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Prifysgol Abertawe | Sustainability
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REPORT

SWANSEA UNIVERSITY

	Paper Number	P001
Report to:	University Sustainability Committee	
Document Title	Environmental Management System (ISO 14001:2015): Management Review for 2020/21	
Enquiries to	Teifion Maddocks, Sustainability Manager	
Proposer in meeting	Teifion Maddocks, Sustainability Manager	
Action(s) Requested	For information and comment. No decision required. Presented to fulfil requirements under ISO14001 clauses, for Committee-level Environmental Management Review	

Background

This paper is for Committee information and is the (retrospective) Environmental Management Review for 2020/2021. The Review forms part of the annual cycle of the University's Environmental Management System (EMS), which has been accredited to the international standard ISO14001 since 2013.

A four day (one person) external (NQA) recertification audit took place in June/July 2021 which resulted in zero non-conformities and full re-certification.

Annex i contains details of the sustainability performance of the University in 2020/21 as contained in the EMS and as variously reported to the external auditors NQA, Government, HEFCW and the Guardian-published Green League.

Annex ii contains details of the objectives and targets that the University has adopted for 2021/22, that align with the new Sustainability and Climate Emergency Strategy (2021-2025) and against which our environmental performance will be measured and reported on for 2021/22.

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Corporate EMS Management Review for 2020/21

nqa. ISO 14001 Registered Environmental Management

Contents

1. Introduction

- The last annual ISO14001:2015 external audit was conducted by NQA and took place on 21st - 22nd June, and 1st - 2nd July 2021. The University achieved full recertification.

- The last review of the University's Sustainability Policy was undertaken in July 2020; It is recommended to the Sustainability Committee, that the policy is reviewed to reflect updates to our carbon emissions commitments as per the sustainability strategy (e.g. Carbon neutrality by 2035 rather than 2040).

- A new Sustainability and Climate Emergency Strategy was published in December 2020 to cover the period 2021-2025.

2. Status of previous Non-conformities (2020/21)

All previous non-conformities have been closed off.

Non-conformities (2020/21)

Non-conformities	University	Contractor	Tenant
Internal audit	4 Minor	0 Minor	0 Minor

	0 Major	0 Major	0 Major
External audit	0 Minor	0 Minor	0 Minor
	0 Major	0 Major	0 Major

1. CoS – EMS – Outstanding NCs (Chemistry department) - Oct 2020
2. SUSU – EMS – No sustainability action plan – Sept 2020
3. E&FM – EMS – No Aspects & Impacts register – May 2021
4. E&FM – Waste Management – Waste Transfer Notes and HWCNs checks have lapsed with Covid-19 focus in past year – May 2021

Opportunities for improvement – OFIs (from 2020/21 external audit)

1. The university is already in discussions with Dŵr Cymru regarding the discharge consent for vehicle washing at the Sketty Lane Sports Centre. A response is required from Dŵr Cymru for this to proceed. The university could usefully ensure that this matter is resolved as soon as possible.
2. The delivery of induction training has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The university could usefully ensure that all those people identified on the DTS Course Induction Spreadsheet 2020-2021 complete the Induction Training as soon as its feasible.
3. The Residential Services department are planning to introduce electronic records for routine monitoring of areas & to capture required tasks. The university could usefully ensure these records are implemented as planned.
3. The university could usefully consider using the same sheets for vehicle & equipment checks in Grounds Maintenance as are used by the Sports Centre team. These records would prove useful for ensuring equipment is routinely checked, both for environmental performance, but also under the Provision & Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER).

3. Environmental Incidents and complaints (2020/21)

There were 34 recorded environmental incidents on the corporate 'Adverse Events' recording system as categorised below. All were minor, and actions have been put in place. This figure has increased as a result of the Adverse Events reporting process being actively pushed over the last three years.

Discharges	Sustainable Labs	Spills	Waste	Travel	Wellbeing	Other	TOTAL
4	8	5	10	1	0	6	34

Complaints: There were no known environmental complaints received in 2020/21.

4. Environmental performance (2020/21)

Performance against 2020/21 O&Ts is presented in full in Annex i.

New O&Ts for 2021/22 are presented in full in Annex ii.

Sustainability and Climate Emergency Strategy 2021-2025 and associated Policy, EMS objectives and targets are set for four strategic areas with additional cross cutting activities:

THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY | **OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT** | **OUR WORKING ENVIRONMENT** | **OUR TRAVEL**

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

A. Governance, Management, Decision-Making

B. Learning, Capacity, Skills

C. Communication, Engagement, Involvement

CONTRIBUTION TO KEY GOALS

i) The Climate Emergency (Theme 1)

ii) Wellbeing and Human Health

iii) Wellbeing Of Future Generations (Wales)

iv) United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

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Some of the University's key sustainability achievements in 2020/21 were:

CARBON EMISSIONS

23.8% reduction in total tCO_2e on the 2015/16 CMP baseline, with 13,237tCO_2e in 2021. This included:
- 31% reduction from the 15/16 CMP baseline on Singleton.
- 1.5% reduction from the 15/16 CMP baseline on Bay.

ENERGY USAGE

Reductions in the Display Energy Certificate scores in 2021, with Singleton campus improving from 77 (D) to 74 (C), and Bay campus improving from 92 (D) to 74 (C).

WATER CONSUMPTION

24.7% decrease in Water consumption per m2 GIA pa across both campuses for 2020/21, contributing to a decrease of 43.36% since the 2015/16 baseline figures.

SWELL RELAUNCH

279 new SWell student and staff sign ups following relaunch end of 2021. Total SWell users up to 2115, who logged 32,354 sustainable actions since relaunch, estimated to have saved 60TCO_2e.

CAMPAIGNS & INITIATIVES

190 student members of the NUS Switch-Off energy efficiency campaign. 152 have competed in national sustainability quizzes, with two Swansea halls of residence in the Top 8 of the Switch-Off Climate quiz.

SUSTAINABLE LABS

30 labs enrolled in LEAF as of March 2022. With 21 submissions (70% of labs submitted an award, 1 Gold, 5 silver, 15 bronze) compared to 17 lab submissions in 2020.

WARP-IT LAUNCH

Warp-It launched across the University to increase the reuse of furniture and reduce purchasing costs. Over 200 staff have signed up, with savings of £18,747 and 9050kgCO2.

TYFU TAWE

Campus Sustainable food growing project has continued. Surplus food grown has been delivered to a local 'pay as you feel' café (Matts Café) in collaboration with CampusLife.

FACE-TO-FACE EVENTS

Restarting of in-person events and initiatives in line with updated COVID guidance allowing face-to-face engagement; e.g. Swell relaunch event, LEAF audits, beach cleans.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT G⚫ALS

5. Communications (2020/21)

- Many EMS communications moved online as a result of COVID, including the networks, local CR Committees, and meetings with individuals and groups across the University.
- There was further interface between the EMS and SWell and other softer engagement mechanisms at the University, including virtual engagement events and opportunities such as book and craft clubs.
- Funding was approved to extend the Swell engagement programme to include students with a launch planned for autumn 2021.
- The website was updated in 2020/21 to reflect the new areas of the strategy and new operational procedures rolled out corporately.
- There has been improved communication and engagement with external stakeholders - including Welsh Water for a range of consents related to operations.

6. Recommendations for Improvement (2021/22)

The following are general areas for improvement identified during the 2020/21 internal audits:

1. **Aspects & Impacts Registers** – Develop streamlined A&I registers on LUS and SAPs across all faculties/PSUs

2. **Training Needs Analysis (TNA)** – Further work on TNA required in conjunction with H&S and Sustainability.

3. **Performance Review** – Develop a process for Senior Leadership to review sustainability performance within new faculties.

4. **UNSDGs** – Develop opportunities and process for mapping and reporting UNSDGS.

5. **Communication** – Develop a more robust approach to communicating all elements of the work of sustainability and EMS (i.e. procedures, strategy commitments, policies and events) across faculties and PSUs

END

7. Changing circumstances (2020/21)

Only *new additions* from the comprehensive 2020/21 corporate environmental PESTLE analysis are included here for information.

#	Type	Details	Risks (Bold) /Opportunities
1	Political- External	Changes to Government policy	**-Increase demand on reporting requirements and the associated resources (e.g. personnel, financial costs) necessary to complete these actions.** -Welsh government *Future Wales; National plan 2040* (https://gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040-0) gov has recognised obligations set out in Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. May influence Environment Act, WbFGA, Planning Act, Low Carbon Wales. **-** In Jan 2022, the Welsh government has announced £65 million in funding to help colleges and universities reach net zero carbon emissions. (https://gov.wales/65-million-new-funding-help-colleges-and-universities-reach-net-zero).
2	Political- External	Influence from unions or other external bodies (Environment Centre, Welsh Government, funding bodies, research bodies, Low Carbon Swansea, Swansea Council, Neath Port Talbot Council, environmental forums and NGOs – Welsh Water/NRW)	-UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has published Environmental Sustainability Strategy which has environmental targets for groups receiving funds (to commence 2021/22). - Supporting the Fabian Way corridor road upgrade bid – new cycle route to Bay Campus proposed and better bus links – Senior Management Support. (Application planned for 2023).
3	Political- External	League tables	**-Times HE Rankings SDG reporting (new to the University in 2021) may not give a holistic summary of activities across the University.** **- Green league re-established in 2021.**

			- Visibility of work and increased pool of resources/responsibilities working towards the SDG commitments.
4	Political- external	British exit from EU (BREXIT)	-Potential to explore sourcing locally within the supply chain.
5	Political- external	Swansea Bay City Deal	- **Scope/boundaries of EMS may alter- Phase one, which will utilise City Deal funding over the next 3 years, will deliver 2000m2 of dedicated research and innovation space within the Sketty Lane Sports Park at the Swansea University Singleton Campus.** - Funding opportunities for University expansion with other stakeholders across the Swansea Bay area- Opportunity to utilise funding for integrated sustainable approach (building materials etc). Opportunities for health and wellbeing- sports facilities, improved health care facilities in the area. (https://www.swanseabaycitydeal.wales/news/campuses-project-in-the-city-deal-portfolio-given-the-green-light/).
6	Political- external	The Paris Agreement	-**Potential increased targets/ reporting on climate and biological actions arising from COP- Parties may be expected to revisit 2030 goals in 2022 to bring them in line with Paris agreement. Based on national circumstances. May bring tougher targets.** -**Strain on resources.** -Carbon trust formulating zero carbon plan in consultation with the university. - *COP26 updates* - e Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Transition Council set out an action plan to accelerate the global transition to ZEVs as a result of COP26.
7	Political- external	Covid-19	- **Focus on Covid-19 in 2020 has led to environment and sustainability continuing to be lower on the agenda across the University e.g. retro-fitting renewables.** - **Additional funding required to manage Covid-19 could lead to less budget for new projects in the future.** - Substantiate new sustainable long-term approaches to work and business e.g. travel to university sites, links to external stakeholders, shared spaces.
8	Political- external	UN Sustainable Development Goals	- **Fail to work towards/implement SDGs in line with the University adopted Mission and Purpose.**

9	Political- internal	Corporate Improvement Initiatives	**- The sustainability team has restructured because of VES and staff leaving. Reduced number of sustainability staff, including Head of Sustainability.** **- Waste and recycling officer and sustainable travel officer, previously in the sustainability team have been moved to the commercial team. Focus may change.** - Embed sustainability into corporate sustainability decision processes (PSPU). - Sustainable development committee created to consolidate leadership on professional, academic and research goals, objectives, and commitments.
10	Political- internal	Corporate commitment	**- Unsure of how the new sustainability committee is going to managed and implemented at a local level (i.e. faculties) and how this will correspond with other existing committee (i.e. CR committee).** **-Failure to reach the commitment of zero carbon (scope 1&2) by 2035 as set out in the Sustainability & Climate Emergency Strategy 2021-25.** - New Sustainability committee confirmed to be chaired by PVC (Helen Griffiths). - Continue to expand and embed corporate commitments across the university where applicable, for example: LEAF.
11	Political- internal	Senior Management Change	**- Potential for focus to be temporarily side-tracked from the EMS .e.g. New Registrar appointed (Jan 2022).** - Support increasing within the senior management structure and governance following recent restructuring e.g SLT away day (Spring 2022) where sustainability has been chosen as a key topic to discuss.
12	Political- internal	Staff engagement	**- Staff resource and time.** - Opportunity to engage with staff with fresh perspective e.g. travel user groups (bus and cycling) including Transport for Wales (e.g. Staff and students on Traveline Cymru panel), Staff engagement schemes (Swell). - Improved communication and carbon literacy e.g. dashboards, training etc.
13	Political- internal	Covid-19	- **Increase in single use disposable equipment and products/packaging.** - **Increase use of utilities e.g. ventilating/heating buildings in response to Covid 19 guidance.** - **Returning to "business as usual".**

			- Substantiate new sustainable long-term approaches to work and business - travel, building utilisation - Reduction in scope 3 emissions - Integrating new technology - Hybrid working - Implement a green recovery type approach to increase environmental and sustainability awareness.
14	Political- internal	UN Sustainable Development Goals	- **Lack of knowledge and awareness of the SDGs and commitments the university has signed up to.** - Embed SDGs into the EMS e.g Aspects & Impacts and Sustainable Action Plans.
15	Political- internal	Climate Emergency	- Opportunities for; upskilling, supporting, facilitating, financing, and communicating the climate emergency message and the university commitments through system-based approaches (e.g. improved and business as usual' approach.
16	Economic- External	Changes to economic climate	- **Inflation increases may negatively impact University's investment in environmental initiatives.**
17	Economic- Internal	Budget changes	- **In 2021, Head of Sustainability left on VES, and Environmental Officer left the organisation. No budget to replace positions.**
18	Economic- Internal	EMS-deployment cost	- Changed job descriptions of existing staff to incorporate EMS into their responsibilities.
19	Economic- Internal	Significant decisions	- University Strategic plan adopted in 2020 and reviewed annually. Sustainability embedded as one of the core values of the University (https://www.swansea.ac.uk/the-university/strategy/vision/).
20	Economic- Internal	New E&FM contracts (soft and hard FM)	- **Mitie – hard FM contractor. Confirmed 2021. Various soft FM contractors confirmed 2021.** - **Contracts currently in place for less than 1 year, still undergoing some transitions.** - Integration of sustainability requirements into new contracts.
21	Social- External	Impacts on local communities	- **Additional student accommodation being constructed in City Centre (2021/22) potential negative impact e.g. traffic, parking, noise.** - Supporting campaigns e.g. mighty recyclers, in the loop and love food hate waste.

22	Social- Internal	SMT, staff, student and SU awareness, engagement & expectation	- **New faculty structure could impact engagement and expectations on the EMS.**
23	Social- Internal	Staff retention/changes	- **High staff turnaround can negatively affect the EMS through lack of engagement and declined focus or attention e.g. loss of environmental coordinators.** - **Changes to staff structures as a result of the faculty developments.**
24	Social- Internal	COVID-19	- **"Zoom fatigue" limiting people's desire to engage virtually.** - Opportunities for blended approach. - Return of face-to-face engagement will reinvigorate enthusiasm.
25	Technological- external	Advances in technology	- **Technology development has the potential to increase base-energy use and increase environmental impacts (gas leaks, discharge to drain).** - Working with faculties and local companies (TATA) to develop new renewable technologies becoming available- SPECIFIC (solar cladding).
26	Technological- external	Costs	- **Budget restrictions may deter faculties from investing in more energy efficient products.** - SPECIFIC offers innovation and commercial opportunity with income available to be invested back into renewable technologies.
27	Technological- external	Funding availability for technologies	- Government Green recovery targets post-COVID.
28	Technological- Internal	Implementing and use of new technology	- **Lack of investment for research and development may reduce effectiveness of new technology.** - Research and development utilised to raise awareness of new technologies across the university.
29	Technological- Internal	Existing infrastructure	- **Risk of increase energy consumption and adverse events e.g. leak from district heating system.** - **Increased cost of refurbishment of older buildings and equipment to meet carbon reduction targets.**
30	Technological- Internal	COVID-19	- **Hybrid working can sometimes be a hindrance to work progression (connection issues).**

			- Hybrid working approach now being adopted post-covid. - New university zoom rooms to encourage cross-campus and hybrid working to reduce travel.
31	Legal- External	BREXIT	- Most EU legislation is being transferred to UK law with minimal changes.
32	Legal- external	New legislation	- Legislation updates may result in updating of registers, inventories, and maintenance records for compliance purposes. - Opportunities to identify where we need to adopt new approaches or upgrade equipment e.g. updated adverse event procedures and oil storage.
33	Legal- internal	Staff awareness and stakeholder responsibility and accountability	- **Ongoing changes in E&FM structure could cause uncertainty e.g. staff responsibilities, who to notify in adverse events etc.** - **Ensuring sustainability is embedded effectively in post-COVID processes e.g. risk assessments, hybrid working.** - Integration of H&S and EMS e.g. sustainability/safety networks optimise service provision and streamline work. - Moving Aspects register onto the same system as legislation will make staff more aware of their compliance obligations.
34	Legal- internal	Operations changes: cost/training	- **Restricted budgets may lead to decisions on prioritisation of spend e.g. operational cost over sustainability.** - **Lack of resource and knowledge to create specific sustainability training on ABW and canvas.**
35	Legal- internal	Enforcement	- Increased relationship with Welsh Water to refresh wastewater consents (ongoing with CISM project). Identification of other regulatory bodies to develop relationships (e.g. NRW).
36	Environmental- External	Institution's impact on the environment	- **Growth of the University has potentially increased its environmental impact, although this has slowed in recent years.** - Redevelopment of the University's estate offers opportunity for increased efficiency, climate adaption/mitigation and biodiversity gain. - Wider partnership working with local and national organisations and stakeholders
	Environmental- External	Climate change	- **Impact of university operations on the wider community (e.g. increased travel, waste, utility use, discharges, emissions, biodiversity).**

		- Significant projects/academic staff working in the areas around climate change who could support Sustainability work streams (e.g. Platinum jubilee student challenge). - Location of both campuses offer opportunities for wildlife corridors across the city and region and helps with wider ecosystems resilience.
Environmental-External	Resource availability	- **Prioritisation of a limited pool of money i.e. environment/biodiversity budgets being diverted elsewhere.** - Availability of external funding for projects.
Environmental-Internal	Existing infrastructure	- **Deteriorating infrastructure provides opportunities for biodiversity which maybe lost from refurbishment.** - Opportunities to integrate biodiversity gain into building improvements e.g. living wall, swift boxes. - SKA rating for retrofitting buildings (sustainable construction retrofit tool) implemented
Environmental-Internal	Location	- **Potential human-wildlife conflict (e.g. increased numbers of seagulls on campus/millipedes).**
Environmental-Internal	Capital development	- **Growth of the University has potentially increased its environmental impact, although this has slowed in recent years.** - More 'green' grants and project money available as part of the green recovery. - Recent Carbon Trust Report to support increased investment in improving infrastructure.
Environmental-Internal	Climate change	- **Increased energy consumption due to expanded heating and cooling requirements** - **Disruption to the University's operations due to unseasonal weather (local or international) or resource availability** - **Increased flood risk in the local vicinity of the campus'** - **Corresponding impact on the conservation status management of SSSI and campus biodiversity** *(The above risks have been moved from External to Internal).* - Carbon literacy training being implemented across the University