



Sustainability for Education and Engagement Strategy

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1. Introduction

This Sustainable Engagement and Education Strategy allows our staff and students to acquire the education, attitudes, and values necessary to create a sustainable environment.

This Strategy sets out our current sustainability initiatives and formalises our strategy into clear objectives and actions. This strategy sits with our other policies and strategies including our Sustainable food policy and Carbon Management Plan and further supports their aims and targets towards strengthening our sustainability agenda.

Our approach involves creating realistic, attainable yet challenging SMART goals that will enable our community to engage with opportunities to promote sustainability on campus and in the wider community.

2. Aims

The overarching aim of this strategy is to create a culture that embeds a sustainable and environmentally conscious mindset into our community. This includes equipping our students with valuable knowledge on sustainability, which in the case of our teacher training students, they will pass on to their students in schools.

Our strategic aims are to:

- empower staff and students to make sustainable choices that improve their environment.
- achieve long lasting change by actively tackling sustainability issues and educating our staff and students.
- educating our students on sustainability so that they can pass on their knowledge to others.

3. Current sustainability Initiatives

We actively demonstrate our commitment to sustainability and social responsibility by creating and supporting sustainability initiatives. These initiatives are led by staff and students who are passionate about creating a culture of sustainability at the university.

Fairtrade

We have been a supporter of Fairtrade since 2011 and were recently awarded Fairtrade one star status for our catering service. We are passionate about maintaining our commitment to Fairtrade and continually work to improve our Fairtrade status by implementing our sustainability strategy.

Our Catering team has expanded its range of Fairtrade soft drinks and confectionery, most notably the addition of Tony's Chocolonely, to encourage the sale of Fairtrade products on campus. They are part of the local Richmond Fairtrade group.

Events and promotions around Fairtrade are often organised by Catering team. In 2022 the service successfully ran various events during Fairtrade Fortnight including presentations from Fairtrade suppliers Tchibo Coffee and Tony's Chocolonely on the importance of Fairtrade. Representatives from the catering procurement team, Students' Union, the University's Sustainability Working Group and the local Richmond Group were also present during the event.

Food Waste Management

We do our best to manage food waste however, sometimes not all the food made in The Refectory is sold. To tackle this issue the catering service has partnered with [Too Good To Go](#), a food service that connects customers to restaurants that have unsold food surplus. Since partnering with Too Good To Go in September 2021, we have saved 550kg of CO2 emissions, the equivalent of driving over 900 miles in a car.

Sustainability Modules

We strive to incorporate sustainability into our modules and courses. Fairtrade is currently embedded in our PGCE teacher training modules mainly within sustainability and education for global citizenship modules. There are also sustainability modules on some of the courses in our Institute of Business Law and Society. We are working towards integrating sustainability modules into all our courses.

St Mary's Student's Union (SMSU)

SMSU actively engages in sustainability campaigns and supports students who are also passionate about sustainability on campus.

They run events such as our annual Sustainability Week campaign and have included events such as the Simmies Swap Shop in which students were able to actively combat fast fashion by swapping and selling their clothes.

Estates & Campus Services

Our Estates team is dedicated to implementing measures that encourage sustainability and reduce our emissions through our Carbon Management Plan.

Measures such as increasing the number of cycle spaces available on campus by 50% and the provision of additional showers have encouraged staff and students to commute by bicycle rather than car or public transport. Staff also have access to a cycle to work scheme.

We have 30 water bottle refill stations across our estate to encourage the use of refillable bottles and reduce plastic waste.

We provide separate recycling bins for general waste and recyclable materials all over campus to ensure that waste is recycled as much as possible.

We have also recently partnered with the Richmond Council with the introduction of food waste bins at several of our residential buildings.

We are addressing the amount of printing we do with a first stage of reducing the number of printers on site, closing our in-house printing service and promoting the use of electronic documents.

Staff and Student Voice

Our Sustainability Working Group is a staff and student group that champion important issues concerning sustainability and work to reduce the university's impact on the environment. This group works with SMSU, professional services and academic departments to promote and implement sustainability initiatives. We have created a dedicated sustainability email account to encourage ideas and feedback.

4. Our strategic aims

We have set out in the appendices of this report our aims to enhance our student and staff engagement (appendix A) and to develop sustainability in education (appendix B).

5. Implementation and engagement

Our sustainability working Group oversees direction on carbon reduction but ultimately many of our targets are down to individuals and their actions. We will plan awareness campaigns and increase our engagement with student and staff groups.

6. Responsibility, ownership and monitoring

Ownership of this plan ultimately rests with the Chief Operating Officer however actions will be monitored through the Sustainability Working Group.

Jo Blunden

Chief Operating Officer

July 2022

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Appendix A - Education Strategy

Objective	Action	Reasoning	Measurement of Outcomes	Due Date	Owner
Awareness	Sustainability for education will become a standing item at Faculty programme meetings.	Suggestions on how to incorporate sustainability into course modules will be reviewed by faculty who will determine how they can further incorporate education on sustainability into their modules.	The number of items actioned, and their outcomes will be reviewed, recorded, and publicly shared on the university website and internally among staff.	Ongoing	All Faculties
Courses/Modules	The University will draw on current sustainable education research to further develop academic practice across programmes	This will support student education on sustainability and may lead to students choosing to study fairtrade and sustainable and ethical	The number of departments that implement this action and support their students with their research.	Ongoing	All Faculties

Objective	Action	Reasoning	Measurement of Outcomes	Due Date	Owner
		sourcing at a higher level.			
Courses/Modules	SMSU will support the University in taking part in the Sustainable Development Goal Teach-In.	The SDG Teach-In is national campaign that works with Universities to embed the Sustainable Development Goals into the curriculum.	% of courses taking part in the SDG Teach-In Number of academics taking part in the SDG Teach-In Ranking of St Mary's in the SDG Teach-In Campaign	Ongoing	SMSU (Sarah Redman) and Institute of Education (Sophie Wilson)
Representation	SMSU will incorporate sustainability training into society leaders and course rep training to ensure that they take sustainable approaches when working in their roles. Student leaders and representatives will also have the opportunity to engage in discussions around sustainability, either by giving feedback at meetings, engaging with the Sustainability society, sustainability forum or	This will educate student leaders on how to support sustainability at the university when conducting activities and give them the opportunity to pass on a culture of living and working sustainably in their societies	Increased knowledge around sustainability leading to widespread behavioural change. Students will be empowered to give effective feedback on sustainability to the University.	September 2022	SMSU (Sarah Redman)

Objective	Action	Reasoning	Measurement of Outcomes	Due Date	Owner
	developing campaigns with support from SMSU.	and among their peers.			
	Senior residents will be trained on how to educate incoming residents on sustainable living.	Senior residents are a key point of contact when implementing initiatives for students. Providing them with sustainability training will give them the opportunity to pass on their knowledge to new students and create a culture of sustainable living in student halls.	The amount of waste and emissions from halls of residents will reduce.	September 2022	Student Services (Anthony O'Reilly)
Training	Staff will be allocated appropriate Continuing Professional Development dedicated to sustainability training (e.g. use of LinkedIn).	This will allow staff to have time to engage with sustainability training without giving up time dedicated to	The number of staff that utilise their dedicated professional development hours to participate in sustainability training.	September 2022	Occupational Development

Objective	Action	Reasoning	Measurement of Outcomes	Due Date	Owner
		their work responsibilities.			

Appendix B - Staff and Student Engagement Strategy

Objective	Action	Reasoning	Measurement of Outcomes	Due Date	Owner
Recycling and Waste	SMSU will review and update their current waste strategy and develop recommendations on ways to reduce waste.	Understand current waste patterns and develop solutions that are effective, limit waste and aren't financially inhibitive.	Reduction in waste from SMSU activity	January 2024	SMSU (Sarah Redman)
	The university will display locations of bins and recycling stations.	Increase awareness of bins and recycling stations and encourage people to dispose of their waste properly and recycle where appropriate.	Reduction of litter on campus and increase in amount recycled.	September 2023	Estates (Gavin Hindley)
Policies	SMSU will audit current suppliers and develop an ethical purchasing policy.	SMSU works with many organisations for a wide range of purchases. It is therefore essential that SMSU engages in ethical sourcing to ensure that its activities do not have a negative environmental and social impact.	SMSU will create and adhere to a policy surrounding ethical purchasing.	July 2023 with September 2023 implementation	SMSU (Sarah Redman)

Objective	Action	Reasoning	Measurement of Outcomes	Due Date	Owner
	SMSU will promote a University-owned staff and student travel survey.	The aim of this is to collect data on staff and student commuters. This data will help in assessing the needs of commuters and ultimately encourage more staff and students to commute sustainably.	The implementation of the survey as well as the number of respondents will indicate the effectiveness of this strategy.	February 2023	SMSU (Sarah Redman)
	Implement a sustainable travel plan to encourage staff, students, and visitors to choose more sustainable travel modes and reduce unnecessary travel.	The plan will aim to encourage staff and students to make healthier, and environmentally friendly decisions when making transport choices. It also seeks to assist the surrounding communities and local authorities by reducing traffic congestion and the associated harmful effects on the environment from single car usage and public transport.	An increase in the number of regular commuters.	September 2023	Estates (Gavin Hindley)

Objective	Action	Reasoning	Measurement of Outcomes	Due Date	Owner
Campaigns / Events	SMSU will run a sustainability campaign that raises awareness around behavioural change for staff and students.	This will increase student awareness of sustainability initiatives on campus and provide them the opportunity to take part.	The number of attendees, engagement from marketing channels such as social media, and engagement with activities during the event.	November 2022	SMSU (Sarah Redman)
	<p>SMSU will approach sustainability-oriented charities encouraging them to host a stall during Fresher's Fayre.</p> <p>If desired, SMSU will provide space for the University to host a sustainability stall.</p>	This will increase student awareness of sustainability initiatives and provide them with opportunities to contribute to sustainability initiatives.	The number of attendees and stallholders.	September 2022	SMSU (Sarah Redman)
Panels/boards	SMSU will trial the introduction of a sustainability forum where students can raise issues and discuss sustainability work. They will utilise the 'Big Changes' section of their	The student voice is very important especially in relation to sustainability issues as students are directly affected. This places them in the best position to highlight areas to improve and possible	The amount of student engagement with the forum will determine its effectiveness. Also, the number of issues resolved, and solutions implemented will also indicate that the SMSU is engaging with the	November 2022	SMSU (Sarah Redman)

Objective	Action	Reasoning	Measurement of Outcomes	Due Date	Owner
	website where students can submit issues that are then up-voted or down-voted to create change and policy on sustainability issues.	solutions to any issues raised.	forum and listening to the student voice.		
	As part of the SMSU website development project, SMSU will close the feedback loop on sustainability work.	Closing the feedback loop after the Sustainability Board meetings is important as it shows that action is being taken and keeps the university accountable.	There will be frequent use of the website for SMSU sabbatical officers to post articles that give updates on the wider issues and actions arising from sustainability work.	December 2022	SMSU (Sarah Redman)
	SMSU will advertise the opportunity of leading a sustainability society as part of their Adopt a Society initiative. SMSU will additionally encourage the existing Recycling	The society will reach students across courses and levels, building more awareness around sustainability. The students will also give feedback and proposals to SMSU on how to improve	The number of members and attendees to events and the number of successful sustainability initiatives that the society will be involved in supporting and implementing.	October 2022	SMSU (Sarah Redman)

Objective	Action	Reasoning	Measurement of Outcomes	Due Date	Owner
	Society to re-affiliate for next academic year.	our sustainability at the University.			