



Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment Policy - Updated Feb 2022

Introduction

The University of Worcester is committed to developing, maintaining, and provides opportunities for the local community. Following the Flood and Coastal Emergency in July 2019 and is committed to reducing carbon emissions from a baseline 2018/19. Construction, refurbishment

full carbon lens that encompasses the inter-relationship between embodied and operational carbon and emissions from the use of infrastructure and buildings and be placed within the context of overarching carbon budgets. All sources of carbon therefore need to be at the forefront of infrastructure and construction decision-making in the context of the overarching carbon budgets, and with an understanding of the inter-relationship between embodied, operational, and use emissions of different assets.

This policy seeks to support and complement the University's [Sustainability Policy](#) and the [Sustainability external communication Contractor Scheme](#) and will also work with the [supply chain](#), to bring added social value through [apprentice opportunities](#), use of [local organisations](#) or providing education. The [Contractor Framework](#) has established and will continue to be followed and reviewed. [Biodiversity Net Gain](#) is an approach

[Biodiversity Net Gain](#) (2021), that aims to leave the natural environment at least 10% measurably better state when development occurs. During the design and the delivery stage of a project the University, the wider Project Team, and the Contractor (and its supply chain) will look for opportunities to provide and protect and enhance habitats undertaking [Net Gain impact assessments](#). The University of Worcester has a legal obligation to conserve biodiversity and has made policy commitments accordingly. The Natural England and Rural Communities Act (2006) requires all UK public bodies to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity. Biodiversity is a key part of the University's Sustainability Policy and Environment Management System. Where appropriate, biodiversity advice from the Strategic Biodiversity Management Group can be sought (as set out in the University's [Biodiversity Strategy](#) and [Biodiversity Action Plan](#)) to set out how the scheme will both protect existing habitats and species and give details of mitigation, enhancement, or compensation plans.

- **Whole life carbon measurements and agreed limits.** To start with mandatory measurement, followed by the phased introduction of embodied carbon limits for new buildings to reduced demand, alongside changes to planning and VAT to incentivise the re-use of existing buildings.

Fig 1. Steps to achieving a net zero building. (Source: Net Zero Carbon Buildings – A framework definition⁵. UK Green Building Council 2019 <https://www.ukgbc.org/>)

These sources demonstrate how designs for residential and workplace buildings can be influenced to improve resource efficiency, reduce running costs, and achieve net zero carbon. The studies showed that the increased capital investment in net zero buildings needn't cost the earth. All stages and processes in the design and refurbishment / construction and operation of buildings can contribute towards excellence in sustainability and the University will use these steps as a framework for delivering new build and refurbishment projects with any new building or refurbishment seeking to be a Net Zero Carbon Building – the University recognises it will not always be possible to follow all steps for its smaller schemes, however the key themes and priorities will be followed.

⁵ <https://ukgbc.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/05150856/Net-Zero-Carbon-Buildings-A-framework-definition.pdf>

