

THE NORTHAMPTON SUSTAINABILITY ACCORD

UON SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 2023

This Northampton Sustainability Accord is hereby out-dooed on this day the 16th of May 2023 by the stakeholder community present at the University of Northampton Sustainability Summit.

1. **Purpose:** All stakeholders here today recognise the importance of collective action to address shared sustainability challenges. This Accord aims to establish a framework for collaboration between the stakeholder community to achieve mutually agreed sustainability goals.
2. **Commitment to Sustainability:** All stakeholders share an ambition to commit to integrating sustainability principles into their respective operations, practices, and decision-making processes. We acknowledge the urgent need to minimise environmental impacts, promote social responsibility, and drive economic prosperity through sustainable practices.
3. **Shared Sustainability Challenges:** The stakeholders have identified the following to be their shared sustainability challenges:
 - Biodiversity Loss
 - Energy management
 - Plastics reuse and recycling (circular economy)
 - Limited sustainability education
 - Greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Water management
 - Greenwashing
 - Emissions & Carbon footprint measurement.
 - High costs associated with ESG reporting and other sustainability requirements.
 - Modern Slavery
 - Equality & Diversity
 - Employee Human Rights
 - Health and Safety of employees
 - Community health and Wellbeing
 - Meeting Living wage requirements.
 - Employee engagement & employee voice
 - Responsible sourcing

4. **Shared Goals:** The stakeholders have identified the following to be their shared sustainability goals:
 - Pursue collaborative opportunities to address sustainability challenges within supply and value chains.
 - Enhance sustainability education within the stakeholder community.
 - Improve waste minimisation and management.
 - Progression towards net zero.
 - Address plastic waste with innovations which mitigate plastic use.
 - Enhance emissions & carbon footprint measurement capabilities.
 - Enhance Equality, Inclusion & Diversity.
 - Promoting good organisational culture.
 - Progression towards a living wage.
 - Enhance sustainable water management.
 - Enhance employee voice & community empowerment.
 - Enhance engagement with sustainability schemes and frameworks such as B-corp and the Good Business Charter.
 - Enhance social impact measurement and implementation of required recommendations.
 - Eradicate modern slavery within value and supply chains.
 - Adopt human rights impact measurement within value and supply chains.

5. **Research collaboration and knowledge sharing:** All stakeholders agree to undertake collaborative research, enterprise and knowledge exchange projects to address their shared sustainability challenges and attain their shared sustainability goals. Stakeholders also agree to share best practices and expertise to address their shared sustainability challenges and attain their shared sustainability goals. They will establish regular communication channels, organise joint workshops, conferences, and training sessions, and exchange relevant research findings related to sustainability. The University of Northampton will contribute to this effort by, amongst other things, establishing the 'Sustainability Local Innovation & Partnership Agenda Hub **SLIPAH**' to coordinate research collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the organisation of joint workshops, training sessions and future UON Sustainability Summits

6. **Monitoring and Reporting:** The monitoring and evaluating of progress towards attaining the shared sustainability goals as outlined on point 4 above will be undertaken by **SLIPAH** on a periodic and frequent basis. SLIPAH will develop a monitoring framework, including relevant indicators and methodologies, to track the implementation and impact of sustainability initiatives. Regular reporting on

progress, challenges, and successes will be conducted to ensure transparency and accountability.

7. **Resource Mobilisation:** Stakeholders will explore opportunities for resource mobilisation, including securing funding, grants, and partnerships, to support the implementation of sustainability initiatives. They will jointly pursue external funding sources and leverage their networks to attract financial and technical assistance.
8. **Review and Amendment:** This Accord will be reviewed periodically, and at every other UON Sustainability Summit. It may be amended or supplemented by agreement of stakeholders.

