

Meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals: the contribution of the University of the West of England, Bristol

Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On September 25th 2015, at the General Assembly of the United Nations, the 150 Heads of State and Government and High Representatives adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. These goals build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. The UN adopted 17 goals each with specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. The background and full explanation is available in the Resolution Adopted by The General Assembly available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld> The SDGs provide an agenda for sustainable development that will stimulate collective action to address areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet.

The University of the West of England, Bristol recognises and welcomes the clarity and universality of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the urgency attached to their implementation. Education is key to many of the goals and their subordinate targets. In reflecting on how it contributes to the achievement of the SDGs the university has examined its portfolio of programmes of study and its research activities and in so doing has identified the significant contribution that is being made by our activities. The university has over 27,000 students, 250,000 alumni and 3,000 staff. Students come to study from all over the UK, as well as from 140 different countries around the world. Through our formal, co and extra curricula provision including some 600 courses at undergraduate, postgraduate, professional and short course level, the university contributes to the achievement of SDGs in the domain of the arts, creative industries, health, science, business, law, environment and technology disciplines.

About the University

UWE Bristol is a thriving, modern university, offering a wide range of highly respected courses and is located in Bristol, the European Green Capital for 2015 (see <https://www.bristol2015.co.uk/>). The university's core purpose is advancing knowledge, inspiring people and transforming futures as set out in our Strategy 2020. (see <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/about/visionandmission/sustainability.aspx>) UWE has three campuses in north and central Bristol and a centre at UWE Gloucester. The university is well-connected to the local and regional community and has successful international partnerships. UWE's roots and history go back many years incorporating other colleges until it became Bristol Polytechnic in 1969 and moved to its current main campus at Frenchay. It gained university status in 1992 and became the University of the West of England. UWE is committed to conducting and supporting research that enriches the learning environment, and contributes to society at large through knowledge exchange, science communication, partnerships and business innovation.

The university plays a very active role in the city of Bristol and the wider region, providing high quality teaching and research with real world impact to shape higher education and research policy for the benefit of our students, businesses and civic partners.

The university is organised into four faculties:

Arts, Creative Industries and Education (<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/cahe/>) The faculty offers academic programmes across a wide and varied range of arts, education and digital environments. Bower Ashton campus is home to many creative programmes including design, film and journalism and the campus has recently extended into Bristol's creative harbourside.

Business and Law (<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/bl/>) With a real world focus on collaboration with business and the professions, the faculty offers academic programmes in the disciplines of business and management, economics, accounting and law.

Environment and Technology (<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/et/>) The faculty focuses on creating highly employable graduates with sound practical skills and strong professional expertise. A large centre for engineering, computer science, architecture and the natural environment, the faculty is also home to the Bristol Robotics Laboratory.

Health and Applied Sciences (<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/hls/>) A large, diverse faculty providing programmes in biological and biomedical science, health and social sciences, with health professionals and nursing and midwifery. The faculty uses practice-based teaching in professional science laboratories and fully equipped skills and simulation centres equipped with state of the art patient simulators in wards, a delivery suite and radiography suites at Glenside campus.

The faculties are supported by professional services who operate the library, the campus facilities, and provide student and academic support services. The professional services also provide professional IT, finance, HR, marketing and communication.

The Sustainability Ambition of the University

The University's Sustainability Plan sets out the university's ambition to become a sustainable university. The plan takes its authority from Strategy 2020 and the Vice Chancellor, the Chair of the Board of Governors and the President of the Students' Union take collective responsibility to ensure that the aims and ambitions of the plan are secured (see <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/about/visionandmission/sustainability/governanceandstrategy/sustainabilitydocuments.aspx>). In the forward to the plan the Vice Chancellor, Chair of the Board of Governors and the President of the Students' Union commit the university to addressing the issues arising from the imperative for sustainable development. Simply put, this means playing our part in ensuring we support the global sustainability agenda for a strong, healthy and just society living within environmental limits. The university has implemented considerations of sustainable development into the business planning of the University in both its educational role and in the management of the estate. The plan is overseen by a high level University Sustainability Board with action devolved to Services and Faculties to embed sustainable development into their business decision making. The university has been addressing this challenge since the early 1990s and we remain committed to ensuring our students - future graduates - are exposed to and can engage with the ideas of sustainable development in their programme of study. In our view it is important that sustainable development is contextualised within the discipline the student is studying. The university provide opportunities for the informal curricula of volunteering and public engagement to embrace the sustainable development agenda. For UWE, Bristol education for sustainable

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development is about the contribution that can be made through learning and teaching in both the formal and informal curricula. The university seeks to support its students develop the skills, knowledge, behaviours and values that help reconcile human needs with the environmental limits of the planet and thus to prepare our graduates for the sustainable development challenges they will confront in their professional and private lives. The plan is organised into three broad categories, Enhancing the Staff and Student Experience, Education for Sustainable Development and Resource Effectiveness. These are sub divided into 11 themes containing the high level aims, key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets that are used to measure the University's sustainability performance in the period to 2020. In working towards meeting the aims of each theme the university is helping the global effort to meet the SDGs by 2030.

Progress with the Plan

As a result of the sustainability audit of University's teaching provision undertaken in academic year 2014/15 UWE can now state that all full time and part time undergraduate and Masters level programmes provide the opportunity for UWE students to consider the issues raised by sustainability within the context of their discipline. For those students who wish to develop and extend their understanding of sustainability and to enhance their skills the university, often in partnership with the Students' Union, provides a wide range of extra and co-curricula activities.

In addition the university has developed an on-line learning package called Keys to Sustainability which will be available to all students from September 2016.

UWE's Graduate Attributes Framework defines the skills and attributes of a UWE graduate as self-reliant and connected, ready and able, enterprising, globally responsible and future-facing. These attributes, of course, define sustainability.

A graduate leaving UWE will have, according to actuary tables, some 60 years of life post-graduation and in their professional and private life a UWE graduate will express these skills and attributes and contribute to the development of a more sustainable future.

Research in the university makes a significant contribution to understanding the challenges and opportunities of achieving a more sustainable future. The activities of the following groups and centres exemplify these contributions: 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, Environmental 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 research contribution of the university can be viewed at <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/research/researchimpact>.

The University Contribution to Achieving the SDGs

The left hand column of the table below presents the headline SDGs to be achieved by 2030. The middle column identifies the UWE faculties that contribute to the achievement of the individual goal through their teaching, research, public engagement and knowledge exchange activities. The right hand column identifies the contribution of UWE’s Sustainability Plan to meeting the individual SDG.

Sustainable Development Goals	UWE Faculties Contributing to the Achievement of the SDG	Contribution of UWE’s Sustainability Plan to meeting the SDG
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts, Creative Industries and Education 2. Business and Law 3. Environment and Technology 4. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement in the sustainability journey 2. Education for sustainable development 3. Sustainable procurement and ethical investment
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business and Law 2. Environment and Technology 3. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement in the sustainability journey 2. Education for sustainable development 3. Sustainable procurement and ethical investment
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts, Creative Industries and Education 2. Business and Law 3. Environment and Technology 4. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement in the sustainability journey 2. Education for sustainable development
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts, Creative Industries and Education 2. Business and Law 3. Environment and Technology 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement in the sustainability journey 2. Education for sustainable development

	4. Health and Applied Sciences	
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts, Creative Industries and Education 2. Business and Law 3. Environment and Technology 4. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement in the sustainability journey 2. Education for sustainable development
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environment and Technology 2. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education for sustainable development 2. Water management
Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environment and Technology 2. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education for sustainable development 2. Energy/carbon management
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts, Creative Industries and Education 2. Business and Law 3. Environment and Technology 4. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement in the sustainability journey 2. Education for sustainable development 3. Sustainable procurement and ethical investment 4. Campus development
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business and Law 2. Environment and Technology 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable procurement and ethical investment 2. Campus development 3. Green IT 4. Smarter travel
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business and Law 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education for sustainable development
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business and Law 2. Environment and Technology 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Education for sustainable development

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Campus development 4. Green IT 5. Smarter travel
<p>Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business and Law 2. Environment and Technology 3. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable procurement and ethical investment 2. Green IT 3. Smarter travel
<p>Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts, Creative Industries and Education 2. Business and Law 3. Environment and Technology 4. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education for sustainable development 2. Sustainable procurement and ethical investment 3. Energy/carbon management 4. Waste, emissions and discharges 5. Campus development
<p>Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business and Law 2. Environment and Technology 3. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education for sustainable development
<p>Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business and Law 2. Environment and Technology 3. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Education for sustainable development 3. Biodiversity
<p>Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts, Creative Industries and Education 2. Business and Law 3. Environment and Technology 4. Health and Applied Sciences 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement in the sustainability journey 2. Education for sustainable development
<p>Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arts, Creative Industries and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement in the sustainability

<p>revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Education 2. Business and Law 3. Environment and Technology 4. Health and Applied Sciences</p>	<p>journey for sustainable development</p>
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The university through the activities of its four faculties and the implementation of its Sustainability Plan is making a contribution to the achievement of each of the 17 SDGs adopted by the UN. Through the operation of its Sustainability Board the university will continue to examine its contribution to the SDGs and will seek to make more explicit the consideration of the goals in the research, knowledge exchange and public engagement activities of the university as well as in the formal and informal curricula of the institution.

Professor Jim Longhurst

Assistant Vice Chancellor

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Image from <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/12/sustainable-development-goals-kick-off-with-start-of-new-year/>