



# Strategy 2030: Sustainability Strategy

A. Alignment to Strategy 2030/			
		Primary	Secondary
<b>Strategic Pillars:</b>	Research excellence		✓
	Transformational education		✓
	Welsh language and culture		✓
<b>Transformational themes:</b>	Economic, social, and civic impact		✓
	Global engagement		✓
	Our people		✓
<b>Underpinned by...</b>	Institutional sustainability	✓	

B. Alignment to Corporate Risks	
CR15	Inadequacy of institutional strategic direction
CR29	Strategic direction and operational activities inconsistent with sustainable development goals

C. Governance	
Strategy period	2024-2030
Strategy review arrangements	The strategy will be reviewed annually by the Sustainability Delivery Group, and the outcomes will be reported to the Executive.
Last reviewed	This revised strategy was reviewed and approved by the Executive on 18/09/2024.

D. Purpose
<p>Sustainability is at the heart of Bangor University, as portrayed in our vision statement in Strategy 2030:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“A globally connected University, realising opportunities for success through transformative, innovative, impact-driven research and teaching, with a commitment to sustainability.”</i></p> <p>As a University community, we must act in a manner which ensures that the needs of our students, staff and local community are met, without compromising the ability of those in the future to meet their own needs.</p> <p>Bangor University is committed to educating and inspiring future generations, conducting leading research, being a leading employer, and taking an active role in the community. To be sustainable, the University needs to use those resources available to us now, and ensure similar resources remain available for future generations. If Bangor University can balance the use of its current resource needs with the needs of future generations, it will have achieved the fundamental goal of sustainability.</p>

Sustainability at Bangor University is therefore wide-reaching, and it involves everything: from the health and well-being of its staff, to recycling in its student accommodation; from the content of the curriculum to its research activities.

At Bangor University, sustainability is a core focus of our research agenda. We aim to prioritise interdisciplinary research that addresses environmental, social, and economic challenges, aiming to develop innovative solutions that promote sustainable development locally and globally. Our researchers are committed to advancing knowledge that supports sustainable practices and policies, ensuring that our findings have a positive and lasting impact on society.

Sustainability is also at the core of our education and student experience provision. The University aims to provide learning opportunities, sustainability-focused projects, and extracurricular activities that empower students to actively engage in, and adopt, sustainable behaviours as they interact with their learning, living and social environments, ensuring they graduate as informed and proactive stewards of social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

This strategy highlights the ambition of Bangor University, and the key actions it must take, to become accepted as the leading university for sustainability, across all its activities. We want to be *the* University of choice for those who want to make the world a more sustainable place and make a real difference.

## E. Objectives

### 1. Defining and Communicating Sustainability

Alongside sustainability of natural resources, we also require sustainability in social, economic and cultural matters: aspirations laid out in the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

Bangor University has already been recognised with various awards and high rankings in league tables for its commitment to sustainability. Clearly, though, we want to do better and do more. Bangor University is committed to becoming an even more inspiring place for people to work and study. We will strive to improve the lives of everyone in the North Wales region, and further afield, with our sustainability focussed research and global ambitions. Our research will embrace *all* elements of sustainability, and our teaching will create graduates equipped with the skills and knowledge to not only lead sustainable lives themselves, but also able to grow this desire in others.

Progress against all of Bangor's sustainability targets will be promoted across the University community and the wider public. We will not be hesitant about letting people know how good we are, we will be honest and transparent about what we have done well, and equally on where we could do better. This approach, together with making our actions evidence-based, will help to ensure we cannot be accused of 'greenwashing'.

To communicate our work on sustainability and to support our staff, students and external stakeholders to understand the broad concepts of sustainability, and how everyone can play their part:

1. Staff - through activities including: our College sustainability committees, championed by the College Sustainability Lead; representation of Colleges and professional service departments in the University's Sustainability Delivery Group (SDG); staff training and workshops; dedicated sustainability webpages; University teaching, research and activities to be badged with the relevant UN SDGs; regular articles in the Staff Bulletin.
2. Students - through activities including: membership in our College sustainability committees; regular student-focussed articles in the Student Bulletin; student representation on SDG; dedicated sustainability webpages; joint work with the sustainability representatives in the Students' Union; student activities and societies to be badged with the relevant UN SDGs.
3. External stakeholders – external facing sustainability web pages; promoting the University's sustainability research in stakeholder meetings and partnership development aligned to the University's Civic Engagement Strategy (in particular items 4 and 5).

### 2. Actioning Sustainability: Ambitious, demonstrable, and evidence-based

If Bangor University is to become a leader in sustainability, then we must be ambitious in the aspirations we set. Our ambitions will be based on robust, multi-disciplinary evidence, drawing on the University's considerable academic and other expertise, across all aspects of sustainability. The knowledge of these experts is already being published worldwide in scientific journals and reports, and individual staff

members and/or departments are already embedding positive sustainability-related actions across the University.

Where actions are needed, the Sustainability Delivery Group (SDG) will ensure they have a lead group, or individual, and they will be reviewed by SDG, or another relevant committee.

1. **Ambitious:** We aim to maintain our high rankings in various sustainability league tables, in particular People & Planet's University League and The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, and where possible increase it. We will achieve this through targeted sustainability actions, but also through better monitoring and reporting of actions through SDG, and the College sustainability committees.
2. **Demonstrable:** The University has agreed a Carbon Reduction Approach, which focusses around three key action pathways, based on sector-wide research: 1) Built Environment, 2) University Travel, and 3) Supply Chain. Our emissions are made public annually, so we will clearly be able to see if our actions are making a difference.
3. **Evidence based:** The University's Carbon Reduction Approach is based on documented reports and available data. Where actions need to be taken evidence is always sought to ensure it is correct. When evidence is not freely available the University conducts its own research with the relevant academics and professionals.

### 3. Embracing Sustainability: At the heart of everything we do

Our overall aim is that sustainability becomes embedded across all University activities, aspiring to have the principles of sustainability at their core.

We want Bangor University to be synonymous with sustainability. We want sustainable thinking not to be just something done alongside other activities, but to be at the very heart of everything we do: teaching, staff training and promotion, research, marketing, procurement, recruitment, campus development, working behaviours, travelling to work patterns, business travel, catering, estate management, community engagement and the health and well-being of our staff.

To ensure Bangor University is set to be the most sustainable university in the UK, we will:

- **Provide clear leadership** in relation to sustainability, through our Associate Pro Vice Chancellor (Sustainability) and the Sustainability Delivery Group.
- **Improve our campus and estate management**, as outlined in the University Estates Strategy.
- **Create opportunities** for all students entering Bangor University to receive a unique and tailored sustainability-focussed education, supported by credit-bearing modules mapped onto the targets of the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice** - Bangor University is one of the initial group of signatories of this UK research and innovation (R&I) cross-sector concordat and will therefore be implementing its required actions across all areas of research.
- **Embed our sustainable activities and ethos in the University's marketing activities**, including our messaging and campaigns.
- **Seek to develop meaningful partnerships** across the North Wales region (such as The Church in Wales and Bangor Cathedral), and nationally (such as the Wildlife Trust), to promote mutual areas of interest in relationship to the sustainability agenda and ensure the University is recognised as the leader in the area of sustainability.
- **Develop University-wide initiatives to target sustainability themes** to engage the promotion of sustainable activities and behaviour (e.g. events, campaigns such as Travel Hierarchy system to be adopted across the University, and ensure the most carbon efficient transport is used) and ensure all teaching, research and activities are mapped onto the UN SDGs.

## F. Critical Success Factor

The primary measure of success for Strategy 2030, agreed between the Council and Vice Chancellor, and reported to Council as part of the University's annual integrated performance report to provide assurance that performance is sufficient to realise the University's strategic objectives.

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| 1. | Reduce Scope 1 CO2e fossil fuel heating emissions by, on average, at least 3% per annum |
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**G. Key Performance Indicators**

Each strategy should contain up to 3 key performance indicators, which should be accompanied by a target. These will be reported to Council as part of the University's annual integrated performance report to provide assurance that performance is sufficient to realise the University's strategic objectives

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| 1. | Maintain our position in the top 10% in The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. |
| 2. | Maintain 1 <sup>st</sup> Class position in People & Planet's University League.     |

**H. Operational Indicators**

The Committee responsible for the strategy will further monitor progress against each of the objectives through these additional key performance indicators (KPIs).

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| 1. | Numbers of staff attending sustainability-themed training events [objective 4]           |
| 2. | Achievement of nationally-recognised sustainability targets [objective 2]                |
| 3. | Incorporation of sustainability-focussed issues into taught modules [objectives 1,4]     |
| 4. | The number of sustainability-focussed news stories and marketing campaigns [objective 3] |
| 5. | Web site traffic related to sustainability [objective 3]                                 |
| 6. | Sustainability focussed surveys [objectives 1-4]   |
| 7. | Water and energy consumption per staff/student FTE                                       |