Sustainability Sub-Strategy Bitesize

Priority 11: Space Use

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Introduction

Our Sustainability Sub-Strategy outlines out commitment to acting in response to the climate and ecological emergency, while supporting the University's mission of excellence in education and research, for the benefit of individuals and communities.

Priority 11: Space Use

The way we use our buildings is as important for sustainability as their fabric, maximising the use of space results in greater efficiency. Future-thinking will allow us to prepare for the ways our buildings will be used in years to come. The University of Essex incorporates three campuses, providing space for activities in support of the University mission of excellence in education and research. Our spaces provide the environments for our staff to work and our students to live and learn.

Our spaces are critical in shaping the way we undertake our activities to maximise our contribution to the University mission: providing the environments that enable our students to achieve a transformational educational experience and outstanding outcomes, and our staff to maximise their contribution to excellence in education and research.

Growth to 20,000 students and a community of staff to support this provides an opportunity to further optimise use of our spaces. We will use the economies of scale we gain to operate more efficiently and effectively, through optimum use of space, to enable greater emphasis on quality and sustainability.

Objective: To maximise efficiency and effectiveness in our use of space in order to deliver excellence in education and research whilst minimising our space envelope and energy cost base.

- We will achieve growth in student and staff numbers within the existing built environment by creating multifunctional and shared use spaces.

- The energy efficiency of built environment will increase through behavioural change and every member of our community sharing in the responsibility through their commitment and contribution.

- We will optimise the re-use of furniture, fixtures and fittings in space refurbishment, re-configuration and re-allocation projects.

Key Performance Indicators

KPI 31: Student and staff number growth incorporated without further growth to the built environment

KPI 32: 100% achievement of the Sustainable Essex programme by all departments / sections by 2023

KPI 33: 100% reuse or recycling of fixtures, fittings and equipment by 2023

Action Plan

Type	Year	ID	Objectives and deliverables	Objective Owner
Priority 11			**Space Use**	
Aim			**To maximise efficiency and effectiveness in our use of space in order to deliver excellence in education and research whilst minimising our space envelope and energy cost base**	
Objective		**SSS52**	**Achieve growth in student and staff numbers within existing built environment through efficient and effective use of space and multi-functional / shared use space**	
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS52.1	Implement the initial phase of Smart working at Essex (SWAE) in order to inform follow on phases	Director of ECS
Deliverable	2022/25	SSS52.2	Implement follow on phases of Smart working at Essex (SWAE)	Director of ECS, CTO, Faculty Managers, Departmental HOD's
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS52.3	Deliver multi-functionality and shared space use objectives into the space planning process at space request and space option stages	Director of M&CD
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS52.4	Develop new policies to ensure efficient and effective use of space	Director of M&CD, CTO, Faculty Managers, Departmental HOD's
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS52.5	Seek opportunities for greater migration of space to central timetabling and greater efficiency / effectiveness of timetabled spaces	Director of M&CD, Academic Registrar, CTO
Deliverable	2023/24	SSS52.6	Develop plans for greater usability of outdoor spaces for excellence in education and research	Head of SAG
Objective		**SSS53**	**Increase energy efficiency of built environment through policy and behavioural change and every member of our community sharing in the responsibility through their commitment and contribution**	

Type	Year	ID	Objectives and deliverables	Objective Owner
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS53.1	Produce policy and guidelines to ensure energy efficient use of campus buildings by our campus community	Head of SAG
Deliverable	2023/24	SSS53.2	Further develop energy use data through infrastructure and reporting systems to support departments / sections in monitoring and reducing their energy use	Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS53.3	Produce a policy and support mechanism to maximise engagement and compliance with the Sustainable Essex programme by all departments / sections	Head of SAG
Objective		**SSS54**	**Consolidate space use during low occupancy periods enable reduction in energy use**	
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS54.1	Develop a non-core operating hours policy and model to ensure reduced space use during low occupancy periods	Director of M&CD, CTO, Faculty Managers, Departmental HOD's
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS54.2	Model opportunities for widened core operating hours to minimise the need for new buildings to support growth	Director of M&C, CTO, Faculty Managers, Departmental HOD's
Objective		**SSS55**	**Optimise re-use of furniture, fixtures and fittings through space refurbishment, re-configuration and re-allocation projects**	
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS55.1	Develop a policy, system and process to ensure all furniture, fixtures and fittings are recycled through re-use within or without the organisation, or via recycled waste	Head of SAG