

Edge Hill
University

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY
STRATEGY**

2017

Edge Hill University
Environmental Sustainability Strategy
2017 – 2021

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Introduction

This Environmental Sustainability Strategy sets out the objectives of Edge Hill University's environmental sustainability policy, and the key targets we will work towards to achieve them.

Accompanying this strategy is Edge Hill's Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, which will be reviewed and updated annually. The plan will provide more detail about the activities that will contribute to meeting the objectives and targets laid out in the strategy.

Edge Hill University is one of the largest employers in the local area and is situated on a 160 acre site close to the centre of Ormskirk, Lancashire. The university has seen rapid expansion. Since 2008-09 the university estates' building floor area has grown by over 100% and in 2016-17 there were 11,675 full time equivalent students and 1,667 members of staff. Residential student numbers have increased by 147% since 2008/09 to 2,200.

Our success in attracting students has brought challenges for environmental sustainability, as we have more people coming onto campus, consuming more resources, and have more waste to dispose of. The rapid expansion has led to increased demands being placed on transport infrastructure from congestion to the need for car parking. However, more people means more creativity in addressing those challenges.

Edge Hill's Vision to 2020

Environmental sustainability is one of the key objectives for EHU's Campus Development Strategy to 2020.

Objective 7. To pursue a sustainable future for the University and to demonstrate long-term stewardship of the environment by protecting and enhancing landscape character.

As a socially responsible university, Edge Hill intends to take an environmental lead in developing policy on sustainability, influencing behaviour and promoting sustainable development through building procurement, landscape protection/enhancement and carbon management. The university will set challenging but achievable and affordable targets to ensure that we make best use of existing resources, whether physical, environmental, economic or social and in particular optimise the use of buildings, infrastructure and land holdings.

(Edge Hill University - Draft Estates Strategy 2013 – 2020, page 19)

This strategy builds on EHU's first Environmental Management Strategy covered the period from 2011 – 2016. The targets and objectives and progress against them can be found in an Appendix to this strategy.

Governance Structure

Monitoring and Review

To ensure the delivery of this Strategy an associated Action Plan has been developed which will be reviewed each year by the relevant people and committees as described below, and published on Edge Hill University's website.

The Strategy and Action Plan will be reviewed annually by the Environmental Sustainability group, Institutional Health & Safety & Environment Committee and the Board of Governors. Each year an Annual Sustainability report will provide an update on progress including the relevant KPIs.

[<https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/about/annual-review/>]

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is responsible for approving the mission and strategic vision of the University, and for oversight of its activities, long-term business plans and strategies, key performance indicators (KPIs) and annual budgets.

Institutional Health & Safety & Environment Committee

The Institutional Health & Safety & Environment Committee (IHS&E) is responsible for reviewing activity against the Environmental Sustainability Strategy's objectives. Progress is reported to the Board of Governors in October of each year.

This committee is overseen by Directorate who will ensure adequate resources are available to address the actions identified.

The Sustainability Manager & Operational Risk and Environment Manager

These roles are responsible for coordinating the overview of the University's sustainability work. They are the link between the Environmental Sustainability Group and the IHS&E.

Environmental Sustainability Group

The environmental sustainability group consists of a representative from each Department with responsibility for an environmental objective and target. The group meets quarterly.

Sustainability Champions

Staff members or students interested in helping to actively reduce the overall environmental impacts of Edge Hill University. The Champions contribute ideas, suggestions and initiatives for improving environmental performance to the Environmental Sustainability group representatives. The champions meet quarterly.

Students' Union

Members of the Students' Union will be represented at all levels of the sustainability governance structure. Working closely with the Sustainability Manager and Operational Risk and Environment Manager they will help direct and support all appropriate actions, policies and reviews.

Sustainability objectives

Staff and Student Engagement

The Sustainability Champions are a good example of students and staff working together to improve the University environment. Students are involved in shaping all aspects of Edge Hill's life. The University's Student Representation System is owned and managed by the Edge Hill Students' Union (EHSU) and is central to promoting the partnership of staff and students in enhancing the learner experience. In addition to representation at department/subject level, students also serve on most Faculty and University committees as well as on programme validation and periodic review panels.

Objective

- To ensure that staff and students voices are heard together

Targets

- Increase the numbers of Students becoming Sustainability Champions each year. A staff member from each department is an active Sustainability Champion each year.
- All staff and student inductions cover EHU's sustainability policy.
- EHSU will continue to be involved with relevant boards & decision-making bodies.

Monitoring

- Re-establish Sustainability Group to oversee involvement opportunities of students and staff in the development and ongoing monitoring of EHU's carbon management plan.
- EHSU will be incorporating sustainability into its student induction pack and the re-established Sustainability Group will be reviewing the progress made with this target

Education for Sustainable Development

Education for sustainability is the process of 'equipping students with the knowledge and understanding, skills and attributes needed to work and live in a way that safeguards environmental, social and economic wellbeing, both in the present and for future generations.' (The United Nations World Summit, 2005). It is about our responsibility to engage our whole community, staff and students, in sustainable development issues.

At Edge Hill staff and students are active in many ways to promote sustainable choices and lifestyles. We recognise the increasing importance of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Edge Hill's students selected to focus on the goals of, No poverty, Good Health & Wellbeing, Zero Hunger & Climate Action at the start of the 2017-18 year.

Objective

To encourage and support staff, students and the wider community to make sustainable lifestyle choices; and to embed 'Education for Sustainable Development' within the curriculum and all aspects of student life and learning.

Targets

- To embed ESD within the curriculum by 2020.
- Each student to receive sustainability-based induction (led by the SU as part of SU VP Activities remit)
- Provide interdepartmental collaborative initiatives promoting the principles of global sustainable development
- Improve environmental awareness signage around campus and encourage conservative use of resources by way of education.

Monitoring

- EHSU and Faculty members of Sustainability Group to update group at quarterly meetings on actions, courses and interdepartmental initiatives providing education for a sustainable future in Sustainable Development Goals
- Obtain feedback from students on workshops and other learning events staged

Carbon and Energy Management

Edge Hill University signed up to the 10-year Higher Education Carbon Management Programme (HECMP) in 2010. Edge Hill University's 'Carbon Management Programme 2015-2020' covers the second period of the programme, and sets out the actions we must take to reduce energy use on our estate, as well as from carbon emissions associated with our activities. The plan acknowledges that achieving absolute reduction targets in carbon emissions is extremely challenging for Edge Hill as we are one of the UK's fastest growing universities in the UK (since 2008/9 the University estate (floor area) has grown by 147%. In addition, many of the buildings on our estate are relatively new, and are therefore already efficient compared with other universities' building stock.

HEFCE requires the higher education sector in England to implement an absolute carbon reduction target of at least 80% by 2050 against 1990 levels in line with UK Government targets; with an interim target of a 43% reduction by 2020. As part of our contribution to these sector-level and national targets, Edge Hill University has set a realistic SMART target for 2020 of a 34% reduction in its estate Scopes 1 & 2 carbon intensity (kg CO₂e/m²) from a 2008/9 baseline. This equates to 62 kg CO₂e/m² and represents best practice in the sector when compared with benchmarks.

Objective

To reduce the environmental impact and costs arising from energy use in buildings through the better management of resources and increased energy efficiency, and reduce emissions from fuel consumption by our vehicles, as well as meeting the requirements of legislation.

To do this by taking a whole-organisation approach so that carbon reduction becomes embedded in management decision-making across the full range of the university's operations; and by undertaking projects that will lead directly to measurable emissions and energy consumption reduction.

Carbon Targets

- Edge Hill will reduce carbon emissions from the 2005/06 baseline of 5456 tCO₂ by 5%, by July 2020 for scope 1 & 2 activities.
- Reduce the university estates Scopes 1 & 2 carbon intensity (kgCO₂/m²) by 34% by July 2020 from our 2008/09 baseline.
- Reduce our Scope 3 emissions by 3% from a 2008/09 baseline.
- Edge Hill University will reduce energy consumption per square metre of GIA by 5% (kWh / m²) by 2021 on baseline 2016-17 levels.

Monitoring

An annual evaluation of energy consumption of estate and fleet vehicles is provided to HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency). An Energy and Carbon audit is carried out every 5 years.

Sustainable Travel

Edge Hill University is committed to managing the sustainable development of the campus and key to this is promoting sustainable methods of transport. The University is one of the largest employers in the local area and recognises its role in helping to reduce the congestion, noise and environmental impacts of car travel associated with the site.

The University has a total student population of approximately 11,675. Approximately 2,200 live at the Ormskirk Campus in residential accommodation, and approximately 1,667 staff work on site. The rapid expansion of the university has led to increased demands being placed on transport infrastructure including car parking.

The 'Edge Hill 2020 Masterplan' recognises the importance of promoting sustainable transport options and reducing car travel and identifies the Travel Plan and Traffic and Parking Management Strategy (TPMS) as the key underpinning elements of this strategy.

The first Ormskirk Campus Travel Plan was created in 2004. The most recent plan, 2017 – 2021, sets targets and measures for reducing single occupancy car travel to the Campus whilst outlining the benefits and options for traveling to the University by more sustainable modes of transport.

Objective

To help people travel to work and study whilst minimizing pollution, congestion and the overall environmental impact that will help the institution grow in a sustainable way.

Targets

- Reduce the percentage of single occupancy car journeys made to the university by staff and students to 55% and 37% of all travel modes respectively by 2021.
- Re-establish the EHU Bike Users' Group.
- Assess feasibility of increasing bicycle storage by 2020.
- Investigate operating 100% electric utility vehicles on campus by 2020.

Monitoring

The university undertakes a biannual travel survey to monitor our progress towards our targets and objectives.

Waste & Resource Management

An initial study into developing a waste strategy for the Ormskirk Campus was carried out in 2010. Since then much has been done to encourage staff and students to reduce, reuse and recycle. During Sustainability week in 2017, students ran 'The Last Straw' campaign to remove plastic straws from the Student Union, and the catering companies are looking to replace plastic cups. Furniture is reused where possible when departments move.

Edge Hill University has achieved a significant reduction in 2016-17 waste arising of 34% per staff and student FTE on 2009-10 levels. Edge Hill's recycling rate increased from 23% in 2009-10 to 54% in 2016-17, and we operate a zero waste to landfill campus.

Objective

To significantly reduce the environmental impacts of our waste production in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle, recover through reducing volumes of waste generated by our activities and increasing reuse, recycling and resource recovery; to manage residual waste in accordance with best practice; and to ensure that waste is considered a resource by staff and students.

Targets

- To increase recycling rate to 70% by 2021.
- To decrease waste arisings by 5% on 2017 baseline of 0.037 tonnes (per staff and student FTE)
- Investigate the feasibility of divesting from single-use plastics and non-biodegradable disposables by 2021

Monitoring

Waste audits are carried out at least every five years. In 2009-10 an in-depth audit produced waste baseline data against which our latest audit measures our progress.

We obtain monthly and annual waste arisings and destinations reports from our waste contractors.

Water Management

As with our starting point for energy, Edge Hill's water usage is already comparatively efficient. Typical University facilities use an average of 180 litres of water per student per day. An average of 131 litres per person per day is consumed at Edge Hill University. Many buildings already follow industry good practice with waterless urinals and self-closing non-concussive basin taps. Our swimming pool fittings are new with advanced water efficiency properties and characteristics. We monitor for background losses and leakage, and winter rainfall on the grass pitches is pumped off and stored to irrigate the pitches in summer.

However, there is more we can do. Achieving small efficiency savings can add up to big change. Just a one cubic metre saving per person per year by every full-time student and staff member would lead to 12,000 cubic metres saved over a year.

Objective

To reduce the environmental impact and costs arising from water use through the better management of resources.

Targets

- Reduce mains water consumption by 3 % (per staff and student FTE) from a 2008/09 baseline by 2020.
- Increase grey water usage through irrigation of pitches from our holding tanks under the sports pitches

Monitoring

- Water currently enters the campus through one main meter which is fitted with an Automatic Meter Reading logging device. This records the overall consumption activities within the estate 24hrs a day. Data is accessed remotely through a website portal. This allows water consumption analysis to indicate high and low flow rates and identify potential background losses or leakage.
- We are investigating how best to monitor the quantity of harvested water in our holding tanks

Sustainable Procurement

It is our responsibility to reduce our impact on the environment through the products and services we select, and to influence our suppliers to improve their engagement with and commitment to sustainability.

Our sustainable food policy recognises the environmental and social implications of procuring and providing food on campus. The Policy sets out aims and objectives for food sourcing, production, consumption and disposal covering fish, fruit and vegetables, meat, eggs, nutrition, water usage, reduction of disposable products, waste and recycling, and transport. It aims to source locally and sustainably, minimizing waste and increasing consumer awareness of sustainable food through targeted promotions and events. The university holds the Soil Association Food for Life Served Here Awards for healthier eating, value for money and ethically sourced foods.

Edge Hill University and Edge Hill Students' Union assign great importance to the University's role within the international community, and are therefore committed to using and promoting Fairtrade products and supporting Fairtrade campaigns. Edge Hill achieved Fairtrade Status in September 2011, and has maintained it since.

Objectives

To carry out our purchasing activities in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.

Targets

- Consider feasibility of retention of Fairtrade status under the new scheme
- Improve scoring for Soil Association Food for Life served Here Awards where currently Bronze standard
- Fruit & Vegetables - increase use of seasonal produce on previous year
- By 2018 Promote the use of Free range eggs at every opportunity
- Achieve MSC chain of custody certification for Fish by 2019
- Ensure that 100% of meat meets the Red Tractor Assured standards as a minimum and look to increase the amount of meat reared under systems with higher animal welfare
- From September 2018 increase vegetarian and vegan options at all outlets to encourage reduced meat consumption
- Assess the feasibility of utilising campus-grown products when possible
- Investigate the creation of micro gardens on campus to offset herb costs

Waste Minimisation

- Review all disposable products moving to biodegradable/multi-use alternatives where possible
- Work with suppliers to reduce packaging and use reusable packaging wherever possible.
- By 2019 find out how much food we waste per week and continue to regularly monitor the amount whilst seeking to reduce it.

Monitoring

All food suppliers are provided with a copy of the Sustainable Food Policy and we work together to ensure the objectives are met. The policies are reviewed annually.

Ethical Investment Policy

The university's ethical investment policy is based on the premise that the university's choice of where to invest should reflect the ethical values it espouses in public life.

Objectives

The university will not knowingly invest in organizations whose activities include practices which directly pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the mission and values of the University.

Targets

- Work towards screening out investments in arms companies and those who violate UK or international law from our investments by 2020.
- Work towards screening out investments in fossil fuels by 2020.
- Send out our new Ethical Investment screening questionnaire to prospective new investment funds and organisations.

Monitoring

The university reviews on a regular basis whether any investment is contrary to this Policy. It commits to:

- consider representation from members of the University community that the University should not invest, or should divest, in specific organisations,
- ensure those responsible for managing the University's investments are fully aware of the University's responsibility for social, ethical and environmental, as well as financial, factors,
- Monitor the operation and effectiveness of this policy on an annual basis.

Biodiversity and Environmental Management

Biodiversity

Edge Hill University is a large site (as per Induction) situated close to the centre of Ormskirk, Lancashire. It is bisected by roads and residential development but backs onto farmland and is situated close to agricultural arable and pasture fields with relatively good connectivity between sites via hedgerows and lines of trees. Protected species recorded on campus include Pipistrelle and nocturnal bats.

Our Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies key habitats and species on Edge Hill University campus and within the immediate vicinity. It provides a framework for managing these habitats and species, and sets out ways to improve biodiversity on campus. For example, around the new sports centre, wildlife habitats have been created, linking mixed-woodland areas and footpaths to a neighbouring wood. Wildflower meadows, open grassland and a new wildlife pond have been cultivated.

Environmental Management & Emissions and discharges

The University holds the Green Flag Award for management of the Campus grounds.

Objectives

- To protect and increase current levels of biodiversity on campus.
- To monitor discharges and emissions to air, land, and water to ensure effective controls are in place to reduce emissions and manage the risk of pollution.
- Increase engagement opportunities.

Targets

- Continue the use of native tree planting in landscaping
- Pond creation to benefit amphibians
- Ensure 100% compliance with all legislation relating to emissions to air, water and land.
- Support & develop allotment in partnership with the SU.
- Prevent harmful levels of algal build up on all Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs).
- Investigate the creation of micro gardens on campus to grow herbs & other used produce for catering whilst increasing natural habitats.
- Assess the feasibility of pathways between habitats creating a campus that has less gaps between fauna & floral communities.

Monitoring

We will review our Biodiversity Action Plan by 2020.

We will investigate whether the introduction of an ISO14001 Environmental Management System would be beneficial to EHU.

Sustainable Buildings

As a socially responsible university, Edge Hill intends to take an environmental lead in developing policy on sustainability, influencing behaviour and promoting sustainable development through building procurement, landscape protection/enhancement and carbon management. The university will set challenging but achievable and affordable targets to ensure that we make best use of existing resources, whether physical, environmental, economic or social and in particular optimise the use of buildings, infrastructure and land holdings.

Objectives

To provide buildings that inspire students and staff which actively support energy, water, waste, biodiversity, transport, emissions and discharges and sustainable procurement targets.

Targets

- To design buildings to exceptional environmental standards.
- To recycle at least 80% of all construction waste.

Monitoring

EHU uses BRE's SMART Waste tool to manage Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP's) and measure waste generated.

Appendices

Source documents

EHU Carbon Management Programme 2015-2020

Edge Hill University Travel Plan 2017 - 2021, (August 2017), targets page 72

Edge Hill 2020 Masterplan & Estates Strategy (downloaded a final looking draft version from non EHU site)

Edge Hill University Waste Strategy Development, May 2010

Edge Hill University Water Efficiency Report, United Utilities, May 2016

Fair Trade Policy, December 2017

Sustainable Food Policy, June 2015

Institutional Sustainable Procurement Policy, July 2016

Ethical Investment Policy,

Biodiversity Action Plan 2017

And information gathered from conversations and emails during April & May 2018

Review of the 2011-2016 Environmental Strategy's goals and objectives

Objectives and targets from Edge Hill University's 2011-16 EMS

Topic	Objective to 2016	2016 Target	Progress to date
1) Energy Management	To reduce the environmental impact and costs arising from energy use in buildings through the better management of resources, as well as meeting the requirements of legislation.	Reduce our carbon emissions from energy use by 6% by 2016 from a 2008/09 baseline.	Not achieved. Expansion in University meant absolute target not viable. However relative reduction achieved.
		Generate 10% of total energy use on-site from Low and Zero-Carbon (LZC) technologies by 2016.	Not achieved – renewables projects rejected by the Council
2) Transport	To help people travel to work and study minimizing pollution, congestion and the overall environmental impact that will help the institution grow in a sustainable way.	Reduce the percentage of single occupancy car journeys made to the University by staff and students by 2017 from 70% to 55% and 37% to 30% respectively from a 2008 baseline.	Not achieved. Target carried over to current plan. Put in results from 2017 travel plan
		To ensure 45% of all journeys made by staff to work and 70% of all journeys made by students to study are made by sustainable modes of transport by 2017.	Not achieved. Target carried over to current plan. Put in results from 2017 travel plan
		Reduce car and aviation business mileage by 5% by 2016 from a 2008/09 baseline.	Unable to measure
3) Waste Management	To significantly reduce our contribution to landfill through reducing volumes of waste generated by our activities and increasing reuse, recycling and resource recovery; to manage residual waste in accordance with best practice; and to ensure that waste is considered a resource by staff and students.	To cut waste to landfill to 50% from a 2008/09 baseline by 2016.	Achieved. Zero waste to landfill.
		To reduce carbon emissions from waste management by 40% from a 2008/09 baseline by 2016.	Data wasn't available due to contractor change.
4) Water	To reduce the environmental impact and costs arising from water use through the better management of resources.	To reduce water consumption by 5% from a 2008/09 baseline by 2016.	GE to calculate from HESA data

5) Community Involvement	To encourage and support staff, students and the wider community to make sustainable lifestyle choices; and to embed 'Education for Sustainable Development' within the curriculum.	Students' Union achieve Silver standard in the Sound Impact Awards by 2016.	Follow up with Dan Bocharnikov
		To ensure every department and faculty have an active sustainability champion.	Partially Achieved.
		To embed ESD within the curriculum by 2020.	Ongoing
6) Procurement	To carry out our purchasing activities in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.	To implement the government's 'Flexible Framework for Sustainable Procurement' to level 3 by 2016.	
		To maintain Fairtrade University status.	Achieved.
		Source at least 30% of ingredients from local suppliers by 2016.	To check with catering
7) Construction & Refurbishment	To provide fit for purpose buildings which actively support energy, water, waste, biodiversity, transport, emissions and discharges and sustainable procurement targets.	To aspire to achieve BREEAM 'outstanding' for all new buildings.	Ask CPD
		To recycle at least 80% of all construction waste.	Ask CPD
8) Biodiversity	To protect and increase current levels of biodiversity on campus.	To develop a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the site by 2016 2016.	Achieved.
		Identify opportunities for habitat conservation and creation and enhancement by 2016.	Achieved.
		Undertake at least one applied biodiversity research project on campus by 2016.	
9) Emissions and Discharges	To monitor discharges and emissions to air, land, and water to ensure effective controls are in place to reduce emissions and manage the risk of pollution.	Ensure 100% compliance with all legislation relating to emissions to air, water and land.	Achieved.
		To reduce carbon emissions by 6% by 2015 from a 2008/09 baseline.	Not achieved. Expansion in University meant absolute target not viable. However relative reduction achieved.
		Ensure all new fleet vehicles meet with UK Vehicle Excise Duty Band 'A' or 'B' i.e. CO2 emissions <120 g/km	

EHU Proposed Sustainability Targets Summary and 2016-17 baseline

Category	SMART Target metric (annualised)	2016-17 Level	2021 Target
Carbon Emissions	Scopes 1 & 2 absolute emissions tonnes CO2e	6,498 tonnes	5% reduction on 2005-06 level 5,456 tonnes
	Scopes 1 & 2 intensity kg CO2e per m2 GIA	48.7 kg/m2	34% reduction on 2008-09 level 94.1 kg/m2
	Scope 3 intensity kg per staff & student FTE from waste	1.02 kg per FTE	3% reduction on 2008/09 level
	Scope 3 intensity kg per staff & student FTE from business travel	28.3 kg per FTE	3% reduction on 2008/09 level
	Scope 3 intensity kg per staff & student FTE from water use	7.9 kg per FTE	3% reduction on 2008/09 level
	Scope 3 intensity kg per staff & student FTE from commuting	To be calculated 2017/18	2% reduction on 2017/18 level
	Scope 3 intensity kg per staff FTE from paper use	To be calculated 2017/18	2% reduction on 2017/18 level
Waste	Total waste arisings tonnes per staff & student FTE	0.37 tonnes	5% reduction on 2016-17 level to 0.34 tonnes per FTE
	Recycling rate % of total arisings (by weight)	54%	16% increase on 2016-17 level to 70%

Travel	% Students travelling by single occupancy car	45% of students	37% of students
	% Staff travelling by single occupancy car	63% of staff	55% of staff
Sustainable Procurement	Supplier sustainability and ethics code of conduct		Comply with the EHU sustainable procurement policy targets
Energy	kWh / m2 GIA	197.5 kWh / m2	34% decrease on 2008/09 level
	kWh / m2 GIA	197.5 kWh / m2	187.6 kWh / m2 (5% decrease on 2016/17)
Water	m3 per staff & student FTE	8.8 m3 per FTE	3% decrease to 8.05 m3 per FTE
Sustainable Buildings	Energy efficiency rating	All new buildings rated exceptional	All new buildings rated exceptional
	Construction waste recycling	80% recycling rate	80% recycling rate
Emissions & Discharges	Fleet Vehicle Emissions Bands	A or B	A or B
	Compliance and Best Practice in Emissions Management	100% Compliance	Comply with 100% environmental legislation & best practice in emissions and discharges
Biodiversity	Outputs from surveys by volunteers	Implemented action plan for preservation of species	Implement biodiversity action plan for meadows, lakes and ponds; rare species, native species, bats and birds habitat provision, spreading of green hay.

Edge Hill University

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