# University of East Anglia







































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## Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an urgent call of action for the world to address the most pressing challenges facing humanity. The seventeen United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are central to this; outlining a blueprint for achieving a fairer and more sustainable future for all.

As an educational provider, UEA recognises our responsibility to play a direct and central role in addressing these challenges. We are passionate about embedding sustainability at the very heart of our university, becoming an integral part of our teaching, research, innovation, and operational activities. This is further demonstrated by our ambition to be 100% carbon net zero by 2045 or earlier. This commitment was evidenced by UEA becoming a signatory to the SDG Accord report in 2019, committing us to annual reporting on our goals and progress to meeting the SDGs.

This report showcases a small selection of the work we do towards advancing the SDGs; through our research, public engagement, learning and teaching, and operational activities. We continue to strive to ensure all our students and staff understand the principles of sustainability, and that we make a real and positive change for the future.

Professor David Maguire, Vice-Chancellor and President

## **SDG 1 No Poverty**

## End poverty in all its forms everywhere

## Research - 157 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### Impact of poverty on children's brain activity

Researchers in UEA's School of Psychology have been studying the effect of poverty on childhood brain function. The research examined brain activity of children aged between four months and four years in both rural India and Midwest America; taking factors such as parental education, income, caste, religion, the number children in the family, and economic status into account. They found that children from lower-income backgrounds had weaker brain activity and were more likely to be distracted. Each year, 250 million children in low- and middle-income countries fail to reach their developmental potential. This work increasing understanding of the global impact of poverty on early brain and behavioural development, is the first step in designing intervention efforts to boost early brain health before adversity can take hold.

#### **School of International Development**

Our School of International Development has a global reputation as a centre of research excellence, and our researchers are committed to resolving major global challenges such as poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. Their research on 'Social pensions' provided evidence of the benefits of existing social pension programmes, raising their awareness amongst NGOs, UN agencies and key policy makers, and identifying limitations for future improvements. Social pensions have emerged as a major anti-poverty policy for developing countries over the past decade – providing regular cash payments to millions of households who are not covered by formal social protection schemes.

## **Public Engagement**

#### The good advice that could lift people out of poverty

Researchers from UEA worked with Norwich Foodbank centres, part of the Trussell Trust, on a pilot project that saw representatives from Citizens Advice and Shelter posted within the service. The 'Making a Difference' initiative meant that people forced to use a food bank were also able to access advice on a range of issues - from housing and debt to benefits. The UEA team interviewed food bank volunteers and advice workers, to provide lived experience feedback on the scheme. It was found that having advisors available at the point of need helped people who might otherwise fall through the gaps access the advice and services they needed. It is now hoped that this scheme will be rolled out to foodbanks nationally.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

UEA's School of International Development is committed to tackling global issues of poverty and inequality through our research, teaching and engagement. We're home to more than 50 staff and 600 students who are driven to make a difference in the world. Our graduates have gone on to a diverse range of careers working to alleviate poverty; from charities and NGOs, to government agencies and the United Nations, private sector companies, consultancy firms, and further study.

## **UEA Kilimanjaro Society**

UEA students are planning to conquer the highest free-standing mountain in the world in aid of making a lasting impact. Their challenge will raise funds for Dig Deep, a charity working tirelessly to bring clean water, sanitation products, and vital resources to Bomet County, Kenya.

## **Operations**

#### Student financial support

UEA has a range of initiatives to support students and ensure that, wherever possible, financial worries do not impact upon their studies. We offer a UEA Hardship Fund to support students in times of difficulty. In addition, the Vice-Chancellor's Hardship Fund Loan provides a short-term loan facility to help students with cash flow emergencies. Both the SU and Student Support Service provide a confidential service giving students the opportunity to discuss financial issues causing them stress and can offer help with budgeting advice and debt issues.

We're aiming to ensure that all reading list books are readily available in our library, free urgent food and personal care products are available for all students and our new opportunities fund helps to cover or part-pay for the cost of participating in extracurricular activities.

#### **Too Good To Go**

UEA Campus Kitchen outlets Ziggy's and Sportscafe are continuing to reduce food poverty by supporting the Too Good To Go scheme, which sees 'magic bags' full of products worth upwards of £9 sold for £3 on the app.

## **SDG 2 Zero Hunger**

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

## Research - 393 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### A new UK centre of excellence for food security

The yields of major staple foods such as grains, fruits and vegetables are expected to decrease by 3 - 10 % with every degree of global warming. In collaboration with our partners on the Norwich Research Park, the Norwich Institute for Sustainable Development works to mitigate these stark predictions and improve global food security. Their work focuses on combating the threats from ever more extreme and unpredictable weather events, working with farmers all over the world to develop solutions to make agriculture more resilient.

#### Addressing food insecurity in India

Part of our Global Research Translation Award, the Sustainable Food Systems project works to address food and nutrition insecurity in India. Despite economic growth, India has some of the highest levels of food and nutrition insecurity in the world with close to 40 % of children under 5 stunted, and over 50 % of women anaemic. This problem is especially apparent in rural, indigenous populations. UEA researchers work with local partners and communities to share knowledge on sustainable food systems, in particular production choices and diets practices, and how these relate to health and nutrition outcomes. Using a range of tools and strategies, the project generates digital content – that can be shared at scale to provide 24-hour real-time response to community needs.

#### Optimising nutrition and hydration in care homes

Preventing malnutrition and dehydration in care homes is a complex task and both conditions remain prevalent. Researchers in The UEA Hydrate Group are working with health care staff and national and local organisations, to optimise care home nutrition and hydration practice. Completing a comprehensive review of existing guidelines, they have a developed a series of recommendations for improving practice including developing age and population-specific nutrient and fluid intake standards, appropriate menu-planning, staff training, and more effective screening and monitoring procedures. They continue to work collaboratively with care providers to improve the implementation of these guidelines.

## **Public Engagement**

### Promoting balanced nutrition in children

The World Health Organisation estimates that malnutrition directly contributes to more than one third of all child deaths globally. Despite this, there is currently a lack of supplement dosages specifically tailored for children. UEA researchers in the Child Malnutrition project are working with regional manufacturing partners in Brazil, Jordan, Malaysia and Thailand to develop low-cost, child-friendly micronutrient supplements. The project is also working with users of the supplements; using creative writing and filmmaking to communicate and educate people on the importance of a balanced nutritional diet for child growth and development.

#### Seminar series on sustainable food

The Norwich Institute for Sustainable Development run a series of free events and seminars throughout the year focusing on food security, sustainable and healthy food, and sustainable farming and fishery. The events draw together world leading experts on sustainable development to share the latest developments and insights.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

Our students learn about the challenges of food security and how to develop solutions to end hunger. Our MA in Agriculture and Rural Development explores how agriculture can contribute to hunger and poverty alleviation in low-income countries, and the policy and politics concerned with rural development. Our MA in Globalisation, Business and Sustainable Development explores globalisation and if it is contributing to inequality and poverty. Students on our BSc in Biological Sciences can learn about sustainable crop production, and the role of plant biotechnology in achieving this. Our MSc in Plant Genetics and Crop Improvement gives students the knowledge and practical skills to use plant molecular genetics and biotechnology to target traits for crop improvement.

#### **Plant-Based Universities UEA**

Part of the rapidly growing Plant-Based Universities campaign, Plant-Based Universities UEA supports the drive for fully plant-based catering within UEA.

#### **Environmental student consultants**

The UEA Catering team support students in our School of Environmental Sciences to work as environmental consultants. Their projects focus on examples such as the true impact of a vegan diet to the environment or analysing the UEA Catering waste stream.

## **Operations**

#### **Sustainable Food Policy**

We are committed to ensuring our food production and retail is done in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. All our livestock produce (meat, dairy, eggs) is, as a minimum, Red Tractor farm assured, or equivalent. We also ensure all eggs (and egg products) are free-range and maximise use of fish on the Marine Conservation Society's 'fish to eat' list.

Wherever possible, we champion the use of local suppliers to reduce food miles, support the local economy and provide a point of difference on campus. All our milk has been from East Anglian dairies since 2016. Our Procurement team are pro-active in the areas that they assess. They recently contacted some of our farmers to ask about the use of antibiotics in their supply chain.

We aim to identify products and practices that can be changed to improve the nutritional value of our food such as using healthier cooking oils and cooking methods. All in-house produced products do not feature hydrogenated fat and/or unnecessary additives in line with Food Standards Agency guidance. We reduce the frequency and portion size of red and processed meats we serve by always offering a red meat alternative.

#### **Plant-Based Dishes**

Numerous vegan dishes feature in the rotating menu of our Zest restaurant, catering especially to those who prefer a plant-based diet. Furthermore, these dishes will be priced cheaper than meat/fish alternatives to support our sustainability policy goals.

#### **Coffee Grounds for Gardeners**

Outlets across campus offer free coffee grounds to all gardeners to help improve the nutritional value of their compost.

## SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being

## Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

## Research - 2112 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### Understanding head injury in professional footballers – Scores project

Research has shown that former professional footballers are far more likely to suffer from serious neurological diseases, including Alzheimer's, than the rest of the population. UEA researcher Dr Michael Grey has launched a trail blazing research project to better understand the cognitive health of former professional football players, and whether there is a connection between heading footballs and dementia later in life.

#### Improving the nutrition of the local community

Malnutrition is a common problem that affects millions of people, particularly those over the age of 65 or those living with long-term conditions. Low income, social isolation and limited mobility can also increase the risk of becoming malnourished. Research in UEA's Nutrition Group focuses on screening projects to improve the identification, treatment, and prevention of vitamin D deficiency related risks in the elderly population, and reducing the prevalence of malnutrition in the wider community. The group's long-term goal is to change practice at a national level by making it easier to identify vitamin D deficiency and to prevent avoidable complications through timely treatment.

## **Public Engagement**

#### A unique toolkit to reduce opioid use

According to NHS England, there is little evidence that opioids are helpful in the treatment of long-term pain. Despite this they are regularly prescribed. Higher rates of prescribing are often associated with smoking, obesity and mental health conditions, and in severe cases can lead to addiction and death. The UEA led Medicines Optimisation Group East Anglia (MOG\_EA), launched an innovative Toolkit for Tackling Chronic Opioid Use in Non-Cancer Pain, helping GPs to reduce the amount of opioids they prescribe. The toolkit outlines seven best practice areas to help GPs and other health practitioners tackle chronic patient opioid use, including guidance on interventions for gradual drug tapering and better training to provide effective psychological support.

#### What's stopping you from studying Medicine?

Applying to study medicine can be a daunting experience. Our Preparing for Medicine programme will demystify the whole process and maximise your chances. The free programme sees prospective students paired with a current UEA medical student and take in numerous in-person events throughout the year including UCAT workshops, mock interviews, and a residential stay, as well as a guaranteed interview to study medicine at UEA after the programme.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

Our Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences offers a range of health-related courses including Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery, Pharmacy, Paramedic Science, Occupational Therapy and Social Work. We offer a range of opportunities for our students to further understand and support the challenges of global health including the chance of a four-week elective placement in another country in the fourth year of our medicine programme.

#### **UEA First Aid Society**

UEA First Aid Society offers weekly training sessions covering all aspects of first aid in a safe and practical environment. They are a volunteering unit of St John Ambulance, providing cover at UEA club nights, gigs, and open days, in addition to getting involved in events such as the London Marathon, Notting Hill Carnival, and Pride.

#### Acting for charity

UEA MedSoc is the largest student-led society. Through their Societies Fund and fantastic charity events they support many medical societies including recently raising over £3000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. This year their first ever UEA MedSoc play is raising money for East Anglia's Children's Hospices!

## **Operations**

#### Student support

The Wellbeing team in Student Services is made up of experienced, professional advisers and trainers who offer a wide range of support and advice. One-to-one appointments as well as workshops and group sessions are available to help students deal with issues such as stress and maintaining a healthy work/life balance. The Wellbeing team have close links with external services and the NHS, including the University Medical Centre, to ensure that all students get the support they need, and Wellbeing and Student

Advisers are embedded within each Faculty, providing proactive support to students directly in their Schools of Study. Access to Mental Health Awareness training is available to equip students with what they need to support others. UEA students also have full access to Togetherall, an award-winning digital mental health service that offers 24/7 online support with trained clinicians.

Specialist support is available for all disabled students. This includes students with physical conditions, mental health conditions, neurodivergence and Specific Learning Differences like dyslexia, as well as long-term and short-term medical conditions, including severe allergies. Dedicated academic Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) based within Schools work closely with Academic Advisers and Student Services Advisers to led on disability-related issues within the context of their specific school.

## Staff support

Our Health Assured Employee Assistance Programme provides staff and students with free, 24 hour support to help deal with personal and professional issues that can impact on, health, wellbeing and home or work life. Our recently launched Mental Health First Aiders scheme has been joined by more than 60 members who are supporting the wellbeing of staff across the UEA community. This has already been expanded with the introduction of Staff Wellbeing Champions, who will act as the first point of contact for employees experiencing a mental health issue or emotional distress.

#### **University Mental Health Charter**

UEA is pleased to have joined the University Mental Health Charter. The Charter Programme, run by UK student mental health charity Student Minds, recognises universities that are committed to making mental health and wellbeing a university-wide priority, to share best practice and create cultural change. Joining the University Mental Health Charter is one of the key objectives identified in UEA's new Student Education and Experience Strategy and supports its wider Strategy2030 priorities.

## **SDG 4 Quality Education**

# Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

## Research - 243 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### Improving maths education

MathTASK is a collaborative research project of the UEA Research in Mathematics Education Group. The multi-stranded programme explores various aspects associated with better understanding and teaching of mathematics. Their CAPTeaM (Challenging Ableist Perspectives on the Teaching of Mathematics) strand explores inclusive education and how students with disabilities engage with mathematics. Working with researchers in Brazil and Greece, the study looks to explore and challenge the assumptions about the mathematical abilities of disabled learners that often shape mathematics teaching and learning.

#### **Exploring language and culture**

Work in the Language in Education research group explores the use of language in different educational contexts and countries, and the link between language and culture. Examining regional identities, race/ethnic matters, intercultural communication, and professional, classroom and disciplinary discourses, the group has strong partnerships with local authorities in the UK, Asia and South America, and works to improve teachers' racial literacy, use cross-cultural perspectives to enhance the teaching of international students, and improve school effectiveness in developing countries.

## **Public Engagement**

#### A celebration of science - Norwich Science Festival

UEA is proud to be a partner of the Norwich Science Festival - a celebration of the ground-breaking scientific research associated with the city. Every year the festival offers a week of free exhibitions, shows and hands-on science activities for all ages and levels of knowledge. The festival also offers a dedicated learning programme for schools, youth groups and home educators giving students from reception class to sixth formers the chance to get inspired by science.

#### Public events

UEA host a series of events, lectures, exhibitions and performances throughout the year. Events in 2025 include a series of seminars on applying for university, 'A World of Water', an exhibition exploring our shared and increasingly precarious relationship to the sea, and 'Reframing Addiction', a lecture exploring why humans are vulnerable to addiction.

#### **Grow Your Business**

Our Grow Your Business initiative provides a range of bespoke training to individuals looking to learn new skills, boost their profits and improve business performance, resilience, and long-term growth. Delivered by Norwich Business School, the programme is accredited by the Small Business Charter, with funding support from HM Government. The curriculum supports people to build their capabilities in leadership, innovation, digital adoption, employee engagement, marketing, responsible business, and financial management. As part of the programme, you receive one-to-one support from a business mentor and develop a tailored growth action plan to help release the full potential of your organisation.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### Teachers of the future

Our Education department is dedicated to training teachers of the future. Our PCGE courses are highly-rated by Ofsted and train both primary and secondary teachers through either university-led or School Direct routes. We are committed to supporting students beyond their training year and work closely with schools, academies and Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) induction bodies to provide continuing guidance and training opportunities. Students can continue to develop their careers through our Master's and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes, and our popular Professional Development for Early Career Teachers online course is designed to help newly-qualified teachers improve their teaching skills and manage their workload.

## **Learning across boundaries**

Our Interdisciplinary Institute for the Humanities encourages students to study across disciplinary lines, with areas of study ranging from the Centre for Japanese Studies, to the Publishing Project, the Media Suite, Digital Humanities and the East Anglian Film Archive. We also offer interdisciplinary postgraduate courses such as Gender Studies and Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies.

#### **Teaching**

The Norwich Business School is a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). The academic curriculum ensures all NBS students become literate in ethics and social responsibility, and that sustainability issues are delivered in the content of modules.

## **Operations**

## **University library**

Our grade II listed library houses over 800,000 books, 550,000 e-books, and 97,500 online and print journals, and offers access to students, staff, alumni and members of the local community. In addition, the library is proud to house a wide range of collections of museum artefacts, art works, rare books and manuscripts, and archive collections, including the British Archive for Contemporary Writing.

#### Widening participation

The UEA has an unwavering commitment to widening participation; passionately believing in championing young people from all backgrounds to succeed in whatever way is best for them. Our dedicated Outreach Team offers a host of opportunities for young people, staff, parents and carers and the wider school community, all designed to raise aspirations and help young people recognise university as an option for them - we work with more than 150 schools across the local region each year. Activities are run both on-campus and in-school with all resources provided free of charge. We offer financial support for individual and group travel costs, teacher cover fees and any resources required to deliver our in-school initiatives.

## **SDG 5 Gender Equality**

## Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

## Research - 174 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### Social change and gender equality

Our Gender and Development research group focuses on the social and gender factors influencing poverty reduction, inequality and social justice. Research explores many aspects of gender equality issues such as access to education, family planning services gendered vulnerabilities to illness and treatment, intrahousehold relations, gender analysis of land and livelihoods, and food and nutrition security.

## **Public Engagement**

#### **Gender Dynamics in Key Issues of Development**

The School of Global Development is running a series of events to explore the themes of gender issues and social justice in a world marked by growing environmental challenges, political and social polarisation. The lectures and conferences discuss what it means to be a woman environmental defender, and critical challenges that persist to the achievement of gender and wider social justice including gender-differentiated inequalities in political participation, health, education, sexuality, violence, employment and livelihoods.

#### International's Women's Day 2025

To celebrate International Women's Day 2025, Professor Nitya Rao hosted a lecture on 'Accelerating Action Towards Gender Justice for Climate and Food'. The event focused on exploring if gender could be the key to solving and unlocking the climate crisis, global hunger and obesity.

#### Safer Taxi scheme

UEA works closely with partners across Norwich, including the police and Norwich City Council, to ensure safety for the community and students. Our SU has worked with City Council and Student Services on the Safer Taxi scheme – which allows students who are feeling vulnerable to pay for their taxi home at a later date if they are unable to do so at the time.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### Teaching

Gender equality is embedded within our teaching and a number of our degrees feature modules on gender issues. International Development students can take modules on Gender Development and Law students can study modules focusing on Language and Gender, and Gender and the Media. Our MA in Gender Studies explores the fundamental debates of gender studies, including social change, feminism, gender history and gendered aspects of society.

#### **UN Women UK UEA Society**

The UN Women UK UEA Society has a mission to ensure that every woman and girl has access to safety, choice and a voice. The society hosts regular events, socials and fundraisers to promote inclusion for all, discuss actions for change – locally, nationally and globally, and to raise support for UN Women UK.

#### **Women in Finance Society**

UEA's Women in Finance Society is dedicated to empowering students with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities needed to pursue successful careers in finance. Through a variety of events, including talks, panel discussions, and workshops, they aim to create a collaborative, supportive and professional network for women to thrive in the world of finance.

#### Free period products

UEA SU offer free period products so no student should face period poverty.

## **Operations**

#### **Athena SWAN**

The university subscribes to the Athena SWAN Charter, a framework which is used to support and transform gender equality within Higher Education and Research. We are pleased to be an Athena SWAN Silver Award holder at institutional level, all our schools have completed applications for the Charter and six hold Silver awards.

#### Equal pay and career progression

The university adheres to the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017, and our Equal Pay and Gender Pay Gap Code of Practice outlines our commitment to identifying issues of gender pay difference and taking action to reduce

them. Our annual equal pay review is presented directly to our dedicated Equality and Diversity Committee who are committed to working towards equal pay for all.

#### **Parental leave**

As well as having a family friendly culture, we recognise the importance of supporting staff during periods of maternity, paternity and adoption leave. Female staff who are pregnant or adopting can take up to a year's maternity leave – 6 months on full pay, and our shared parental leave enables fathers or both parents, to take additional leave.

## **Nursery Salary Sacrifice Scheme**

Our campus nursery offers childcare facilities for staff and students, and staff can benefit by paying for the nursery through our Salary Sacrifice Scheme. An additional nursery is available the adjoining hospital site. We have a family friendly campus with dedicated space for baby changing and feeding, and highchairs and hot water for heating food provided in our catering outlets.

#### **SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation**

## Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

## Research - 241 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### **Water Security Research Centre**

UEA's Water Security Research Centre works to address the challenges of governing and managing water for different human, economic and environmental needs. Their research focuses on understanding the social, political and physical drivers of global water challenges, and the affect these have on all aspects of our life - including our health and wellbeing, food production, economics and the integrity of our natural environment. They also work to emphasise the existing inequalities surrounding safe and reliable access to water, and how these must be addressed to improve water security for all. Current research themes include understanding river pollution and its impacts, assessment methods of extreme drought, and agricultural resource management and water innovations for a sustainable future.

## **Public Engagement**

#### A World of Water

The exhibition at UEA's The Sainsbury Centre aims recognises that the precarious nature of our waters. Bringing together works by British and international artists from the last 250, the exhibition looks at the human impact on the sea and encourages visitors to understand the complexity of sea and marine life, whilst encouraging a collective, global effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change and support action to restore marine ecosystems. Tickets operate on a 'Pay If and What You Can' basis so that everyone can have access.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

## Teaching

The challenges and need for sustainable water management and its role in society is explored in a wide variety of our degrees. Students on our Geography and Environmental Sciences undergraduate programmes can study a modules on Land and Water Processes and Management, and Natural Resources and Environmental Economics. Our School of International Development offers teaching on Natural Resources and Development – focusing on the global challenges of effective resource management. At a masters' level, our Water Security research group offers an MSc in Water Security and International Development.

#### Reducing single use plastic on campus

A priority campaign of the SU is to reduce single use plastics on campus. The student run initiative focuses on raising awareness around the use of reusable bottles and coffee cups, providing these alternatives to students, and offering incentives for their use - such as partial refunds in campus food outlets.

#### Free period products

UEA SU offer free period products so no student should face period poverty.

## **Operations**

#### Saving water in science laboratories

Condensing processes in scientific laboratories typically use large amounts of water. UEA Schools of Chemistry and Pharmacy in partnership with manufacturer Asynt developed an innovative condensing process – the CondenSyn Distillation Adapter is an aid to chemistry labs worldwide seeking to go water-free.

#### Accessible drinking water

Tap water and water machines are available in all catering outlets and across campus to provide free drinking water to students, staff and visitors and to encourage bottle refills. We encourage people to use reusable bottles which can be purchased in our campus outlets. For hot drinks, Keep Cups and the use of customers' own mugs are subsidised and actively promoted.

## **SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy**

## Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

## Research - 367 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### Science, Society and Sustainability (3S) Group

UEA's Science, Society and Sustainability (3S) Group was established in 2011, and

conducts research to understand, and potentially transform, relations between science, innovation and society in responding to the unprecedented sustainability challenges facing our world. Through over £5 million of research funding over the last decade (from ESRC, EPSRC, NERC, the Leverhulme Trust, EU FP7 & H2020, UKERC, DEFRA, Sciencewise, BIS, E.On, EdF, British Gas and more) 3S researchers have pioneered new approaches for understanding and transforming the social dimensions of sustainability and innovation processes. This work has developed new ways of thinking about societal engagement in sustainability, helped us to understand and develop new practices of societal engagement, and contributed towards transforming institutions and systems.

#### Developing sustainable technologies for electric vehicles

The transport sector is the fastest growing contributor to climate emissions, and decarbonising transport is one of the largest challenges in the global response to climate change. Researchers in our Emerging Technologies for Electric Vehicles (EV) research group are working to develop promising new sustainable technologies to accelerate mass-market adoption of electric vehicles. This research directly aligns with UK ambitions to end the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2030, and the building a Britain fit for the future and Road to zero industrial strategies.

## **Public Engagement**

#### **Public Engagement Observatory**

The Public Engagement Observatory based in UEA's 3S Research Group maps the many different ways that people are engaging with energy, climate change and net zero on an ongoing basis. It openly shares these mappings with others to help make energy and climate-related decisions, innovations and participation more just, responsible and responsive to society. Through its network, the Observatory makes connections and encourages learning across wider systems of public engagement in the UK and internationally.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

Using innovative engineering to meet global challenges is at the heart of our engineering teaching, with students covering modules such as Renewable Energy, Nuclear and Solar Energy, Fluids Engineering for Renewable Energy and Environment Assessment Theory and Effectiveness. Our specialised BEng Energy Engineering with Environmental Management course is backed by the East of England Energy Group (EEEGr) and accredited by the Energy Institute, and prepares students for the demands of industry and the need for alternative technologies.

#### Sustainable societies

We have several student societies that put sustainability at their core. UEA Sustainability Society is a group of students with a passion for making the planet a better, greener place for all. Their welcoming community works together with other student organisations on environmental initiatives that make a difference. They hold weekly allotment sessions to grow fresh produce and herbs, and run events such as mending workshops, item swaps, guest talks and charity events, to exchange ideas and keep people informed of sustainable work at UEA and beyond. Plant-Based Universities UEA is part of the rapidly growing Plant-Based Universities campaign, which drives for fully plant-based catering within UEA.

## **Operations**

#### Sustainable campus

UEA has been a pioneer in environmental sciences and climate change research for 55 years, but we also have our own climate ambitions. We have committed to an 80% reduction in scopes 1 & 2 carbon emissions by 2030 and to be 100% net zero by 2045 or earlier. Across our campus, as part of Strategy2030, departments and teams have worked hard to identify the measures needed to deliver on our ambitions. The resulting Environmental Sustainability Thematic Strategy details how we will change and influence, encourage and facilitate more positive sustainable behaviours in our whole community. We will continue to invest in making our estate more sustainable and resilient, including the refurbishment of the Lasdun Wall as part of our Campus Development Programme, prioritise renewable energy generation and supply, focus on sustainable purchasing decisions and work with our suppliers on their carbon footprint, support staff and students to make greener choices, and develop a sustainable business travel policy. In addition, we continue to work with our civic partners to develop sustainable transport systems and

economic policies, promote biodiversity and creating natural habitats on our campus for a wide variety of species and partner with innovators in the green economy to accelerate the transition to net zero.

#### **Tracking our progress**

We track and report on our progress as part of our International Standards Organisation (ISO) 14001 certified Environmental Management System and through our Energy Management System, which we are developing to the ISO 50001 standard. These provide an externally verified framework to manage our compliance obligations, protect the environment and make continual environmental and energy improvements. This process is overseen by UEA's Sustainability Board and ultimately the Executive Team and UEA Council.

#### Sustainable labs

Our School of Biology has been pioneering improving energy efficiency in laboratories – particularly in the use of ultra-low temperature freezers (ULTs). ULTs typically account for 66 % of the energy used by all lab appliances, and even the most efficient ULT consumes similar amounts of energy to a whole house. To reduce this, an energy audit of our ULTs was completed and personalised audit certificates produced. Our ULT Freezer Management Guide also gives advice on how to ensure that freezers are operated as efficiently as possible.

#### **Electric Vans**

UEA Campus Kitchen renewed and upgraded their operational vans to completely cut petrol and diesel out of their daily operations. Making nearly 70 journeys around the UEA campus and Norwich Research Park in a week, and nearly 3,500 journeys a year, the new fleet of all electric vehicles has increased productivity and reliability for operational staff in addition to supporting a more sustainable future for UEA.

#### **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth**

# Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

## Research - 440 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### **Ensuring fair competition**

The UEA's Centre for Competition Policy is the UK's leading inter-disciplinary centre for independent competition, regulation and consumer policy research, and has advised on a wide range of national and international policy decisions. Research includes anticompetitive behaviours by firms which may harm consumers such as agreements, abuse of dominance/monopolisation and mergers. It also covers research aimed at uncovering how competition takes place in particular cases. Other research interests include vulnerable consumers and a detailed exploration of fairness in the retail energy market.

## **Public Engagement**

#### **Civil University**

We are proud to be a member of The Civic University Network - a national network which aims to challenge and support universities to embed civic aspirations at an institutional level, and to work with local communities to build mutually beneficial relationships and drive positive societal change. As a member of the Network, we are committed to maximising our economic and social impact for the benefit of those around us. We are already involved in projects promoting an inclusive and sustainable economy, drive clean growth and support our renewable energy coastline.

#### A home for your business - The Enterprise Centre

Our Enterprise Centre helps local businesses thrive by offering them a home whilst they grow. Established in 2015, the hub is home to over 200 diverse companies and offers a range of office spaces and co-working areas to suit all needs. The hub actively encourages networking and knowledge sharing – hosting a range of events and offering meeting rooms, a 300-seater lecture theatre, boardrooms and collaborative working spaces.

#### **Productivity East**

UEA's state-of-the-art facility, Productivity East, is a regional hub for engineering, technology and management. Working in partnership with our world-class researchers and students, we enable businesses to create innovative practical solutions to current and future real-world challenges. Projects currently include creating ways of accurately converting data sets into 3D printed physical models for use in applications such as surgical planning, and in replica construction of delicate cultural heritage artefacts.

## Student Activity and Learning

#### **Teaching**

The Norwich Business School is a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). The academic curriculum ensures all NBS students become literate in ethics and social responsibility, and that sustainability issues are delivered in the content of modules.

#### Internships and work experience

UEA offers a wide range of work placements and internships for those students keen to get professional experience. There is a wide range of local, national and international opportunities available, each carefully chosen to ensure students leave with transferable and professional skills that help them to stand out in the crowded graduate job market and prepare them for graduate life and beyond. Students in the School of International Development have the opportunity to undertake a Development Work Placement. Designed to supplement the knowledge and skills learnt in other modules, students can carry out their placement in the UK or overseas. In recent years, our students have travelled to diverse countries including Uganda, Peru, Thailand, Ghana, Cambodia, Belgium, Tanzania, Japan and Cyprus.

#### **Norfolk Network Generation Three**

UEA student volunteers help run the Norfolk Network, a community of local business owners, directors, entrepreneurs and academics. The network focuses on collaboration, peer support, knowledge and learning in an aim to create a fertile environment for local businesses to thrive. UEA is the headline sponsor of the organisation, the partnership focusing on developing student employability, entrepreneurship and enterprise.

#### **Operations**

#### **Staff benefits**

At UEA, our staff enjoy a wide range of benefits. We give competitive rates of pay and have generous pension schemes. Staff receive an a further six 'customary' days of leave each year in addition to their generous holiday entitlement. We recognise the

importance of a healthy work/life balance and have introduced a number of policies to support this including flexible working and hybrid working policies. There are a range of activities staff can engage with during their lunch break, including regular wellbeing walks and a range of activities at the Sportspark. We also have exceptional provision for those with families. We have generous maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave, as well as an on campus full-day care nursery with an outstanding Ofsted rating.

#### Personal and professional development

Our Organisational Development Service support a variety of valuable development areas; from communication and organisational skills, to leadership and management. We believe it's important for learning to be a continuous journey, and that's why we facilitate a range of impactful development opportunities including a professional coaching scheme, mentoring programme, apprenticeships, qualifications, live workshops, video courses, conferences and more. UEA provides all staff and students with access to LinkedIn Learning. The wide range of courses available ensure there is support for both your personal and professional learning.

#### Dignity and respect in the workplace

Our Dignity and Respect in the Workplace code of practice details our commitment to creating a working environment and culture where all staff and students are treated with dignity and respect, valued in their diversity and encouraged to reach their full potential. We have a zero tolerance of unlawful discrimination, harassment or bullying and we are committed to investigating reports of inappropriate behaviour and taking appropriate action proportionate to each case. All staff are required to complete mandatory Diversity in the Workplace training upon their appointment in addition to two-yearly refresher modules. This training includes bullying and harassment content. Staff are asked to familiarise themselves with the University's range of equality, diversity, dignity and respect policies and procedures.

#### **Fairtrade**

Our SU campus shop stocks a range of Fairtrade goods and has lobbied the wider UEA community to do the same in all of their outlets.

## SDG 9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

## Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

## Research - 385 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### **Productivity East**

UEA's state-of-the-art facility, Productivity East, is a regional hub for engineering, technology and management. Working in partnership with our world-class researchers and students, we enable businesses to create innovative practical solutions to current and future real-world challenges. Projects currently include creating ways of accurately converting data sets into 3D printed physical models for use in applications such as surgical planning, and in replica construction of delicate cultural heritage artefacts.

## **Public Engagement**

#### A hub for innovation – The Enterprise Centre

The Enterprise Centre is our hub for innovative businesses - offering them a home whilst they grow. Established in 2015, the hub is home to over 200 diverse companies and offers a range of office spaces and co-working areas to suit all needs. The hub actively encourages networking and knowledge sharing – hosting a range of events and offering meeting rooms, a 300-seater lecture theatre, boardrooms and collaborative working spaces.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

We foster student innovation through our teaching. Our MSc in Management offers a module in Innovation and Technology Management which explores the advantages and management of innovation in sustainable business. Our MBA programme has optional modules in Sustainable Management and Entrepreneurship, and our Norwich Business School offers an undergraduate module in Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Creation.

#### **Engineering industrial partners**

Our School of Engineering is passionate about providing our graduates with the skills to meet the engineering challenges of the future, and students are equally eager to improve their skills and employability. Our Select Partnership Scheme is a pioneering scheme that takes advantage of our strong partnerships with local, national, and international engineering companies. Hosted annually, the Select event brings together engineers at all stages through speed interviews and networking to help build connections and talent. 33 companies participated in the Select Partnership Scheme 2024, connecting with enthusiastic students in nearly 300 speed interviews!

#### **Enactus UEA**

Enactus is the world's largest experiential learning platform dedicated to engaging the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders to use innovation to improve the world. With the support and encouragement of the global Enactus network, Enactus students deploy entrepreneurial action to improve the human condition and enable sustainable human progress. Enactus UEA runs a series of events throughout the year and brings together like-minded UEA entrepreneurs to discuss fresh ideas.

## **Operations**

#### **Spin-out companies**

We are committed to helping members of our UEA community turn transformative research into thriving spinouts, and we have filed more than 100 patents for inventions developed from their ground-breaking work. We have celebrated the creation of companies that are tackling some of world's biggest challenges and providing innovative services in areas such nanotechnology, weather analysis and the treatment of infectious diseases.

#### The Enterprise Fund

The Enterprise Fund offers support to UEA students from the start of their degrees through to five years after graduation to help make businesses commercially sustainable or investment ready. In addition to funding, entrepreneurs are offered specialist business advice, expert mentoring, collaborative workspace and networking to drive forward their business.

#### **Innovation and Impact Awards**

The annual Innovation and Impact Awards celebrate the remarkable research and entrepreneurial spirit of UEA staff, students and graduates, as well as the important collaborative work with our valued partners beyond the University. The Awards recognise and reward projects which are changing lives, helping shape our understanding of the world, and addressing local and global challenges.

## **SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities**

## Reduce inequality within and among countries

## Research - 357 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### The good advice that could lift people out of poverty

Researchers from UEA worked with Norwich Foodbank centres, part of the Trussell Trust, on a pilot project that saw representatives from Citizens Advice and Shelter posted within the service. The 'Making a Difference' initiative meant that people forced to use a food bank were also able to access advice on a range of issues - from housing and debt to benefits. The UEA team interviewed food bank volunteers and advice workers, to provide lived experience feedback on the scheme. It was found that having advisors available at the point of need helped people who might otherwise fall through the gaps access the advice and services they needed. It is now hoped that this scheme will be rolled out to foodbanks nationally.

#### Inequalities in healthy life expectancy

Reducing inequality in healthy life expectancy is a UK government ambition but requires detailed knowledge of interrelated morbidity and mortality risks at smaller geographical areas than is routinely available. Researchers at our Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and Norwich Institute for Healthy Aging assessed healthy life expectancy and risk factor data from small areas of Norfolk to monitor risks. They found that lower healthy life expectancy at area level was associated with lower weekly income, physical inactivity, air pollution, alcohol admissions, living alone as an older person and diet not meeting '5 a Day'. This innovative approach can be used to monitor risks and inform targeted public health interventions at local levels.

## **Public Engagement**

#### **UEA law clinic and The Justice Project**

The UEA law clinic is a joint venture between UEA students and staff, members of the local legal profession, and external charities and organisations including Norfolk Community Law Service and Citizens Advice. The team provides free legal advice and representation to the Norwich community – meeting a significant local need for those that could not otherwise access legal support. The Justice Project runs in association with the charity Inside Justice which conducts pro bono casework investigations on behalf of people who claim they have been victims of miscarriages of justice. UEA's Justice Project provides support reassessing the evidence and working to see if there are grounds to overturn their convictions.

#### **EMPOWER**

Students of Black and minority ethnic heritage are underrepresented in higher education, most starkly in the humanities. Our outreach activities for Black and minority ethnic students aims to inspire and empower young people to make the right choice for their future. Our activities include; the Black Humanities Project: A student-led initiative inspiring young minority ethnic students to study humanities at university whilst championing more diversity in curriculums, Insight2Uni: an e-mentoring programme for black-heritage year 12 students run in partnership with With Insight Education, and the Heritage & Cultural Diversity Forum: A local partnership that provides opportunities for young minority ethnic students to be heard and challenge the preconceptions of education, training, and careers. The overall aim of these activities is to support the UEA's commitment to increase the proportion of black and minority ethnic undergraduate home students, specifically within the humanities.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

Our students learn about inequality in a wide variety of our courses and modules. On our Sociology programme, students study inequality, social justice and social change; focusing on contemporary social issues which connect to employment opportunities. In our School of Politics, students uncover the negotiation and bargaining processes of politics, who is involved in political discussions, who wins and loses, what constraints different people face, and whether certain organisations have privileged access to power. Students on our BA in Economics can take a module on Government, Welfare and Policy in which they explore the economics of social policy across the globe, and our BA in International Development gives students the chance to explore the geographies of poverty and inequality, and the dynamics of social, economic and political change.

#### **Disabled Students' Community**

Disabled Student's Community UEA! is a supportive network set up so that like-minded students can socialise, discuss issues affecting their life at UEA and encourage each other to fulfil their potential. The network includes all visible and invisible disabilities, diagnosed and self-diagnosed to provide a support and friendship throughout people's studies.

#### **UEA Pride**

UEA Pride provide a wide range of welfare support and social opportunities to UEA's LGBTQ+ students. Creating a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, they provide space for students to meet new people, have someone to talk to or just even a place to chill out. UEA Pride is free to join, and open and welcoming to everyone no matter how they identify.

## **Operations**

#### Decolonising the curriculum

We believe in the importance of teaching which includes a plurality of world views and ways of knowing. Our School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing is seeking to decolonise our curriculum by engaging with leading research and pedagogical perspectives that reflect the diversity and plurality of all our disciplines. Working closely with students and the Student Union, we have already undertaken a number of actions, including building up scholarly and pedagogical resources, consulting and supporting our BIPOC students, sharing examples of best practice, established fruitful collaborations with students, sector organisations, the Student Union and university's Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing office, and organised public events.

#### **BAME staff network**

The UEA BAME Staff Network is a friendly, professional support network for colleagues across campus who identify as part of the BAME community. The network plays an important role in raising the profile and understanding of the issues affecting the UEA BAME community, in addition to feeding into university policy and procedure.

#### **SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities**

## Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

## Research - 313 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### When the Dust Settles

There are currently 8,000 refugees in the UK waiting for decisions on their family reunion applications. Forced migration and the traumatic consequences of separation, as well as of the obstacles to the reunification process, are well documented, as are the most immediate needs of families, once reunited. The longer-term lived experience of reunited refugee families, in contrast, is poorly understood, despite recognition that family reunion is not the end of a journey, but the beginning of another long road for families to be able to settle and build their lives in the UK, free from persecution. When the Dust Settles is a participatory, mixed media research project that addresses this research gap, by examining the ongoing challenges reunited refugee families face after their first year together in their new home.

## **Public Engagement**

#### **Civic University**

We are proud to be a Civic University – reflecting our long history of civic engagement across East Anglia. Our civic role encompasses a wide range of work in collaboration with private, public and voluntary sectors. As part of our commitment, we make vows including to nurture our whole community: students, staff, alumni and regional citizens; listen to the voices of the people of East Anglia so that we can fully understand our evolving purpose in this region; and build bridges that connect the life of the University with wider society: opening our campus to all. We will orientate ourselves to regional strengths and needs, including the need for a broad-based university excelling at both teaching and research; convene world-leading teams to meet complex challenges, offering our expertise to address common problems in the region and beyond; and always support, sustain and celebrate the achievements of our partners, our students, and our staff.

#### Improving intercultural understanding and communication in the local community

Work from our School of Language and Communication Studies has highlighted the importance of intercultural understanding in key local organisations and the wider community. It has supported Norfolk Constabulary to change their translation policy and practice in interpreting services within law enforcement and police interviewing, and has worked with Norwich City Football Club to build an increased understanding of the linguistic and cultural assimilation issues faced by migrant players and staff – promoting the additional translation of social media output and inter lingual media work. Internationally our research is informing understanding of the impact of Holocaust Memory on national identities.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

The Norwich Business School is a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). The academic curriculum ensures all NBS students become literate in ethics and social responsibility, and that sustainability issues are delivered in the content of our modules. Due to an increasing awareness and recognition of the PRME Principles amongst NBS staff, the proportion of the nearly 150 modules with embedded responsible management or sustainability has continued to grow each year in line with our policy to align the 17 SDGs wherever viable in teaching. Sustainability is also embedded in the teaching of many other schools, our School of International Development offers a MA in Globalisation, Business and Sustainable Development.

#### Sustainable societies

We have several student societies that put sustainability at their core. UEA Sustainability Society is a group of students with a passion for making the planet a better, greener place for all. Their welcoming community works together with other student organisations on environmental initiatives that make a difference. They hold weekly allotment sessions to grow fresh produce and herbs, and run events such as mending workshops, item swaps, guest talks and charity events, to exchange ideas and keep people informed of sustainable work at UEA and beyond. Plant-Based Universities UEA is part of the rapidly growing Plant-Based Universities campaign, which drives for fully plant-based catering within UEA.

### **SU Welfare Campaigns**

UEA SU is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming culture, and ensuring that everybody is free from abuse, harassment or hate crime. Our welfare campaigns are all about making our students safer and happier on campus and beyond. The Never OK campaign fosters a culture of zero tolerance, in addition to promoting frank, open and honest discussions about issues of abuse, and supporting the local community to negative behaviour and promote a safe culture for all. Eradicate Hate: is our campaign to tackle racism and support students to report it, and our Safer Taxi Scheme helps students without money for a taxi get home safe.

## **Operations**

#### **University travel**

We offer our staff and students many incentives to promote sustainable travel options. Almost 20% of staff and students regularly cycle to campus and make use of our cycle ways and covered cycle storage. We provide showering and changing facilities, and free-of-charge storage lockers for cycle attire. The campus 'Dr Bike' repair centre is run by the Norwich Bicycle Repair Co-operative Ltd, a not-for-profit business that aims to promote cycling in an affordable and accessible way - recommending only necessary repairs with many services free of charge.

We collaborate with travel companies to provide a free Park and Ride service to UEA from the local area. There is also a 'Park and Stride' option for staff which is approximately a 15-minute walk from the centre of the main campus. Our SmartShare scheme aims to match drivers with similar journeys and encourage them to share their journey — benefiting the environment, reducing traffic and helping with motoring costs. Groups of drivers can then join our Smartshare scheme to benefit from priority parking (reserved spaces until 09.30 am) and a guaranteed 'get-you-home' service. There are various travel discounts available to UEA staff, including a 66% discount on an annual First bus pass, 40% discount on a Konectbus bus pass.

#### **Sustainability Committee**

The Sustainability Committee is a vital part of all that we do at UEA. Sustainability is an over-arching value of the University, and the Committee helps us shape the ways our community can respond to the global climate and biodiversity crises. It is the forum through which UEA demonstrates publicly how we are addressing the Sustainable Development Goals and showcases our aspirations and achievements as a leading institution in tackling climate change. The Committee has representation from the Executive Team, staff, estates and the SU, and meets quarterly to review our performance towards achieving the sustainability targets of the university.

#### **Plant-Based Dishes**

Numerous vegan dishes feature in the rotating menu of the UEA restaurant Zest, catering especially to those who prefer a plant-based diet. These dishes are often priced cheaper than meat/fish alternatives to support our sustainability policy goals.

## **SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production**

## Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

## Research - 303 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### **BuildZero**

Buildings and infrastructure are responsible for over 40 % of the UK's carbon emissions, produce over 60 % of the UK's waste, and consume approximately 50 % of all extracted materials globally. Researchers at the UEA's Tyndall Centre and the University of Sheffield are exploring if the circular economy could meet the UK's building needs using zero new material extractions, zero emissions and zero waste. BuildZero, a new £6 million project funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), will develop a detailed vision of more sustainable building practices. The project will consider the options for developing methods for building without extracting new resources, eliminating waste and reducing carbon emissions from material extraction and production. The research programme will culminate in a range of demonstrator projects, interactive tools, detailed strategies and ultimately, a series of pathways to achieve the BuildZero vision.

## **Public Engagement**

#### **Civil University**

We are proud to be a member of The Civic University Network - a national network which aims to challenge and support universities to embed civic aspirations at an institutional level, and to work with local communities to build mutually beneficial relationships and drive positive societal change. As a member of the Network, we are committed to maximising our economic and social impact for the benefit of those around us. We are already involved in projects promoting an inclusive and sustainable economy, drive clean growth and support our renewable energy coastline.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

UEA's new MSc in Sustainability and Society created by the Science, Society and Sustainability (3S) Group in the School of Environmental Sciences will explore the social science of sustainability, helping students to develop sustainability solutions that work for society. This innovative new MSc is one of few around the world that focuses specifically on understanding and improving relations between science, society and sustainability. Closely connected to the cutting-edge research conducted in the 3S research group, the programme will introduce students to new ideas and approaches from social science disciplines such as science and technology studies (STS), human geography and sociology. Students will then have the chance to specialise by applying what they learn across a huge range of sustainability challenges, such as energy, climate change, Al and emerging technologies, biodiversity and conservation, water, food and much more. A core part of the programme will involve students working alongside external partners to develop, deliver and evaluate socially sensitive sustainability interventions. Students will develop real-world experience and build their professional networks, giving them the chance to pursue careers across the business, policy and NGO sectors.

#### **Plant-Based Universities UEA**

Part of the rapidly growing Plant-Based Universities campaign, Plant-Based Universities UEA supports the drive for fully plant-based catering within UEA.

## **Environmental student consultants**

The UEA Catering team support students in our School of Environmental Sciences to work as environmental consultants. Their projects focus on examples such as the true impact of a vegan diet to the environment or analysing the UEA Catering waste stream.

## **Operations**

#### **Sustainable Food Policy**

We are committed to ensuring our food production and retail is done in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. All our livestock produce (meat, dairy, eggs) is, as a minimum, Red Tractor farm assured, or equivalent. We also ensure all eggs (and egg products) are free-range and maximise use of fish on the Marine Conservation Society's 'fish to eat' list. Wherever possible, we champion the use of local suppliers to reduce food miles, support the local economy and provide a point of difference on campus. All our milk has been from East Anglian dairies since 2016. Our Procurement team are pro-active in the areas that they assess. They recently contacted some of our farmers to ask about the use of antibiotics in their supply chain.

We aim to identify products and practices that can be changed to improve the nutritional value of our food such as using healthier cooking oils and cooking methods. All in-house produced products do not feature hydrogenated fat and/or unnecessary additives

in line with Food Standards Agency guidance. We reduce the frequency and portion size of red and processed meats we serve by always offering a red meat alternative.

#### **Plant-Based Dishes**

Numerous vegan dishes feature in the rotating menu of our Zest restaurant, catering especially to those who prefer a plant-based diet. Furthermore, these dishes will be priced cheaper than meat/fish alternatives to support our sustainability policy goals.

## **Too Good To Go**

Campus Kitchen outlets Ziggy's and Sportscafe are continuing to reduce their wastage by supporting the Too Good To Go scheme, which sees 'magic bags' full of products worth upwards of £9 sold for £3 on the app.

#### **SDG 13 Climate Action**

## Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

## Research - 850 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

UEA is a world leading climate change research institution and has made the most substantive and sustained contribution to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of any University in the world.

#### The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research

UEA is proud to be home to the headquarters of The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. The Tyndall Centre is a partnership of universities which brings together researchers from across the scientific, engineering, social science and economic communities to develop sustainable responses to climate change. They work with leaders from the public and private sectors to promote informed decisions on mitigating and adapting to climate change. Since it was founded in 2000, the centre has significantly advanced the analysis of emission reduction from all major energy sectors, the understanding of climate impacts, risks, and adaptation options, the public perceptions of climate change, and the governance of climate negotiations and policymaking. A recent example of UEA's impact has been in the development of ScienceBrief; a new online tool which collates and reviews knowledge from peer-reviewed publications to show the current strength of scientific consensus in critical areas.

#### **Climatic Research Unit**

The Climatic Research Unit (CRU) is widely recognised as one of the world's leading institutions in the study of natural and anthropogenic climate change. It aims to improve scientific understanding of the climate system, in addition to studying its interaction with society and to how we can develop the public communication of climate information. The unit has developed a number of the data sets widely used in climate research, including the global temperature record which first brought global warming to the world's attention.

## **Public Engagement**

#### **Environmental justice for rural areas**

Climate change policies are often seen as having a disproportionally unfair effect on low-income and rural households. The EU funded Just-Scapes project explores the meaning of "just transformations" in the face of climate change. Research from UEA's Global Environmental Justice group in collaboration with partners across Scotland, France and the Czech Republic, will examine how to address these justice barriers in three different European contexts: the deer-dominated Scottish Highlands; rolling agricultural landscapes in the Czech Republic; and an area of the French Pyrénées dominated by small cattle farmers. Just-Scapes will conduct local interviews, surveys and run transdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder workshops — the results of which will inform ongoing policy consultations in each of the three areas.

#### **ClimateUEA public lectures**

Part of the ClimateUEA initiative, we are hosting a series of free public climate seminars. Each of the events is hosted by a prominent UEA climate expert and cover a wide range of multidisciplinary climate issues including inequality, health and energy.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

UEA's new MSc in Sustainability and Society created by the Science, Society and Sustainability (3S) Group in the School of Environmental Sciences will explore the social science of sustainability, helping students to develop sustainability solutions that work for society. This innovative new MSc is one of few around the world that focuses specifically on understanding and improving relations between science, society and sustainability. Closely connected to the cutting-edge research conducted in the 3S research group, the programme will introduce students to new ideas and approaches from social science disciplines such as science and technology studies (STS), human geography and sociology. Students will then have the chance to specialise by applying what they learn across a huge range of sustainability challenges, such as energy, climate change, Al and emerging technologies, biodiversity and conservation, water, food and much more. A core part of the programme will involve students working alongside external partners to develop, deliver and evaluate socially sensitive sustainability interventions. Students will develop real-world experience and build their professional networks, giving them the chance to pursue careers across the business, policy and NGO sectors.

#### SU sustainability

UEA SU is passionate about incorporating sustainability into all aspects of the student and staff experience. UEA's Sustainability Collective is an attempt to bring together sustainably themed societies from across campus in order to support each other on campaigns, organise joint events, and have discussions which can help the SU's Environment Officer, and Campaigns and Democracy Officer, implement sustainable change. Each year we hold a range of events for Go Green Week and run initiatives

such as reducing food waste in our catering outlets, introducing paperless tickets in our event venues, and enhancing recycling facilities across campus.

## **Operations**

#### Sustainable campus

UEA has been a pioneer in environmental sciences and climate change research for 55 years, but we also have our own climate ambitions. We have committed to an 80% reduction in scopes 1 & 2 carbon emissions by 2030 and to be 100% net zero by 2045 or earlier. Across our campus, as part of Strategy2030, departments and teams have worked hard to identify the measures needed to deliver on our ambitions. The resulting Environmental Sustainability Thematic Strategy details how we will change and influence, encourage and facilitate more positive sustainable behaviours in our whole community. We will continue to invest in making our estate more sustainable and resilient, including the refurbishment of the Lasdun Wall as part of our Campus Development Programme, prioritise renewable energy generation and supply, focus on sustainable purchasing decisions and work with our suppliers on their carbon footprint, support staff and students to make greener choices, and develop a sustainable business travel policy. In addition, we continue to work with our civic partners to develop sustainable transport systems and economic policies, promote biodiversity and creating natural habitats on our campus for a wide variety of species and partner with innovators in the green economy to accelerate the transition to net zero.

#### **Earthshot Prize**

UEA is proud to be one of a handful of UK universities who are an official nominator of the Earthshot Prize; the most prestigious environmental award in history. Nominating institutions are selected for their ability to identify the most impactful solutions to the Prize's five Earthshot categories; five simple but ambitious environmental goals that will benefit the planet and improve the lives of generations to come.

#### **UEA's Climate Stars**

UEA's Climate Stars are a collection of staff, students and alumni who have been recognised for their contribution to tackling climate change and halting environmental damage. The achievements of current Stars include co-founding Youth Engaged in Wetlands; a youth-led volunteer network dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands around the world, and a finalist in the Student Political Speech Competition for her speech on the climate crisis.

#### **SDG 14 Life Below Water**

## Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

## Research - 360 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### **Water Security Research Centre**

UEA's Water Security Research Centre works to address the challenges of governing and managing water for different human, economic and environmental needs. Their research focuses on understanding the social, political and physical drivers of global water challenges, and the affect these have on all aspects of our life - including our health and wellbeing, food production, economics and the integrity of our natural environment. They also work to emphasise the existing inequalities surrounding safe and reliable access to water, and how these must be addressed to improve water security for all. Current research themes include understanding river pollution and its impacts, assessment methods of extreme drought, and agricultural resource management and water innovations for a sustainable future.

#### Mapping microplastics in Malaysia

Each year around 10 - 14 million tonnes of single-use packaging ends up in the worlds' oceans. Over time, these plastics are broken to ever-smaller microplastics - which are eaten by, and cause stress to, a wide variety of organisms. Understanding the scale and distribution of microplastic accumulation is vital, however counting microplastics is challenging. UEA researchers are working with partners in Malaysia to develop a cheap and quick method to map microplastic levels and distribution across a range of habitats. Alongside supplying simple equipment, the network is creating a multilingual video manual to aid its use and ensure consistency of practice. Research will be disseminated to policy makers and the general public to highlight the potential environmental risks of microplastics.

## **Public Engagement**

#### Water Security professional training

The Water Security Research Centre goes beyond study to bring about positive change through outreach, training, and policy formation and guidance. Previous clients have included Anglian Water, Environment Agency for England and Wales, Oxfam, UK Water Industry Research Ltd, the United Nations Development Programme, The World Bank, and WaterAid U.K.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

Our courses offer a wide variety of teaching on water biodiversity and conservation - developing students' knowledge on how we can sustainably manage this resource for the benefit of all. Students on our Marine Sciences, Geography and other Environment Sciences courses can study modules on Global Environmental Challenges, Catchment Water Resources, Aquatic Ecology, Environmental Politics and Policy Making, Natural Resources and Environmental Economics, and Biodiversity Conservation and Human Society. Our Ecology and Conservation course explores Sustainability, Society and Biodiversity, and students of Biological Sciences can study Population Ecology and Management. In the School of International Development students can learn about Natural Resources and the Environment and the need for sustainable management.

At a master's level, our Environmental Sciences and Management programmes allow students to focus on Sustainable Consumption, whilst our Applied Ecology and Conservation MSc gives students the chance to benefit from links to major conservation organisations such as the RSPB, CEFAS and the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI).

#### Reducing single use plastic on campus

A priority campaign of the SU is to reduce single use plastics on campus. The student run initiative focuses on raising awareness around the use of reusable bottles and coffee cups, providing these alternatives to students, and offering incentives for their use - such as partial refunds in campus food outlets.

## **Operations**

#### **Reducing plastic cups**

In a bid to reduce the number of un-recycled disposable hot drinks cups, Campus Kitchen have launched new hot drink cup recycling bins with dedicated sections for individual cup elements: liquids, lids, and the cup itself. UEA Estates will be introducing compost bins on campus to include shredded used cups & lids to naturally biodegrade. Reusable rice husk hot drinks cups are available to purchase from all catering outlets at cost price. Not only does providing your own cup give discounts on purchase prices, staff and students also get their first hot drink free when buying a reusable husk cup.

#### **Reusable Meal Boxes**

UEA restaurant Zest has launched reusable boxes for hot meal options. Rather than takeaway boxes, the reusable versions are available to purchase for a 10% deposit which is refundable upon return of the box.

#### Sustainable food

We are dedicated to supporting sustainable fishing and maximise the use of fish on the Marine Conservation Society's 'fish to eat' list – meaning that fish at most risk of extinction are not caught to prevent overfishing.

## Saving water in science laboratories

Condensing processes in scientific laboratories typically use large amounts of water. UEA Schools of Chemistry and Pharmacy in partnership with manufacturer Asynt developed an innovative condensing process – the CondenSyn Distillation Adapter is an aid to chemistry labs worldwide seeking to go water-free.

#### SDG 15 Life on Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

## Research - 519 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### OpenLAND

Researchers at the University of East Anglia (UEA) have received funding to support projects that seek to revolutionise agricultural practices, land use change and soil health in the pursuit of a more sustainable future. The three-year OpenLAND project will see researchers carry out an evaluation of climate-resilient interventions for land management and soil health that could benefit net zero targets, biodiversity and agriculture. It will create a validated, UK-wide, spatially explicit integrated modelling framework to evaluate potential net zero pathways.

## **Public Engagement**

#### **UEA Wildlife Trail**

The UEA Wildlife Trail was opened in 2012 with funding from the Big Lottery Fund's Community Wildlife programme. There are four sections to the trail covering different habitats and highlighting the biodiversity of the area. Maintained in partnership with local community groups including Friends of Eaton Park and the Yare Valley Society, the trail gives all local residents the chance to experience the natural environment on their doorstep.

#### Tyndall25 - Our Critical Decade for Climate Action

The Tyndall Centre's Critical Decade for Climate Action Conference showcases cutting-edge evidence-based ideas and critically evaluates opportunities and challenges for climate action now.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### Teaching

A wide variety of our courses feature content on biodiversity loss and the need for sustainable environmental use and management. Undergraduates on our Ecology and Conservation programme develop skills to complete ecological surveys, and gain knowledge of conservation management and its interplay with environmental issues. They can complete modules such as Population Ecology and Management, Environmental Politics and Policy Making, and Biodiversity, Conservation and Human Society. Our BSc in Environmental Sciences enables students to explore how the components of the natural environment function and their interaction with society, politics and culture. The course is accredited by the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) and offers opportunities for field study in locations such as Greece, Spain, Ireland and Africa. At a masters' level, our MSc in Environmental and International Development studies the interaction between the environment and development policy processes at local, national and international levels. Our MSc in Applied Ecology and Conservation gives detailed learning into ecological survey methods, evidence-based global conservation and statistics.

#### **UEA Sustainability**

UEA Sustainability Society is a group of students with a passion for making the planet a better, greener place for all. Their welcoming community works together with other student organisations on environmental initiatives that make a difference. They hold weekly allotment sessions to grow fresh produce and herbs, and run events such as mending workshops, item swaps, guest talks and charity events, to exchange ideas and keep people informed of sustainable work at UEA and beyond.

#### **UEA CAWS**

UEA Conservation and Wildlife (CAWS) Society is a group of nature enthusiasts championing students to explore the plants and wildlife around UEA and Norfolk. The group runs events throughout the year including seal watching trips to Norfolk's Horsey beach, bat walks, bug hotel workshops, nature photography competitions, documentary showings and quizzes to name but a few.

## **Operations**

#### **Green campus**

Our 145-hectare campus has many varied habitats, including five County Wildlife Sites, and is home to over 5,700 species. 50 hectares are also within the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme to deliver significant environmental benefits over 10 years. The campus has achieved the Green Flag Award every year since 2017. This national award is a sign that a space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

## **SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

## Research - 456 publications in SciVal 2019 - 2024

#### **Global Environmental Justice Research Group**

Our Global Environmental Justice Research Group is an interdisciplinary team focused on the links between social justice and environmental change – in particular promoting environmental justice for those suffering from poverty and disempowerment. Research projects include Ixchel: Building understanding of the physical, cultural and socio-economic drivers of risk for strengthening resilience in Guatemala, Reimagining land futures for sustainable development and just coal transitions in India, and Just coal? Examining how climate justice is mobilised in support of coal.

## **Public Engagement**

#### **Preserving local heritage**

The UEA East Anglian Film Archive (EAFA) collects, preserves and protects the rich regional audio-visual heritage of the East of England.

#### **UEA law clinic and The Justice Project**

The UEA law clinic is a joint venture between UEA students and staff, members of the local legal profession, and external charities and organisations including Norfolk Community Law Service and Citizens Advice. The team provides free legal advice and representation to the Norwich community – meeting a significant local need for those that could not otherwise access legal support. The Justice Project runs in association with the charity Inside Justice which conducts pro bono casework investigations on behalf of people who claim they have been victims of miscarriages of justice. UEA's Justice Project provides support reassessing the evidence and working to see if there are grounds to overturn their convictions.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### **Teaching**

A range of our courses and modules promote peaceful and inclusive societies. Our law course offers modules on Human Rights and Policing, International Security, Wars and Humanitarian Crisis and Criminology.

#### **Eradicate Hate and Report and Support**

Eradicate Hate is an SU anti-racism campaign devised by students to address racism on campus and ensure that students of colour are properly supported. The campaign is designed to educate the community at UEA on what constitutes racist behaviour, to create an anti-racism culture on campus, and to inform students on how to report racist incidents and get support.

## **Operations**

#### **University of Sanctuary**

UEA is proud to have University of Sanctuary status in recognition of their ongoing commitment to welcoming sanctuary seekers into the university community, and increasing understanding of asylum and refugee concerns. The UEA University of Sanctuary initiative is run by a university-wide steering group, consisting of over 40 members of staff and students. Their work focuses on promoting a culture of inclusivity and respect through a broad range of activities, including scholarship programmes, education events, and collaborations with local organisations.

#### **Council for At Risk Academics - CARA**

UEA has been a proud member of CARA since 2019. CARA provides urgently-needed help to academics in immediate danger, those forced into exile, and many who choose to work on in their home countries despite serious risks. CARA also supports higher education institutions whose work is at risk or compromised.

Our **Anti-Bribery, Anti-Fraud and Corruption, and Anti-Money Laundering policies** outlines the UEA's zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption in all University operations and relationships.

#### Freedom of Speech

The university adheres to the **Higher Education and Research Act 2023** which has a statutory obligation to maintain freedom of speech. Our **Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech** commits the university to promoting and encouraging free debate and inquiry. It ensures an individual can express their views, even when they are unpopular, controversial or provocative, without risk of discrimination.

## **SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals**

# Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## Research

#### Surface ocean observations by the global scientific community

A UEA researcher is Chair of the global group of the Surface Ocean CO<sub>2</sub> Atlas (SOCAT). SOCAT is a community project with more than 100 scientific contributors from around the world. It documents vital information on ocean CO<sub>2</sub> uptake and its variation - a critical measure with oceans taking up one quarter of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from human activity. SOCAT's work provides essential information to international policy makers, in addition to providing research to other scientists and the general public.

#### **Global Challenges Research Fund**

UEA researchers are working with global governments, NGOs, local communities, companies and policy makers worldwide in the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). GCRF is a £1.5 billion fund supporting cutting-edge research that addresses the global challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries around the world. Research programmes have included interventions for older people in Sub-Saharan Africa, indigenous international interactions for sustainable development, Mexico's megalopolis as a model for the key role of watershed protection in sustainable cities, and evaluating iron and zinc bioavailability from biofortified potatoes to reduce malnutrition in the Andean highlands. UEA also has a GCFR funded Global Research Translation Award. The project, called 'Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals: creating innovative infrastructures and policy solutions to support sustainable development in Global South communities', comprises four interconnected sub-projects addressing child malnutrition, sustainable food systems, family literacy and micro-plastic pollution.

## **Public Engagement**

#### **Civic University**

We are proud to be a member of The Civic University Network - a national network which aims to challenge universities to embed civic aspirations at an institutional level, and to work with local communities to build mutually beneficial relationships and drive positive societal change. As a member of the Network, we are committed to maximising our economic and social impact for the benefit of those around us. We are already involved in projects that will ensure we have an inclusive and sustainable economy, drive clean growth and support our renewable energy coastline.

#### International collaborations

Our researchers work in partnership with a wide range of international organisations in support of meeting the SDGs. These include NGOs, charities, governments and civil society organisations. Examples include DFID, the UN, World Bank, World Health Organisation, World Trade Organisation, the WWF, British Red Cross and WaterAid to name but a few.

#### **Local collaboration**

We support and work with large number of local organisations. These include East Anglian Film Archive (EAFA) — working to preserve local film heritage, members of the local legal profession, Norfolk Community Law Service and Citizens Advice in our UEA Law Clinic programme, and Norwich Science Festival - a celebration of the ground-breaking scientific research associated with the city, to name just a few.

## **Student Activity and Learning**

#### International education and partnerships

We understand that working with others is the best way to tackle global problems, and we work in partnership with academics and educational providers from around the world to deliver high quality education and research. Our national partnerships include local South Essex College, West Suffolk College, City College Norwich and Colchester Institute, in addition to Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, Brooksby Melton College and The Royal Marsden School; a provider of cancer education for health care professionals. Internationally, UEA is a member of INTO University Partnership Limited, which helps thousands of international students from around the world study at UK institutions – including the UEA.

## SU partnerships

Our SU has partnerships with several NGOs and influential organisations that promote health, inclusivity and prosperity for all – these include UN Women UK, British Red Cross, and St John Ambulance.

## **Operations**

## **SDG Accord**

UEA has been a signatory of the SDG Accord since 2019. The Accord Charter is a commitment from institutions to make an increased effort to deliver the SDGs, and to embed the goals in all aspects of their educational, research, leadership, operations, administrative and engagement activities. It also commits institutions to compulsory annual reporting on their progress.

#### Partnership

Partnerships are at the heart of the UEA working towards the SDGs. Examples of our partnerships include working with Norwich County Council and the local NHS foundations in research and treatment innovation in the areas of healthy ageing, young people's mental health, and living with long-term conditions, the Norfolk Network, a community of local business owners, directors, entrepreneurs and academics, and With Insight Education, and the Heritage & Cultural Diversity Forum – to support and provide opportunities for Black and minority ethnic students to access higher education.