



SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





FOREWORD FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Universities exist to answer the big questions – and there is no bigger question than how we build a sustainable planet.

This is the greatest single challenge facing humankind and this strategy puts sustainability right at the heart of everything we do at the University of Sussex.

Our academic expertise in this area is already considerable and forceful. Our ambition now is to become a leading light in the sector across all our activities.

This strategy has been co-created with students, researchers, lecturers, professional services staff, partners and stakeholders.

All have been brought together by our dedicated Sustainability Team to set out our vision for a more hopeful and sustainable planet: a future where we are one of the most sustainable universities in the world. Inspired by this vision we are going to build a place that provides global leadership and learning about the biggest challenges that we as humanity must face together.

At a time when CO₂ emissions are forecast to rise by the second highest annual amount on record, and at a time of mass extinction and loss of biodiversity, it is time for ambition and hope.

Yet it is also time for realism and a focus on results. That is why this strategy contains well thought out targets and an action plan for delivering real strategic sustainability successes.

This includes our new target of being net zero by 2035. I am pleased to confirm that this target includes both our direct emissions and our indirect emissions from our supply chain, financial investments, and the way that our staff and students travel.

I hope you will join me in bringing the strategy to life. You can get involved by following the links to calls to action within the University's new [sustainability web pages](#).

I look forward to working with you to create a greener university for a better world – a place of hope for the future where we are one of the most sustainable universities in the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Tickell'.

Adam Tickell
Vice-Chancellor

VISION: SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX – ONE OF THE MOST SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD

PURPOSE

Our vision is clear. Our strategic goal is for the University of Sussex to be one of the most sustainable universities in the world. We will show global leadership in demonstrating and promoting all forms of environmental, social and economic sustainability at a local, regional, national and international level.

OBJECTIVES

This strategy contains four high-level objectives that we will realise through sixteen key aims and a detailed action plan:

1. **Ethical Educators** – we will embed sustainability into all aspects of student learning and experience
2. **Decarbonising the Economy** – we will reach net zero by 2035 through our action plan for achieving this
3. **Civic Leaders and Partners** – we will positively impact the community through a sustainable supply chain, social responsibility and low transport emissions

4. **Environmental Champions** – we will promote biodiversity and sustainable food, waste and water consumption and recycling.

All four of these objectives directly support the realisation of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that enable positive environmental, social and economic development.

You can see how each theme corresponds with the following SDGs on page six of this document.



◀ The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

KEY AIMS

Each of our high-level objectives will be realised through the achievement of 16 key aims clustered together into the following themes.

ETHICAL EDUCATORS



- Students as partners and innovators
- Sustainability taught within all degrees
- Sustainable research practices
- Supporting equality, diversity and inclusion

CIVIC LEADERS AND PARTNERS



- Sustainable supply chain
- Active and sustainable commuting
- Better business travel
- Community and voluntary impact

DECARBONISING THE ECONOMY



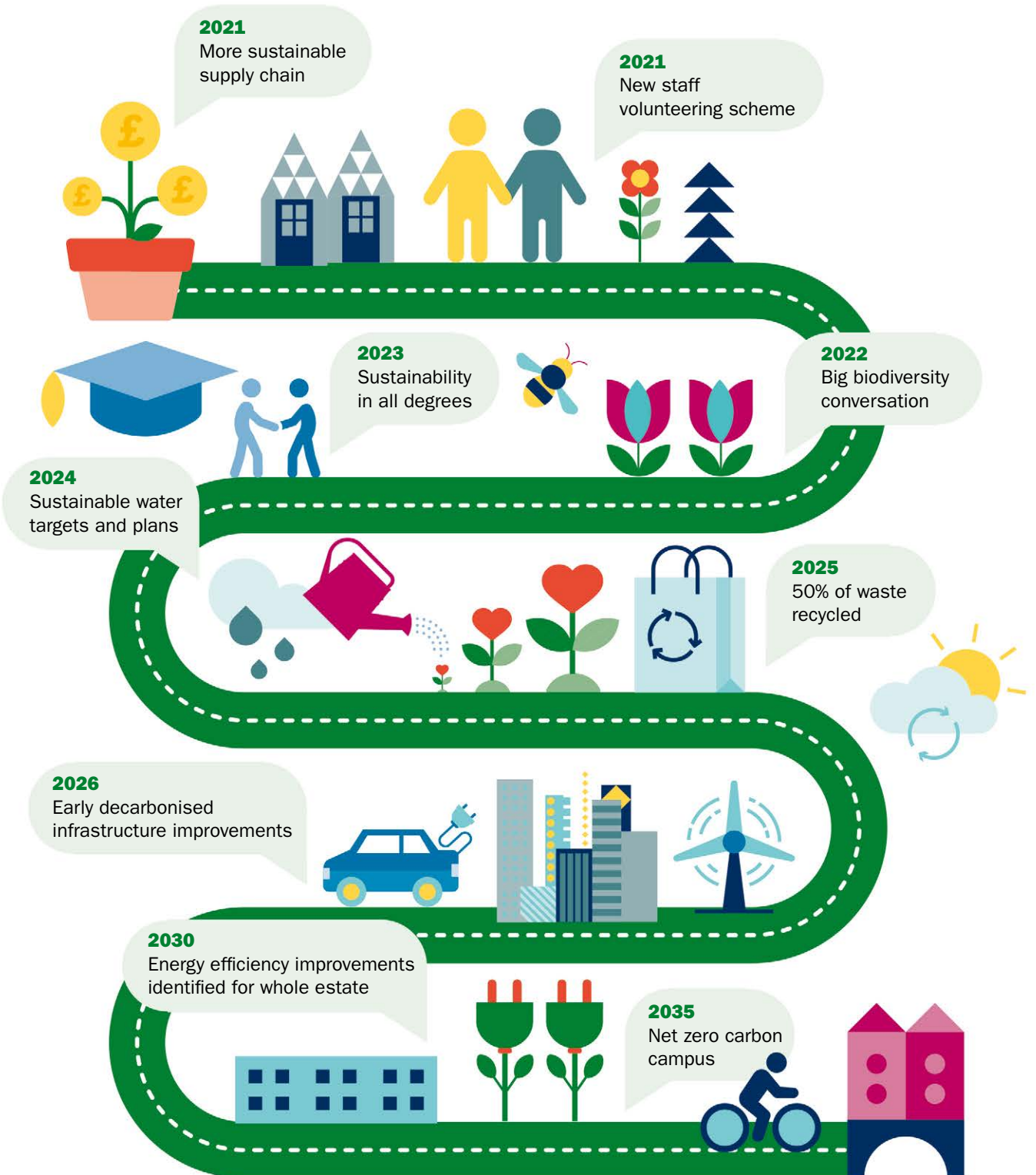
- Net zero by 2035
- Excellent carbon accounting
- Decarbonised energy infrastructure
- Energy-efficient campus

ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS



- 50% of waste recycled by 2025
- Responsible food and water production and consumption
- Biodiverse campus
- Behaviour changers

OUR SUSTAINABILITY ROAD MAP



HOW THE STRATEGY SUPPORTS THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

While all the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) overlap and are interlinked, this strategy was developed by grouping the SDGs into four clusters that formed the basis and scope of the four themes within the strategy. This clustering can be illustrated below as follows:

