

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Summary Report 2023



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1.0 Introduction

Cardiff University is committed to leadership in sustainability and improving our environmental performance. Our vision is towards building an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for our community and to bring about environmental benefits not only to Cardiff and Wales but to the wider world. It is crucial to develop sustainability as an integral part of our values and to embed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into all aspects of our academic and operational activities.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Our actions also support the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, framed by 7 well-being goals, its scope presents clear synergy with the SDGs. The Act seeks to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, providing a legally-binding common purpose for national and local governments, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which they must work and collaborate to improve the well-being of Wales.

We are committed to embedding the concept of sustainability as framed by both the SDGs and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to support the vision of a sustainable future.

2.0 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)

As signatories of the Sustainable Development Goal accord, we have committed to embed the SDGs into our academic and business processes, this is reflected within our Environmental Sustainability Enabling Strategy. As part of the Accord, we are required to complete an annual survey. The survey details our work on embedding the 17 SDGs into University education, research, leadership, operations, administration, and engagement activities.

We also participate in the THE impact rankings annually, to date submitting to 10 of the 17 SDGs. We plan to increase the number of SDGs that we report within the rankings as proposed in the table below. This report for the first time considers our institutional activities across all of the SDGs.

The Scope of Cardiff University reporting to the THE Impact Rankings

2021 / 2022 / 2023					2024	2025	2026	
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	5 GENDER EQUALITY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	2 ZERO HUNGER	1 NO POVERTY	4 QUALITY EDUCATION
13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES		6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The activities reported below relate to strategic actions, research and education.

2.1 Strategic actions

Progress has continued with embedding the goals into strategic actions including a number of key strategies and Policies including the: [Environmental Sustainability Enabling Strategy](#), Education and Students sub-strategy; [Civic Mission sub-strategy](#); Ecosystem Resilience and Biodiversity Action Plan (ERBAP); Procurement Strategy; [Sustainable Food Policy](#); Wellbeing Strategy; [Health, safety, Wellbeing and Environment Policy Statement and the Transitional Estates Strategy](#).

The Transitional Estates Strategy 2023-25 sets out our journey for a better maintained, accessible, and sustainable estate which reflects new ways of working. It has four principles guiding our decisions:

- Strategic - Our estate will support our strategic university goals in terms of size and shape, the student experience, and our research focus
- Sustainable - All projects will contribute to our Net Zero targets to become carbon neutral by 2030
- Efficient - Space will be appropriately maintained, total space will be reduced, and utilisation will be increased
- Equitable - Our estate will be accessible, and allocation of space will be fair and transparent with reference to recognised space norms.

We welcomed a number of new roles to the Sustainability team during the academic year including a Carbon Net Zero Manager, this is a new role and will focus on the delivery of our carbon net zero commitments. We also welcomed a Biodiversity Officer who will lead on our Ecosystem Resilience and Biodiversity Action Plan (ERBAP) work as well as a Waste Minimisation Manager.

A sustainable procurement roadmap has been developed identifying what will be done over the next three years looking at sustainable evaluation policy, evaluation of scope 3, review of tender process, training for staff and communicating the good work done.

We have launched five innovation and research institutes to deliver research with global impact, bringing together academics from a range of disciplines to tackle some of the biggest global challenges facing society, the economy and the environment. The interdisciplinary institutes were unveiled at an event at the prestigious Royal Institution in London which provided an opportunity to showcase our work and to explore areas of potential collaboration with other institutes. Further information is provided in section 2.2.

Following the successful pilot of LEAF (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework), the programme was rolled out to all areas during academic year 2022-23, with a view to seeking accreditation in coming years. LEAF is an online self-assessment tool that contains a set of criteria specifically designed to improve and support the sustainability and efficiency of research and teaching. Participants complete a workbook with the aim of achieving Bronze, Silver and Gold accreditation sequentially. Each level has a number of actions for lab users to carry out in order to save various resources including plastics, water and energy. The aim is ultimately to reduce laboratory carbon emissions and create an environment that supports research quality. Other areas covered include equipment efficiency, procurement, chemical management, and business travel.

2.2 Research

In August 2022 we launched five strategic entities to unite talent and expertise across disciplines and to work on global challenges in big data, the environment, health and security. These Research and Innovation Institutes focus on large scale, highly interdisciplinary research, strongly aligned to our major research and innovation strengths and supporting SDGs 3, 9, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

The Neuroscience and Mental Health Innovation Institute addresses the unprecedented opportunity that exists at the current time to integrate genomics, translational neuroscience and psychology to transform the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses, and harness expertise in these areas to advance innovation in neuroscience and mental health, whilst engaging with regional and national partners and driving forward research, investment and development in the region. The institute's work covers the lifespan from childhood to older age and includes neurodevelopmental conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism, the major adult psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, epilepsy, dystonia, and neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, and Parkinson's disease.



The Net Zero Innovation Institute is shaping our sustainable future by bringing together the most talented, forward-thinking, and multi-disciplinary research minds. The institute's research is grounded in three key areas – understanding the **resources** we have available in meeting net zero; asking if it's possible to **mitigate** climate impacts by using science and engineering; and supporting the long-term **transition** to a greener economy.

This Institute launched the University's Planetary Health Research Network (SDG 10) in November. An Advisory Group has been established with representation from all University Colleges (and most Schools) that will help to keep transdisciplinarity at the core of our activities. The first formal event was held on 2nd November 2022 – entitled Prioritising Future Research on Planetary Health, with about 30 attendees discussing three areas highlighted for their importance by UKRI (Integrated Solutions, Equitable Transitions, Risk).



The Security, Crime and Intelligence Innovation Institute focusses on 'how the 'datafication' of society, and the emergence of new technologies is inducing new security threats and affording new tactics and technologies for their control.'

' The institute has three main themes which address this challenge:

- Artificial Intelligence and Data Science for Defence – how AI and allied data science techniques are transforming the design and delivery of defence strategy and tactics;
- Disinformation, Strategic Communication and Open Source Intelligence – investigating the social and political causes and consequences of mis/disinformation in geopolitical conflicts and risks; and
- Crime, Violence and Policing – analysing evolving and enduring risks and threats being tackled by the criminal justice system.



The Digital Transformation Innovation Institute has a focus on real-world, applicable solutions that are driven by collaboration and partnership, the institute is delivering research with impact so that new digital processes are designed, deployed, and adopted in ways that are transparent, inclusive and with security at their core. Key to this is the interaction between people, processes, and technologies, and the institute has fostered a number of valuable partnerships with industry leaders, including [DSV Solutions](#), [Thales](#), and [Airbus](#). The institute is home to the [Hartree Centre Cardiff Hub](#), a new multi-million pound STFC-funded, UK-wide initiative launched in June 2023 which aims to support small and medium sized businesses to explore and adopt new and emerging technologies in a way that suits their needs, and encourages growth, productivity, and business resilience.



The Systems Immunity Research Institute is a centre of expertise for immunology and immunotherapy, with a focus on cancer, infectious diseases, immune-mediated inflammatory diseases, and associated complications. It is committed to translating cutting-edge research that transforms the diagnosis, treatment, and quality-of-life for patients. Its ambition is to advance public health for the future by developing new and improved diagnostics and treatments for disease and educating the public and next generation of scientists. The institute engages with local communities to provide education to help reduce transmission of infections, and also works closely with patient groups about future immune-based therapies in diseases ranging from inflammatory conditions to cancer. Through industrial partnerships, spinout companies and ventures, the institute places Wales as a centre of innovation in immunotherapy, making a difference to patients as well as contributing to the growth of the Welsh economy.



2.3 Learning and Teaching

As a comprehensive Higher Education institution, Cardiff University has a breadth of formal education programmes at Undergraduate, Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research that contribute to our students' understanding of the SDGs. We also have a range of informal initiatives in place that support this work, such as the **Community Gateway project**, **Caer Heritage project** and **Syniad**. However, our educational leadership has acknowledged that to date our engagement with the SDGs might be characterised as pockets of practice, led by individuals in an absence of strategic support. However, during the academic year 2020 to 21 the university reviewed and re-framed our university strategy:

The Recast Way Forward: Our Values: Environmental sustainability

We promote sustainability education and enable students and staff to make positive changes to our environmental impact, in particular our aim to become carbon neutral by 2030.

This is supported and reinforced by enhancement of both the environmental and education and student experience sub strategies.

Education & Student Experience Sub Strategy:

- *We will be known as a University which values, promotes and embeds sustainability in education, enabling students and staff to make positive changes to our environment.*
 - o *Provide opportunities to explore how the Sustainable Development Goals and the Wales Future Generations legislation relate to learners and the discipline they are studying, as set out in the [Environmental Sustainability Enabling Strategy](#).*
 - o *Ensure our curriculum provides learning experiences that equip students for whatever path they follow once they graduate, including greater integration and visibility of graduate attributes and employability in all programmes; university-wide courses in a broader range of skills, for example quantitative methods, digital skills and languages.*

These strategic actions have been supported by new leadership in the context of Education for Sustainable development (an Education Dean) and is being driven by their role as chair of the European University Association's Thematic Peer Group on Environmental sustainability of learning and teaching (Gwilliam J A & Peterbauer H, 2021¹). This has enabled the drafting of a comprehensive action plan that seeks to progress our educational engagement with the SDGs, to drive towards integrated action across the institution. Over the next five years we aim to:

- Initiate activities to support the evolution and embedding of this agenda in CU Education
- Annual reporting of ESD and SDG engagement
- Training for Staff to enable engagement with the SDGs and the ESD agenda
- Partnership working with students

2.4 Education for Sustainable Development Champions Network


The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Steering group was established in November 2022. This group is part of the education governance structure reporting to the successful student futures subgroup of the Education and Student Experience Committee. To support this activity we have established networks for ESD Champions across our Colleges. A survey of current practices has identified over 80 case studies across our Schools that address a breadth of global challenges, enabling our students to engage with the relationship between their academic disciplines and all 17 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).


We have also established staff support for teaching and learning relating to ESD through collaboration with the Learning and Teaching Academy. This includes an online toolkit and a series of workshops to support and develop staff understanding and implementation of Education for Sustainable Development in teaching practice. Through this activity we aim to support staff at various levels of ESD (from novice to expert), with some of the more experienced ESD staff supporting with examples and case studies from their own teaching practice.


Further, a student intern led project developed a framework and structure for a sustainability focused group Induction activity for 1st year Cardiff University Students. The project builds on a proposal and activities in the School of Architecture and aims to enable students to build communities and a sense of belonging within their school and cohort during the induction period while engaging with the important topics of Sustainability and the climate emergency.

¹ Gwilliam J A & Peterbauer H (eds) (2021). Environmental sustainability of learning and teaching: LEARNING & TEACHING PAPER #14. Thematic Peer Group Report.

3.0 SDG Activities

3.1	SDG 1: No Poverty We offer various educational programmes, research initiatives, and operational activities that align with SDG1 which seeks to end poverty in all its forms everywhere.	
Education: Several of Cardiff’s academic courses and degree programmes tackle issues directly or indirectly related to poverty, economic inequalities, and social justice.		
School of Social Sciences:	Our Sociology, Social Policy, and Criminology programmes focus on social inequality, public policy, and welfare systems. Students explore topics such as poverty alleviation, social welfare, and inequality in society. MSc Social and Public Policy addresses policy interventions aimed at reducing poverty and social exclusion.	
School of Geography & Planning	Several UG modules connect with the underlying issues around SDG1 No Poverty including CP0371 Human Geographies in Practice , CP0381 Geographies of Race and Power , CP0152 Border Spaces , and CPT925 Urban Theory Provocations . These modules provide students with the opportunity to explore the impacts of poverty and opportunities that existing within their discipline for positive action.	
Cardiff Business School	Cardiff Business School has committed to a Public Value Mission, focusing on research and education that delivers social and economic benefits to society. Programmes such as the MBA Public Value and MSc Economics examine economic policies, financial inclusion, and the role of businesses and governments in reducing poverty. The school’s Public Value focus ensures consideration of poverty and economic disparity.	
Research Cardiff University is currently engaged in a range of research projects aimed at understanding and mitigating the causes and consequences of poverty:		
WISERD (Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods):	WISERD conducts significant research on poverty and inequality, focusing on economic disparities in the UK, particularly Wales. Their work informs public policies to reduce poverty and social exclusion.	
Welsh Centre for Public Policy	The Wales Centre for Public Policy (WCPP) was commissioned by the Welsh Government to conduct a <u>review of international poverty and social exclusion strategies, programmes, and interventions</u> . A significant set of evidence-based reports have been produced for this project, to inform the Welsh Government’s approach to the alleviation of poverty and social exclusion in Wales.	
Children’s Social Care Research & Development Centre (CASCADE)	CASCADE has been leading the evaluation of the <u>Universal Basic Income pilot for care leavers in Wales</u> throughout 2022-23. The Welsh Basic Income Evaluation – CASCADE (cascadewales.org) will increase our understanding of the impact and mechanisms of basic income provision and will explore a range of health and social impacts.	

<p>3.2</p>	<p>SDG 2: Zero Hunger</p> <p>We support SDG 2 Zero Hunger through our academic programmes, research, and operational activities that focus on food security, sustainable agriculture, and nutrition, including:</p>	
<p>Education: Several of our academic courses address topics related to food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.</p>		
<p>School of Biosciences</p>	<p>Our Undergraduate Courses in Ecology and Conservation focus on the relationship between agricultural practices, biodiversity, and the environment, with modules covering food sustainability and the impact of agricultural policies on hunger and malnutrition.</p>	
<p>School of Geography and Planning</p>	<p>MSc in Sustainability, Planning and Environmental Policy postgraduate programme enables students to examine the social and spatial dimensions of food systems, food security, and food governance.</p>	
<p>School of Medicine</p>	<p>The university's Master of Public Health (MPH) and other public health courses include modules on nutrition, public health nutrition, and malnutrition.</p>	
<p>Research: Conducting research addressing global food insecurity and hunger. Key areas of research include sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and policy solutions for hunger.</p>		
<p>Centre for Sustainable Urban & Rural Food (SURF)</p>	<p>Researchers in SURF carry out world-class research into food geographies - with a special attention for the role of cities and regions. We are partners on a Horizon 2020 consortium to develop pathways towards 2030-led Urban Food Policies. Led by the University of Milan, their shared goal will be to translate the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact's shared vision and collective commitment to integrated urban food policies into measurable and long-term progress towards sustainable food systems.</p>	
<p>Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST):</p>	<p>CAST focuses on how societies can transform in response to climate change, including through more sustainable food production and distribution systems that address hunger. Their research explores the relationship between climate change, agricultural practices, and food security.</p>	
<p>Campus Operations: The Cardiff University Catering team have faced a number of challenges including supply chain challenges and the cost of living crisis. In recognition of the latter, healthy, nutritious food options at affordable prices were offered to staff and students. They are tackling the concept of good food and zero hunger through a variety of activities.</p>		
<p>Plant Based diet:</p>	<p>During 2022-23 75% of the Catering menu moved to being plant based, this also includes hospitality catering. Additionally, vegan menu choices were up to 50% of sales in the Plant Forward category and there were a record number of sales for Veganuary.</p>	
<p>Sustainable Sourcing & Food waste:</p>	<p>A sustainability month was held in March with the theme of sourcing local fruit and veg from suppliers in Wales. The sustainability Food Market held during the month was one of biggest markets held to date. Further events were held around Fairtrade fortnight and Food Waste Week together with WRAP Cymru. During the year, Catering have registered for Fairtrade University and for MSC fish accreditation.</p>	

<p>3.3</p>	<p>SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being</p> <p>SDG 3: Good health and Well-being is a key strength of Cardiff University with a broad range of activity across education, research and operations focusing on health, medical sciences, public health, and well-being.</p> <p>We ranked 1st in the UK in THE Impact Rankings (2023).</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 
<p>Education: Across our Academic portfolio we offer a range of health and wellbeing programmes, aimed at equipping students with knowledge and skills to improve local and global health outcomes.</p>		
<p>School of Medicine:</p>	<p>Our programmes support students in their learning journey to careers as doctors and healthcare professionals. The focus is on improving individual and population health (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB BCh)), global public health challenges (Master of Public Health (MPH)), and developing advanced teaching skills to improve healthcare education (MSc in Medical Education).</p>	
<p>School of Healthcare Sciences:</p>	<p>Our nursing, midwifery, and healthcare sciences programmes train students to deliver high-quality patient care, health, and well-being, and our MSc Advanced Healthcare Practice equips nurses and healthcare professionals with advanced skills in clinical practice, leadership, and service delivery. We are a designated World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for midwifery development, collaborating with centres around the world to help strengthen good practice in healthcare.</p>	
<p>School of Dentistry:</p>	<p>Oral health is a crucial part of overall well-being, and one which is emphasised throughout a student’s preparation to become a professional dentist through our BDS Dental Surgery.</p>	
<p>School of Psychology:</p>	<p>Developing key skills and understanding in Mental health and well-being, and preparing students for careers in healthcare settings, is the focus of our BSc Psychology programme and Psychology PGT programmes</p>	
<p>School of Pharmacy:</p>	<p>Our MPharm (Master of Pharmacy) programme trains students to become pharmacists, focusing on the role of medication in improving health and well-being, and addressing global health challenges like antibiotic resistance.</p>	
<p>Research: We carry out pioneering research that directly contributes to improving global health and well-being.</p>		
<p>Neuroscience & Mental Health Innovation Institute</p>	<p>We are a community of research centres that focus on understanding and improving brain health and mental wellbeing. Working in partnership across universities, health services, third sector organisations, the centres cover a broad range of research to help understand the causes of mental health problems, inform better diagnosis and treatment, and contribute to improving the lives of people with mental health and neurological conditions.</p> <p> BRAIN Research Unit Cardiff Centre for Human Developmental Science CUBRIC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics & Genomics Dementia Research Institute Hodge Centre for Translational Neuroscience Medicine Discovery Institute National Centre for Mental Health Wolfson Centre for Young Peoples’ Mental Health </p>	

Research: We carry out pioneering research that directly contributes to improving global health and well-being.



Systems Immunity Research Institute

The institute is a centre of expertise for immunology and immunotherapy, with a focus on cancer, infectious diseases, immune-mediated inflammatory diseases, and associated complications. We work in partnership with the Neuroscience & Mental Health Innovation Institute on the Dementia Research Institute and the Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics & Genomics. We are proud to host the [Wales Kidney Research Unit](#), the [Wales Cancer Research Centre](#) and the [European Cancer Stem Cell Institute](#).

Primary and Emergency Care Research Centre (PRIME)

[PRIME Centre Wales](#) focusses on approaches to improving primary and emergency care and translating these into practice. We host the Wales Centre for Evidence-Based Care which focuses on improving healthcare quality and outcomes by promoting evidence-based practice and the Wales School for Social Prescribing Research which focusses on research into social prescribing.

Centre for Trials Research

The [centre](#) leads on the design and delivery of large-scale evaluations of interventions in health and social care to promote good health and wellbeing. It has a particular focus on cancer, infections, mental and population health.

DECIPHer

The Centre for Development, Evaluation, Complexity and Implementation in Public Health Improvement focusses on tackling public health issues such as mental health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on multi-level system approaches to impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Digital Health Research Network:

The university engages in research that explores how digital technologies like telemedicine, AI in healthcare, and mobile health apps can improve access to healthcare services, particularly in underserved areas.

Campus Operations: Following a review of the wellbeing strategy, the university received the USHA award for Health and Wellbeing Achievement (2022) and became the first HEI in the UK to achieve the ISO 45003 international status; we have been seeking to reinforce a positive narrative for staff and students around mental health and wellbeing, with progress in:

Staff Workshops


The anniversary of the staff wellbeing strategy was marked in September by a series of free events including a series of workshops on the topics of Grow Your Own Happiness; Growing for Wellbeing; Positive Neuroplasticity; and Wellbeing around the world, a look at self-care practices around the world as well as the menopause, long COVID, positive psychology, life coaching and green wellbeing.


Headspace App


Meditation and mindfulness can help to reduce stress, improve focus, and improve sleep. The university teamed up with Headspace in 2023, the popular app used by over 66 million people worldwide, to give staff free access (1,000 spaces were offered to staff on a first come, first served basis).


Staff Wellbeing


We provide access to courses designed to help manage, understand and promote positive mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, including I-act expansion for managers, front line staff, and students, with a Welsh language option and more psychosocial emphasis. We also have an Employee assistance programme. In 2022-23 we offered access to Care First which provided access to fully qualified counsellors and support specialists to discuss emotional, personal or work-related issues.


3.4	SDG 4: Quality Education The university is committed to providing inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all, while also contributing to educational development at both local and global levels. Here's how Cardiff University aligns with SDG 4.	
Education: We offer a range of degree programmes specifically focused on education, aimed at training teachers, educational leaders, and researchers to improve educational outcomes and address educational inequalities:		
School of Social Sciences:	We offer three tiers of learning to help equip students with the necessary skills and understanding to prepare for a role in education. Our BA Education focuses on understanding the principles of education, learning, and teaching, along with key issues like educational inequalities, social justice, and policies affecting learning outcomes. Our MA Education focuses on improving teaching quality, educational leadership, and policymaking, and PhD in Education enables students to conduct advanced research focusing on educational access, quality, and/or policy reform, which directly contribute to SDG 4 goals.	
Reaching Wider	Cardiff University is a part of the Reaching Wider project which is seeking to tackle barriers to entry, progression and success in higher education. This work aims to engage people aged 10 to 16 years, and adults 21 and over with no higher education qualifications, care leavers and carers, in some of the most deprived communities in Wales.	
Research: Conducting cutting-edge research in education, which is critical to informing policies and practices that improve the quality and accessibility of education worldwide.		
WISERD (Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods):	WISERD investigates educational outcomes, inequalities, and policy interventions. Its research aims to address the root causes of educational disparity and contribute to policy changes that enhance access to quality education, particularly in Wales. It also examines the impact of poverty and social factors on educational attainment, aligning with SDG 4's emphasis on inclusive education for all.	
DECIPHer	The Centre for Development, Evaluation, Complexity and Implementation in Public Health Improvement focuses on improving public health through educational interventions. Their work connects education with health and well-being, examining how schools and educational environments can promote better health outcomes, which directly supports SDG 4's focus on lifelong learning and student well-being.	
Children's Social Care Research & Development Centre	CASCADE focusses on all aspects of community responses to social need in children and families, including family support services, children in need services, child protection, looked after children and adoption. These are essential to supporting a good educational environment for children.	
Centre for Trials Research	Centre for Trials undertakes research evaluating interventions to enhance the educational environment (e.g reducing bullying, embedding social workers in school) and supporting parents to enhance school readiness.	

3.5	<p>SDG 5: Gender Equality</p> <p>The university is committed to promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls in education, research, and leadership. Our academic programmes, research initiatives, and institutional activities actively contribute to SDG 5.</p>	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 
<p>Education: We offer several programmes focusing on gender equality, women’s rights, and gender studies.</p>		
<p>School of Social Sciences:</p>	<p>The MSc Social and Public Policy programme addresses issues of gender inequality, exploring social policies and how governments and institutions can promote gender equality, and our BSc Sociology explores the role of gender in shaping social structures and how gender inequalities are embedded in various aspects of society.</p>	
<p>School of Law and Politics:</p>	<p>LLM Human Rights Law allows students to study gender equality from a legal perspective, exploring women’s rights, gender-based violence, and international legal frameworks for protecting and promoting equality. Our MA in International Relations addresses gender in the context of global politics, development, and human rights. Students examine how gender intersects with global challenges like conflict, migration and poverty.</p>	
<p>School of Psychology:</p>	<p>MSc Psychology includes a focus on mental health and well-being, addressing issues such as gender-based mental health disparities and the psychological impacts of gender discrimination.</p>	
<p>Research: Conducting research that directly contributes to understanding and addressing gender inequalities in various fields.</p>		
<p>WISERD</p>	<p>WISERD explores gender inequalities in education, the workplace, and society; considering barriers to gender equality and investigating how reform to social policies and institutions can support gender parity.</p>	
<p>DECipher</p>	<p>The Centre for Development, Evaluation, Complexity and Implementation in Public Health Improvement focuses on healthy relationships and addressing intimate partner violence, particularly in young women.</p>	
<p>Gender and Sexualities Research Group:</p>	<p>This group aims to support the diversity and quality of gender and sexuality research which critically explores how gender and sexuality matters in research, policy, practice, pedagogy and activism.</p>	
<p>Campus Operations: We are committed to promoting gender equality within the institution, creating a supportive environment for staff and students of all genders:</p>		
<p>Athena SWAN Charter:</p>	<p>We are a member of the Athena SWAN Charter, a framework that supports gender equality in higher education. The university has achieved multiple Athena SWAN Awards across various departments including advancing the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, medicine, and mathematics (STEMM).</p>	
<p>Gender Equality in Leadership:</p>	<p>We are dedicated to improving gender representation in leadership positions. We promote initiatives to close the gender gap in senior roles. This includes mentorship programs and development workshops for women in leadership to support women’s career progression.</p>	

Campus Operations: Cont'd		5 GENDER EQUALITY 
Equal Pay Initiatives:	Cardiff actively works to ensure equal pay for equal work for all. The university conducts regular gender pay gap reports and has implemented strategies to close this, aligning with SDG 5's target of eliminating gender disparities in pay. Gender pay gap - Public information - Cardiff University.	
Gender Equality Action Plan:	Cardiff has a Gender Equality Action Plan that outlines strategies for achieving gender parity across academic and administrative positions. The plan focuses on areas such as recruitment, career progression, and work-life balance, ensuring that both men and women have equal opportunities to succeed.	
Flexible Working and Parental Leave:	The university offers policies such as flexible working, shared parental leave, and childcare support to ensure gender equity in balancing professional and personal responsibilities. These policies support the participation of women in the workforce and contribute to closing the gender gap in leadership roles.	

3.6	SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
	We support SDG 6 through academic programmes, research initiatives, and operational activities aiming to improve water management, sanitation, and sustainable use of water resources.	
Education: Our degree programmes explore water management, environmental sustainability, and public health, directly contributing to education related to clean water and sanitation.		
School of Engineering:	MSc Civil and Water Engineering combines civil engineering with a focus on water-related issues, covering water supply, wastewater treatment, drainage systems, and sustainable water resource management.	
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences:	A range of courses explore water resources and management, including MSc Water in a Changing World which focuses on the challenges of global water management and sustainable development; MSc Environmental Hazards and Risk Management explores natural hazards and designing sustainable water management strategies; and BSc Environmental Geography which explores the relationships between human activities and water systems, with a focus on sustainable management of freshwater resources.	
School of Biosciences:	Our BSc Environmental Sustainability Science includes modules on water ecosystems, conservation of aquatic environments, and water quality.	

<p>Research: Cardiff University is involved in pioneering research on water resources, sanitation, and environmental sustainability. Our Water Research institute is an interdisciplinary community addressing the grand challenge of sustaining water for people and ecosystems.</p>		
HRC:	The Hydro-Environmental Research Centre aims to develop solutions to global water challenges such as water scarcity, pollution, and sanitation.	
Flood Risk and Water Infrastructure Research:	Cardiff University's research on flood risk management addresses the challenges posed by extreme weather events and rising sea levels. By designing resilient infrastructure and sustainable urban drainage systems, to ensure reliable access to clean water during environmental disasters.	
Public Health and Water Quality Research:	Researchers at Cardiff are studying the link between water quality and public health , focusing on issues such as the spread of waterborne diseases, the impact of pollution on drinking water, and strategies to improve access to clean water and sanitation in low-income countries.	
Water Treatment Technologies:	Cardiff researchers are developing advanced water treatment technologies that ensure clean water for communities facing water pollution or scarcity. These innovations help address global water challenges.	
Smart Water Management Systems:	The university is involved in the development of smart water management systems to help ensure that water is used efficiently and that clean water remains accessible to all.	

3.7	SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy		
	We contribute to SDG 7 through academic programmes, research initiatives, and operational activities focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable energy solutions.		
Education: We offer degree programmes specifically designed to address the challenges and opportunities in the energy sector.			
School of Engineering	We run several courses that equip students with the skills and understanding for global energy challenges. From our MSc Sustainable Energy and Environment which focuses on the technologies and strategies needed to meet the global demand for affordable and clean energy, to MSc Electrical Energy Systems which trains students in the design, operation, and analysis of energy systems, and BEng/MEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering which provide a strong foundation in energy-related topics.		
School of Earth & Environmental Sciences	MSc Applied Environmental Geology includes modules on energy resources, sustainable energy resource management and environmental risk assessment.		
Cardiff Business School:	MSc Sustainable Supply Chain Management includes aspects of energy sustainability, focusing on how businesses can integrate renewable energy and energy efficiency into their supply chains.		


Research: We are a leading institution in energy research, with various research centres and projects dedicated to advancing sustainable and clean energy solutions:





Net Zero Innovation Institute	This Institute conducts cutting-edge research into energy technologies and systems, with a focus on the transition to a low-carbon future, playing a key role in promoting clean, affordable, and sustainable energy solutions.
Marine Energy Research:	Cardiff University is engaged in research on marine energy, including tidal and wave energy, as part of the efforts to harness the potential of oceans as a renewable energy source. This research aims to develop sustainable, clean energy technologies that can contribute to a diverse and resilient energy mix.
Energy Storage Research:	Cardiff is also at the forefront of research into energy storage solutions, including developing advanced battery technologies and exploring new methods for storing renewable energy.
Wind and Solar Power Innovations:	Cardiff researchers are working on improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of wind and solar power technologies, including optimizing wind turbine designs, enhancing photovoltaic solar cells, and finding ways to integrate these energy sources more effectively into national grids.
Hydrogen Energy Research:	Cardiff is involved in research on hydrogen as a clean energy source, exploring how hydrogen can be used as a sustainable fuel for transportation, industrial processes, and energy storage.

Campus Operations: We are committed to making our campus more sustainable by adopting energy-efficient practices and renewable energy solutions.

Sustainable Buildings and Energy Efficiency:	Cardiff has implemented energy-saving initiatives across its campus, including the use of energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems. Many university buildings are designed with sustainability in mind including the Centre for Student Life , using renewable energy sources like solar panels to reduce the university's carbon footprint.
Renewable Energy Projects:	Cardiff University is involved in on-campus renewable energy projects, such as solar panel installations and partnerships for energy generation. These projects not only contribute to the university's sustainability goals but also provide real-world examples of renewable energy applications for students and researchers.
Carbon Management and Net Zero Targets:	Cardiff has committed to reducing its carbon emissions in line with Net Zero Carbon targets. The university is taking steps to minimise its reliance on fossil fuels and transition to more sustainable energy sources, further aligning with SDG 7's goals of affordable and clean energy.

3.8	<p>SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth</p> <p>We contribute to SDG 8 through activities that focus on fostering sustainable economic growth, employment opportunities, and fair labour practices.</p>	<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 
<p>Education: We offer programmes that directly align with SDG 8, focusing on economics, management, labour relations, and sustainable development.</p>		
<p>Cardiff Business School:</p>	<p>The school's public value initiative aligns with SDG 8 by promoting responsible business practices, social justice, and sustainable economic models that ensure fair and equitable growth.</p> <p>Our BSc Economics: equips students with analytical skills and knowledge of economic theory, how economies grow, employment is generated, and economic policies can improve working condition.</p> <p>Students can explore more advanced concepts in our MSc Economics, focusing on economic development, labour economics, and the policies that promote decent work and sustainable growth. The MSc International Economics, Banking and Finance programme focuses on the role of global finance and trade in fostering economic growth, and our MBA Business Administration prepares future business leaders to promote sustainable and inclusive growth within organisations.</p>	
<p>School of Social Sciences:</p>	<p>MSc Social and Public Policy addresses how public policies can promote decent work, equality in labour markets, and sustainable economic growth.</p>	
<p>School of Law and Politics:</p>	<p>We offer a LLM International Commercial Law that focuses on global business and trade law, addressing legal frameworks that affect economic growth, employment, and labour rights.</p>	
<p>Research: We conduct extensive research on topics directly related to SDG 8, including labour markets, productivity, economic development, and employment standards:</p>		
<p>Employment Research Unit</p>	<p>The Employment Research Unit focuses on understanding workplace dynamics, labour rights, and organisational practices that promote decent work. The group studies how businesses and governments can foster productive, fair, and inclusive work environments, addressing issues such as job quality, gender equality in the workplace, and the gig economy.</p>	
<p>Productivity and Innovation Research:</p>	<p>Our researchers are involved in studies related to improving productivity and innovation in industries, key to sustaining economic growth and creating high-quality jobs. Research focuses on how firms can boost productivity through technology, innovation, and better management practices.</p>	
<p>Inclusive Growth and Economic Inequality:</p>	<p>Researchers here are also examining economic inequality and how inclusive policies can promote fair employment and growth. This research includes analysing wage gaps, employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups and policies that ensure equitable access to work.</p>	
<p>Labour Market Research:</p>	<p>Cardiff's academics are engaged in research that looks at changes in labour markets, especially in the context of automation, globalization, and the digital economy, including studies on the future of work, , and inclusive labour markets.</p>	

Research: Cont'd.		8 <small>DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</small> 
Research on Green Economy and Job Creation:	Cardiff's researchers study the intersection of economic growth and environmental sustainability, exploring how renewable energy and green industries can create new employment opportunities, including research on policies that support the growth of green industries.	
Campus Operations: We are committed to supporting, developing and promoting equality and diversity in all our practices and activities.		
Living Wage	Cardiff University became Wales's first university to be accredited as a Living Wage employer in 2014. This means that everyone working for Cardiff University, whether they are our employees or employed by third-party contractors and suppliers, receives the Living Wage as recognised by the Living Wage Foundation. We promote a working, learning and research environment and culture in which differences are welcomed and harassment and bullying are known to be unacceptable.	

3.9	SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	9 <small>INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</small> 
	We help to advance SDG 9 by offering education, research, and operational initiatives that support sustainable industrial development, technological innovation, and resilient infrastructure.	
Education: We offer programmes that directly align with SDG 9, focussing on engineering, technology, innovation, and infrastructure development.		
School of Engineering:	Student's sustainability skills and understanding are developed through our BEng/MEng Civil Engineering which focuses on designing and managing infrastructure projects essential for economic growth and sustainable development, and our BEng/MEng Mechanical Engineering which develops students' skills in industrial machinery, energy systems, and manufacturing technologies. Students are able to further develop their skills through the MSc Sustainable Energy and Environment which emphasizes the need for clean energy technologies, sustainable industrial practices, and the design of sustainable infrastructure. Our MSc Civil and Water Engineering addresses the development of water-related infrastructure, focusing on innovative approaches to infrastructure that is resilient to climate change and natural disasters.	
Cardiff Business School:	We offer MSc Business Strategy and Entrepreneurship focusing on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, and equipping students with the skills needed to drive industrial growth and create new technological solutions. Along with a MBA Business Administration which focuses on how businesses can foster innovation and contribute to the development of sustainable industries.	
School of Computer Science and Informatics:	Through our BSc/MSc Computer Science students learn to design and develop cutting-edge digital technologies and software systems that underpin innovation in various industries crucial for building modern infrastructure and fostering industrial digitalization. Our MSc Artificial Intelligence equips students with the skills to design intelligent systems, understanding how AI and machine learning are transforming industries and infrastructures.	

Research: We are actively involved in research that addresses the development of sustainable infrastructure, industrial innovation, and the promotion of inclusive industrialisation.



Cardiff Catalysis Institute (CCI):

The [CCI](#) is internationally recognized for its research into chemical processes that are key to sustainable industrial practices. It focuses on developing catalysts that can reduce the environmental impact of industrial processes, improve energy efficiency, and contribute to cleaner manufacturing technologies.

PARC Institute of Manufacturing, Logistics and Inventory:

[PARC](#) supports businesses and entrepreneurs in developing cutting-edge technologies and industrial solutions. The institute serves as a hub for collaboration between academia, industry, and government, fostering innovation in infrastructure development, manufacturing, and technology.

Research in Autonomous Vehicles and Smart Cities:

We are engaged in research on autonomous vehicles and smart city technologies: such innovations are critical to future urban infrastructure and transportation systems, that are efficient, resilient, and sustainable.

Advanced Manufacturing Research

Our research has a focus on innovations in advanced manufacturing, including robotics, automation, and additive manufacturing (3D printing). These technologies are revolutionizing industries by improving efficiency, reducing waste, and enabling sustainable production methods.

Innovation in Construction:

Cardiff researchers work on innovative construction methods that contribute to more sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including using advanced materials, modular construction, and building information modelling (BIM) to improve the durability and sustainability of infrastructure projects.

Transport and Mobility Research:

We conduct research into improving transport infrastructure, focusing on making transportation systems more sustainable, efficient, and accessible. This includes projects on electric vehicles, and public transportation networks, .


Campus Operations: We are committed to building sustainable infrastructure on our own campus, to serve as a model for resilient and innovative infrastructure development.


Green Campus Initiatives:


We have implemented green initiatives across campus, including sustainable building designs, energy-efficient infrastructure, and renewable energy installations. These efforts contribute to reducing the university’s carbon footprint while providing students and researchers with examples of sustainable infrastructure in practice.

Sustainable Building Projects:

Many of Cardiff’s new buildings are designed to meet high environmental standards, incorporating energy-saving technologies, sustainable materials, and innovative architectural designs that minimize their environmental impact. These projects contribute to the university’s goal of reducing carbon emissions and building resilient infrastructure.

<p>3.10</p>	<p>SDG 10: Reduced inequalities</p> <p>The university's offer emphasises social justice, equality, and inclusion, equipping students with the skills and knowledge to promote equity in society, both locally and globally.</p>	
<p>Education: We offer programmes that focus on social justice, economic equality, and reducing disparities in health, education, and employment.</p>		
<p>School of Social Sciences:</p>	<p>Our BSc Social Science offers students the opportunity to explore and address issues of inequality and social justice, causes and consequences and policies addressing disparities within society. They further develop their skills through our MSc Social and Public Policy focusing on how governments, international organizations, and civil society can address social inequalities through public policy. We have a new specialised MSc Equality and Diversity which examines strategies for reducing inequalities related to gender, race, disability, and other factors, as well as the relevant legal frameworks and policies.</p>	
<p>School of Law and Politics:</p>	<p>LLM Human Rights Law provides a deep understanding of international human rights law, with a focus on how legal systems can be used to combat inequality and protect vulnerable populations, and MSc Global Governance explores the role of international institutions in reducing global inequalities. BSc International Relations and Politics explores power dynamics, inequality, and social justice in political systems.</p>	
<p>Cardiff Business School:</p>	<p>Our MSc Economics explores economic and social inequalities and the policies that can address them, and the MSc Human Resource Management focuses on creating fair and inclusive workplaces, learning about diversity management, equal pay, anti-discrimination practices, and strategies to reduce inequalities within the workplace.</p>	
<p>Research: Conducting extensive research seeking to understand and address inequalities, both in the UK and globally: including in education, healthcare, employment, and housing.</p>		
<p>Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data & Methods:</p>	<p>WISERD's research in this area covers education, labour markets, health disparities, and the impact of public policies on reducing inequalities; WISERD works with policymakers to design interventions that can effectively reduce inequalities in Wales and beyond.</p>	
<p>Research on Poverty and Social Exclusion:</p>	<p>Researchers at Cardiff study the root causes of poverty, such as unemployment, housing insecurity, and lack of access to education, and propose solutions to reduce social exclusion.</p>	
<p>Migration and the Law:</p>	<p>Researchers at Cardiff's School of Law and Politics study the legal and social challenges faced by migrants and refugees, including access to employment, education, and social services. This research informs policy recommendations aimed at improving the inclusion and well-being of migrants in host countries.</p>	
<p>Health Inequalities Research:</p>	<p>Cardiff researchers focus on understanding health inequalities; studies in the School of Medicine and the School of Healthcare Sciences explore how healthcare systems can be improved to ensure equal access for all, regardless of socioeconomic background.</p>	
<p>Health Inequalities Research:</p>	<p>Researchers in Cardiff led on the development of the NIHR INCLUDE framework for people with impaired capacity to consent to be involved in research and this was formally launched in November 2022 (https://www.capacityconsentresearch.com/include-impaired-capacity-to-consent-framework.html). This supports researchers to be able to include those who are often not able to take part in research due to their impairment.</p>	

<p>Campus Operations: We are committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI); we employ policies and practices designed to promote fairness and reduce inequalities within the university community and beyond.</p>		<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 
<p>Athena SWAN Charter:</p>	<p>We are a member of the Athena SWAN Charter, which promotes gender equality in higher education and research and are the recipient of numerous Athena SWAN awards in recognition of our efforts to improve gender equality in academia, particularly in STEM fields.</p>	
<p>Diversity and Inclusion at Cardiff University</p>	<p>Cardiff's Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee works to ensure that the university promotes an inclusive environment for students and staff; including initiatives to reduce gender, racial, and disability-related inequalities in admissions, hiring, and promotion as well as providing workshops and campaigns raising awareness of unconscious bias and discrimination.</p>	
<p>Widening Participation Programs:</p>	<p>We run several widening participation initiatives designed to increase access to higher education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds; including providing scholarships, mentorship, and outreach activities to encourage students from underrepresented groups to pursue university education. And employ a fair admissions practice to ensure that students from all backgrounds have equal opportunities to access higher education.</p>	
<p>Refugee Support Initiatives:</p>	<p>We offer support to refugees and asylum seekers through dedicated programs that provide access to education, English language training, and professional development. These initiatives aim to reduce the inequalities faced by refugees and promote their integration into society.</p>	

<p>3.11</p>	<p>SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 
	<p>At Cardiff University we aim to prepare our students to address challenges related to urbanisation, climate change, and sustainable development.</p>	
<p>Education: We offer programmes that focus on urban planning, sustainable architecture, environmental sustainability and community development, enabling the design, planning, and management of sustainable cities and communities.</p>		
<p>Welsh School of Architecture:</p>	<p>Our BSc/MArch Architecture focuses on sustainable design, environmental impact, and the social aspects of building communities, exploring how to design for energy efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and enhance quality of life. MSc Sustainable Building Conservation seeks to balance the cultural value of heritage with the need for modern sustainability measures.</p>	
<p>School of Geography and Planning</p>	<p>A range of programmes equip students with sustainable skills for urban and regional development. They include BSc Urban and Regional Development which focuses on planning sustainable, resilient cities; MSc Sustainability Planning and Environmental Policy and the MSc Spatial Planning and Development focusing on urban and regional planning, in an environmentally and socially responsible way; and MSc Transport and Planning which emphasises sustainable transportation systems.</p>	
<p>School of Engineering:</p>	<p>MSc Civil and Environmental Engineering focuses on infrastructure design to support sustainable communities.</p>	

Research: Delivering extensive research aimed at developing sustainable cities and improving the quality of urban life as well as green infrastructure, urban regeneration, climate resilience, and sustainable housing.



Research on Urban Resilience: Researchers in the schools of Architecture, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Engineering and Geography and Planning are exploring ways to make cities more resilient to climate change and natural disasters. This includes developing strategies for flood management, sustainable energy systems, and disaster preparedness, informing policy-making and planning.

Sustainable Housing Research: We are involved in research that seeks to make housing more sustainable and affordable, including energy-efficient building technologies, sustainable materials, and innovative housing designs that reduce the carbon footprint while improving the quality of life.

Urban Mobility and Transport Research: Researchers in the schools of Architecture, Geography and planning and Engineering are conducting research on sustainable urban mobility, focusing on improving public transportation, reducing traffic congestion, and encouraging walking and cycling, informing policy development.

Campus Operations: We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and creating a more sustainable campus, in order to serve as a model for sustainable urbanism:


Cardiff City Council Climate emergency board Cardiff University collaborates with local authorities in Wales, particularly **Cardiff Council**, on projects that aim to enhance sustainability including green spaces, public transportation, and promoting collaborative working.

Sustainable Transport on Campus: Cardiff University encourages sustainable transport options for students and staff, including cycling, walking, and the use of public transport. The university has implemented bike-sharing schemes, improved cycling infrastructure, and provided active travel incentives for staff and students.

University travel plan (2022 – 2027) Our 5-year Travel Plan (2022-2027) highlights the key areas we can work together to address the impact that University travel has on the environment, the local area and the health and wellbeing of our staff and students, placing active travel (walking, cycling, wheeling) at the top of an agreed travel hierarchy. It aligns with local and national policy and best practice and includes a focused approach each year on the key elements of our transport operations. Alongside the focused review is an action plan of measures to encourage and support sustainable transport. This year we will be considering a business travel review as part of the plan

Changing Steps Cardiff App: [Changing Steps](#) is designed to help staff and students get around more sustainably, rewarding sustainable travel for commuting and leisure trips to and from campus, and encourages regular walking, running, wheeling, and cycling activity for health and wellbeing. 178,000 active and sustainable journeys were recorded on the Changing Steps Cardiff app between 26 September 2022 and 16 June 2023, with an average of 163 activities per participant. This is an increase from 99,428 reported in the previous 12-month period (27 September 2021 – June 2022).

Green Building Initiatives: Many of Cardiff University’s modern and refurbished buildings are designed to be environmentally friendly, incorporating energy-efficient systems, sustainable materials, and green roofs. The university’s campus development plans focus on reducing carbon emissions, improving energy efficiency, and increasing the use of renewable energy sources.

<p>3.12</p>	<p>SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production</p> <p>We support SDG 12 through programmes, research and sustainability initiatives that focus on sustainable resource management, ethical consumption, waste reduction, and circular economy principles.</p>	
<p>Education: We offer programmes that address sustainable production, responsible consumption, and environmental management.</p>		
<p>School of Geography and Planning:</p>	<p>Our BSc Environmental Geography focuses on understanding the relationship between human activity and the environment, including the impacts of resource extraction, waste generation, and consumption patterns on ecosystems.</p> <p>MSc Sustainability, Planning and Environmental Policy examines how policy-making can promote responsible consumption and sustainable production practices and sustainable supply chains. MSc Environmental Planning focuses on how urban and rural planning can contribute to responsible resource use, including sustainable land use, water management, and waste reduction.</p>	
<p>Cardiff Business School:</p>	<p>Students gain valuable understanding of sustainable business practices through our MSc International Management which provides opportunities to explore how global companies can adopt responsible production methods; and MSc Business Strategy and Entrepreneurship which offers a focus on sustainable entrepreneurship, where students learn how to create businesses that prioritise responsible consumption, green innovation, and the circular economy.</p>	
<p>School of Engineering:</p>	<p>MSc Sustainable Energy and Environment focuses on the engineering and technological solutions needed to promote sustainable energy use and reduce resource consumption and reduce waste. Our MSc Civil and Environmental Engineering: integrates principles of sustainability into civil engineering practices, with a focus on sustainable infrastructure development, efficient use of materials, and waste management.</p>	
<p>Research: Our research initiatives contribute significantly to advancing knowledge in responsible consumption and sustainable production, explore innovative ways to reduce waste, manage resources efficiently, and create sustainable consumption patterns.</p>		
<p>Research on Circular Economy:</p>	<p>Cardiff researchers are involved in projects that explore the transition to a circular economy, where waste is minimised, and resources are reused and recycled. The research focuses on designing products and systems that reduce the need for raw materials, extend product life cycles, and promote responsible consumption practices.</p>	
<p>Food Systems and Sustainability Research:</p>	<p>We are studying ways to make food production and consumption more sustainable, exploring local food systems, reducing food waste, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. The research also examines consumer behaviour and how policies can encourage more responsible consumption choices: reducing meat consumption and supporting local, organic food production.</p>	

Campus Operations: We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and promoting responsible consumption and production practices within the university itself. During 2022-23, the focus was to develop a team to drive Waste Minimisation for the University.



Zero-Waste and Recycling Initiatives:

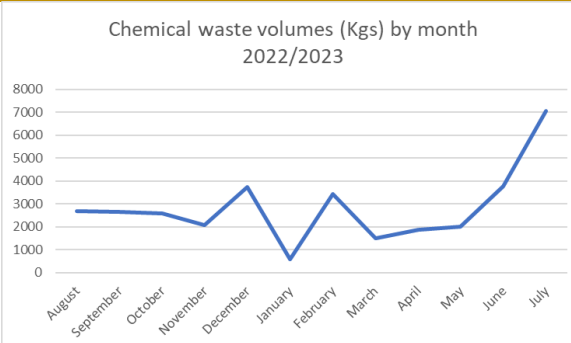
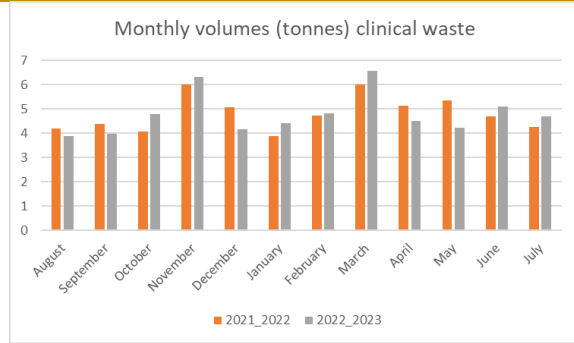
Cardiff University has implemented waste reduction and recycling programs across its campus. These initiatives aim to minimise waste sent to landfills by promoting recycling, composting, and reusing materials. The university also encourages students and staff to adopt zero-waste practices, including single-use plastics and reducing consumption. Our Waste Minimisation Manager joined the University in early July 2023 with an initial focus on completing Waste and Recycling Audits to understand the baseline, and to improve data capture and reporting.

Academic and Residential waste 2022/2023 (including Hazardous waste)

	Tonnes	%
Total Waste	1568.45	-
Recycled*	1438.7	92
(Reuse)	8.8	1
Landfill	36.4	2.3

*Recycled waste also includes reuse, and all domestic waste treated via energy from waste at Viridor. Waste tracking by month 2022/2023

Our general waste and recycling scheme has continued to operate well, and new initiatives are in development, for example introducing a furniture re-use scheme across the University.




Sustainable Procurement Practices:

We have established sustainable procurement policies that prioritize the purchase of eco-friendly, ethically sourced, and resource-efficient products. This includes promoting the use of sustainable materials in construction projects, office supplies, and food services on campus.

Energy and Resource Efficiency in Buildings:

Our commitment to reducing resource consumption extends to our campus buildings, where energy and water efficiency measures have been implemented. The university has retrofitted several buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce resource use and encourages sustainable behaviour among staff and students.

3.13	SDG 13: Climate Action Cardiff University is committed to addressing climate change, promote environmental sustainability, and support global efforts to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.	
Education: Several of our academic programmes focus on climate action, environmental sustainability, and climate-related policy, equipping students with necessary knowledge and skills.		
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences:	BSc Environmental Geography explores the relationship between human activity and the environment, with a strong focus on climate change and sustainability. Our MSc Applied Environmental Geology: focuses on practical applications of the science, including carbon capture and storage (CCS), water resource management, and the sustainable use of natural resource; and our MSc Marine Geography covers the impacts of climate change on marine environments, including rising seas, acidification, and biodiversity changes.	
School of Geography and Planning:	MSc Sustainability, Planning and Environmental Policy focuses on sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental policy, exploring urban resilience and sustainable planning.	
School of Engineering:	Our MSc Sustainable Energy and Environment explores how energy systems can be made more sustainable to mitigate climate change; and MSc Civil and Environmental Engineering integrates climate action with civil engineering, focusing on designing climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable construction practices.	
Research: We conduct extensive research aimed at addressing climate change and developing innovative solutions for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.		
Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research:	The Tyndall Centre at Cardiff University is a leading network of UK universities that focuses on interdisciplinary climate research, covering climate science, policy, and solutions, with projects addressing topics including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Climate resilience and adaptation strategies, Climate-related policy development & Low-carbon transitions.	
Net Zero Innovation Institute	The Institute research is grounded in three key areas – understanding the resources we have available in meeting net zero; asking if it’s possible to mitigate climate impacts by using science and engineering; and supporting the long-term transition to a greener economy.	
Marine and Coastal Research:	We are involved in research that addresses the impact of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems, focusing on rising seas, warming, and acidification, and how coastal communities can adapt.	

Campus Operations: We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and promoting sustainable practices across our campus, aligning our operations with the goals to achieving net-zero carbon emissions. Our Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee chaired by the Deputy Vice-chancellor is responsible for taking forward these targets.





Carbon Reduction Targets
Cardiff University has set ambitious targets to reduce its carbon emissions, in line with global climate goals. We have committed to achieving net zero carbon for scope 1 (direct emissions) and 2 (indirect emissions) by 2030 and before 2050 for scope 3 (indirect emissions). The university is working to achieve net-zero carbon emissions through a combination of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy adoption, and sustainable building practices. A Net Zero Programme Manager began work in June 2023 to develop our Roadmap to Net Zero for Scope 1 & 2 over the coming years. Our roadmap will help identify the projects and activities that need to be undertaken to work towards net zero.


Carbon reporting
This year we submitted our 2021/22 carbon footprint to the Welsh Government for the first time, as part of the Public Sector Net Zero Reporting requirements. Using the Welsh Government reporting standards, our annual emissions were 77,235 tCO₂e. The reporting standards for Scope 1 and 2 emissions are similar to those we have used before and show that our emissions were 14,863 tCO₂e (Scope 1) and 10,034 tCO₂e (Scope 2). The standards for Scope 3 do not align well to Higher Education procurement categorisation, so our reported emissions of 58,338 tCO₂e (Scope 3) are less reliable. We will continue reporting to Welsh Government in future and will use the 2021/22 footprint as our “baseline” for Scopes 1 & 2 going forward; as noted we are also exploring alternative reporting standards which would align us to the Higher Educations sector (EAUC’s Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework (SCEF)).

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency:
We have implemented energy-efficient technologies and infrastructure across our campus. Solar panels, energy-efficient lighting, and smart building systems are used to reduce energy consumption, while investments in renewable energy sources are helping to decarbonize the university’s energy supply.

Sustainable Travel Initiatives:
The university’s travel initiatives aim to reduce carbon emissions from commuting and promote low-impact transport alternatives.

<p>3.14</p>	<p>SDG 14: Life below water</p> <p>We actively support SDG 14 through a variety of academic programs, research initiatives, and operational activities contributing to the protection of marine ecosystems, the sustainable management of marine resources, and the mitigation of human impacts on ocean life.</p>	
<p>Education: We offer programmes that equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and protect marine ecosystems, address pollution, and develop sustainable solutions for managing ocean resources:</p>		
<p>School of Earth and Environmental Sciences:</p>	<p>Our BSc and MSci Marine Geography focuses on understanding the physical, chemical, and biological processes that shape the world’s oceans and coastal environments, along with human impacts. MSc Applied Environmental Geology covers environmental challenges related to both land and sea, and focuses on the sustainable use of marine resources, marine resource extraction, marine pollution, and coastal erosion, all of which relate to the conservation of life below water.</p>	
<p>School of Biosciences:</p>	<p>BSc Biological Sciences with Marine Ecology focuses on marine biology, , marine biodiversity, ocean ecosystems, and the effects of human-induced changes like climate change and pollution on marine life; and our MSc Global Ecology and Conservation focuses on the conservation and management of natural environments, exploring biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management, and policy development aimed at protecting ocean and marine life from the effects of human activities.</p>	
<p>Research: We are home to several research institutes and centres dedicated to studying marine environments, marine biodiversity, reducing pollution, and developing sustainable marine management practices.</p>		
<p>Marine and Coastal Research</p>	<p>Researchers in Earth and Biosciences conduct interdisciplinary research on the physical, biological, and chemical processes affecting marine and coastal ecosystems, including marine biodiversity; coastal dynamics and climate change, investigating the impact of rising sea levels, ocean warming, and acidification on marine ecosystems; and pollution.</p>	
<p>Water research institute</p>	<p>Our Water Research institute is an interdisciplinary community addressing the grand challenge of sustaining water for people and ecosystems in a changing world, with thematic areas of research covering water security, water solutions, water catchment systems, pollution and water for health and wellbeing.</p>	
<p>Seagrass Ecosystem Research:</p>	<p>We are undertaking research focused on seagrass ecosystems, which are vital for carbon sequestration, providing habitat for marine species, and protecting coastlines. Seagrass meadows are under threat and our research is working to understand how these ecosystems can be restored and managed sustainably to support marine biodiversity and ecosystems.</p>	
<p>Plastic Pollution Research:</p>	<p>Plastic pollution is a significant threat to life below water, and our researchers are investigating ways to address this issue. Studies are being conducted on the impacts of microplastics on marine organisms and ecosystems, as well as efforts to reduce plastic waste through better waste management practices, recycling, and the development of biodegradable materials.</p>	

Campus Operations: We seek to promote sustainability on our campus, through several initiatives aiming to reduce the environmental impact of our operations, including:		
Plastic Reduction Initiatives:	We have implemented a range of plastic reduction initiatives to minimise single-use plastics on campus, including encouraging students and staff to reduce their plastic consumption, reuse materials, and recycle waste as well as engagement with the LEAF initiative across our laboratories.	
Sustainable Food and Seafood Choices:	Our catering services promote the use of sustainable seafood, ensuring that fish and seafood served on campus are sourced from sustainable fisheries; supporting global efforts to reduce overfishing and promote responsible consumption of marine resources.	

3.15	SDG 15: Life on Land	
	We support SDG 15 through a wide range of fields related to the conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity protection.	
Education: We offer a variety of programmes focussing on environmental science, conservation biology, and the sustainable management of land-based ecosystems.		
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences:	BSc Environmental Geography explores human activity and terrestrial ecosystems, with a focus on sustainable land use, conservation of natural resources, and environmental policy; and our BSc Environmental Sustainability Science addresses the challenges of balancing human development with the conservation of ecosystems.	
School of Biosciences:	Our BSc Biological Sciences with Ecology focuses on the ecological aspects of life on land, studying interactions between organisms and their environments, emphasising fieldwork and research to develop practical skills. Students can advance their studies with our MSc Global Ecology and Conservation which addresses global ecological challenges,; and MSc Conservation Practice which enables students to address biodiversity loss and habitat degradation.	
Research: World-leading research aiming to protecting terrestrial ecosystems, conserving biodiversity, and restoring degraded landscapes.		
Forest and Woodland Research:	Our researchers are involved in projects focused on the conservation and sustainable management of forests and woodlands. These ecosystems are vital for biodiversity, carbon storage, and soil health, and are under threat from deforestation, logging, and land-use changes.	
Biodiversity and Species Conservation:	Our researchers focus on protecting endangered species and restoring habitats; studying species' ecological roles, population dynamics, and the threats they face from habitat loss, climate change, and human activity.	
Soil and Land Degradation Research:	The degradation of soils and land ecosystems is a critical concern for SDG 15 and our researchers are investigating ways to prevent and reverse soil degradation (soil restoration) enhance soil health and promote sustainable land-use practices including sustainable agriculture.	

Campus Operations: Our commitment to SDG15 is reflected in our commitment to minimising our impact on land ecosystems and promoting biodiversity.



Biodiversity on Campus: We are committed to enhancing biodiversity on our campus by maintaining green spaces, planting native species, and creating wildlife-friendly habitats. Our campus features sustainable landscaping practices that support biodiversity, reduce the need for artificial inputs, and provide habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife.

Sustainable Land Management Practices: We implement sustainable land management practices on our properties, including reducing pesticide use, conserving water, and promoting soil health. Our grounds management strategies focus on protecting the environment and promoting biodiversity through eco-friendly practices.


Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration Projects: We pro-actively participate in tree planting and habitat restoration initiatives aimed at enhancing biodiversity and restoring degraded ecosystems. These projects contribute to carbon sequestration, soil health improvement, and the creation of habitats for native species.


Ecosystem Resilience and Biodiversity Action Plan (ERBAP) In 2022/23 we completed our Environment (Wales) Act section 6 biodiversity reporting requirements. Our achievements in the last 12 months include: We carried out a full inventory of our mature trees in 2021 and 2022 to inform our replanting strategy which, together with Cardiff City Council’s Coed Caerdydd urban canopy project, intends to improve tree canopy cover in the city to 25% by 2030. As part of the GW4 Green Alliance, we received funding for a living lab project enabling us to run an event with sessions on forest management. This funded the first of our tree planting events in partnership with Cardiff Council at Talybont.





We have supported Plantlife’s #NoMowMay for a third year, which benefited the wildflowers and wildlife, playing a part in sequestering our carbon emissions. A green space survey was conducted in December 2022 with the ERBAP Steering Group and our grounds contractor to identify areas where our green space could be “low managed” to benefit nature and the environment. This has resulted in positive actions including leaving spaces wild, delaying trimming of shrubs and bushes, leaving fallen leaves, making log piles for wildlife and leaving areas of grounds unmanaged for wildlife.

Hedgehog Friendly Campus The University was awarded Silver Accreditation in February 2023 for our successful activity for hedgehogs and other wildlife. We ran several campaigns across the year, including #LeavetheLeaves campaign, delivering our first #Homes4Wildlife workshop, and organising litter pick events. We found hedgehogs at 14 sites across the University. Biodiversity initiatives have been installed in multiple locations to help increase wildlife. We continued engagement sessions with university staff and students, attendance at student fairs and wellbeing events, and engaged with local community groups, primary schools and scout groups. In March, we were awarded an Earth Hour 2023 Community Activity Grant to support our ‘MiniHavens’ project, which aims to encourage people in Wales to create habitats and homes for wildlife on their doorsteps.

3.16	<p>SDG 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions</p> <p>We support SDG 16 through fostering knowledge, leadership, and innovation in areas related to law, governance, human rights, and social justice.</p>	
<p>Education: We offer a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate courses across different schools that focus on law, governance, human rights, and conflict resolution.</p>		
<p>School of Law and Politics:</p>	<p>The School of Law and Politics at Cardiff University is a key contributor to education in fields directly related to peace, justice, and strong institutions. Through its degree programmes, students learn about legal frameworks, governance, and the importance of strong institutions in promoting social justice and human rights. For example, our LLB Law equips students with an understanding of legal systems, principles of justice, and the role of law in maintaining peace and order, and our LLB Law and Politics directly addresses SDG 16 by preparing graduates to contribute to the development of strong, accountable institutions and fair legal systems. While our MA International Relations examines global governance, diplomacy, and the resolution of international conflicts, addressing topics such as international law, human rights, and peacebuilding central to enabling students to contribute to peace and justice initiatives worldwide. MA Global Governance focuses on global institutions and the role they play in maintaining peace and promoting justice, ensuring accountability and human rights on a global scale. Finally, our LLM Human Rights Law provides advanced training in international and domestic human rights frameworks, addressing issues such as civil liberties, social justice, and the legal protections for vulnerable populations. This provides an understanding of how legal systems can support peace and justice, both within national borders and internationally.</p>	
<p>School of Social Sciences:</p>	<p>Students can examine the societal issues related to crime, justice, and social policy through our BSc Criminology and Social Policy, addressing SDG 16 by understanding how justice systems can be improved to ensure fairness and reduce inequality. MSc Crime, Safety, and Justice focuses on understanding crime prevention, criminal justice policies, and the role of institutions in promoting safety and security; and our MSc Public Policy focuses on the design and implementation of policies at local, national, and international levels, emphasising accountability, transparency, and social justice.</p>	
<p>Research: We are involved in a wide range of research initiatives that contribute to SDG 16, focusing on human rights, governance, legal reform, and conflict resolution.</p>		
<p>Cardiff Centre for Law and Society (CCLS):</p>	<p>We conduct interdisciplinary research that explores the role of law in society, focusing on the interaction between legal institutions and social justice. These include criminal justice reform, examining the effectiveness of criminal justice systems in promoting fairness, human rights and legal protections, and reducing inequality; ; and studying how legal systems protect vulnerable populations, promote civil liberties, and ensure accountability.</p>	

Research: Cont'd		
The Wales Governance Centre (WGC):	The centre conducts research on issues related to devolution, constitutional law, and governance in Wales and the UK. Its work is relevant to SDG 16 as it addresses questions of governance, accountability, and the development of inclusive political institutions.	
Research on Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding:	Our researchers address international Relations and Political Science aiming to understand and resolve international conflicts, such as peace processes and conflict resolution, examining how international organisations, governments, and non-state actors can work together to resolve conflicts and build lasting peace and post-conflict reconstruction; Researching strategies for rebuilding societies and institutions after conflict, while promoting justice and social cohesion.	

3.17	SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals	
	We collaborate across sectors, disciplines, and borders to drive progress towards sustainable development goals through education, research, and operational activities.	
Education		
Several of our academic programmes emphasise the importance of global collaboration and partnerships in tackling global challenges.		
School of Law and Politics:	Our MA International Relations focuses on global governance, international institutions, and diplomacy, enabling students to learn how international partnerships can address global issues, of poverty, climate change, and inequality. LLM International Trade Law explores the legal frameworks governing global trade and their role in economic development, and how businesses can facilitate fair trade practices, sustainable economic growth, and the achievement of the SDGs.	
School of Business:	The Cardiff Business School is a signatory to the UN PRME initiative, which promotes responsible management education and aligns business education with the goals of the UN, including SDG 17. By embedding ethical leadership, sustainability, and social responsibility into the curriculum, Cardiff Business School fosters the next generation of leaders who will contribute to global partnerships for sustainable development. MSc International Management prepares students to work in multinational organisations, emphasising cross-border collaboration and international partnerships, covering covers topics including global supply chains, international trade, and sustainable business practices. Our MBA (Master of Business Administration) includes a strong focus on global business and the role of partnerships in driving sustainable development.	
School of Social Sciences:	MSc Social and Public Policy addresses the role of public-private partnerships and international cooperation in the development of effective policies, exploring how collaborative efforts between governments, the private sector, and civil society can address global challenges..	

<p>Research: Numerous research projects focus on building partnerships across disciplines, sectors, and borders to tackle global challenges, with much of the university's research designed to encourage collaboration between academic institutions, governments, NGOs, and industry:</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 
<p>Wales Governance Centre:</p>	<p>The Wales Governance Centre conducts research on issues related to governance, devolution, and public policy, often in collaboration with international partners. Its work supports SDG 17 by examining how collaborative governance structures can improve decision-making and policy implementation, both at national and international levels.</p> <p>Welsh Government Partnerships: Cardiff University works closely with the Welsh Government on various projects related to sustainability, social justice, and economic development. These partnerships contribute to SDG 17 by supporting public policies and initiatives that align with the SDGs. The university's research and expertise help inform government strategies on issues such as climate action, public health, and social inequality.</p>
<p>Our Research Partnerships:</p>	<p>Cardiff University is involved in various large-scale research partnerships that contribute to SDG 17 by fostering collaboration across disciplines and sectors. Some of the notable partnerships include Horizon 2020 Projects and Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). We have been a significant participant in the European Union's Horizon 2020 research framework, collaborating with universities, industries, and governments across Europe on projects related to sustainability, technology, and innovation. Our part in GCRF projects has enabled focus on addressing global challenges through partnerships between UK-based researchers and institutions in developing countries, spanning areas such as climate resilience, public health, and sustainable development.</p>
<p>Campus Operations: We demonstrate our commitment to SDG 17 through institutional policies and frameworks that emphasise sustainability and global collaboration.</p>	
<p>Environmental Sustainability Strategy:</p>	<p>We have an Environmental Sustainability Strategy that seeks to align our operations and activities with the UN SDGs. This strategy emphasises the importance of building partnerships with governments, businesses, and civil society to achieve sustainability goals. The university's commitment to sustainability is also evident in its partnerships with local authorities, industry, local, regional and international organisations.</p>
<p>Sustainable Campus Initiatives:</p>	<p>We have implemented several campus initiatives that demonstrate our commitment to sustainability and partnerships, including working with local councils and organisations to promote green infrastructure, reduce carbon emissions, and foster collaboration on environmental sustainability projects.</p>

4.0 Measuring progress

4.1 Times Higher Impact Ranking

The THE Impact Rankings measure how Universities across the world are embedding the SDG's. Universities have been able to enter information about their work to the Times Higher Education (THE) since 2019. This is the third year that Cardiff has taken part.

In 2023 we were ranked 52nd out of 1591 ranked institutions worldwide. This is a substantial improvement compared to 2022, where the university ranked 101-200th out of 1410 institutions.

Cardiff's overall score improved from 88.5% to 91.2%.

For the 2023 ranking, Cardiff submitted data for ten SDGs, the same ones as last year. The overall score consists of our scores for SDG 17 and 3 of our best SDGs. For 2023, this was SDG12, SDG 14 and SDG 15.

For the first time we have an SDG ranked in the top 10 (SDG14 Life Below Water) and three in the top 25. Cardiff had four SDGs ranked in the top 50, compared to three in 2022:

- **SDG14:** Life Below Water – 6th, up from 55th (top 12.4% globally) and 1stth in the UK
- **SDG15:** Life on Land – 11th, up from 26th (top 14.4% globally) and 4th in the UK
- **SDG12:** Responsible Consumption and Production – 24th, up from 90th (top 3.6% globally) and 12th in the UK.
- **SDG3:** Good Health and Wellbeing – 31st, up from 41st (top 5.2% globally) and 1st in the UK

SDG13: Climate action – ranked 60th (top 6% globally) and 17th in the UK. The university also moved into the top 100 on the compulsory SDG17. Out of the 10 SDGs submitted, seven improved their rank, with the biggest change to SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production, up 66 places, and returning to a similar score as in the first submission in 2021. All SDGs submitted ranked in the top quartile except for SDG8 Economic Growth.

4.2 QS World University Rankings for Sustainability

Cardiff was ranked 25th in the QS World University Rankings for Sustainability 2023, published on 26 October 2022. The highest scoring areas were Environmental Research (87.6), Health and Wellbeing (88.6) and Knowledge Exchange (83.2).

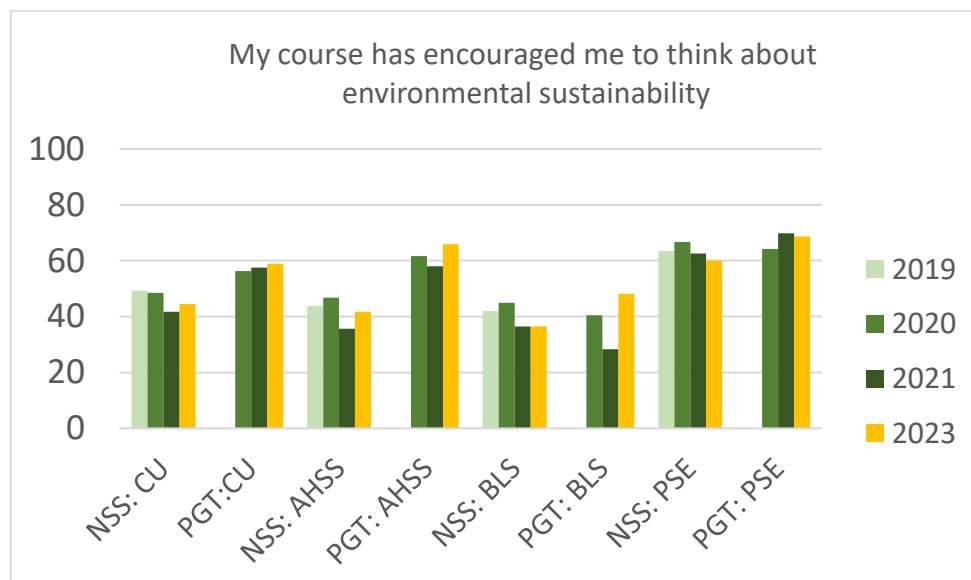
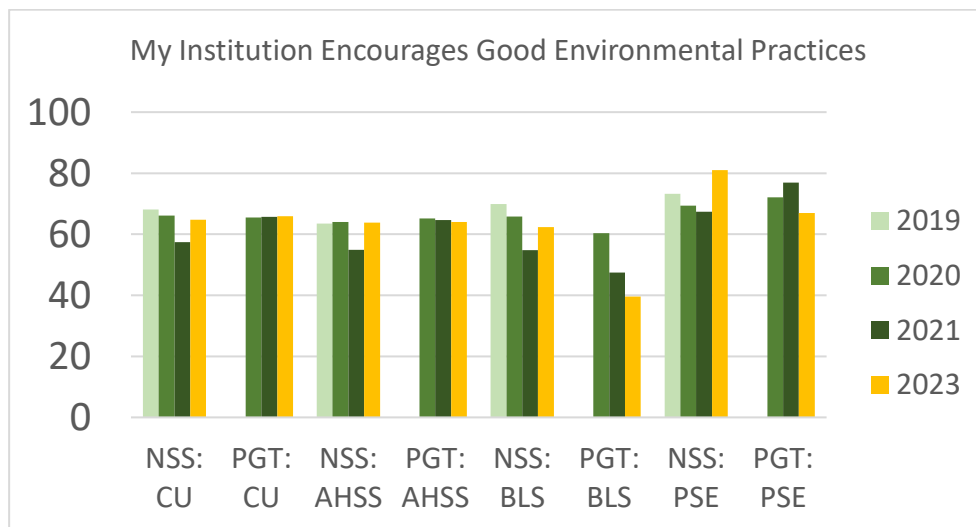
This was the first year of the QS Sustainability Rankings. 700 universities were assessed using a methodology comprised of indicators designed to measure an institution's ability to tackle the world's greatest environmental, social and governance (ESG) challenges.

Indicators are split into environmental sustainability measures – including sustainable institutions, sustainable education and sustainable research – and social impact measures, which includes equality, knowledge exchange, educational impact, employability and opportunities, and quality of life.

4.3 Student Voice

The student voice provides a further evaluation as to how we are delivering in terms of sustainability as an institutional. We collect student feedback via NSS, CUPTS and PRES from relevant environmental sustainability optional questions (that we currently opt into). It is noted that there are known limitations associated with this data including bias due to the optional nature of the questions as well as the depth of student understanding of the meaning of environmental sustainability. The latter should only improve over time as we see programmes of study commit to deliver such knowledge as core to all student experience, driven by enhancements to programme design, while the former can only be addressed through changes to national surveys.

Reporting on this for the past few years is provided below:



NB: CU – Cardiff University / AHSS – College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences / BLS College of Biomedical and Life Sciences / PSE: College of Physical Sciences and Engineering.

Achievement of 80% as an institution for this – the benchmark for other aspects of student feedback could be considered.