

University of Kent Sustainable Waste Strategy 2021-2026

Contents

University of Kent Sustainable Waste Strategy 2021-2026	1
1. Introduction	2
1.1. Internal drivers for Waste Management	2
1.1.1. Environment Policy.....	2
1.1.2. Sustainability Strategy	2
1.1.3. ISO14001:2015	2
1.1.4. Student and Staff feedback	2
1.2. Sustainable Development Goals	2
1.3. Key Principles of Sustainable Waste Management	3
The Waste Hierarchy.....	3
Wider Resource Efficiency	3
1.4. Vision for Waste Management 2021-2026.....	3
2. Infrastructure for Waste	4
2.1. Procurement	4
2.2 Provision of Facilities and Visual Identity	4
2.3. Compliance.....	4
3. Operations for Waste.....	4
3.1. Application of the Waste Hierarchy.....	4
3.2. Resource Efficiency	5
3.3. Waste Stream Specific Actions.....	5
3.4. Organisational Culture Change	5
3.5. Stakeholder Engagement.....	5
4. Measuring Waste Success.....	6
4.1. Monitoring and Measurement	6
4.2. Communication and Reporting.....	6
4.3. Continuous Improvement	6

1. Introduction

The definition of waste has been in use in its current wording for over three decades and it is now embedded in the 2008 Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC). This set of guidance provides a legal analysis of Article 3(1) which defines “waste” as: “...any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard...”

1.1. Internal drivers for Waste Management

1.1.1. Environment Policy

The University of Kent’s Environment Policy was last updated and signed by the Vice Chancellor and Chair of Council in February 2020 and sets out our objectives and commitments to environmental management including:

- Optimise reduction, reuse, recycling and disposal of waste

1.1.2. Sustainability Strategy

The new Sustainability Strategy sets out the University of Kent’s objectives for embedding Sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals throughout our operations, teaching and research. The strategy pulls out some priority areas including supporting responsible consumption. This strategy supports the overarching aim from the Sustainability Strategy to: Increasingly a circular economy (cradle to grave) approach to procurement and waste is being adopted and continue to implement our waste strategy and achieve our aims of reducing overall waste by focusing on prevention and reuse.

1.1.3. ISO14001:2015

The University of Kent operates an Environmental Management System (EMS) certified to ISO14001:2015. This system requires us to identify our significant environmental aspects and develop a programme of improvement, identify relevant legislative requirements and ensure operational control in order to achieve continuous improvement in environmental performance.

1.1.4. Student and Staff feedback

In the spring term of the 2020/2021 academic year we ran an open consultation for students and staff to provide feedback on how we manage our campuses and what they would like to see in this strategy. The Waste and Recycling and the Sustainability Team have reviewed all of the responses and have considered how each of them could form part of this strategy.

1.2. Sustainable Development Goals

Throughout this 5 year Sustainable Waste Strategy our goal will be to link our aims and objectives back to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s). The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. The main goal that we are working towards is goal 12 responsible consumption and production however throughout this strategy you will how different objectives link to the different 17 goals which are:

For more information on the SDG’s please visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

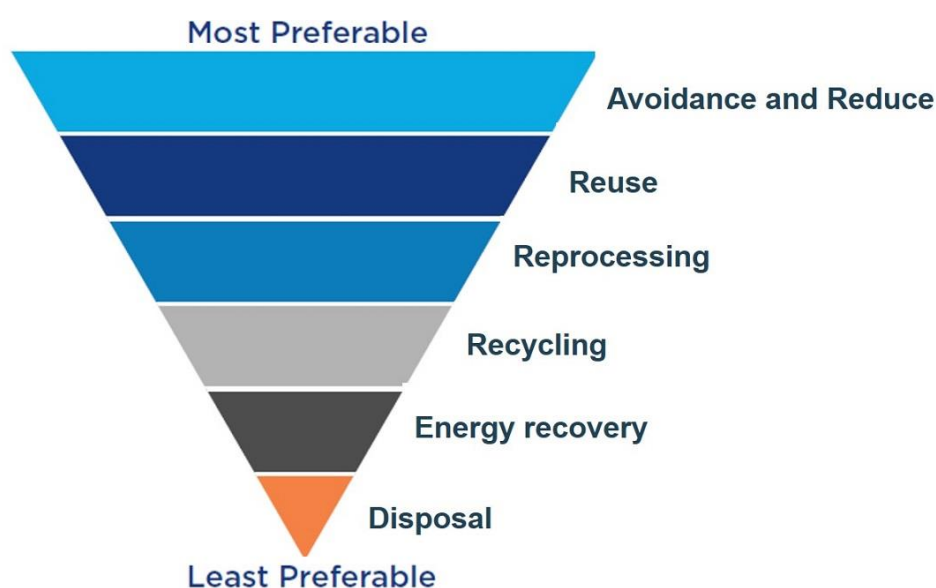
1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and wellbeing
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities

12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

1.3. Key Principles of Sustainable Waste Management

The Waste Hierarchy

The Waste Hierarchy model (implemented through Waste Regulations in the UK) sets out the “most favourable” and “least favourable” options for waste management. Where disposal is the only remaining option, the University aims for 100% of waste to be diverted from landfill. Within this strategy our main goal is to put much more emphasis on the most preferable areas of the waste hierarchy of prevention, reduction and reuse.



Wider Resource Efficiency

Resource Efficiency and the circular economy is all about using natural resources in the most effective way, as many times as possible whilst minimising the impact of their use on the environment. This makes good business sense and is a concept that the Estates Department aims to consider when managing all of its resources along with waste disposal techniques.

1.4. Vision for Waste Management 2021-2026

Significant progress has been made in recent years (General waste: 818.67 tonnes in 2017-2018, 620.11 tonnes in 2018-2019, 535.003 tonnes in 2019-2020) and therefore we want to look beyond traditional waste management practices and develop a more holistic cradle-to-grave approach.

In order to achieve this, we will look further at; infrastructure for waste, operations for waste and measuring waste success. However as this strategy will be taking place over 5 years we will need to review after 2 years (August 2023) and a second 2 years (August 2025), to make sure that our objectives and targets are still realistic and have taken into account factors that fall outside of our control such as the pandemic, relevant strategies and the [University Master Plan](#) for example. Once the key objective for each section has been completed one of the other actions will then be prioritised.

2. Infrastructure for Waste

2.1. Procurement

Aim: Ensure procurement processes are set up so that a) waste contractors contribute towards our overall aims and objectives, and b) waste is embedded at the heart of construction, refurbishment and procurement operations to design waste out of projects and purchases from the outset.

Key objective:

- By August 2022 develop standard tender documentation for all relevant waste contractors to include key operational requirements such as data uploads to Rio or alternative programme if used, our online database used to compile, store and analyse all waste data.

Other actions to be completed over timeline of strategy: Goal to complete at least one action every academic year (decided in separate action plan).

- Work with procurement to develop procedures which disincentive purchasing on non-essential items and promote re-use from across campus both internally and externally.
- Support BREEAM and/or SKA criteria to construction and major refurbishment projects to ensure building design is optimised to reduce waste during the demolition/construction process with the projects team.
- Explore central procurement of key items such as stationery, uniforms, print and PPE for example.

2.2 Provision of Facilities and Visual Identity

Aim: Ensure that waste management facilities across Canterbury and Medway are sufficient, fit-for-purpose, provide continuity and display a clear visual identity.

Key objective:

- By August 2023 develop uniformity for the supply of waste management facilities (internal, external bins and waste compounds) with internal and external stakeholders. This would involve undertaking a campus wide audit on facilities in all buildings and creating action plans against them.

Other actions to be completed over timeline of strategy: Goal to complete at least one action every academic year (decided in separate action plan).

- Conduct regular audits of facilities internally and externally to ensure fit for purpose disposal methods are being met.
- Develop a university waste visual branding scheme to be applied across all campuses.

2.3. Compliance

Aim: Maintain legal compliance across all of our waste management operations.

Key objective:

- By August 2023 develop robust systems for ensuring waste duty of care documents are accurate, complete and accessible.

Other actions to be completed over timeline of strategy:

- Ensure all staff with responsibility for waste management are kept informed of their legal obligations and receive appropriate and regular training.

3. Operations for Waste

3.1. Application of the Waste Hierarchy

Aim: Apply the waste hierarchy to all waste streams at the University.

Key objective:

- By August 2024 develop partnerships with appropriate charities and other third sector organisations to maximise opportunities to reuse waste materials.

Other actions to be completed over timeline of strategy: Goal is to achieve at least one action per academic year (decided in separate action plan).

- Maximise uptake of WARP-IT, an online subscription service we use to reuse furniture and other items around campus rather than purchasing new, through effective communication and development of systems for the removal, storage and distribution of items for re-use internally and externally. Explore the possibility of creating protocols on relocation/sharing

of items and supplies rather than purchasing new in the first instance. Promote the use of Warp-it through the Working from Home Hybrid Scheme.

- Explore other opportunities to establish reuse and recycling schemes for selected waste materials such as coffee pods and ensure explore how we can reduce unnecessary waste coming onto campus such as paper being delivered in plastic.
- Explore upcycling opportunities such as repainting and reupholstering in the first instance.

3.2. Resource Efficiency

Aim: Encourage the efficient use of resources across the University highlighting the financial and environmental benefits.

Key objective:

- By August 2022 partner with schools and departments on campus in actions that they can take to increase resource efficiency through undertaking a waste hierarchy analysis/audit to determine actions best suited to them. This objective interlinks with the [Climate and SDG Strategy 2021-2025](#) under point 4.5 Responsible Consumption and Production.

Other actions to be completed over timeline of strategy: Goal is to achieve at least one action per academic year (decided in separate action plan).

- Run effective campaigns aimed at reducing food waste from catering and student accommodation with hospitality, conferencing and the sustainability team in addition to introducing a food waste stream within all catering outlets with trials taking place within other areas of campus throughout this strategy length.
- Work with individual departments to prevent local printers, which do not have the paper cut software, to tackle paper consumption.

3.3. Waste Stream Specific Actions

Aim: Identify waste streams where there is significant potential to prevent, reuse or increase recycling and put action plans into place to address this to ensure that the waste hierarchy model is being used correctly.

Key objective:

- By August 2023 conduct a review of all University waste streams to identify those where improvements could be made and develop action plans for those waste streams where improvements have been identified.

3.4. Organisational Culture Change

Aim: Deliver a university-wide culture programme including actions around waste, procurement and resource efficiency.

Key objective:

- Work with the Sustainability team to ensure that the University-wide culture change programme reflects the aims and objectives of the waste strategy by supporting the delivery of the programme through communications, attendance at workshops and participation in the programme.

3.5. Stakeholder Engagement

Aim: Work closely with stakeholders to ensure waste management operations are conducted with maximum efficiency including how to reduce our impact during these operations. E.g. emissions during waste collections taking place

Key objective:

- By August 2026 reduce general waste volume whilst increasing the percentage of waste that is being prevented, reused and recycled.

Other actions to be completed over timeline of strategy: Goal is to achieve at least one action per academic year (decided in separate action plan).

- Work with Kent Union, Greenwich, Canterbury Christ Church University, Plastic Free Canterbury and the local councils amongst others, to deliver a consistent approach to waste management across the University with regards to facility provision, visual identity, communications and training.
- Conduct annual external stakeholder meetings to discuss issues, plans and progress.

4. Measuring Waste Success

4.1. Monitoring and Measurement

Aim: Develop robust, transparent systems for monitoring and measuring all waste activity.

Key objective:

- By August 2022 ensure that 100% of waste data is accurately uploaded to Rio by key waste contractors.

Other actions to be completed over timeline of strategy: Goal is to achieve at least one action per academic year (decided in separate action plan).

- Develop targets and KPIs for all areas of waste management and review progress against these regularly.
- Explore options for measuring waste at the 'per' building scale and ensure this information is available to building users.

4.2. Communication and Reporting

Aim: Ensure staff, students and stakeholders, have access to up-to-date information on waste management including procedures, data and audit findings where appropriate.

Key objective:

- By August 2024 develop the waste and recycling web pages to include clear information and a waste data dashboard to communicate progress against targets and provide updates on actions that are taking place.

Other actions to be completed over timeline of strategy: Goal is to achieve at least one action per academic year (decided in separate action plan).

- Contribute towards the annual sustainability successes report.
- Maintain a consistent presence on social media, including twitter and blogs.
- Communicate further with staff on updates through Staff Newsletters and include more information in the staff induction process on the waste hierarchy and sustainable waste disposal.

4.3. Continuous Improvement

Aim: Ensure that progress on waste management across the university is continuous.

Key objective:

For the next 5 years we need to work on reducing our general waste output further, whilst increasing the amount of waste that is going to recycle, reuse, composting/ anaerobic digestion. We will be using the 2018-2019 academic year for our baseline data as figures for 19/20 and 20/21 were impacted by the Covid19 pandemic. Our goal is to change the makeup of our waste based on the waste hierarchy and so reduction in the percentage of general waste compared to our total waste, and an increase in the percentages from our recycling, reuse and compost/AD compared to our total waste.

Target Stream	18/19 Baseline Year %	21/22 Target %	22/23 Target %	23/24 Target %	24/25 Target %	25/26 Target %
General Waste	44.50%	43.00%	41.50%	40.00%	38.50%	37.00%
Recycling	45.30%	45.75%	46%	46.25%	46.50%	46.75%
Reuse	4.40%	5.25%	6.25%	7.00%	8.00%	8.75%
Compost/AD	5.80%	6.00%	6.25%	6.75%	7.00%	7.50%

Other actions to be completed over timeline of strategy: Goal is to achieve at least one action per academic year (decided in separate action plan).

- Ensuring SMART targets for waste management are included as part of the RPD process for all appropriate staff with waste management responsibility.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with other university waste teams, external organisations such as the EAUC, suppliers and contractors to keep up-to-date with advances in waste management practices.