

The University of Central Lancashire supports the Sustainable Development Goals

# **Sustainable Development Goals Annual Report 2024**

Gary Fairclough, Research and Knowledge Exchange  
Service

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# Introduction

The University of Central Lancashire is an international, multi-campus university tracing its roots back to 1828 and leading the way in modern learning today. The University is committed to addressing the sustainability challenges set out in the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). Our [Strategic Plan 2021 to 2028](#), and associated sub- and enabling strategies, present our institutional commitment to sustainability going forward. This report is a snapshot of selected activities undertaken by the University in support of the SDGs in the academic year 2022-23. The University has a range of specialisms which lead to particularly strong contributions in several specific SDGs; in particular, SDG 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

We continue to develop our support for the SDGs and have improved visibility of the Goals throughout our employee, student, and public facing websites. Academics are now encouraged to report on their contributions to the Goals in press releases and when publishing research.

## Our Values

Our values reflect who we are as a university and what we stand for. They define the things that are most important to us and nurture a sense of shared purpose. They reflect our ambitious nature, inspire us to constantly improve and to enrich the lives of our students, our colleagues, and the communities we serve.



Figure 1 - The University values.

To achieve our mission and uphold our values we have set six strategic priorities:

### Priority 1: Student opportunity and success

- Our main priority must be, as always, the success of our students.

### Priority 2: Leading the way in modern learning

- Learning and teaching is at the heart of our mission to transform lives and enable people to achieve their full potential.

### Priority 3: Our people experience

- We must continue to attract and retain the very best talent and enable everyone to do their best work, if we're to achieve our ambitions.

### Priority 4: Real-world research and innovation

- We'll establish ourselves as a leader in research, innovation and enterprise within the modern university sector.

### Priority 5: Our place in the world

- To be recognised as the leading civic university we know we are.

### Priority 6: Future proofing our University

- Sustaining and enhancing the wellbeing of people, places and the planet are amongst the most important challenges we face today.

We are committed to protecting the natural environment and promoting the sustainability of our planet. We also promote healthy and sustainable lifestyles, sport, and exercise to support the physical and mental wellbeing of our students, colleagues, and communities. We encourage our students to become 'global citizens', providing access to careers around the world and bringing the life-changing benefits of higher education to communities worldwide. We are an anchor institution working with local and regional partners to regenerate the North West of England.

The 2022-23 academic year saw the implementation of initiatives to embed the Goals within research and teaching activities. The use of the Curriculum Framework, which embeds sustainability in the curriculum, and in the review of courses and modules, has continued and is now moving towards the mid-point of its four-year cycle. **The Curriculum for All (C4A)** programme is designed to enrich our curricula through the addition of voices, perspectives and practices that have previously been invisible. This is mirrored within research through the **Research and Knowledge Exchange for All** initiative which ensures we are inclusive across research and knowledge exchange practices and in support of our researchers and wider staff community. The Research and Knowledge Exchange Service (RKES) have worked to embed the Goals within preparations for the Research Excellence Framework 2029. RKES have mapped potential future impact case studies to the SDGs and encouraged a wider range of academics to consider how their work may contribute to the Goals.

# Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty



During the 2022-23 academic year, the University of Central Lancashire has made significant contributions to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1): No Poverty, which focuses on eradicating poverty in all its forms.

## **UN Office for Outer Space Affairs Regional Support Office**

In May 2023, the University was named as the UK host for the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) Regional Support Office for disaster management efforts. The Office will be working with the team behind the UN's Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).

The multinational group will help to build resilience in communities vulnerable to climate disasters, often the poorest communities; and aims to bridge the technology gap to ensure all countries can access all types of space-based observations to prevent and mitigate disasters.

Acting Director of UNOOSA Niklas Hedman said: "Space assets are instrumental for disaster management and building resilience and we must ensure benefits of these technologies are made available to everyone. That requires international cooperation. The UN-SPIDER RSOs network is a prime example of the results we can achieve by joining forces. We are grateful to welcome [the] University of Central Lancashire to our RSO family and look forward to expanding access to space solutions together."

This collaboration aligns with our commitment to open research and enables the University's research and strategies to help reduce the economic impact of disasters on impoverished areas and supporting SDG 1's goal to reduce the vulnerability of the poor to disasters.

## **Community Programmes**

The University of Central Lancashire has integrated poverty reduction strategies across its educational and community engagement efforts. The University's wide-reaching community programmes in Preston and beyond actively address inequality and support disadvantaged groups through various outreach programs, providing educational opportunities and vocational training to people from lower-income backgrounds. The University's commitment to widening access to higher education for all, regardless of socio-economic status, further strengthens its alignment with SDG 1.

The University's Strategic Plan for 2021-2028 reinforces its institutional focus on sustainability and tackling poverty by providing more affordable education options and supporting local communities in economic growth.

These efforts combined highlight the University's commitment to making tangible contributions toward ending poverty, both locally and internationally.

Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 1 - No Poverty	2023	2024
Assessed Score	N/A	73.3
Ranking	N/A	68 <sup>th</sup>

## Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger



The University of Central Lancashire has been actively contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2), which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Over the 2022-23 academic year, the University has implemented various initiatives and projects to support SDG 2. These efforts are part of the University's broader commitment to sustainability and community engagement, as outlined in its Strategic Plan 2021-2028



*Figure 2 Feeding Chair, designed and fabricated by M3 Industries with Vicky Carr and Elaine Speight, decorated with artwork by Jade Montserrat, 2022.*

### Feeding Futures

One of the notable projects contributing to SDG 2 is "Feeding Futures", a collaborative initiative involving Elaine Speight (Reader in Curatorial Practice and Place), artists, and community partners. The project focuses on addressing food insecurity and promoting sustainable food practices through art and community engagement. The project involves collaboration with artists, researchers, health professionals, and community groups to create new audio/visual works that highlight the importance of food security and sustainable practices.

A specially designed feeding chair was created to provide a comfortable and safe space for parents to feed their children in public venues such as museums, galleries, and libraries. This initiative not only supports nutritional needs but also promotes inclusivity and accessibility.

The chair includes an iPad and speakers in the headrest. Sitters can listen to specially commissioned audio artworks by Magda Stawarska, Nicola Singh, and Krissi Musiol, about feeding, resting and public space, or watch talks about infant feeding by cultural historian Dr. Joanna Wolfarth, Design Researcher Sally Sutherland and 'Diversity in Infant Feeding' founder Louise Oliver, which were recorded at the Feeding Futures event in 2022.

The *Feeding Chair* was also exhibited at the Whitworth Gallery (Manchester), Lethaby Gallery (London), and at the Lancashire Science Festival in the 2022-23 academic year.

Find out more about the *Feeding Futures* project and the *Feeding Chair* here:

<https://corridor8.co.uk/article/feeding-futures/>

<https://www.feedproject.art/feeding-chair>

### The role of digital marketing on infant feeding practices

University of Central Lancashire researcher Marena Ceballos-Rasgado has also explored the role of digital marketing on infant and young children's feeding practices in Mexico. This study identifies how commercial milk formula and baby food companies use digital media to influence parents, often hindering adequate breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

This research highlights the conflicts of interest created by these marketing strategies with health professionals, exploiting gaps in legal frameworks. The work provides recommendations to improve food security and nutrition for infants and young children through updated legal frameworks and improved monitoring.

Find out more about this work here: <https://clouk.uclan.ac.uk/45478/>

#### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger	2023	2024
Assessed Score	N/A	59.3
Ranking	N/A	201-300

## Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being



During the academic year 2022-23, the University of Central Lancashire made significant strides toward supporting Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3): Good Health and Well-being. This goal aligns closely with the University's broader mission to enhance public health through research, community engagement, and academic programmes in health-related fields.

The University has a particular focus on addressing critical diseases and conditions that impact health outcomes. Research on issues such as mental health, physical health, and disease prevention is a strong component of the University's academic portfolio. Additionally, the institution's investment in health-related education has ensured that a significant portion of its graduates enter health professions, further contributing to global health solutions.

### Fire Brigades Union DECON Campaign

One case study that exemplifies the University of Central Lancashire's work under SDG 3 is its partnership with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) to tackle health risks faced by firefighters. Firefighters are exposed to dangerous contaminants, which significantly increase their risk of developing serious diseases such as cancer. The research, led by University of Central Lancashire academic Prof Anna Stec, has been instrumental in identifying effective decontamination methods to reduce the exposure of firefighters to these harmful contaminants.



Figure 3 Marketing material produced by the Fire Brigades Union for the "DECON" campaign.

The study involved developing and promoting decontamination protocols, such as cleansing skin and clothing after exposure to fire contaminants, that can significantly reduce the incidence of cancer among firefighters. This research has been widely adopted and recognised by fire services across the UK, contributing to a safer working environment for frontline workers and highlighting the University's commitment to improving occupational health.

You can find out more about the "DECON" campaign here:  
<https://www.fbu.org.uk/campaigns/decon-fire-contaminants>

### Ongoing community outreach

In addition to research, the University has been actively engaged in community outreach programmes. These initiatives focus on promoting healthy lifestyles, providing health education, and supporting vulnerable populations. The University's efforts in this area have



helped to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities in the local community. The University's contributions extend beyond academic knowledge, offering practical solutions to real-world health problems. The University's proactive efforts to support local communities, protect vulnerable workers like firefighters, and produce health professionals showcase its integral role in promoting well-being and addressing global health challenges.

#### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing	2023	2024
Assessed Score	76.4	83.0
Ranking	101-200	70th

## Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education



During the academic year 2022-2023, the University of Central Lancashire played a vital role in promoting Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). This goal aims to ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all while promoting lifelong learning. The University's commitment to this goal was demonstrated through several educational initiatives and research projects aimed at enhancing educational access and empowering marginalised communities.

### **YouCount Project**

A major contribution from the University to SDG 4 came through the *YouCount* project, a European Union-funded initiative aimed at fostering social inclusion among young people. University of Central Lancashire researchers, including Professor Julian Manley and Suzanne Wilson, were heavily involved in this participatory, citizen science project, which spanned nine countries. The UK strand of the project, hosted by the University of Central Lancashire, focused on empowering young people by encouraging them to use creativity to explore themes related to gender and social justice.

This project allowed participants, many from marginalised or disadvantaged backgrounds, to express themselves through creative outlets such as art and drama. The project provided these young people with tools to critically engage with issues such as inequality and social justice, fostering not only academic knowledge but also personal growth, confidence, and a sense of empowerment. By centring marginalised voices and providing educational spaces for social inclusion, the University directly contributed the fostering of inclusive, equitable, quality education for all.

In line with its commitment to gender equity and social justice, University of Central Lancashire researchers engaged in another component of the *YouCount* initiative, focussing on creativity as a tool for education. Young participants were guided through creative workshops where they explored themes like gender identity and social justice, helping them develop critical thinking skills, self-confidence, and a deeper understanding of social issues.

This creative approach to education reflects the University's dedication to fostering innovative, non-traditional methods of learning that encourage student engagement and development. These workshops empowered participants to become active agents in their learning process, contributing to the creation of more inclusive educational systems.

You can find out more about the *YouCount Project* here:

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/research/institutes/pact/you-count-project>

## Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 4 - Quality Education	2023	2024
Assessed Score	64.6	64.1
Ranking	201-300	301-400

# Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality



The University of Central Lancashire has made significant contributions toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5): Gender Equality in 2022-23. The University's initiatives focused on promoting gender equality, reducing violence against women, and fostering community awareness and participation.

The University of Central Lancashire is at the forefront of addressing gender inequalities through research, education, and community engagement. The University's gender studies programmes and advocacy efforts encourage discussions around systemic inequalities, while active participation in campaigns aims to empower women and girls globally. The University's policies for gender inclusion and equal opportunity further foster an environment of fairness and equity for students and staff.

## One Billion Rising Campaign

One prominent case study of the University's contribution to SDG 5 is its involvement in the *One Billion Rising* campaign, a global movement aimed at raising awareness about violence against women and girls. In February 2023, the University of Central Lancashire's Creative Communities Group partnered with DanceSyndrome to hold an inclusive dance event in Preston. This peaceful protest highlighted the issue of violence, aligning with the campaign's goal to end abuse against women and girls. The University's commitment to this cause underscores its role as a community leader in tackling gender-based violence.



Figure 4 University of Central Lancashire Creative Communities Group and DanceSyndrome take part in Preston's One Billion Rising event.

You can find out more about the *One Billion Rising* campaign here:

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/news/one-billion-rising>

## Female Representation in STEM

The University of Central Lancashire also strives to increase female representation in leadership positions and STEM fields through various initiatives. The University offers mentorship programmes and scholarships aimed at empowering women, particularly in fields where they are underrepresented. Additionally, the University's promotion of female leadership within the University's governance structure showcases its dedication to gender parity at all levels.

## Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 5 - Gender Equality	2023	2024
Assessed Score	N/A	70.3
Ranking	N/A	67th

# Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation



In the academic year 2022-23, the University of Central Lancashire made notable contributions toward Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6): Clean Water and Sanitation. This goal focuses on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

The University of Central Lancashire tracks its water consumption data as part of its environmental management strategy, reported annually to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The University has an ongoing aim to reduce its overall water usage across campus, working towards better efficiency in water resources. The University aims to achieve this through implementing water-saving measures, rainwater harvesting, reducing consumption in both student and staff facilities, and ensuring compliance with water efficiency standards.

## Water Decontamination Research

Research by Professor Komali Kantamaneni published in 2023 highlighted critical advances in the management of water contaminants. This research focused on new methodologies for removing contaminants from water supplies, which is essential for ensuring safe drinking water, particularly in regions that face water pollution challenges.

The study discussed innovative technologies for treating contaminated water using bio-based solutions. By developing methods that use biochar, a form of carbon-rich material derived from biomass, the research provided a sustainable and cost-effective way of removing pollutants such as heavy metals from wastewater. This method not only contributes to cleaner water supplies but also addresses the broader issue of managing industrial waste. The innovative aspect of this research lies in its use of locally available resources for water purification, a crucial factor for resource-limited communities globally.

You can find out more about this research here: <https://clock.uclan.ac.uk/49268>

## On-campus changes

The University of Central Lancashire continues to be an active player in contributing to global sustainability efforts, particularly in relation to water conservation and sanitation. Its commitment to reducing water consumption on campus, coupled with leading-edge research in water treatment technologies, makes the University a significant contributor to SDG 6 in the academic year 2022-23. By addressing both local and global challenges, the University plays a vital role in promoting the sustainable use of water resources.

Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation	2023	2024
Assessed Score	N/A	66.4
Ranking	N/A	101-200

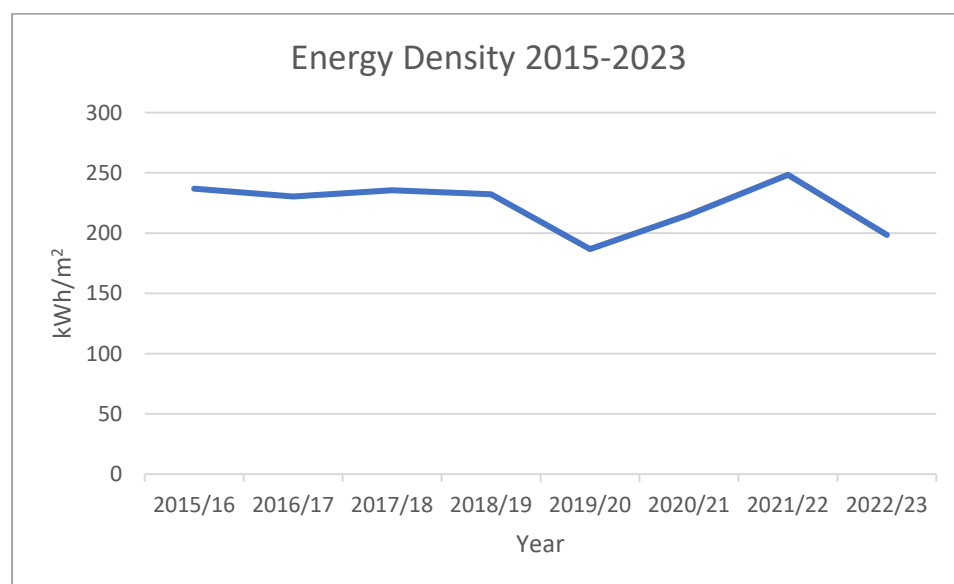


## Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy



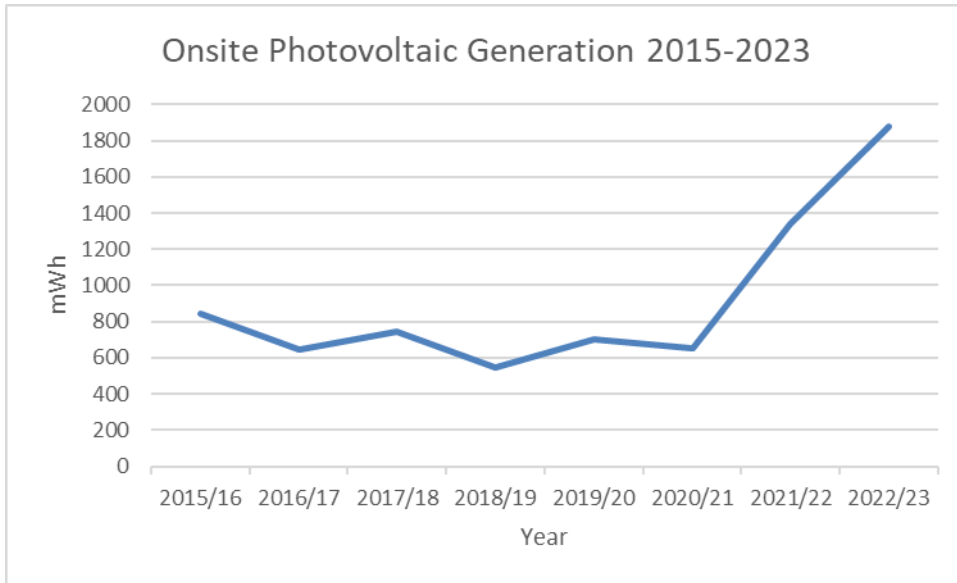
The University of Central Lancashire is committed to supporting the aims of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7): Affordable and Clean Energy through management practices, engagement initiatives and research. Sustainability is one of the six strategic priorities for the University to 2028 and UCLan declared a Climate Emergency in 2019.

The University of Central Lancashire has made significant strides in managing its energy consumption and improving energy efficiency. The data for the academic year 2022-23 shows total energy consumption of 40.6mWh an 18% reduction from 2021-22. Since 2015, the University has seen considerable changes to its estate with significant developments including the new Student Centre and Engineering Innovation Centre opening in this period. Despite the gross internal area growing, the amount of energy consumed per square metre has fallen by 16% from 2015/16 showing the University's ongoing commitment to reducing the impact of its operations on the environment.



The University has actively pursued renewable energy initiatives generating energy through photovoltaic (solar), wind and biomass along with purchasing energy through green tariffs. The onsite generation of solar power has increased substantially, with 187,593 kWh of energy being produced through solar panels across the University estate. The net result has been an overall 35% reduction in scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions from 2015 figures.



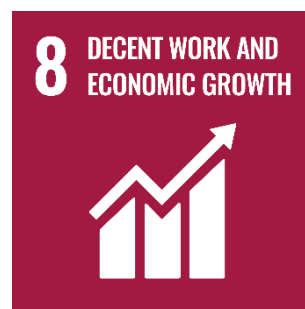


The University's Strategic Plan 2021 to 2028 outlines its commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency. New buildings are designed to prioritise energy efficiency and low running costs, aiming for a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) 'Excellent' classification.

#### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

<b>SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Assessed Score	60.7	56.3
Ranking	201-300	301-400

# Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth



The University of Central Lancashire has made significant contributions to Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8), which promotes decent work and economic growth. The University's research and engagement initiatives focus on fostering sustainable economic development, supporting conflict resolution in the workplace, and enhancing workforce skills to promote productive and inclusive employment.

## **Supporting Businesses and Employability**

The University of Central Lancashire plays a significant role in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Lancashire, contributing to local economic growth. Through the free to join Centre for SME and Enterprise Development, the University offers a range of services, including consultancy, research, and access to student talent - all aimed at improving business operations and encouraging sustainable economic practices. These efforts enhance the region's economic resilience by equipping businesses with the tools they need to thrive and grow sustainably.

The University offers various programmes aimed at enhancing the employability of its students. These programmes include internships, work placements, and career development workshops. By equipping students with the necessary skills and experience, the University ensures that graduates are well-prepared for the job market, thereby supporting full and productive employment.

The University also actively engages in research and knowledge exchange initiatives that directly contribute to decent work and economic growth. These initiatives include partnerships with regional, national, and international organisations to promote innovations in employment, enhance workforce skills, and support labour market inclusion. For instance, the [Institute for Research into Organisations, Work and Employment](#) (iROWE) is at the forefront of examining how to create more effective, humane work environments that benefit both employees and employers.

## **Workplace Conflict Management**

The *Workplace Conflict Management Project*, undertaken by iROWE in partnership with the University of Westminster and East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, stands as a successful case study of the University's commitment to SDG 8. Through in-depth research, the team helped design a multifaceted approach to conflict management within the Trust, which employs over 8,000 staff. This approach focuses on early intervention, improved mediation services, and developing management's conflict resolution skills.

Positive outcomes included a sharp increase in mediation success rates and a decrease in formal complaints, with the programme demonstrating that a supportive workplace culture significantly reduces conflict-related costs for organisations. By promoting such

policies, the University not only contributes to workplace well-being but also to broader economic efficiency and workforce productivity.

You can find out more about this project here:

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/research/institutes/beoi/irowe/workplace-conflict-management-project>

The University of Central Lancashire has made substantial strides in supporting SDG 8 through its research, community engagement, and business partnerships. By focusing on workplace conflict resolution, promoting local business development, and enhancing employment opportunities, the University continues to champion the principles of decent work, economic growth, and sustainable employment practices.

#### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth	2023	2024
Assessed Score	N/A	71.6
Ranking	N/A	101-200

# Sustainable Development Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure



The University of Central Lancashire made significant contributions to Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9): Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure during the academic year 2022-2023. These contributions are primarily rooted in supporting local business growth and innovation, strengthening infrastructure, and fostering sustainable industry practices. Through various research initiatives, collaborations, and educational programs, the University played a vital role in helping the region's industries become more sustainable, innovative, and technologically advanced.

The University's Strategic Plan 2021 to 2028 emphasises the importance of developing state-of-the-art infrastructure to support research and education. New buildings and facilities are designed to be energy-efficient and sustainable, aiming for high environmental standards such as BREEAM 'Excellent' classification. This commitment to sustainable infrastructure supports both academic excellence and environmental sustainability.

## **Invest Preston - Business and Community Innovation**

A key aspect of the University's contribution to SDG 9 was through collaboration with local businesses and stakeholders to drive innovation. For instance, the University joined a Pilot Innovation Programme in collaboration with other Lancashire universities, including Lancaster University and Edge Hill University. This programme, supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, focused on helping businesses in Preston innovate by providing expert knowledge exchange, product testing, and academic feedback. By supporting businesses in developing prototypes, fostering student placements, and offering access to state-of-the-art technology, the University promoted sustainable industrial growth and helped drive the local economy towards innovation and productivity.

Moreover, the University's participation in the *Preston Partnership* initiative provided local businesses access to extensive academic expertise and industry resources to drive business growth and infrastructure development. This partnership further encouraged collaboration between public and private sectors to build a resilient and prosperous regional economy.

You can find out more about this project here:

<https://www.investprestoncity.com/article/8075/Support-for-Preston-businesses-funded-by-the-UK-Shared-Prosperity-Fund-UKSPF>

## **Advancing Sustainable Technologies**

The University also actively engaged in research aimed at advancing sustainable technologies. Several research projects were carried out to improve industry practices and promote responsible consumption and production. Research published in various fields,

such as renewable energy technologies, digital infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing, contributed to the body of knowledge supporting sustainable infrastructure and industrial innovation.

Additionally, the University’s emphasis on sustainable practices was reflected in its efforts to foster low-carbon technologies and initiatives, offering businesses and industries valuable insights into carbon reduction strategies and sustainable growth models. By actively engaging in research that supports the transition to a low-carbon economy, the University contributed to building sustainable infrastructure and fostering environmentally responsible industry innovation.

#### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	2023	2024
Assessed Score	N/A	31.5
Ranking	N/A	601-800

# Sustainable Development Goal

## 10: Reduced Inequalities



In the 2022-23 academic year, the University of Central Lancashire contributed significantly to Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG 10), which focuses on reducing inequalities within and among countries. The University advanced this goal through inclusive educational initiatives, support for underrepresented groups, and research to foster greater social equity.

### **Inclusive Education**

The University is committed to providing an inclusive educational environment. This includes offering a range of support services for students with disabilities, mental health challenges, and other special needs. By ensuring that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed, the University promotes equal opportunities for education.

The University has implemented diversity and inclusion training programmes for staff and students. These programmes aim to raise awareness about the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to equip participants with the skills to create a more inclusive environment. This training helps foster a culture of respect and understanding within the University community.

The University's Schools, and research institutes and centres are actively involved in projects aimed at reducing social and economic inequalities. Research initiatives focus on labour rights, access to healthcare, and social inclusion policies, contributing to a broader understanding of how to tackle inequality in various sectors.

For example, researchers at the University's Institute for Citizenship, Society, and Change investigate social justice issues, identifying the most effective policies for reducing disparities. Their work influences not only academic discourse but also informs public policy aimed at achieving greater social equality.

### **Sanctuary Scholarships**

A standout example of the University's commitment to SDG 10 is the Sanctuary Scholarship, designed for those seeking asylum in the UK due to persecution or conflict, to which the University reaffirmed its commitment during the 2022-23 academic year. Applications for the Scholarship reopened for the 2023-24 academic year, providing support for tuition fees and up to £5,000 per year for living expenses to support students unable to access traditional student finance.

One student from Nigeria, who began her studies in September 2022, shared her experience: "It's thrilling to be here—it's something I've always wanted to do, and I wouldn't be doing it without the scholarship." The scholarship is a testament to the University's dedication to providing life-changing opportunities to those fleeing hardship.

Dr. Liz Granger, the University's Head of Widening Participation and Public Engagement emphasised that this initiative is in line with the University's core mission to ensure that education remains accessible to everyone, regardless of background.

You can find out more about the scholarship here:

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/news/sanctuary-scholarship-2>

#### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities	2023	2024
Assessed Score	74.6	75.0
Ranking	85th	101-200

# Sustainable Development Goal

## 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities



The University of Central Lancashire has made notable contributions during the academic year 2022-23 towards Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11), focusing on sustainable cities and communities. The University's initiatives spanned a variety of sectors including research, sustainability, and community-based projects, aiming to enhance urban resilience, reduce environmental impact, and promote sustainable development in urban environments.

### **Supporting communities locally and internationally**

The University of Central Lancashire is involved in research and initiatives aimed at improving disaster risk reduction and management. This includes studying the impacts of climate change on urban areas and developing strategies to enhance the resilience of cities to natural disasters. By contributing to this field, the University helps cities prepare for and respond to emergencies more effectively.

The University promotes the creation of safe and inclusive public spaces through its research and community projects. This includes designing public areas that are accessible to all, including people with disabilities, and implementing measures to enhance safety and security. These efforts contribute to making cities more inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

### **Sustainable concrete**

One of the University's key contributions to SDG 11 is through its research on sustainable construction materials. A standout project involved the development and testing of a groundbreaking seashell concrete, an eco-friendly alternative to conventional concrete, which was tested at the Bostonway Community Garden in Blackpool. This pervious concrete, created using whelk and scallop shells, offers environmental benefits, such as reducing reliance on non-renewable resources, minimising landfill waste, and improving flood resilience in urban areas by enhancing water permeability.

Developed by Professor Karl Williams and his team, the project is part of a larger European Regional Development Fund initiative, the *CIRCLE Project*. The pervious seashell concrete has already proven effective in France and is now being tested under the local weather conditions of Blackpool. Beyond its sustainability, the material is designed to improve mobility for elderly residents, making it an inclusive solution for urban infrastructure.

You can find out more about this project here:

<https://www.bch.co.uk/news/blackpool-becomes-uks-first-test-site-for-groundbreaking-sustainable-seashell-concrete>



### **Engaging with local stakeholders on climate resilience**

The University has also been engaging with local governments, businesses, and communities to co-create solutions that address challenges posed by climate change, such as urban flooding. The University's focus on research and practical applications ensures that innovative materials and sustainable practices are deployed in real-world settings.

#### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities	2023	2024
Assessed Score	N/A	68.3
Ranking	N/A	201-300

# Sustainable Development Goal

## 12: Responsible Consumption & Production



The University of Central Lancashire has demonstrated a strong commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12): Responsible Consumption and Production.

### **Strategic Commitment**

The University's Strategic Plan 2021 to 2028 underscores its dedication to sustainability and SDG 12. This plan includes specific goals and actions to enhance sustainability across all operations, teaching, and research activities.

The University aims to integrate sustainable practices across its core functions, ensuring that responsible consumption and production are prioritised. It focuses on waste management by encouraging recycling on campus and reducing plastic use. In 2022-23, the University implemented strategies to minimise food waste in its catering services, supporting local food redistribution initiatives.

In addition, the University is advancing responsible consumption through its education programmes, integrating sustainability into the curriculum through its Curriculum for All approach, and encouraging students to engage with sustainability challenges. The University's focus on sustainability in education prepares students to think critically about resource consumption and promotes sustainable living practices.

### **The CIRCLE Project**

The *CIRCLE Project* is a key example of the University's commitment to SDG 12. This innovative project addresses the environmental challenges posed by impermeable urban surfaces and the need for more sustainable construction materials. By using waste shellfish products as a component in concrete pavement, the project reduces reliance on natural aggregates and lowers the carbon footprint of concrete production. The permeable paving solutions developed through the *CIRCLE Project* help manage water runoff, mitigate urban flooding, and promote environmental sustainability.

The project is financially supported by the Interreg France (Channel) England programme and involves collaboration with international partners, including Builders Ecole d'ingénieurs and EQIOM Bétons. It exemplifies how sustainable practices can be embedded in construction, contributing to both environmental protection and responsible resource use.

You can find out more about the CIRCLE Project here:

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/research/institutes/ineti/circle-project>

Beyond the *CIRCLE Project*, the University continues to engage in research that contributes to responsible production and consumption. Its Institute of Nanotechnology and Energy Innovation (INETI) conducts studies on sustainable materials and energy-

efficient technologies, aiming to reduce waste in manufacturing processes. Furthermore, partnerships with local businesses and organisations have helped promote sustainable practices in Lancashire, including collaborations on waste reduction and green technology.

#### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production	2023	2024
Assessed Score	76.2	81.7
Ranking	101-200	=95th

# Sustainable Development Goal

## 13: Climate Action



The University of Central Lancashire made substantial contributions to Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13): Climate Action, throughout the 2022-23 academic year by engaging in research, community projects, and education aimed at addressing climate change. Key initiatives included academic research on sustainability and climate resilience, as well as community-based projects to engage younger generations in climate activism and environmental awareness.

### **Climate Action Research:**

During the 2022-23 academic year, the University's research output focused on creating knowledge to help mitigate climate change. Researchers across Faculties and Institutes engaged in interdisciplinary work to tackle issues ranging from energy consumption to climate justice. Research efforts at the University have helped inform climate adaptation strategies and sustainable practices in urban planning and business development.

The University's [Centre for Waste Management](#) was involved in impactful studies, exploring how improved waste management practices can lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The research aimed to help local councils and businesses minimise environmental damage and move towards more sustainable practices.

### **Sustainability in Operations:**

The University has made strides in reducing its carbon footprint. By continuing efforts to reduce its energy consumption and waste, the University works toward becoming more sustainable, both in campus operations and in community engagement. The University is committed to reducing water usage and improving energy efficiency across its estates.

### **YouCount Project - Leading Change with Young People**

A standout project demonstrating the University's contribution to SDG 13 is the *YouCount* project, which took place in Preston. This initiative, launched in November 2022, trained young people as "youth citizen scientists" with the goal of equipping them to research issues of climate and social belonging in their community. In partnership with Preston City Council and local stakeholders, young people were given the tools to explore the impacts of climate change on their city and how local communities could better adapt.

This project fostered a sense of responsibility among young people regarding climate action, encouraging them to actively participate in community-led solutions to climate challenges. Through interviews, workshops, and engagement with local leaders, these young citizen scientists explored the connection between climate change, urban spaces, and the needs of younger generations in building resilient communities.

Find out more about the *YouCount Project* here:

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/articles/research/leading-change>

Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 13 - Climate Action	2023	2024
Assessed Score	N/A	62.8
Ranking	N/A	101-200

# Sustainable Development Goal

## 14: Life Below Water



In the academic year 2022-23, the University of Central Lancashire made significant contributions towards Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), which seeks to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources. Through research, education, and public engagement, the University worked on projects that promote ocean sustainability and raise awareness of the cultural, ecological, and economic significance of marine environments.

The University of Central Lancashire has been involved in various research projects focused on the sustainable use and conservation of marine ecosystems. One example is research from the Centre for Waste Management in Sri Lanka, assessing plastic waste and recycling trends to reduce the amount of plastic waste entering the marine environment through harbours. Their contributions towards ocean science, pollution reduction, and marine biodiversity have been vital in supporting the global push for sustainable use of marine resources. Collaborative efforts with environmental organisations, including studies on the impacts of climate change and pollution on aquatic ecosystems, align with SDG 14's goal of enhancing marine conservation.

### Educational Outreach and Community Engagement

The University has prioritised educating local communities and students about the importance of marine ecosystems. Outreach programmes include lectures, workshops, and seminars that encourage sustainable marine practices. These initiatives aim to instil a deeper understanding of the interdependence between human life and ocean health, fostering a generation of environmentally conscious citizens and professionals.

### Haenyeo Exhibition in Preston

One key project that highlights the University's contribution to SDG 14 is the *Haenyeo Exhibition: Experience the Value of Living Heritage of Jeju in South Korea* held in November 2022. The exhibition, hosted by the University in collaboration with the Haenyeo Museum from Jeju, South Korea, showcased the lives of Haenyeo women divers who practice a centuries-old, sustainable fisheries system. These women dive into the sea without breathing apparatus, collecting seafood while maintaining a balance with marine ecosystems.

The exhibition, held at the University's PR1 Gallery, featured photographs, artefacts such as diving suits and tools, and aimed to raise awareness of sustainable fishing practices. The Haenyeo women's way of life,



Figure 5 An image from the Haenyeo Exhibition: Experience the Value of Living Heritage of Jeju in South Korea showing the sustainable fishing system used by the Haenyeo.

recognised by UNESCO for its cultural and ecological significance, demonstrates how traditional knowledge and practices can contribute to marine conservation. By promoting this exhibition, the University connected cultural heritage with modern environmental sustainability, encouraging a global perspective on preserving marine ecosystems.

The exhibition was brought to Preston as a result of Prof Niki Alsford's *Haenyeo Voices* project. In May 2024 Prof Alsford spent three weeks living and working with the Haenyeo, gathering a unique insight into their work, and observing how climate change is affecting the ecosystem they rely upon.

Find out more about the exhibition here:

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/news/splash-of-korean-culture-arrives-in-preston>

Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 14	2023	2024
Assessed Score	N/A	57.4
Ranking	N/A	201-300

# Sustainable Development Goal

## 15: Life on Land



The University of Central Lancashire actively contributes to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG 15), which focuses on the protection, restoration, and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

The University undertakes initiatives to enhance biodiversity across its campuses. The University’s sustainability efforts included creating green spaces, planting native species, and fostering wildlife habitats in and around its Preston campus. These actions not only support local biodiversity but also raise awareness of environmental conservation among the University community.

### Research on Animal Health and Ecosystem Sustainability

One of the University’s notable contributions to SDG 15 came through research led by Dr. Dey Tarusikirwa, who won the Young Development Agriculturalist Award for his work on the reproductive health of small ruminants (sheep and goats) in Zimbabwe. Tarusikirwa’s research focuses on zoonotic diseases such as brucellosis, toxoplasmosis, and chlamydiosis, which have significant impacts on both livestock health and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. By examining the spread of these diseases in rural areas, Dr. Tarusikirwa’s research promoted a One Health approach, highlighting the importance of integrated animal, human, and environmental health strategies.

The findings of the study provided critical insights into the need for improved disease control and surveillance measures. It supports sustainable agricultural practices and ecosystem health, directly contributing to SDG 15 by promoting better livestock management and biodiversity conservation in farming ecosystems.

You can find out more about Dr Tarusikirwa’s research here:

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/news/academic-wins-award-for-farm-animal-research>

The University of Central Lancashire has made meaningful contributions to SDG 15 through research, biodiversity initiatives, and sustainable land use practices. By focusing on animal welfare, ecosystem sustainability, and the promotion of biodiversity, the University continues to play a vital role in addressing global challenges related to the protection of life on land.

### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 15 - Life on Land	2023	2024
Assessed Score	N/A	75.7
Ranking	N/A	101-200



# Sustainable Development Goal

## 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



In the 2022-23 academic year, the University of Central Lancashire contributed to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), which promotes peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. The University's efforts included initiatives focused on reducing violence, supporting mental health, and fostering institutional integrity. Its contributions reflect a commitment to improving societal well-being, reducing inequalities, and promoting justice and strong institutions.

The University actively contributes to the transparency and effectiveness of public institutions. Researchers regularly engage with policy makers across all levels of government, from giving evidence to inquiries and Select Committees in the EU and UK to supporting local democracy through our engagement with local councils.

### Research on Domestic Abuse and Policing

In line with SDG 16, the University conducts a range of impactful research focused on improving justice systems and reducing violence, particularly in relation to domestic abuse. UCLan researchers work with local law enforcement agencies to develop strategies for better supporting victims of domestic violence. Research includes evaluating police responses and helping law enforcement improve practices that foster trust and support among vulnerable populations.

### Collaboration with Lancashire Violence Reduction Network

Students from the University have partnered with the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (LVRN), a network of professionals from across Lancashire's public sector organisations including the NHS, Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire County Council. Together, they developed the *Whay App*—a mobile application designed to help young people access support for issues like mental health, knife crime, and relationship advice. The *Whay App* provides a safe, anonymous platform for young people to access support and empowers young people by offering educational resources, links to local services, and access to safe recreational opportunities. This initiative was informed by feedback from Lancashire's youth, who identified critical concerns such as online crime, drugs, and abusive relationships.



Figure 6 The Whay App logo.

The *Whay App* serves as an early intervention tool, providing self-help resources, connections to local support services, and information on events and activities for young people. The project is an important example of how technology can contribute to

reducing violence and promoting mental health support, aligning with SDG 16's goals of fostering peace and justice in local communities.

You can find out more about the *Whay App* and the University's work with the LVRN here: <https://lancsvrn.co.uk/latest-news/whay-app/>

#### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	2023	2024
Assessed Score	78.6	79.5
Ranking	=81 <sup>st</sup>	101-200

# Sustainable Development Goal

## 17: Partnerships for the Goals



The University of Central Lancashire is committed to supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals through its research, teaching, and operations. The University's Strategic Plan 2021 to 2028 emphasises the importance of partnerships and

collaboration in achieving sustainable development. By engaging with local, national, and international partners, the University aims to enhance its impact on global sustainability challenges.

The University has established numerous partnerships and networks with academic institutions, industry, and non-governmental organisations worldwide to focus on addressing global challenges through collaboration. These collaborations aim to promote research, innovation, and knowledge exchange in sustainable development.

The University engages with local and global communities to promote sustainable development through educational programmes, workshops, and outreach activities. This supplements the University's inclusion of the principles of global citizenship and sustainable development in its curricula. The University is committed to preparing students who are equipped with the skills and knowledge to enable meaningful contribution to these challenges in their future careers.

We continue to embed sustainability in our curriculum using our Curriculum Framework. The Curriculum Framework - Curriculum for All - is designed to ensure our curricula are fully inclusive and representative of our students and the wider world, involving students in the co-creation of courses and delivering applied, real-world learning. Courses are required to provide a global context that our students will live and work within, enabling them to explore concepts of sustainability.

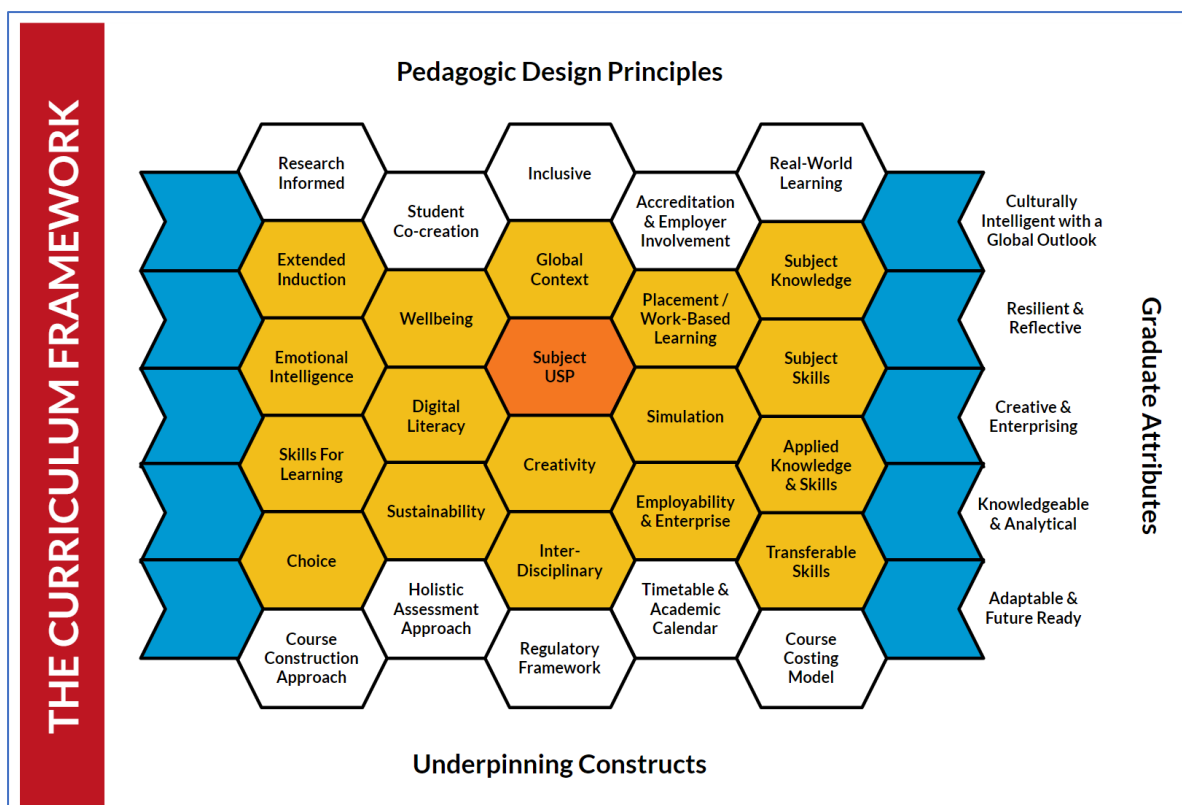


Figure 7 The University of Central Lancashire Curriculum Framework

### The TRUST Code

The *TRUST Code*, previously the *Global Code of Conduct for Research in Resource-Poor Settings*, is a notable example of the University's commitment to SDG 17. This long running initiative, led by Prof Doris Schroeder, focuses on promoting ethical research practices and fostering equitable partnerships with resource-poor communities.

The objectives of the Code include developing and implementing a code of conduct that ensures ethical research practices in resource-poor settings, promoting equitable partnerships between researchers and communities, and raising awareness about the importance of ethical research practices and global cooperation. The comprehensive code of conduct has been adopted by numerous research institutions and organisations worldwide. Collaboration with resource-poor communities has led to the implementation of ethical research practices, ensuring that research benefits are shared equitably. Educational outreach programmes have raised awareness about the importance of ethical research practices and global cooperation among researchers and communities.

You can find out more about the *TRUST Code* here:  
<https://www.globalcodeofconduct.org/>

### PREPARED Project

The *PREPARED* project, led by UCLan Cyprus, is another example of the University's contributions to SDG 17. This project focuses on enhancing disaster preparedness and resilience through international cooperation and capacity-building.

The objectives of the *PREPARED* project include developing and implementing strategies for improving disaster preparedness and resilience in vulnerable communities, fostering international cooperation and knowledge exchange in disaster risk reduction, and educating and empowering communities to enhance their resilience to disasters. The project has successfully developed several pilot initiatives that demonstrate effective disaster preparedness and resilience strategies. Collaboration with international partners has led to the implementation of best practices in disaster risk reduction. Educational outreach programmes have raised awareness about the importance of disaster preparedness and resilience among vulnerable communities.

In 2023, following the development of a policy brief and championing by the *PREPARED* project advocating for its inclusion, the African Union was officially welcomed as a full member of the G20 at the New Delhi summit.

You can find out more about the *PREPARED* project here:

<https://prepared-project.eu/our-mission/>

By fostering international cooperation and promoting ethical research practices, the University is playing a crucial role in advancing global sustainability and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings Performance

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals	2023	2024
Assessed Score	76.2	90.6
Ranking	201-300	=89th