

Sustainability Student & Staff Engagement Plan (2024)

Introduction & Context

This is Glasgow Caledonian University's first Sustainability Student & Staff Engagement Plan (S3EP/Plan) and it sets out a framework for helping students and staff across the GCU community make more sustainable choices.

It supports Strategy 2030's environmental vision, ambition and commitments and complements the University's sustainability thematic action plans¹.

The S3EP also complements the sustainability elements of Strategy 2030 strategic themes 'Transformative Education' and 'Impactful Research'.

Although the existing thematic action plans have a range awareness raising and engagement activity, monitoring data indicates that lack of awareness of many of the University's initiatives is potentially curtailing their impact.

This Plan seeks to redress this raising awareness of the University's (a) environmental performance and (b) sustainability initiatives, and (c) creating opportunities for students and staff to further their sustainability literacy.

Aim & Objectives

The aim of this Plan is that by end of 2024-25 the University will have a framework in place for engaging its community (students and staff) around more climate and planet friendly choices whilst at the University.

To achieve this, the Plan is split into the following three strands:

- a. Reporting environmental performance.
- b. Raising awareness of environmental initiatives.
- c. Furthering sustainability literacy².

These strands, presented below, inform the development of a series of interventions listed in the accompanying Implementation Document (S3EP-ID). The S3EP-ID also includes details of outputs, delivery partners, metrics, targets and costs for interventions across the three Strands.

Scope

The scope of this Plan are students, staff and visitors across Glasgow Caledonian University's campuses.

Vision Statement

The vision for the end of the 2024-25 is that Glasgow Caledonian University will have a framework for offering its students and staff

¹ Including (but not exclusively) those focusing on travel, food, Fairtrade, circular economy, water and biodiversity (all available from the University's [sustainability webpages](#)).

opportunities for developing their sustainability literacy and help them make more planet friendly choices both at the University and beyond.

Reporting Environmental Performance

The University uses carbon footprinting (tonnes CO₂e) as a proxy for measuring environmental performance and reports on it annually.

However, due to methodological limitations, the 'carbon' lens does not fully lend itself to telling the story about how the University is tackling the climate and ecological emergencies (with much of the activity going un-reported).

To address this gap, the University will publish biennial reports that will complement the annual carbon footprint reports and summarise activity, impact and performance across the core thematic areas.

The University will also develop metrics for tracking how it engages with students and staff on environmental and sustainability matters.

The interventions delivered through this Strand will provide the narrative for 'telling' the University's environmental and sustainability story.

Awareness of Environmental Initiatives

The biennial report produced through the above Strand, together with initiative specific information, will be used to raise awareness of environmental Initiatives at the University.

Awareness will be raised through a monthly blog-post, social media posts, email newsletter and a programme of inductions/apps. Social media content will be delivered in partnership with the University's communication teams. The induction content will be incorporated into the student and staff induction/onboarding process, with existing staff encouraged to complete their induction as a refresher. Induction/material dedicated to students living in the University's residencies will also be created.

It is hoped that raising awareness of the University's sustainability initiatives will improve their impact by increasing participation in them.

Furthering Sustainability Literacy

The preceding Strands provide the foundation for engaging students and staff at the University. They will provide sufficient knowledge and understanding of how to make more sustainable choices can be made at

² Defined by the [United Nations](#) as "the knowledge, skills and mindsets that allow individuals to become deeply committed to building a sustainable future and assisting in making informed and effective decisions to this end."

the University (with some potential for some impact to beyond the University).

To further sustainability literacy amongst students and staff, the University will curate and host a programme of sustainability events; challenges; thematic training and provide funding to support local grass-root environmental sustainability projects.

The third Strand focuses on building capacity and creating opportunities for students and staff to develop their sustainability literacy through opportunities to further engage in areas that are of interest and/or relevant to their specific circumstances.

Engagement Budget

The total budget for delivering the S3EP is £10,000 per year (subject to the number of events held). A breakdown of the costs is provided in the S3EP-ID (where interventions incur additional costs).

Management & Monitoring

To support the evidence-based decision-making approach, a variety of metrics will be introduced to help quantify various aspects of the S3EP report progress engaging students and staff at the University.

The execution of the S3EP through the S3EP-ID will be the responsibility of the University's Head of Operational Sustainability, with oversight from the Sustainability Forum.

Progress will be reported to the University Planning & Resources Group and more widely through the sustainability pages in the University's website.

Acknowledgements

Input from students and staff that during the various consultation stages in the development of the S3EP and S3EP-ID is gratefully acknowledged.

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Version Control

Version	Date	Changes
0.1	11/9/2023	Working draft.
0.2 (c)	26/9/2023	Consultation draft.
0.2 (d)	3/10/2023	SEEP -> S3EP
0.2 (e)	27/10/2023	Added ref. to student apps.
0.3	3/11/2023	Final draft.
1.0	15/3/2024	UEG approval.

Version: 1 Final

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