

# Sustainability at UCLan

## Strategy

Sustainability is one of the six priorities in our [Strategic Plan](#). Sustaining and enhancing the wellbeing of people, places and the planet are among the most important challenges we face today. UCLan will become the exemplar in UK higher education for our regional championing of environmental awareness. Across all our campuses, our unwavering commitment to sustainability, health, and wellbeing will become the benchmark for the UK university community.

## Preston Campus masterplan

Our Preston Campus Student Centre has achieved BREEAM 'Excellent' rating and an Energy Performance Certificate 'A' Energy rating, which helps our long-term aspirations. The building has many design features including maximising natural light and ventilation as well as photovoltaic cells (solar energy), low energy lighting, rainwater harvesting to toilets and local high efficiency boilers.

## Awards and achievements

In the recent People and Planet Green League (2021) UCLan was 53rd out of 154 institutions and was awarded a rating of 2:1 on a degree classification scale. We were given maximum marks for having the ISO14001 Environmental Management System in place which is an internationally recognised structured framework to manage our environmental risks and shows the University's commitment to protection of the environment and minimising its environmental impacts. We also came joint first place in the category of 'Energy Sources' as 97% of our electricity is from renewable sources and we scored maximum points for the percentage of renewable energy generated onsite or off site compared to our consumption of grid electricity.



Funded by the European Regional Development Fund, our [Making Carbon Work Project](#) helps local companies reduce their carbon footprint, diversify into low carbon goods, and invest in low carbon technology. Recent case studies show potential carbon savings at Canopy Products, Whitewells, Pendle Engineering, Private Label Nutrition and T&R Precision Engineering can save a combined total of 315 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent).

### **Environmental management system**

To help us manage and mitigate at both a local and global level, we have implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) which has been accredited since October 2010 to the internationally recognised ISO14001 certification. This measures:

- our environmental impacts (adverse or positive changes to the environment) caused by the things we do,
- our 'aspects' such as travel, waste, land development and buildings,
- use of natural resources, procurement, and pollution.

Our EMS is integrated with our Occupational Safety and Health Management System, which is accredited to the internationally recognised ISO45001 certification. This gives us one cohesive Integrated Management System (IMS) to manage all safety, health, and environmental aspects.

These significant aspects are managed through a range of policies, operational procedures, detailed work instructions and other initiatives such as training, awareness, and practical initiatives. Our Integrated Management System is externally audited by the British Standards Institute (BSI) every six months to help

reassure and demonstrate the University is managing its environmental responsibilities correctly.



### **Waste and recycling**

Waste minimisation and recycling are important sustainability issues aimed at maximising resource efficiency and reducing carbon emissions arising from landfill. UCLan has a dedicated Recycling Team which has enabled us to meet and exceed recycling rates year on year. Keep on Recycling! Please continue to separate your waste using the local recycling facilities on campus for plastic bottles, paper, card, cans, and glass. Recycling bins are located across campus and outside all our halls of residences.

### **Waste disposal – hazardous**

If you produce any hazardous waste as part of your course activities (e.g., laboratories, workshops, etc., which could include, but not limited to, chemicals, paints, aerosol cans, dyes, oils, batteries, electrical items, or parts, etc.), that is not being managed for you as part of your class, you must discuss disposal options with your course tutor or LIS technical staff, who will advise on correct disposal routes. Waste that is hazardous must never be placed in or next to internal or external bins.

### **Sustainable and active travel**

There are numerous benefits associated with travelling more sustainably, including health and well-being, financial, environmental, and social benefits. Check out your travel options, see the discounts available, look at our cycling facilities and use the personal travel planning tool on the [student travel pages of the Student Hub](#).

Where possible, we do encourage more sustainable travel choices as part of our [travel plan](#) and commitment to reducing carbon emissions generated by the

University.

### **Pollution prevention**

We take pollution prevention very seriously; the controls and staff training we have put in place are managed via our ISO14001 certified Environmental Management System. Key staff members throughout the campus have been trained to use spillage containment kits. If you spot an incident or potential

general, never pour anything other than water down the drain whether inside or outside a building.

### **Environment incident reporting**

It is important that environmental incidents and near-misses are reported to our

Reporting incidents will ensure they can be investigated and could prevent a more serious incident occurring.

### **Sustainable buildings**

We have been cutting carbon emissions on our estate and reducing running costs by constructing energy efficient buildings. All our new buildings aim to reach the standards set by BREEAM Education Excellent. For all smaller and part building refurbishments we adopt sustainability principles, for example, energy efficient LED lighting and movement and day-light sensors as well as dual flush toilets and sensor taps in washrooms are now standard fittings. Opportunities for encouraging sustainable travel, waste segregation as well as for enhancing biodiversity are all factored into building design.

## Ethical procurement

We are constantly reviewing and improving our procurement of products and services to reduce the impact on the environment, often altering contracts and working directly with suppliers to improve performance in our supply chain.

## Natural resources

We have invested heavily on campus to cut our carbon emissions from natural resources including electricity, gas, and water. This includes:

- Purchasing green electricity
- Installing photovoltaic arrays at 53 Degrees, the Students' Union venue and the Media Factory
- Solar trackers which track the sun outside Allen building giving us a supply of green energy
- Solar thermal on Adelphi building which use the sun to heat up water
- JB Firth building has a rainwater harvesting system with the water collected used to flush toilets
- Installing a Biomass boiler at Greenbank, using sustainably sourced wood pellets to heat the building.