

# Climate Resilience Framework

2025-2031



Edge Hill  
University

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# Climate Resilience Framework

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This framework sets out a comprehensive and structured approach to embedding climate resilience across Edge Hill University’s governance, operations, and culture. It aims to ensure the University is prepared for, can respond to, and can recover from the impacts of climate change, safeguarding our community, assets, and mission for the long term. The framework aligns with national and sector best practice, supporting our commitment to sustainability and continuous improvement.	
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## Purpose

This framework sets out a comprehensive and structured approach to embedding climate resilience across Edge Hill University's governance, operations, and culture. It aims to ensure the University is prepared for, can respond to, and can recover from the impacts of climate change, safeguarding our community, assets, and mission for the long term. The framework aligns with national and sector best practice, supporting our commitment to sustainability and continuous improvement.

## Governance and Leadership

Climate resilience is championed at the highest levels of the University, with clear accountability and oversight.

**Sustainability Lead:** Peter Roberts: provides strategic leadership and ensures climate resilience is integrated into core decisions-making.

**Climate Resilience Working Group:** A cross-functional group will be established, drawing members from academic, professional services, and student communities. This group will coordinate the development, implementation, and review of climate resilience actions, ensuring diverse perspectives and expertise are represented.

**Reporting:** Progress and key risks will be reported annually through EHU's annual sustainability report and, as required to the Institutional Sustainability Committee. This ensures transparency, accountability, and alignment with the University's broader sustainability objectives.

## Risk Assessment and Planning

Understanding and planning for climate-related risks is critical to protecting the University's people, infrastructure, and operations.

### Climate Risk Assessment

- A comprehensive climate risk assessment will be conducted every 3 (three) years, or following significant incidents, using the EAUC Climate Risk Register Tool.
- The assessment will identify and evaluate physical (e.g. flooding, heatwaves), operations (e.g. disruption to teaching and/or research), reputational and financial risks associated with climate change.

## Integration with University Processes

Identified risks will be embedded within the University's central risk register, ensuring they are considered in all relevant planning and decision-making processes. Climate risks will be explicitly linked to Business Continuity and Emergency Planning, enabling a coordinate response to incidents and minimising disruption to core activities.

## Adaptation Measures

Adaptation measures across a range of areas need to be considered and these are outlined in this section.

### Infrastructure

- Implement passive cooling solutions in buildings to reduce reliance on energy-intensive air conditioning.
- Enhance flood resilience through improved drainage, flood barriers, and building design.
- Develop a proactive tree management strategy to maintain campus safety and biodiversity.
- Expand the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage surface water and reduce flood risk.

### Operations

- Develop and regularly update protocols for responding to extreme weather events, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- Promote flexible working and learning arrangements to maintain continuity during climate-related disruptions.
- Strengthen supply chain resilience by working with suppliers to assess and address climate risks.

### Biodiversity

- Expand and connect green spaces across campus to support wildlife and enhance ecosystem services.
- Implement targeted habitat management plans to protect and restore key species and habitats.
- Establish ongoing species monitoring programmes to track biodiversity health and inform adaptive management.

## Capacity Building

Building knowledge, skills, and partnerships is essential to fostering a climate-resilient culture across the University.

### Training

- Deliver climate literacy training for staff and students, using accessible resources such as 'How Bad Are Bananas?' and tailored workshops.
- Facilitate scenario planning exercises to build understanding of potential climate impacts and effective responses.

### Community Engagement

- Foster partnerships with local authorities, emergency services, and community groups to strengthen collective resilience.
- Encourage active involvement of students and staff in resilience planning, including volunteering, research projects, and awareness campaigns.

## Monitoring and Continuous Development

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation ensure that climate resilience efforts remain effective, responsive, and evidence-based.

To maintain a robust and adaptive approach, the University will:

- Monitor the number and effectiveness of adaptation actions completed each year.
- Track reductions in climate-related incidents and disruptions to University operations
- Measuring progress using biodiversity indicators and other relevant metrics.
- Conduct an annual review of climate resilience progress, incorporating lessons learned from incidents and near-misses.
- Use findings to refine the framework, set new targets, and inform future planning and reporting.

## Communication

Clear and consistent communication is vital to keeping stakeholders informed, engaged, and aligned with climate resilience goals.

### Internal

- Provide regular updates to staff and students on climate resilience initiatives, progress, and incidents through newsletters, intranet, and briefings.
- Ensure reporting is accessible and transparent, fostering a culture of shared responsibility.

## External

- Publicly report progress and achievements in the annual sustainability report.
- Share best practice and lessons learned with sector networks and partners, contributing to wider climate resilience efforts.

## 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
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