



Department
for Education

University of Reading's Sustainability Strategy Statement

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Sustainability Strategy Statement

The University of Reading is strongly committed to environmental sustainability and playing its part in tackling climate change. This commitment is reflected in the University's Strategic Plan, which embeds environmental sustainability as a key institution-wide priority, building on a long track record of delivering sustainability objectives across its operations. This includes working to become a Net Zero Carbon university by 2030, demonstrating continued leadership in reducing its environmental impacts.

The University of Reading's sustainability journey is underpinned by setting and delivering a series of SMART sustainability targets, a robust energy and environmental management system, and transparent monitoring and reporting. The University's dedication to sustainability is highly accessible across its operations, research, and teaching, with students having opportunities to develop their knowledge and put it into practical action during their studies.

The University's research strengths in climate, agriculture, food and nutrition, the built environment, and business mean it is well recognised in making a strong contribution to understanding environmental challenges and their impacts. The University's ambitions include strengthening cross-disciplinary collaboration, building institutional partnerships and networks, and connecting Reading's research more strongly with businesses facing the challenges and uncertainty of a changing climate.

The University is also working to embed sustainability across its formal curriculum, with a particular focus on climate and environmental sustainability. This will ensure that all graduates have a strong understanding of the challenges ahead and are well-equipped to play their part in addressing them through their professional and personal lives.

As well as working to enhance biodiversity across its estate, the University is developing a Nature Park to offer formalised outdoor learning opportunities for local schools. The aim is to help young people gain a deeper appreciation of our changing climate and the future of our natural world by engaging in practical conservation work and developing skills such as data collection, species identification, and habitat management that can be taken back to their school or college.

From world-leading research informing policy makers; to educating the next generation of climate experts; to engaging and mobilising everyone in its community; to leading the way in reducing its own environmental footprint, the University of Reading is doing everything it can to work towards a better future.

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