

From Rio to Paris: Higher Education for Climate Change

14 Oct 2015, Paris, UNESCO Headquarters

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction/hesi/climatechangeaction>

What initiatives has your higher education institution taken towards making progress towards climate change action, in terms of teaching, research, outreach, or greening campuses?

Response of the University of the West of England, Bristol

The University of the West of England, Bristol is committed to ensuring that all its students, irrespective of their programme of study, are introduced to the ideas of sustainable development during their undergraduate or postgraduate degree programme. In the most recent year of analysis 96% of our students were able to consider issues of sustainability within their degree programme.

The university offers degrees in a wide range of relevant subjects that consider issues of mitigation of greenhouse gases and /or adaptation to a changing climate. Relevant undergraduate degrees include Architecture, Architecture and Environmental Engineering, Architecture and Planning, Biology, Building Services Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Environmental Resource Management, Environmental Science, Geography, River and Coastal Management, Urban Planning, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science. Our postgraduate provision addresses mitigation and /or adaptation as part of Masters provision in Architecture, Construction, Urban Planning, Environmental Management, Environmental Consultancy and Sustainable Development in Practice. The university's programmes are accredited by UK professional bodies including RIBA, RICS, JBM, RTPI, IES and IEMA amongst others.

University staff conduct a wide range of research in the fields of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Research centres and groups contributing to this university mission include: Air Quality Management Resource Centre, Applied Statistics Group, Centre for Floods, Communities and Resilience, Centre for Research in Biosciences, Centre for the Study of Behaviour Change, Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments, Centre for Transport and Society, Construction and Property Research Centre, Engineering Modelling and Simulation Group, Environment Law Unit, Public Health and Wellbeing Group and the Science Communication Unit. In addition the university is proud to host the WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Urban Environments. The University led the multi-agency Environmental Technologies Innovation Network supporting small and medium size businesses develop low carbon technologies.

The University has a wide range of public engagement work to support awareness of the impacts of climate change and to support the development of a low carbon future. These range from our contributions to the annual Festival of Nature through to the unique Future Bristol project exploring the 2050 future Bristol where an 80% cut in carbon emissions has been achieved –see <http://www.futurebristol.co.uk/>

The University's Sustainability Plan sets out our policy commitments and strategy to support sustainable development and describes their implementation these into the business of the

University both in our educational role and in the management of our estate. See <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/aboutus/visionandmission/sustainability/governanceandstrategy/sustainabilitydocuments.aspx>

The City of Bristol has been designated European Green Capital 2015 (<https://www.bristol2015.co.uk/>) by the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/index_en.htm). The University played a central role in providing the evidence of the sustainability credentials of the city and provided financial and intellectual resources to support the bidding process. As part of UWE's contribution to the Green Capital we have developed the *Our Green City: Global Challenges, Bristol Solutions* MOOC. See <http://courses.uwe.ac.uk/Z42000145/2015>

The University is committed to ensuring that that current and future students are able to build on the achievement of the Green Capital award and contribute towards the development of a low carbon future.

Professor James Longhurst

Assistant Vice Chancellor

University of the West of England, Bristol

United Kingdom

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