



Social and Civic Responsibility - Delivery Plan Summary



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



Our focus

The University of Edinburgh's Strategy 2030 sets out our vision to make the world a better place. Our purpose is to address tomorrow's greatest challenges with a values-led approach to teaching, research and innovation, and through the strength of our relationships, both locally and globally. Social and Civic Responsibility is a key focus of our work to ensure that our actions and activities deliver positive change locally, regionally and globally.



Local and global context

Social and Civic Responsibility can mean lots of different things. We use the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals to guide our work: 17 things humanity must do to ensure peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. Our Social and Civic Responsibility objectives closely align with some of these "SDG"s, and contribute to others.

Our objectives

To deliver Social and Civic Responsibility at the University of Edinburgh, we have chosen three strategic objectives and one cross – cutting theme.

Aligning with the following SDGs

Contributing to additional SDGs

1 We will become a net zero carbon and zero waste university.

Developing and pioneering approaches to deliver a net zero carbon and circular economy and protecting and enhancing biodiversity.



2 We will widen participation in higher education and support inclusion.

Increasing opportunities and raising aspirations by making education and employment an achievable goal for more people in Scotland and globally.



3 We will work together with local communities

to contribute to improve the lives of people across the Edinburgh City Region and beyond.



Cross cutting theme: In our operations, research and teaching we will engage critically with, and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals including the promotion, protection and respect for human rights.



What does Social and Civic Responsibility mean at the University of Edinburgh?

As a large organisation, how we do things can have both positive and negative impacts on people and the natural environment near and far. We actively choose to increase the positive impact we can have - such as by ensuring greater access to education- and actively seek to reduce any negative impacts - such as carbon emissions. We also contribute positively to society through our teaching, research and innovation, and through the strength of our relationships, both locally and globally. We use our global influence to encourage others to have a more positive impact on people and the planet.



Our principles

To achieve the University's Social and Civic Responsibility Plan, the following principles will guide our actions:

- Students will be taught about social and civic responsibility and encouraged to develop a passion for this locally and globally.
- Staff will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to ensure their teaching and research can make a positive impact on society.
- University operations, investments and purchasing decisions will have a positive impact on society and any negative impacts will be mitigated.
- We will support physical, mental, emotional and financial wellbeing of our staff and student community, and ensure equality, diversity and inclusion.
- We will work in partnership with our neighbours and local communities.
- We will use global partnerships to tackle social and environmental challenges and opportunities.
- We will be transparent and demonstrate accountability through our reporting and communications.

The Social & Civic Responsibility Plan sets out measures of success for 2025 and 2030 and key areas of activity in relation to each of the key objectives and the cross-cutting theme.

Connections to other key strategies and plans around the University:

- [Climate Strategy \(2016\)](#)
- [Waste Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- [Widening Participation Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- [Community Engagement Plan \(2020\)](#)

Colleges, Schools, and all Departments are working to support the Plan and integrate action within their own areas.

The Plan was developed by the University's **Social Responsibility & Sustainability (SRS) Committee** together with staff and students from across the University. The SRS Committee will oversee progress and monitor and review this Plan on behalf of the University's Executive.

For more information on different aspects of the Plan, how you can get involved and how we can work with you contact:

Social Responsibility & Sustainability:

www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability

Widening Participation:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation

Edinburgh Local:

www.ed.ac.uk/local

Edinburgh Global:

www.ed.ac.uk/global