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Net Zero Carbon Interim Plan

2022 - 2024

Carbon Management Action Plan

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Net Zero Carbon Interim Plan

2022 - 2024

1. **Background**

1.1 The University is committed as part of its strategic plan for 2022-23 to embedding sustainability as a core principle. Within UWTSD’s Sustainability Strategy, it is specifically committed to implementing a university wide carbon management plan to reduce its carbon footprint in line with targets set by HEFCW and the Welsh Governments Public Sector Net Zero Data and Recommendations .

**Strategic Priority 4:** **A University for Wales** provides Measures of Success linked to sustainable development agendas and commitments, linked to Welsh Government priorities:

* Incorporation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals and ways of working into the strategic planning of faculties and professional departments
* Implementation of sustainability commitments within Faculty and Departmental strategic plans
* Completion of curriculum audits to support wellbeing and sustainability commitments
* Recording environmental sustainability data and carbon management plan information to underpin sustainable campus environments

**Key Performance Indicator** **8 (Estates and Infrastructure)** contains sustainability-linked measures which include: energy consumption, cost of core utilities, Scope 2 emissions. Progress in relation to sustainable aims is monitored through annual strategic plan reporting and Key Performance Indicator Reporting provided to the Resources and Performance Committee and University Council

1.2 Further in July 2014, the University adopted a Carbon Management Strategy to explicitly show its commitment to, and outline a plan for, managing and reducing its carbon emissions, against which significant progress has been made. This Interim Plan is owned by the Head of Sustainability and will enable the University to continue the journey to Net Zero Carbon while undertaking a range of assessments that will inform the development of a plan that will recognise the progress to date and further map out the route to Net Zero Carbon 2030.

**Scope 1 and 2 Emissions**:

Scope 1 emissions are from operations that are owned or controlled by the reporting organisation

Scope 2 emissions are from the generation of purchased or acquired electricity, steam, heating, or cooling generated by a third party and consumed by the reporting organisation (See Appendix 1 for further detail)

The 2013/14 academic year was adopted as the baseline for Scope 1 and 2 emissions which is 7757 tCO2e. Using this baseline figure the University has set the below reduction targets for Scope 1 & 2 emissions

* 50% reduction by 2024
* 70% reduction by 2027
* 95% reduction by 2030

Figure 1

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Figure 1 depicts the trend data as we move towards the 2030 Net Zero Carbon Target. In 2020/21 academic year the University’s Scope 1 and 2 emissions were 3513 tCO2e, this significant reduction is largely due to the change in working practice imposed by the global pandemic. As the world returns to ‘normal’ we expect our emissions to increase, before aligning with the carbon emissions reduction trajectory that is required per year in line with the Welsh Government’s Net Zero by 2030 guidance.

**Scope 3 Emissions**:

Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting organisations. The University is working with the Carbon Trust to improve Scope 3 data to produce an accurate baseline allowing SMART targets to be set.

Using a Standard Industrial Coding (SIC) calculation model, the total Scope 3 emissions for the 20/21 academic year were 13691 tCO2e and accounted for 64% of the university’s total overall emissions. Figure 2 (below) depicts the major three contributors to these emissions: travel 37%, waste 29% and procurement 29%. The figures will increase as we return to a post pandemic world, and we work with colleagues across Wales to better understand Scope 3 emissions and capture a broader range of data. Reduction targets will be set as the data emerges.

Figure 2

1.3 A more detailed [action plan](https://uowtsd.sharepoint.com/teams/EstatesandOperational_GRP-Sustainability/Shared%20Documents/Sustainability/Strategy%2022-23/Policy%20and%20APs%20in%20Progress/archive/NZC%20Interim%20Action%20Plan%2022%20-%2024.docx) is in place to ensure the University is best placed to meet the targets and to fulfil the criteria of the People and Planet Green League, which forms one of the Strategic performance indicators of the University’s progress in relation to Sustainability.

1.4 The carbon reduction agenda has become progressively more important in terms of being increasingly reflected in the Welsh Government’s drive for the public sector to meet Net Zero Carbon Targets by 2030, which sits alongside recent legislative and fiscal UK policy development. Pragmatically, there is a need to manage carbon emissions to reduce the University’s environmental impacts, and reduce operational costs, as well as to maintain and enhance its reputation in this field. Evidence suggests that 54% of students partly base their choice of university on how seriously the institution takes environmental issues (Unifrog.org, 2022). This percentage is set to increase and demonstrates how integral the drive to Net Zero is to student recruitment and to the student experience.

1. **Purpose**

2.1 The Purpose of this report is to outline a Net Zero Carbon Interim Plan which provides the details of the steps required to measure, reduce and monitor the University of Wales Trinity Saint David carbon footprint. It identifies the major opportunities to reduce the University’s carbon emissions through improvements to its infrastructure and by engaging the University’s stakeholders to change working practices. This plan is therefore, designed to ensure that the policies, procedures and delivery methods for carbon reduction are embedded into how the University operates.

2.2 This Interim Plan aligns the ambitions set out in the first Carbon Management Plan and the 2030 Net Zero ambitions of Welsh Government. It help guide decision making to allow continual improvement across the estate and meet the 2030 targets. It is iterative and informed by consultation with staff, students and stakeholders

1. [**Net Zero Carbon Interim Action Plan**](https://uowtsd.sharepoint.com/:w:/t/EstatesandOperational_GRP-Sustainability/ES6_1G0UmAlNu7uNF61ochkBqxTGk0TwKwPSG78hPLZYbQ?e=QxNmF8)

3.1 The Action Plan proposed is an evolving plan of projects and initiatives that will contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions over the duration of this Net Zero Interim Plan. The action areas identified for carbon reduction fall within the following three main pillars.

1. Implementing a Monitoring Programme to ensure accurate monitoring of energy use, and water use through the provision and use of an Energy Management System enabled by an appropriate software package.
2. Transition to ensure that all new capital projects are built to Net Zero Carbon BREEAM ‘Excellent’ score and there is an associated reduction in supply chain impacts.
3. To significantly improve the energy efficiency of the remaining estate, with full consideration given to replacement & renewable energy heat schemes and discontinuation use of gas. Campus development plans must prioritise decarbonisation opportunities such as scoping for Low/No Carbon Heat pilot projects and making significant progress on understanding and implementing the remaining energy efficiency opportunities. which include utilisation of effective building management controls

In addition the University will:

1. Develop people centred model of service delivery that reduces the need to travel for staff, students and visitors that promotes low emission travel, active travel and encourages a greater use of public transport, reducing car commutes and business travel
2. Apply the principles of a circular economy to our procurement activities, incorporating a robust carbon reduction phase that assesses the carbon impact of goods and service across the lifespan.
3. Utilise UK markets for carbon sequestration values to develop a land asset calculation
4. Develop renewable energy sources to reduce our carbon footprint, mitigating business risk against overloading and power outage on the National Grid
5. Student and staff engagement through a blended approach of both digital and face to face events which aims to promote behaviour change that creates a climate conscious Wales
6. **Monitoring**

4.1 To effectively manage the plan it is important that the University has in place monitoring mechanisms in respect of all factors that affect the University’s carbon footprint. Such monitoring data is crucial in enabling the plan to be accurately evaluated and further developed. Hence the university is working closely with the Welsh Government Energy Services and our energy supplier to enable this.

4.2 Further, to ensure that the work is effectively directed and controlled, the appropriate resources are allocated and decision making clear, the Action plan is supported by the Sustainability Steering Group and the Sustainable Development Group as well as gaining ratification from the Estates committee with the Executive Head of Operational Estates and Facilities Estates and the newly appointed Head of Sustainability acting as overall project co-ordinators.

4.3 Whilst the University is required to report on carbon emissions on an annual basis, given the importance of this agenda, it is proposed that biannual reports be made available to senior managers via the Sustainable Development Group and across the various faculties to raise awareness and to seek their support for this work. Further, it is proposed to report regularly to the Sustainability Steering Group and to the group Environmental Management Review with Coleg Sir Gar. It is also proposed that the Action plan be reviewed on a termly basis by the Estates committee and monthly by the Sustainability Team. It is important to note that Higher Education, establishments, do not have the same drive to Net Zero Carbon as Further Education public funded organisation, therefore there is a separation of Net Zero Plans between UWTSD and Coleg Sir Gar.

1. **Resource Implications**

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| --- | --- |
| **Implication** | **Detail** |
| Finance | *There is limited revenue and capital available for investment in improvements.*  *Salix funding has been utilised an invest to save initiative. For the 23/24 financial year the Salix recycling fund for carbon improvements is set at £150 000. There are further opportunities for Salix loans*  *There is good potential of HEFCW funding given the NZC agenda.*  *There is a need to invest in high quality evaluation and monitoring of energy and water* |
| Staff | *Head of Sustainability and the Environment. In post.*  *Sustainability and Environmental Manager*  *Sustainability Assistant* |
| Assets | *None* |
| Partners | *Finance Business Partner* |
| Timescales | *Plan to be reviewed annually;*  *action plan to be reviewed monthly* |
| Leadership | *Exec. Head of Operational Estates and Facilities* |

1. **Impact Assessment**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Implication | Impact Considered (Yes/No) | Impact Identified |
| Legal | Yes | *Failure to comply with targets set by the Welsh Government* |
| Contribution to the Strategic Plan | Yes | *It is designed to underpin the University’s Strategic Plan. The Carbon Action Plan is designed to make the University more sustainable by reducing its Carbon Footprint* |
| Risk Analysis | Yes | *Failure to adopt the Plan would result in the University not meeting its Carbon reduction targets set by the Welsh Government together with excessive CCL payments that are levied on utility bills. The University has been exempt from paying any duty based on its Carbon Emissions on Electricity and Gas. Failure to adopt the plan would also result in the University not Improving its Carbon Management KPI in* *People and Green Planet League. In the next report phase the University would be included, resulting in a levy of £16/Tonne (based on current rate) of Carbon. There would be a potentially substantial financial implication based on current emissions.*  *Given the import that students place on institutional climate responsibility, failure to adopt this plan will generate a medium risk of reducing student numbers.*  *Finally, there is the reputational risk arising to the University if it is shown to be not meeting its carbon reduction targets.* |
| Equality | Yes | *The policy does not discriminate* |
| Welsh Language | Yes | *The Policy can be provided in Welsh* |
| Environmental and Sustainability | Yes | *The Carbon Action Plan is aimed to both support and strengthen the sustainability agenda and the University’s Sustainability and Environmental Strategic Plan* |
| Communication/ Media / Marketing | Yes | *Website, Press Releases, Notices via internal University media on all campuses* |

**Author:** Kate Williams **Job Title:** Head of Sustainability and the Environment

**Author:** Koi Merebark **Job Title:**  Sustainability Officer

1. **Document version control**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Version No: | Reason for change: | Author: | Date of change: |
| V1 | Creation of an Interim Plan | KLW | 20.12.22 |
|  | Senior Directorate Review & Approve |  | 05.06.23 |
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**For publication:** on UWTSD website / Hwb

Appendix 1 Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide

Icon, timeline

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