OUR COMMITMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS’ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
The role of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in helping ensure the University of Glasgow’s development activity balances social, economic and environmental sustainability continues to grow in importance.

By contributing to the SDGs, we can help tackle the most pressing global challenges facing humanity and the natural world. We recognise, as a world-leading, research-intensive university, the opportunity we have to make a material impact on this global movement, and we have answered the call to action.

We have built on our Glasgow Green Strategy by developing a detailed and actionable Carbon Management Plan and have eliminated single-use plastics in our catering outlets. Our Centre for Sustainable Solutions continues to bring partners together to deliver meaningful change in projects like GALLANT, a £10.2m research project funded by UKRI NERC as part of their Changing the Environment investment, which will use the city of Glasgow as a living laboratory.

This year, the University partnered with Times Higher Education (THE) to host the inaugural Global Sustainable Development Congress. The Congress brought together a range of experts from across higher education, government and the private sector to explore how we work together to build a more sustainable future.

We were proud to be ranked 19th in the world in the THE Impact Rankings for 2022, and 2nd in the world for SDG11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities. We were also recently ranked 13th in the world in the QS Sustainability Rankings. This ranking clearly demonstrates the impact the University is making in the world by working towards the UN’s SDGs.

Uzma Khan
Vice-Principal Innovation & Economic Development and Director of Strategic Planning

Rachel Sandison
Deputy Vice-Chancellor – External Engagement and Vice-Principal, External Relations

University of Glasgow
PURPOSE

This, our 2022 report, is our second annual publication and provides an update on some of the work and activity that has been taking place across the University of Glasgow to contribute to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

We again look at four areas of activity:

- Research
- Learning and Teaching
- University Operations
- Civic Engagement.

We are proud to share examples of the commitment, dedication, and innovation shown by every part of our community.

The following report illustrates some key highlights of our contribution to each SDG and are just a few of many such inspiring examples.

This report was produced and steered by Planning, Insight & Analytics and External Relations. Special thanks go to Eleanor Miller, Susan Howie and colleagues in both directorates for their help and guidance in producing this document, as well as to colleagues across the University who provided invaluable input.
The University ranked 19th in the world for the positive impact we have on society. We ranked 13th in the world overall in the QS 2023 Sustainability Rankings for our Social and Environmental Impact, and 9th for the Equality indicator.

£10.2m
In partnership with Glasgow City Council we are working on the £10.2m GALLANT research programme to boost Glasgow’s transition to climate resilience.

£4.4bn
Our economic contribution to the UK economy has been valued at around £4.4bn.

105,000
The Lighthouse Lab, based at the University’s Clinical Innovation Zone, further expanded its capacity to process up to 105,000 COVID tests per day to meet demand in early 2022.

+6k
Over 6,000 over-16 pupils and adult learners engaged in our Widening Participation programmes in 2021–22 alone.

50:50
We have achieved a 50:50 gender balance on our University Senior Management Group.

+10k
We employ over 10,000 people.

Catering & Events are Fairtrade, Sustainable Restaurant Association, Vegetarian Society, Vegan Society and Red Tractor accredited.

+200
We hosted more than 200 in-person and virtual COP26 events on our campus.

S-Labs programme launched in 2021 to reduce laboratory activity impact on the environment.

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Our Community

We know our responsibilities go beyond world-changing research and teaching to having a positive impact on society here in Glasgow and beyond. The framework provided by the SDGs ensures we develop our innovation and economic development activities in a way that balances our social, economic and environmental impacts in a sustainable way.

Uzma Khan, Vice-Principal Innovation & Economic Development at UofG

In Facilities Services, we’re developing a team of technicians who use electronic building management tools to contribute to the SDGs by optimising our buildings to minimise energy use. Our team make use of the technology built into our new buildings, such as solar PV panels and rainwater harvesting, and look for sustainable solutions to run our older buildings.

Elliott Thompson is Lead Technician for Building Services at UofG

Sustainability is a big concern of mine and as a student, I think it is important to make use of the innovative environment that the University offers to take part in sustainability actions. GUEST members take the responsibility to gather and understand student’s concerns and opinions, relay them to the University and implement as many of their suggestions as possible on campus.

Fan Henry is a member of the Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team

The knowledge and innovations universities foster are essential to achieving the SDGs. These places of life-long learning empower students to become agents of change everywhere they go.

Cecilia Tortajada is Professor in Practice – Environmental Innovation at UofG

SDGs are for all countries of the global North and South. As such, universities have a major role to promote and achieve the related targets through education, research and innovation. Glasgow is doing more than its fair share to nurture the next generation of leaders that will respond to global challenges.

Asit Biswas is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at UofG

The Green Team aims to keep sustainability on the map at work and at home by making small changes to their everyday lives and encouraging colleagues to do the same. If we can get into good habits now, we pave the way to bigger changes later. It is good to see the University so active in this important area and so many colleagues standing up for nature.

Hilda de Groot leads the Green Team in External Relations at UofG

Everybody deserves to be healthy and have access to good healthcare regardless of where they come from. That’s something that I really care about.

Clinical research scientist and analogue astronaut Dr Nadia Maarouf is our 2022 World Changing Alumni Award winner
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

OUR RESEARCH
Poverty, or fear of poverty, is ubiquitous in global history. New landscapes of poverty continue to be created by climate collapse, deepening for many the omnipresent fear of not having enough to eat. The Poverty Research Network at the University was thrilled to collaborate with the Global History Initiative from Queen’s University Canada to host the 2022 conference on poverty and scarcity in global history. The conference focused on the interface between poverty, scarcity and the field of global history through three broad areas: production, power and affect.

Addressing inequalities, of which reducing poverty is a key part, is one of our six Glasgow Research Beacons. A highly topical example of where Glasgow is leading the way is recent work by researchers from the School of Health & Wellbeing. The school led the first study to look at the combined influence of both socio-economic status and a wide combination of unhealthy lifestyle factors on the risk of COVID-19 outcomes. The study suggests that the greatest public health benefit from lifestyle-focused COVID-19 government policy and health interventions is likely to be seen when the greatest support for healthy living is provided to the most disadvantaged groups. The research paper was published in the BMC Infectious Diseases journal.

LEARNING AND TEACHING
We are proud to offer programmes addressing poverty from a range of disciplines.

Our triple-accredited Adam Smith Business School offers a Development Studies programme, which provides students with a solid grounding in policy analysis for economic growth and development, and for combating poverty.

The highly regarded Social & Public Policy programme, ranked 5th in the UK (Times/ Sunday Times Good University Guide – Social Policy), focuses on finding ways to address global and societal challenges including poverty and inequality. Graduates from the programme work in diverse fields including housing, health, social services and advocacy.

The University is part of a Scottish Government-led initiative to end period poverty for all students and pupils across Scotland. We provide free sanitary products in toilets across our buildings, including halls of residence.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS
The city of Glasgow has 56 of the most deprived MD areas in Scotland. The University offers a range of anti-poverty support programmes, support services and funding to assist students facing financial hardship.

Our Students’ Representative Council (SRC) provides a range of services to alleviate the pressures associated with poverty, targeted at low-income students. The SRC Advice Centre, to which the University recently committed additional funding in recognition of the vital role it will play in the current financial climate, offers access to free and confidential advice on benefits and tax credits, council tax, employment rights, financial support, income tax and national insurance, health, housing and money.

As part of our commitment to breaking down barriers to higher education, the University awards Talent Scholarships at both undergraduate and postgraduate level each year to support students who could face financial difficulties in taking up their place to study at the University.

We also offer a Hardship Fund for students in unexpected and immediate hardship, and discretionary and childcare funds to provide support toward childcare, living and/or study costs. In addition, our Laptop Loan scheme can assist students who require a laptop for their studies and cannot afford to purchase one.

Our Widening Participation (WP) programmes take a targeted approach to considering individual circumstances of pupils within all secondary schools in the West of Scotland, including those from SIMD20 postcodes and pupils with free school meal eligibility.

The University works to encourage pupils from under-represented backgrounds to pursue high-demand courses such as medicine, law, finance and accountancy, engineering, and education. The WP approach also supports asylum seekers and refugees.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
The SRC has more than 300 affiliated clubs and societies, a large number of which coordinate volunteering activities to encourage students to engage with the wider Glasgow community. Examples of the organisations the SRC engage with are Big Noise Gowanhill – an organisation providing free instrumental music tuition to children; Emmaus Glasgow – supporting homeless and socially excluded people; Food Train; and the long-established student-led Glasgow University Service to the Homeless.

University of Glasgow is represented on the Board of the Poverty Alliance – a national anti-poverty network in Scotland comprising voluntary organisations, policymakers and local people with direct experience of policy. The Alliance is involved in several vital campaigns, including the Living Wage, Scrap the Cap (aimed at ending the benefit cap) and the annual Challenge Poverty Week, of which the University has been a part. Our membership of the Poverty Alliance reflects our institutional commitment to tackling poverty in Scotland.
THE GLENN CAMPBELL FOUNDATION

2

HUNGER

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

OUR RESEARCH
Ensuring everyone has access to sufficient food that meets their nutritional needs is critical to sustainable and equitable development. Some 795 million people face hunger daily and more than 2 billion suffer from some form of nutrient deficiency, mainly in low- and middle-income countries.

Connected by our Glasgow Centre for International Development, the University has teams working across different aspects of the complex food security landscape in low- and middle-income countries. Recent projects have included exploration of how wildlife diseases can affect livestock; how we can improve treatments for livestock parasites; developing new insights into malnutrition; and creating new technologies for food preparation. When tackling food insecurity, our researchers apply multidisciplinary approaches to consider all aspects of the challenge, from food production capacity and supply chains to dietary norms and cultural practices.

Our Adam Smith Business School has joined forces with partners including Bayer, World Economic Forum and EIT Food (European Institute of Innovation & Technology) to help accelerate progress towards European Green Deal carbon-neutrality goals.

As part of the work to decarbonise the European food system, the organisations and stakeholders involved, who represent every step of the food value chain, also aim to maximise other benefits such as soil health and farmer resilience.

The initiative to form the European Carbon+ Farming Coalition was catalysed by the World Economic Forum’s CEO Action Group for the European Green Deal and is part of the emerging food and nature platform, 100 Million Farmers: Transitioning towards Net-Zero, Nature-Positive Food Systems.

LEARNING AND TEACHING
Our Cochno Farm site, covering 850 acres of farmland, plays a key role in the delivery of core teaching and research activities at the School of Biodiversity, One Health & Veterinary Medicine. Along with the Scottish Centre for Production, Animal Health & Food Safety, we can offer students from the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery and BSc Veterinary Biosciences a unique opportunity for practical teaching with clinical cases, farm teaching with dairy, beef and sheep, and extensive links with industry throughout the food chain.

Our postgraduate programme in Food Security and Critical Skills is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology and is 1st in the UK for Food Science (Complete University Guide 2023). The programme discusses the demographic, social and economic issues, the challenges of achieving sustainable agriculture, and the factors affecting food production from crops and animal sources. Students benefit from guest lectures and site visits on a range of topics, alongside practical and critical skills. Modules on the programme include Global Animal Production, Policies for Sustainability & Development, Food Security and Crop Biotechnology Applications.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS
The University’s catering outlets offer a wide range of foods at different price points. The pricing has considered the diverse group of customers whose needs we want to meet, and the preferred outlets of those groups. For example, there is a wide range of affordable ‘value’ options in our most student-occupied buildings such as the Library and the James McCune Smith Learning Hub.

The University is committed to ensuring students from all backgrounds are given the opportunity to excel and offers financial aid to help students in need pay for essentials such as food, rent, travel and childcare costs.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Baltic Street Adventure Playground in the heart of Dalmarnock, an area of high deprivation, is providing a lifeline for local families, giving children a safe place to play and providing hot, healthy meals – which is invaluable for families living on tight budgets.

Researchers from our Adam Smith Business School have been working with the playground to support and develop the sustainability of its Community Food Hub. Feeding the children who attend the playground has become a core aspect of supporting local families. Fresh produce is grown in the community garden space, tended by the children, with the help of community growers. This has been both educational and inspirational.

The University’s Catering team has partnered with Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN). GCFN are a community interest company whose goal it is to give everyone in Glasgow improved, equal access to affordable, healthy food. Our Catering team donate leftover food from our outlets to GCFN.

The University continues to partner with award-winning national charity Food Train, the voluntary sector, local and national government, health professionals and communities. The ‘Eat Well Age Well’ project develops initiatives to help raise awareness of older adult malnutrition and food insecurity in Scotland. The project has informed Scottish Government policy and its relevance has been highlighted through the impact of COVID-19. With one in ten older people malnourished in the UK, Food Train is a vital service to older people living in Scotland.
EuroFIT is aimed at male football fans aged between 30-65 and harnesses the intense loyalty they have for football, attracting them to a lifestyle change programme delivered by football coaches at club facilities.
To celebrate the opening of our Mazumdar-Shaw Advanced Research Centre, or ARC, people from across Glasgow and beyond were welcomed into a brand-new community space at the University of Glasgow with a two-week festival of free events in September 2022.

The ARC hosted the ARCadia Festival of Ideas, featuring brass bands, a retro video game arcade, comedy and drag shows, an outdoor ceilidh, art exhibits, a virtual reality celebration of Robert Burns, and much more.

Local community groups contributed to the festival, including children’s storytelling sessions curated by The Children’s Wood, hands-on stalls from Partick Community Growing Project and The Annexe Healthy Living Centre. Music collective Hen House curated an evening of music for the closing night.

The ARC also platformed voices from communities who are underserved or underrepresented in universities, with events involving the Maryhill Integration Network, local charities, and the Africa in Motion Film Festival. There were also events led by LGBTQ+ and Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater communities.

A wide range of research was on show during the festival, including the University’s response to the pandemic, using quantum technologies to monitor healthcare, ultrasound, social robots, gender inequality in STEM, African film, fake news, blood-borne virus research, the art of Whistler, Colombian river stories, dementia, the return of salmon to the River Clyde, healthy ageing, and palliative care.
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**OUR RESEARCH**

Educational research at the University aims to be world leading and to address the most pressing issues of our times in order to make a real difference to the most vulnerable in society. We do so through a cohesive and collegial structure that maximises the potential of all our staff and students, working closely with the communities that we serve locally and globally.

Our School of Education has been recognised in the results of the submission to the Research Excellence Framework and is ranked 10th equal in the UK and 1st in Scotland (according to THE). The REF analyses the quality of publications, the impact of our research and the environment that we create to undertake research. Overall, the REF panel judged that 90% of the work of the School of Education was either world leading or internationally excellent. Education also ranks first in the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023, and consistently top 50 in the world in the QS Rankings by Subject 2019–2022.

Alongside providing outstanding training to primary and secondary school teachers, the school offers a range of programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and CPD level. Our prestigious Erasmus Mundus programmes are delivered by experts in countries across the world, and our Education Policies for Global Development programme promotes an interdisciplinary and critical approach to education policy analysis for students interested in the field of international cooperation and development.

Since 2018, the University has worked in partnership with FE college partners to create our HNC Articulation Programme. We have introduced new routes for learners to enter year 2 with full advanced standing, in a breadth of subjects not previously seen at the University.

**LEARNING AND TEACHING**

Our School of Education has an excellent reputation both globally and nationally, ranking first in the UK on the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023, and consistently top 50 in the world in the QS Rankings by Subject 2019–2022.

The University offers scholarships based on both academic merit and financial need, to ensure that background is not a barrier to higher education for the brightest minds from across the world. We are proud to offer James McCune Smith Scholarships for undergraduate students from African and African-Caribbean backgrounds, as well as dedicated scholarships for students from low- and middle-income countries and for refugees and asylum seekers.

The University has a suite of targeted Widening Participation (WP) programmes that aim to encourage and support people from under-represented backgrounds to study at the University. These programmes support learners from across Scotland, ranging from students in primary school, through to post-16 and adult learners in FE colleges, with over 6,000 post-16 pupils and adult learners engaged in our programmes in 2020–21.

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The Glasgow Access Programme (GAP) supports learners from underrepresented backgrounds to access the medical profession. Delivered by experts in our Medical School, it provides participants with the necessary skills in basic science and communication, together with immersive experiential opportunity in a clinical context. The programme is designed to realise in full the Scottish Government’s vision of equitable access to medicine.

**UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS**

We recently held the ARCadia Festival of Ideas, a fortnight of free events designed to entertain and inform people of all ages in our new Mazumdar-Shaw Advanced Research Centre (ARC). The events were a mixture of lectures, social events, family activities and sports events. ARCadia provided an opportunity to engage young learners in new and innovative ways, such as using VR technology to explore the stories of the Roman Antonine Wall through imagined stories of characters living along its path.

Our new after-school education centres, the result of a collaboration with education charity IntoUniversity and the University of Edinburgh, provide long-term educational support and guidance for young people in the communities of Govan and Maryhill in Glasgow. The centres engage with 7–18-year-old pupils, targeted by widening participation criteria, across their entire learner journey via a novel whole-family and community approach, which will involve local schools, community groups, FE colleges, business, and industry.

Our WP programmes continue to demonstrate impact, evidenced by the University’s continued progress against the Scottish Government’s CDWA targets. In 2020–21, 14.8% of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree undergraduate entrants were from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland, marking a positive improvement from previous academic years and significantly contributing to the sector’s overall progress.

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Our IntoUniversity learning centres have opened in the heart of some of Scotland’s most disadvantaged communities as a practical response to the poverty and educational limitations that can impact the lives of young people growing up there.

We do so through a cohesive and collegial structure that maximises the potential of all our staff and students, working closely with the communities that we serve locally and globally.

Academics from the School of Education, led by Dr Christine Hadfield, recently launched a new online course which hopes to explore ways to support children and young people in the post-pandemic era. “Supporting Young People’s Mental Wellbeing Post-COVID” brings together expertise from across the school to help address some of the most common issues around young people’s emotional wellbeing. It provides some strategies and tools which may be used by teachers, social workers, parents, and others.

Mr John Smith

5/10/2023
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Our Research
Gender-based violence (GBV) sadly remains an ongoing issue in our society, and UoGF is committed to providing support to any member of our community who has been affected by violence or assault, and to raising awareness of the issue of GBV. The University’s GBV Research Forum has continued to share information, develop research ideas and provide support in relation to GBV research. Their research covers several themes including GBV and gender inequality, the effect of COVID-19 and domestic abuse. Seminars are publicly available online.

A group of female academics from our College of Science & Engineering lead on the cross-sectoral visNET project, in collaboration with other universities and the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council. While several barriers have been identified to academic career advancement for women and have led to strategic interventions at national and institutional levels, there remains a lack of data and action specifically targeted at networking and collaboration.

By demonstrating that strategic networks and collaborations can be built and maintained without frequent travel, visNET believe academic careers will be more attractive to this group of post-doctoral researchers and others. This intervention will also provide crucial tools to build confidence and researcher independence, and potentially mitigate the impact of future career breaks and parenthood.

Learning and Teaching
We were delighted that our bid to host the 2022 Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics was successful. It was the first time the conference was held in Scotland, and the first time the conference was explicitly inclusive of nonbinary participants. A rich and full programme of keynotes, panel discussions and workshops was enhanced by the inclusion of an industry fair with local and national employers. The conference was deliberately inclusive – with 10% of participants identifying as non-binary, trans or self-described, and 90% cis-women. Dr Caroline Muellenbroich is now working with the Institute of Physics on a publication around planning deliberately inclusive conferences.

Our Centre for Gender History welcomed international speakers for their public lectures this year, and our MSc Gender History cohort had the opportunity to participate in a range of interdisciplinary activities, including collaborations with The Hunterian, heritage walks with Glasgow Women’s Library, and the En-Gender podcast.

The centre has created several free, publicly available, online courses covering topics including GBV and the Global History of Sex and Gender.

University Operations
We have been part of the Athena SWAN charter since 2011, and in 2015 signed up to the expanded key principles. The University holds a bronze award, and 23 of our schools hold Gold, Silver and Bronze awards in recognition of their commitment to and active promotion of the principles of Athena SWAN. Our schools manage their own Athena SWAN action plans, specifically tailored to their areas, and designed to drive gender balance in student recruitment, admissions and attainment, as well as in the recruitment and promotion of all staff. The action plans also look at school culture and ways to promote the values of Athena SWAN both within their own area and in the wider University.

The University has taken decisive action as part of our GBV action plan. Our Senior Leadership Team worked with Rape Crisis to create leadership conversation and raise awareness and understanding of issues of harassment and GBV. Some 160 staff have now received Sexual Harassment Investigator training and we have recently launched bystander training to further expand our skills and understanding.

The University supports Aurora, Advance HE’s leadership development initiative for women. To date, 277 women have been supported to attend the Aurora programme, including costs, mentorship and time off to attend sessions. Aurora is a partnership of leadership experts, HE sector organisations, and research institutes to take positive action to address the under-representation of women in leadership positions in the sector. We are committed to continuing to support our female colleagues in participating in this valuable and unique programme, one which underpins our commitment to equitable gender representation at all levels of the University. Our commitment to Gender Equality is demonstrated at the highest levels of the University, with a 50:50 gender balance on our Senior Management Group, and three out of four colleges now being led by female colleagues.

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Civic Engagement
Dr Matthew Barr from our School of Computing Science leads on the Ada Scotland Festival, bringing together partners involved in addressing the issue of gender balance in computing science education in Scotland.

The board that supports this activity includes representation from higher and further education, financial services, government and local authorities. The festival has hosted a range of public events including insights from organisations such as Dell, Barclays and NatWest; practical sessions on coding, data and cyber security; and support and mentoring events covering topics including confidence building, leadership and many inspiring case studies from women in technology.
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

OUR RESEARCH

Some 35% of the world’s population, most of whom live in rural communities, lack access to either improved sanitation or safe drinking water. The western, centralised model for water supply and treatment is too energy and capital-intensive to deliver sustainable solutions in these countries. Professor Bill Sloan, from our James Watt School of Engineering, and his team will harness the bioprocessing power of microorganisms to deliver clean drinking water and treat wastewater in rural communities using low-energy, sustainable, off-grid technologies. Working from our new and innovative interdisciplinary Mazumdar-Shaw Advanced Research Centre (ARC) will ensure Professor Sloan and his team have proximity to a range of disciplines and expertise which will help them achieve their ambitious goal. The team also works in close collaboration with Scottish Water, colleagues across the UK and academics and water utilities in a wide range of countries, including Thailand, Brazil, Mexico, India, Pakistan, US and Canada.

The Glasgow Water Cluster brings together a diverse community of researchers from all four colleges at the University, committed to delivering the multidisciplinary and holistic response water management needs. A series of webinars run by Professor Cecilia Tortajada and Professor Asit K Biswas, world-leading authorities in this field, seeks to provide a platform for discussion on current and future water-related problems and potential solutions from a multidisciplinary, multisectoral and multi-issues basis.

In addition, the Glasgow Water Cluster is hosting a series of workshops which aim to bring together researchers from a diverse range of disciplines and relevant stakeholders to gain a greater understanding of the conceptualisation of water from a variety of perspectives. This will allow the co-production of a future interdisciplinary research agenda for living sustainably with water.

The Glasgow Centre for International Development (GCID) are addressing the global issue of access to clean water and treatment of wastewater through international collaboration. The centre is working with local communities, policymakers, industry partners and research teams in countries throughout the Global South to develop solutions that are robust, locally adapted and scalable.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Our School of Geographical & Earth Sciences offers programmes that contribute to SDG 6. These include our MSc in Sustainable Water Environments, which equips students with an interdisciplinary and global perspective on different surface water environments, incorporating issues such as climate and land use change, flood risk, restoration, ecosystem health and associated management perspectives.

Our MSc in Environmental Futures: Sustainable Solutions also incorporates recent advances in ecology and the restoration of river, coastal and lake environments, and teaching includes case studies of managing, protecting and restoring water systems.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

Each year from 2016–2020, the University ran an internal grants call using funds allocated to us from the Global Challenges Research Fund via the Scottish Funding Council. Our competitive selection process awarded different types of grants, including research projects, capacity-strengthening activities, meetings and exchanges, Masters student scholarships, network support and fellowships.

From 2016–2021, this fund supported 208 initiatives with 437 partners in 68 countries. We are proud that 51% of these initiatives were led by female PIs and 42% were led by early career researchers.

We continue our commitment to pump-priming and partnership development through a new initiative funded directly by the University. The GCID Small Grants Fund is anticipated to run from 2022–2025 and will support equitable co-development of funding proposals targeting low- and middle-income country challenges.

Alongside the rigorous processes Scottish Water carry out on both our incoming and waste water, our Estates team have monitoring schedules in place to ensure good water hygiene on our campuses and in our residences. We partner with a specialist water hygiene contractor to carry out stringent testing to ensure we are meeting standards including those laid out in the HSE Technical Guidance.

We provide free drinking water across the University, as committed to in our Glasgow Green strategy.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Commencing on World Water Day, 22 March, the University’s School of Interdisciplinary Studies hosted a webinar entitled ‘Water, Food and Climate Change in COP26: What Was Expected and What Was Achieved’. The panellists included highly respected academics from across the world, and was introduced by our Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli. The discussions focused on the extent to which COP26 succeeded in addressing water and food security issues, and what aspects should be considered for COP27 and beyond. The webinar was published on YouTube and is publicly available.
The award-winning Glasgow Science Festival, run by Dr Deborah McNeill in our College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences, has been running since 2007 and is one of the largest science festivals in the UK.

The principal aim of the festival is to showcase the outstanding contribution Glasgow and Glasgow-based researchers make to the worlds of science, technology, engineering, art, maths and social science (STEAM).

The festival has welcomed over 60,000 people per year in person, from all ages and backgrounds, with an additional 36,000 visiting online this year alone. Community engagement projects also run throughout the year.

The most recent festival theme was ‘Glasgow’s Making Waves’ and participants enjoyed wave-themed activities and events, including gravitational wave astronomy, artist-led soundwalks and Betty the e-waste basking shark. The festival has also run the popular ‘Science on the Sofa’ digital programme, so people from across the world could join online.

Glasgow Science Festival offers a unique way to engage schools and communities in STEAM, and we are enormously proud of the impact it continues to have and the benefit it brings to the local community and beyond.
Net Zero targets can only be achieved through a mix of strategies using renewable sources at different scales. Dr Kiran Ramesh in our James Watt School of Engineering is developing novel energy-harvesting mechanisms such as oscillating wings mimicking fish tails. At small and medium scales these devices can be more efficient and environmentally friendly than conventional horizontal axis wind or hydro turbine designs.

Researchers from the University are lending their support to a new project which aims to help enable the future take-up and integration of hydrogen and alternative liquid fuels to support the UK’s climate change ambitions and for a strategic roadmap for the country’s hydrogen economy.

Professor David Flynn in our James Watt School of Engineering is leading the University’s contribution to a new national consultation on hydrogen integration, which sees senior researchers across UK universities tackle the research and systems integration challenges blocking the wider use of hydrogen and alternative liquid fuels to support the UK’s climate change ambitions and for a strategic roadmap for the country’s hydrogen economy.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Our Masters in Sustainable Energy, delivered by our College of Science & Engineering, is designed to equip students for meaningful work in the international energy sector. The programme addresses all key aspects of sustainable energy, from the most advanced technologies through to ethical and economic considerations. Scotland has seen great expansion in sustainable energy businesses in the last decade, and graduates from this programme have gone on to work for leading companies in their field.

We offer many other programmes which equip our students to be world-changing in the field of affordable and clean energy. Disciplines from across our colleges, including engineering, chemistry, environmental science, physics, business and economics, maths and statistics, and many more all have a part to play in our ambitions around energy.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

Our site on the banks of Loch Lomond, home to the Scottish Centre for Ecology & Natural Environment, is heated by sustainable heat pumps. The building won the Carbon Trust Low Carbon Building Award back in 2007, which illustrates our early commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability.
In October 2014, the University of Glasgow became the first university in the UK to commit to fully disinvesting from fossil fuel industry companies.

Full divestment will mean the reallocation of around £18 million of current investments over a ten-year period. The decision was made after a period of consultation by an independent working group taking evidence from the Glasgow University Climate Action Society and the University Investment Committee.

At present the commitment of full divestment is set to be reached by 2024, subject to review of the financial impacts.

The University also prohibits direct investment in the tobacco industry and in controversial armaments.

David Duncan is chief operating officer and senior management lead for sustainability at UofG: “In 2014, the University’s governing body made a solemn commitment to divest in fossil fuels over a ten-year period. We remain committed to this goal and monitor progress on a regular basis.

“The divestment agenda forms one aspect of our efforts to promote sustainability to the wider public – we aim to raise awareness by being a beacon of good practice, leading by example across all aspects of our corporate life.”
**OUR RESEARCH**

Our Urban Studies research has been recognised by REF 2021, with 96% having been evaluated as ‘world leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ in terms of its originality, significance and rigour. The research covered topics as vital as welfare reform, land vacancy and social regeneration, and the effect of government cuts on the poorest households, and involved collaboration with local and national government. Researchers in the Macroeconomics Research Cluster are engaged in work across a broad range of themes covering both closed and open economy topics and management of economic policy at shorter and longer-term horizons. Members of the cluster regularly engage with central banks and policymaking institutions around the world. Professor Ronald MacDonald’s research interests include the hydrogen economy and its implications for productivity and growth, and he was appointed OBE in 2015 for services to economic policy. He has served as an advisor and consultant to a number of governments, central banks and public bodies.

**LEARNING AND TEACHING**

Our triple-accredited Adam Smith Business School, named after the father of modern economics, aims to follow his legacy by developing enlightened, engaged and enterprising graduates who are internationally recognised and make a positive impact on culture and society. The school offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in economics, finance, accountancy, management and financial technology. The school is also an advanced signatory of the UN Principles of Responsible Management Education and has led on a variety of initiatives that live up to our commitment to promoting sustainable development and responsible management in our teaching, research and practice.

Two of our leading academic economists, Professor Alan McGregor and Professor Graeme Roy, jointly deliver CPD courses on Local Economic Development and Inclusive Growth to employees of public, private and third sector organisations in Scotland.

**UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS**

The University is one of the biggest employers in the city, with more than 9,000 staff. We recognise the duty we have to nurture an inclusive, dignified and respectful working culture in which everyone is valued and recognised. We do this in many ways; through our Living Wage commitment; by taking measurable actions with clear ownership through our Equality and Diversity Committees and Champions; through the monitoring and actioning of pay gaps; and by our partnership with our Campus Trade Unions.

We are committed, not only to ensuring that modern slavery and human trafficking do not take place within the University, but we have partnered with Scotland Against Modern Slavery to support their mission to eradicate all forms of human trafficking and exploitation in Scotland. Our Procurement Office has implemented the Advanced Procurement of Universities & Colleges Supply Chain Code of Conduct. This focuses on the organisation and its suppliers’ responsibilities in social, ethical, economic and environmental areas across the Supply Chain. The University has partnered with EcoVadis to evaluate our strategic external suppliers’ sustainability and corporate social responsibility worldwide.

We want our students and staff to have the opportunities to grow and develop their careers during their time with us and beyond, and that are also beneficial to the local community. For several years, the University Internship Hub has run the successful Find a Solution programme, which gives our students the opportunity to work with community-based organisations on paid projects. This helps these institutions take forward their strategically important projects and provides our students with experience that can help them as they enter the labour market. Our Careers Service offers employers the opportunity to advertise graduate vacancies, work experience and internships and part-time jobs. Registered charities can also advertise volunteering opportunities.

The size and breadth of the University means it is a significant anchor institution and contributor to the Glasgow City Region economy and beyond. Its economic footprint is significant, due largely to its high-quality research, learning and teaching activity, international reach, and contribution to educational exports. Analysis by London Economics, one of Europe’s leading economic consultancies, independently assessed the University’s economic contribution to the UK economy at around £4.4 billion. The University’s Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli, is committed to supporting the city’s economic and social prosperity, chairing its Commission for Economic Growth, and fulfilling advisory roles on economic growth and productivity at Scottish and UK level.

The University is also a key player in the city’s ambitious plans for the regeneration of the Clyde and a key partner in the development of a Glasgow Riverside Innovation District (GRID), which is helping to transform some of the most deprived areas in Scotland.
Our new flagship research facility, the Mazumdar-Shaw Advanced Research Centre (ARC), is a vibrant, creative and collaborative research building, built to facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration and creativity.

It houses around 500 academics, postdoctoral researchers and PhD students working across five broad themes. The ground floor is accessible to the University and the wider community, providing much-needed space to facilitate engagement, networking, meetings and exhibitions.

The ARC has been designed with sustainability at its heart.
- The ARC attained the BREEAM ‘Excellent’ rating. BREEAM is the world’s leading sustainability assessment method for master planning projects, infrastructure, and buildings.
- Supporting sustainable construction, the building has reused demolition material from the former Western Infirmary, installed rainwater harvesting tanks under the loading bay and installed PV panels as well as green roofs.
- Promoting sustainable travel with storage for 125 bikes and four showers.
- Four ‘green roofs’ with a mix of seeds and wildflowers.
Building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

**OUR RESEARCH**
Our research continues to position Glasgow, Scotland and the UK as leaders in several key sectors for the economy.

A University of Glasgow spinout aims to create more effective methods of treating lung diseases and has secured a £1m grant from Innovate UK.

The award will help the Acu-Flow team and their research partners advance the development of their nebuliser technology, which uses an innovative surface acoustic wave technique to deliver medicines into patients’ lungs. Over the next two years, the Acu-Flow team, supported by partners at the University of Glasgow and the NIHR Devices for Dignity Med-tech Co-operative, will work to develop a fully integrated nebuliser, ready to take to large-scale manufacture.

Our Living Laboratory for Precision Medicine, one of the successful bids to the UK Research & Innovation Strength in Places Fund (SiPF), is a flagship project of the Glasgow Riverside Innovation District (GRID), expanding the life sciences industry in Govan. The Living Laboratory delivers expert support for industry, growing space for new business and strong co-sector partnerships that will ultimately support the development, growth, and commercialisation of the precision medicine industry in Govan and Glasgow.

**LEARNING AND TEACHING**
We offer a range of programmes that provide students with the knowledge and skills to deliver inclusive, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and innovation. Our unique postgraduate programme in Precision Medicine & Pharmacological Innovation focuses on the current and future needs of the life sciences sector and is delivered in conjunction with the Precision Medicine Scotland Innovation Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Glasgow. The programme covers aspects of commercial innovation and entrepreneurial skills, together with the principles which underpin the emerging science at the interface between genetics and pharmacology.

Our Adam Smith Business School offers prestigious programmes in entrepreneurship, business management and development, and innovation. The Erasmus Mundus Master in Global Markets, Local Creativities provides perspective on the globalised economy, focusing on creative and cultural economies/industries, urban ecosystems that foster entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation and business cultures. Our Masters in Global Business offers students the opportunity to live, work and study in three countries to discover how business is done in an international environment.

**UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS**
The University actively supports researchers and academic staff in the creation of new ventures to bring new ideas and breakthrough innovations to market. An example of this is a new initiative, Innovating the Future, which will promote, develop and sustain social enterprise as an alternative set of models for academic spinout opportunities. In addition, our R&I team works with inventors to evaluate and patent inventions, identify funding and opportunities, and market and licence inventions. Our current venture portfolio includes a range of spinouts and start-ups in industries including bioscience, pharmaceuticals, robotics, big data, nanotechnology and environmentally friendly insecticides. Many of our spinout companies and technologies have been acquired, recognising the growth potential of the companies and the impact of their technologies and services.

This year, the University appointed Uzma Khan as the first Vice-Principal Economic Development and Innovation. The creation of this role emphasises the University’s commitment to our innovation agenda and plans for the Glasgow Riverside Innovation District (GRID).

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**
GRID is an ambitious partnership between the University of Glasgow, Glasgow City Council and Scottish Enterprise, aiming to become an anchor for driving ‘place-based’ economic development, through working together, uniting networks of people and ideas.

The partnership fosters an interdisciplinary approach to inclusive innovation, with people, business and communities at its core, contributing to community wealth building through the creation of collaborative, cultural, sustainable and entrepreneurial activity.

Inclusive innovation is also at the heart of the development of GRID and is part of the wider innovation ecosystem in the city, aiming to build on existing strengths in precision medicine, boost existing collaborations with industry, and encourage the formation of new partnerships in some of the most dynamic sectors of the economy. An inclusive innovation approach also acknowledges that innovation has broader applicability beyond economic growth, and that it can play a critical role in addressing social issues such as education, sustainability and health, as well as improving the everyday services people use, such as transport. With its breadth of research excellence, the University is well placed to help drive these non-economic innovations.
reduce the gap in mental wellbeing and mortality between richer and poorer people. This work is now influencing urban planning and development, with the long-term aim of reducing health inequalities.

Our researchers have shown that having access to green space may significantly reduce the gap in mental wellbeing and mortality between richer and poorer people. This work is now influencing urban planning and development, with the long-term aim of reducing health inequalities.

Reducing health inequalities.

The University of Glasgow Research Beacons are six cross-disciplinary areas of research excellence which bring together inspiring researchers from across the University who are working with other institutions, funders, practitioners, policymakers and charities to address grand challenges that have impact on both a national and international scale. One of the six Beacons is Addressing Inequalities. We work together to understand and address the processes that generate inequalities and their profound effects on individuals, communities and populations across the world.

Addressing inequality is a strand of activity that runs through the work of the University. Policy Scotland is also active in this area and continues to produce research briefings and papers that consider the implications that government policy in relation to Levelling Up, Universal Credit and COVID will have for communities in Glasgow and further afield.

Our researchers work with local and national governments to develop and assess policies to reduce health inequalities. Researchers from Glasgow have shown that having access to green space may significantly reduce the gap in mental wellbeing and mortality between richer and poorer people. This work is now influencing urban planning and development, with the long-term aim of reducing health inequalities.

The University has a long-established portfolio of pre-entry bridging programmes, with progression routes to all University degree areas for WP and Access learners of all ages. The University develops and expands this as appropriate, facilitating programmes individually and in collaboration. Partnership is key to successfully widening participation. Partners include: 14 Local Authorities; 160 secondary schools and associated primary schools; FOCUS West Schools for Higher Education Programme; Scottish Wider Access Programme; the Reach partnership (the University facilitates this programme for the West of Scotland); other HE institutions; FE colleges; third-sector partners such as IntoUniversity; the Robertson Trust, the Sutton Trust, Santander Universities; ICAS, Carers Trust, Who Cares? Scotland and MCR Pathways; alumni and philanthropic donors.

In 2020–21, the University engaged with over 25,000 pupils and adult learners via our programmes, including 2,100 pupils on the Top Up Programme, 1,500 pupils on the Reach West Programme, 600 students at Summer School; and 250 Access students.

The University is committed to promoting equality in all of its activities, and aims to provide a work, learning, research and teaching environment free from discrimination and unfair treatment. In order to support our core value of equality and inclusion, the University has nine Equality Champions drawn from Senior Management whose responsibility it is to promote and raise awareness around equality and inclusion issues. The champions have individual focus on issues including age; disability; gender; LGBT+, race, religion, or belief; refugees; and mental health. The champions form the Equality & Diversity Committee alongside our dedicated Equality, Diversity & Inclusion team from our People & Organisational Development Directorate, and representatives from our student bodies, trade unions and University Court. The extent of our governance and resource in this area illustrates our commitment to providing the most inclusive and equitable environment we possibly can, and to tackling any issues identified.

The University has published the ‘Understanding Racism, Transforming University Cultures’ report. Practical work is already underway, including the recruitment of Respect Advisors, anti-racist training and policy updates.

We have partnered with the University of Edinburgh and the educational charity IntoUniversity to launch three local education centres in areas with some of the highest levels of deprivation in Scotland. The centres aim to support and nurture children growing up experiencing poverty and will engage them across their entire learner journey, with involvement from the community, schools, business, and FE colleges.

Despite the difficulties of the pandemic, the partnership fundraised for an initial five-year period, successfully recruiting staff and opening all three centres. Centre programmes partially commenced in 2021–22, with the first full academic year of pupil engagement launching at the start of the 2022–23 academic year.

We have taken a cross-University approach to IntoUniversity, involving academic schools and professional and student support service areas, combined with a new strong external and cross-country partnership approach, to enable this exciting and impactful development to come to fruition.
The University is working in partnership with Glasgow City Council on a £10.2 million research programme – GALLANT: Glasgow as a Living Lab Accelerating Novel Transformation.

Funded by UKRI NERC as part of their Changing the Environment investment, our researchers are helping the city move towards climate resilience while tackling health, social and economic inequalities.

GALLANT will use Glasgow as a living lab to trial new sustainable solutions throughout the city. GALLANT takes a whole-systems approach. While addressing the city’s key environmental challenges, the programme will consider the co-benefits and trade-offs for public health, wellbeing, and the economy.

GALLANT started in January 2022 under the leadership of Professor Jaime Toney (pictured), Director of the University’s Centre for Sustainable Solutions: “Together we aim not only to bring nature back into the city system, but make meaningful, lasting change that embeds sustainability across major policy decisions and empowers communities as stewards of their local places.

“GALLANT will work with local partners and communities to transform the city into a thriving place for people and nature. GALLANT will help Glasgow achieve its goal to be carbon neutral by 2030 and accelerate its path to climate resilience.”
OUR RESEARCH
As we transition to a more sustainable and climate-friendly future, it is key that we safeguard the natural environment while ensuring that transition is equitable and just for current and future generations. This aligns to the vision of our Centre for Sustainable Solutions, which supports interdisciplinary, cross-campus and cross-sectoral solutions to climate change. The activity of the centre ranges from the GALLANT project, which aims to use Glasgow as a living lab to trial new sustainable solutions throughout the city, to Sustainable Laboratories at the University, which aims to help our laboratories reduce their impact on the environment.

The University’s GCRF Centre for Sustainable, Healthy & Learning Cities & Neighbourhoods (SHLC), working with eight partner research teams from seven Asian and African countries, has recently completed a large household survey and focus groups in a range of urban neighbourhoods in 14 cities. The centre is focused on strengthening capacity of researchers, government officials and policymakers across the world to ensure that we can build sustainable neighbourhoods and cities.

Our archaeologists are continuing to preserve and record our cultural heritage. ‘Digging the Festival’, a unique archaeological investigation of the site of the 1988 Glasgow Garden Festival, led by University archaeologists, took place earlier this year. The team of staff and students used geophysical survey and small-scale excavation to identify what remains of the festival beneath the ground surface. The project is an example of how archaeological techniques can be used to help shed light on our contemporary cultural heritage as well as the ancient past.

LEARNING AND TEACHING
Our School of Interdisciplinary Studies offers programmes in Environmental Science and Sustainability, with fieldwork and practical experience at their heart. The school is uniquely located with easy access to estuarine, maritime and terrestrial environments such as the Southern Uplands, peat bogs and moorland. These features, together with the extensive agricultural and forested environment of the region, present a vibrant and diverse ‘laboratory’ in which to study.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS
We continue to encourage sustainable travel, both in business travel and in commuting. Our student sustainability team, Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team, collaborate with our Estates team to raise the profile of sustainable travel on campus, through the improvement of infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians, and free bicycle repairs. We have also partnered with Love to Ride to promote ‘Cycle September’, a fun, friendly and free competition designed to help more people discover cycling.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
In May 2022, The Hunterian was announced as a co-commissioning partner for the Imperial War Museum’s art commissioning programme. We have commissioned a new body of work from Glasgow-based artist Cathy Wilkes as part of a national programme of 22 artist commissions inspired by the heritage of conflict. The commission will be displayed to the public from 2023 to 2024.

New three-year project, ‘Power in this Place: Unfinished Conversations’ will build on the sector-leading ‘Curating Discomfort’ project and will enable The Hunterian to work with communities and across its collections to embed anti-racist, participatory approaches and create opportunities for engagement, debate, and reflection. ‘Power in this Place’ will leverage the research strengths of The Hunterian collections to connect with communities in a unique way that not only transforms the collections’ stories but also its relationship with community partners.

The University’s work as partner in the Centre for Sustainable, Healthy & Learning Cities & Neighbourhoods is focused on strengthening capacity of researchers, government officials and policymakers across the world to ensure that we can build sustainable neighbourhoods and cities.

The concept of liveability and its components of livelihoods and food security, utilities and transport, health and natural environment, education, housing, central and local government, safety and security, and social and leisure provide rich and complex insights into the daily life of cities and what is needed to create liveable, regional cities.

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The University is a key user of the WARPit network, which offers a way to distribute, reuse and recycle redundant resources.

The University scheme, managed by David Henderson (pictured) in our Logistics team, has to date saved almost 4,000 items of furniture from landfill by reusing them elsewhere, and the use of the scheme continues to be expanded.

“Maximising the use of existing assets and reducing waste is paramount to the University’s overall sustainability plans. Using WARPit allows us to extend the life of a wide range of furniture, fixtures and fittings, office consumables, and equipment by making it easy for our staff to swap and trade surplus assets. And as it limits the amount of waste the University sends to landfill and reduces our disposal costs and our carbon footprint, it is an important part of helping us achieve our sustainability goals.”

Most redistributed assets are office consumables and furniture, school blackboards, and lab benches. Other examples include giving 200 stacking chairs to nearby Maryhill Burgh Halls, and donating an entire kitchen, from worktops to cooking and electrical equipment, from a demolished University building to a local charity.

WARPit has also opened significant opportunities to collaborate and network between departments at the University and with external organisations including charities, councils, hospitals, and other universities.
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**OUR RESEARCH**

Our research explores many different aspects of sustainable consumption and production. Our Centre for Sustainable Solutions enables individuals, communities and organisations to act towards a sustainable future through education, research and partnership. The centre supports interdisciplinary, cross-campus and cross-sectoral solutions to climate change. The team are leading on GALLANT, an ambitious project that aims to deliver the priorities of the UN SDGs while remaining within the planetary boundaries of a 1.5°C world.

The Urban Big Data Centre, aligned with our College of Social Sciences, is leading research into cycling infrastructures, and working with Glasgow City Council and the City of Edinburgh College of Social Sciences, is leading research into cycling networks with new forms of data. The result will help planners and policy makers to make more effective cycling policies with limited resources.

**UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS**

We are proud to have phased out single-use plastics from our catering operations, and our catering and events team have continued to expand the use of compostable packaging on campus. We have recently taken delivery of two fully electric food trucks and our commitment to using local suppliers keeps our food miles low. We were one of the first universities in Scotland to be awarded Fairtrade status, and we have recently been awarded a silver accreditation from the Soil Association in recognition of our sustainable practices. Our milk is delivered by a local farm in reusable containers, and we sell NOBL water in our outlets. NOBL plant a tree for every case of water sold.

The University has over 335 buildings ranging in age from 19th to 21st century, so we have invested significant time and expertise into formulating a strategy to improve our institutional carbon footprint. We recently published our Carbon Management Plan, which complements our Glasgow Green Strategy by outlining the interventions we are taking to help us reach our emissions target of 27,000 tonnes CO₂e by 2030–31. These interventions include a plan to reduce gas consumption and make carbon emission savings by investing in our identified energy efficiency projects and by surveying our buildings over the next three years to identify further opportunities.

As a research-intensive institution, the University operates a large number of laboratories which are among the most energy-hungry spaces on the estate. We now have a dedicated Sustainable Laboratories Adviser, who identifies operational inefficiencies across campus laboratories and delivers training and ongoing support to the University research community.

We continue to roll out improved recycling facilities at central locations in our buildings, and we are a key user of the WARPit network. WARPit offers a way to distribute, reuse and recycle redundant resources. The University scheme, managed by David Henderson in our Logistics team, has to date saved almost 4,000 items of furniture from landfill by reusing them elsewhere, and the use of the scheme continues to be expanded.

The Baltic Street Community Food Hub, part of the Adventure Playground scheme developed and supported by our Adam Smith Business School, is a partnership with community growers and a food redistribution charity that offers local children the opportunity to grow and tend their own produce. They learn about planting and gardening in our Viewfield Lane garden. GUEST also collaborates with other Glasgow universities to deliver the Glasgow Goes Green festival. The festival provides a forum for students and organisations across Glasgow to show their work, their values and the action they are taking to promote sustainability.

We have also donated items such as chairs and kitchen units, received through our WARPit scheme from our staff and also salvaged from building refit projects to local charities.

There are several ways in which the University engages with the community to promote sustainability. The Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team (GUEST) works with local schools, groups and societies, and offers the opportunity for children to learn about planting and gardening in our Viewfield Lane garden. GUEST also collaborates with other Glasgow universities to deliver the Glasgow Goes Green festival. The festival provides a forum for students and organisations across Glasgow to show their work, their values and the action they are taking to promote sustainability.

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**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

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**LEARNING AND TEACHING**

Our Learning & Teaching Strategy commits to evaluating our programmes, teaching practices and our associated investments in terms of their connection with, and impact on, sustainability and climate change. We teach our students about the responsibility we all have to manage our shared resources, both through specialised programmes such as Environmental Geoscience, Animal Ecology, Environment & Sustainable Development and Sustainable Energy, and through a range of widely available online courses offered by our Centre for Sustainable Solutions. The School of Interdisciplinary Studies at our Dumfries campus offers postgraduate programmes in Sustainable Tourism & Global Challenges and Environmental Risk Management, and with the campus set in 85 acres of parkland, the Environmental Science & Sustainability undergraduate degree programme provides a great opportunity for fieldwork and practical experience.

Our Centre for Sustainable Solutions enables individuals, communities and organisations to act towards a sustainable future through education, research and partnership. The centre supports interdisciplinary, cross-campus and cross-sectoral solutions to climate change. The team are leading on GALLANT, an ambitious project that aims to deliver the priorities of the UN SDGs while remaining within the planetary boundaries of a 1.5°C world.

The Urban Big Data Centre, aligned with our College of Social Sciences, is leading research into cycling infrastructures, and working with Glasgow City Council and the City of Edinburgh College of Social Sciences, is leading research into cycling networks with new forms of data. The result will help planners and policy makers to make more effective cycling policies with limited resources.

**LEARNING AND TEACHING**

Our Learning & Teaching Strategy commits to evaluating our programmes, teaching practices and our associated investments in terms of their connection with, and impact on, sustainability and climate change. We teach our students about the responsibility we all have to manage our shared resources, both through specialised programmes such as Environmental Geoscience, Animal Ecology, Environment & Sustainable Development and Sustainable Energy, and through a range of widely available online courses offered by our Centre for Sustainable Solutions. The School of Interdisciplinary Studies at our Dumfries campus offers postgraduate programmes in Sustainable Tourism & Global Challenges and Environmental Risk Management, and with the campus set in 85 acres of parkland, the Environmental Science & Sustainability undergraduate degree programme provides a great opportunity for fieldwork and practical experience.

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Our catering staff take sustainability seriously.

Pam Watson is the Chef Manager, UoG Commercial, who is based in the James McCune Smith Learning Hub: “We think about how we can have less waste, be more efficient, be sustainable for the future generations when we are choosing new products and suppliers. Every supplier that we use has been chosen because of their sustainability policies; even the equipment we use to cook the food saves power, time and is energy efficient. It’s very important to me that we are sustainable and doing more than is necessary, and that we are sharing this message with students and colleagues about everything we do.”

✓ Second university in Scotland to achieve Fairtrade status
✓ Phased out single use plastics
✓ Electric food trucks
✓ Water bottle refill stations
✓ Compostable packaging and tableware
✓ Dedicated bins for compostable waste
✓ Using local suppliers where we can, to cut down our food footprint

We use ethical suppliers. We sell NOBL water in our outlets, with one tree planted for every 12 drinks sold. Dear Green Coffee are part of the B Corp Climate Collective and donate a percentage of their profits to World Coffee Research to fund ongoing research into sustainable coffee production. Mossgiel, our milk supplier, were the first dairy in the UK to completely stop using single-use plastic packaging.
The delivery of global clean energy services is one of the key challenges for the 21st century. Professor Colin McInnes is leading on the ambitious ‘SOLSPACE’ project which aims to devise, develop and demonstrate strategies for increasing the amount of energy produced by future large-scale solar power farms around the world. In doing so, we can understand how space technology can contribute to the future of global energy services.

Over 80% of homes in the UK have gas central heating, generating up to a third of the UK’s greenhouse emissions. Hydrogen is now being considered as an alternative to natural gas to reduce emissions. To be able to use hydrogen in heating and household appliances, Professor Manosh Paul in our James Watt School of Engineering is working to produce renewable hydrogen and low-carbon hydrogen-rich syngas from biomass and waste. This research will tackle the challenges of combustion of these types of fuels for heating applications.

In recognition of the vital need for action to combat the climate emergency the University recently launched Climate Leadership Scholarships. We have 20 scholarships available to UK students entering any of our colleges on a postgraduate taught programme which engages with the climate emergency.

The Centre for Sustainable Solutions also offers various courses and events that are accessible to anyone with an interest in tackling climate change. The Centre has recently affiliated with University College London to bring the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) to Glasgow. LEAF is a tool that will help our laboratories to assess and reduce the impact of their activities on the environment.

In addition to her research and advisory work, Professor Marian Scott has contributed to a major paper from the Royal Society, ‘Digital Technology and the Planet: Harnessing computing to achieve net zero’, and delivered an online talk entitled ‘A Digital Earth Vision: Post COPs, Where Do We Go?’. The talk reflected on a number of case studies where digital technology is changing our ambition and vision of a digital earth and was available on YouTube.

To further emphasise our commitments laid out in our Glasgow Green Strategy, this year we published our Carbon Management Plan, which sets out our carbon reduction targets and objectives. The Carbon Management Plan will act as a focal document, highlighting interventions which will deliver emissions reductions, and help us to reach our carbon footprint target of 27,000 tonnes CO₂e by 2030–31. In addition, we reiterate our commitment to being net zero for carbon emissions by 2030.
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**OUR RESEARCH**

Our School of Geographical & Earth Sciences is ranked amongst the top ten in the UK (Complete University Guide). Staff within the school lead on the delivery of a number of international publications and research via its Earth Systems Research Group. Academics within the School of Interdisciplinary Studies are also carrying out research relating to water, environment and natural resources management.

The Living Deltas Hub, led at the University by Professor of Environmental Risk & Community Resilience and member of the National Centre for Resilience, Fabrice Renaud, researches coastal tipping points in deltas across the world to understand when a social-ecological system can tip from one state to another. If a piece of coastline erodes rapidly, the land disappears and so do any social activities on this land, including the loss of homes and livelihoods. The Hub is working to understand the biophysical, social and economic mechanisms that explain erosion, with an aim to propose solutions that improve the conservation or restoration of mangrove systems in the deltas covered by the project. There are several lessons to be learned from this research, including the approach used by the Hub to understand the impact of plant life on waterways, and developing nature-based solutions to strengthen resilience of rivers.

**LEARNING AND TEACHING**

We offer a number of programmes focusing on the protection and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems. Our undergraduate programme in Marine & Freshwater Biology focuses on the study of the world’s aquatic environments, and students cover a wide range of topics, including aquatic environments, conservation and environmental management of aquatic pollution. The programme involves frequent visits to hatcheries, fish farms and aquaculture projects, and students have the option to complete an additional year to gain an MSc, in which they carry out research in industry, or at a research institute in the UK or overseas. Our postgraduate programme in Sustainable Water Environments provides students with multidisciplinary knowledge and expertise in river catchment, lake and coastal environments, with a focus on the impact of, and adaptation to, changing environments. The programme is designed to enable students to develop an in-depth and critical understanding of contemporary global issues in surface water environments, including climate and land use change, flood risk, restoration, ecosystem health and associated management perspectives.

The University is home to the Scottish Centre for Ecology & the Natural Environment (SCENE), which conducts research into environmental change, conservation, resource management and environmentally sustainable development. SCENE is also a lead partner in the SeaMonitor project, focused on understanding and improving aquatic ecosystems in Ireland and Scotland, tracking fish and monitoring their behaviour.

**UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS**

As committed to in our Glasgow Green Strategy, we have now eradicated single-use plastics from our catering operations, helping to minimise the risk posed to marine species by plastics.

Our Waste Management Strategy & Action Plan for non-hazardous waste aims to help us ensure that any waste generated is collected, sorted and recycled. Our Safety & Environmental Protection Service provides guidance on the disposal of potentially hazardous biological and chemical waste to ensure that we uphold water quality standards.

The University is also playing a role in educating Glasgow’s younger population to take care of the River Clyde and teaching them why it is important to protect marine life, through the Clyde in the Classroom project, which has been delivered to 482 different schools. Clyde in the Classroom, led by the Clyde River Foundation, based at the University, began in 2001 and has inspired almost 40,000 children to learn about river ecology and wildlife in their local area. The project sees brown trout egg hatcheries brought into participating schools, with pupils and teachers taught how to maintain water quality and look after the fish as they hatch and grow. After several weeks, the Clyde River Foundation team help the children release their fish. The innovative project is aimed at pupils in schools around the River Clyde catchment, taking in eight local authority areas, including Glasgow and as far afield as Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire. Pupils are encouraged to learn more about river ecology, sustainability and causes of pollution through hands-on learning and excursions to accessible river areas.

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

The University of Glasgow is home to the National Centre for Resilience (NCR) at our Dumfries campus. The NCR works with Scotland’s universities, researchers, policymakers, emergency responders, volunteers and communities to build Scotland’s resilience to natural hazards. NCR colleagues stand ready to support the Clyde Mission in futureproofing against potential future hazards associated with the Clyde, particularly flooding. NCR also holds an advantage in the fact that it has access to a broad range of partners and stakeholders ranging from Regional Resilience Partnerships to the Scottish Government, but also including the Met Office and SEPA, to name a few.

The University is also providing critical knowledge and expertise to Scotland’s universities, researchers, policymakers, emergency responders, volunteers and communities to build Scotland’s resilience to natural hazards.
The team aim to make the patch completely biodegradable and capable of nourishing the soil once it reaches the end of its period of usefulness. To do so, they will investigate how biodegradable and capable of nourishing the soil once it reaches the end of its period of usefulness. To do so, they will investigate how biodegradable sensors which can be composted at the end of their lifespan.

The University’s Biodiversity Working Group, made up of students and University staff, works together to identify best practices relating to biodiversity and looks at ways to promote opportunities for engagement with biodiversity.

The University employs a team of students to form the Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team (GUEST). Biodiversity is one of several GUEST branches, and the branch is responsible for ensuring there is a wide range of flora and fauna on campus, including a Wildlife Garden and the Viewfield Lane gardens. We are also proud to be a silver-accredited Hedgehog Friendly Campus, and we have six beehives which are looked after and promoted by our Beekeeping Society.

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Our School of Biodiversity, One Health & Veterinary Medicine continues to offer several programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate, and CPD level, which aim to explore the complex relationship between animals, humans and the environment. At undergraduate level we offer degrees in Marine & Freshwater Biology; and at postgraduate level our programmes in Ecology and Environmental Biology provide specialist training in preparation for a career in ecological science, while Conservation Management of African Ecosystems continues to prepare students for a career in conservation management, in particular within universities, government departments, parastatal conservation organisations and NGOs.

The University is also unique in having an Exploration Society, ExSoc, which has been helping teams of undergraduate students explore the world on zoological and geographical expeditions for many years. The earliest record of a student expedition is 1920, and over the past 90 years, hundreds of students have had the chance to undertake research in the field.

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Our mission is to increase the area of biodiversity-rich habitat types across our various campus locations.

COMMITTED TO BIODIVERSITY ON CAMPUS

The University of Glasgow has inherited, acquired and developed a rich heritage of plant and animal life at the various semi-natural and landscaped sites it occupies.

It is the University’s ongoing responsibility to protect and enhance this heritage, for both its intrinsic value and for the wider benefits that healthy ecosystems can provide:
• breathable air
• potable water
• fertile soils.

In addition, we recognise the importance of access to green spaces, with regard to the general wellbeing of our staff, students and the local community.

Our Biodiversity Strategy describes in broad terms what our approach to campus biodiversity management will be. We will be guided by the following principles:
• Encouraging a whole-of-institution approach
• Respecting the environment
• Becoming a positive force in the marketplace
• Building knowledge and sharing best practice
• Supporting people and communities

Our vision is an effectively managed estate that operates according to the principles of environmental best practice, and that provides a range of biodiverse habitats, along with accessible green spaces for our staff and students. And a University community that appreciates the importance of biodiversity.
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Our RESEARCH

Our respected School of Law performed exceptionally well in REF2021, with more than 60% of the school’s research output submissions rated as ‘world-leading’. The school also ranked second in the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023 driven, in part, by the quality of our research. Research in the school spans a range of themes including legal theory; intellectual property; international law, conflict and security; reform and public policy; and corporate and financial law.

The impact of the school’s research illustrates our world-changing vision, working with policymakers and public bodies nationally and internationally. This has included improving safeguards against wrongful convictions; regulation of autonomous weapons; reform of public sector complaint processes; and combatting ill-treatment of detained persons in Eastern Europe. Researchers in our School of Law have given evidence to parliamentary committees and provided advice to government.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

Our ‘World Changers Together’ Strategy aims to address four key challenges: building a sustainable future, creating a fairer society, reimagining the learning experience and diversifying the student body. To achieve this, our strategy has a clear emphasis on its three pillars of community, connectivity and challenges. In our community pillar we look at our values, engaging with our civic mission and strengthening our partnerships. Key aspects of this are defending academic freedom across the world, upholding honesty, integrity, and fairness, leading by example, advocating for diversity, and practising and advancing sustainability. The strategy is central to our work at the University, and underpins our decision making at all levels.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The University of Glasgow was founded for the benefit of the city and its people.

We work with companies and organisations throughout the city to co-design solutions to create real, lasting impact and opportunity in Glasgow and beyond. Our staff and students are engaged in strong, enduring research and community partnerships to improve health, boost the economy, build a better future and celebrate the achievements of those living in Glasgow. We approach this in ways as varied as the city itself.

Our long-standing reputation for excellence in the field of economics means that the expertise of our staff is frequently sought out by local and national government. Our academics sit on Glasgow City Council’s Glasgow Economic Recovery Group and the Scottish Government’s Advisory Council for Economic Transformation. This expertise has been particularly important as the Glasgow City Region and Scotland plan for a more sustainable and inclusive post-COVID economic recovery.

Our School of Law offers programmes in human rights, global security, slavery and forced migration. Our Moot Courtroom simulates a real court environment to give our law students an opportunity to put their learning into practice.

Glasgow Open Justice (GO Justice) was established in 2018 to provide and encourage opportunities for law students to use their legal knowledge and skills to make a real difference in society. Collaboration lies at the heart of GO Justice; more can be achieved when we work together to design projects and solve problems. Under the GO Justice banner we hope that academics, students and external bodies (such as law centres, public interest organisations, charities) will come together in different ways to build different projects and opportunities. Our annual GO Justice Challenge allows students to develop ideas focusing on solving real social justice issues through the law.
Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

Our Research
As a world-leading, research-intensive University, we are committed to contributing towards the UN SDGs to help tackle the most pressing global challenges facing humanity and the natural world. We have a strong track record of translating our research into real-world solutions and work hard to develop this through our strong and enduring relationships with a broad range of stakeholders.

Professor John Crawford from our Adam Smith Business School is the Science Director of the Global Soil Health Programme. The programme brings together influential experts from academia, government, third sector and NGOs, and the corporate sector. The mission of the programme is to harness the collective strengths of these partners to bring about a step change in more sustainable soil health practices over the next decade, nurturing the best available science. The programme is currently working on initiatives including next-generation soil science and connecting farmers and scientists. The Global Soil Health Programme has a focus on the SDGs, and by actively working to deliver impact through the lens of the SDGs, is supporting the Goals alongside a broad and varied group of partners.

Partnership is also at the core of our Centre for Sustainable Solutions’ activities. Staff from the centre are part of the Sustainable Futures in Africa Network, a long-standing and large network of scholars, artists, educators, NGOs and communities with a shared commitment to sustainability challenges as they manifest in very different ways across the world. Over the past five years, this network has supported more than 100 members in capacity strengthening, training, research and development through ethical partnerships and friendships.

Learning and Teaching
The University’s Learning & Teaching Strategy commits us to explicitly position our teaching in relation to sustainability, civic engagement, global challenges and the SDGs, using our leading research to inform course and programme development. With over 420 study abroad and exchange partners, our students also have myriad opportunities to experience living and learning in countries all over the world, fostering links and gaining an appreciation of how global challenges impact countries differently.

We offer a number of undergraduate, postgraduate taught and research programmes focusing on sustainability and have introduced a student-designed course, Introduction to Climate Change & Sustainability, which is open to all students across the University. Our Centre for Sustainable Solutions, which helped launch the course, also runs courses and events that are open to anyone, helping to raise awareness of sustainability within the wider community.

University Operations
The University is a signatory to the SDG Accord and our Learning & Teaching Strategy details how we will embed the SDGs into our educational activities. This is supported by the work of our Sustainability in Learning & Teaching Community of Practice, which is a hub of multidisciplinary connections that lead to learning and teaching collaboration for developing activities and practice. The Community of Practice has hosted several interactive workshops and seminars for staff and students on a range of topics connecting the SDGs to learning and teaching and has welcomed experts in the SDGs from other organisations to speak and participate.

We have developed strategic alliances with universities across the world and are a founding member of Universitas 21 and the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities. We are also a member of the European University Alliance, CIVIS, where a consistent focus of collaborative activities centres on the SDGs.

We are part of the UK Universities Climate Network, a growing group of over 80 UK-based universities and research centres working together to deliver a low-carbon, resilient world. The network enables collaboration across the UK academic sector to advance climate action nationally and internationally. Highlights of the Network’s work include delivering a virtual Climate Exp0 conference with more than 5,300 attendees from more than 150 countries; delivering briefing papers to and participating in roundtable discussions with the UK Government; and leading and partnering on events at COP26 to engage the public and highlight the unique role of the academic community in climate action.

Civic Engagement
The University’s staff have direct involvement in national government and regional non-government organisations on challenges relevant to the SDGs. The Centre for Sustainable Solutions is building collaborative relationships between the University and partners across the city and country to respond to the climate emergency. The GALLANT project is a recent example of the centre working with government and local stakeholders in our collective move towards climate resilience while tackling health, social and economic inequalities.

Our Government Relations team works to foster cooperation between the University, academics, practitioners and policymakers. This work covers a wide variety of topics and challenges, including public health, education, inequality, the climate emergency, culture and the economy, and aims to inform government and political stakeholders in Scotland, the UK and beyond.
The University of Glasgow and Glasgow Science Centre share a common set of goals. We want to create places where science, innovation and discovery are encouraged and celebrated.

For over two decades, Glasgow Science Centre has inspired and motivated people of all ages, abilities and social backgrounds in taking the first steps to develop the skills and confidence to participate fully in a society where science and technology are prevalent.

Our schools, staff and students have worked in partnership with Glasgow Science Centre to help create meaningful experiences that we hope will inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers, helping embed the belief that science "is for me" amongst our communities. For example, we have worked together to run PCR workshops for S5 & 6 students in our Biology Department laboratories, providing students with exposure to a real lab environment. Glasgow Science Centre also provides our students with the welcome opportunity to engage in research placements at the Centre and conduct public engagement exercises, widening the reach of their work.

We are currently working with Glasgow Science Centre on a number of exciting new projects, including with our School of Geographical & Earth Sciences to create a floating estuarine habitat, increasing biodiversity and encouraging community conversations about the future vision of the Clyde. Our partnership with Glasgow Science Centre has allowed us to further our common goal of making a positive difference to society, and we look forward to continuing to grow that partnership together.
This report is the second comprehensive annual publication by the University of Glasgow assessing our contribution to the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We have continued to build on the progress detailed in our first report by increasingly using the SDGs as a lens through which we measure the impact of our work – locally, regionally, nationally and globally. We are actively exploring ways to further embed the SDGs within our, and our partners’, everyday activity.

Our whole-of-institution approach to our sustainability agenda is led jointly by senior operational managers alongside academic leaders, and in partnership with our students.

We embrace the responsibility we have as a world-class institution to make a tangible contribution to the SDGs, year on year.

We have been changing the world since 1451 and we’re just getting started.