



Anglia Ruskin  
University

# Sustainability Strategy

2016-2020

Our Mission

Our mission, under our commitment to sustainability, is that we will always ask about the long term implications of our present actions.

Our Vision

We want our students and staff to have the understanding and ability to bring sustainability values into their current and future lives. We want our students and staff to have the capacity to ask, “Why others aren’t thinking about this, why aren’t they working in this way and how can we do things in a better way?” We want our concern for a sustainable environment to inform every aspect of what we do.

“We will always ask about the long term”

Sustainability and Anglia Ruskin University

We believe that to act with sustainability in mind is about making informed decisions and taking responsibility for the impact of our actions for current and future generations, in all aspects of our life.

This builds on our core strengths in teaching and research across all of our faculties. It reflects our vision to use our strengths to contribute to the enhancement of social, cultural and economic wellbeing through the education of responsible global citizens and care for the environment. Importantly, we recognise that Anglia Ruskin University is keen to build interdisciplinary and integrated approaches across the board and takes an entrepreneurial approach (as recognised in our 2014 Times Higher Education Entrepreneurial University of the year).

Over the past three years Anglia Ruskin University has been recognised for its world leading contribution to sustainability through initiatives such as:

- Winner of the 2013 International Sustainable Campus Network Award for Integration
- Our sustainability related research was highlighted for its impact in the Research Excellence Framework exercise
- We have been partners on research projects funded by EPSRC, ESRC, BBSRC, NERC and European Framework programmes
- We were awarded £1 million from the HEFCE Revolving Green Fund for the Combined Heat and Power plant on the Cambridge Campus
- Our MSc Sustainability, in partnership with Change Agents UK and the Eden Project, was shortlisted by an EAUC Green Gown award in 2013 and has been described by our external examiner as ‘ground-breaking’.
- Green Apple Award for our Young Street Health Building in 2014.
- Gold and Platinum in the Essex and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Travel Awards.
- Recipient of a Wildlife Trusts Living Landscape Award in 2012 for restoration of a millpond habitat on our Chelmsford campus.
- Our Academic Regulations include an explicit requirement that all our courses include sustainability in their delivery
- Support for all staff in embedding sustainability provided by Education for Sustainability team
- Member of HEA Green Change Academy.
- First UK University to sign up to the Rio +20 declaration committing to the development of sustainable practices for Higher Education Institutions.



# Goal 1

## Our curriculum

We will be known for our integration of sustainability values into our core curriculum delivery.

### Strategies

**We will:**

- Provide guidance and support for academic staff in complying with our regulation that sustainability forms an explicit part of each student's course and with meeting professional requirements relating to sustainability competences.
- Where sustainability is already being delivered we will work with staff to ensure that it is relevant and appropriate and is explicit and understood by students.
- Work with academic and support staff to identify and make explicit the links between sustainability and a student's learning outside the classroom.
- Make explicit the links between a student's sustainability literacy and high quality learning and teaching, student engagement, employability and entrepreneurship.
- Work with students to ensure they are able to recognise, understand, acknowledge and monitor where sustainability is being delivered as part of their course and as part of their wider student experience.

Milestones
100% of our courses will comply with our academic regulations relating to the delivery of sustainability.
75% of our students will identify sustainability as a feature of their course through module evaluation.
Sustainability will feature in our learning and teaching, employability, student engagement and other relevant policies.



# Goal 2

## Our student community

We will encourage our student body to learn and develop their understanding of sustainability, so as to support them in adopting a sustainable lifestyle and to create future leaders in sustainability.

### Strategies

We will:

- Communicate to students about the importance of living sustainably and encourage them to practice this during their time living in student accommodation and subsequently.
- Engage students around their understanding of sustainability and how it relates to their degree course and future life and use this information to inform curriculum development.
- Communicate regularly with our students on issues relating to sustainability in partnership with the Students' Union and through the use of the So What? Magazine.
- Engage with students on which aspects of sustainability they feel are most important and act on that information to better prepare them for the future.
- Support student groups and societies, through our partnership with the Students' Union, to adopt environmental behaviours.
- Develop our students' voice to empower them in becoming future leaders in sustainability.

Milestones
To have a strong partnership with our Students' Union to achieve success in relevant national accreditation schemes.
The majority of our students will say that their University experience has empowered them to become future leaders in sustainability.
Strong student societies that champion aspects of sustainability across all our campuses.
Regular events on our campuses that celebrate and promote sustainability.

# Goal 3

## Our research

We will increase our research output related to sustainability, both in quality and volume, so as to support future submissions under the Research Excellence Framework.

### Strategies

We will:

- Support academic colleagues from across our University to understand sustainability topics and build their capacity to apply for, and win, research funding in this area.
- Include consideration of sustainability in the assessment of research ethics applications.
- Continue to invest in building a strategic focus on sustainability research through the Global Sustainability Institute.
- Use our estates facilities as a 'living laboratory' in research wherever possible.
- Ensure strong interdisciplinary research capability and partnerships with other research institutions, industry bodies and others, including in other countries, in order to enable applications under sustainability themes to all UK research councils and European funding streams.
- Open up our research activities and make this visible to staff and students.

Milestones
To double our research income associated with sustainability.
Our research ethics procedures will address sustainability.





# Goal 4

## Our physical environment

We will develop attractive, vibrant and efficient campuses that showcase our commitment and expertise in sustainability.

### Strategies

**We will:**

- Provide practical opportunities for environmental learning, research and socialising on our own campuses.
- Develop and maintain our buildings, grounds and operations to meet the international standard for environmental management ISO 14001.
- Strengthen our resilience against future environmental risks, such as climate change and resource scarcity, by reviewing our existing risk management processes.
- Apply a whole-life perspective to the development and maintenance of our campuses and procurement of goods and services.
- Apply sustainability criteria in procurement, including the provision of food through our catering outlets.
- Share our learning of developing sustainable campuses with local, regional, national and international networks.

Milestones
Students and staff from every faculty will utilise opportunities for environmental learning, research and socialising on our own campuses.
ISO 14001 environmental management system certification will be maintained with associated objectives and targets for energy, water, waste, travel, biodiversity, buildings, engagement and purchasing achieved.
We will have hosted and attended knowledge exchange events to share experiences of developing sustainable campuses.
Include our progress against this sustainability strategy in our Annual Report and Accounts.



# Goal 5

## Our culture and entrepreneurial nature

We will embed our commitment to the enhancement of environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing in our own culture, and will support a culture change in our partners through dialogue and engagement.

- Strategies
- We will:
- Engage with the academic community, press, non-governmental organisations, business and the public sector to ensure our sustainability practice has impact.
  - Build the capacity of our staff to understand the wider meaning and application of sustainability principles and their importance for students' future lives and careers.
  - Extend our internal capacity building activities to our partners and subsidiaries including overseas partners.
  - Ensure our commitment always to ask about the future is embedded in our enterprise programmes.
  - Support our local strategic bodies to embed sustainability in their programmes including local authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnerships.
  - Develop our students' social and environmental entrepreneurial skills including growing our support for the Green Pitch.

Milestones
Embed our sustainability mission into the delivery strategies of our enterprise partners including Ixion, Knowledge Transfer and Innovation activities and Degrees at Work.
Double the number of student entries for the Green Pitch and partner with an external organisation to raise the profile and increase the prize value.





**For more information about Anglia Ruskin University**

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