



Biodiversity Policy Statement

Version Number – 2.0

Author: Environmental Sustainability Manager

Estates & Facilities

1.0 Document Control Table

Document Control Information			
Revision History incl. Authorisation: (most recent first)			
Author	Summary of changes	Version	Authorised & Date
E.Goodchild	Reviewed following consultancy input from Niche Environmental	V2.0	Environmental Projects Board 19 th June 2025
E.Goodchild	Approved at EPB	V1.0	10 th October 2024 Environmental Projects Board
E.Goodchild	Revised draft following input from academic consultees	Draft V2.0	N/A
E.Goodchild	New document	Draft V1.0	N/A

2.0 Policy Administration

Policy Management and Responsibilities

Owner: This Statement is issued by the Director of Estates & Facilities, who has the authority to issue and communicate policy on campus environmental management systems and has delegated day to day management and communication of the policy to the Landscape & Grounds Manager, Environmental Sustainability Manager and Environmental Engagement Officer.

Others with responsibilities: All subjects of the Policy will be responsible for engaging with and adhering to this policy.

Have you completed formal assessment with the following advisory teams:

1. Equality analysis ((E&D, HR) [Equality Initial assessment form](#) - *Full EA to be completed on the policies that support this Statement where necessary.*
2. Legal Implications (LPG) - N/A
3. Information Governance (LPG) - *March 2016, policy template advice*
4. Student facing procedures – N/A
5. UKVI Compliance (Student Admin) - N/A

Consultation:

1. Staff Trades Union via HR - HR and Trade Union representatives invited to sit on Sustainability Strategy Group who are consulted on this policy
2. Students via USSU - USSU representatives invited to sit on Sustainability Strategy Group who are consulted on this policy

Review due: Annually

Document Location: University of Salford [Environmental Sustainability webpages](#)

Document dissemination and communication plan: Through Environmental Sustainability webpages, Estates staff induction, purchasing processes and contractor inductions.

3.0 Purpose

Environmental and social sustainability form two pillars of the University's Strategy 2022-27. The University's sustainability vision is that 'by embedding sustainability in all aspects of University life, we will enable our university community to have maximum beneficial impacts for society and environment.' Having a green and biodiverse campus that promotes sustainability is therefore a key enabler in the delivery of this strategy.

and that natural solutions through conservation, restoration, and improved management of land will be a key element of our response to climate change, one of the biggest challenges facing our society across the globe.

The objectives of this policy statement are to:

- Conserve and enhance our green spaces to support biodiversity and enhance physical and mental wellbeing.
- Incorporate biodiversity considerations into the planning, design, and maintenance of campus infrastructure and landscapes.
- Promote biodiversity education and awareness among the university community and support research and innovation in biodiversity conservation,
- Engage with local communities, stakeholders, and conservation organisations to contribute to regional and global biodiversity conservation efforts.

4.0 Scope

This Policy applies to all members of the University Estates and Facilities Division including (but not limited to): Staff; Contractors and Associates carrying out work on behalf of the University Estates and Facilities Division.

5.0 Policy Statements

Through our **Grounds Maintenance Operations**, we will:

- As a minimum ensure legal compliance with regards to the maintenance of the campus and any ensure non-native invasive species are managed in accordance with the law.
- Appraise day to day maintenance operations of the soft estate and current working practice and standards to maximise opportunities for biodiversity, for example through 'low mow' policies and creation of wildflower areas.
- Ensure all areas of the campus are considered for biodiversity value in addition to our dedicated green spaces as far as reasonably practical.
- Provide upskilling and training of the Grounds Maintenance Team in techniques to enhance biodiversity.
- Ensure that zero green waste is taken off-site, instead allowing this to either remain in place or used to create habitat piles.
- Follow the principles in our Tree Position Paper and implement the recommendations from our five-year tree survey within the timescales set in the report.

- Specify native and diverse plant species in landscaping efforts together with those that tolerate higher temperatures and drier conditions, moving away from annual bedding plants to perennial drought resistant varieties.
- Minimising the use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers that harm biodiversity, wherever possible.
- Conserve water by only watering plants during drought conditions and during early morning to avoid excess evaporation. Capture rainwater from our new buildings for use in irrigation.
- Move to battery powered landscaping machinery and all electric grounds maintenance vehicles.

Through our **Sustainability Teams** we will:

- Provide a variety of habitats to support wildlife including such as bird boxes, bug hotels, nest boxes for solitary bees, bat boxes, hedgehog houses / highways under the guidance of our academic community.
- Maintain and further develop our community food growing spaces and encourage biodiversity-friendly planting and use of produce within our food outlets.
- Undertake regular biodiversity surveys together with staff, students and the local community to understand and protect our natural capital including annual bioblitz event organised with Salford City Council.
- Proactively work with local partners such as Salford Local Authority, Friends of Peel Park, City of Trees, the Royal Horticultural Society (Bridgewater) and Greater Manchester Ecology Unit to contribute to local biodiversity objectives.
- Include biodiversity as a key theme in our Environmental Communications and Engagement Strategy such as the Green Campus Group and other opportunities to encourage learning about campus biodiversity.
- Maintain Green Flag certification and Hedgehog friendly campus certification.
- Encourage University senior management to make a Nature Positive Pledge to start a nature positive journey, incorporating a biodiversity baseline, targets, actions and annual reporting.

Through our **Academic Community** we will:

- Continue to identify new areas of research associated with our Living Lab Ignition Project installation that comprises of a rain garden, living wall, sustainable urban drainage with street trees and a green roof as part of the Green, Grow and Thrive Catalyst which brings together all greenspace research on campus.
- Contribute expertise through involvement in campus biodiversity projects through the Public Realm Project and associated Biodiversity Workstream.

Through our **Campus Connectivity Plan Delivery** we will:

- In line with our Sustainable Construction Policy prioritise brownfield site selection and repurposing existing buildings for our capital development projects.

- Utilise green infrastructure such as rain gardens, green roofs and living walls to enhance habitat connectivity, manage stormwater and promote biodiversity within built environments, as part of our new builds.
- Aim to deliver a minimum of 25% biodiversity net gain on all our capital development projects and implement strategies to mitigate any loss of habitat on our owned land wherever possible, aiming to go beyond legal requirements.
- Protect nesting birds and other protected species ensuring that no active nests are damaged, avoiding work during the bird nesting season wherever possible.

This policy is supported by a series of targets, indicators and action plans which form our Landscape Management Plan which is reviewed at least annually.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Environmental Projects Board chaired by the Director of Estates and Facilities. The policy is informed by our Biodiversity Advisory Group which comprises of academics and specialists from across the University community.

6.0 Related Documentation

Related documents can be found in the University Environmental Sustainability pages
<https://www.salford.ac.uk/environmental-sustainability>