

Action on Carbon at the University of Greenwich

Everyone has a role to play

All of our staff and students can take carbon saving actions. Behaviour changes, for example, by simply turning items off when not in use, can save up to 10% of our carbon footprint (over 880 tonnes or £300K at 2019 prices). Staff in many roles can make significant future savings by considering the carbon impact of their work and developing action plans to reduce energy use. Always follow best practice by choosing more energy efficient equipment and ways of doing things. We want our staff and students to take ownership and responsibility to make decisions and actions that cut our carbon.

The University's approach

The University recognises its role to play in tackling climate change by enabling and supporting carbon saving actions. Our approach is to provide leadership not just from the Vice Chancellor and the senior team but from all staff and students to support and make lower carbon actions every day. We'll provide clear communications so everyone understands the importance of the issue and acts. Training and support will be provided so staff and students take responsibility to make improvements themselves and collaborate with others on initiatives. Information will be provided on a timely basis to highlight our progress. We will expect those faculties and directorates that have the biggest influence on our carbon emissions to make carbon reduction a priority and these will report regularly on their actions and progress. Our [Carbon Management Plan 2019-2020](#) sets out our strategic objectives and plan to meet our carbon and energy reduction targets.

What's in it for the University?

The effects of climate breakdown on the University are massive. Ranging from sea level rise that could flood our Greenwich & Medway campuses, extreme weather that could disrupt our teaching, research and operations or impacts on water and food availability are a small selection of the huge impacts we could face in the next few decades or even years. We have to reduce our carbon contributions and adapt to these impacts. We can solve the many climate related challenges we face through our teaching, research and through our day-to-day decisions and actions that all make a difference. We have a responsibility to act and our actions will protect our institution's future.

**Contact sustainability@gre.ac.uk
for advice, and support to help you act.**

What's in it for me?

Unless we tackle it the climate crisis will seriously impact on all of our lives that will have to significantly adapt to cope. Summer heatwaves will become common events impacting directly on people's health, particularly the very young, old and infirm. Water and food scarcity impacts are very likely and much of the natural environment and many of the species we love could move closer towards extinction. We can feel positive by taking personal responsibility and making carbon saving actions and by doing so we can also save money by using less energy.

Our targets and timeframes

We have a Carbon Management Plan commitment to reduce our carbon footprint by 40% by 2020 (2019/10 baseline) and we have a corporate KPI to reduce our energy use by 14% by 2022 (2015/6 baseline). Progress against these will be reported annually.

Governance & Reporting

Carbon management progress will be reported twice yearly to the Sustainability Management Board and annually in our Annual Financial Report with headline information communicated to all staff and students quarterly/monthly when accurate metering systems can support this. In some buildings it will be possible to display real time energy usage.

Funding and procedures for carbon reduction initiatives and procurement

The University will be supportive of procurement decisions that enable lower carbon options to be sought even if the upfront purchase cost is higher. The expectation is that lower carbon (and lower energy cost) may be particularly financially attractive when the whole life cost is calculated.

A template will be made available for staff to help make the carbon saving case. Submissions will be reviewed by members of Finance and the SMB. Some carbon saving initiatives should be integrated within existing budgets particularly when they are ongoing investments in improvements of processes, equipment or the estate. Some proposals may require small investments that can be acted upon more quickly by using departmental budgets. Contact sustainability@gre.ac.uk for more information and templates to help you make the case for low carbon investments.

Support available

The University will provide a range of staff and student support to save carbon and costs:

- Contact the Sustainability Team sustainability@gre.ac.uk for any advice and support to get you started or move you forward. To start off:
 - Check out this [web page](#) for further ideas
 - Discuss opportunities with your colleagues and or line management to test and develop your ideas and contact the team for any further input

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- Training will be provided to departments to highlight the importance of carbon saving and illustrating simple actions that can be undertaken. This will be tailored according to the audience and can be delivered from 15 minutes to 2 hour sessions.
- Facilitation support will be available to help with the development of proposals, particularly if they are more complex.
- Join our online Carbon Champions Forum email sustainability@gre.ac.uk for information
- Living Lab: Using the expert knowledge of our academic and student community to research, develop and test carbon reduction ideas around our campuses has many benefits. We will be encouraging and incentivising staff and students to come forward with proposals that will save carbon and provide invaluable research outcomes too.
- Attend one of the annual updates at your Faculty or Directorate meetings
- Communications:
 - Online information: Updates will be provided on the staff and student portals, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc highlighting progress, case studies, suggested actions and training opportunities. Digital signage will also be highly utilised to promote key messages.
 - Offline info: Posters and other materials will remind staff and students of key behaviours we want to encourage.
- The University's Heating & Cooling Policy (under the 'Sustainability' heading) provides information and recommendations to help your comfort throughout the year.

Faculties

Parts of our Faculties will use comparatively higher levels of energy to undertake the important work they do. For example, if you work with labs, use computers (including servers) or heavy or specialist electronic equipment then there should be best practice guidance in place to ensure the efficient running occurs (this should also help maintain the life of the equipment too). Faculties can also use their research knowledge to help us develop and integrate carbon reduction improvements across our campuses and their activities. You can also use your teaching to engage and enable your students to apply carbon reduction approaches that can benefit their futures. Email sustainability@gre.ac.uk for more information.

Directorates

Our Directorates staff are key actors to reduce our carbon footprint helping us meet and exceed our targets. Ensuring internal procedures and systems identify carbon reduction opportunities or engage and enable lower carbon behaviours is essential. Working closely with contractors and suppliers is also important to ensure that they act on our behalf to save carbon and costs. Support and training are available to help ensure a low carbon action culture is in place in your directorate and department. Email sustainability@gre.ac.uk for more information.

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Shout out! about what you are doing

If you've taken action and made improvements please share these so others can learn and do them too. Many actions are not shared and we want to recognise staff and students for what they are doing. This includes via internal communications, our Annual Sustainability Report and case studies to share with other universities and organisations.

FAQ'S

- I have an idea but I'm unsure how to enact it?
- How do I get support to make changes in my department?
- How can I become a Carbon Champion or develop a local Carbon Team?
- As a student how can I get employability skills and opportunities related to carbon reduction?
- I have a great idea to help save carbon at Greenwich but we don't have any available funds to act on it?
- How do we share what we have achieved?

Answers:

- Contact sustainability@gre.ac.uk now!

Recommended & Suggested Actions for all Staff & Students

- Switch off non-essential electrical equipment and chargers when not needed
- Switch off lights in vacant rooms
- Shut down your PC if you're away from your desk for more than an hour
- If you are able to, take the stairs rather than the lift
- When boiling a kettle boil only what you need
- Don't adjust thermostat controls or use fan heaters if you're too hot or cold. Avoid opening windows if the heating or air conditioning is switched on. Check the [Heating & Cooling Policy](#) for advice
- Turn off running taps and report leaks to your campus FM helpdesk
- Reduce the carbon impacts of your travel. Useful advice can be found [here](#) with information about low carbon travel options to our campuses [here](#).
- Buy less stuff. In almost every manufactured product carbon has been emitted in its production, distribution and sale. Try repair, borrowing and reusing instead
- If you have ideas to help reduce the carbon footprint of the University contact sustainability@gre.ac.uk

Recommended & Suggested Actions for Staff

- When booking or requesting rooms please select those of a size that accurately reflects the numbers of users
- Staff using projectors please turn off when you have finished (check advice at podiums)

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- Teaching staff consider integrating climate change issues and solutions into your classwork.

Recommended & Suggested Actions for all Students in Halls of Residence and at home

- When boiling a kettle boil only what you need
- Put lids on pans when cooking
- Do washing up in a bowl rather than under a running tap
- Switch off chargers and other electrical items when not needed
- Switch off lights in vacant rooms
- Aim for shorter showers (less than 4 minutes)
- Wait until you have a full load before using the washing machine or dishwasher and wash at 30 or use eco-mode if available
- Close your windows if your heating is on
- Put on an extra layer rather than turn up your heating.

Version 1.

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