The Way to Sustainable
Getting to a more sustainable future
The Way to Sustainable

Warwick’s Strategy 2030 presents a vision for the University as we build into the future, committing us to excellence with purpose; to having a positive impact on society. Our strategy commits us to growth and embeds sustainable development into our strategic plans and activities, so we must find better ways of operating to ensure our growth is environmentally sustainable.

If we are to be credible global citizens and leaders, we need to be prepared to roll up our sleeves, get involved and prove that change can happen. We accept that no single person, group, or organisation has all the answers, and the journey to a sustainable future will be unpredictable and demanding. But it is a path we must take, and we all must work together. We’re calling Warwick’s approach to sustainability ‘the Way to Sustainable’, a name that reflects our collective journey of continuous improvement and the important elements of curiosity, learning, engagement, collaborative planning, and action needed to achieve the most effective outcomes.

We will realise our way to sustainable in a number of ways: as a comprehensive research-intensive university, we are passionate about exploring sustainable solutions to regional, national, and global challenges; we will educate the leaders of the future, empowering them with the knowledge, skills, and experience to embed sustainability into their personal and professional lives; and we will work to ensure continuous improvement in how we operate our campus sustainably. We will work with local and regional communities, industries, and government officials at all levels, to have an impact on planetary sustainability. We believe there is nothing global without local, and every impact, be it from an individual or a collective, counts.

Our ambition is that every member of the Warwick community, our partners, and our networks join us as we work together to find ways to be more sustainable. We believe the key to getting there will be to find the right balance between providing clear leadership, enabling cooperation, and listening to others. We need to inspire and be inspired, to take a practical approach to problem-solving, be prepared to be always listening and always learning, be willing to tackle the wicked problems together, and to continuously evolve by doing.

Let us all embrace the challenges that lie ahead and work together as we build for a more sustainable future for ourselves, and for future generations.

Introducing The Way to Sustainable

At the heart of our University’s purpose lies the imperative to search for answers to the world’s most complex questions, and to share the knowledge we gain so that we contribute to creating a fairer, better world for all.

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

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The importance of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** underpinning everything we do

Addressing our environmental impact is fundamental to Warwick’s vision to build a better world and address the urgent challenges posed by the Climate Emergency.

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The UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) are fundamental to Warwick’s vision to build a better world while addressing the urgent challenges posed by the Climate Emergency. To get where we need to be, we need to reframe the thinking behind our decision making, set ourselves goals, and organise our efforts into clear pathways.

**Frames:** How we will think, take decisions, and act

- **Lead by example:** Be the change we want to see
- **Guided by insight:** Harness expertise and knowledge
- **Going further than net zero:** Address broader challenges
- **Powered by the economy:** Develop viable solutions to ensure permanency
- **Embraced by people and communities:** Enable everyone to be more sustainable

**Goals:** What we will achieve

- **Progress our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals through research**
- **Embed sustainability into the Warwick curriculum**
- **Realise ecology & biodiversity net gain**
- **Get to net zero carbon emissions from direct emissions and the energy we buy by 2030 (Scope 1 and 2)**
- **Reach net zero carbon for both direct and indirect emissions by 2050 (Scope 1, 2 and 3)**

**Paths:** How we will organise our efforts

- **Research:** Truly interdisciplinary and innovative research across the social sciences, arts and humanities, and science, engineering and medicine.
- **Education:** The Warwick education will enable current and future generations to lead efforts to tackle climate change, ensuring Warwick students are able to develop themselves and effectively influence others.
- **Engagement:** Work with local, regional, national, and international partners, as well as communities to have an impact on planetary sustainability.
- **Operations:** Improve and evolve our own operational activities to become a more sustainable university over time, taking our learnings into the wider world.
At Warwick, we believe the way we can become more sustainable will be informed through five frames.

We need to **lead by example** - our planet needs all of us to roll up our sleeves, get involved and prove change can be realised. Warwick is making this commitment through our important work on education and research, developing a sustainable campus and embedding sustainability into our operations. We are turning our campus into a living lab where we experiment and practice innovative, sustainable ways of living and working, which are urgently needed by wider society. We will lead the way in trialling new sustainable mobility options and seek to influence our collective behaviour as a campus community to protect our environment. We will lead the way in trialling new sustainable mobility options and seek to influence our collective behaviour as a campus community to protect our environment.

Leading by example also involves us maintaining our excellence in education. Our work will focus on ensuring current and future generations understand, and are motivated to engage with, shaping a more sustainable future. We will work with our staff and students to integrate sustainability into the Warwick education, to improve their understanding of and capacity to influence change and help them identify and secure future opportunities to work in the green economy.

We know the way ahead must lead to a better, more sustainable, relationship between people and the planet. More and more, the world is coming to understand what needs to be done and why. The question is how?

**The Way to Sustainable**

We believe the way to sustainable must be **powered by the economy**. Genuine sustainability must make economic and social sense and we need industry and business to collaborate with us to innovate and adopt change. Warwick will support the creation of a circular economy, delivering sustainable solutions that create value for our economy and society. We will collaborate with partners in both public and private sectors to ensure that sustainable solutions make commercial sense and evidence socio-economic value. Finally, all of us who believe in climate action know that transformative and lasting change will only be realised if people and communities embrace it.

We will work beyond our boundaries to support our community in its broadest sense, using our knowledge, expertise, and influence to help bring about lasting positive changes.

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The importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

In 2020, Warwick signed the Sustainable Development Goals Accord (SDG Accord), committing the University to monitoring and increasing our contributions to delivery of the societal targets associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reporting annually on our own contributions towards the UN SDGs.

Addressing our environmental impact is fundamental to Warwick’s vision to build a better world, and to addressing the urgent challenges posed by the Climate Emergency.

We recognise that climate action goes beyond reducing carbon emissions, and must consider how interdependencies, synergies, and trade-offs with social and economic issues impact the environment.

We will use the UN SDGs as a framework for our sustainability activities, enabling us to recognise that, in advancing our ambitious climate action goals, we must not lose sight of the interlinkages and interdependencies between climate targets, and the other social and economic issues.

Social Inclusion at Warwick:

In 2019, Warwick launched its Social Inclusion Strategy to re-imagine the original purpose of setting up Warwick in 1965, to ‘increase access to Higher Education’. We aspire to remove economic, social, and cultural barriers that prevent people from working, studying and succeeding at Warwick.

Supporting UN SDG 10 through our research

Academics at Warwick are working in collaboration with international NGO Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and the University of Nottingham to understand how young people from urban informal settlements in South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone are being affected by climate change, and how local policy decisions can aid or hinder their capacity to adapt to it.

The research particularly looks at how injustice arises through inequality of support and participation for the poorest communities, when compared to other communities, and aims to identify what can be done.

The research is distinct in that it offers a clear ethics and justice framework that shows, not just what is involved in making climate response policy decisions at a local or national level but, what principles of ethics and justice should be considered and addressed in policymaking, and how they intersect.
Our paths in more focus
1.0  
Research: Progress our contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

**Goal**

A key goal on our Way To Sustainable is to progress the University’s contributions to the UN SDGs, guided by the insight from our research and building on the excellence of our education. As a world-leading research-intensive University, we are very well placed to tackle global challenges, through both disciplinary excellence and truly interdisciplinary and innovative research across the social sciences, arts and humanities, and science, engineering, and medicine.

Our goal is supported by Warwick’s Institute for Global Sustainable Development (IGSD), which acts as a transdisciplinary gateway to research on global sustainable development at Warwick, and by faculties and many departments across the University that are focused on contributing to the SDGs within their research.

**Actions**

We will...

- increase the scale and quality of research programmes that address challenges related to the UN SDGs.
- increase the impact of Warwick’s research to address global challenges, engage with communities, informing policy and decision-making towards a more sustainable future.
- ensure our research is as sustainable as is possible, recognising the mix and diversity of our research portfolio, with the aim of being recognised as a leader in sustainable research and operations within the Russell Group.

**KPIs**

We will measure our progress by baselining and tracking over time:

- the number and range of staff, and PhD students, engaged with sustainability related research.
- the increase in research income for challenge-led research with transformative sustainability impact (UN SDGs).
- the indicators of sustainability research impacting on policy, business, and government.
- LEAF accreditation for research facilities.

This work will be led and owned led by Warwick’s Research Executive, the IGSD, our Global Research Priority interdisciplinary groups (GRPs) and other research centres, and Warwick’s academic departments.

Warwick’s IGSD provides a focal point for Warwick’s sustainable development research, contributing towards the UN SDGs but still challenging of them. By establishing equitable partnerships with researchers and non-scientific stakeholders across the global North and the global South, IGSD works on challenge-led research projects that cross the boundaries of disciplines in the humanities, natural and social sciences, and achieve impact towards the SDGs.

Warwick has identified GRPs, bringing together expert academics from many different disciplines, to address some of the most challenging problems facing the world today. Our academics are focusing on exploring new ways of thinking and bringing new knowledge to important areas of international significance, from health to sustainable cities, energy to connecting cultures.
## 2.0

**Education:** Embed sustainability into the Warwick curriculum

### Goal

It is our goal to educate and empower individuals to take responsibility and lead transformative change. A Warwick education will enable current and future generations to lead efforts to tackle environmental, social, and economic challenges as reflected in the UN SDGs, ensuring Warwick students are able to develop themselves and effectively influence others. We will also enable the development of entrepreneurial skills, nurturing new ideas and innovations that boost sustainability in action.

### Actions

**We will...**

- grow the number of taught programmes that are dedicated to addressing sustainability and the SDGs.
- accelerate the embedding of sustainability and the SDGs across our curriculum.
- embed sustainability as one of the 12 core Warwick skills.
- develop a sustainable co-curricular offer.
- explore more opportunities to enable volunteering which addresses sustainability specifically, as well as the broader SDGs.
- promote sustainability within our student enterprise offer.
- make our modes of delivering teaching and learning activities more sustainable.

### KPIs

**We will measure our progress by baselining and tracking over time:**

- the student uptake of sustainability related programmes and modules.
- the student uptake to skills and co-curricular offers.
- the scale of sustainability-related volunteering.
- a growth in virtual mobility.
- student feedback about our offer.

This work will be led and owned by Warwick’s Education Executive, Academic Resourcing Committee (ARC) and academic departments. Warwick’s Innovation Group will play an active role in supporting student enterprise.

### Warwick Core Skills

Warwick Core Skills form a key part of the University’s employability strategy and will help students to recognise how the experiences and knowledge from a Warwick degree translate into transferrable life skills. Sustainability has been confirmed as one of the 12 core skills and an outcome of the Warwick educational experience will be that students can evidence to employers that they have a good understanding of the climate emergency and are committed to making an active contribution to a sustainable world.

A Warwick education will be more research-led and international in outlook, achieved through our staff and students working in partnership to co-create the educational experience.
To get to a more sustainable future, we recognise the important role of communities, partners and networks in coming together to consider, explore, and address different ways of thinking, testing and applying practical ideas and solutions. Many of our suppliers, partners and networks will have their own methods of focusing on sustainability so we need to broaden, and deepen, our partnerships and collaborations with different groups and communities to share our insight, our own experiences and collectively plan to achieve positive outcomes. Our approach will be addressed through local, regional, national, and international engagement.

We will...

- work with local communities and local partners, including councils, to build awareness of the UN SDGs, to share our experiences and knowledge, and to listen and learn from them too.
- engage in collective action to protect our local environment with suppliers, action groups and communities.
- build partnerships with third sector organisations, with business and industry, and with other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) nationally and internationally, to deliver sustainable solutions that make operational sense, reviewing existing and scoping potential new partnerships.
- share our research and the expert knowledge of our researchers with our communities through public engagement and create two-way dialogue to inform future work.
- engage business and industry in sustainability focused innovation to advance the circular economy.
- build partnerships with both UK and international universities to create opportunities for driving collective change and shaping the future.
- engage with policymakers, through established and new networks, including COP, to influence the sustainability agenda where possible.

This work will be owned by teams across the University working on Engagement but particularly those responsible for Community and Regional Engagement, International Engagement, Business Engagement, as well as Government Affairs and the Innovation Group.

The Warwick Institute of Engagement will make a meaningful contribution to harness academic talent to build engagement and awareness.
4.0 Sustainable Operations

Warwick is embedding sustainability into our operations to ensure that we can operate resiliently at net zero, or beyond, by 2050 from direct and indirect emissions. In doing so, we want to inspire our community, increasing collaboration with stakeholders and supply chain partners to inform and improve what we do.

We know we need to lead by example in reducing our own environmental impact and be guided by the insight from purposeful campus pilots and research that provide the latest knowledge to inform and impact our own operations.
The Way to Sustainable

29% Transport and Mobility

26.1% Energy (scope 1, 2)

21.2% Construction, Maintenance and Repair

Getting to Net Zero: Carbon Emissions

Our campus has grown a great deal over recent years, both in physical size and population, but our Scope 1 and 2 emissions have not significantly increased.

As part of our Climate Emergency Declaration, we have committed to reach net zero carbon from our direct emissions, and the energy we buy, by 2030 (our Scope 1 and 2 emissions). To achieve this, we need to dramatically increase our carbon efficiency and change to a reduction pathway. We have also committed to achieving net zero for all our direct and indirect emissions (Scope 1, 2 and 3) by 2050, and success will mean acting differently now.

To achieve this we need everyone’s help, to take positive action and reduce the quantity of resources, space, and energy we use when we go about our activity at the University, using these valuable assets more efficiently and sparingly.

The final stages of carbon reduction will be the most difficult and, where reaching absolute zero is not practical, we will look to offset our emissions according to best practice for effective offsetting. We know that we need to embed sustainability deeply into our operations to ensure that we operate resiliently at net zero or beyond from direct and indirect emissions by 2050; we will evaluate the impact of what we do through a robust, ongoing process of measurement and targeting; we will also implement a certified and auditable annual carbon accounting and reporting process.

Explaining our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions

- **Scope 1** carbon emissions arise from our direct consumption of fossil fuels and any greenhouse gases that escape from our operations (e.g., refrigerant gases in air conditioning systems). These fuels include natural gas, liquid propane gas, petrol, and diesel, however, the vast majority (more than 95%) of our Scope 1 emissions come from burning natural gas to provide heat and generate electricity.

- **Scope 2** indirect, carbon emissions arise from the fossil fuels burnt by others to supply us with energy. Historically, all our Scope 2 emissions arise from our purchased electricity.

- **Scope 3** emissions are not produced by Warwick directly and are not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by the University. Instead, they are emissions connected to our value chain such as business travel, commuting, purchased goods and waste.

Net zero is a significant challenge and means that we need to focus on areas where we can make the most significant impact.

Three areas of our operations contribute to 76% of our total carbon emissions and we plan to make these our priority:

- **Transport and Mobility** how we get to and from the University and travel to undertake our work
- **Energy (scope 1, 2)** used directly by the University on our campuses
- **Campus Construction, Maintenance and Repair** of our building and facilities

Key:
- Laboratories and Chemicals: 7.7%
- Professional Services: 6.4%
- Computing equipment and services: 3.4%
- Accommodation: 0.4%
- Food and Drink: 2.8%
- Furniture and clothing
- Waste
- Paper, print, publish
- Water
4.1 Sustainable operations: Transport and Mobility

Goal
Our goal is to reduce indirect carbon emissions generated through all forms of transport and mobility to achieve net zero by 2050. If we are going to achieve this, we need to work closely with our communities as we introduce, test, learn and champion greener, cleaner forms of transport.

Actions
We will...
- continue to use our campus as a real-time living lab that enables us to better understand and address the needs of commuters, whilst providing greater choice and more sustainable forms of travel.
- accelerate plans to transform the campus transport infrastructure by improving our services, offering more greener, cleaner transport options, whilst continuing to provide better connectivity across our region.
- change our policies to emphasise the need to use cleaner, greener forms of travel when travelling on university business.
- continue to lead on the conception and development of future transport infrastructure so that we are well placed to enable and accommodate the predicted growth of the University, and our region, whilst also achieving our sustainability targets. This includes Very Light Rail (VLR), the A46 strategic link road and a university railway station.

KPIs
We will measure our progress by baselining and tracking over time:
- Percentage change in modes of transport for commuters to campus.
- increases in numbers of staff working in a hybrid fashion.
- reduced business air miles.

Transport and Mobility is the largest contributor of Warwick’s carbon emissions, equating to 29% of our total carbon emissions.

This work will be owned by Warwick’s Estates team working in partnership with Warwick academics who have transport related expertise that will inform, guide, and evaluate what we do.

Our campus is a living lab
Warwick is a campus university, and we’re known and respected for our excellence in transport and future mobility research. This allows us to work with our academics, major industry and government to develop green, clean modes of transport, and to trial the solutions on our campus.

We continue to break new ground in transport research and innovation that informs our own development. The University of Warwick has pioneered partnerships with the private sector, particularly through WMG’s successful collaborations between academia and the public and private sectors, which have delivered battery packs for hybrid buses, digital security for autonomous vehicles, and autonomous transport pods for short journeys.
4.2 Sustainable operations: Energy

Our overall goal is to get to net zero carbon from the energy we use by 2030. Since October 2021, 100% of the electricity we have purchased has come from green sources, and we are setting a target to reduce the University’s Scope 1 emissions by 20% by 2025 and by 80% by 2030 based on a 2018/19 baseline year. Our energy and carbon reduction strategy focuses on:

- decreasing the consumption of energy.
- decarbonising our heating, cooling, and electrical energy supplies, by transitioning away from fossil fuel to renewable sources.
- being smarter in the way we use energy in operations, using energy storage and managing our usage and distribution in ways that can reduce our total energy demands and reliance on surrounding infrastructure.

We will...:

- transition away from fossil fuel gas supplies for on campus operations by 2030.
- continue to source green electricity from the National Grid which we have done since 2020.
- reduce our reliance on the grid, by self-generating renewable energy on campus where viable.
- lead the way in creating low carbon energy networks on campus, utilising the existing energy infrastructure combined with viable emerging technologies to create an exemplar future energy network.
- improve the utilisation of space across campus, where appropriate and realistically possible, through the adoption of technology and hybrid styles of working developed during the pandemic.
- actively seek partnerships with organisations to assist in this transition.

We recognise that a limited amount of offsetting will be required towards 2030 to achieve our commitments, and only after substantial interventions have been made to transition away from fossil fuel supply.

Energy accounts for 26.1% of the University’s total carbon emissions and almost all of our Scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Goal

Actions

KPIs

We will measure our progress by baselining and tracking over time:

- the amount of renewable energy we generate ourselves on campus.
- our reduction in overall energy use.
- the amount of gas purchased by the University as a % of total energy purchased.

This work will be owned by Estates, Procurement and the Energy and Infrastructure Group (EIG), a working group of expert energy and construction academics and professionals, who are leading the way in developing our energy plans. This group involves expert academics that have expertise in energy and construction research and can inform, guide, and evaluate what we do.

A very small proportion of our Scope 1 emissions come from the release of greenhouse gases from certain types of refrigeration equipment that we have on campus. We are changing our practices to reduce the volumes and impacts of these gases.
4.3 Sustainable operations:
Campus construction, maintenance, and repair

Goal
We have aspired to high levels of building quality and performance since 2015, targeting BREEAM 'Excellent' and EPC A standards, well exceeding regulatory building standards. Our mission is to ensure that our new construction projects across our campuses are net zero carbon developments, and to build and refurbish our stock in an environmentally responsible manner, considering the whole life cycle carbon emissions from our real estate.

Actions
We will...
› continue to ensure that all of our new construction projects are net zero carbon developments; we have already implemented a policy to assess the embodied carbon of our new buildings, enabling informed investment decisions to be made.
› evaluate our options to provide new space and facilities on a whole life carbon basis, including opportunities to repurpose existing building where appropriate.
› refurbish and improve our pre-2015 real estate, where we need to maintain rather than rebuild, via viable thermal improvements, green energy generation and intelligent operational controls.
› improve building controls and space management systems to heat and cool spaces that we use in an efficient way.
› implement sector-leading environmental building performance standards for new builds and refurbishments.

KPIs
We will measure our progress by baselining and tracking over time:
› the embodied carbon intensity of our new developments.
› the thermal performance of our buildings.
› overall % reduction in energy use.
› overall % reduction in space footprints.

This work will be owned Estates, Procurement and by the Energy and Infrastructure Group (EIG), a working group of expert energy and construction academics and professionals, who are leading the way in developing our energy plans. This group involves Estates, and our expert academics that have expertise in energy and construction research and can inform, guide, and evaluate what we do.

Building construction, maintenance and repairs contribute to 21.2% of the University’s total carbon emissions.
4.4 Sustainable Operations: Ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain

We recognise the multiple benefits of the environment for health, well-being, food production, climate change mitigation and carbon sequestration.

The Campus Masterplan, which takes us to 2030 and beyond, sets a blueprint for the future development of Warwick’s campus, committing us to managing biodiversity holistically, and to ensuring that ecology and biodiversity on campus continues to improve. We will work to conserve habitats and species across our campuses, spanning over 400 hectares of land, and develop campus biodiversity holistically, enriching the environment for nature and human interest.

In 2021, Warwick submitted a proposal to create a new 48+ hectare public ecopark on the south side of campus.

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<th>Goal</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>KPIs</th>
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<td>Our goal is to enhance campus biodiversity, targeting a minimum 10% net gain compared with pre-development.</td>
<td>We will...&lt;br&gt;allocate a large proportion of our land holding (over 120 acres) on the main campus to re-wilding and parkland for amenity, education and, to assist our transition to renewable energy.&lt;br&gt;safeguard and enhance existing ecological assets.&lt;br&gt;encourage people (staff, students, and our local community) to engage with the natural environment through education and research.</td>
<td>The University is committed to achieving a 10% biodiversity net gain on all future projects within the campus. The current tool for calculating biodiversity net gain is the Warwickshire, Coventry &amp; Solihull Habitat Impact Assessment Calculator, however, the Natural England Biodiversity Metric is currently being developed and once fully adopted will become the principal calculation tool. Our current plans are continually developing and captured within our Ecology and Biodiversity strategy.</td>
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Waste reduction is a significant way we can contribute to the UN SDGs and protect our planet. Across the University we have over 130 waste streams which include glass, cardboard, plastic, food, pots and pans, and clothing to name a few.

Goal

To reduce the total volume of waste produced by Warwick and, if that’s not possible, reuse and recycle.

Actions

We will...

- reduce waste being produced in the first place. We will support initiatives that stop waste being created - for example the Warwick Cup scheme, the second hand bike shop pop-up and the arrivals pop-up shops.
- reuse waste that is produced. For example, we will continue to donate a significant amount of ‘clean waste’ left at the end of the academic year to charity, working with both the compliance and community engagement teams.
- recycle as much waste as possible. We are already conducting an infrastructure review (containers, accessibility, collection), and a communications review to encourage more recycling behaviours. We will also improve our processes to segregate new waste streams (cardboard, cables, duvets and bedlinen, and coffee grounds), and we will build on our existing food waste collection activities.
- recover waste. We will secure access to a waste to energy plant to dispose of our waste, so that we continue to ensure we send 0% to landfill. We will divert waste from landfill using dedicated material recycling facilities for large items that are not accepted at incinerator resulting in zero waste to landfill.

KPIs

We will measure our progress by baselining and tracking over time:

- progress against a target of 1% pa reduction in the overall volume of waste generated over next five years (/student, /staff, /£)
- progress against a target of doubling the volume of donations by 2025
- progress against a 50% target increase in recycling by 2025 and 65% by 2035 (Recycling/General waste)
- the % recovery of secure access to waste to energy and maintenance of 0% to landfill.
4.6 Sustainable Operations: Water

Our masterplan prescribes high efficiency water outlets for new build and refurbishment projects, specifying maximum flow rates throughout and simplifying the approach to water efficiency.

Our masterplan also describes a holistic approach to sustainable drainage systems that will:

- control the quantity of runoff
- manage the quality of the runoff to prevent pollution of downstream watercourses
- create and sustain better places for people
- create and sustain better places for nature and wider ecology

Our masterplan also outlines the risk of different future climate scenarios so that we can plan to mitigate them, should they happen.

Currently Warwick has a comprehensive half-hourly metering system on campus which captures more than 95% of our water consumption. It helps us to monitor usage and to identify excessive use and leaks. Over the five years up to 20/21, our average annual water consumption was 563,000m³. Of this total:

- approximately 40% was used in our residential estate (accommodation)
- approximately 60% was used in our non-residential estate, with 5% being abstracted from on-site boreholes for irrigation

The change to working patterns due to the pandemic had a significant impact on campus water consumption. We have since exceeded our annual water consumption targets, per full time equivalent, by a considerable margin.

Goal

Reduce total campus water consumption, in the interest of reducing carbon associated with water treatment but also to ensure that we preserve this valuable resource.

KPIs

We will measure our progress by baselining and tracking over time:

- a continuous improvement in our water use efficiency per annum.
- our performance in relation to relevant sections of ISO4001.

Actions

We will...

- undertake continual monitoring and targeting to support our water usage plans.
- assess a suitable and alternative targeting mechanism based on possible future campus populations.
- continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our drainage systems through our ISO14001 Environmental Standard.
- undertake comprehensive flood risk assessments to ensure our future buildings are not at risk of flooding and do not exacerbate flood risks elsewhere.

Currently Warwick has a comprehensive half-hourly metering system on campus which captures more than 95% of our water consumption.
The way forward

Our Way to Sustainable approach is an integral and evolving part of the University’s strategy. It will change and we will adapt it as we build our institutional knowledge and experience, and as new technologies and opportunities arise.

We know that our mission can only be achieved through the development and delivery of action plans focused on our core principles and by listening to, and engaging, our communities. ESSAG, the Environmental Sustainability Action Group reporting to Warwick’s Executive Board, led by the Provost, will lead and facilitate embedding sustainability in the University’s strategic planning and operations although we recognise everyone has a part to play.
Behaviour change is a complex, rich topic in relation to sustainability. Whilst adopting positive sustainable behaviours can be the cornerstone of achieving positive sustainability outcomes, we recognise that living, working and acting sustainably may not be always be an option if specific circumstances or situations don’t enable the desired behaviours, or if concerns aren’t heard and helped to be overcome. We recognise this is a journey and not everyone is working to the same timeline and groups don’t hold the same views.

It is our mission to engage, listen and support as we all go on this journey together. We will work with communities to understand their needs and challenges, we will trial new innovations that may nudge, facilitate or enable sustainable behaviours, and we will be guided by the insights provided by our experts at Warwick to evolve our approach, including our academics working on behavioural sciences. We recognise too that it is important the University works hard to lead by example, particularly when we expect our communities to do the same.

To support embedding and enabling sustainability at Warwick we believe that:

- **positive sustainable behaviour** needs to be an established norm
- we should be adopting a ‘global citizenship’ attitude, accepting we all have a role to play in working together
- **communicating well** with each other matters, as does being supportive of each other
- we need to **explain** when and why we can’t take, what feels like, the immediate sustainable solution in front of us
- we need to **reduce our impact on the planet** and make efficient use of natural resources, taking responsibility and accountability for ourselves
- we need to **be smart, efficient, agile, flexible, and just** in our approach

The University’s Executive Leadership team, working with ESSAG, will:

- adapt our governance tools to share common values and enable our professional services to support sustainable operations across the University
- ensure continuous improvement is included in our processes and governance, enabling plans to be flexible and capable of adjusting to changes as we journey towards achieving our targets in the longer term
- use our annual sustainability statement to assess progress and necessary changes to reach our targets
- find effective ways to get engagement, to listen to feedback, to share progress and to build confidence in our approach - the method of engagement will differ for each Goal and Path.
- continually benchmark plans against best practices and climate science and hold comprehensive reviews of the plans every three years.
- lead on the development of the Sustainability Excellence Framework, to reflect meaningfully on research, education, operations, and engagement, as a way to sustainable, by collaborating with our strategic partners, government, and industries.

There is much more information available about our institutional approach, and more information on how you can get involved available on our website, including information about the contribution of our professional service functions.
The Way to Sustainable
Getting to a more sustainable future

For more information about our work on sustainability, go to
warwick.ac.uk/waytosustainable