and Infrastructure contains measures relating Estate ownership, building condition, property maintenance, compliance, utilities, and sustainability (electricity and gas emissions).

Further to this, each area of the Sustainability Plan is complimented by a [published action plan](#) which is monitored monthly by the Sustainability Team.

Annexe A

Sustainability and Environmental Action Plan Log

Action Plan Label	Key Principle(s)	Validity	Monitoring Method	Owner
Biodiversity Action Plan	Maintain and enhance biodiversity and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems.	2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Monthly 'grass roots' review · Annual Senior Leadership Team Review · Annual Habitat Survey · Section 6 Duty Report · EMS Audit 	Kelly Williams
Sustainable Food Action Plan	Reduce the negative environmental impact of the catering and conferencing service	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Monthly 'huddle' review · Annual Senior Leadership Team Review · Monthly Waste comparison · Monthly Utility Monitoring · EMS Audit 	Kevin Hodson
Carbon Management Action Plan	Reduce our Scope 1 and 2 Emissions by 2030	2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Monthly reviews on utilities, travel, and waste. · UWTSD KPI review · Termly Sustainability Engagement group report · Annual HESA report · Annual Senior Leadership Team Review · EMS Audit 	Kelly Williams
Travel and Transport Action Plan	Reduce scope 3 emissions by promoting alternatives to individual fossil fuelled travel	2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Termly Sustainability Engagement Group Report · HESA report · Annual Senior Leadership Team Review · EMS Audit 	Kelly Williams
Waste Management Plan	Reduce waste to landfill	2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Termly Sustainability Engagement Group Report · HESA report · Annual Senior Leadership Team Review · EMS Audit 	Koi Merebark
Water Reduction Plan	Reduce water usage across all sites	2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Termly Sustainability Engagement Group Report · HESA report · Annual Senior Leadership Team Review · EMS Audit 	Kelly Williams

Sustainability Engagement Plan	Promote Environmental and Sustainability activities across the student and staff community	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Termly Sustainability Engagement Group Report · HESA report · Annual Senior Leadership Team Review · EMS Audit 	Koi Merebark/ Anna Jones
Building Improvement Plan	Increase building efficiency demonstrated by DEC (display energy certificate) rating	2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · DEC annual review 	Kelly Williams

Document Version Control

Version No:	Reason for change:	Author:	Date of change:
1.00	Implement new plan	KW	05.06.22

Annexe B: Universities Wales | Civic Mission Framework:

Civic Mission Framework

