

Common Objective #3: Adapting for the future through demonstrating sustainability:

“All staff should have an objective demonstrating how they support sustainability. The aim of this page is to help you develop a conversation around this topic and how to identify targets to make a positive difference.”

Our Corporate Strategy states the importance of our sustainability outcomes, creating a green and sustainable university, **including our Net Zero Carbon Target. Everyone is responsible** across the organisation; we are ambitious, and we encourage you to identify and undertake actions that have positive impact. By thinking and integrating positive steps into your work can ease workload, improve processes to deliver time savings, reduce costs and protect the planet.

How can I consider sustainability in my appraisal?

To begin, reflect on your working processes and activities:

What is your job and what do you do?

- Consider and write down your normal daily tasks/processes and those that are less routine.

What are the impacts that you may create in these activities?

- To each of your tasks, think about the equipment and resources required: for example: equipment energy use, printing, business travel, any items purchased (procurement), use of office or other consumables, what waste is generated.
- If you are flexi-working, think about any resources required at home and whether they differ between the home and office.

What can you do to reduce impacts?

- Everyone has influence and whether you are responsible for the service, or supporting it, you can drive positive change on a local and larger level.
- Reduction examples can include:
 - **procurement** (buying less, using our [Furniture Reuse Scheme](#) and buying eco-friendly alternative),
 - **saving energy** (switching off equipment and lighting that can be turned off or down without impacting on our services).
 - **travel** (reducing intercampus and business travel, especially on any flights),
 - **paper reduction** (can the system be digitised and what technology is required),
 - **equipment** (reducing demand, initiate behaviour change or procure better alternatives),

- **behavioural change** (influencing students, colleagues, contractors or suppliers to make improvements within their activities).

Please note that the university expects all staff to do the following as common practice and cannot be included as part of the appraisal:

Recycling (always follow the guidance on the bin posters), turning off lights or screens, closing/opening windows, buying recycled paper, and printing less (unless involved in a high paper using process or there has been a long-standing issue). If these are actions not done by students or colleagues it could fall into the behavioural change impact (see Green Champion section below).

Do you need training to help you create change?

- Training and support is available, including carbon literacy and working towards Net Zero. Contact the Sustainable Development Unit (the Sustainability Team) sustainability@gre.ac.uk or [click here](#) for more information (note new training sessions will be added over time).

Will you become a Green Champion to drive personal or departmental improvement?

- Anyone can become a Champion; encouraging and celebrating collaborative improvements. You will be supported by the Sustainability Team, with regular communication. You can devote as much time as you have. Follow [this link](#) or contact sustainability@gre.ac.uk to find out more.

How do I set SMART targets?

- Setting targets will increase the likelihood of success and enable progress to be reported. You may in the position to produce relevant data yourself (purchase spend, paper usage, energy consumption), **however if** you do not have access, you will be able to find support and data. Ensure any baseline you use to compare progress against is robust. Example targets and support sources are:
 - **Business travel:** reviewing mileage allowance claims and setting a target to reduce these. For flights and carbon data contact s.earp@gre.ac.uk or sustainability@gre.ac.uk.
 - **Energy & water:**
 - If you are working to reduce consumption on a building wide or on a more local level contact sustainability@gre.ac.uk for access to a live data dashboard.
 - If you want to calculate energy savings from equipment contact sustainability@gre.ac.uk to borrow an electricity monitor.
 - **Consumable use:**

- Staff should always avoid printing (following practices during Covid19).
 - For large volumes you can obtain your print stats from the procurement-team@gre.ac.uk or sustainability@gre.ac.uk to then target a reduction, aiming for zero/minimal prints.
 - If using the Medway Print Room and/or external printers then look to find ways to reduce print runs or the amount of pages that need printing
- **Waste and Recycling**
 - The university's target is 70% recycling. If you can influence a building regarding waste email sustainability@gre.ac.uk who could supply monthly data.
 - **Procurement:**
 - Set a zero-furniture or stationery spend target and ensure the university's [Internal Reuse Scheme](#) is searched first. Reuse and not buy new. Contact Furniturereuse@greenwich.ac.uk for more information. This service could also be used for merchandise, IT equipment and all reusable items.
 - When buying new equipment, select options that offer improved sustainability benefits such as lower energy consumption, recyclable components at end-of-life or a lot of consumables.
 - For any catered events consider vegetarian instead of including meat and fish and always order quantities to avoid food waste.

Review the [UoG Sustainability Policy](#) to understand our key environmental impacts and responsibilities, in addition to the [UoG Sustainability web pages](#) for contextual information. It can be worth reviewing your previous sustainability appraisals (where applicable) and reviewing progress of these. Where updates and improvements can be made to reflect in the current year's appraisal. The university is keen to celebrate and recognise staff sustainability action so **please communicate your successes** to your line manager and team in addition to the Sustainability Team.

The university takes its responsibilities seriously, and the 2023 Sustainability Survey found 97% of student and staff respondents felt sustainability was important for the university to consider. We all share the same planet and as a teaching institution we play an important role in establishing a better World for our communities and natural systems. Regardless of your working area, you can, and the university expects you to become involved. **Everyone can make a positive difference, through individual and collective action.**

Please contact the Sustainability Team over your targets, whether you require support and on your target progress so that others can learn and incorporate similar steps.