

# Climate Action Plan

2025 - 2031



Edge Hill  
University

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# Climate Action Plan

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## Vision and Purpose

Edge Hill University (EHU) is committed to becoming a climate-resilient, low-carbon institution. This plan outlines our strategic response to the climate emergency we are facing as a society, embedding sustainability across operations, education, and community engagement. It draws on best practices from the sector and recognises the importance of HEIs to not only address climate change, but also provide students with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge around this topic.

To ensure that a holistic approach is taken to climate action, this plan covers three key areas, with decarbonisation embedded in each but not included as a stand alone area as this is included in our Carbon Management Plan (CMP). These areas are:

- 1) Adaptation and resilience: focusing on taking action to reduce the risk of extreme weather events impacting our University.
- 2) Improving the environment and biodiversity of the University and surround area by extension.
- 3) Climate education and green careers, recognising that the education we provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and ensuring that our staff feel supported to offer this.

## Strategic Objectives

There are a number of strategic objectives that EHU have identified and are committed to delivering to support this action plan (some of these are already embedded in existing strategies, policies and plans):

- Achieve Net Zero by 2035 (CMP).
- Reduce the CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from waste by 30% by 2030 (Waste and Resource Strategy).
- Embed circular economy approaches within procurement and related practices by 2030 (Waste and Resource Strategy).
- Embed climate resilience across infrastructure and operations.
- Foster a culture of community engagement and climate advocacy.

## Governance and Leadership

Nominated Sustainability Lead: Peter Roberts.

Supporting Leads: Adrian McGillion and Keziah Stott.

This action plan will be reported on as part of our annual report, as well as at appropriate Institutional forums.

## Climate Change Mitigation

### Carbon Management

The University has committed to a range of measures around carbon management in our Carbon Management Plan (CMP) as part of our commitment to addressing climate action, including:

- Energy efficiency upgrades.
- Expansion of on-site renewable energy sources.
- Sustainable travel infrastructure.
- Scope 3 emissions tracking and reduction.

### Sustainable Operations

Embedding sustainable operations across the University as outlined in our CMP remains a priority. Key to this includes the following commitments:

- Prioritising absolute emissions reductions over offsetting.
- Ensuring that sustainability is included in all procurement exercises undertaken across the University.
- Implement internal carbon pricing to guide financial decisions.
- Ensure full implementation of the University's Ethical Investment Policy.

## Climate Adaptations and Resilience

### Integrated Resilience Planning

- Embed resilience into systems, infrastructure and teaching.
- Conduct a Climate Risk Assessment for campus, identifying vulnerabilities.
- Develop a Climate Resilience Framework with scenario planning based on vulnerabilities identified as part of the Climate Risk Assessment.

### Extreme Weather Preparedness

EHU recognises that in response to expected changes to the frequency, duration and nature of extreme weather events, we have an obligation to our community to address the following:

- 1) Heatwaves
  - Passive cooling, shading, hydration stations/points.
  - Heat stress protocols for vulnerable groups.
- 2) Cold weather
  - Insulation, emergency heating, grit/salt supplies.
- 3) High winds
  - Tree and infrastructure risk assessments.
  - Secure signage and outdoor assets.

#### 4) Flooding

- SuDS, flood mapping, emergency response plans.

### Biodiversity and Natural Environment

As outlined in EHU's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), the enhancement and protection of biodiversity on and around the campus is a high priority to the University as it helps support species diversity and also account for habitat relocation because of climate change. Some of our targets in this area include:

- Expand green spaces and ecological corridors on campus.
- Monitor biodiversity indicators and report on them annually – for example using iNaturalist.
- Implementation of objectives outlined in EHU's Biodiversity Action Plan.

### Education for Sustainable Development

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) being embedded within our learning, teaching and research culture at EHU is critical to addressing climate change adaptation and ensuring our students graduate equipped with the knowledge and skills required to continue this post-graduation. We are therefore committed to:

- Providing access to training focused on understanding carbon footprints for students and staff e.g. using How Bad Are Bananas?
- Supporting student-led sustainability projects and research.

### Community and Stakeholder Engagement

As outlined in our Environmental Sustainability Strategy, community and stakeholder engagement are already core for EHU when thinking about addressing sustainability. In order to meet this commitment the following objectives are in place:

- Host annual Sustainability Fair.
- Launch a Climate Action Network for staff and students.
- Promote behaviour change and sharing of ideas through the Sustainability Champion network.
- Engage with local authorities and community groups.

### Monitoring and Reporting

To ensure EHU maintains transparency and accountability around progress against this action plan we are committed to developing the annual sustainability report to combine climate action and environmental performance.

In addition to this regular reviews of targets outlined in both this action plan, and other referenced documents, will be undertaken and reported on at regular intervals. This will include at the Institutional Sustainability Committee and Facilities Management Health, Safety and Environment Committee meetings.

## Key to Relevant Documents

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

Carbon Management Plan (CMP)

Waste and Resource Strategy

## Roles and Responsibilities

<b>Role</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Head of Risk, Assurance and Business Continuity	Nominated Sustainability Lead: driving sustainability initiatives and integrating them across the University
Director of Facilities Management	Supporting Lead: supporting the Nominated Lead with driving sustainability initiatives and integrating them across the University
Corporate Sustainability Manager	Supporting Lead: supporting the Nominated Lead with driving sustainability initiatives and integrating them across the University

## Annexes

Document Control

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Change Author</b>	<b>Summary of Changes</b>
V.1	November 2025	Corporate Sustainability Manager	New document

## Endmatter

<b>Title</b>	Climate Action Plan
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Corporate Sustainability Manager
<b>Approved by</b>	Institutional Sustainability Committee
<b>Date of Approval</b>	24 November 2025
<b>Date for Review</b>	24 November 2026