

Sustainability at Sydney

SDG 13: Climate Action report 2022



CLIMATE ACTION

FIRST PROGRESS REPORT

2022

The University of Sydney’s campuses and facilities sit on the ancestral lands of many of Australia’s First Peoples, who have exchanged knowledges for the benefit of all for thousands of generations.

These include the Gadigal, Gamaraygal, Dharug, Wangal, Tharawal, Deerabbin, Darkinyung, Guringgai, Gamilaraay, Barkindji, Bundjalung, Wiradjuri, Wiljali, Ngunawal, Gureng Gureng and Gagudju Peoples.

In respectfully acknowledging the ancient learning cultures and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we declare our commitment to the continuation of this sharing through the agency of our work.

There is no place in Australia that has not been known, nurtured and loved by Australia’s First Peoples, who’s profound understanding of sustainability has been applied for many tens of thousands of years.

In August 2020, we launched our *Climate Action Statement*, adding our voice to a growing body of institutions calling for urgent action on climate change.

The statement, which highlights our commitment to ambitious new targets, was launched alongside our first whole-of University Sustainability Strategy to guide action across our core business and progress systemic change.

We are committed to reviewing its progress on addressing climate change and SDG 13 every two years, and to enhancing performance in alignment with the United Nation’s Paris Agreement and through efforts to reach targets within the Sustainability Strategy.

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Cover: Drone footage of Eastern Avenue, located on the University of Sydney’s Camperdown Campus, showcasing our solar, tree canopy and bike station initiatives.

Inside front cover: Gadi have been planted at the front entrance of the University from City Road, located at -33.889390, 151.190040. Also known as the Xanthorrea or grass tree, the Gadi are unique to this continent and not too long ago, Sydney’s landscape was defined by their presence.

A plain text version of this document is available on our Sustainability website.

This document has been designed to be viewed online, please consider before printing.

CLIMATE ACTION STATEMENT

We recognise that one of the greatest global challenges is climate change and its effects to people and planet. As part of our contribution to sustainability, we made the following commitment to action on climate change in August 2020.

In view of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations (UN) Production Gap Report, the University of Sydney recognises the need for immediate and comprehensive action to meet, and preferably exceed, the Paris Agreement targets. The clear scientific consensus is that the global community urgently needs to make deep and sustained reductions in the emission of greenhouse gases, to limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C and thereby avoid longer and more intense bushfire seasons, water stress, extreme weather events and the collapse of ecosystems, including coral reefs. Actions on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are also imperative.

Reducing emissions and adapting to climate change is a complex challenge, with implications for areas as diverse as ecology, energy, agriculture, health, cultural heritage, law, politics, migration, inequality, urban planning, finance, insurance and international security. The University of Sydney is confronting the many challenges of climate change through our research, teaching, infrastructure and policies and through our national and international collaborations.

The University is home to centres, institutes, and researchers who are already engaged in finding solutions to complex real-world problems. In the 2020 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, that assess universities against the UN Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), the University of Sydney was ranked 2nd overall, and in the top 10 for six specific goals (SDGs 2, 8, 11, 15, 16, 17).

We aspire to attain top 10 status in SDG 13, Climate Action and to translate the important research we do into practical actions on campus. The University will also continue to offer interdisciplinary programs and units of study which educate students about sustainability and climate change.

Given the gravity of the situation and the enormity of the challenges, we as a University declare openly that more immediate and comprehensive action is needed to address climate change. As scientists have warned, 'the time to act is rapidly closing'. Our next step will be the adoption of a Sustainability Strategy in 2020 which includes actions on emissions reduction and uptake of renewable energy. We recognise that effective action requires all institutions, including governments, corporations, and all civil society actors, including universities, to review and enhance their actions on climate change on a regular basis, consistently with climate science.

Consequently, in addition to the annual review of our targets and annual reports on the implementation of the Sustainability Strategy, the University of Sydney commits to reviewing its progress on addressing climate change and SDG 13 every two years commencing in 2022, and to enhancing its performance where necessary.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, world leaders agreed on the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, identifying 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that define environmental, social and economic imperatives to ensure peaceful and sustainable futures for all nations. Among our most urgent challenges is climate change, with climate action prioritised under SDG 13.



Together with the [UN's Paris Agreement](#), the SDGs have provided a common language to discuss sustainability and to frame action throughout society, including the higher education sector.

With the call to increase research, education and partnerships across all 17 goals, Universities are uniquely placed to address the interconnected nature of the SDGs as part of their core function.

The creativity, innovation and drive required to meet these ambitious targets is alive at the University, with a strong passion to further align and action efforts to lead as a sustainable and socially responsible organisation.

Our diverse community of students, staff and world-leading researchers will continue to seek opportunities and be responsive to society's sustainability needs, acting as agents of change towards solving local and global challenges.

The University of Sydney is strategically aligned with the SDGs through our Sustainability Strategy and as signatories to the [UN Global Compact](#). The University is a member of the [Board of Future Earth](#) and is also part of the [UN General Council Initiative Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#) that, through collaboration and partnership, aims to develop and implement solutions through education, research and policy analysis.

SDG13 – Climate Action


In September 2019, our staff and students gathered at the University to commence their march as part of the *School Strike 4 Climate*, demanding more to be done to tackle climate change. This event, and the many strikes and marches that followed, demonstrated that climate action is an important consideration for our University community. A [2021 Mission Australia Youth Survey](#) showed that from the 20,000 young people surveyed, 38% ranked the environment as their second biggest concern, behind COVID-19 (at 45.7%).

The [UN Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action](#) urges nations to take urgent action to combat climate change and its

impacts. The past decade has seen climate change-driven natural disasters occurring across the world, including devastating bushfires across Australia, mass bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef, and destructive flooding to Queensland and New South Wales.

To limit global warming to the 1.5 degrees Celsius, as called for in the Paris Agreement, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must fall by 7.6% each year from 2020. The University Sustainability Strategy 2020 target to reach Net Zero scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 contributes to the goal of SDG13 to reduce emissions.

13CLIMATE ACTION



TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS


PROGRESS TO DATE

13.1STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITY TO CLIMATE-RELATED HAZARDS AND NATURAL DISASTERS

13.2INTEGRATE CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES INTO POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PLANNING

13.3IMPROVE EDUCATION, AWARENESS-RAISING AND HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, ADAPTATION, IMPACT REDUCTION AND EARLY WARNING

AND




DEVELOPMENT AND RELEASE OF OUR FIRST SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-25

16


DEVELOPED TARGETS ACROSS STRATEGIC AREAS IN EDUCATION RESEARCH AND OPERATIONS


STRATEGY 7 & 12



Zero waste to landfill by 2030

INSTALLATION OF AN END-TO-END HOTROT® BIODIGESTER WAS COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY '22 IT WILL TAKE APPROX. 50% OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ORGANIC WASTE THROUGH A SUCCESSFUL GRANT FROM THE EPA






ACTION PLAN CREATED TO REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS ON OUR CAMPUSES INCLUDES LAB-RELATED REDUCTIONS


ETHICAL, SUSTAINABLE AND INDIGENOUS OPTIONS ON UNIBUY

STRATEGY 9




Sustainably develop and manage the built and natural environment on our campuses

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPED BY A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ACADEMICS AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF




STRATEGY 10



Require responsible procurement practices to enable ethically and sustainably sourced products


PLANTED MORE THAN 140,000 TREES AND SHRUBS ACROSS OUR CAMPUSES AND PROCURED OVER 1000 NATIVE PLANTS FROM INDIGIGROW- INDIGENOUS-OWNED SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

STRATEGY 8



Net Zero emissions by 2030 and renewable energy generation

THE PPA NEGOTIATION LOCKED IN ELECTRICITY RATES FOR 5 YEARS




TARGET: 100% renewable electricity sourcing by 2025

PPA AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITH RED ENERGY AND SNOWY HYDRO IN DECEMBER '21 TO PROVIDE 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM NSW SOURCES FROM 1 JULY 2022

18%↑ 2020


GENERATED 1,249MWH OF SOLAR ELECTRICITY ON CAMPUS IN 2020-21

STRATEGY 11




Reduce our portable water use

STAGE ONE OF THE HYDRAWISE SMART IRRIGATION SYSTEM INSTALLATION SO FAR, THE PROJECT HAS SAVED OVER 79,000LTS OF POTABLE WATER




STRATEGY 13




Reduce impacts associated with unsustainable travel to, from and around our campuses

REVIEW AND NEW ITERATION OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT ACTION AND MOBILITY PLAN



STRATEGY 14




Improve environmental, social & financially responsible investment practices

TARGET: Review the University's existing investment portfolio principles and strategy, and present a recommendation to the University's Senate by 2021

DEVELOPED AN ENHANCED APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR INVESTMENTS STRATEGY


STRATEGY 1



Put research excellence into practice through Living Labs on our campuses

LIVING LAB AWARD-WINNING PROJECTS ON CAMPUS: GELION SOLAR BENCHES & CIRCULAR ECONOMY CONCRETE

STRATEGY 2-3




Prioritise the development of high-quality sustainability research & partnerships

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SYDNEY FUTURE WORLD FUNDING STREAM TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND LIFT OUR SDG17 PROGRESS

CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS ALL FACULTIES AND SCHOOLS

STRATEGY 4-5




Increase sustainability related education & enhance student experience of sustainability

THE TEAM SUPPORTED DELIVERY OF A NUMBER OF PROJECTS IN 2020-2022. OUTPUTS WILL INFORM FUTURE PROGRAMS BEING DEVELOPED WITH THE STUDENT LIFE TEAM

NEW SUSTAINABILITY MAJOR WAS APPROVED AT ACADEMIC BOARD IN NOVEMBER 2021


NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY UNITS INCLUDE INDIGENOUS PRINCIPLES OF CARING FOR COUNTRY AND SUSTAINABILITY

STRATEGY 6




Support understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences and Caring for Country

THE GARDEN FEATURES PLANTS NATIVE TO NSW AND SUPPORTS THE EASTERN SUBURBS BANKSIA SCRUB PROJECT



STRATEGY 15




Establish effective governance and engagement

STRATEGY STEERCO AND COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE OF ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND CAMPUS PARTNERS ESTABLISHED

FIRST PILOT OF THE GREEN IMPACT ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM TO BUILD AN UNDERSTANDING OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INCREASE LOCAL ACTION

STRATEGY 16



Be transparent about our progress

DEVELOPMENT AND RELEASE OF OUR FIRST ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21 WITH PROGRESS UPDATES, NEWS STORIES AND SUSTAINABILITY KNOWLEDGE SHARING VIA SOCIALS

NOW A MEMBER OF STARS AND ECOVADIS COMPLETED FIRST REPORT CARDS UNIVERSITY AWARDED SILVER RATINGS

EMISSIONS PROGRESS

Emissions are the biggest contributor to climate change. Nations around the world are required to halve their emissions by 2030 and to set net zero targets by 2025 in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Reducing our operational emissions is one of the key mechanisms that the University can use to contribute to SDG13.

Through our Sustainability Strategy, we aim to reach Net Zero across our Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030.

Scope 1 and 2 emissions

We track data on our Scope 1 and 2 emissions through legislative reporting (NGERS), certified by the Clean Energy Authority. Operational emissions, including electricity and gas usage and fuel for fleet vehicles, have decreased each year since 2017.

Emissions in 2018-19 (our strategy's baseline year) totalled 95,952tCO₂e, which is the equivalent of powering nearly 19,000 homes for a year. In 2021, emissions fell to 89,060tCO₂e – a reduction of 7%. This is mostly due to the decline in electricity use across our campuses. Scope 2 emissions from electricity usage accounts for 92% of our total Scope 1 and 2 emissions.

The COVID-19 pandemic did have a small effect reducing Scope 1 and 2 emissions but we still maintained a high-level of on-campus activity, particularly in energy-intensive places such as laboratories and 24/7 student spaces. Sustainability-related infrastructure changes will commence in Semester 2022 to assist with emissions reduction as our return-to-campus plans are fully realised.

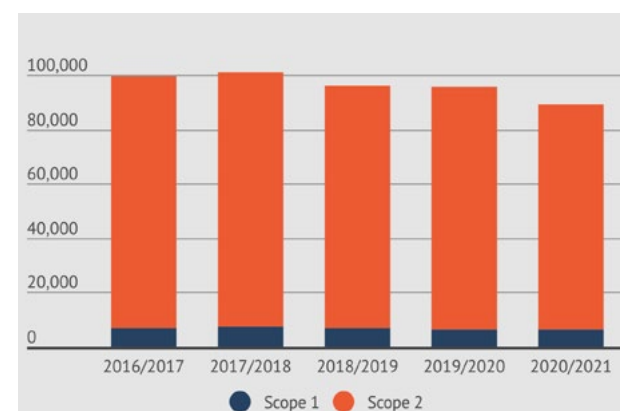


Figure 1: University emissions by Source 1 and 2, 2016-2021. Right: Rooftop solar on the Abercrombie Business School and Student accommodation on Darlington campus.

Scope 3 emissions

Scope 3 emissions were not included in this iteration of the strategy, as a reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions were deemed first priority by our staff and students during the development of the strategy. The data for Scope 3 emissions is currently tracked for printing, landfill and recycled waste, and flights taken on University business.

Since 2018, there has been a reduction in Scope 3 emissions (which are indirectly linked to University operations) to our overall carbon footprint.

There were significant reductions in emissions associated with waste to landfill since 2018-19 due to an increase in recycling rates and lockdowns keeping staff and students from our campuses. Emissions from printing reduced from 140 tCO₂e to just 52 tCO₂e in 2021.

There was also a significant reduction in flight emissions due to the closure of Australian borders and COVID-19 restrictions. Before 2020, emissions from flying represented approximately 18% of the University's carbon footprint across all three scopes.

With borders now open, the first four months of 2021 have shown that emissions due to flights are only slightly under emissions for the same period in 2019. To meet the strategy's target on reducing kilometres flown, there needs to be significant behaviour change in the community related to flying smarter and being more efficient in how we travel for University business.

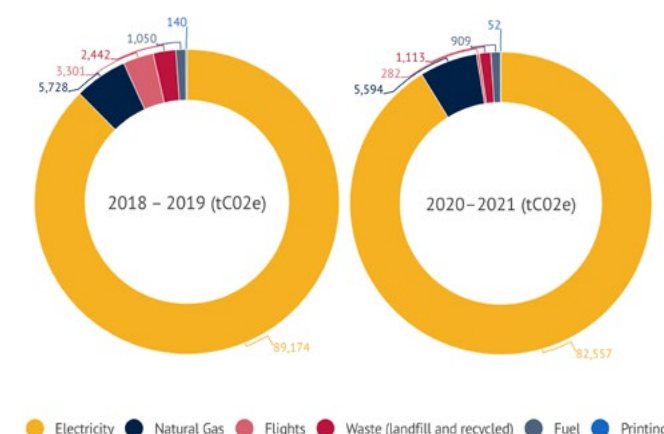


Figure 2 & 3: University emissions by source- breakdown from 2018-19 (strategy baseline) and 2020-21.



Progress towards energy targets

As part of Strategy 16 of the Sustainability Strategy, our Sustainability team tracks the strategy's progress towards its three energy and emissions targets against an established baseline in 2018. Progress in our activities in implementing the strategy are captured in detail within our [annual report](#), external reporting requirements such as [NGERS](#) and [TEFMA](#), as well as through rating submissions such as [STARS](#).

Energy targets	2018-19 baseline ¹	2020-21 totals	%	Notes
8.1 Achieve Net Zero Emissions from Scope 1 and 2 sources by 2030	102,993 tonnes CO2-e	94,813 tonnes CO2-e	0.08% reduction	Emissions reduction predominantly due to COVID-19 restrictions in place from 2020, and ongoing hybrid working and learning mode.
8.2 Source 100% of electricity from renewable sources by 2025	0% of additional renewable energy sourced	0%	0%	The University's PPA will come into effect from July 2022, to reach our target to source 100% of electricity from renewable sources.
8.3 Have 3 megawatts on-site renewable electricity by 2025	0.87MW	1.13MW	29.89% increase	Additional solar projects on hold or delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions to recommence from 2022.

¹ Baseline and 2020-21 data by financial year, derived from The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) and Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association (TEFMA) reporting. 2018-19 baseline data used to better reflect 'business as usual' figures prior to impacts of COVID-19 restrictions.

Sourcing 100% renewable electricity

We are already making good progress towards our Net Zero target. On 1 July 2022, we switched over to a new electricity contract that delivers 100% renewable electricity to all our campuses, the USU, our sports and fitness (SUSF) facilities and several of our colleges and residences.

Through our Power Partnership Agreement (PPA) with Red Energy (which also involves research and learning opportunities), the University is now powered by solar with back up renewable options including Australia's largest battery, Snowy Hydro. This means that the University's electricity load will now be drawn from the grid and the equivalent is replaced by renewable sources from a NSW solar farm.

The switch to 100% renewable electricity reduces the University's Scope 2 emissions to zero and contributes a progress of 92% towards our *Net Zero by 2030 in Scope 1 and 2 emissions* target.



Above: Solar Farm in NSW - generating renewable electricity supporting the University's new 100% renewable Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Image courtesy from Red Energy.

Increasing solar capacity to 3MW

We now have a total rooftop solar capacity of 1.13MW across 25 University and student accommodation buildings on our campuses, reaching over a third our target of 3 megawatts of on-site renewable electricity by 2025.

Last year, our solar generated 1,249 Megawatt hours on-site, the equivalent to powering over 100 houses a year. Excess power generated by our buildings on campus gets exported into the grid (diagram below).

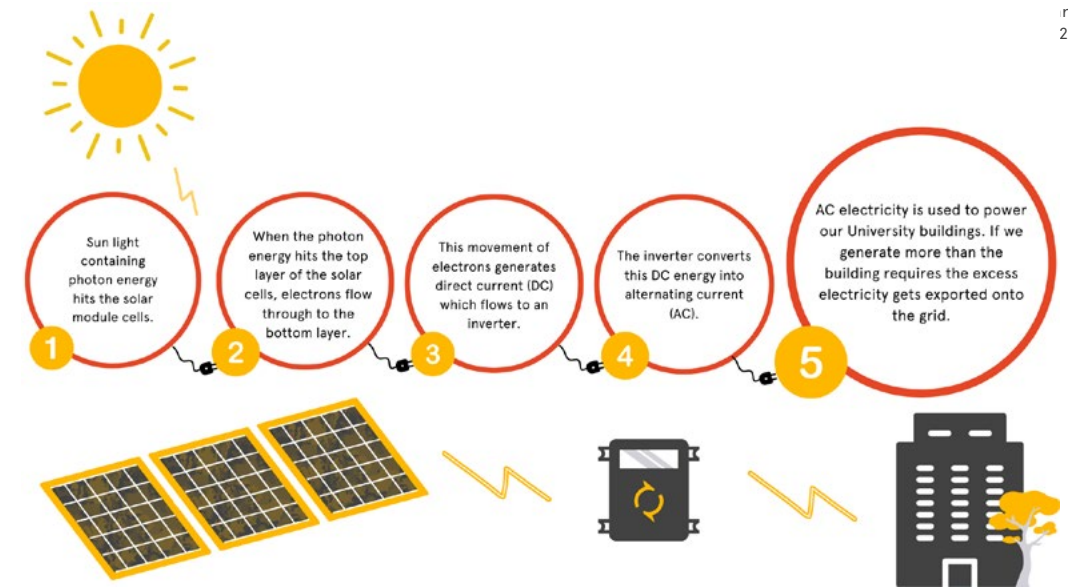
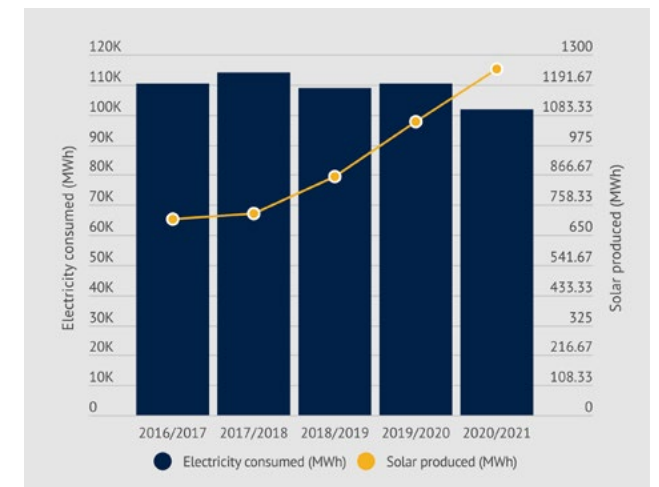


Figure 5: Diagram on how our rooftop solar works.

2022 activities

With the finalisation of return to campus plans, our Sustainability team is working with infrastructure, faculties and central areas to reduce emissions further.

Some of these initiatives include:

- Installation of approximately 250kW of solar capacity at our Narrabri campus to help reduce grid-based electricity use and provide stability in supply. Further capacity is being scoped at Camden and Nepean campuses.
- Piloting of the internationally recognised Green Labs certification system and Freezer Challenge. The certification is a program to assist wet labs and clinics in becoming more sustainable. Green Labs embeds behaviour change to reduce electricity, gas, water and waste, and encourage smarter purchasing and travel.
- We plan to commence and continue new energy efficiency measures, including electrical and natural gas metering, mechanical efficiencies for Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems. Installation of wireless motion sensors will reduce energy use in common and high uses spaces, allowing lights and air conditioning to switch off automatically when spaces aren't in use. Out-of-hours (OOH) push button systems are also being installed in spaces where wireless sensors aren't possible. This enables systems to be set to shorter 'on' hours. When OOH buttons are pushed, 2 hours of lighting and air conditioning are provided before switching off again.
- Development of a net zero roadmap is underway to support achieving our *Net Zero by 2030 in Scope 1 and 2 emissions* target.

CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

From advances in solar panel and battery technology to research in understanding the risks of climate change on health and wellbeing, our response to climate action has been spearheaded by our researchers and academic staff within faculties and centres based across the country.

As part of the Sustainability Strategy, we are supporting our researchers, students and professional staff to collaborate in areas where research, education, and operations intersect – for instance, translating and piloting sustainability research and enabling our students to co-design and contribute to sustainability action.

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

SDG Target 13.1 looks to strengthening our organisations, nations and also ourselves to be resilient to the impacts of climate change. The research of Dr Blanche Verlie, postdoctoral research fellow in the Faculty of Arts and the Sydney Environment Institute, investigates the very real phenomenon of 'climate distress': the emotional experiences of anxiety, loss, grief, frustration felt about the threat of climate change, and how educators can best conceptualise and respond to climate distress in classrooms.

Research led by Professor David Schlosberg calls for a better understanding of 'climate justice', as well as the barriers to and enablers of its implementation. The [Creating Just Food and Energy Policy](#) project aims to improve two key areas of environmental policy by investigating the meaning of environmental justice and how it is best implemented.

 Number of SDG13 publications: 12

Below: Grasses for Grain installation displayed as part of the Connect festival.



Faculty of Engineering

The journey towards Net Zero by 2030 is a key target within our Sustainability Strategy. The [Net Zero Initiative](#), led by researchers in the Faculty of Engineering, brings together over 100 of the world's top researchers across engineering, science, urban planning, policy, carbon accounting, behavioural science, and renewables to help government, industry and communities to manufacture and adopt low emissions technology.

Launched in March 2022, the initiative is centred around 4 core themes:

- Climate change risk
- Carbon removal
- Emissions avoidance: zero emissions energy
- Emissions avoidance: demand reduction

Left: The Strategy's Living Lab initiative - Gelion solar smart benches on campus trialling new zinc bromide battery technology developed by Professor Thomas Maschmeyer.

Case study: The Connect Festival

From July – October 2020, the University hosted a SDG themed festival, focusing on the intersections of SDG3 (Health and Wellbeing), SDG10 (Reducing Inequalities), SDG13 (Climate Action) and SDG17 (Partnerships).

[The Connect For: a better world festival](#) program included a series of public talks and podcasts, student challenges and art installations to foster ideas of sustainable and socially responsible innovation and impact.

Students, professionals and researchers from the University were invited to participate in a coding challenge to help understand vaccine related misinformation, and an Innovation Challenge to pitch their big ideas. Winning projects included technologies to help city planners track traffic, and provide women with clear pathways into STEM.

The festival also featured a series of forecast forums and virtual roundtable discussions bringing academics, industry and policy makers together to brainstorm solutions for key issues facing Australia- from COVID-19 and disaster resilience, to creating smart cities and food security.

The festival had an estimated audience reach of nearly 500,000, including over 100,000 video views and nearly 4,000 registrations for events across the festival.

 Number of SDG13 publications: 68

Faculty of Science

Understanding climate science and the impact of our everyday actions plays a critical role in the SDG 13.3 target and Sustainability Strategy's aim to increase capacity for sustainability education across the University. [OLET1672 Sustainability: Climate and Energy](#) is one of over 200 units of study that build sustainability capacity in undergraduate students as future leaders.

The OLE examines real world data to inform and

answer questions surrounding the supply and demand of energy, its impacts on our environment and society, and counters misinformation on how emissions contribute to climate change.

Over 300 students have undertaken the OLE over the last two semesters with an overall Unit of Study Survey rating of 4.03 out of 5.00.



Number of SDG13 publications: 106

Faculty of Medicine and Health

As extreme heat events are occurring more frequently in Australia, researchers in the Faculty of Medicine and Health are investigating the impacts of extreme heat and climate change on human health.

Led by Professor Ollie Jay and Associate Professor Ying Zhang, [The Heat and Health Research Incubator](#) brings together academic experts from epidemiology, physiology, medicine, climate science, built environment and sustainable development to examine the effects of heat on physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The initiative also seeks to examine the economic effects of extreme heat, including the increase to hospitalisations, weakened worker productivity and adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes.

While their current projects explore occupations from construction to sport, one they are particularly passionate about is improving the conditions of workers in Bangladesh's ready-made garment industry.



Number of SDG13 publications: 22



In research, the [Sydney Nano Grand Challenge Eco-Active Building Envelopes](#), co-lead by Dr Arianna Brambilla and Professor Deanna D'Alessandro, envisions a new generation of buildings that are self-sufficient in energy and water consumption, improve the health and wellbeing of occupants, and provide energy and resources for the urban community.

School of Architecture, Design and Planning

Building climate resilience into planning and infrastructure, and improving knowledge and capacity through education is paramount to the goals of SDG13. A key example of this in action is the [Master of Architectural Science \(Sustainable Design\)](#).

This new industry-focused degree has been designed for architects and built-environment professionals who wish to develop their professional capabilities in sustainability. Key elements of the degree include a focus on sustainable construction to minimise waste, energy and water analysis, lighting innovation and the integration of urban ecologies.



Number of SDG13 publications: 5

Sydney Business School

In NSW alone, road transport accounts for 85% of all greenhouse gases by the transport sector. COVID has changed how we get to and from the places we work and study.

Staff and students are now working and studying from home more, using public transport less and are choosing to drive to our campuses. With 34% of staff and 6% of students still commuting to campus by private motor vehicle, there is work needed to boost travel to our campuses by public or active transport.

Professors John Nelson and David Hencher in the Institute for Transport and Logistic Studies have partnered with Transport for NSW on an [iMOVE collaborative research project](#) to better understand the commuting habits of staff and students both before and after the pandemic. The study will run over several years and directly benefit the University community by informing changes to metro public transportation under Transport for NSW Travel Choices programs.



Number of SDG13 publications: 20

The Conservatorium of Music

Students and researchers at the Conservatorium of Music have engaged with environmental and social sustainability through initiatives such as the [Music Diversity Lab](#) and [PARADISEC](#) (Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures).

Both initiatives foster understanding of music diversity and innovation within cultures – across Australia and the world – examining, performing and preserving the embedded connections music has with Country, culture and language. Projects such as the *Restoring on-Country performance, rethinking the dynamics of place in Warlpiri performance, Tiwi Song Culture and Loss*, and *True Echoes: reconnecting cultures with recordings from the beginning of sound*, investigate intricate and holistic relationships between people and place, and the performance traditions that heal Country and keep culture alive.

In October 2020, students from the Digital Music and Media program participated the [Quay Quarter Sounds \(the sounds of sustainability\)](#) project.

As an initiative of the *Connect for: A better future festival*, the project documented the sustainable ethos of building construction in Sydney's CBD through immersive musical experiences. Students extracted the industrial sounds of demolition and rendered them into the musical style of their choice, creating new compositions of music, soundscapes and aural storytelling to narrate sustainability within their city.



Number of SDG13 publications: 0

Sydney Law School

This year, the Sydney Law School introduced a new sustainability-focused unit of study, available as part the University's new sustainability major and minor. [SUST5005: Law, Policy and Sustainability](#), examines how policy-makers consider and respond to sustainability issues through engagement, design and implementation of policies and legal requirements.

As part the University's suite of offerings to encourage experiential learning, the school also leads the [Sydney Innovation Program](#), bringing together students from across the University, working together to design solutions to global challenges. Previous challenge topics have centred around sustainability, leading to award-winning innovations and ideas by students such as *Offset October*.

Top-left: Professor Ollie Jay in the University's climate chamber. **Bottom-left:** Concept render of a glasshouse from the Master's program. **Above:** Students participating in the Sounds of Sustainability project.



Number of SDG13 publications: 3

UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY REPORTS AND STRATEGIES REFERENCE LIST

Pillar	Document link
ALL	Sustainability Strategy 2020
ALL	Sustainability Strategy Annual Report 2020-21
ALL	Sustainable Development Goals- University 2020 update
ALL	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: SDG13
ALL	Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals
ALL	The Paris Agreement – United Nations
ALL	UN Global Compact
ALL	UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
ALL	Board of Future Earth
Strategy 1 – 4	Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME) – 2021 SDG report
Strategy 8	National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) 2020-21
Strategy 14	2020 Investment Portfolio Carbon Footprint Release
Strategy 15	Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) 2021 report

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