

Sustainable Buildings – Interim Guidance

The University of Southampton is one of the top ten research-led Universities in the UK and offers first-class opportunities and facilities for study and research. In 2020, the University announced a Sustainability Strategy: ‘Our vision is that by 2030, sustainability will be a part of everything the University of Southampton does: our individual behaviours, how we work together, and how we make decisions for the future. This is key to achieving our mission of changing the world for the better.’

The University is committed to the delivery of sustainable development and buildings. The context of sustainable development by the University can be summarised as follows: ‘Sustainable management and operation of the University’s estate through the provision of appropriate environmental, ecological, transport and energy efficient solutions, targeting carbon reduction and low carbon emissions as a result of efficient and flexible design solutions embracing a low embedded carbon approach. A successful project enhances end user experience through this sustainable development approach as part of the University’s estate.’

This should be demonstrable through the stages of design development and construction:

1. To consider flexibility as an inherent part of the design and build process, to embrace the possibility of change in use as a University asset for its design life.
2. Support our Sustainability Strategy to be net zero in scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 2030 and to reduce scope 3 emissions in our operating activities.
3. Reduce the embodied carbon of buildings by using low carbon and recycled materials, using locally sourced material and labour where possible.
4. Design buildings that enable low energy use.
5. Reduce the environmental impact of construction and demolition with strict environmental controls.
6. Buildings will be designed to embrace wellbeing and inclusivity as a vital part of the building’s design.
7. New developments and construction must demonstrate investment into protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

This document will be reviewed on an annual basis. We will evaluate projects to ensure that these commitments have been met.