



Sustainability

**2022/2023
Sustainable
Development Goals
Report**



University
of Exeter

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals which provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. They are at the heart of 'the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', which was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015.

Our Commitment to the SDGs

We understand the vital need to address our own environmental impact, and have [set a target to achieve carbon net zero](#) (including indirect “scope 3” emissions) by 2030. We have pledged to become a [nature positive university](#), to halt and restore any harm to ecosystems and species. We have also published our [nature positive strategy](#), outlining how we will examine our estate, our supply chain, our teaching and research to make them all nature positive. As a University we are committed to embedding the SDGs across all courses and the experience of our staff and students.

The University of Exeter signed the [Sustainable Development Goals Accord](#) in 2019, committing to report on the SDGs on an annual basis and beginning the process of embedding the SDGs in the curriculum, research and wider activities at the

University. In addition, we also participate in the annual [SDG Teach In](#).

The [University of Exeter joined the prestigious Worldwide Universities Network \(WUN\)](#). Through its Research Development Fund, WUN supports collaborative research that echoes the main pillars of the University of Exeter’s Strategy 2030 – working towards a greener, fairer and healthier future for all. Its research addresses the overarching themes of sustainable development, including: social justice, human rights, inequality, sustainable world cities and urbanisation, energy transitions, water and food security, mental health, child and maternal health, ageing, and responsible and ethical use of computing, artificial intelligence, information security and privacy.

Our Impact

At the University of Exeter, we seek to use the power of our education and research to create a sustainable, healthy and socially just future. These results show our progress towards the SDGs and our Strategy 2030 goals which are to:

- Lead meaningful action against the climate emergency and ecological crisis.
- Make key breakthroughs to transform human health and wellbeing.
- Lead progress towards creating a fair, socially just and inclusive society.



End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Tevi is led by the University of Exeter and is delivered in partnership with the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Cornwall Council. Offering bespoke support to small and medium-sized enterprises in Cornwall and Scilly through a network of specialists and grants for new ventures that deliver environmental growth in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Over 100 businesses received funding between 2018 and 2022 and continued until June 2023.

SETsquared is a unique enterprise partnership and a dynamic collaboration between six leading research-led UK universities. As a world-leading business incubator, we provide a wide range of highly acclaimed support programmes to help turn ideas into thriving businesses.

Our **Institute of Cornish Studies, [Social and Economic Research Unit](#)** brings together the latest research into the social and economic issues affecting Cornwall today. We know that beyond Cornwall's scenery and visitor attractions, we have considerable poverty and inequality.

The **[Centre for Social Mobility](#)** is the UK's only university centre dedicated to improving social mobility through evidence-informed practice and policy. The centre's goal is to help disadvantaged young people so they do better at school, access higher education and succeed at university.

Funding and Scholarships

Because we're determined not to let financial worries put anyone off studying, University of Exeter offer bursaries to complement government loans for low household income families, scholarships for exceptional students, sportspeople and those meeting other criteria as well as expert funding advice and guidance.

University [bursaries and scholarships](#), include:

[The Sanctuary Scholarship scheme](#) enables individuals seeking asylum and refugees who are not able to access student finance to study at the University of Exeter.

[Green Futures Scholarships](#) - These awards are available to support exceptional candidates from Low and Lower Middle Income Countries to pursue their academic and career goals - combining education for sustainable development with global citizenship to deliver equitable and sustainable Green Futures around the world.

Care Leavers Bursary

Access to Exeter Bursaries

Global Excellence Scholarships

The University, in partnership with its alumni community, has also created a [fund](#) to offer additional financial support if you are experiencing unexpected financial hardship which is affecting your ability to study within your current academic year.



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Exeter Food Research Network brings together researchers from across the University and connects them with policymakers, industry leaders, third sector organisations, the media and other stakeholders in the search for a better understanding of food-related issues in our world today. Exeter Food is working toward a better understanding of the significance of food in the human experience, and solutions to our world's most pressing food-related problems. We work in places around the world, conducting research all along the food chain, examining the dynamics of contemporary food systems, the legacy of historical foodways, and the possibilities for healthier, greener, and more equitable food futures.

BEE-STEWARD is a free to download computer software tool designed to help farmers and land managers see how pollinator-friendly management on their farm could affect bee survival and pollination rates.

By forecasting and comparing the effects of different land management such as growing different crops, or pollinator-friendly options such as wildflower margins on bee conservation and food production, BEE-STEWARD can help farmers to make the most of their land for bees and for business.

Our Retail and Catering service

The [Sustainable Restaurant Association](#) help organisations to move towards a better food system in many areas of their business helping to tackle sustainability issues, including the climate crisis, world hunger, food waste and drought. The University is proud to have achieved the highest rating, scoring highly in celebrating local and seasonal food;

supporting global farmers, particularly through our [work with the Fairtrade Foundation](#); treating staff fairly and through efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.

The University is committed to supporting, using and promoting Fairtrade within the retail and catering outlets and services on campus and works towards a number of goals set by the [Fairtrade Foundation](#).

In addition, the University:

- Campus shops participate in the *Too Good to Go* app, reducing food waste

- Locate a [Foodsave Community Fridge](#) at the Forum Library - restocked daily with surplus food from local businesses, so you can help reduce food waste by helping yourself to free food
- In collaboration with the University Grounds Team, we are proud to be developing a project to grow our own produce here on the Streatham campus. The Kitchen Garden supports our aspiration to reduce the travel miles and the volume of bought-in goods used by our Catering Team.
- Track Food Waste across the University

We provide a free **MOOC *Future Food: Sustainable Food Systems for the 21st Century***, available to staff, students and the wider community.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The [Children and Young People's Wellbeing@Exeter Research Network](#) aims to advance research and understanding into the physical and mental wellbeing of Children and Young People (from prenatal to 25 years of age).

Exeter Research Centres are interdisciplinary groupings of our researchers who are working with private or public sector organisations to solve global issues.

[Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health](#) explore how experiences of health, illness and medical knowledge are shaped by cultural practices and beliefs, and investigate how evidence from the humanities and social sciences can be used to help to develop and evaluate innovative and effective public health initiatives.

The [NIHR Exeter Biomedical Research Centre](#) carries out high-quality scientific research into the health areas that are most important to our communities, putting people at the centre of our work. Helping academics and patient-facing experts like doctors and other health professionals bring their research to labs, ensuring that scientific discoveries find their way, or translate, to the bedside or clinic.

LearnExeter hosts MOOCs (massive open online course) with a number of courses free and available to staff, students, the public and health professionals.

Our [Wellbeing](#) pages signpost a range of internal and external support services, plus advice and tips to help you look after your mental health and wellbeing.

We are a [Mindful Employer](#) and we are working towards achieving the [University Mental Health Charter](#), which demonstrates our commitment to better mental health at work.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Our Education and student experience is a theme of [Strategy 2030](#).

Future 17: Powered by Exeter and QS

The University of Exeter and QS are partners in delivering a transformative educational partnership between the world’s leading universities and global organisations, to empower and enable the next generation of students to answer the questions that will shape today, tomorrow and the future for us all.

In an era of global challenges, the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals have become a key framework to articulate the issues that face humanity and encourage mobilisation of concerted efforts to end poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change. While many organisations have taken steps to embed these goals into their strategies, at the University of Exeter we are

committed to going further. We believe in the power of our brightest young minds coming together to tackle these global challenges whilst developing 21st century skills to enhance their education.

Our vision, in partnership with QS, is to build a global ecosystem that connects students from multiple universities with international organisations to generate insights and develop solutions that help address SDGs. To connect the next generation to the most complex challenges of our time and generate actionable solutions.

Free access to up-to-date environmental information and resources

The [Green Futures Network](#) is a free way for any organisation – businesses, community groups, local government, charities – to access up-to-date environmental information, from cutting edge research to brand new resources, and contribute to collective approaches to the emerging climate and ecological emergencies and the changes they are bringing.

The Sustainable Education Thematic Forum

Chaired by our Sustainability Education Advocates, leading projects and initiatives to embed sustainability education across our formal and informal curriculum. The University's [Sustainable Education Action Plan](#) includes:

Responsible Futures a change-making programme and accreditation framework, co-led by students, staff, academics, and the students' unions to embed sustainability across all aspects of education.

The **Sustainability Curriculum Mapping Project** is a staff-facing initiative to aid understanding of how the [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and the three pillars of [Transformative Education](#) are integrated across our curriculum. By conducting this mapping process, we strive to gain insights into our current engagement with these crucial areas. This project is a collaborative effort between the Sustainability Education Advocates, the [Sustainability team](#) and the [Transformative Education team](#). We employ student interns (SCPs) to help design this process so that it best benefits staff and students.

Climate Literacy – piloting the use of Sulitest to assess student knowledge, skills and mindset on sustainability.

[Transformative Education](#) - through the Transformative Education Framework, we will use the power of education to transform our students' lives so that they, in turn, can transform the world. This framework enables all students to see the challenges associated with the climate emergency, inequality and social injustice in their fields of study.

[Green Consultants](#) is an award-winning programme designed to provide students with additional skills and experience required to work in the highly competitive environmental and sustainability sector. In 2023 a new post was created, Sustainability Manager (Student Engagement), to expand the Green Consultants scheme and number of projects delivered each year.

LearnExeter hosts MOOCs (massive open online course) with a number of courses free and available to staff, students and the public.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Our **vision** is to create a positive and inclusive working environment that is a great place to work. Promoting and embedding gender equality is central to this vision and our progress in this area has been recognised with our institutional **Athena Swan** Silver Award.

Following on from the University's engagement in these gender equality accreditations, the Gender Equality Group (GEG) meets termly to discuss a range of gender-related issues affecting staff and students at our institution and monitor our [Gender Equality Action Plan](#).

In addition to this, we continue to develop initiatives and actions to support staff of all genders in their careers.

[Women on Boards \(WOB\)](#) aims to provide further support to achieve gender equality at the University, in particular at the Executive level, in addition to supporting our commitment to reducing the gender pay gap. WOB will also support our Athena Swan applications in recognising a solid foundation for eliminating gender bias and developing an inclusive culture that values all staff.

The [Women in Climate \(WiC\) Network](#) is a joint University of Exeter and Met Office initiative to support the retention of women in climate science and promote diversity.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Optimising water consumption across our campuses through:

- Rainwater harvesting
- BREEAM (Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method) implementation for all developments
- [Sustainable lab practices](#)
- Water Resilient Policy– integrating water management and maximising water reduction
- Prioritising [water conservation](#) in our labs
- Drought tolerant planting
- We are commissioning water audits of our estates and producing a 5-year plan of water reduction activities.

The [Centre for Water Systems \(CWS\)](#) is internationally renowned for its research into water systems engineering. Supporting, developing and operationalising sustainable water management is a key challenge for the future that is strongly addressed by the Centre's activities. This includes research into water supply and distribution systems, waste water and urban drainage systems, flood risk management, and smart water systems, to name a few.

The [Centre for Resilience in Environment, Water, and Waste \(CREWW\)](#) was created and funded in partnership between the University of Exeter, South West Water and Research England.

CREWW has been established to undertake research into some of the most pressing environmental challenges in our time. Namely, how we can manage our precious natural resources in ways which are sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change and population growth. [CREWW research](#) focuses on pressing issues facing the water and waste sectors, including:

- How to protect drinking water supplies from pollution
- The safe treatment and disposal of wastewater (including issues such as micro-plastics and anti-microbial resistance)

- Ensuring we have enough water to cope with a growing population and climate change
- Protecting the water supply network
- Predicting and preventing pollution from the wastewater network
- Understanding how catchments respond to flooding and drought, to improve future resilience.

Through membership of projects and initiatives like [ULTIMATE](#), and partnership with [South West Water](#), we aim to continue working towards a healthier future via clean water and sanitation for all.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The [Energy Policy Group](#) (EPG) at the University of Exeter provides an academic hub for the interdisciplinary study of energy policy. We place sustainability and change at the heart of debates about energy policy and governance. We work collaboratively with stakeholders and researchers on the economics and politics of energy to find new and innovative approaches for enabling the transition to a low carbon, sustainable and affordable energy system.

Our **Infrastructure Decarbonisation Masterplan** is an evolving programme to deliver projects focussed on carbon reduction relating to energy use across our estates and transitioning away from fossil fuel heating. A Project Manager has been appointed to deliver the first of these projects (some of which are externally funded).

Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and exploring cleaner energy options supports our ambition in our Strategy 2030 to lead meaningful action against the climate emergency. We are investing in on campus renewables:

Pre-planning works and feasibility for the proposed [Penryn Wind Turbine Project](#) – to provide clean electricity, along with improved habitats for local wildlife in the area.

Planning application to install [Photovoltaic \(PV\) solar panels](#) on University land close to Duryard Halls of Residence was approved by Exeter City Council at a planning committee meeting in July 2023. The new solar panels will generate over 1,000 MWh of clean energy per year (equivalent to providing electricity to over 250 domestic households) and save 225 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

Work is underway to plan, design and roll out further roof top PVs across our campuses.

We are reviewing three potential options around transitioning to heat pump technology, including working with partners across the city on a potential city-wide heat network.

University Investment Policy excludes investments in entities that are involved in the extraction of fossil fuels.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Living Wage employer, since 2013

The [Community Partnership Hub](#) connects public, voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations with researchers and students at the University of Exeter. Our aim is to help establish long-term, sustainable relationships which support partnering through research projects, student placements and internships, or volunteering.

The University of Exeter has established [Civic University Agreements](#) for Exeter and Cornwall. A third agreement with Devon County is underway. These Agreements set out how the University will work in partnership with other anchor institutions in the region to help find solutions for society's most pressing problems. Our missions present clear calls to action for the University and our partners:

- **Support the sustainable and inclusive growth of the city**
- **Innovate towards a sustainable low-carbon economy for the City of Exeter**
- **Build a city of aspiration and opportunity**
- **Support an ambitious culture and tourism offer**
- **Enhance the health and wellbeing of our citizens**

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University of Exeter is one of 22 international partners of the [HABITABLE](#) Project, a research project on climate change and migration funded by the [European Commission's Horizon 2020](#) program for research and innovation. The fund tackles climate change, helps to achieve the [UN's Sustainable Development](#) Goals and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth. It creates jobs, fully engages the EU's talent pool, boosts economic

growth, promotes industrial competitiveness and optimises investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

[Exeter Innovation](#) works across the research, development, innovation and skills landscape by: driving impact – supporting academics to develop impact; connecting partners - helping build links with potential partners locally, nationally and globally; creating opportunities - helping to structure relationships and create opportunities for collaboration using national and regional funding; and, generating value – supporting income generation; such as IP licensing, spin-outs, consultancy, facilities access, training services and entrepreneurship across the University.

[Smart Nanocomposites Revolution for Energy-Savings Windows](#)

Researchers from the Renewable Energy group are developing novel materials for windows which allow light through whilst protecting it against the heat from the sun.

The University of Exeter is part of a pivotal new partnership that will help decarbonise the electricity system in Great Britain and accelerate progress towards net zero. Exeter is one of six universities across the UK to sign innovation partnerships with the [National Grid Electricity Transmission \(NGET\)](#). The partnerships, which cover the five-year period of the RIIO-2 price control from 2021 to 2026, will help to enable the transition to a cleaner electricity system through knowledge sharing and creation of a culture of innovation, both between NGET and individual universities and as an entire collective.

The **University of Exeter** [Centre for Future Mobility \(CFCM\)](#) partner with businesses to develop low-emissions, high-efficiency integrated power systems for applications in the aerospace, automotive, marine and rail sectors. Driving the next generation towards zero carbon.

- As part of the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Round 3 (CMDC3), OS Energy is spearheading a retrofit project in collaboration with CFM. The [project](#) entails equipping the Prince Madog vessel with a hydrogen propulsion system that will complement the vessel's diesel-fuelled main engine, enabling zero-emission operation during low-speed or short-distance trips. Under regular operation, the hybrid system and innovative propulsion design are expected to reduce emissions by up to 60%.

- **CFCM are part of a consortium led by South West-based hydrogen developer, Tower Group**, will deliver the Exeter H2 Hub, a 10 MW pilot plant with mobile refuelling capability in East Devon, by 2026. This will demonstrate how hydrogen can be used in transport.

Founded in 2013, **GW4** is an alliance of four of the most research-intensive and innovative universities in the UK: Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter. Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do. We work with other universities, businesses and civic bodies, acting as the anchor institutions to support a knowledge-intensive economy.

The project '**GW-SHIFT: Great Western Supercluster of Hydrogen Impact for Future Technologies**' led by the University of Bath and University of Exeter has secured £2.5 million from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) as part of their Place Based Impact Acceleration Account awards (PBIAA).

Researchers from across the GW4 Alliance of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter universities alongside Swansea, South Wales, and Plymouth will work with 25 civic and industry partners, contributing over £1.5 million in additional funds and in-kind support, to maximise the enormous potential of the South West of England and South Wales hydrogen ecosystem.

Hydrogen technologies will play an important role in decarbonising transport and energy to meet the UK government's 2050 Net Zero target and large scale aims to drive the growth of low carbon hydrogen. GW-SHIFT will be a key enabler of these priorities, supporting the UK transition to green hydrogen production.

Over the next four years, GW-SHIFT will support innovative research and activities to create a thriving low carbon hydrogen supercluster focusing on key themes such as production, storage and distribution, conversion and transport.



Reduce inequality within and among countries

Widening Participation Student Support

We believe that all students should have equal and fair access to Higher Education. We also recognise that studying at university isn't as straightforward for everyone, and depending on your financial, personal or ethnic background, you may face additional challenges in both accessing Higher Education and throughout your studies.

We have dedicated staff who are on hand to help students who require additional support and are committed to supporting students from all walks of life and building an inclusive learning environment. We support [equality and diversity](#) across all of our campuses and are [proud to welcome all students](#) to our campuses, and are committed to supporting our LGBTQ+ community. We also welcome staff, students and visitors from all faith backgrounds, as well as those from non

[Success for All](#) is a major strand of our Education Strategy which aims to widen participation, close gaps in student outcomes and build a diverse and inclusive learning environment. A collaboration between academics, professional services staff and students, it seeks to create an educational culture in which everyone can realise their potential.

We have an [Access and Participation Plan](#) to improve access and retention of students from under-represented groups.

At the University, [our values](#) – Community, Inclusion, Discovery, Excellence and Respect – are at the very heart of everything we do. In addition to our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#) we have a suite of related policies and procedures.

Our [Dignity and Respect Policy](#) aims to:

- Promote an environment and culture in which bullying, harassment and victimisation are known to be unacceptable, and proactively work towards eliminating them by creating an inclusive culture, raising awareness within our community and where reporting routes are transparent.
- Individuals have the confidence to raise genuine concerns of bullying or harassment without fear of ridicule or reprisal and know that appropriate action will be taken.

The University **Wellbeing Inclusion and Culture Committee (WICC)** aims to support our strategic priorities and commitments by bringing together colleagues to focus on the delivery of strategies for health and wellbeing, equality, diversity and inclusion, and colleague experience and development.

Our **vision** is to create a positive and inclusive working environment that is a great place to work. Promoting and embedding gender equality is central to this vision and our progress in this area has been recognised with our institutional **Athena Swan** Silver Award.

We are a **Disability Confident** employer

Race Equality Charter Bronze Award - recognising the University's commitment to and efforts towards advancing race equality in higher education.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Exeter University is a partner of the [Blue Heart](#) 6-year project to help **predict and reduce the impact of flooding**, we're investigating how rain, river and wastewater move through Eastbourne and South Wealden.

Climate change is challenging the way we live. We're working with local organisations and communities to explore how to be more sustainable using water, smarter about how we manage it, and help everyone to be prepared for flooding and other impacts.

We aim to make travelling around and between campuses better for everyone and to ease pressure on the environment and reduce carbon emissions.

The **Green Futures Network** is a free way for any organisation – businesses, community groups, local government, charities – to access up-to-date environmental information, from cutting edge research to brand new resources, and contribute to collective approaches to the emerging climate and ecological emergencies and the changes they are bringing.

The [Community Partnership Hub](#) connects public, voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations with researchers and students at the University of Exeter. Our aim is to help establish long-term, sustainable relationships which support partnering through research projects, student placements and internships, or volunteering.

The University of Exeter has established [Civic University Agreements](#) for Exeter and Cornwall. A third agreement with Devon County is underway. These Agreements set out how the University will work in partnership with

As well as developing public transport links and the free bus service between Exeter St David's, Streatham campus and St Luke's campus, we are looking at ways to encourage people to reduce single-occupancy car journeys and adopt more sustainable transport options.

Over the last two years we have been working on a Sustainable Transport Strategy to ensure that changes in travel and behaviour post-Covid are accurately reflected and any impacts on our initiatives are addressed. This strategy has now been approved by University Executive Board and will be published shortly.

other anchor institutions in the region to help find solutions for society's most pressing problems. Our missions present clear calls to action for the University and our partners:

- **Support the sustainable and inclusive growth of the city**
- **Innovate towards a sustainable low-carbon economy for the City of Exeter**
- **Build a city of aspiration and opportunity**
- **Support an ambitious culture and tourism offer**
- **Enhance the health and wellbeing of our citizens**

We are working with local partners on a city-wide heat network.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The University has a range of policies supporting responsible consumption and production, including:

The [Sustainable Bought Goods & Services Policy](#) and [The Responsible Procurement Checklist](#) enable environmental and sustainable considerations in the purchase of all bought goods and services, including consideration on whether existing assets can be reused or shared.

[Sustainable Food Policy](#) reflects the principles of the University's procurement strategy, sustainability goals and climate emergency recommendations, including commitments around responsible sourcing and reducing single use plastic and waste.

Plastic Strategy to reduce single use plastics across campuses

Over the last year we have been working on a Circular Economy and Sustainable Resource Management Strategy with the goal to support the creation of a circular economy by embedding circular principles, facilitating the elimination of avoidable waste and minimisation of the rest, the reuse of as much possible, and recycling of the remainder.

The [Moving On project](#) redirects unwanted items that have been donated by students leaving Halls to charity, raising funds and reducing environmental impacts by diverting items from waste and recycling.

[Exeter Centre for the Circular Economy](#) established to advance the theory and practice of circular economy we deliver impact nationally and internationally through a diverse portfolio of research, education and collaboration activities.

In addition to the activities that fall under our main three pillars (research, education/training and engagement/collaboration), we are involved with projects that deliver national and international impact:

The Centre Co-Directors lead a £30 million UKRI-funded programme. [The CE-Hub](#) was established in 2021 and was tasked with delivering a resilient and restorative circular economy for the UK.

The Centre is the UK Government focal point for the UN Circular Step dialogue platform. This platform seeks to facilitate exchanges of experience, share good practice and engage stakeholders in the circular economy transition.

The Centre delivers an industry leading global Masterclass on CE adoption and implementation which has been delivered to over 300 Global businesses and 2500 business leaders since 2018.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The University of Exeter played a significant role at COP28, the UN Climate Change Conference - held in Dubai from November 30 to December 12.

Time is almost up to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The University's work at COP28 included a vital reality check from the [Global Carbon Budget](#), risks and opportunities presented in the [Global Tipping Points Report](#) and harnessing the power of poetry through [We Are The Possible](#).

As a world-leading university in the field of environmental sustainability and climate change, we provide the ideal learning environment for students who want to play their part in building a green future for all. Our students learn from academics who are at the forefront of discovering solutions to these global challenges – translating their cutting-edge research into innovative teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. We have handpicked a [selection of courses](#) you can study with us, whilst being inspired and taught by top climate scientists in their fields.

The [Convex Seascape Survey](#) seeks to discover exactly how the ocean performs its vital role as the world's largest carbon sink. Over five years, the project will not only scrutinise the carbon locked in the continental shelf seabeds but will assess the role of ocean life on carbon storage, as well as assessing human influences on seabed carbon. Funded by Convex Group Ltd., the project is facilitated by Blue Marine Foundation, with science led by the University of Exeter in collaboration with partners.

Together with Encounter Edu and Blue Marine Foundation work includes the creation of a legacy of UK curriculum-aligned lesson packages while ensuring a global reach through live lessons, a [free-to-access online repository of resources/activities](#), and an immersive digital experience.

Our [Sustainability Annual Reports](#) reflect and showcase our achievements, performance, challenge and commitment to responding to the Environment and Climate Emergency across the University of Exeter.

The University of Exeter's Strategy 2030 builds on the Environment and Climate Emergency declaration made in 2019 and commits the University to leading meaningful action against the climate emergency and ecological crisis. Reducing our own impact is a large part of this, and we have a target to achieve [carbon net zero across all scopes by 2030](#).

Our Infrastructure Decarbonisation Masterplan is an evolving programme to deliver projects focussed on carbon reduction relating to energy use across our estates and transitioning away from fossil fuel heating.

Increasing on campus renewable generation.

Sustainable Design Guide – ensuring sustainable energy in all refurbishments and capital works/new build

Multiple programmes of work are focussed on changing our ways of working to be more sustainable, reduce carbon emissions and embed sustainability into University culture.

The University of Exeter has established [Civic University Agreements](#) for Exeter and Cornwall. A third agreement with Devon County is underway. These Agreements will establish how the University will work in partnership with other anchor institutions in the region to help find solutions for society’s most pressing problems, including delivering a net zero Exeter. The Exeter agreement was signed in August 2021, the Cornwall agreement was signed in May 2023 and work on the Devon and Torbay agreement is ongoing.

LearnExeter hosts MOOCs (massive open online course) with a number of courses free and available to staff, students, the public including Climate Change courses:

Tiping Points: Climate Change and Society

Climate Change Solutions

Climate Change: The Science

Arctic Ecosystems and Climate Change

Installed across three campuses (Streatham, St Luke’s & Penryn) between 13 November and 1 December 2023, the [Climate Wall](#) represented a moment of reflection in the lead up to COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The interactive art installation allowed the local community, students and colleagues at the University to view facts about climate change and action being taken across the world, and post “live” reflections to represent a “moment in time” of how people think and feel about climate change.



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Exeter University is a partner of the [Blue Heart](#) 6-year project to help **predict and reduce the impact of flooding**, we're investigating how rain, river and wastewater move through Eastbourne and south Wealden.

Climate change is challenging the way we live. We're working with local organisations and communities to explore how to be more sustainable using water, smarter about how we manage it, and help everyone to be prepared for flooding and other impacts.

Through a series of ground-breaking innovations, researchers at the University of Exeter are seeking to improve [sustainable fishing and aquaculture \(fish farming\) of Caribbean spiny lobsters](#). The two-year project will:

- Build a "genetic tool" to enable analysis of lobster population genetics and connectivity
- Work with local fishers and trial the latest aquaculture technology for sustainably farming lobster
- Work with key government stakeholders in the Bahamas to devise a policy for future sustainable exploitation of this critically important organism.

[Development of Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\)](#) - Our research into marine biodiversity and ocean resource users has successfully helped to create Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Ascension Island, Gabon and the Ivory Coast.

The [Resilience of Coastal Communities \(ROCC\)](#) project aims to build the know-how to enhance the resilience of marine resource-users to environmental, regulatory and socio-cultural change, while simultaneously improving their wellbeing and reducing adverse impacts on the marine environment. The team has come together from the University of Exeter, University of Bristol, and European Centre for Environment and Human Health and Plymouth Marine Laboratory, and is being led by Dr Louisa Evans, University of Exeter.

The [Centre for Resilience in Environment, Water and Waste \(CREWW\)](#) was created and funded in partnership between the University of Exeter, South West Water and Research England.

- CREWW has been established to undertake research into some of the most pressing environmental challenges in our time. Namely, how we can manage our precious natural resources in ways which are

sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change and population growth. Projects have looked at drinking water quality, wastewater quality, pollution events, leakage and resilience.



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The University signed the [Nature Positive Universities pledge](#) in 2022 - a commitment to start a nature positive journey and develop a plan for action that will result in a net positive impact on the environment and biodiversity. In undertaking this planning, we have pledged to measure, monitor and report on the environmental impacts of all University activities – teaching, research, operations, partnerships and supply chains resulting in our [Nature Positive Strategy](#) which will be published in 2024 outlining our targets and key objectives.

We are working with the National Trust on the £10m [RENEW](#) programme to renew biodiversity through a “people-in-nature” approach. Also reflecting the vital role of human behaviour, the [ACCESS](#) project uses the expertise of social scientists to tackle a range of climate and environmental problems.

Design of a Nature Based Solution to deliver carbon storage and enhanced natural capital at [Hoopern Valley](#) (University owned site).

We provide a free **MOOC – Valuing Nature** - available to staff, students and the wider community.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Justice and Violence Studies @Exeter Network brings together researchers, students and experts across all career stages, from different backgrounds, with the aim to change and challenge inequality and injustice. Using their expertise in qualitative, quantitative and evaluative methods, and the experience (including lived experience) of others as appropriate, members of the network assess and evaluate policies and practices to better understand how and why people are subject to violence and injustice and the most effective methods for combatting these. We welcome members across all career stages.

The University of Exeter **Community Law Clinic** opened its doors in September 2017. We assist individuals who are not eligible for legal aid or are otherwise unable to afford private legal advice.

We recognise and seek to fill the gaps left by legal aid cuts and help individuals access justice in a system which often appears overly complex, confusing and expensive.

Law students, under supervision from qualified legal professionals, provide free legal advice and information to members of the public in a variety of areas of law.

The **Exeter Centre for Environmental Law** (ExCEL) was established at the end of 2021 to stimulate interdisciplinary internal partnerships with centres within the University. The purpose of ExCEL is to provide an intellectual environment to create a Worldwide Environmental Law and Policy Research Network with international academic partners, such as Duke, QUEx and CUHK. In parallel, it is aimed to engage with international, national and local stakeholders. In addition to being an attraction centre for law researchers willing to conduct their research in Cornwall, it is also one of the goals of ExCEL to support members with achieving impact through policy workshops and training, as well as PR and marketing.

Our research will focus on:

- promoting the study and development of environmental, climate, and marine law and policy;
- stimulate debate, collaboration, and networks in response to the most pressing needs of international, European, and local environmental matters; and
- support teaching and training in the fields of environmental, climate and marine law.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Member of the [Earth League](#) - a voluntary alliance of leading scientists and institutions working on planetary processes and sustainability issues, established to address current challenges and opportunities related to the future of our planet.

The University of Exeter's research and education makes a difference across the world. In order to deliver our Strategy 2030 we recognise that [Global Partnerships](#) are vital. Our mission is to make the world greener, healthier and fairer place by collaborating with partners on priorities which address the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including:

- **QUEX Institute** - to deliver impactful research that addresses major global challenges, unified by the central issue of 'Global Sustainability and Wellbeing'
- [HABITABLE](#) - Bringing together **22 diverse recognised institutions** from 18 countries, covering a wide range of expertise necessary for the successful implementation of the project. HABITABLE will run for 4 years (2020-2024)

This international collaboration is the largest research project on climate change and migration to have ever been funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program for research and innovation. The fund tackles climate change, helps to achieve the [UN's Sustainable Development](#) Goals and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth.

HABITABLE seeks to connect **different scales of research** by adopting an interdisciplinary, **mixed-methods** approach. Empirical data collected through a longitudinal survey will be complemented by in-depth qualitative methods to provide a more nuanced understanding of how particular tipping points influence migration behaviour and the habitability of Socio-Ecological Systems (SES).

The overall goal of HABITABLE is to investigate how and to what extent climate change affects the habitability of socio-ecological systems and transforms current and future migration and displacement patterns. HABITABLE's systemic approach will contribute to the design of appropriate and sustainable policy responses to the climate-migration nexus.

The four objectives:

- Formulate a **predictive understanding** of migration patterns and dynamics under climate change through the identification of social tipping points that lead to migration.

- Propose adaptation options and strategies for populations affected by climate change based on an assessment of how migration redefines the limits to adaptation.
- Identify, analyse and mainstream the gendered and social equity dimensions of the climate-migration nexus throughout the project
- Support the development of effective policy responses by co-producing migration scenarios and policy recommendations with key stakeholders.

As a world-leading university in the field of environmental sustainability and climate change, we provide the ideal learning environment for students who want to play their part in building a green future for all. Our Green Futures website provides information on a selection of [sustainability courses](#).

[Future 17](#) – the Sustainable Development Goals Challenge Programme.

The University of Exeter and QS are partners in delivering a transformative educational partnership between the world's leading universities and global organisations, to empower and enable the next generation of students to answer the questions that will shape today, tomorrow and the future for us all.

In an era of global challenges, the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become a key framework to articulate the issues that face humanity and encourage mobilisation of concerted efforts to end poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change. While many organisations have taken steps to embed these goals into their strategies, at the University of

Exeter we are committed to going further. We believe in the power of our brightest young minds coming together to tackle these global challenges whilst developing 21st century skills to enhance their education.

Our vision, in partnership with QS, is to build a global ecosystem that connects students from multiple universities with international organisations to generate insights and develop solutions that help address SDGs. To connect the next generation to the most complex challenges of our time and generate actionable solutions.

The [University of Exeter played a significant role at COP28](#), the UN Climate Change Conference - held in Dubai from November 30 to December 12.

Presence at the [World Economic Forum](#) - calls for a dedicated World Economic Forum project to focus on the climate-driven changes happening in polar regions, which have dramatic effects across the globe.

The University of Exeter announces [partnership with the World Economic Forum](#) to develop a new global initiative for the poles. In partnership with the leadership of the University of Exeter on environment and climate research, the Hoffmann Fellow will help build and drive collaborations between the [World Economic Forum](#), the University of Exeter, Arctic Basecamp and external stakeholders to improve science-based communication and multi-stakeholder collaboration in support of the poles.

Time is almost up to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The University's work at COP28 included a vital reality check from the [Global Carbon Budget](#), risks and opportunities presented in the [Global Tipping Points Report](#) and harnessing the power of poetry through [We Are The Possible](#).

The University is renowned for its environmental research and education, and is home to many of the world's leading climate scientists. We now have more than 1,500 people working on the environment and climate emergency, and recently launched a new business support initiative called [Green Futures Solutions](#).

Other events at COP28 included scientists presenting work on the Arctic, Antarctica, the oceans and rainforests collaborating with other partners from around the world.

[The University of Exeter will also be participating in COP16](#) – the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia, from 21 October to 1 November 2024.

The University of Exeter signed the [Sustainable Development Goals Accord](#) in 2019. The Accord is a commitment made by learning institutions to one another, to do more to deliver the SDGs, annually report on individual progress as a Signatory, and do so in ways which share the learning with each other both nationally and internationally.

Benefits of SDG Accord reporting allows a more relatable and clear dialogue on sustainability internally within the organisation and externally,

allowing us to build new external partnerships based on the SDGS, such as around research, policy and projects.

EAUC publish the [SDG Accord annual progress report](#), highlighting the collective progress towards the SDGs in the college and university sector.