

A person is standing on a large, dark, textured rock formation. They are wearing a dark jacket and shorts, and their arms are raised in a celebratory gesture. The background is filled with trees, some of which have yellow and orange autumn leaves, while others are bare. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall mood is one of achievement and connection with nature.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Academic Years 2021/22 – 2025/26

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Academic Years 2021/22 – 2025/26

How to use this Strategy

It is intended that this strategy will provide clear information to the Board of Management, staff, students and other stakeholders of UHI Inverness on our strategic approaches to environmental sustainability.

Staff should make use of this strategy when creating or amending policies and procedures, developing their quality enhancement plans and setting team objectives.

Context

- UHI Inverness recognises that climate change is an urgent and significant challenge. The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, requires us to contribute towards: targets to reduce carbon emissions; adapt to climate change and to act sustainably. In 2019, the Principal and Board of Management signed up to the Race to Zero, committing to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040.
- UHI Inverness is committed and has signed up to the Scottish University and College Sectors Supply Chain Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. It has published a Sustainability Strategy and Sustainable Procurement Policy which is being implemented with support from APUC and advice from EAUC.
- This strategy sets out the key strategic objectives in relation to environmental sustainability for the duration of UHI Inverness' Strategic Plan.

Strategic Objective 1: Leadership & Governance

To provide leadership and governance conducive to meeting our net zero target

We will achieve this by:

- Establishing a Sustainability Working Group
- Ensuring that Board members and leaders are offered carbon literacy training
- Ensuring that leaders at all levels in the organisation are empowered to support the setting and monitoring of targets
- Developing a Sustainability Action Plan based on agreed targets
- Ensuring that sustainability is considered in approval processes for new or revised policies and procedures

Strategic objective 2: Sustainable Procurement

To deliver best value whilst driving positive impacts on supply chain sustainability.

We will achieve this by:

- Embedding Sustainability as a key factor in all tendering activities and utilising sustainable procurement tools
- Working with Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC) Limited to utilise framework agreements which leverage buying power to drive sustainable procurement and reduce GHG emission levels
- Supporting the Scottish Government's Sustainable Procurement Action Plan and complying with the sustainable procurement duty as outlined in Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014
- Assessing our supply chain with the help of an independent sustainability ratings agency
- Engaging with local suppliers to ensure they are making environmental improvements and exploring circular economy solutions
- Setting, monitoring and reviewing sustainability targets and objectives, exploring solutions to overcome any barriers.
- Reporting on planned activities, targets, and status to tackle the Climate & Ecological Emergency via the Now To 2030 Category Action Plan

Strategic objective 3: Estates & Campus Operations

We will achieve this by:

- Developing a fully costed options appraisal for carbon, energy and water reduction across the college estate.
- Further develop and implement the Carbon Management Plan, making use of available funding opportunities, working with our Facilities Management company to implement the action plan, as part of the Estates & Campus Operations Strategy
- Review progress to date against our waste reduction targets and setting new targets to be monitored by the cross-college Waste Management Group
- Reviewing Highland Council climate change adaptation plans to develop approaches to prepare for the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Working with our Research Centres, develop biodiversity actions for the campus, including the further development of the ABC Garden.
- Working with Inverness Campus Owners Association (ICOA), develop and implement a Sustainable Travel Plan to maximise opportunities for staff and students to access sustainable travel options – including actions to discourage unsustainable travel options
- Develop a biodiversity plan, with measurable targets, covering our estate.

Strategic objective 4: Curriculum: Teaching and Learning

Details of the objective here.

We will achieve this by:

- Utilising sustainable teaching practices, aligned to the Scottish Government's Action Plan for learning for sustainability.
- Ensuring teaching staff are trained to incorporate sustainability into their delivery of teaching and learning.
- Working with the procurement team to ensure that teaching facilities and materials are sustainably sourced.
- Seeking input from students, employers and stakeholders to promote sustainability in teaching and learning.
- [Seeking](#) project funding and equipment to promote sustainable practice.

Key Performance Indicators Key Performance Indicators

Our institutional key performance indicators are set annually and monitored against profiled targets on a monthly basis. KPI reports are accessible to all staff and are reviewed regularly by relevant Board committees, as a mechanism for monitoring progress against our strategies.

KPI Measures
Annual carbon emissions reduction
Reduction of waste into landfill