

The background is a green gradient with various white line-art icons related to sustainability. These include a lightbulb, a recycling symbol, a solar panel, a water bottle, a faucet with a drop, a sun, a potted plant, a globe, a wind turbine, a bicycle, and a leaf.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

2023-2025

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INTRODUCTION

OUR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY IS STRUCTURED AROUND
7 KEY AREAS OF WORK AND GUIDES AMBITIOUS SUSTAINABLE
PROGRESS UNTIL 2025 AND BEYOND

INTRODUCTION

NOTTINGHAM TRENT STUDENTS' UNION 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITS US TO "A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH, STRENGTHENING THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS OF OUR DECISION MAKING".

THE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY HAS BEEN DEvised TO GUIDE OUR WORK ALONGSIDE THE ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGY AND KEEP US ACCOUNTABLE AS A STUDENTS' UNION.

We have made a conscious decision in this first strategic phase to focus on our environmental sustainability, but we do not overlook the other social and economic values within the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This sustainability strategy is the start of our journey to improve our environmental sustainability. Many of our initial areas of work involve the identification of our baseline impact, enabling us to set measurable targets and significant commitments to environmental improvement moving forwards. Our work to this point has been informed by consultation with students and staff through conversations, surveys and focus groups.

The initial sustainability strategy sets out actions and objectives until 2025, in alignment with NTSUs five-year strategic plan. The commitments and actions within this strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis with the view to make actions more specific, more impactful and bring forward the target dates where possible.



MONITORING & EVALUATION

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING ARE IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT PLANS ARE IN PROGRESS, REVIEW WHAT IS WORKING, AND SUGGEST AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

THIS TOOL IS CRUCIAL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRACKING PROGRESS.

The delivery of the sustainability strategy will be reviewed annually and reported to the Senior Management Team and Board of Trustees where applicable. There will be additional regular evaluation by sustainability staff members to assess the success of actions and update the status of them.

Details and timelines for the actions will be adjusted as required. Learnings will be taken forward to ensure that a continual cycle of improvement is reflected throughout the delivery of this strategy.

NTSUS SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY FOCUSES ON 7 KEY AREAS OF WORK, AND FEATURES THE FOLLOWING HEADLINE COMMITMENTS:



GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

To embed an ambitious and transparent governance and leadership structure for sustainability to ensure internal and external accountability



PARTNERSHIPS

To identify and work with key partners who can add value to our work in sustainability



NET-ZERO CARBON

To lessen NTSUs impact on the environment by reducing the carbon emissions produced by our scope 1, 2 and 3 activities to net-zero by 2040



PROCUREMENT

To review our procurement procedures and ensure future purchasing is done ethically and sustainably



ENERGY

To improve energy efficiency and reduce energy usage in NTSU spaces



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

To engage students in sustainable activities and enable them to inspire change at NTSU



WASTE & RECYCLING

To reduce the amount of non-recyclable and non-compostable waste produced by our activities

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

These Goals are the “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all” across environmental, social and economic frontiers. Although the SDGs are a global initiative, they still have relevance on a local level. At NTSU, we use the SDGs as one method of planning and measuring our activities. Take a look below at the 17 Goals and how NTSU activities align with them.

NO POVERTY 1 Working with NTU to support students through hardship funding and bursaries. NTSU provides advice on making money, smart spending and managing bills. 	ZERO HUNGER 2 NTSU offers Food Bank vouchers and link into NTU food parcels and charities for students in need. 	GOOD HEALTH & WELLBEING 3 NTSU champions student mental and physical wellbeing through campus-wide mental health campaigns and annual Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance Weeks. 	QUALITY EDUCATION 4 NTSU course reps represent their course mates by gathering student feedback to help improve their course and enable continued valued learning. 	GENDER EQUALITY 5 NTSU facilitates a Peer Support Scheme for students that have faced discrimination during their time at NTU. 	CLEAN WATER & SANITATION 6 Free water is available to all students and visitors at NTSUs three main sites. Ask at the coffee shops, bars, or use the water fountains. 
AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 7 NTSU provides advice on housing managing your energy bills and promote national campaigns with additional information and support. 	DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 8 NTSU offers part-time, paid employment opportunities for students while studying at NTU in line with top-rate national living wage, no matter their age. 	INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 9 NTSU is committed to ensuring all internal building refurbishments are environmentally considerate, and (where possible) part of the circular economy. 	REDUCE INEQUALITIES 10 NTSUs Equality and Diversity Network Chairs represent our diverse student population, including international students and ethnic minorities. 	SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 11 NTSU are working with Nottingham City Council on sustainable initiatives. 	RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION 12 NTSU are considerate of our purchasing and are looking to sustainable swaps in the future. 
CLIMATE ACTION 13 NTSU is committed to reaching net-zero carbon by 2040 to tackle the climate crisis. 	LIFE BELOW WATER 14 NTSU is working to cut down our plastic consumption and reduce oceanic pollution. 	LIFE ON LAND 15 NTSU is working with NTU to offer volunteering opportunities that improves the biodiversity of our city. 	PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 16 NTSU is led by a team of Elected Officers who represent our students. 	PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 17 NTSU and NTU are working closely together to deliver upon our objectives and make NTU more sustainable for students. 	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

TO EMBED AN AMBITIOUS AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE
AND LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE FOR SUSTAINABILITY TO
ENSURE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

ACTIONS

Create a management review committee for ISO14001

Create a Sustainability Advisory Group comprised of staff and student staff

Submit Green Impact Students' Union audit for external verification

Achieve bronze EcoCampus status by the end of the 2023 academic year
(as part of our progress towards ISO14001)

Develop a regular qualitative and quantitative reporting structure to the Board of Trustees three times an academic year

Achieve silver EcoCampus status (as part of our progress towards ISO14001)

Review the job descriptions of elected officers to substantively embed sustainability ahead of the 2024 officer elections

Incorporate sustainability into a review of NTSU governance structures

Ensure sustainability is a key theme in future organisational strategy development

TARGET DATE

Jan 2023

Feb 2023

May 2023

June 2023

Oct 2023

Dec 2023

Feb 2024

Summer 2024

2025

STATUS*

Complete

Complete

Complete

Complete

In progress

In progress

In progress

In progress

Not started

**Action status updated August 2023*

NET-ZERO CARBON

TO LESSEN NTSUs IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT BY REDUCING THE
CARBON EMISSIONS PRODUCED BY OUR SCOPE 1, 2 AND 3 ACTIVITIES
TO NET-ZERO BY 2040





NET-ZERO CARBON



ACTIONS

Establish NTSUs baseline carbon footprint for scope 1

Establish NTSUs baseline carbon footprint for scope 2

Establish NTSUs baseline carbon footprint for scope 3

Define the reduction pathway and timeline for achieving net-zero carbon

Consult with students on our net-zero carbon progress and timelines as part of our sustainability strategy review

Publish our carbon footprint report annually, including a breakdown of our carbon footprint, progress towards milestones and comparison to our baseline year

TARGET DATE

April 2023

April 2023

July 2023

Jan 2024

2025

January annually

STATUS*

Complete

Complete

Complete

In progress

Not started

In progress

**Action status updated August 2023*

ENERGY

TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
REDUCE ENERGY USAGE IN NTSU SPACES



ENERGY



ACTIONS

Ensure that the energy efficiency of equipment is embedded in the new sustainable procurement policy

Work with NTU to arrange appropriate sub-metering for all SU spaces, providing us with accurate data on energy usage

Work with UPP to arrange appropriate sub-metering for all SU spaces, providing us with accurate data on energy usage

Lobby NTU and UPP for energy efficient changes to our lighting and heating within NTSU buildings

Include education on energy efficiency at work as part of wider environmental sustainability awareness in all new-staff inductions

TARGET DATE

Aug 2023

June 2024

June 2024

June 2024

Ongoing

STATUS*

In progress

Not started

Not started

Not started

In progress

*Action status updated August 2023

WASTE AND RECYCLING

TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF NON-RECYCLABLE AND
NON-COMPOSTABLE WASTE PRODUCED BY OUR ACTIVITIES



WASTE AND RECYCLING



ACTIONS

Lobby public and private accommodation providers to ensure the correct provision of waste and recycling bins in student houses

Introduce and deliver a campaign to improve recycling habits among students and staff

Measure and create a plan to reduce the amount of single-use plastics and disposable containers used across our venues

Audit our current waste and recycling rates and publish the results

Set targets and commitments for waste reduction and improvement of recycling rates to our baseline

TARGET DATE

Oct 2023

Oct 2023

Nov 2023

Jan 2024

Feb 2023

STATUS*

In progress

In progress

In progress

In progress

Not started

**Action status updated August 2023*

PARTNERSHIPS

TO IDENTIFY AND WORK WITH KEY PARTNERS WHO
CAN ADD VALUE TO OUR WORK IN SUSTAINABILITY



PARTNERSHIPS



ACTIONS

Create and define a log of current interested parties and key partners who contribute to our sustainability progress

Identify new partners that can add value to our work

Actively work in partnership with the University to achieve and/or retain at least one external accreditation annually

Engage with our building owners (NTU & UPP) on regularly monitoring and acting on carbon emissions under our joint influence, and report on progress

Respond to environmental-based consultations in the local area and influence Nottingham City Council

TARGET DATE

June 2023

Dec 2023

July annually

July 2024

Ongoing

STATUS*

Complete

Not started

In progress

Not started

In progress

**Action status updated August 2023*

PROCUREMENT

TO REVIEW OUR PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES AND ENSURE
FUTURE PURCHASING IS DONE ETHICALLY AND SUSTAINABLY



PROCUREMENT



ACTIONS

- Create a sustainable procurement policy, incorporating ethics and sustainability
- Review the NUSSL ethical and environmental screening principles in line with the new NTSU procurement policy
- Review purchasing procedures for student groups, recommending local suppliers and sustainable alternatives
- Provide training on sustainable procurement and supplier engagement for all relevant staff
- Ensure all materials, furniture, fixtures, and flooring used in facilities refurbishment are resource efficient, environmentally friendly, and (where possible) part of the circular economy

TARGET DATE

- Aug 2023
- Aug 2023
- Aug 2023
- Dec 2023
- Ongoing

STATUS*

- In progress
- In progress
- In progress
- Not started
- In progress

*Action status updated August 2023

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES
AND ENABLE THEM TO INSPIRE CHANGE AT NTSU





STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

ACTIONS

- Create a sustainable page on the SU website, integrated into the main menu structure
- Create a communication plan for the sustainability pages and measure engagement
- Update and deliver sustainability training to society committees and course reps
- Create a sustainability grant fund for affiliated student groups to apply for with projects that further the aims of the NTSU sustainability strategy
- Create opportunities to engage with students on the conservation and enhancement of local biodiversity in partnership with student-led groups and NTU
- Plan and deliver at least one major sustainability campaign annually to respond to student's demands
- Consult with Student Council on the formation and progression of the NTSU sustainability strategy to help engage under-represented groups in our work
- Create opportunities for students to engage in consultation with NTSU and influence sustainable progress

TARGET DATE

STATUS*

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Jan 2023 | Complete |
| Sept 2023 | Not started |
| Sept 2023 | In progress |
| Sept 2023 | In progress |
| July 2024 | In progress |
| July annually | In progress |
| Twice annually | Not started |
| Twice annually | Not started |

*Action status updated August 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR AND
OUR PLANS FOR THE COMING YEARS

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR...

NTSU IS MAKING GREAT STRIDES IN SUSTAINABILITY, AND WE'RE THRILLED TO SHARE OUR PROGRESS WITH YOU. OUR COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT HAS ALREADY SHOWN FANTASTIC RESULTS, WHICH YOU CAN CHECK OUT ON OUR [WEBSITE](#)

ISO 14001

With our commitment to environmental sustainability, we partnered with EcoCampus to achieve the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System. This collaboration allowed us to identify opportunities, risks, and stakeholders in environmental sustainability, and implement new governance structures with the creation of the Management Review Committee. We're proud to announce that we obtained our bronze certification ahead of schedule on the 20th of April this year.



Green Impact Students' Union

This year, we joined SOS-UK's Green Impact Students' Union Scheme to enhance sustainability. In our first audit, we exceeded expectations, achieving an 'excellent' standard for 2022-23.

We're excited about the steps we've taken so far, and invite you to join us on this sustainability journey at NTSU. Together, we can make a positive impact on our environment and create a more sustainable future for all.

OUR FIRST YEAR OF ACTIVELY ENGAGING STUDENTS IN SUSTAINABILITY HAS SEEN SOME IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS

OVER 180

STUDENTS PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABILITY DURING FRESHERS FAIR

309 STUDENTS

RESPONDED TO THE SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED, SOS-UK STUDENT SKILLS SURVEY

12 STUDENTS

PARTICIPATED IN OUR SUSTAINABILITY FOCUS GROUPS AT CITY, CLIFTON AND ONLINE, SHARING THEIR IDEAS ON WHAT A SUSTAINABLE STUDENT'S UNION MEANS TO THEM

462 STUDENTS

COMPLETED THE RECYCLING ATTITUDES SURVEY TO HELP IMPROVE RECYCLING FACILITIES IN STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS. THESE RESPONSES WILL HELP ADVOCATE FOR BETTER PROVISIONS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL AND UPP

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

STALLS ENGAGED STUDENTS AT CITY, CLIFTON, BRACKENHURST AND MANSFIELD WITH 113 COMPLETING THE FAIRTRADE QUIZ, AND 126 TRYING OUT THE SMOOTHIE BIKE (USING FAIRTRADE BANANAS).

NTSU SUSTAINABILITY ROADMAP

Take a look at our key action points over the next few years and follow our journey to a more sustainable future

YEAR 2023

JAN

Create a sustainability page on the SU website, integrated into the main menu structure.

APRIL

Calculate our scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions for a baseline year of 2021-2022.

MAY

Submit Green Impact Students' Union for external verification.

JUNE

Achieve bronze EcoCampus status as part of our progress towards ISO14001.

Update and deliver sustainability training to society committees and course reps.

JULY

Calculate our scope 3 carbon emissions for a baseline year of 2021-22.

NOVEMBER

Measure and create a plan to reduce the amount of single-use plastics and disposable containers used across our venues.

OCTOBER

Lobby private & public student accommodation providers to ensure the correct provision of recycling facilities in students.

Introduce and deliver a campaign to improve recycling habits amongst students & staff.

SEPTEMBER

Create a sustainability grant fund for affiliated student groups to apply for.

Create opportunities to engage with students on the conservation and enhancement of local biodiversity in partnership with student-led groups and NTU.

AUGUST

Create a procurement policy, incorporating ethics and sustainability.

Review the NUSL purchasing consortium ethical and environmental screening principles in line with the new NTSU procurement policy.

DECEMBER

Achieve silver EcoCampus status as part of our progress towards ISO14001.

Provide training on sustainable procurement and to all relevant staff.

YEAR 2024

JAN

Define the reduction pathway and timeline for achieving net-zero carbon.

FEBRUARY

Review the job descriptions of elected Officers to embed sustainability ahead of the 2023 Officer elections.

Set targets and commitments for waste reduction and improvement of recycling rates relative to our baseline.

ONGOING

January annually - Annually publish our carbon footprint report on our website for public viewing.

July annually - Actively work in partnerships with the University to achieve and/or retain at least one external accreditation annually.

GOING FORWARD

2025

Ensure sustainability is a key theme in future organisational strategy development.

Consult with students on our net-zero carbon progress and timelines as part of our sustainable strategy review.

YEAR 2025



“ NTSU continues to make a commitment to sustainability throughout the organisation. Our policies and procedures have begun to fully implement sustainable practices. I am looking forward to being part of the progression for sustainability within the organisation and see what we all achieve in the years to come. ”

ANNA O'HARA
NTSU PRESIDENT 23/24



“ We acknowledge the scale and significance of the climate crisis and the devastating impact this is having on the world. This strategy is part of our commitment to fighting climate change and achieving climate justice for future generations ”

PHIL KYNASTON
NTSU CEO

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR
WORK IN SUSTAINABILITY, PLEASE DON'T
HESITATE TO GET IN TOUCH

SUSTAINABILITY@SU.NTU.AC.UK