

Bold Ideas, Brighter Future

Sustainability Plan to 2022
Draft for Consultation



Let's become better stewards of the earth.

From uncovering novel approaches to applying them in innovative ways, we can all be pioneers in creating meaningful, positive change.



An invitation from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin J Stirling

This year we're updating and enhancing the University's Sustainability Plan and commencing work on a range of new sustainability initiatives.

At Flinders University, we pride ourselves on our innovation, our ability to lead the way and show the rest of the world how it's done. As part of our sustainability work, we're turning the spotlight on ourselves and critically examining our impact on the environment, our communities and our future.

As one of the world's leading universities, we have an important responsibility to promote sustainability across all our teaching disciplines and research areas. We will nurture and grow our students and staff to understand they can change lives and change the world – creating a sustainable future through their chosen careers, their collective behaviours, choices and actions.

We'll continue to discover new opportunities to partner and collaborate with business, industry, government and communities to reduce our carbon footprint, both locally and globally.



How we choose to continue on our sustainability journey will be shaped and informed by our students, staff and partners. Your bold ideas, your input and your energy will form the foundation of our updated Sustainability Plan.

This is why I strongly encourage all our students, as well as our staff and our broader University community to help us define and implement change in this area.

It gives me great pleasure to invite you all to be part of Flinders' sustainability journey – now and into the future.

Professor Colin J Stirling
Vice-Chancellor

We are on Kaurna land and...

recognise that Flinders University operates on Indigenous peoples' traditional lands and waters, and acknowledge their continued responsibility to care for country at the University's various teaching locations, including the lands and waters of the following peoples: Kaurna (main campus at Bedford Park), Arrernte, Boandik, Bungarla, Gunditjmara, Jawoyn, Larrakia, Nauo, Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk, Ramindieri, Wurundjeri, Yolgnu.





Introduction from Mark Gregory, Vice-President of Corporate Services

With a large geographic presence extending across multiple locations in South Australia, Victoria and the Northern Territory, our day-to-day operations form a large part of our impact on the environment.

How we invest in sustainable initiatives for the ongoing management of waste, energy, transport, physical spaces, natural assets and water will be critical to our future.

We need your help to determine what more we can do to minimise our greenhouse gas emissions and create a more sustainable, carbon neutral tomorrow.

Our new solar arrays and other initiatives such as our market gardens will continue to enhance the natural environment, foster rich opportunities for cross-university collaboration, and yield positive social and financial benefits.

Our sustainability initiatives are formed on seven operational themes as well as our actions in research and education.

Each theme has its own vision. This is our aspirational target – it's what we'd like to achieve in this area. Our current pathway shows our plans and our short-term targets. But most importantly, under each theme we're posing the question "how will we get there?"



We want your bold ideas to guide this Plan and the voice of our students, staff and the University community to be heard. What are the sustainability activities and initiatives you would like to see happen? How do you want to be involved? Are our targets aligned with your thinking? Do you have a bold sustainability idea? Let us know.

Visit flinders.edu.au/sustainability to send us your ideas and for details of upcoming engagement opportunities throughout semester two 2018. We will use your ideas to update and finalise this plan.

Get on board and help us to deliver, own and implement a bold new Sustainability Plan for Flinders University!

Mark Gregory
Vice-President (Corporate Services)

Do you have a bold idea?

Many hands make light work. Do you have any ideas for sustainable action we can take?

flinders.edu.au/sustainability



Our Key Themes.

Our sustainability initiatives are formed on seven operational themes as well as our actions in research and education.



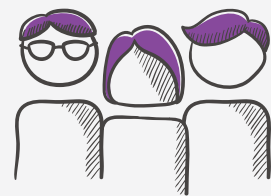
Education

Make a difference in our world as respectful and ethical global citizens



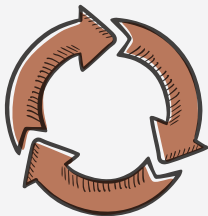
Research

Improve lives and enhance society as a whole



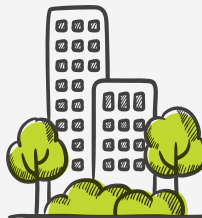
Social & Community

Apply our knowledge and expertise to deliver practical and economic benefits for social good



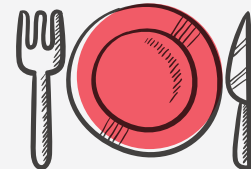
Resource Recovery

Create a circular economy for waste on our campuses



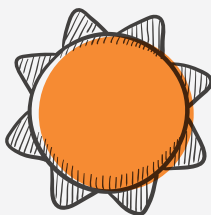
Buildings & Landscapes

Create places and spaces that support smart new ways of living, learning and working



Food

Transform our campuses into urban farms



Energy & Emissions

Go beyond carbon neutral



Water

Treat every drop as a precious resource



Transport

Create a safe, healthy and sustainable transport network

What we do locally, benefits globally.

Our University community has a powerful part to play in how well our world responds to climate change.



Global Agreement on Climate Change Action

The Paris Agreement entered into force in November 2016 and for the first time brought all nations into a common ambitious effort to combat climate change.

The Agreement seeks to accelerate and intensify the actions and investment needed for a sustainable low carbon future.

Its central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Many organisations including universities are leading the way on climate action by setting science-based targets to limit global warming and by catalysing business leadership to drive policy and accelerate a low carbon economy.



UN Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations' *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core, is a guide to tackling the world's most pressing challenges – including ending poverty and building economic prosperity, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, peace and good governance.

With a broad remit around the creation and dissemination of knowledge, universities have long been powerful drivers of global, national and local innovation, economic development, and societal wellbeing. As such, we have a critical role in the achievement of the SDGs, including:

- Providing the knowledge, innovation and solutions to underpin implementation
- Creating current and future implementers
- Ensuring the goals are embodied within universities' own operations
- Providing cross-sectoral leadership in local, national and global implementation



University as a Living Laboratory

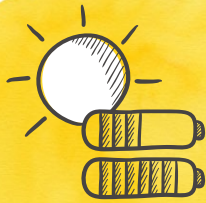
The concept of a University as a 'Living Lab' encourages collaboration between students, academics and professional staff to use the campus and surrounding community as a test bed for new ideas and innovations to deliver on our mission of 'changing lives and changing the world'.

A Living Lab program draws on the expertise and talent of students and staff to encourage application of knowledge to the real-world context, enhancing skills of those involved and increasing connections.

The Living Lab is an on-ground, cross-disciplinary approach that aims to generate new discoveries, which can be used to inform the implementation of the University's Sustainability Plan in ways that can be replicated and applied on a local, regional, and global level.

What are we currently doing?

Flinders commitment to sustainability is already clear.



Solar Panels

6,500 solar panels across Bedford Park campus will generate an estimated 2,800MWh of energy in 2019.



Building Management

Upgrades of Building Management Systems allow greater control and optimisation of building services.



LED Globes

Replacement of internal and external lights with LED and other highly efficient fittings.



Productive Landscapes

Creating and growing our community and Market Gardens.



Landscape Master Plan

We are working to create landscapes that are accessible, sustainable and vibrant.



New Cycling Facilities

We're making significant improvements to our cycling facilities.



Sustainable Produce

Working with our on-campus food and beverage providers to encourage local, sustainable produce and recyclable packaging.



Recycling Initiatives

We currently divert over 8,500m³ of material annually from landfill, including over 4,000m³ of organics (since 2012) into garden compost.



Efficient Workplaces

Flinders at Tonsley and our Student Hub at Bedford Park are outstanding examples of energy efficient buildings.



Our values

A shared sense of purpose, together with a common set of values is fundamental to a rewarding culture. Our collective success depends upon the achievements of our people, and it is our culture that will sustain that success into the future.

Integrity

We will champion diversity and equality of opportunity, respecting peoples from all nations, cultures and backgrounds.

Courage

Our success will rely on dynamic staff, ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities presented in a rapidly changing environment. It requires a culture of trust and empowerment, built on the bedrock of common values and a shared sense of purpose.

Innovation

Research and creative endeavour have been core to Flinders University's identity since its inception.

Excellence

The achievements of our staff, students and alumni will be celebrated and communicated to the wider community.

We will

- ➔ Encourage the student voice
- ➔ Celebrate student achievement
- ➔ Focus on student success
- ➔ Provide timely and meaningful feedback
- ➔ Empower student as partners

Student centred

Our underlying ethos of being student centred will be a distinguishing feature of the Flinders experience and will be the measure by which we judge the impact of innovation in teaching and student support.

Do you have a bold idea?

What's your vision of a sustainable future?
How can we reduce our carbon footprint?

flinders.edu.au/sustainability



Your ideas are vital for action.

We can all make a difference to tackle climate change. We're looking for your best and brightest ideas to build a more sustainable future.



At Flinders University, we believe in 'changing lives and changing the world'. It is more important than ever for an aspiring Global University like Flinders to lead the way in shaping a more sustainable planet.

Our new Sustainability Plan 2022 will harness the collective efforts from across University community and document how a renewed and enhanced focus on sustainability will support Flinders to deliver on our 2025 Agenda.

The University-wide plan will list our aspirations in the key areas of:

- **Education**
- **Research**
- **Operations**
- **Engagement and Reporting**

It will apply to all Flinders University campuses and business units. Co-location partners, on-site vendors and key suppliers will be encouraged to partner with us to achieve these goals.

The plan will be modular in structure and regularly updated as comprehensive reviews are undertaken across the full diversity of the University and its operations.

Each year, we will report on our progress, achievements and priorities.



Discovery – today and tomorrow.

Across the ages, humanity has been remarkably able to engage and adapt to the world around us.

The time to engage – individually and collectively – is now.



Research

Research is a fundamental cornerstone of the University's mission to change lives and change the world for the better. Through research, and research-led teaching, we build and develop the knowledge and capabilities that improve lives and enhance society as a whole.

Aspirational Goal

- To build and develop the knowledge and capabilities that improve lives and enhance society as a whole.
- Utilise our campus environments as Living Laboratories to support research to achieve our mission of changing lives and changing the world.

Proposed actions

- Develop metrics to measure research outcomes and impacts relating to sustainability.
- Develop targets to focus research activity and measure success.



Education

Our aim is to develop creative, enterprising, career-ready graduates prepared to become lifelong contributors to society as respectful and ethical global citizens.

In support of this, the Flinders educational experience includes many study areas with sustainability as a core theme, including business, arts, culture, engineering, health and sciences.

Aspirational Goal

- Sustainability knowledge and values are embedded in all undergraduate degrees.

Proposed actions

- Develop appropriate processes on how knowledge and values for sustainability can be practically incorporated into curriculum.
- Develop targets to focus integration of sustainability knowledge and values and to measure success.

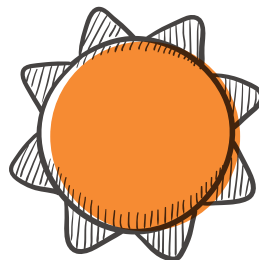
Do you have a bold idea?

Making a difference in our world takes all of us. What ideas do we sow and nurture, and how do we harvest them?

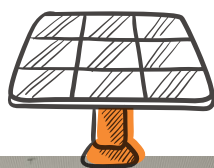
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Energy & Emissions



We're shining a light on our energy consumption, and invite you to help us explore more efficient ways to generate and consume power.



Key Facts

In 2017, the University was responsible for production of over

24,000

tonnes of carbon emissions (tCO₂-e)



Our main sources of emissions include electricity and gas used for lighting and air conditioning, and fuel used to transport staff and students via aeroplane, bus and car.

As electricity makes up the greatest proportion of our total carbon footprint, there will be a strong focus on reducing our overall consumption through demand management (reducing electricity usage), on-campus energy generation (reducing reliance on network) and improved system flexibility (interaction with the network).

Our Vision

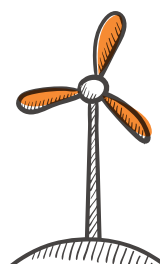
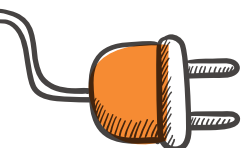
- Become Carbon Negative

Current Pathway

- Achieve zero net emissions from electricity by 2020
- Reduce campus electricity demand by 30% from 2015 baseline through on-campus renewable energy generation and storage projects

How do we get there?

- Convene cross-disciplinary energy strategy committee from experts across the University
- Develop model for transition to carbon neutral and carbon negative University
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...



Do you have a bold idea?

What practical suggestions do you have to help us reduce energy consumption or increase renewable energy supply?

flinders.edu.au/sustainability

Water



You can help quench our thirst for diversifying our water source by contributing to the discussion on rain harvesting, water recycling and more.

Key Facts

The University consumed over
200,000
kilolitres in 2017 which
is equivalent to

80

Olympic swimming pools



Our Vision

- All non-drinkable water is supplied by harvested rainwater or recycled water sources

Current Pathway

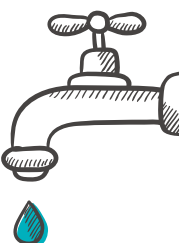
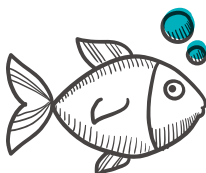
- Reduce potable water consumption by 30% by 2020

How do we get there?

- Investigate opportunities to connect our campuses to recycled water supplies
- Transform Flinders Lake into a multifunctional space that supports accessibility and connectivity of the campus environment
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...

The main source of water used is tap water for building services (including bathrooms, air conditioning and research equipment) and landscape irrigation.

To better understand where we can save water, regular audits will be undertaken and plans developed for each campus. Each new development will be required to investigate the most appropriate 'fit for purpose' water source, which may include alternative supplies such as groundwater, captured stormwater or recycled water.

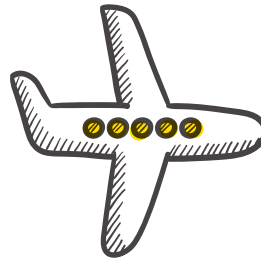


Do you have a bold idea?

Can we tap into your ideas for conserving water?
Spring into action – share your thoughts with us today!

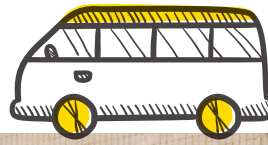
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Transport

You're in the driver's seat as we journey to find more sustainable ways of getting from point A to B.



Key Facts

University staff and students travelled over

30 million

kilometres by aeroplane in 2016



Our Vision

- Provide safe, healthy and sustainable transport options that support connectivity between our campuses and other places of research/study

Current Pathway

- Increase active transport to university by 30%

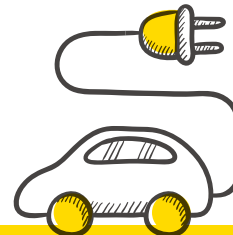
How do we get there?

- Establish electric charging station network for a range of different vehicles powered by solar panels
- Expand end-of-trip facilities for cyclists
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...

The University utilises different forms of transportation to support its activities, including an intercampus bus fleet, commercial and passenger vehicles and air travel.

The broader community also travels to and from University via public transport (train and bus), walking, cycling and in private vehicles (alone or through ride sharing).

In a rapidly changing transportation environment, we are prioritising actions to ensure students, staff and the broader community have access to safe, healthy and sustainable transport options that support connectivity between our campuses and other places of research and study.

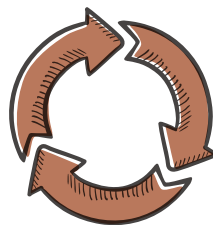


Do you have a bold idea?

Can you lead us in a new direction? How can we make more sustainable transport a reality?

flinders.edu.au/sustainability

Resource Recovery



From upcycling, to creating a campus circular economy, you can play an active role as we look for ways to tread more lightly on the Earth.



We collect a range of materials across our campuses, including leftover food and garden organics, paper and cardboard, electronics, printer cartridges and batteries.

Although we have well established waste and recycling practices across our campuses, we acknowledge there are always opportunities to improve practices and operate at a higher level of the waste

hierarchy – an internationally recognised framework for sustainability.

As the principles of the circular economy are more readily applied to waste management models and sharing economy gains momentum, there will be many opportunities to improve our practices across the lifecycle of materials we use.

Key Facts

The University diverts around

700

cubic metres of organic waste annually from landfill to be converted into garden mulch

Our Vision

- ➔ To recover maximum possible utility and value from materials consumed on campus

Current Pathway

- ➔ 50% of materials recovered on campus are retained within a campus circular economy by 2020

How do we get there?

- ➔ Conduct an audit to determine what materials come onto our campuses and their final destination
- ➔ Upgrade building and public place resource recovery infrastructure and signage
- ➔ Your bold idea here...
- ➔ Your bold idea here...
- ➔ Your bold idea here...



Do you have a bold idea?

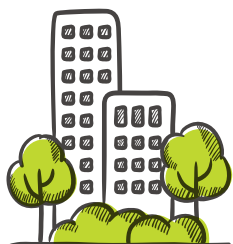
What does a campus circular economy look like to you?
We want to hear from you about ways we can reduce waste.

flinders.edu.au/sustainability



Buildings & Landscapes

We believe all our facilities on campus can become efficient spaces to inspire environmental collaboration and innovation – the sky's the limit.



Key Facts

Our building at Tonsley is

50%

more efficient than
a standard building

Our Vision

- Our campuses become places for our community to experience, learn from, and enjoy nature

Current Pathway

- Net increase of native vegetation on Bedford Park campus

How do we get there?

- Conduct a formal assessment of performance to focus a building upgrade program
- Create a landscape guide to drive application of consistent design principles across campus environments
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...



Our structures and landscapes are the building blocks of our campus environment and are responsible for consuming the most amount of resources in their construction, operation and maintenance. However, they can also give back, in the case of buildings through integrated energy production and in landscapes through their ecological services and amenity they provide to our community.

Our most recent award-winning buildings at Bedford Park and Tonsley demonstrate our commitment to the design and construction of environmentally sustainable buildings. We will apply similar principles to the portfolio of older buildings we have as plant and equipment reaches end of life, and as we continually renew our facilities.

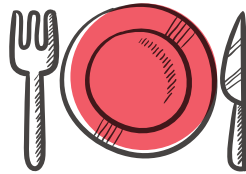


Do you have a bold idea?

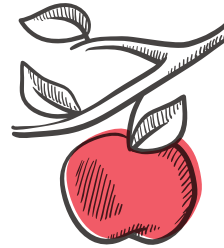
What thoughts do you have to build a more sustainable future through smarter use of our structures and space?

flinders.edu.au/sustainability

Food



Together, we can reap the ecological rewards of establishing productive gardens to grow what we consume. What ideas are on the menu?



Key Facts

The Bedford Park campus is

168

hectares in size with a population of over

20,000

staff and students



Our Vision

- To transform our campuses into urban farms for food production, health and wellbeing and campus activation

Current Pathway

- Food grown on campus is utilised by on-site food providers

How do we get there?

- Repurpose unused or underutilised campus spaces into productive landscapes
- Co-develop a 'sustainable and ethical supply' code of conduct with on-site food providers
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...

Our campuses have the potential to act as 'urban farms', supporting the production of food to enhance wellbeing, campus activation and community development.

In collaboration with our campus food providers, interested staff and students, a range of productive gardens will be developed to grow food for consumption on campus.

Organic waste gathered from food providers and student kitchens will be recycled back via composting and worm farms to provide nutrients for the next crop of produce.



Do you have a bold idea?

We're always looking for fresh ideas to feed into our plan. Feed us your thoughts today!

flinders.edu.au/sustainability



Social & Community



Our University has a diverse DNA. No matter what your culture, tradition or background, we welcome your unique perspective in our sustainability conversation.

Key Facts

The University's international student community is comprised of over

4,500

students from over

90

countries



Our Vision

- Collaborate with business, industry, government and communities to find solutions to sustainability challenges on local and global scales

Current Pathway

- Our campuses and people will catalyse collaboration and engagement to enhance the communities in which we work and study

How do we get there?

- Map the University's activities to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and measure progress against their achievement
- Champion diversity and equal opportunity and respect people from all nations, cultures and backgrounds
- Partnership with government, industry and education
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...
- Your bold idea here...

By providing thought leadership on matters of local, national and international significance, Flinders University will grow in profile and reputation, with an increased ability to speak to the world and make a positive difference.

A shared sense of purpose and common set of values will guide our efforts in this area.



Do you have a bold idea?

Your insight takes only a few minutes. In what ways would you like to contribute to our action plan?

flinders.edu.au/sustainability





Do you have a bold idea?

We're looking for your best and brightest ideas to shape how we build a more sustainable future.

Visit the website or use the scribble boards on campus to tell us your bold ideas by:

24 August 2018

Your feedback will inform the final plan to drive Flinders' sustainability actions and initiatives to 2022.

 flinders.edu.au/sustainability

