



Sustainability Delivery Plan

2026 - 2031

Executive Summary

This Delivery Plan supports the Sustainability Strategy 2026-31 through the provision of more tangible and measurable objectives that are aligned with the four themes outlined in the Sustainability Strategy. These objectives outline more specifically how the commitments set out in the Sustainability Strategy can be met, ensuring that a holistic approach to sustainability is in place across the University.

This Delivery Plan will run throughout the lifespan of the Sustainability Strategy, with progress being regularly reviewed at Institutional Sustainability Committee meetings and reported on annually through the annual sustainability report that goes to the Board of Governors and is published on our website.

To ensure that the University remains ambitious and aligned with best practice regarding sustainability, the Delivery Plan and objectives will not remain static. Rather, new objectives can be added throughout the lifetime of the Plan.

This Plan will focus on objectives aligned with the four themes in the Sustainability Plan. Those objectives linked to related documents such as the Carbon Management Plan (CMP) will be managed separately.

Glossary of Terms

AUDE:	Association of University Directors of Estates.
Carbon Neutral:	Looks to reduce emissions from Scope 1 and 2 activities to zero – carbon offsetting is permitted to count as Carbon Neutral.
EAUC:	The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges.
EHU:	Edge Hill University.
Net Zero:	Looks to reduce emissions from Scope 1, 2 and 3 activities to zero – carbon offsetting is not permitted; however, carbon capture can be used to reach Net Zero.
SDGs:	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. A global framework to measure and progress sustainability.
SDPO:	Sustainability Delivery Plan Objectives document - where Sustainability Delivery Plan objectives are recorded.
SLS:	Sustainability Leadership Scorecard, run by AUDE and EAUC, to track progress against their four sustainability themes (which are the same used by EHU in the Sustainability Strategy).

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1. Introduction

Edge Hill University's Sustainability Strategy 2026-31 sets out the University's commitment and direction of travel in relation to sustainability. It identifies four key themes (Leadership and Governance, Estates and Operations, Learning, Teaching and Research, and Partnership and Engagement) through which enhancements in performance will be driven and broadly describes the ways in which this will be achieved.

Sitting alongside the Sustainability Strategy are a range of supporting documents which provide more detailed information about how the University is addressing sustainability, for example the Waste and Resource Strategy outlines KPIs focused on managing waste sustainably. These documents are summarised in the diagram below. This Delivery Plan sets out tangible and measurable objectives to ensure that targets committed to in the Sustainability Strategy and other sustainability-related documents are met.

Objectives have been identified through a variety of means, in consultation with faculties and departments across the University. They draw upon research of best practice across the sector and through analysis of data available on current performance, as well as from the AUDE/EAUC Sustainable Leadership Scorecard (SLS) and historic People & Planet results. Objectives vary in timescales with short-, medium- and long-term objectives included, and the Plan will remain an agile and live document where further objectives can be added as the Plan evolves.

2. Governance

The main oversight and reporting responsibilities sit with the Institutional Sustainability Committee (ISC). Each objective has assigned owner(s) who have responsibility for the delivery and day-to-day management of the objective. This Plan will be reviewed at least annually at the ISC.

2.1 Objective development, review and sign off process, and monitoring/reporting

- Objectives are developed via consultation with the Sustainability team through established sustainability governance structure including the Facilities Management (FM) Health, Safety and Environment Committee, and the Faculty Health, Safety and Environment Committees.
- Objectives are raised at ISC meetings via relevant representatives in Sub-committee Updates and Escalations section of the agenda, and where appropriate signed off for inclusion in the Sustainability Delivery Plan.
- Delivery Plan objective holders will use a suitable action tracking system to provide updates and upload evidence around the delivery of their objectives; there will also be regular Delivery Plan Objective Holder meetings held prior to each ISC meeting to allow people to meet and discuss objectives should they wish to do so.
- Progress against objectives will be monitored by the Sustainability team using a suitable action tracking system and reported on at ISC meetings, via the annual sustainability report and via subcommittee meetings.

3. Strategic Targets: Sustainability Strategy

The Sustainability Strategy sets out the areas in which the University will strive to improve performance across its four sustainability strategic themes:

1. Leadership and Governance
2. Estates and Operations
3. Learning, Teaching and Research
4. Partnership and Engagement

To assess and demonstrate progress through delivery of objectives related to this Plan, strategic ambitions have been identified for each theme as outlined below.

3.1 Theme 1: Leadership and Governance

Leadership | Risk | Staff Engagement and Human Resources | Health and Wellbeing

- 1) Clear sustainability-related governance structure across the Institution.
- 2) Integrate sustainability into Institutional risk, audit and assurance processes.
- 3) Increase training (e.g. Carbon Literacy) and recognitions for sustainability skills.
- 4) Strengthen policy coherence across the sustainability framework.

3.2 Theme 2: Estates and Operations

Biodiversity | Climate Change and Adaptation | Energy | Travel and Transport | Water | Resource Efficiency and Waste | Construction and Renovation

3.2.1 Climate Change and Adaptation

1. Develop campus climate risk assessment and adaptation plan (flooding, overheating, biodiversity impacts).
2. Integrate climate resilience requirements into design standards and refurbishment criteria.
3. Increase awareness of gas, electricity and water usage across the University using a variety of initiatives.
4. Successful implementation of roadmap to Carbon Neutral and Net Zero as outlined in Carbon Management Plan (CMP).

3.2.2 Energy and Carbon

1. Ongoing development and implementation of CMP and roadmap to Net Zero.
2. Ensuring optimisation of energy performance data for the estate to better inform energy management and prioritise improvement projects.
3. Deliver projects to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions and improve energy intensity (kWh/m²).

3.2.3 Water

1. Deliver data-driven water reduction projects.
2. Extend grey-water and rainwater reuse where feasible.

3.2.4 Waste and Circular Economy

1. Implementation of Waste and Resource Strategy across the University, with a focus on waste reduction using the waste hierarchy.
2. Minimise consumables and packaging; promote reuse schemes for electronics and furniture.

3.2.5 Biodiversity

1. Protect and enhance native habitats; expand campus rewilding and treeplanting schemes.
2. Engage staff/students with outdoor spaces (Trim Trail, rooftop gardens).

3.3 Theme 3: Learning, Teaching and Research

Learning and Teaching | Research | Student Engagement

3.3.1 Curriculum and Pedagogy

1. Embed social responsibility and sustainability within curricula, validation and quality processes.
2. Support academic staff to innovate (e.g. Learning Outside the Classroom, Forest/Beach School practices).

3.3.2 Student, Staff and Community Engagement

1. Strengthen engagement of students, staff and community through coordinate activities with the SU, staff networks, volunteering and community partnerships, guided by the Sustainability Communications and Engagement Plan.
2. Measure the impact of engagement by assessing student sustainability skills and knowledge and staff awareness and participation.

3.3.3 Research and Knowledge Exchange

1. Advance sustainability-research and apply findings to operations and policy.
2. Map staff expertise to SDGs and promote interdisciplinary projects.

3.4 Theme 4: Partnership and Engagement

Business and Industry Interface | Community and Public Engagement | Food and Drink | Procurement and Supplier Engagement

3.4.1 Community and Public Engagement; Business and Industry Interface

1. Share best practice with partners and suppliers; promote regional collaborations via networking opportunities such as EAUC Community of Practice meetings.
2. Grow volunteering, placements and outreach linked to sustainability.

3.4.2 Sustainable Procurement

Procurement will support responsible consumption and production, reduce environmental impacts and support social value:

1. Development and implementation of Sustainable Procurement Policy and Action Plan (aligned to SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production)
2. Phase out single-use plastics; specify low-impact, repairable and circular economy embedded products
3. Increase local, seasonal, plant-based options within food and drink; reduce packaging; require supplier sustainability credentials



4. Delivery Plan Implementation

Initial objectives have been identified in line with the process outlined in Section 2.1 of this document. These objectives will be regularly reviewed, refined and reported through relevant committee meetings, with overall strategic oversight provided by the ISC.

A separate Sustainability Delivery Plan Objectives (SDPO) document has been created and made available online to record detailed information on each objective. The SDPO will be updated periodically to reflect any changes, in line with the governance process set out in this Plan.

Over the lifetime of this Plan, it is anticipated that some objectives may be replaced and new ones introduced. All amendments - including updates to existing objectives and the addition of new ones - will be overseen by the ISC, reported to the Board of Governors, and reflected in the SDPO.

Key to Relevant Documents

- Carbon Management Plan (CMP)
- Sustainability Delivery Plan Objectives (SDPO)
- Institutional Sustainability Committee Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Institutional Sustainability Strategy 2026-31 (ISS)
- Waste and Resource Strategy

Document Control

Version	Date	Change Author	Summary of Changes
ISC 1.0	27.03.2026	Head of Sustainability	Creation of document

Endmatter

Title	Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan 2026-2031
Policy Owner	Head of Sustainability
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