UCL Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Interim Strategic targets

Introduction

UCL is in the midst of revising its Sustainability Strategy to address its wider sustainability impacts and opportunities. Whilst the Strategy is in the process of development, this interim strategic target document will be the basis for our continued work.

The interim strategic targets draw from the Environmental Sustainability Strategy which was approved in 2013 by UCL Council as well as other strategic documents which have been put in place over the last four years.

Strategic Aim 1: To create a campus which supports UCL's academic, research and enterprise activities in a sustainable way

Targets:

1.1 Carbon (Energy & Water) (from the Carbon Management Plan)

- UCL will seek to reduce its scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 15% by 2020 (against the 2005/06 baseline)
- UCL will seek to achieve a 9% reduction in Scope 3 CO2e emissions for water by 2020 against a 2012/13 baseline
- UCL will aim to achieve a 45% reduction in Scope 3 CO2e emissions from waste by 2020 from a 2012/13 baseline
- UCL will aim to achieve a 5% reduction in Scope 3 CO2e emissions from procurement by 2020 from a 2012/13 baseline
- UCL will aim to limit increases in carbon emissions of start and end of term travel, achieving a 0% increase/FTE by 2020 (2012/13 baseline)
- UCL will aim to decrease carbon emissions from staff and student commuting by 10% per FTE by 2020 (2012/13 baseline)
- UCL will aim to limit increases in carbon emissions of business travel, achieving a 0% increase/FTE by 2020 (2012/13 baseline)

1.2 Waste

- UCL will seek to increase recycling to 85% of operational wastes by 2019
- UCL will aim to be within the Top 10 Russell Group Institutions for waste per FTE by 2020 (excluding construction waste)

1.3 Construction and Refurbishment (from the UCL Sustainable Building Standard)

- Ensure that our buildings help to support staff and student health, well-being and work-life balance
- Achieve a BREEAM rating of at least 'Excellent' for new build and major refurbishment projects, with the aim of 'Outstanding' wherever practical
- Smaller refurbishment and fit-out projects must meet the Ska 'Gold' standard
- Achieve a 40% improvement in building carbon emissions, for new build/ part new build projects, relative to current Building Regulations (2013)
- Major refurbishment projects are required to develop a strategy in accordance with the energy hierarchy, and to achieve the minimum level for an 'Excellent' BREEAM rating
- Minimise the environmental impacts of material resource using 'circular economy' principles
- Aim to achieve zero construction waste to landfill

1.4 Campus traffic and vehicles

- Delivery vehicles: UCL will reduce vehicles on campus by 25% by 2020
- Cycling storage and racks: UCL will seek to increase cycling infrastructure provision by between 979 and 1879 spaces over the next 10 years to 2026

1.5 Travel

- Staff and student business travel: UCL will seek to maintain scope 3 emissions/FTE at the same level as the 2014/15 baseline by 2020
- Staff and student commuting: UCL will seek a 10% reduction in scope3 emissions/FTE (based on the 2012/13 baseline) by 2020
- Start and end of term travel: UCL will seek to maintain scope3 emissions/FTE at the same level as the 2012/13 baseline by 2020

1.6 Discharge and Emissions

- 100% HCFC phase-out in air conditioning systems by 2020
- Zero unnecessary black smoke emissions
- Zero F-gases (HFCs) – already achieved

1.7 Food

- By the end of 2019, UCL will achieve Food for Life Silver Status.
- UCL and its catering partner will reduce the volume of waste arising from the catering operation to achieve our aim of 10% annual waste reductions by 2019
- UCL and its catering partner will identify the ethically traded products that we purchase as verified by the Fair Trade Foundation or similar
- UCL will ensure all tea, coffee, chocolate and sugar is ethically traded and we will aim to increase our ethically traded offers as more products become available

1.8 Biodiversity

Enhance biodiversity and improve ecological connectivity within the urban landscape (increase biodiverse urban space by 50m^2 per year through to 2019)

Strategic Aim 2: To enable, empower and support all UCL communities to address our environmental sustainability impacts

Targets

2.1 Community Involvement

- UCL will seek to increase the number of Green Impact participating teams to 80 by the end of the 2018/19 academic year
- UCL will seek a 25% increase in Green Impact actions completed
- UCL will seek a 10% increase in participation in Reflect your Future by the end of 2018/19
- UCL will seek to record and work with over 130 active Green Champions by the end of the 2018/19 academic year
- UCL will seek to present a sustainability induction to all new students in 2018/19 academic year

2.2 Procurement

- Achieve Gold on the Responsible Procurement Code by the end of 2019
- Seek to be within the top 5 Russell Group Universities using WarpIt
- UCL will seek to reduce scope 3 emissions associated with procurement by 5% by 2020 (against the 2012/13 baseline)

2.3 Departmental engagement

- Deliver a rolling programme of sustainability training for UCL staff
- Using the Target 100 safety tool, work with 5 UCL departments to develop 'targets for sustainability improvement'

Strategic Aim 3: To provide the education, advancement, dissemination, and application of sustainable development

Targets

3.1 Embedding sustainability into teaching and research
• UCL will seek to map the scale of UCL's education in sustainable development by the end of 2018
• UCL will develop 5 Living Lab projects over the 2018/19 academic year

Strategic Aim 4: To maximise the wider impact of UCL's environmental sustainability activities at local, regional, national and international level through collaboration, partnership and communications

Targets

4.1 Delivering wider impact
• UCL will continue to work with other HEI's to share best practice
• UCL will work to support local and regional engagement through the UCL London Strategy

5 Managing Sustainability

Targets

5.1 Managing Sustainability
• UCL will seek to achieve ISO 14001:2015 standard by September 2018
• UCL will seek to maintain its EcoCampus Platinum status over the same period
• Zero major environmental incidents
• Where there are incidents, full investigations are undertaken with issues fully resolved and lessons learned disseminated

5.2 Reporting
• UCL remains committed to annual reporting against the targets and commitments set out in this interim Strategic target document
• UCL will prepare quarterly sustainability reports for the UCL senior management team

These targets are to be reviewed at the end of this year (2018/19) and new targets will be drawn up based on the achievements against these targets, as part of the new Strategy.