

# Engaging our students and staff with sustainability and the well-being of current and future generations

## a summary

While Bangor University is directly responsible for many of the impacts of its operations, it relies on its community of students and staff to contribute significantly to modifying its overall impacts through personal and group actions. Through The Sustainability Lab, the University actively encourages its students and staff to make long lasting and far reaching sustainable behaviour changes to not only enable it to make continual sustainable improvements to institutional operations and practices, but also to enable those students and staff to take their new behaviours into all areas of their lives both within and outside the University.

### Our students

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Our students are central to everything we do here at Bangor. We know that they, like students across Wales and the UK, are passionate about sustainability. NUS surveys for many years have revealed that:

**85%** of students consistently agree or strongly agree that **“sustainable development is something which universities and colleges should actively incorporate and promote”**

**70%** of students consistently agree or strongly agree that **“sustainable development is something which university and college courses should actively incorporate and promote”**

**60%** of students consistently agree or strongly agree that **“sustainable development is something which I would like to learn more about”**

Both **Bangor University** and **Undeb Bangor** (the students’ union) have sustainability as a strategic enabler, and our students can take direct sustainable action according to the [Undeb Bangor Strategic Plan](#) as well as through Bangor University’s Strategic Plan (see below).

### Our staff

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Sustainability is embedded throughout our Strategic Plan which emphasises its importance as a central organising principle of the University’s vision, values and strategic enablers. By taking action in accordance with our Strategic Plan, staff are empowered and enabled to embed sustainable behaviour change throughout the University, both amongst colleagues and with our students:

### Summary of sustainability across Bangor University’s Strategic Plan 2015-2020

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#### OUR VISION...

“We shall continue our emphasis on sustainability, aiming for an international and ‘best in class’ reputation for our commitment to sustainable development, setting short and long term targets to integrate all aspects of sustainability into our daily operations.”

#### OUR VALUES...

“Contributing to the sustainability of the University, the region, and the world, not only in the context of our rich, natural environment, but also in terms of social cohesion, financial stability, and resource efficiency”

In order to promote **EXCELLENT EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE** we will have:

...a curriculum that is attractive and fit for purpose including ensuring that “...the development of our curriculum reflects our commitment to sustainable development and global citizenship”

and to **ENHANCE RESEARCH SUCCESS** we will:

- Foster a culture that values and promotes sustainability alongside business and enterprise activities
- Maximize the societal impact of Bangor University activities
- Provide spaces for “learning from each other” and a platform for showcasing good practice
- Enhance Student, Staff and Community experience of Action Research (“learning by doing”)

We aim to be the **INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR THE REGION**, continuing to:

“develop our international reputation, to offer high-quality international education, to integrate international students with domestic students, and to provide a relevant modern curriculum that is locally situated but globally applicable”.

**WELSH LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT are central to the University and Undeb**

Since its development in 1884, the University has a tradition of integral links with its local community. Our identity is inextricably associated with our location and we play a leading role in the Welsh culture and economy and in fostering the Welsh language.

#### STRATEGIC ENABLERS – SUSTAINABILITY

- Deliver a financially, socially and environmentally sustainable University
- We aim to become, in all aspects, ‘the Sustainable University’. Our ambition embraces not only the infrastructure and operation of University sites and operations, but also how the University plans for growth as well as our role for Wales and beyond.
- Establish a high-profile corporate focal-point as the face of sustainable development at the University [[The Sustainability Lab](#)]
- Co-develop a sustainability action plan
- Embed sustainability across our functions to integrate all aspects of sustainability into our daily operations
- Conduct a programme of sustainability reviews across all Colleges and Service Departments
- Develop a globally recognised sustainable reporting framework
- Ensure clear, concise audience appropriate messages on sustainability
- Engage with businesses and other organisations on sustainable business development and resource efficiency
- Reduce the University’s carbon footprint

[Read the full Strategic Plan](#)

## Student & staff involvement in sustainability governance, management, development and delivery

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Students are represented on the [majority of university committees](#) dealing with the policies and strategic decisions of the university. Oversight of the development and ongoing monitoring of and our various sustainability policies, strategies management and action plans by students and staff is especially enabled through their [membership of the Sustainability Implementation Group and the Sustainability Task Group](#). Students and staff are strongly encouraged to co-develop policies, strategies and action plans alongside the University through these groups as well as bring forward ideas for development and monitoring in our monthly [ThinkTanks](#) and through our [Student Sustainability Action Group](#). Each of these groups has its own [responsible officers](#), organises its own reporting and continual improvement processes, and regularly reports to the governing bodies of the University [via the appropriate routes](#).

### Raising awareness and encouraging involvement

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#### Inductions

To ensure that all students and staff are aware of the opportunities for getting involved in developing and monitoring the policies, strategies and action plans that support sustainability@Bangor and the university sustainability policy and plan, sustainability issues and student engagement opportunities for sustainability are a component of the induction processes for all new students and staff including Fresher's Fair, the Student Opportunities Fair, and student and staff induction talks.

Last year for example we undertook formal sustainability induction sessions for over 2000 new students, and have plans in place to meet all this year's first year students to discuss sustainability@Bangor and how they can get involved. As in previous years we will be monitoring the outcomes and reporting them on our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [website](#) as well as more formally through [our governance structure](#), and we will use the results to inform our cycle of continual improvement.

#### University-wide and community events and campaigns

Last year the University and Undeb Bangor ran a number of sustainability events and campaigns designed to reach all students and staff, and in some cases outreach into Bangor city's community. This year we plan to run the majority of them again as well as trial new ventures. As with inductions and all our other activities, we will be monitoring the outcomes, reporting them on our sustainability@Bangor [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [website](#) as well as more formally through [our governance structure](#), and we will use the results to inform our cycle of continual improvement.

Some of our 2016-2017 campaigns and events:

[Bangor Sustainability Week](#)

[Campus Life Events Programme](#)

[Sustainability & Wellbeing ThinkTanks](#)

[Sustainability Champions](#)

[Bangor Sustainability Pledge](#)

[Bangor-Makerere international campaigns partnership](#)

[Hey Punk Sort your Junk](#)

[#LoveHalls](#)

[Plastic Oceans workshops for students, staff and the community](#)

[Climate change workshops in the community](#)

[Campus Greening](#)

[Friends of Treborth Botanic Garden and Students for Treborth Action Group \(STAG\) events](#)

[Active Bangor](#)

Some of the external campaigns and events we supported in 2016-2017:

[People & Planet's Go Green Week](#)

[NUS's Green Impact](#)

[Fair Trade Foundation's Fair Trade Fortnight](#)

[WWF's Earth Hour](#)

[BHF's Pack for Good](#)

[The UK Government's Cycle to Work Scheme](#)

[Traveline Cymru's Journey Planner](#)

### **Bangor's First Sustainability Carnival 2018**

As well as running the majority of the above events and campaigns again in 2017-2018, we are also planning the first Bangor Sustainability Carnival, a month of fun activities across the University and out into Bangor community which will raise awareness of sustainability, encourage new sustainability actions, and support people to make long lasting sustainable changes in their lives. We will be incorporating national and international notable dates into the Carnival including World Wetlands Day, LGBT History Month, Bangor's own Healthy Living Week, World Day of Social Justice, International Mother Tongue Day, and Fair Trade Fortnight.

### **University funds for student or staff-led practical sustainability projects**

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Any member of the University who has an idea for sustainable development and thinks they need funding or other support is encouraged to bring their ideas forward and get in touch with any of [our sustainability staff](#), bring their idea to one of our [ThinkTanks](#), or contact our [network of Sustainability Champions](#). The ideas are then taken to the [Sustainability Implementation Group and/or Sustainability Task Group](#) who manage the funds and other support required as well as review targets and plan developments to ensure best practice and continual improvement.

Funds and other support are available for approved projects through schemes such as our [Invest to Save initiative](#) for which the university makes 5% of its energy costs available to fund sustainability projects, and support in kind such as staff time from The Sustainability Lab or University marketing teams.

Examples of successful bids for funding and support supported by university staff time, funds and other resources in 2016-2017

**Student-led projects:**

[Brambell Pond restoration](#)

[Fair Trade Fortnight](#)

[Hey Punk Sort your Junk](#)

[International Campus Greening Collaboration](#)

**Staff-led projects:**

[Pack for Good](#)

[Cycle to Work Scheme](#)

[Energy efficient plant friendly greenhouse lighting](#)

[Electric vehicles replacing diesel vehicle led by the Estates team](#)

## Find out more, do more

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Please get in touch with The Sustainability Lab team for further information or to get involved in [sustainability@Bangor](mailto:sustainability@Bangor):

[lab@planet.cymru](mailto:lab@planet.cymru)

[Web contact form](#)



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