A Guide to Sustainability at UCL
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Policy and Strategy

Sustainability Policy

UCL has a Sustainability Policy that sets out its high-level sustainability objectives. This Policy has been signed off by UCL President and Provost Professor Michael Arthur [view signed version] and is reviewed annually by the Environmental Sustainability Steering Group as part of the ESMS annual review.

Targets and Strategy

The Sustainability Policy is supported by the Sustainability Strategy. The Strategy was approved by UCL Council in 2013 and we are currently in the process of revising the strategy. To maintain our momentum, a set of interim targets have been established, drawing on targets and commitments which are already in place. Specific areas of operation also have dedicated policies and plans. See below for further details:

- UCL’s Travel Plan
- UCL’s Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- UCL’s Healthy and Sustainable Food Policy and Strategy
- UCL’s Carbon Management Plan
- UCL’s Fairtrade Policy
- UCL’s Procurement Policy and Strategy
- UCL’s Communications and Engagement Plan

Annual report

UCL’s sustainability progress is reported annually. A copy of our 2016/17 Annual Report can be found here. Read UCL’s Sustainability Annual Report (.pdf).

UCL’s Governing Body, the Council, also reviews annual assessments based on reports produced by the Audit Committee. The Council continuously identifies, evaluates and manages key risks and internal controls, up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. The process is subject to regular review, and accords with the internal control guidance for directors in the UK Corporate Governance Code, as deemed appropriate for higher education. Included in the reviews and evaluations is UCL’s progress to reducing its environmental impact.
**Budget for Sustainability**

**Capital budget**

UCL is spending £1.2 billion on its estate over the next 10 years. As part of this, UCL requires all capital and strategic maintenance projects to achieve the requirements set out in its Sustainable Building Standard (and repeated in the interim targets). This sets highly ambitious targets for the integration of sustainability into projects.

In addition, UCL will be investing £4.5 million in energy saving improvements/environmental projects to existing buildings over the next 5 years. This investment will include renewable energy projects, greening projects, insulation, more efficient equipment (such as boilers and lights), and improving the central control system for heating, cooling and lighting. Energy bill savings from these actions will be reinvested into further energy efficiency projects.

In the past year, some of the energy/environmental projects have included:

- Improvements to the building management systems
- Investment in new lighting systems
- Replacement of inefficient lab equipment

**Operational budget**

In addition, UCL continues to provide financial support to a number of operational sustainability initiatives including:

- Engagement with the UCL community through Green Impact, Reduce the Juice and other initiatives
- The development of new institutional initiatives such as the Logistics programme and a Lab Efficiency programme
- Support for departmental initiatives

UCL provides a dedicated budget of over £50,000 a year for sustainability engagement with the UCL community, plus over £250,000 for environmental improvement projects. This has remained constant over the past five years to enable the delivery of UCL's strategic goals. For further information see our website.
Staff for Sustainability

Governance

Sustainability is a working partnership throughout UCL. UCL takes its environmental/sustainability commitments extremely seriously. High level sponsorship, leadership and resource allocation for our sustainability programme is provided by the Provost and the Council through the Senior Management Team (SMT). UCL's sustainability programme is reviewed annually by the Environmental Sustainability Steering Group (see below) and SMT.

Environmental Sustainability Steering Group (ESSG)

The ESSG has been identified by the Senior Management Team as the forum for all key stakeholder representations (including students and Union representatives) to meet, review and agree key environmental/sustainability initiatives, propose targets and monitor performance. Decisions made by the ESSG are reported to UCL’s Senior Management Team and, subject to the nature of decision, to UCL's Council. Terms of reference for the ESSG can be found here. The responsibilities for the Chair can also be found here. Members of the ESSG include:

Chair: Professor Geraint Rees (Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, member of SMT)
Secretariat: Richard Jackson (Director, Sustainability)

- Dr Clare Bentall (VP office, Education)
- Ms Aimee Kleinman (UCL Communications and Marketing)
- Mr Andrew Dawson (ISD)
- Mr John Feraday (Procurement)
- Mrs Francesca Fryer (Estates)
- Mr Max Hill (HR & governance)
- Dr James Paskins (VP office, Research)
- Professor Sarah Bell (Dept of Civil, Environ & Geomatic Eng)
- Dr Ben Croxford (Bartlett School Env, Energy & Resources)
- Professor Jane Holder (SLASH & Faculty of Law)
- Dr Ilan Kelman (Inst for Risk & Disaster Reduction)
- Professor Susan Michie (Clinical, Edu & Health Psychology)
- Professor Yvonne Rydin (Bartlett School of Planning)
The UCL Sustainability Team

The UCL Sustainability Team drives forward the university’s key sustainability aims. The team works with the UCL community to embed sustainability into research, buildings and behaviours at UCL, and beyond. The work seeks to improve sustainability literacy, increase efficiency, save money and help create more pleasant spaces to work and study. Find out more about what we do, and view the team profiles. All staff at UCL Sustainability can be contacted via the Green UCL webpage.

Team Structure
**Green Champions**

Green Champions are a network of staff and student volunteers. They work together to make UCL a cleaner, greener, more sustainable place to work and study.

Green Champions support UCL’s sustainability agenda and help improve UCL’s environmental performance. The UCL Academic Manual now stipulates that all departments should have a member of staff charged with environmental responsibilities and having a Green Champion is an excellent way to achieve this. To find out more view our Green Champion page.

**Student representation**

UCL has a number of formal committees. Membership of many of the Committee includes student representation:

- Council – Student representation is provided by the Sustainability, Engagement and Operations Officer of the UCL Union, see here.
- Finance Committee – Student representation is provided by the Sustainability, Engagement and Operations Officer.
- Investment Committee – Student representation is provided by the Sustainability, Engagement and Operations Officer, see here.
- Estates matters are discussed at the Estates Management Committee but reported to the Finance Committee

A full list of formal committees and reporting lines for each committee can be found here.

**Environmental Auditing & Management Systems**

**UCL’s Environmental Management System**

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a tool for managing an organisation's impact on the environment. It provides a structured approach to reducing pollution, ensuring legal compliance and driving continuous improvements to environmental and sustainability performance.

UCL has been using EcoCampus, a leading environmental management and award scheme for the higher and further education sectors to structure this work.

After a comprehensive audit in June 2018, covering UCL’s entire UK activities, UCL achieved
the EcoCampus Platinum standard as well as the latest international standard for environmental management, ISO 14001:2015. To find out more about what the ISO accreditation means view our [website here](#) or take our [EMS Moodle course](#) to learn about our EMS system.

**Environmental Audits**

UCL has audited a range of its environmental/sustainability impacts to reach its sustainable commitments.

**Water**

Baseline water and sewerage consumption figures are provided in the [Carbon Management Plan](#). We measure and monitor water consumption per building through our existing metering systems. We are also investigating the installation of half-hourly water meters across the estate over the next year to be able to highlight potential areas for improvement more clearly. One of the buildings where we have the highest water consumption is our Chemistry building. We have therefore targeted our auditing in this building. The recommendations from this audit are currently being implemented.

**Sustainable Procurement**

In 2015 [The Responsible Procurement Code (RPC)](#) audited UCL’s procurement policies and practices to determine whether UCL is reaching its sustainable commitments. UCL was awarded a Silver certification under the RPC. View our [RPC audit report](#).

We are currently working towards the RPC Gold award.

**Travel and Transport**

UCL’s current Green Travel Plan was formed on data from surveys in 2013 which determined the travel modes of students and staff, the number of delivery and service vehicles undertaken and the availability of cycle parking space and shower facilities.

In 2018/19 UCL will be running student and staff questionnaires to update information on commuting times. There will also be a new cycle parking strategy based on a cycle parking audit undertaken in early 2016. The sustainability team will also be trialing new cycle racks. UCL Sustainability team has also been working with the Bartlett’s School of Planning to audit their business/academic travel. The results of this will determine how we will tackle business
travel emissions.

**Biodiversity**

UCL has a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which helps to inform the focus of our biodiversity work. For example, the BAP has been used to determine interventions which are bought forward by the capital programme.

A Bioblitz programme to educate Biodiversity Champions on how to recognise and then record the results of interventions has been set up to enhance UCL’s understanding of biodiversity and provide vital feedback to the Greater London population. Find out more on the society here. **You can view our Biodiversity Action Plan here.**

**Construction & Refurbishment**

The UCL Sustainable Building Standard provides the main framework for implementing and auditing sustainability for built environment projects at UCL. For larger new build, refurbishment and fit-out projects this is underpinned by the BREEAM and Ska assessment methodologies to ensure a robust evidence trail. A simplified ‘Mini-Ska’ tool is also used on a range of small-scale engineering, maintenance and repair works (60 projects to date). The use of these standards helps to highlight opportunities to improve building performance in relation to overall environmental impact, user satisfaction, and life cycle value.

The chart below shows the number of current projects which are making use of these methods, and the ratings which we have achieved, or expect to achieve in the near future.
Ethical Investment

UCL’s Investment Policy is centred around 5 core ethical investment principles. This Policy commits that UCL will not invest in a particular company in the following circumstances:

- Where such investment might conflict, or be inconsistent, with the aims, objectives or activities of UCL. For example, investment in the tobacco industry would be inconsistent with and would conflict with UCL’s research into cancer.
- Where such investment might hamper the work of UCL either by alienating financial supporters or potential financial supporters; or by having a material impact on applications from potential students.
- Where such investment, while not excluded by virtue of (i) or (ii) above, is considered by UCL to be unethical, based on a review by UCL’s Investment Committee.

You can read the full policy here: www.ucl.ac.uk/finance/policies-procedures/investment-policy

Investment Committee

The ethical principles outlined in UCL’s Investment Policy are upheld and reviewed through UCL’s Investment Committee, which reports through Finance Committee to Council, UCL’s governing body.

The Committee considers requests from the UCL community (including all staff, students and alumni) to review the ethical standing of stocks and sectors within UCL’s current investment portfolio.

The Committee includes student representation with the current UCL Union Democracy, Operations and Community Sabbatical Officer in attendance, who voices any concerns raised by the wider student community, including Fossil Free UCL

UCL’s Investment Committee undertakes ‘negative screening’, i.e. the exclusion of stocks from the existing portfolio on the grounds that such stocks do not meet the ethical standards of UCL.

Future Commitments
UCL Council met on the 12th July 2016 to decide on UCL’s revised approach to investment which reflects a transition to a low carbon future. The committee evaluated many options and decided to follow the principles of the Sarasin Climate Active Endowment Fund, provided by its incumbent fund manager Sarasin.

This will come into effect in October 2017 following a decision by UCL Council as to whether to keep all of UCL’s Investment Portfolio with Sarasin or to invest half of the portfolio with another fund manager (still following the Climate Active Principles).

From October 2017 UCL will ensure that its investment portfolio is focussing on companies which are taking active steps to reduce their impact on the climate. In addition UCL commits to:

- No investment in tobacco.
- No investment in companies with more than 10% of turnover in mining thermal coal or tar sands, arms manufacture, alcohol, gambling or pornography.
- No investment in other fossil fuel companies not taking seriously their responsibilities to assist with the transition to a low carbon economy and/or not reducing emissions (following attempted engagement from UCL).
- No investment in companies that persistently and needlessly emit significant quantities of carbon into the atmosphere, (following engagement from UCL).
- Other qualitative judgements, e.g. predatory lending, aggressive tax avoidance, poor corporate governance, violation of international law etc. to be considered.

**Active Engagement**

UCL will retain some control over investment choices while following these socially responsible and active engagement principles. This means taking a holistic approach to ethical investment, addressing a broad range of matters including taking an active stance in respect of climate change. UCL recognises that companies with business models based in a carbon economy, which are not transitioning to a low carbon economy, do not represent sound financial and ethical investments. As an investor, UCL will always try to first influence and engage with companies to deliver more sustainable practices, before withdrawing funds.

We will do this in the following way:

- **Identify** – UCL reviews all of its investments quarterly and identifies companies that are heavy carbon emitters.
• **Engage** – UCL communicates with companies a desire to withdraw investment if they are not transitioning to a low carbon economy, emit significant CO2 and are not reducing emissions.

• **Review** – UCL considers response and actions from companies.

• **Withdraw** – UCL withdraws investment from companies that do not respond, take action, or otherwise do not meet UCL’s satisfaction.

As part of this review process UCL will initially divest from a number of companies which are considered not to be on a transition path to a low carbon future.

UCL’s approach is to use our investment influence to persuade companies to adopt a corporate strategy which reduces their climate impacts. UCL may therefore invest in these companies in the future provided they have taken significant steps towards a low carbon operating model.

**Fund breakdown**

![UCL Portfolio by Sector As at 30th June 2017](image)

**Managing Carbon**
UCL has a Carbon Management Plan to outline its objectives for delivering carbon emission reductions. You can read the Carbon Management Plan here.

This Carbon Management Plan is a revision of the 2011 Plan which was designed and planned in association with the Carbon Trust, as part of its Higher Education Carbon Management Programme. The new Carbon Management Plan was approved by UCL Council in July 2016.

Factors informing this revision include:

The experience gained in implementing the 2011 Strategy

- An expansion of the scope of the plan to encompass the entirety of UCL’s activities, including recent mergers with Institute of Education and the School of Pharmacy
- Better quality carbon data
- The need to address Scope 3 emissions (including those from water, waste, travel and procurement) in preparation for setting appropriate reduction targets

A key development at UCL since the 2011 Strategy has been the adoption of the UCL Environmental Sustainability Policy and Strategy and this Carbon Management Plan implements key objectives within those documents. It is recognised that communications and training are essential for the effective implementation the Policy and this Carbon Management Plan.

Copy of the Carbon Management Plan Implementation Plan setting out the measures to be undertaken to deliver our targets can be found here.

Annual progress on the implementation of the plan and results from the projects listed within the plan is set out in the 2017 update. This also addresses the commitment to establish Scope 3 baselines and targets for waste, water, procurement and travel, this can be found here.

**Workers’ Rights**

UCL is committed to acquiring goods and services for its use without causing harm to others. In doing so, UCL is committed to supporting the UK Government’s approach to implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

In implementing this approach UCL supports the Base Code of the Ethical Trading Initiative:
• Employment is freely chosen
• Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are respected
• Working conditions are safe and hygienic
• Child labour shall not be used
• Living wages are paid
• Working hours are not excessive
• No discrimination is practiced
• Regular employment is provided
• No harsh or inhumane treatment is allowed

A Fairtrade University

UCL and UCLU (University College London Union) support the principles, ethos and aspirations of Fairtrade and commit to using, selling and promoting Fairtrade products through all of our outlets and relevant activities.

A Fairtrade Steering Group has been set up which will implement and oversee compliance with UCL’s Fairtrade Policy. It will be fully representative of the university’s student, administrative, academic and business activity and will include representatives from:

• UCL’s catering providers
• UCL Sustainability Team
• UCLU
• Facilities Services
• Procurement Services
• Residences

To find out more view our Fairtrade Policy.

Fairtrade Status

In 2009 UCL successfully applied to become a Fairtrade university accredited by the Fairtrade Foundation. UCL has neglected to renew this application but has continued to support and raise Fairtrade sales and engagement. UCL is currently applying for the status to recognise our efforts and aim to have certification for this within the 2017/2018 academic year.

Policies on Slavery and Human Trafficking
We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business. Preliminary work is under way to develop an Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy. This will reflect our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships, and to implement and enforce systems and controls to prevent slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains.

**Supplier Engagement**

UCL has successfully worked with its catering contractor to help achieve the Silver Food for Life award. UCL wishes suppliers be ambitious in their performance and believe in supporting such suppliers.

We have built a collaboration between our catering company, waste company, and a start up to recycle coffee grounds into biofuel. We additionally are the first university to trial recycling coffee cups. UCL are open to ideas and collaborations from suppliers, as we understand innovation is key to our goals.

**Electronics Watch**

Our IT and other equipment is predominantly procured through SUPC, who are members of the Electronics Watch. This ensures we are supporting labour rights for workers of these manufacturers.

**NET positive**

We have recently adopted the NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool. The tool helps suppliers to create a simple, free sustainability action plan for their business, which we can view. This will enable us to communicate and support even more suppliers and help then address their sustainability issues. Going forward all new prospective suppliers will have to complete an action plan. The tool will be a key monitoring device for tracking supplier performance.

Initially, the tool will capture UCL’s tier 1 suppliers. Following this, we will seek to engage with tier 2 suppliers in selected priority categories. This will map out UCL’s supply chain and manufacturing locations where we have influence over. We will be able to address and reform these selected supply chains, utilising the Net Positive Tool.
Sustainable Food

*Sustainable Food Policy*

UCL has established a Healthy and Sustainable Food Policy and Strategy to ensure that UCL meets high environmental and socially responsible standards for the food offered through its catering partners, and to encourage healthy and sustainable food production and consumption. For further details see our [Healthy and Sustainable Food Policy and Strategy](#).

The policy covers all of the catering, hospitality and vending services operating under the UCL centrally managed catering contract including temporary facilities where in use. The Policy supports the strategic objectives detailed within the UCL Catering Services Strategy and it is recommended that the Policy or commitments contained within it are implemented across other areas of UCL serviced by separate locally-managed contracts.

The sustainability food policy is annually reported on to the ESSG.

*Sustainable Food Framework*

UCL has implemented a comprehensive framework for continual improvement in sustainable food and catering. This is audited and verified by the Food for Life Catering Mark award. Sodexo, UCL’s catering partner has achieved the Food for Life Catering Mark at UCL. [You can see the breakdown of their achievements here](#).

*Contracts*

Tender specification documents for UCL’s food suppliers include the requirement for service and supply standards to be met and delivered, as outlined within the Environmental Sustainability Strategy for UCL and implemented through the UCL Healthy and Sustainable Food Policy. The Contractor will familiarise themselves with both documents and as appropriate, contribute to their implementation, on-going revision and development.

*Sustainable Food Actions*

**Local Food**

UCL’s catering contractor uses local suppliers whenever possible. The chicken used in UCL’s catering outlets is from Suffolk and seasonal fruit and vegetables are used on UCL’s menus. In November Sodexo promoted English apples while in July they promoted English strawberries. Local ales are also supplied. Further info on these initiatives can be found in
the quarterly sustainable food reports.

Water Fountains

All UCL buildings undergoing refurbishments must comply with the RICs, SKA environmental assessment tool for sustainability fit outs. In line with the assessment, all buildings which don't have a dedicated breakout space for staff or students, must provide one with a hot and cold drinking tap when being refurbished.

UCL also has water fountains located across the campus including 2 in the JBR, 1 in each of the refectories in the School of Pharmacy and Institute of Child Health, and 1 in the Engineering Building, the Christopher Ingold Building, and in the South Cloisters, see the water map here. In the 2018-19 academic year UCL is rolling out a campus-wide water fountain scheme to encourage the Oneless bottle Revolution.

Sodexo has additionally put in water stations in their catering outlets to encourage customers to choose water, the healthier drink option for lunch.

Fish

Marine Stewardship Council: All our university catering outlets are certified to Marine Stewardship Council standards, you can view the certificate here.

Community Food

UCL provides space and support for student and staff-led sustainable food projects. See some of our projects below:

- **Bentham’s Farm**: UCL’s student-led allotment project
- **IOE Garden Project**: UCL’s student-led gardening project aimed at boosting biodiversity on the roof of the UCL IOE
- **The Global Generation Skip Garden**: Movable community garden being built with students from the Bartlett School of Architecture.

Students at UCL can volunteer their time with sustainability food projects via UCLU’s Volunteering Services Unit. For example **Zero Food Waste** is a new project at UCL that aims to tackle food waste on campus. They re-distribute food from where it is in excess to where it is in need: from UCL cafés to homeless shelters.
Staff and Student Engagement

Engagement Strategy

UCL is committed to student and staff engagement for sustainability. This is supported by the second strategic objective in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy which is “to enable, empower and support all UCL communities to address our environmental sustainability impacts”.

UCL requires departments, divisions, staff and students to play a critical role in driving UCL’s sustainability performance forward. The day-to-day behaviours and actions of UCL’s staff and students have a huge potential impact on our sustainability. Therefore, UCL believes it is crucial that they are supported, empowered and incentivised to address these impacts and that strong leadership support for improvement is provided.

UCL aims to deliver its strategy by focusing on the following objectives:

- Working together with all departments and divisions to identify the environmental/sustainability impacts that might result from their activities.
- Ensuring that those individuals accountable for UCL’s day-to-day activities are managing their environmental/sustainability responsibilities
- Engaging through communications, events and initiatives to raise the profile of UCL’s environmental/sustainability issues
- Providing regular feedback on UCL’s environmental/sustainability performance.

View our Engagement Strategy and Action Plan

Student and Staff Engagement Actions

UCL is committed to the transparency of its activities, and plans to publicly report annually on its progress on environmental sustainability. UCL will seek to provide information on its activities and approaches through the Green UCL website, regular participation in events, close working with the sector, UCL staff, students and local community and wider industry and by using case studies and other mechanisms to share information.

Carbon Management Plan consultation - Degrees of Change

The Sustainability Team worked with teams from across UCL, including the Communications and Marketing division and Green Champions network to provide a range of ways to participate and respond to the Carbon Management Plan (CMP) review, reflecting
different needs and interests.

The consultation was based on a three-pronged approach to engage the UCL community:

1. The CMP consultation document was uploaded on to a specially designed webpage (degreesofchange.co.uk) and comments were encouraged through the website. This was then marketed via the Week@UCL and myUCL, through a poster campaign across the campus, and promotion through the Green Champions network.

2. The UCL Sustainability Team offered to join and present to group discussions, with a focus on participation in departmental meetings and UCLU society meetings. In addition, focus groups were set up and a stall was established at locations across the campus.

3. Building on UCL academic research into participatory carbon budgeting, an interactive online tool was also developed to help bring the University’s carbon challenge to life, and to allow staff and students the opportunity to explore the challenge of reducing carbon emissions themselves. The tool allowed users to spend up to £10 million on a range of different carbon reduction interventions, ranging from energy efficient lighting to renewable energy.

**Summary of results**

**Number of people who sought information on UCL’s carbon management strategy**

- Through group discussions, workshops and presentations - 456
- Through the interactive tool – 1,641
- Through the website – 950
- **Total - 3047**

**Number of responses to the consultation –**

- Through the group discussions - 292
- Through the interactive tool - 237
- Through the website – 3
- **Total – 532**

As part of our ongoing commitment to engage on carbon management, UCL Sustainability provides an annual update on the carbon management plan to ESSG and seeks views from the group on the direction of work.

During Sustainability Week in Autumn 2019 and throughout November we have been holding consultation events about the Climate Change: Action signature programme to allow UCL students and staff to tell us their views and shape the direction of the carbon
management plan. Find out more here.

**Engagement with UCL’s sustainability policy and strategy**

The UCL policy and strategy has been developed in consultation with UCL staff and students and represents a framework for action to be taken. UCL reviews its sustainability policy and strategy annually and reports to UCL’s Environmental Sustainability Steering Group and publicly on its progress via the Green UCL website. See our latest Annual Report.

UCL is currently in the process of reviewing and updating its Strategy, see here. As part of this, we have been consulting widely with both the UCL community and the wider community. This consultation has included workshops, online surveys, attendance at departmental/faculty meetings and face to face meetings over the first term of 2018/19. Further engagement is taking place with the aim that the new Strategy will be presented to UCL Council for approval in 2019.

UCL will seek to provide information on its activities and approaches through the Green UCL website, regular participation in events, close working with the sector, UCL staff, students and local community and wider industry and by using case studies and other mechanisms to share information. See section 3 of UCL’s sustainability strategy.

**Student Inductions**

Green UCL provides sustainability inductions to new students via departmental induction weeks. Inductions include information on UCL’s sustainability policy/ plan, sustainability issues and student engagement opportunities. Details of training and induction material can be found here.

**Environmental and sustainability campaigns**

UCL actively supports environmental sustainability campaigns including:

**Sustainability Week**

Throughout the 2018- 2019 academic year, the UCL Sustainability team hosts a full events programme to engage and educate students and staff on sustainability issues. Most recently was UCL’s Sustainability Week which celebrated the sustainability initiatives taking place at
UCL and sought to design UCL’s next Sustainability Strategy through a campus-wide consultation. Details can be found here.

**UCL Sustainability Careers Week**

UCL Careers annually hosts an Environmental Careers themed week - a whole week of activities designed to help students find out more about opportunities in the sustainability sector, including information on routes in and how to gain valuable work experience. In 2018/19, this is due to be a Sustainability Careers Fortnight – recognizing the success of previous years’ events. For more details see here:

**Reflect Your Future**

Reflect your Future is a campaign that educates students on how to lead healthy, sustainable lives, without breaking the bank. It includes an energy competition and engagement on sustainable fashion and food.

**Green Impact**

Green Impact is a UCL-wide environmental competition and accreditation scheme that allows departments and divisions across the UCL to improve their environmental impact, support UCL’s Sustainability Strategy and engage peers and colleagues with these essential issues.

**Engagement with local communities**

UCL offers a number of opportunities for staff and students to engage with local communities on sustainability projects. Through the UCLU Volunteering Services Unit, there are opportunities to connect with existing partners as well as develop new partnerships with local volunteering groups. Some examples can be found here.

Groups within UCL also engage with local communities on sustainability initiatives. These include:

- UCL Extreme Citizen Science - [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/excites](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/excites)
- UCL Engineering Exchange - [https://www.ucl.ac.uk/engineering-exchange/](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/engineering-exchange/)

**Funding for sustainability projects**

UCL provides funding for students and staff undertaking sustainability projects via the Green
Impact programme, see here.

The UCLU Volunteering services and UCL Innovation and Enterprise department also provide expert advice and training for students wanting to create social enterprises, see here, and here respectively.

**Staff Inductions**

It is mandatory that all new starters at UCL complete the University’s Introduction to Sustainability e-learning course. This covers the University’s sustainability policy, issues and areas for staff engagement. View UCL HR's mandatory induction policy. Details of training and induction material can be found here.

**Trade Union**

UCL views engagement with trade unions on sustainability issues a platform for further sustainability achievement. Currently we have one trade union representative on our Environmental Sustainability Steering Group. Details can be found here.

**Students' Union**

UCL’s Student’s Union (UCLU) is working towards incorporating sustainability as a core value into everything they do, to minimise the impact of their own operations, and to promote environmental and ethical initiatives across UCL’s campus. To find out more view UCLU’s Sustainability pages.

Mahmud Rahman is UCLU's appointed Democracy, Operations & Community Officer, for 2018-2019. As part of Mahmud’s role, he is in charge of making UCLU more sustainable. You can read his manifesto here and contact him via doc.officer@ucl.ac.uk.

Najmus-Seher Ghufoor is UCLU’s appointed Sustainability Officer. Najmus-Seher will be working with Mahmud to improve the organisation’s environmental impact. See her manifesto here.

**Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

ESD is a concept that has been developed to address how teaching and learning can promote sustainability. The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) sought to mobilize the educational resources of the world to help create a more sustainable future.
**Commitment and governance for ESD**

UCL’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy sets out five core aims under which there is a series of targets and commitments. The third is specific to enhancing ESD:

- To provide the education, advancement, dissemination and application of sustainable development.

Following the strategy launch in 2013, UCL’s Vice Provost (Education) and the UCL Head of Sustainability took part in the Higher Education Authority's (HEA) Green Academy (GA) Programme in 2013. UCL has sought to use the GA programme to map the scope of sustainable development across its formal and informal curricula.

**Implementing and tracking progress in ESD**

A mapping project proposal was undertaken to establish a process that the prospective mapping exercise should use as a point of departure. The mapping exercise is currently being scoped.

**Global Citizenship agenda**

UCL has used [UCL’s Global Citizenship agenda](#) as a foundation for ESD. This is appropriate for a number of reasons:

1. It corresponds well with UCL’s position as ‘London’s Global University’.
2. It represents UCL’s unique approach to expanding the opportunities for students to pursue cross-disciplinary research and education.
3. It takes into account both formal and informal modes of education.
4. UCL defines the concept of ‘education for global citizenship’ by its desired outcome: outstanding graduates who are equipped to respond to the intellectual, social and personal challenges they will encounter through their future lives and careers. These are individuals who display the following attributes:
   a. Critical and creative thinkers
   b. Ambitious yet idealistic and committed to ethical and socially responsible behaviour
   c. Sensitive to cultural difference and able to appreciate its value in intellectual and social contexts
   d. Prepared to take on leadership roles in the workplace, the home and the community
e. Entrepreneurs who are able and willing to innovate

f. Highly employable, and able to embrace professional mobility.

Viewed through these attributes, UCL’s ‘education for global citizenship’ meets the Brundtland definition of sustainability, and so encompasses the concept of Education for Sustainable Development.

UCL aims to have a member of staff in each department acting as a ‘champion’ for the Global Citizenship Programme and the wider global citizenship agenda more widely. Staff who are interested in leading and developing a Grand Challenge-themed course will be given support from the Global Citizenship team. Support is also provided via the Centre of Advanced Learning and Teaching.

For more information see our ESD Plan here.

Grand Challenges

UCL also runs the Grand Challenges which include Global Health, Sustainable Cities, Intercultural Interaction and Human Wellbeing. The UCL Grand Challenges are the mechanism through which concentrations of specialist expertise across UCL and beyond can be brought together to address aspects of the world's key problems. It also provides an environment in which researchers are encouraged to think about how their work can intersect with and impact upon global issues.”

UCL’s Living Lab

UCL provides and promotes the opportunity for students and staff to use the university campus and operations as a focus for research or study. The Living Lab project works to unlock UCL’s expertise and tackle sustainability challenges by bringing people together and using the campus as a test bed for new ideas.

Use the links below to explore previous and ongoing Living Lab projects, find out more about using UCL’s data in your research, connect with environmental researchers using the UCL Environment Domain, and contact the Sustainability Team to discuss your ideas for a project or research based on UCL's campus or operations.