Campus Management Climate Action Policy

Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) aims to achieve Net Zero for Carbon Scopes 1 and 2 by 2030 and Scope 3 by 2050 (with meaningful progress by 2038), compared to the 2018/19 baseline. In 2021, the University signed the 'Race to Zero' commitment to publicly announce this commitment, and in 2023 launched Sheffield Hallam's Climate Action Strategy which outlines a whole institution approach to achieve these ambitions.

The University's Climate Action Strategy sets targets to deliver a net zero campus as well as a commitment to deliver a whole-of-institution approach to climate action. This Policy sets out objectives to achieve the long-term targets of activity within the remit of Campus Management, using the University's ISO 14001 Environmental Management System, the Climate Action Strategy recommendations and SHU's Campus Management Monitoring Tool, which records the impact and progress of actions on the University's carbon footprint and other key environmental impacts, with the capability to project likely future trajectories and implications of decision-making.

Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) has a responsibility to reduce the environmental impacts of its activities whilst maintaining compliance with legal and other requirements. The University is committed to setting an example by going beyond this minimum, including delivering against the ambitious carbon targets set through the Climate Action Strategy. The University's ISO management system facilitates an environmental risk profile of the University which identifies circa 350 potential environmental risks. These are used to shape these Policy commitments and identify the areas that have the biggest environmental risks and where the most significant improvements could be made. These align with the Climate Action Strategy, therefore providing assurance that the University can be confident that these are the key areas to focus on to not only achieve carbon reductions but also continuing to prevent pollution and protect the natural environment.

Each of the following Policy commitments is detailed further in the Campus Management Climate Action Plan, where specific objectives and targets are developed to ensure continuous environmental improvements and progress towards Net Zero Carbon.

Policy Commitments



Campus Energy Reduction

(Scope 1 – Gas. Scope 2 – Electricity and Heat Consumption)

The University is committed to the effective management of energy used on the estate, including gas, electricity and heat to reduce the associated carbon emissions produced. To be achieved through energy efficient design, consideration in products and services, energy efficiency projects and the purchase of renewable energy.



Campus Development

(Scopes 2 & 3)

The University is committed to the rollout of the Campus Plan. Consolidating activities onto a smaller and more efficient (from both building performance and space utilisation perspective) estate, this being one of the most potentially significant reductions that can be made to the University's carbon footprint. This programme will reduce both Scope 3 embodied carbon and Scopes 1 and 2 emissions through efficient design.



Travel and Transport

(Scopes 1, 2 and 3)

Maintain behavioural changes that have reduced the amount of carbon and direct emissions produced from commuting, business and operational travel. Promote and incentivise travel choices informed by carbon reduction and health and wellbeing as documented within the SHU Travel Plan.



Water Management

(Scope 3)

Effective management of water used on the estate to reduce unnecessary consumption and embed efficiency measures.



Waste Management

(Scope 3)

Continue to embed the waste hierarchy (prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle) across the estate through facilities and services whilst including the encouragement of sustainable behaviour and reducing embedded carbon emissions associated with the disposal of waste.



Green Infrastructure

Engage in practices in both managing the existing estate and building new aspects that increase green spaces across the estate and promote healthy and biodiverse ecosystems.



Procurement

(Scope 3)

Promote and monitor sustainable procurement practices that manage social, economic and environmental impacts of purchases and develop a method for measuring embedded carbon within the University's supply chain.

This Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure commitments remain appropriate to activities on campus, key environmental impacts and risks and the biggest potential environmental improvements.

Any comments or feedback on this policy can be directed to the Environmental Compliance Service environment@shu.ac.uk.

Ryan Keyworth
Chief Finance Officer
August 2026

Further Information

Campus Management Climate Action Plan
Sheffield Hallam Climate Action Strategy - 2023.pdf