Sustainability Framework



Leeds Arts University is committed to establishing the highest possible standards of sustainability across all its core activities. To support this goal, a Sustainability Framework was launched in 2015, to identify and guide how the University community should engage with and advance its sustainability practices.

The University became a signatory of the SDG Accord in 2019 with a commitment to report annually on the progress made in contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The annual report highlights key areas of positive activity against selected goals and identifies areas for continued focus and development throughout the following year.

We recognise the role of education in enabling students to develop the knowledge, skills, values and behaviours needed for sustainable development, ensuring they are equipped to meet the rapidly changing demands of the world.

The Sustainability Committee promotes, co-ordinates and monitors the development and implementation of sustainability initiatives across all areas of the University. Each Academic and Business Support area annually evaluates and reports on the progress made in embedding the SDG's within their practices.

The Sustainability Framework operates within three top level headings of People, Place and Process which naturally interlink and overlap, and which are graphically represented below. The relevant policies and procedures relating to the operation of this framework can be found on Portal.

Our Sustainability Goals outline our aspirations for the forthcoming year informed by the findings within the SDG Accord Report.

Education for sustainable development is the process of equipping students with the knowledge and understanding, skills and attributes needed to work and live in a way that safeguards environmental, social and economic well-being, both in the present and for future generations.

HEA, Education for Sustainable Development: Guidance for HE Providers



Our framework explained

PEOPLE

PLACE

PROCESS

STUDENTS

Student Union

Actively encourage and support student engagement with Sustainability initiatives.

Individuals

Be aware of responsibilities and understand the impact of their practices.

Student Community

Actively engage and support sustainability initiatives within the University and the local community.

STAFF

All staff to be aware of their individual and collective responsibilities and impact of their practices.

Share knowledge to raise awareness and ensure effective participation in sustainability practices across all aspects of University activity.

COMMUNITIES

Local / National / Global

Collaborate and establish partnerships with Local, National and Global organisations and initiatives.

ESTATES

Develop and enhance our Estate by identifying opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint and optimise our waste management, building systems, fabric and infrastructure to be more energy efficient.

CURRICULUM

Foster inquiry into sustainability through teaching, learning and research.

Embed sustainability within the curriculum.

Ensure our graduates are sustainability literate, equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding to live and work in a complex and changing world.

COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

Promote our sustainability practices and achievements to our internal and external audiences (websites, social media).

Provide internal repositories of regularly updated sustainability information for staff and students (eStudio, Share-point, Portal).

POLICY, PROCEDURE & MONITORING

Ensure our Policies and Procedures support sustainable development.

Regularly monitor and report on the progress in embedding sustainability and the SDG's across all University practices.

STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Provide support to ensure all staff understand the principles of sustainability and how they relate to their role within the University.