



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

*University of Liverpool*  
**SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

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The University of Liverpool was founded with a mission for the advancement of learning and the ennoblement of life and this continues to guide our transformative research, our teaching and our institutional operations just as strongly today. For example, in response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, colleagues working on issues across the full scope of our research activity have dedicated themselves to finding solutions to help the country, and communities across the globe, contain and control the outbreak. Meanwhile, our medical and nursing students have volunteered to work early on the NHS frontline, treating patients with the virus and operationally we have opened up our car parks and our halls of residence for NHS staff.

This pandemic has given each of us an opportunity to reflect on our daily activities, on the ways we live and on what might be possible in the future. From a sustainability perspective, the pandemic has been significant in highlighting the potential to move to greener ways of working and living and this gives us a real opportunity to seize the initiative – and we are committed to doing so. The University already aims to manage its operations in ways that are environmentally sustainable, economically feasible and socially responsible. Indeed earlier this year, we formally signed the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals accord, committing us to playing our part in their bold and ambitious vision for a peaceful and prosperous world. This policy represents a further important component of the University’s broader Sustainability Strategy and a commitment to its role as an anchor institution in the Liverpool City Region.

This Sustainability Policy sets out the University’s commitment to ensuring that we build an institutional culture of sustainability that encompasses the interconnected economic, environmental and social factors. The Policy will be supported by a series of strategies focused on significant impact areas which set the management standards and provide action plans for delivery against set objectives.

The main responsibility for implementing this policy lies with the Senior Leadership Team. The Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, and Directors of Professional Services are responsible for ensuring compliance with the University Sustainability Policy within their areas of control. The University will actively monitor the performance of schools/institutes and departments in the implementation of the aims and objectives of this policy.

Whilst senior colleagues accept the main responsibility for implementing this policy, individuals also have a very important role in safeguarding the environment and acting in a socially responsible and financially ethical manner. Each of us should comply with this policy and set a personal example of good practice.



**Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor Dame Janet Beer**

On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team



## CORE PRINCIPLES

Underpinning our policy is a set of core principles:

- **To develop sustainability literacy so that staff and students are empowered, engaged and committed global citizens** and are able to use this knowledge and experience to make informed and responsible decisions
- **To ensure that sustainability considerations are embedded throughout the University** and taken into account through decision making, in particular in relation to new initiatives and change programmes
- **To build a culture within which all staff and students understand that sustainability is a collective responsibility.** From senior management to first year students everybody plays their part, and will be encouraged to challenge and act when standards are not being maintained
- **To make a strong commitment to sustainability as part of our student actions and behaviours** by ensuring students have the opportunity to develop an understanding of environmental issues and have integrated experience of theory and practice in their formal, informal and curriculum. This includes volunteering opportunities and the use of the estate as an educational resource
- **To build on our academic excellence to enable positive change through our research, knowledge transfer, learning, education and professional service activities** and assess contribution against the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and the underlying targets and indicators
- **To maximise the wider positive impact of the University’s sustainable development activity at local, national and international level through communication, collaboration and partnership.** As an anchor institution we will seek to form collaborations and partnerships which will deliver projects for the benefit of both the University and wider community
- **To demonstrate a strong sense of leadership, awareness and engagement with the University’s commitment to sustainability** amongst staff and students, and the wider community, through the use of appropriate internal and external communication channels
- **To protect the environment and prevent pollution** through our research and learning provision and through the management of our facilities and estate
- **To demonstrate responsible investment** in relation to the University of Liverpool Endowment funds and other investment activity.

## SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE

### Sustainability Board (SB)

#### Membership

In accordance with the Environmental Management System the Sustainability Board is chaired by the Lead for Sustainability within the University Senior Leadership Team (SLT). The remaining group positions are as follows:

- Sustainability Officer (Secretary)
- Director of Estate Management
- Chair of Biodiversity Action Group (or nominee)
- Chair of Built Environment Working Group (or nominee)
- Chair of Climate Action Working Group (or nominee)
- Chair of Culture & Community Working Group (or nominee)
- Chair of Responsible Consumption & Production Working Group (or nominee)
- Chair of Travel & Transport Working Group (or nominee)
- Chair of Teaching & Learning Working Group (or nominee)
- Faculty Rep Health and Life Sciences
- Faculty Rep Science and Engineering
- Faculty Rep Humanities and Social Sciences
- Sustainable Development Project Officer
- Learning Technologist and Educational Developer
- Guild Officer
- Project Manager, Green Guild

#### In attendance:

Colleagues from Faculties and service areas will be invited to attend relevant meetings in accordance with the Board timetable.

The terms of reference for the SB can be found on the [Sustainability - Policy & Governance](#) webpage.

### SB Sub-Committees

The SB is supported by seven sub-committees that focus on key impact areas for the University:

- Biodiversity Action Group
- Built Estate Working Group
- Climate Action Group
- Culture & Community Working Group
- Responsible Consumption & Production Working Group
- Teaching & Learning Working Group
- Travel & Transport Working Group

The terms of reference of each sub-committee can be found on the [Sustainability: Policy and Governance](#) webpage.

The names of the current holders of these positions can be found on the [Sustainability web pages](#).

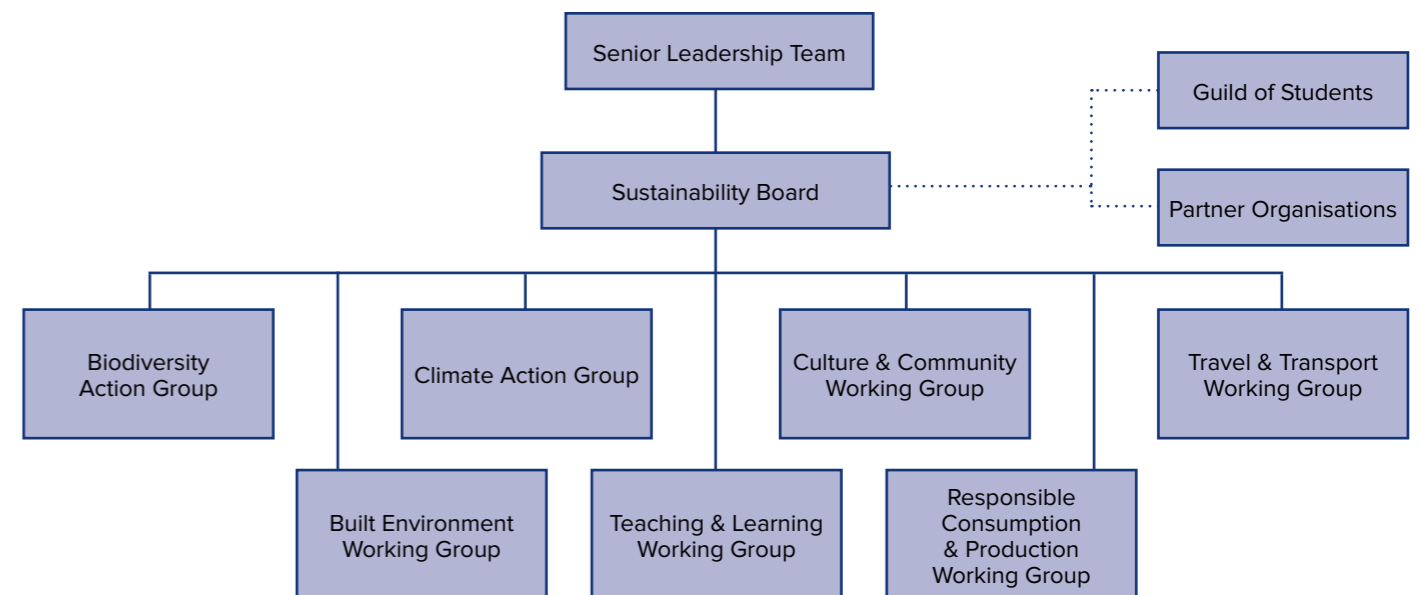


Figure 1: University of Liverpool Sustainability Governance Structure

## Faculty/professional services and Guild of Students' sustainability committees

Faculties and Central Professional Services areas may wish to form their own sustainability committees.

## Responsibilities

Environmental sustainability, particularly in the context of damage to the environment, is a critical area for the University to manage. Many of these environmental sustainability issues, including hazardous waste disposal, the keeping of radioactive materials, and release of substances into the atmosphere are also of concern because of the health and safety implications and are already subject of arrangements made under the University Health & Safety Policy (UHSP001). Where appropriate, joint environmental and health and safety arrangements have been made.

## Leadership and management

University Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

The University Senior Leadership Team is taking a proactive approach in order to ensure that sustainability is delivered across the University and is regularly monitored and discussed at SLT meetings. The Director of Finance is the strategic lead for Sustainability and chairs the Sustainability Board. Each of the seven sub groups includes a member of SLT in order to ensure SLT engagement across the portfolio of work.

## Wider leadership engagement

Senior Managers, line managers and supervisors are responsible for ensuring that sustainability is built into the decision-making processes and operational activities of their function.

The full list of responsibilities can be found on the Sustainability Strategy webpage.

## Individual responsibilities

Through a culture of sustainability literacy, staff and students will be empowered to make personal decisions to support sustainability. The University environment will be inclusive and will enable the community to be involved in sustainability initiatives across the institution in order to create a positive impact.

## Support services and roles

The Sustainability Team forms the core of central sustainability support services. As sustainability covers a broad spectrum of operational activity, support services are also provided by:

Facilities, Residential and Commercial Services  
Finance  
Human Resources  
Student Experience & Enhancement  
The University Safety Adviser's Office  
The University Radiation Protection Office

Local sustainability support is provided by departmental sustainability champions.

Further details on the services provided can be found on the Sustainability: Policy and Governance webpage.

