

Student and Staff Engagement Plan for 2023/2024

The University of Chester aims to achieve net zero for scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2023, and determine our scope 3 emissions baseline, setting targets for reduction. Achieving our targets requires each and every one of us to take action. Whilst we will make changes to our building infrastructure, how much energy we use, and its sources etc., positive behaviour change will also be critical. Through our student and staff engagement plan, we want to ensure that students and staff have the opportunity to:

- Develop and improve their understanding and knowledge of sustainability and climate change.
- Understand how the university is responding to the climate crisis.
- Contribute to creating low carbon, liveable community.

We run a number of initiatives and campaigns to encourage behaviour change across the University, until sustainability becomes engrained in all that we do.

This plan outlines our events and activities for 2023/2024. For more information, please visit our [events page](#).

Event	Description	Target audience	Date
Student induction	Induction activities will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Heart Foundation pop-up shop • Introduction to the allotment • Bren Bikes Dr Bike session • Attending opportunities fairs 	Students (1 st year)	September 2023
Allotment	Allotment sessions vary depending on season and what needs to be done. Students can join our Allotment MS Teams channel to stay informed of planned sessions and produce that is available.	Students (all years)	Ongoing (weekly)
Carbon Literacy Training	Carbon Literacy Training covers the science behind climate change and the actions we can take to reduce carbon emissions.	Students (all years) and staff	Ongoing (termly)
Our Future Festival	Previously called Go Green Week, Our Future Festival aims to improve understanding and inspire action on climate change. The next Our Future Festival will coincide with COP28.	Students	November 2023
Sustainability Fair	The Sustainability Fair will be a follow on from Our Future Festival, highlighting key themes from the event and updating on outcomes.	Students	February 2024
Climate Action Audits	Climate Action audits provide an opportunity to map environmental sustainability activity across the university. Students lead the audits,	Students	January 2024 and June 2024

	reviewing the work of Climate Action team, providing feedback and suggestions for improvements.		
Let's Talk Transport	Let's Talk Transport group facilitates discussions around the barriers to sustainable travel and look for potential solutions.	Students and staff	Second Wednesday of every month. Resuming in October 2023.
Sustainability Awards	The University of Chester Sustainability Awards celebrate the work our students and staff do to embed sustainability across the institution and beyond, helping create a low carbon future for all.	Students and staff	March 2023
Staff induction	At each staff induction event, the Sustainability Team provides an overview of our sustainability policy, strategy and how staff can engage in our initiatives and activities.	Staff (new starters)	Ongoing (termly)

Student Pre-Arrival

All students enrol on the Pre-Arrival Student Site ([PASS](#)). On the site, there is a page on sustainability which we update with key information on our policy, strategy and how to get involved.

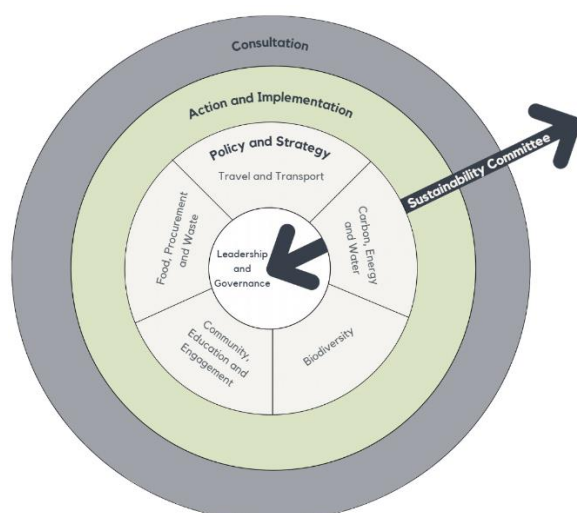
Climate Action

Climate Action is a programme for staff to improve the sustainability performance of their department. Staff can sign up their departments throughout the year and work through a toolkit of actions that cover our core themes of sustainability.

Welly Wednesday

Welly Wednesday is a student-led project, delivered by the University of Chester Volunteering Team. Student project leaders deliver monthly conservation projects. The project is funded through a central budget for student-led projects.

Environmental Management System



As we work to set up an Environmental Management System (EMS), we have identified 5 key working groups:

- Biodiversity
- Carbon, Energy and Water
- Community, Education and Engagement
- Food, Procurement and Waste
- Travel and Transport

Within each of the Policy and Strategy groups, there will be student and staff representation. Collaborative working groups will be comprised of

Image: Pathway to low carbon, liveable community

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members from across thematic strategic groups, to work together to develop and implement specific projects as required.

Our aim is to embed sustainability across all aspects of the University, regular communication, consultation, gathering feedback and input from staff and students is critical to shaping the sustainability agenda. This will be achieved through a variety of modes:

- Let's Talk Transport Group
- Climate Action teams
- Sustainability Advocates
- Sustainability Forum – a bi-annual event of workshops and presentations, open to students and staff, to hear from project groups.

The Sustainability Team will work to establish this throughout 2023/24.