



Sustainability Sub-Strategy Bitesize

Priority 4: Research

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Introduction

Our Sustainability Sub-Strategy outlines our commitment to acting in response to the climate and ecological emergency, while supporting the University's mission of excellence in education and research, for the benefit of individuals and communities.

Priority 4: Research

Research is a pivotal aspect of our mission. The types of research activities we conduct will take the climate and ecological emergency into account, and where possible support new thinking and development. Equally, the ways all research is carried out will be conducted with environmental efficiency wherever possible.

Objective: To have increased the proportion of our research that supports the enhancement and protection of the environment, and ensuring our research is conducted in a way that minimises our environmental impact.

- A framework will be developed for sustainable research to support researchers to consider the implications for the climate to enable sustainable proposals to be developed. Research Project applications will take into account the implications of the proposed work in terms of travel, activities, equipment, power usage allowing us to deliver excellence in research while addressing our declaration of a climate and ecological emergency.
- Climate, ecological and sustainability research will be reviewed to promote greater engagement, collaboration and to identify future research opportunities for strategic development.
- We will raise the profile of our environmental research at Essex and link the Climate Emergency Group to our Centre for Environment and Society, maximising internal collaborations and delivering a programme of events to enhance interdisciplinary climate research collaborations.
- RDF will promote climate consciousness to equip the research community with the knowledge and skills to deliver on our climate responsibilities.

Key Performance Indicators

KPI 10: The opportunity to consider sustainability is embedded at all stages of the research planning, costing and delivery process by 2025

KPI 11: A sustainability module is developed for the Researcher Development Framework (RDF), and sustainability is embedded across the RDF more generally by 2022

KPI 12: There is an increased number of funding, knowledge exchange and impact activities in the areas of climate, ecological and sustainability research by 2025

KPI 13: There is an increased number of events showcasing our climate, ecological and sustainability research to internal and external stakeholders by 2023

KPI 14: The strategic plans for the Environment and Society and Centre for Public and Policy Engagement are delivered by 2023

Action Plan

Type	Year	ID	Objectives and deliverables	Objective Owner
Priority 4		Research		
Aim			To have increased the proportion of our research that supports the enhancement and protection of the environment, and ensuring our research is conducted in a way that minimises our environmental impact	
Objective		SSS15	Develop a framework for delivering sustainable research which embeds climate consciousness at all stages of the planning, costing and delivery process	
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS15.1	Climate and environmental considerations are a core part of the research planning and development process	PVCR, DDRs, Director of REO
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS15.2	Costing of projects considers the environmental impact of research – including travel, activities and equipment	Director of REO, Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS15.3	The full-life environmental and climate impact of research projects is established at the design stage	Director of REO, Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction
Deliverable	2023/24	SSS15.4	Research is delivered in a carbon neutral way or, when this is not possible, consideration is given to where offsetting might be possible elsewhere	Research Community, SAG
Objective		SSS16	Review the climate, ecological and sustainability research currently being conducted at Essex to a) promote greater engagement and collaboration across the university and b) identify future research areas for strategic development.	
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS16.1	A comprehensive and shared understanding of current climate, ecological and sustainability research at Essex	PVCR, DDRs, Director of REO
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS16.2	A strategic understanding of the opportunities to develop new and/or complementary areas of research	PVCR, DDRs, Director of REO

Type	Year	ID	Objectives and deliverables	Objective Owner
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS16.3	A clear view of the types of partnerships that will help optimise the impact of our research	PVCR, DDRs, REO, Dean Research Partnerships
Objective		SSS17	Raise the profile our Environmental Research at Essex and link the Climate Emergency Group to our Centre for Environment and Society and Centre for Public and Policy Engagement	
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS17.1	Develop and deliver a communication plan around our climate, ecological and sustainability research at Essex	CER
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS17.2	Delivery of the strategic plan of the Centre for Environment and Society	Director of CES
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS17.3	Delivery of the strategic plan of the Centre for Public and Policy Engagement	Director of CPPE
Objective		SSS18	Curate and deliver a programme of events to enhance interdisciplinary research collaboration around climate, ecology and sustainability	
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS18.1	Enhanced internal research collaborations – e.g., conferences, CUREs	PVCR, DDRs
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS18.2	Stronger partnership collaborations – YUFE, YERUN, EARC	PVCR, DDRs, Dean Research Partnerships
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS18.3	Identification of new event and partnership opportunities	PVCR, DDRs, Dean Research Partnerships
Objective		SSS19	The RDF should promote climate consciousness at all career stages to equip the research community with the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver on our climate responsibilities	
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS19.1	The RDF embeds climate consciousness at key points	Head of Research Development and Impact
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS19.2	The RDF continually adapts to the changing environment, ecology and sustainability research context and activities	Head of Research Development and Impact

Type	Year	ID	Objectives and deliverables	Objective Owner
Deliverable	2023/24	SSS19.3	The research community is empowered to conduct world-class research in a climate conscious manner	Research Community