

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017



**Harper Adams
University**

NOVEMBER 2017

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017

Executive Summary

This Environmental Sustainability Strategy Plan covers the period 2017-2022 and builds on previous ESSP achievements. It is also intended to support the Carbon Management Plan objectives over the same period. 2020 is a major milestone with regards to the HE Sector's set target for reducing carbon emissions. The new Carbon Management Plan set out in 2017 sets out in detail how the University aims to meet its 2020 carbon savings target.

The forthcoming period will see the commencement of the Sustainable Transformation Energy Project (STEP) across the campus. The system is designed to provide 75% of the University's electricity demand and 80% of its heat demand.

The University continues to successfully engage with the Carbon Trust Standard and this engagement will continue over the life of the ESSP. The University has maintained its certification for the Standard for seven years, to date.

The University's 'relative' carbon footprint (i.e. carbon impact per student) continues to improve, however due to growth and development overall consumption caused by this year-on-year expansion continues to challenge our 'absolute' carbon footprint- this will be an important focus of the CMP, supported by the ESSP.

The ESSP focuses on five key areas: Natural Resources/Waste Management, Conservation and the Environment, Curriculum, Estates and Farm Management, and Community Engagement. The Environmental Sustainability Group (ESG) will have responsibility for monitoring and reporting on progress against the plan. The ESG will also review and update the Plan including the relevance of all targets at least annually so that it remains dynamic and responds to new challenges and opportunities.

Carbon savings/management plans and targets are not repeated in the ESSP – please see the Carbon Management Plan for this information.

1. Natural resource and waste management

Environmental Sustainability Indicators in the natural resource and waste management group will draw from the areas of Sustainable Technologies (Rural), Natural Resource Management and Conservation and linking with the urban and rural agendas

1.1 Energy efficiency

Targets:

Deliver STEP project and achieve energy generation targets
Apply energy savings measures to reduce consumption which involve and engage students. At least one Student Energy Reduction Challenge project to be delivered each year.
Monitor and update progress against the CMP target & report performance to all staff & students on a regular basis.
Continue to monitor energy consumption monitored via e-Sight.
Improve building performance for Display Energy Certificates (DECs): Review buildings with high DEC ratings to see if energy saving measures focusing on user behaviour and working practices might usefully reduce consumption

Responsibility: S Davies-Estates Team

1.1 Renewable energy generation

Target: Deliver STEP project as noted above

Responsibility: P Moran Head of Estates and Facilities

1.2 Water Usage

Targets:

Specific SMART target to be agreed and monitored by Environmental Sustainability Group (ESG)
Investigate further opportunities for rain water harvesting measures to reduce consumption on boreholes and secure water security for future use
Continue to monitor water usage with buildings to improve leak detection and response times to reduce loss of water

Responsibility: Estates & Facilities Manager

1.3 Recycling and waste management

From March 2013 the University's waste contractor achieved 100% recycle rate with 'zero to landfill' sending all non-recyclable materials down the waste to energy route. The University has therefore exceeded its targets in both reducing our waste going to landfill and increasing our overall recycle rate.

Specific SMART target to be agreed and monitored by Environmental Sustainability Group (ESG)
Engage Student Environmental Society in recycling Projects each year

Responsibility: Head of Estates and Facilities supported by Student Services Team/Student's Union

2. Conservation and the Environment

Environmental Sustainability Indicators in the Conservation and the Environment Group will draw expertise from the areas of *natural resource conservation and management*

2.1 Biodiversity, soil quality, water quality (Overview)

2.2 Biodiversity

Targets:

Continue campus bird survey in support of British Trust for Ornithology
Conduct plant & species counts as required for new developments
Continue tree planting programme and review whether green roof and wall installations are providing successful additional habitats etc.
Continue engagement with farm environmental schemes – including practical demonstration by the University farm and CERC

Responsibility: University Secretary with Farm Manager (HLS) & Grounds Manager (Tree planting programme)

2.3 Soil Quality

Targets:

Continue to manage grasslands to specifically benefit the environment and in some cases vulnerable soils
Continue to maintain grass cover in high risk fields over the winter and fill gaps

Responsibility: Farm Manager

2.4 Water quality

Targets:

Continue and develop work with the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer for this area (River Tern catchment) drawing on three final year HRP projects in the nearby Ellerton Brook catchment completed in recent years
Continue to prevent pollution of watercourses on farmland arising from erosion/run off. Maintain the buffer strips for watercourses on cultivated land as part of the HLS agreement

Responsibility: Environment & Waste Management Officer

3. Sustainable Research and Teaching

The University's unique expertise in training and educating students will address Environmental Sustainability Indicators within Sustainable Research and Teaching

3.1 Integration of sustainability into courses to promote sustainability literacy

Targets:

ESG to receive a report from HEDQE annually on the number of UG and PGT courses incorporating sustainable development themes.
ESG to review students feedback at the end of each academic year

Responsibility: Head of Estates and Facilities (as Chair of ESG)

3.2 Research and consultancy into sustainable areas

Continue to provide workshops and seminars relating to soil & water and precision farming
HAU Research Strategy to continue focus on supporting national and international progress towards sustainable intensification)
Continue research in relation to reducing inputs through application of technology (Precision Farming techniques) and Controlled Traffic Farming/ soil management
Continue research on AD/ macroalgae derived of hydrocarbon fuels

Responsibility: Deputy Vice-Chancellor

4. Estate and Farm Management:

Environmental Sustainability Indicators within the Estate and Farm Management Group will draw expertise from the areas working with rural businesses and linking the rural and urban environmental agendas.

4.1 Sustainable building design and refurbishment

Continue to install meters in all new builds to monitor consumption

Reduce environmental impact with new build/refurbishment projects- annual report to be provided to ESG

Responsibility: Capital Projects Manager

4.2 Procurement

Review the NWUPC (Procurement Group) Scope 3 Report annually and report to ESG

Review scope 3 procurement emissions

Continue to include and give weighting to environmental credentials in tendering documents

Work towards achieving Level 1 of the Flexible Framework for procurement

Source food produce, products, waste contractors and building supplies locally to reduce transport miles and Co2 emissions

Status:

Responsibility: Procurement Coordinator

4.3 Promotion of diversification opportunities, sustainable development and renewable technologies opportunities in the rural sector

Continue to provide workshops and seminars in soil & water management and Precision Farming

Engage with new opportunities offered by Agri-Epi Consortia membership to increase opportunities for collaboration in research, with industry and government

Participate in sector conferences, in the media and at events

Allocate area for staff allotments, funding and promotion

Continue to work closely with local community, e.g. regular meetings with the Parish Council) and offer/support student volunteering initiatives

Continue to host visits to the University to showcase renewable technologies.

5. Community Engagement

Environmental Sustainability indicators in the Rural Community Relation group will draw on the expertise of sustainable technologies, training and educating students and working with rural businesses.

Responsibility: University Secretary with Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Director of Finance, Grounds Manager, Student Services and Student's Union

CONTACT FOR FUTHER INFORMATION:

Paul Moran

Estates and Facilities Manager

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