

ESG Climate Action Plan

AY 2026/27



INTRODUCTION



A key Government initiative overseen by the Department for Education are 'Sustainability Leadership and Climate Action Plans.' This strategy states that;

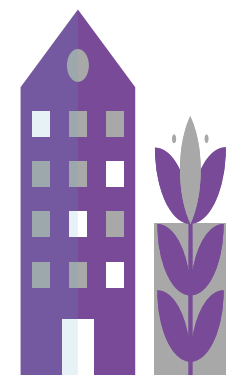
By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan. This includes early years settings, schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, and universities.

Sustainability leadership could be a group of people or an individual responsible for the development and implementation of a climate action plan.

A climate action plan is a detailed plan to enable your education setting, or trust, to progress or commence sustainability initiatives.

A climate action plan should typically cover the following 4 areas, to align with [DfE's sustainability and climate change strategy](#):

- 1) Decarbonisation, for example calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions, such as becoming more energy efficient**
- 2) Adaptation and resilience, such as taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating**
- 3) Biodiversity, for example engaging with the [National Education Nature Park](#)**
- 4) Climate education and green careers, such as ensuring the education you provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and that your teaching staff and lecturers feel supported to offer this.**

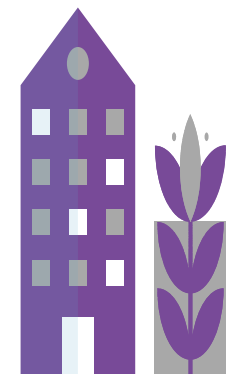


OUR AIM



Ensuring clear leadership and a climate action plan is in place will;

- ❖ Increase the confidence and expertise of your leadership team, staff, learners, and students in understanding climate change and how positive change can be achieved
- ❖ Create a culture that prioritises sustainability
- ❖ Share effective practice with other education settings and develop a peer-to-peer learning network
- ❖ Use data to identify and prioritise action
- ❖ Improve energy and water efficiency
- ❖ Calculate your carbon emissions and identify ways to reduce them
- ❖ Reduce operating costs
- ❖ Increase resilience and start adapting to the impacts of climate change
- ❖ Enhance biodiversity
- ❖ Help learners develop skills and knowledge which help them to contribute to sustainability and climate change in their lives and future jobs

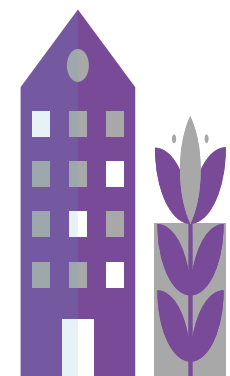


ELECTRICITY

Target: Reduce electricity consumption across the estate by 2%



KEY ACTIONS	DATE	OWNER	NOTES & PROGRESS UPDATE
Attend and present at regular faculty & ECS meetings, providing an update on utilities consumption.	Annually	Environment Advisor	Meetings: Faculty (x3), Estates H&S, Accomdation.
Optimize the use of the reporting software for increased monitoring.	Annually	Environment Advisor	Elcomponent, contract ends in October 2026.
Identify areas of high usage using sub metering data, visual audits and investigate if required.	Annually	Environment Advisor Building Services	
Behaviour Change Program & Campaigns	Annually	Environment Advisor Student Union	
Annual Solar inspection and maintenance schedule in place and monitored	3 monthly	Building Services	
BMS health check to investigate current settings and operations to ensure minimization of electricity usage.	TBC	Building Services	

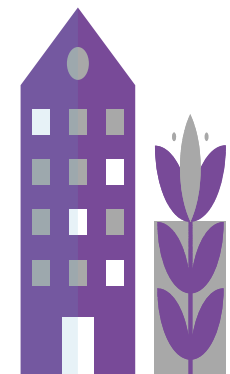


GAS inc BIOMASS

Target: Reduce gas consumption across the estate by 2% & increase biomass consumption by 10%.



KEY ACTIONS	DATE	OWNER	NOTES & PROGRESS UPDATE
Investigate gas and biomass data repositories, ensuring data is accurate and reporting is fit for monitoring purposes.	Annually	Environment Advisor	
Review Heating and Cooling Policy to ensure key information, settings and operations are up to date and reflect best practices for energy efficiency and student welfare.	Every 3 years	Building Services	
Identify areas of high usage using sub metering data, visual audits and investigate if required.	Annually	Environment Advisor Building Services	
Behaviour Change Program & Campaigns	Annually	Environment Advisor Student Union	
Continue the Biomass inspection and maintenance schedule, as well as holding stock of key spare parts for the Biomass boiler to minimize down time in the event of a breakdown.	Annually	Building Services	Myriad.
Ensure the RHI readings are completed on time, accurately, and submitted with evidence.	Quarterly	Environment Advisor Building Services	

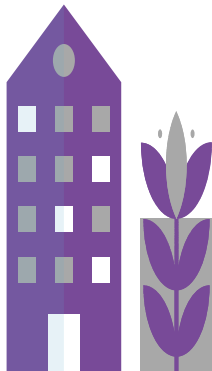


WATER



Target: Reduce water consumption across the estate by 1%

KEY ACTIONS	DATE	OWNER	NOTES & PROGRESS UPDATE
Streamline sub metering and ensure data is accurate and reporting is fit for monitoring purposes.	Annually	Environment Advisor	
Work with teams to reduce water consumption for commercial purposes e.g. window cleaning	Annually	Environment Advisor	
Identify areas of high usage using sub metering data, visual audits and investigate if required.	Annually	Environment Advisor Building Services	
Behaviour Change Program & Campaigns.	Annually	Environment Advisor Student Union	
Work with external providers, such as Anglian Water, around national campaigns.	Annually	Environment Advisor	
Investigate rain water harvesting	TBC	Environment Advisor Grounds Team	

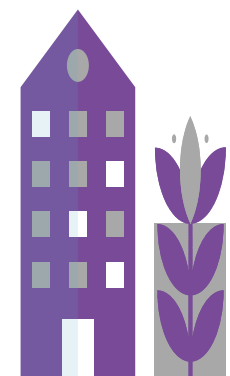


CARBON MANAGEMENT



Target: Net Zero in Carbon Scopes 1/2/3 in line with the Government target of 2050

KEY ACTIONS	DATE	OWNER	NOTES & PROGRESS UPDATE
Agree and publish a Carbon Management Plan	2027	Consultant	
Retain Zero Carbon For Business tariff	Annually	Environment Advisor	TEC
Work with Procurement regarding business travel	2027	Environment Advisor Procurement	
Behaviour Change Program & Campaigns.	Annually	Environment Advisor Student Union	
Optimise the use of the Biomass Boiler to reduce the demand for gas.	Annually	Environment Advisor Building Services	
Report and publish our Carbon Footprint each year, as well as a visual representation for the screens.	Annually	Environment Advisor	

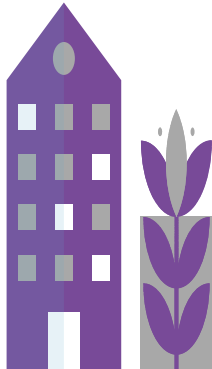


WASTE inc RECYCLING



Target: Reduce waste tonnage by 2kg & increase recycling by 5%

KEY ACTIONS	DATE	OWNER	NOTES & PROGRESS UPDATE
Provide clear and visual waste disposal and segregation instructions for all staff and students.	Annually	Environment Advisor	
Reduce the contamination rate of recycling, with particular focus in the catering outlets	Annually	Environment Advisor Catering	
Conduct regular waste audits to identify areas of incorrect usage to establish areas to target.	Annually	Environment Advisor Building Services	
Behaviour Change Program & Campaigns.	Annually	Environment Advisor Student Union	Work with Suez
During Move Out Weekend, ensure access to clothing bins and donation stations.	Annually	Environment Advisor	Children's Air Ambulance Anglo Recycling UON Campus Pantry
Encourage a reduction in food waste (reusing), garden waste (repurposing) and WEE waste (recycling).	Annually	Environment Advisor Catering IT	

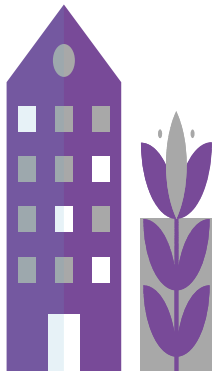


TRAVEL

Target: Increase sustainable travel by 1%



KEY ACTIONS	DATE	OWNER	NOTES & PROGRESS UPDATE
Conduct an annual survey.	Annually	Environment Advisor	
Maintain sustainable initiatives available for staff and students.	Annually	Environment Advisor	Cycle To Work Oyster Cycle Hire Scheme
Ensure the EV chargers on site are in good working order and hedges are trimmed around the units.	Annually	Environment Advisor Building Services	
Behaviour Change Program & Campaigns.	Annually	Environment Advisor Student Union	
Ensure Fleet vehicles are electric where possible and all fuel mileage is recorded for annual reporting of emissions.	Annually	Environment Advisor Procurement	Sinclair
Ensure staff and students have regular access to offers such as Bike Marking and Dr Bike sessions.	Annually	Environment Advisor UPT	

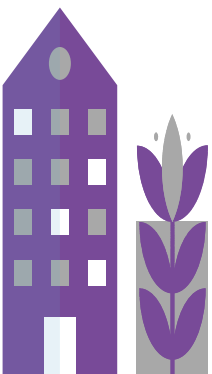


BIODIVERSITY



Target: Increase Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) by 10%

KEY ACTIONS	DATE	OWNER	NOTES & PROGRESS UPDATE
Agree and publish a Biodiversity Management Plan.	2026	Environment Advisor	
Maintain our Hedgehog Friendly Campus Award	Every 2 years	Environment Advisor	Silver achieved 2025/26 Next assessment due 2028.
Establish a plan to increase our BNGs as well as carry out regular audits to protect species we already have.	Annually	Environment Advisor Grounds Team	Geography students Bat surveys Small Flowered Catchfly Bee Orchids
Behaviour Change Program & Campaigns.	Annually	Environment Advisor Student Union	No Mow May Wellbeing Walks
Work with the local communities to encourage flora and fauna across our sites.	Annually	Environment Advisor	Deanshanger Hedgehog Rescue – release site.
Establish and promote the use of the polytunnel.	Annually	Environment Advisor Grounds Team	

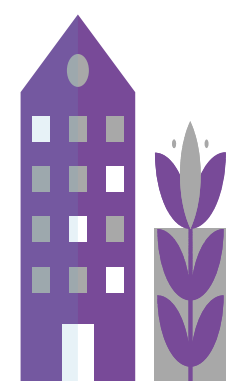


ENGAGEMENT



Target: To ensure all students and staff are given the opportunity to be involved

KEY ACTIONS	DATE	OWNER	NOTES & PROGRESS UPDATE
Continue to attend and present environment and sustainability at the New Starter Orientation meetings.	Monthly	Environment Advisor	
Hold a minimum of 1 behavior change campaign per topic of action per academic year, ensuring all events are inclusive.	Annually	Environment Advisor	Energy – Water – Waste – Travel - Biodiversity
Ensure our webpages are up to date and continue to add to the sustainability courses list.	Annually	Environment Advisor	
Build social media following and continue to share information, surveys, competitions and local news.	Annually	Environment Advisor	Instagram - @uon_sustainable
Continue to raise awareness of environment and sustainability e-learning course on Astute to all staff and students.	Annually	Environment Advisor	
Continue to promote and communicate through the Sustainability Champions mailing list.	Annually	Environment Advisor	



Environment and Sustainability Accreditations

