

# Sustainability Plan 2022 – 2030



# Ngā Kai o Roto

## Contents

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- 3 Tā UC aronga Tūroa | UC's Sustainability Approach
- 4 Ngā Mātāpono | Values
- 5 Whāinga Rautaki | Strategic Vision
- 6 Herenga Tūroa | Sustainability Policy
- 7 Ngā Whakaarotau | Priority Areas
  - 7 Priority 1  
Contribute to resolving SDGs through Learning and Teaching
  - 7 Priority 2  
Ensure Research Contributes to Global Sustainability Challenges
  - 8 Priority 3  
Becoming carbon net neutral by 2030
  - 9 Priority 4  
Improving Environmental Sustainability
  - 9 Priority 5  
Grow our Sustainability Networks
- 10 Pūrongo | Reporting
- 11 Arotakenga | Review

# Tā UC aronga Tūroa

## UC's Sustainability Approach

My vision for sustainability at the University of Canterbury (UC) is that all activities at UC will have a strong sustainability focus and contribute to the world's sustainability.

Therefore, the remit of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sustainability is diverse and wide ranging. My work will increase the visibility of all sustainability activities at UC, whether in teaching and learning, research, or campus operations.

An exciting development at UC is the modification of our coal boiler to biomass, and therefore as PVC Sustainability I will be chairing the project control group for this, and I am UC's Sponsor for the project.

I will be chairing a new sustainability committee which is a sub-committee of Academic Board. The new committee will drive our work to weave sustainability and awareness of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals throughout UC's curriculum. New campus events will promote discussion and help us to gain new insights and ideas. I also plan close interactions with the University of Canterbury Students' Association leadership team to understand the view of the students in our sustainability journey.

I am leading the Alternative Lab and Studio Delivery Options project, expanding its implementation across a range of disciplines. This important step into the virtual environment will enable a range of remote teaching and learning opportunities in practical situations such as simulating laboratory experiences or experiments, that are ultimately more sustainable and have great resilience.

**Professor Jan Evans-Freeman**  
**Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sustainability**

### Headline activities include:

- UC leading by example as a role model, including with plans to become carbon net neutral by 2030
- UC leading by example and removing our reliance on coal by 2023
- UC conducting and sharing research that contributes to resolving global challenges
- Learning at UC will empower students to make a difference in the world and to work towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- We will recognise and reward people for sustainable efforts and engagement
- We place particular emphasis on SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals – therefore we are connecting to global and national communities and networks such as the Race to Zero, the Aotearoa New Zealand SDG Declaration, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

# Ngā Mātāpono | Values

At UC we value manaakitanga, whanaungatanga and tiakitanga. These values guide what we do and how we do things. They challenge and inspire us to empower others and to be the best we can in our work, our studies and our interactions with each other.

## Whanaungatanga

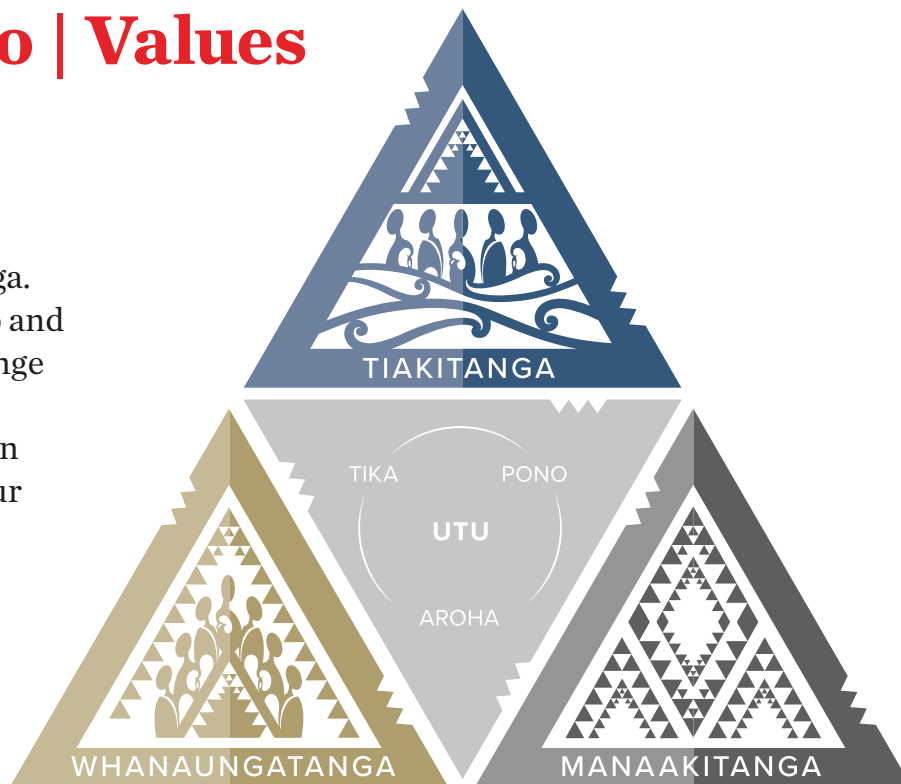
He mana tō te tangata: We value people and their differences

## Tiakitanga

He kaitiaki tātou katoa: We will enhance and nurture our resources

## Manaakitanga

Kia aroha ki te tangata: We extend care and empower others



Underpinning our values are the attributes of:

**Tika:** doing what is right, being professional and maintaining high standards

**Pono:** being honest, truthful and acting with integrity

**Aroha:** being respectful, responsive and empathetic

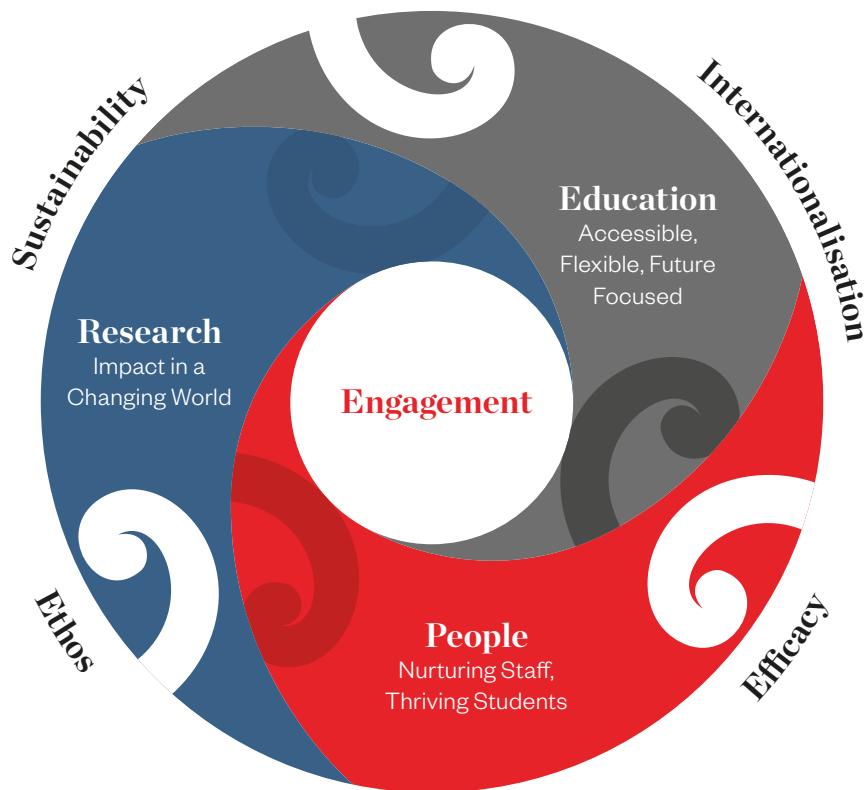
**Kia tika, kia pono, kia aroha** – doing what is right with integrity and empathy – This is how we check in on how well we are living the values.

At the centre of our attributes is **utu** – reciprocation and balance. Utu is linked to retaining mana and recognises the link between actions and reactions and that all actions require an appropriate response, whether positive or negative.

# Whāinga Rautaki | Strategic Vision

In 2019 a new University of Canterbury Strategic Vision was developed based on extensive consultation with staff and students. This Strategic Vision includes seven chapters, one of which is the Environmentally Sustainable chapter.

The Environmentally Sustainable chapter identifies five priority areas, each of which is comprised of a variety of projects. Together with the Sustainability Committee of Academic Board, a Sustainability Programme Board advises on this overall programme. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sustainability Chairs both the Sustainability Committee of Academic Board and the Sustainability Programme Board.



**Excellence**  
building our future on the bedrock of excellence

**Relevance**  
responding to a changing world

**Impact**  
making a difference locally & globally

**Kotahitanga**  
working as one university

# Herenga Tūroa | Sustainability Policy

The University of Canterbury's *Sustainability Policy* (2020) sets out our reasons for actions, and priority areas for focus. The policy states:

'The University has a genuine desire to have sustainability institutionalised into the working culture and psyche of the University. It affirms that we want to see real change. Therefore, the University views sustainability as a broad, multi-faceted concept in which ecological, social, cultural and economic systems mutually reinforce and support one another into the long term. In particular, the University supports the notion of 'strong sustainability', in which the 'econo-sphere' rests within the 'socio-sphere', which in turn is dependent on a strong 'bio-sphere'.

'Acknowledging the global ecological crisis, the University will, with urgency, ensure that our research, teaching and learning, community engagement and operational plans align with New Zealand's Sustainable Development Goals (New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade website) and Greenhouse Gas Emission commitments (Ministry for the Environment website). The University is committed to discovering and facilitating actions to address environmental, cultural, social and economic sustainability within the University.'

# Ngā Whakaarotau | Priority Areas

## Priority 1 Contribute to resolving SDGs through Learning and Teaching

The University will weave opportunities for students to learn and contribute to resolving the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals through the curriculum.

### Explore new Cross-disciplinary Qualifications

- New qualifications
- Teaching Tools
  - Teaching tools including practical setup to work with and assess CN tech
- Endorsements in Sustainability
  - Add endorsements in sustainability and/or resilience
- New Bachelor's Degree
- New Master's Degree in Sustainability

### Identify Sustainability Initiatives

- Inventory of Case Studies
  - Provide inventory of campus case studies (including working data series) that can be used in teaching
- Heat Pump Scheme Case Study
  - Promote the Wellness Precinct ground source heat pump scheme as a case study
- Initiatives for Field Work
  - Support current and new initiatives for field work (field stations, in the city, on campus)
- Re-use of Plastics
  - Investigate ways that after-use plastics can be re-used to solve SDG goals and pilot within relevant teaching programmes

### Course Mapping to the 17 SDGs

- Develop system to Identify and Record SDG-related Courses
- Website Update
  - Update the University's website to provide an SDG icon to show what courses cover materials in which SDG

## Priority 2 Ensure Research Contributes to Global Sustainability Challenges

The University will create opportunities for research in areas addressing critical sustainability issues.

### Reduce Gross Emissions

- Map relevant Research against the SDGs
- Application of Research
  - Consider what current research outcomes can be applied to UC carbon reduction/ carbon sequestration/ sustainability challenges
- Funding Research
  - Provide funding to support associated research (outcomes can be applied to UC carbon reduction/ carbon sequestration/ sustainability challenges)

### Invest in sustainability research

- New Research Cluster focussing on Sustainability

### Establish a Sustainability Incubator

- Establish a Research Student Sustainability Incubator

## Priority 3 Becoming carbon net neutral by 2030

The University will establish a carbon neutrality initiative to ensure that UC will be carbon net neutral by 2030. The University's carbon and climate work is comprised of three core areas: reduce emission, sequester remaining emissions, and ensure we are climate resilient.

### Reduce

- Develop a Low Carbon Energy Strategy
  - Create a concept plan for the Ilam Building programme
  - Replace Ilam and Dovedale coal boilers
- Reduce Air Travel
  - Research the impact of air travel (as an enabler for professional development and/or relationship management) to inform air travel
  - Increase awareness of air travel used by providing reports/dashboard
  - Air travel carbon management plan
- UC Vehicle Fleet Emissions Reduction
  - Investigate conversion of UC vehicle fleet to electric
  - Pilot biofuel conversion for Grounds fleet
  - Transition Grounds fleet to biofuels
- Reduce Technology Carbon Footprint
  - Identify an appropriate standard to adopt to identify the carbon footprint of UC technology. Also investigating government standards in conjunction
  - Identify the embedded energy costs and recyclability of technology devices and infrastructure used on campus to inform procurement
  - Extend the e-waste/hardware recycling stream
- Reduce Building Electricity Intensity
  - Establish current best practice efficient lighting options for UC use. Switch lights to sensor, standardise settings
  - Review energy shutdown settings on UC devices (computers, laptops, AV etc) as a default
  - Assess all major building stock to determine NABERS rating. All UC buildings to operate to 4.0-4.5 NABERS rating
  - Reassess viability of target for Green Star rating design from 5 to 6
- Confirm site wide building intensity targets on dashboard. Establish a management and monitoring solution
- Expansion of EV charging points network
  - Determine current demand and utilisation
  - Develop a 5-year EV strategy
  - Install additional charging points, increasing number from 8

### Sequester

- Establish a Carbon Sequestration Programme with the School of Forestry
- Mt Barker Project Development
- Campus Tree Planting Programme
  - Integrate campus tree planting programme with compatible School of Forestry teaching and research needs
- Cass Field Station
  - Review opportunities for tree planting/revegetation
- Pastoral Leases
  - Review pastoral leases for opportunities for carbon sequestration

### Ensure Climate Resilience

- Develop a Climate Change Risk Register
- Conduct a Climate Change Infrastructure Assessment
- Align UC Carbon Net Neutral Plan with He Rautaki Mō Te Huringa o te Āhuarangi



## Priority 4 Improving Environmental Sustainability

The University will measurably and substantially improve its environmental sustainability.

### Reduce Waste

- Reduce all waste to landfill and increase use of reusable, compostable and recyclable materials
- Reduce all waste streams to landfill
- Improve co-mingle recycle programme
- Reduce single use packaging. Reduction of single use packaging in cafes such as coffee cups, and increase in the use of reusable packaging
- Regular waste audits

### Reduce Water Consumption

- Identify and implement water conservation measures on campus
- Complete sub-metering on all buildings

### Improve active Transport and Mobility

- Improve cycling infrastructure across UC campuses and encourage cycling. Review and reposition cycle parks to best effect
- Integrate public transport into UC campuses

- Investigate and implement how buses might be provided to UC students and staff for free
- Travel surveys to be undertaken every four years to guide campus planning
- Develop a UC Parking Strategy
- Achieve organisational sustainable commuting targets of:

| Travel mode      | 2020 baseline | 2022 target     | 2030 target |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Cycling          | 18%           | Maintain at 18% | 20%         |
| Bussing          | 7%            | Maintain at 7%  | 10%         |
| Walking          | 20%           | Maintain at 20% | 22%         |
| Skate/scoot      | 1%            | Maintain at 1%  | 3%          |
| Car-pooling      | 4%            | Maintain at 4%  | 5%          |
| Moped            | 1%            | Maintain at 1%  | 3%          |
| Electric vehicle | 1%            | Maintain at 1%  | 5%          |

## Improve Biodiversity on Campus

- Approve and implement the Biodiversity Plan and Waterways Plan
- Implement and resource the Waterways Monitoring Framework

## Priority 5 Grow our Sustainability Networks

The University will grow and leverage our local, national, and global sustainability networks to bring new thinking to our challenge and share our practice.

- Actively engage/partner with 'sustainability networks' around the world
- Partner with industry to test new materials on campus
- Work with Christchurch City Council to share learnings and resources
  - Provide a platform to share experiences and celebrate city successes and jointly promote to industry, modelled on the New South Wales City Switch programme
  - Formally partner with CCC to support our respective sustainability programmes
- Develop and deliver the 2020-2021 SDG Summit Series and remain involved in the national programme of SDG Summits

# Pūrongo | Reporting

Reporting against these elements of the Sustainability Strategy is undertaken annually by the University of Canterbury's Sustainability Office.

# Arotakenga | Review

In 2029 this Strategy will be reviewed.



