



# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2030

## SILESIA UNIVERSITY IN OPAVA



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The Sustainability Strategy builds on the University of Silesia's Strategic Plan 2021+ and adds a new dimension of sustainable development. Our vision "**Creating a community that nurtures growth**" links the two strategic documents. We must create a fertile ground, quality facilities, a healthy place and an inspiring environment not only as an educational institution, but also in the original meaning of the word "universitas", i.e. in general, in communion with the outside world in which we live and for which we are co-responsible.

Institutional self-reflection and reflection on the contemporary world are essential to the growth of the university, but without an emphasis on sustainability and a regenerative future, they are no guarantee of long-term development. Sustainable development is a way of functioning in human society that reconciles economic and scientific and technological development with the full preservation of the environment. The idea of a regenerative future is then based on trying to make our planet and society healthy, to restore nature and the landscape to their former values and to use the available resources responsibly.

In our sustainability strategy, we aim not only to eliminate the negative impacts of our operations, but more importantly to approach the world's environmental, social and economic challenges in a proactive and creative way.

Tomas Gongol  
Rector



# THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Sustainability** is the practical ability to meet the basic needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their basic needs and maintain a stable standard of living. A sustainable society must be built in such a way that its lifestyle does not conflict with nature's ability to sustain life.

The term sustainability and sustainable development appears in the 1987 UN Brundtland Report. Later, UN states formulated **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** for the period 2015-2030. International commitments on climate policy are set by the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Sustainability is addressed at the national, regional and municipal levels. It affects companies, institutions, organisations and individuals. Climate change, the loss of biodiversity and fertile land, demographic change and widening inequalities are topical issues. **Universities are reflecting in their activities the European Roadmap to a future climate-neutral continent with a resilient and thriving economy** and supporting the Green Deal for Europe.

In terms of ensuring sustainability, it is inspired by the **ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance)** approach, which takes a holistic view of sustainability and addresses not only environmental issues, but also social issues, governance and management. This approach has evolved over time from the concept of CSR (corporate social responsibility). It is now found in corporations, but the main idea, which is based on the idea of pragmatic growth and value creation in the long term, is valid for other organisations and institutions.

As **centres of education, innovation and cooperation**, universities play a crucial role in sustainable development in all areas of their activities, i.e. education, research and the third role.

They can **educate** students about sustainability principles and motivate them to incorporate them into their future working and personal lives. Globally, students are showing an increasing interest in sustainability issues and universities are reflecting the needs of the times by creating **comprehensive curricula and offering seminars and courses** with a **sustainability** focus.

**The scientific research activities** that take place in universities and their research institutes are fundamental to understanding the impact of human activity on the environment and society.

Universities **fulfil their third role** and inspire shared and sustainable growth. By applying the principles of sustainable development and sharing their experiences, they can have a significant positive impact on society and the environment.



# ABOUT US

## Vision

We form a community,  
which is a breeding  
ground for growth.

## Mission

We support sustainable  
development in every way to  
drive the region's  
development.

## Values

We make decisions based on alignment with our vision

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We have an open dialogue and work as a team

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Strengthening the strengths of units and individuals

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We simplify and digitalize processes

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We pay attention to the principles of sustainable  
development

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We build on the diversity of disciplines and their  
interconnections

# ABOUT US

Our university consists of 3 faculties and 2 institutes of higher education. We are a young and progressive university that focuses on professional studies and offers students an individual approach and a friendly atmosphere.

## Faculty of Philosophy and Science in Opava



*One faculty many faces: from heterogeneity to interdisciplinarity*

In close symbiosis and mutual respect we develop and link educational and scientific research activities in the humanities, arts and sciences and social areas.

## Faculty of Commerce and Business in Karviná



*We provide progressive economic education linked to practice*

Thanks to the teaching of modern study programmes, first-class study facilities and opportunities for personal growth of students, we are the first choice in the Moravian-Silesian Region for higher education in economics.

## Faculty of Public Policy in Opava



*Study and help - quality study to practice*

In close cooperation with practice, we develop and link educational and scientific research activities in the field of mainly professional study programmes focused on the helping professions.

## Institute of Mathematics in Opava



We are strengthening our position as a renowned scientific institution, intensively involved in international cooperation and educating quality graduates.

## Institute of Physics in Opava



We are a globally respected scientific institute working in theoretical physics and astrophysics, especially in so-called Multimessenger astrophysics. We collaborate with world-leading centres and have a strong societal relevance.

# STUDENT AND STAFF OPINIONS

We care about the opinions of our students and staff and want them to actively participate in the functioning of the University and its direction. We know from qualitative research that topics related to sustainability are important to them.

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*"This area is very important to me."*

*"Thank you very much for these activities. Fundamental and rich, interesting and often beautiful topics often arise from the field of sustainability."*

*"Any activity that reduces negative environmental impacts is desirable, circularity is a future trend and direction. But it is important to create belonging to circularity (so that students and staff perceive it as a certain way that is beneficial, to set a mindset)."*

*"Sustainability is still not sufficiently at the forefront."*

*"I think sustainability is one of the hot topics. So it certainly wouldn't hurt for people, and especially those of student age and below (high school and primary school students), to have a better understanding of what is happening with all the waste we produce. Perhaps this could produce results that we would then see not only in our landscape but also in our immediate environment."*

*"I am in favour of a diversity of environments for the multiple representatives of crops and plants grown in our agriculture."*

*"Emissions need to be reduced. "*

*"To focus on greater use of domestic water and its collection in retention tanks and its subsequent use for irrigation of parks that are part of the campus."*

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# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 2030 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

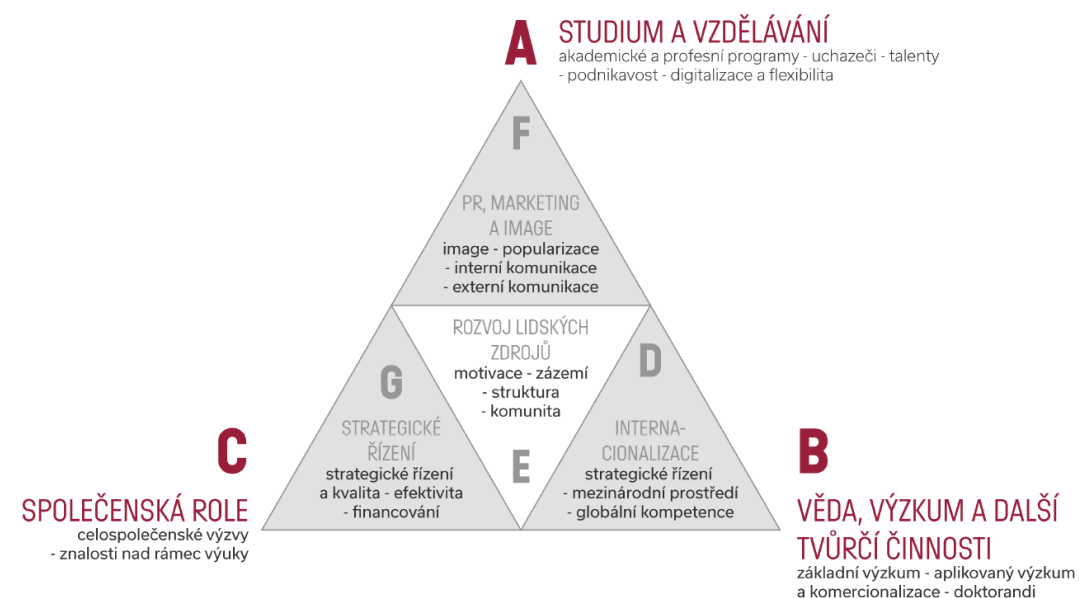
We are in a period of fundamental change where we need to focus on social and environmental responsibility. At Silesian University we are fully aware of our social role and want to actively participate in creating a **sustainable future**.

The **2030 Sustainability Strategy** sets out the sustainability goals we want to achieve. The individual steps and responsibilities will be regularly updated in the **Action Plan** for the biennium.

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** form the basis of our approach in each sustainability area. To these we also relate our own Sustainability Strategy 2030 sustainability goals.

At the national level, we take into account the **Strategic Framework 2030**, which sets the direction of our country's development in this decade. We are also building on the **Ministry's Strategic Plan for Higher Education for the period from 2021 onwards**, in particular priority objective 1 Development of competences directly relevant to life and practice in the 21st century and the **Strategy for the Internationalisation of Higher Education for the period from 2021 onwards**.

The goals we set for ourselves in the Sustainability Strategy 2030 significantly complement and expand our comprehensive strategic document, the **Strategic Plan of the Silesian University of Opava for the period 2021+**. In it, we have defined the direction we want to take as Silesian University in the coming years and what we want to achieve, based on cooperation with relevant stakeholders. These areas have a significant overlap with sustainability issues and are therefore further elaborated in the Sustainability Strategy 2030.

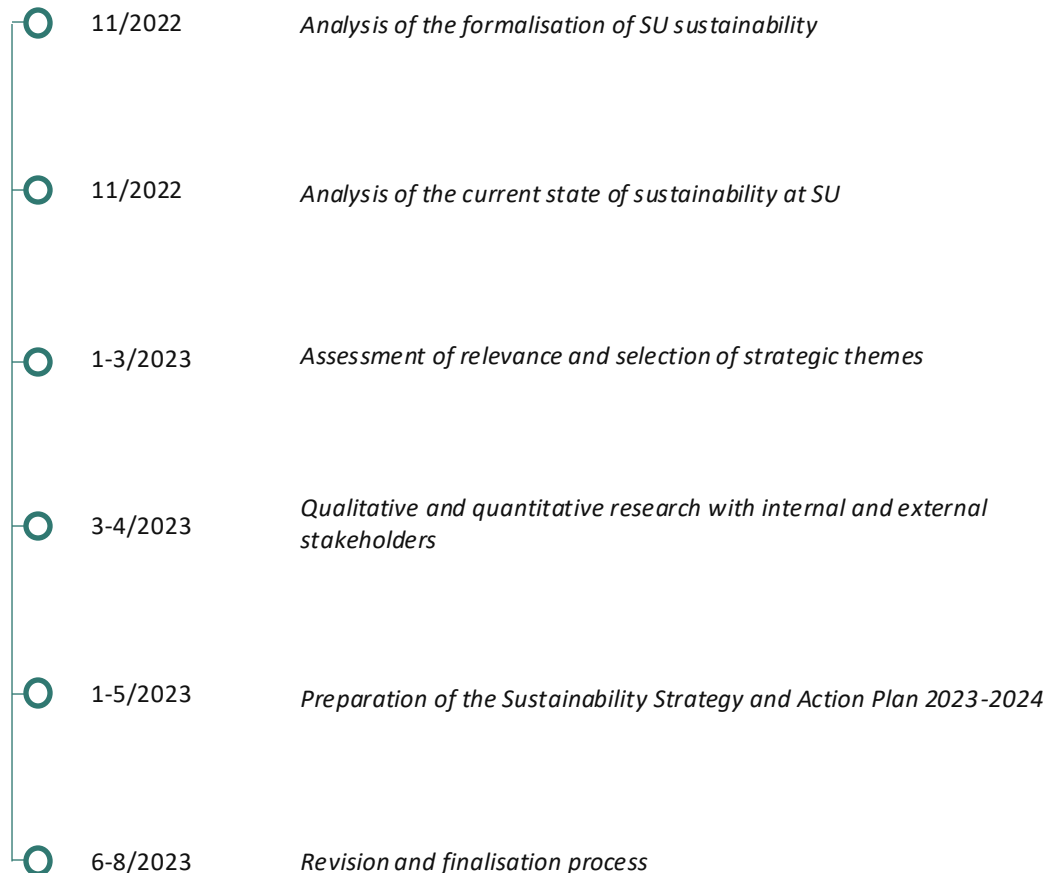




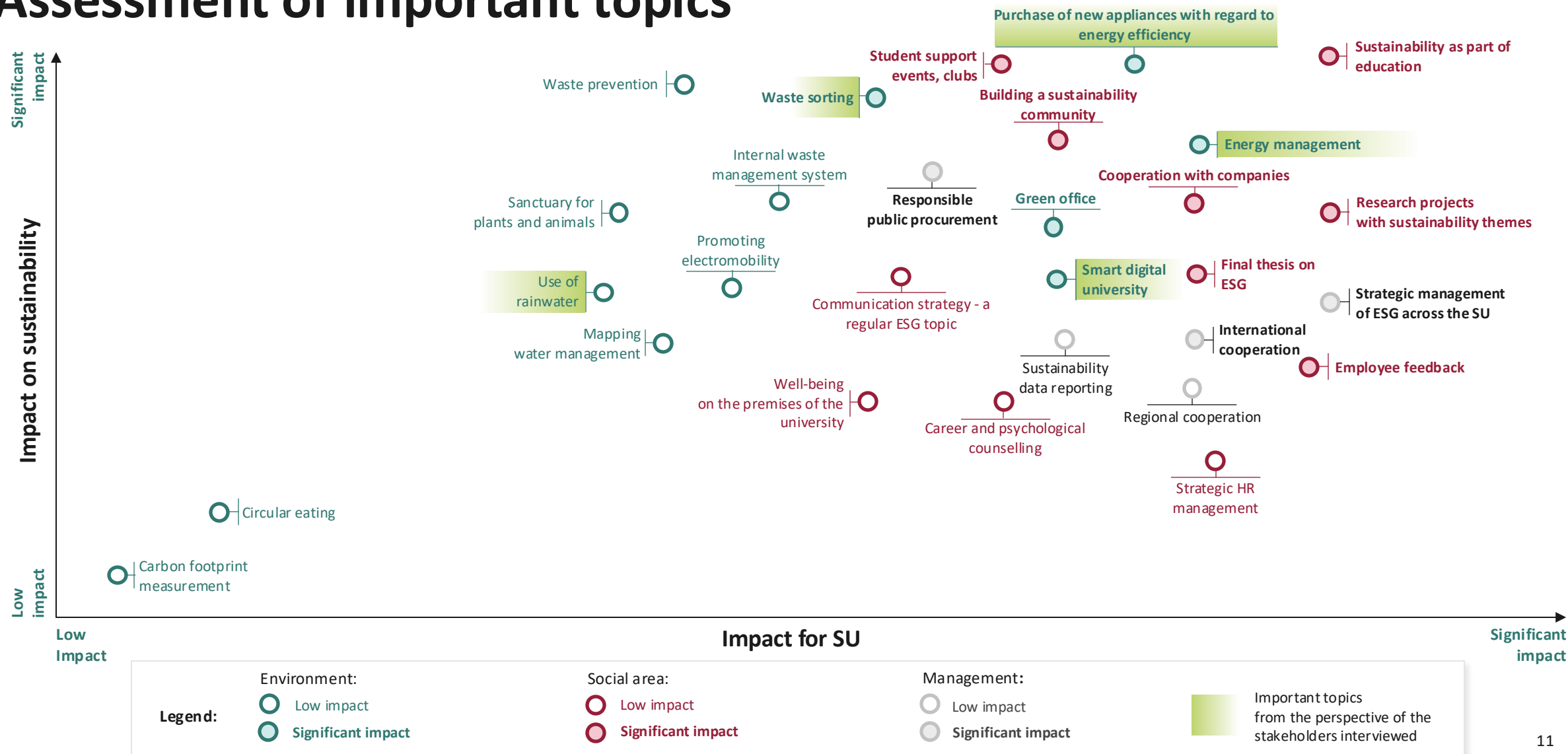
# METHODOLOGY FOR THE SU 2030 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The process of developing the SU 2030 Sustainability Strategy included the following steps.

- **analysis of the formalisation of the University of Silesia's sustainability**, which identified important strategic documents related to sustainability issues (environment, people, university management and cooperation) such as the Strategic Plan of the University of Silesia in Opava for the period 2021+, HR Award and others.
- **Analysis of the current status**, strengths and weaknesses based on a detailed mapping of individual sustainability areas relevant to the academic sector and the size of the University of Silesia. This included structured interviews with relevant persons responsible for each sustainability topic.
- **Selection of significant topics** in terms of their impact on the university, society and the environment in the context of a **materiality assessment**. This was done in an interactive workshop attended by representatives of the university management and its faculties. The output of this workshop is a set of themes that are categorised according to their level of impact, namely low-impact themes and high-impact themes. See page 9.
- To verify and complete the identified priority areas, representatives from the students, employees and partners with whom the University of Silesia **cooperates** were also invited to participate in a **questionnaire survey** (the questionnaire was sent to a total of 5,400 recipients, the return rate was 9%). This participatory survey showed that respondents considered the most important topics to be those related to the **environment**. These are topics such as energy and water saving, waste sorting and prevention, and digitalisation (see page 9 for more on green topics).
- The 2030 Sustainability Strategy will be implemented on the basis of the **Action Plan**. The timetable and responsibilities for the implementation of specific measures to meet the stated objectives of the Sustainability Strategy are presented in the Action Plan 2023-24, which will be updated in two-year cycles. At the end of the implementation period, the implementation of the Action Plan and thus the Sustainability Strategy 2030 will always be evaluated and the follow-up in the subsequent period will be set.



# Assessment of important topics



# WE CREATE A COMMUNITY THAT IS A BREEDING GROUND FOR GROWTH

## VISION IN THE SU 2021+ STRATEGIC PLAN

### STABLE NUMBER AND HIGHER QUALITY OF STUDENTS

We strive to stabilize the number of students and increase their readiness and motivation to meet the demands of college.

### INNOVATION AND FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

We are preparing in time for future challenges and opportunities. We support innovative projects that have the potential to achieve positive strategic change.

### PROFESSIONALLY PROFILED UNIVERSITY

We develop and support the professional orientation of the university and, in cooperation with practice, we prepare students for the current and future needs of the labour market.

### HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

We create the best possible conditions for academic and scientific staff, other employees and other collaborators in order to increase the attractiveness of the University as an employer.

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We support and develop research and artistic centres and research and creative teams that achieve internationally recognised results, thus enhancing the prestige and image of our University.

### MARKETING / PR / IMAGE

We are building the reputation of the University internally and externally.



## SUSTAINABILITY VISION AND MISSION WITH



### WIZE

We are an institution where we apply sustainability principles to all our activities. We educate and motivate our students and staff to be more responsible towards society and the planet. We develop their personal potential.

We are a leader in vocationally oriented education to support the development of the region. We also offer courses and a study programme in sustainability. We develop and deepen cooperation with stakeholders to support regional development. We limit our negative impact on the environment. We are a responsible farmer with environmentally friendly operations.



### MISE

We provide students with the knowledge, skills and experience they need to succeed in their chosen profession and in life in general. We offer quality education and research and translate that knowledge into in the area of sustainability. We reflect current environmental, social and economic challenges and opportunities. We set an example of what a sustainable operation of a public institution should look like.

# KEY AREAS OF THE SU 2030 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY



## Environment

Circular economy

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Water, greenery  
and biodiversity

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Energy

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Digitization



## Social area

Education and study

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University life

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Care for employees  
and students



## Management area

University Strategic  
Management and  
Communication

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Responsible procurement

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Partnerships  
and cooperation



# AREAS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SU 2030 SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

## 1. Education and study in sustainability

- We involve students in the sustainable activities of the University and in meeting the goals of the Sustainability Strategy.
- We will ensure the integration of sustainability into the curriculum as an elective subject.
- We will mainstream sustainable development into U3V and CV courses.
- We are accrediting a study programme with a focus on regenerative landscape and regional development.
- We will support sustainability

## 6. Energy

- We use energy management for optimal and efficient energy consumption.
- We are increasing the share of energy consumed from renewable sources.
- We buy new appliances with regard to their energy efficiency.

## 2. Sustainability in university life

- We support student associations in implementing sustainability principles in their activities.
- We are building a shared sustainability community.
- We are fulfilling our third role.
- We support alternative modes of transport.

## 7. Digitization

- We are improving and developing the services of the university intranet and the Information System for Students and Staff.
- We digitize selected processes and eliminate printed documentation.

## 3. Care for staff and students

- We meet the standards HR Award.
- We improve internal communication and follow-up with feedback.
- We improve well-being in the indoor areas of the university.
- We provide a high level of career and psychological counselling for all students and staff.
- We support professional and personal development, develop talents

## 8. University strategic management and sustainability communication

- We manage the implementation of the Sustainability Strategy.
- We ensure that the Sustainability Strategy is consistent with other SU strategies.
- We are updating the Sustainability Strategy and its Action Plan.
- Maximise the use of external resources to fund the Strategy's objectives.
- We regularly report on the achievement of the Sustainability Strategy objectives.

## 4. Circular economy

- We work with an internal waste flow accounting system and waste optimization plans.
- We maximise waste segregation on campus.
- We compost bio-waste.
- We support waste prevention (Lokni, internal re-use centre...)
- We allow the use of collection containers for cigarette butts.

## 9. Partnership and cooperation

- Deepening cooperation in the field of sustainability in the framework of international projects.
- We work together with the private and public sector on student internships and sustainability projects.

## 5. Greenery, water, biodiversity

- We load sparingly with water and reduce water consumption.
- We provide regular education on biodiversity promotion.
- We install elements to promote biodiversity (bird boxes, insect hotel, etc.).
- We identify opportunities for installing green roofs and facades on new buildings.

## 10. Responsible procurement

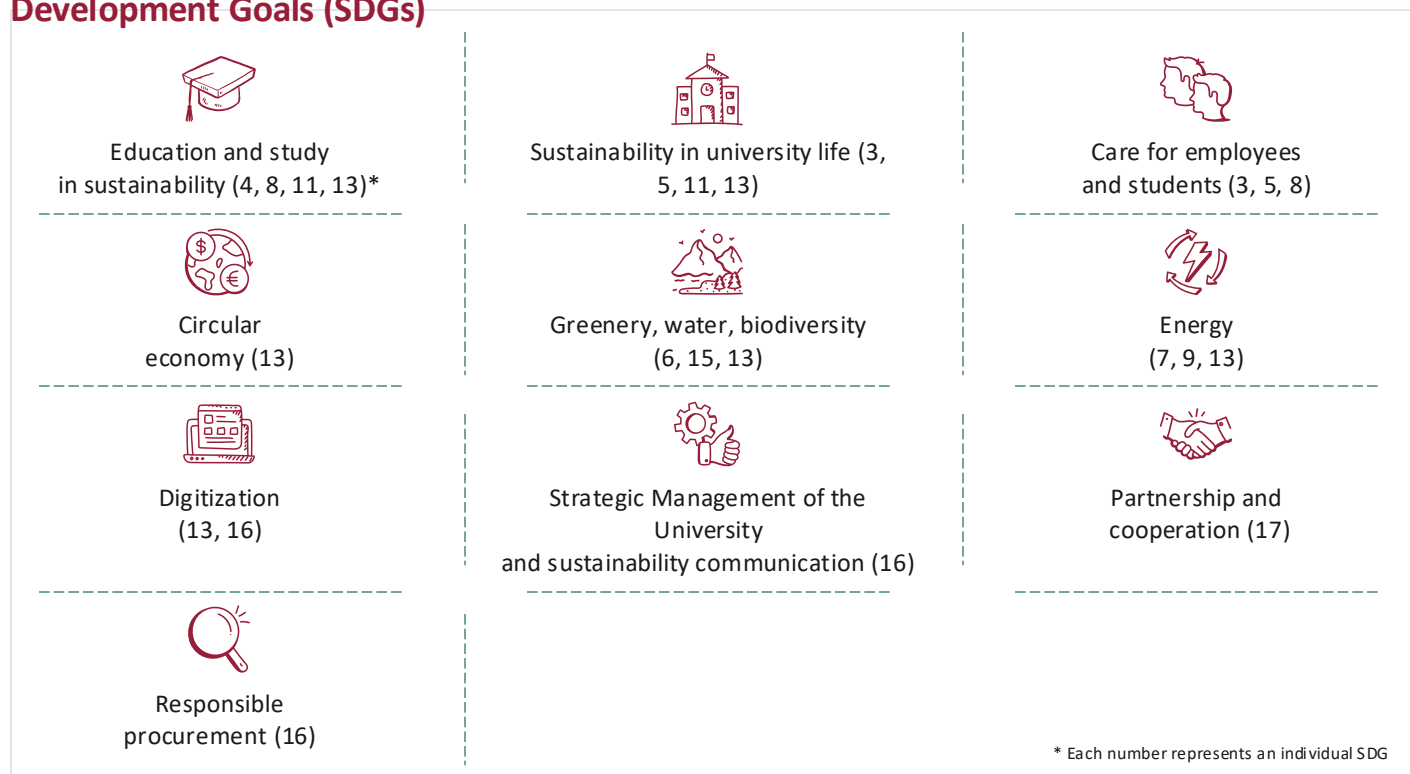
- We implement environmental and social sustainability criteria in our tenders (public procurement).



# WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE UN

Universities play an important role in promoting sustainable development and contributing to the achievement of the UN **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Recognising our own responsibilities to society and the environment, our SU 2030 Sustainability Strategy reflects the SDGs. We will pursue our goals in areas such as quality education, sustainable energy, waste management, environmental protection and collaboration, and social responsibility.

## SU Sustainability Strategy Objectives supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



## Selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



# EDUCATION AND LEARNING IN SUSTAINABILITY

The main mission of our university is to provide education and contribute to the development of science and culture.

In line with our values, we recognise the potential we have to contribute to the development of society and the protection of the environment. We therefore plan to expand opportunities to study with sustainability themes, to promote active student involvement in achieving the goals of the 2030 Sustainability Strategy.



## Target:

Sustainability is part of the study at Silesian University.

We support students in actively engaging with the goals of the 2030 Sustainability Strategy.



## What we're already doing at SU:

In cooperation with Mendel University in Brno, we are preparing a new study programme focusing on sustainability and regenerative futures.



## Engage students in sustainable university activities and meeting the goals of the Sustainability Strategy.

We regularly communicate with students to find out their motivations and preferences in the area of sustainability. Input from our students is important to us and we value every opinion. We will emphasize transparent and open communication that is based on trust and includes topics that students are genuinely interested in. We will encourage students to engage in activities that will be part of the biennial Action Plans to meet the goals of the 2030 Sustainability Strategy.



## We will ensure the integration of sustainability into the curriculum in the form of elective course.

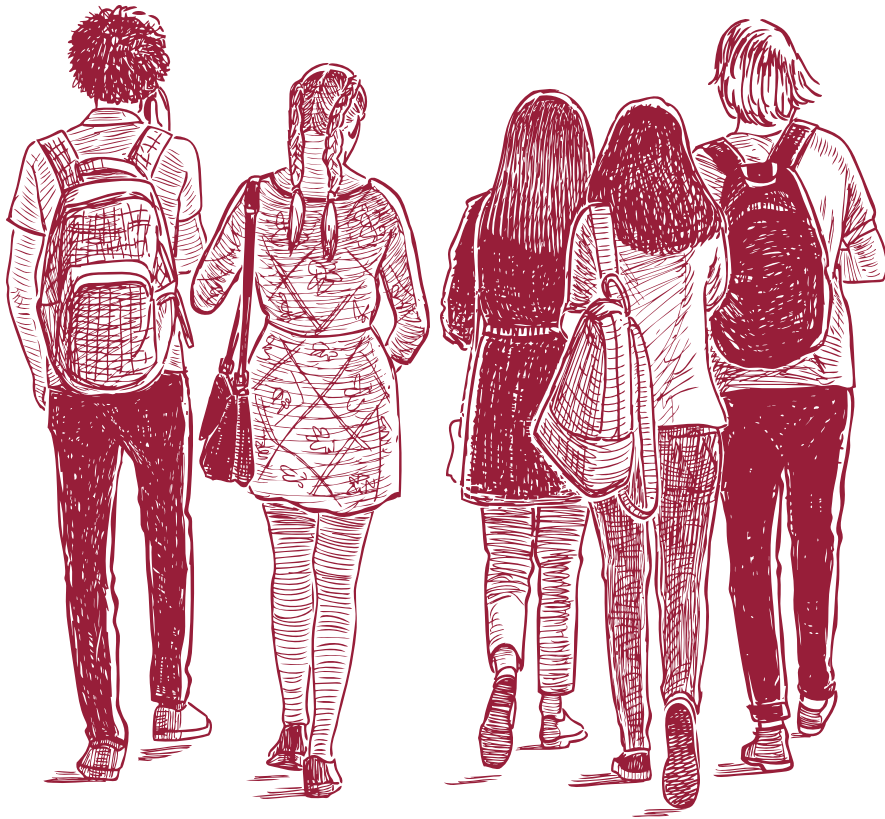
Within three faculties and two university institutes we provide education in various study programmes. We consider the principles of sustainability to be part of the life of the university and therefore want to offer students the opportunity to take sustainability electives.



## We will mainstream sustainable development into U3V and CV courses.

We provide education to prospective students of all ages. Within the framework of the University of the Third Age and Lifelong Learning, we also focus on current global topics. We will therefore expand the range of courses for the University of the Third Age and Lifelong Learning to include those that directly address sustainability issues.

# EDUCATION AND LEARNING IN SUSTAINABILITY



## We are accrediting a study programme with a focus on regenerative landscape and regional development

Study programmes that reflect current developments in the scientific and corporate spheres are key to the future employment of our graduates. At the same time, we are aware of the prospect of study programmes that reflect the challenges of sustainability. We will therefore focus on the creation and accreditation of a new study programme in cooperation with Mendel University, which will focus on regenerative development.



## We will support sustainability themes in final theses of our students.

We will support students in bachelor, master and doctoral programmes to take into account the sustainability perspective in their theses within their fields of study and to provide possible solutions to environmental and social problems.

# SUSTAINABILITY IN UNIVERSITY LIFE

Sustainability is a cross-cutting theme based on collaboration, mutual inspiration and sharing. We will therefore support the creation of innovative sustainable projects and initiatives that will motivate and inspire our students and staff to adopt sustainable lifestyles and activities of their own.



## Target:

We encourage sustainable activities among our students and staff.



## What we're already doing at SU:

We have announced the Rector's Scholarship Programme to support socially responsible student activities carried out in the relevant academic year.



## We support student societies.

Student societies create a dynamic community that has a strong voice among students and awakens interest in sustainability issues. Thanks to the societies, students can work together to implement sustainability activities with the support of the university. The experience gained through active participation in student societies can also be beneficial for students in the future job market.



## We are building a shared sustainability community.

The community and its activities are an important driver in presenting and setting relevant topics of sustainable behaviour of the university. Within a functioning community that is interested in sustainability topics, we enhance the options and opportunities that the university provides.



## We are fulfilling our third role.

We are aware of our impact as a university on society and our responsibility to contribute to solving societal challenges. Activities with a positive impact in the area of social responsibility are implemented within the individual faculties, university institutes and the Rector's Office. We will share information about them across the university, discuss their impact and communicate them externally.



## We support alternative modes of transport.

We are mapping alternative transport options for staff and students of the University. We will focus on the possibilities of cycling in the cities where our university is located. In doing so, we contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the air quality. We perceive that cycling or walking promotes physical fitness and has a positive effect on health.

# CARE FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

We recognise the importance of looking after our staff and students. Responsibility to our staff and their professional development are an integral part of our university culture and a value on which our university is built. We strive to provide a pleasant and friendly working environment for our academic and non-academic staff. We want to create a safe and supportive environment for students to successfully complete their education and be successful in their subsequent careers.



## Target:

We create optimal working and study conditions for our employees and students.



## What we're already doing at SU:

- In 2022, we won the HR Award, we are implementing positive changes to improve employee satisfaction. These include the creation of an equal opportunities policy, guidelines for recruitment and training of new employees.
- The university has an ombudsman to whom not only employees but also students can turn.
- We have a publicly accessible digital gateway for filing notifications.



## We meet the standards of the HR Award.

In August 2021, we received the prestigious HR Excellence in Research Award and are committed to meeting and developing these standards over the long term. The introduction of modern HRM principles is an important milestone for us and demonstrates our commitment to continuously improving our approach to SU employees.



## We improve internal communication and follow-up with feedback.

Transparent and open communication reflects our university culture. We strive to an environment that is based on communication and collaboration. We are committed to being a transparent and safe place in which we encourage open and constructive feedback.



## We improve well-being in the indoor areas of the university.

Well-being of employees and students plays an important role for us because it affects their mental as well as physical health. Our goal is to be a place that offers optimal and healthy conditions for the productivity and satisfaction of employees and students.



## We provide a high quality level of career and psychological counselling for all students and staff.

We offer career and psychological counselling to our students and employees. Within the framework of career counselling, we focus on students who face uncertainty when looking for job opportunities during their studies or even after graduation. Our counselling services aim to help students and staff achieve their goals in their professional and personal lives.



# CIRCULAR ECONOMY

We are aligned with the principles of the circular economy, which focus on preventing waste and keeping the value of materials and products in circulation for as long as possible. We look for ways to manage resources efficiently. We comply with the current waste law and place emphasis on waste prevention. We strive to minimise the amount of waste generated and apply the principles of the waste hierarchy (see below) when waste is generated. We believe that promoting an environmentally friendly approach and creating a motivating environment for students and staff are important steps towards sustainable management of materials and resources.



## Target:

We prevent waste.

We minimize the amount of waste produced, which is sorted as much as possible.



## What we're already doing at SU:

- We support the sorting of mixed municipal waste (MSW), and we have placed containers for the collection of sortable MSW in some of the University buildings.
- We have introduced the Lokni system in selected buildings of the university, which helps to prevent waste in the form of plastic bottles. This is a device that allows sparkling or still water to be spun into its own bottle. By connecting via a mobile app, the amount of water spun and plastic saved can be tracked.



## We work with an internal waste flow accounting system and waste optimization plans.

The basis for optimising waste management and gradually reducing its volume is the availability of comprehensive data on waste management across the University. An internal waste management system will be used to report waste management data such as the amount of waste produced, waste management, percentage of waste sorted and landfilled, waste management costs, etc. Based on this data, we can optimize our waste management, reduce the amount of waste efficiently and continuously increase sorting rates.



## We support waste prevention.

According to the hierarchy of good waste management, the best waste is that which is not generated at all. Our university will make every effort to support its students, staff and partners in preventing waste in a number of ways:

- Supporting educational events/festivals to draw attention to the waste of everyday items, throwing away things that are still functional and can be given a "second life". The aim is to change the perception on the use of already used things, to emphasize their value.
- We will support the creation of an internal re-use point at the university, where still functional and preserved items in pre-identified categories (e.g. electronics, furniture) will be registered and offered for further use.
- We review existing equipment to extend its life, and if it is out of service we repair it or donate it.

# CIRCULAR ECONOMY



## We maximise waste segregation on campus.

The sorting of mixed municipal waste (MSW) is crucial for the subsequent recovery of its recyclable components (e.g. glass, paper, metal, etc.). Our University will maximise the sorting of MSW on University premises, which will reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfill. The amount of waste sorted is dependent on the quality of the collection network (availability of collection points, number of containers, frequency of collection). We will focus intensively on the quality of the collection network and efficient waste management in the coming years. A higher proportion of separated components of MSW will have an impact on reducing the amount of waste and thus the financial costs of its disposal by landfill.



## We compost bio-waste.

Biodegradable plant waste is a precious source of energy and nutrients that needs to be returned to the soil. Therefore, we want to create a collection point for this waste in the form of a composter and use the compost directly within the university.



## We facilitate the collection of cigarette butts.

Cigarette butts contain toxic substances and heavy metals which, when dropped on the ground, endanger animals and disturb the soil. In addition to environmental issues, we aim to maintain a clean, healthy and pleasant environment on campus.

# GREENERY, WATER AND BIODIVERSITY

The greenery around the University is important to us as it forms one of the essential natural elements of the environment. In addition, urban greenery plays an important role in adaptation to climate change. We will therefore support the expansion of green spaces where possible by installing biodiversity enhancing features. This is essential for maintaining a balance in the ecosystems on which humans depend.

Water is a valuable resource that must be managed responsibly. We are therefore committed to gradually reducing the consumption of potable water in University buildings and to using rainwater.



## Target:

We are greening our buildings and their surroundings.

We are reducing the consumption of potable water in our operations.

We support biodiversity.



## What we're already doing at SU:

- We are preparing a unique space and environment for education, innovation and entrepreneurship - the CEPIS Centre (Centre for Entrepreneurship, Professional and International Studies). As part of the building of the centre, the surrounding public space will also be cultivated. See [cepis.slu.cz](http://cepis.slu.cz).
- We have prepared a project for the EDEN Silesia Educational and Scientific Research Botanical Park, which will reclaim the destroyed mountain landscape. See [eden.slu.cz](http://eden.slu.cz).
- We are upgrading the University's buildings to increase overall water efficiency. For example, installing percolators or low-flow toilets.



## We use water sparingly and reduce water consumption.

Efficient water management brings benefits both in terms of sustainability and finance. We are planning to gradually reduce water consumption in University buildings, including halls of residence, based on an assessment of water consumption. We use rainwater.



## We provide regular education on biodiversity promotion.

We strive to create an environment suitable for relevant species of plants and animals. We support this goal both through direct activities and through education on biodiversity issues and the importance of nature conservation.



## We install elements to support biodiversity (bird boxes, insect hotel, etc.).

We can support biodiversity within our buildings and adjacent land with relatively small measures. We will identify and then implement such measures, e.g. insect hotels, bird boxes, etc.



## We identify opportunities for installing green roofs and facades on new buildings.

We look at the topic of biodiversity from a broader perspective and focus on local possibilities for implementing green roofs. Green roofs and facades have an important climatic function in cities - they retain moisture, reduce evaporation and reduce air temperature in summer. We will assess the feasibility of installing them on new buildings based on an assessment of installation and maintenance.

# ENERGY

Energy consumption in University buildings is one of the main operating costs and challenges. Our aim is to ensure sustainable and efficient use of energy resources, gradually reducing energy consumption and thus costs.



## Target:

We reduce energy consumption in the operation of the SU.  
We are increasing the use of renewable energy.



## What we're already doing at SU:

- To save energy, we lowered the temperature in the university premises.
- We are looking for opportunities to use renewable energy sources, especially the placement of PV on the roofs of buildings.
- We have initiated a change in the Karviná zoning plan in order to place a PV plant on the roof of the faculty



## We use energy management for optimal and efficient energy consumption.

We reduce energy costs by using energy efficiently. In order to make energy management more efficient, we plan to focus more on analysing energy consumption and use and then setting up energy management optimisation.



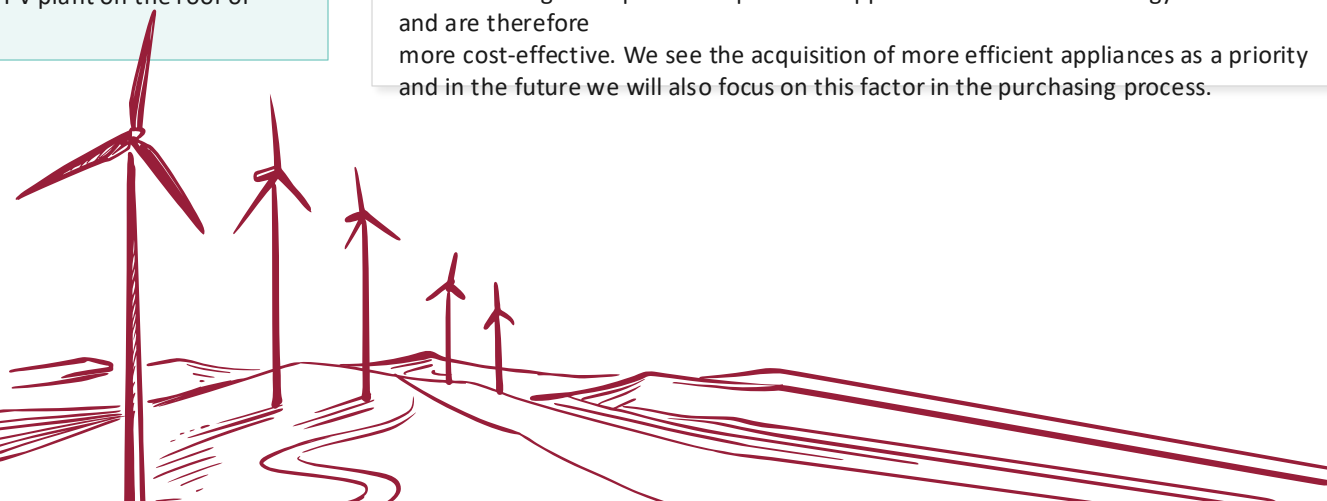
## Increasing the share of energy consumed from renewable sources.

The origin of the energy we consume is important information about our own sustainability. That is why we are increasing the amount of renewable energy we use. We are investigating the possibility of installing photovoltaic panels on University buildings and analysing the next steps to increase the share of renewable energy.



## We purchase new appliances with regard to their energy efficiency.

We are seeing the rapid development of appliances that are less energy intensive and less demanding and are therefore more cost-effective. We see the acquisition of more efficient appliances as a priority and in the future we will also focus on this factor in the purchasing process.



# DIGITIZATION

We see great potential in digitalization to simplify and streamline not only communication across the university and the education process, but also the management of our buildings. Digitisation allows us to be more productive while reducing our environmental impact. By going digital we can reduce costs and speed up processes. At the same time, we want to provide our students and staff with modern digital technologies to help them develop.



## Target:

We are digitizing our processes to make them efficient and save time, resources and costs.



## What we're already doing at SU:

We are preparing a new SU Intranet in the M365 environment, where we will not only share information but also digitise processes.



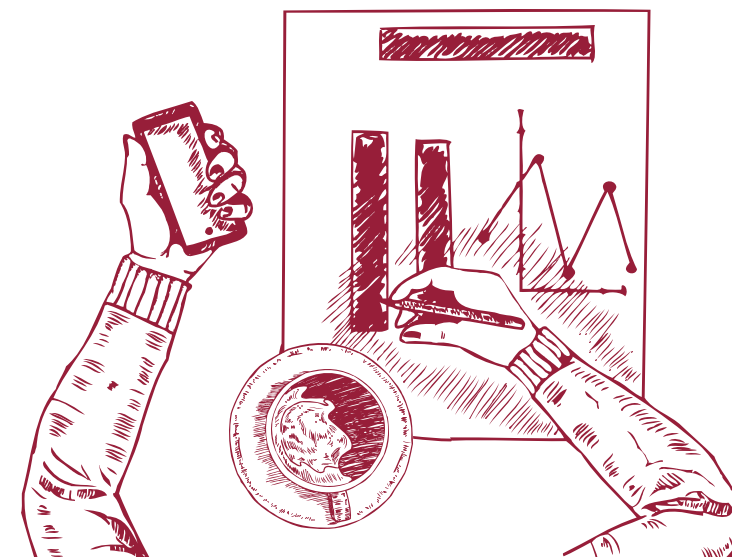
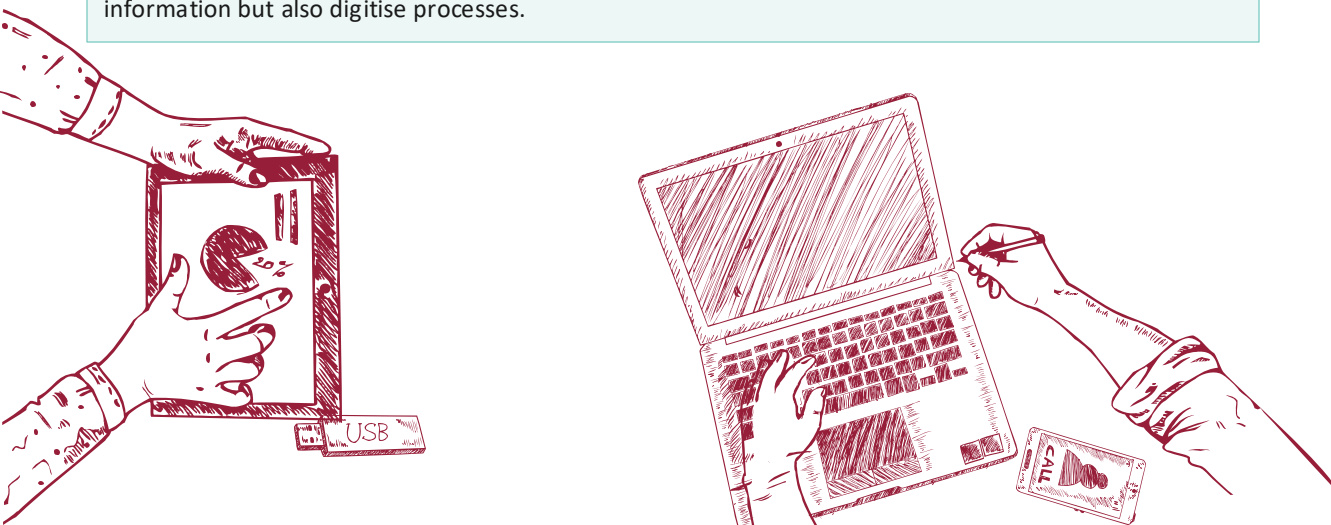
## We are improving and developing the university intranet for students and staff.

Our goal is to create a transparent, comprehensive and simple environment that makes it easier for our staff and students to work and study at the University. With a single application that is accessible to all, we want to simplify and streamline communication across the University.



## We digitize selected processes and eliminate printed documentation.

An internal investigation at the university shows that in many cases there is no longer a reason for printed documentation. We are analysing specific options for reducing printed documentation and introducing digital alternatives.





# STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABILITY

Effective university-wide management of the sustainability agenda based on the active participation of all relevant stakeholders and the allocation of adequate financial resources is central to the successful implementation of the 2030 Sustainability Strategy. The fulfilment of the objectives set out in the Sustainability Strategy 2030 will be regularly monitored, analysed and communicated. Communication will take place not only internally within the University but also externally.



## Target:

Sustainability principles are part of the strategic management and operations of the entire university. We apply the principles of collaboration, make decisions in line with the vision and always place emphasis on the needs of individual faculties.

We regularly communicate our sustainability performance - both internally and externally, including the achievement of the Strategy's objectives.



## What we're already doing at SU:

Each year we evaluate the Strategic Plan Implementation Plan, which includes elements of sustainability in Priority Area C - The University's Social Role.



## We manage the implementation of the Sustainability Strategy.

Individual activities are managed in accordance with the vision, mission and values of the University. We place great emphasis on the needs of individual faculties and evaluate activities in the context of the 2030 Sustainability Strategy.



## We ensure that the sustainability strategy is consistent with other SU strategies.

The objectives of the Sustainability Strategy 2030 are in line with the already approved strategic documents of our University. The activities are mutually supportive and thus contribute to the overall achievement of the sustainability vision and therefore the vision and mission of the University.

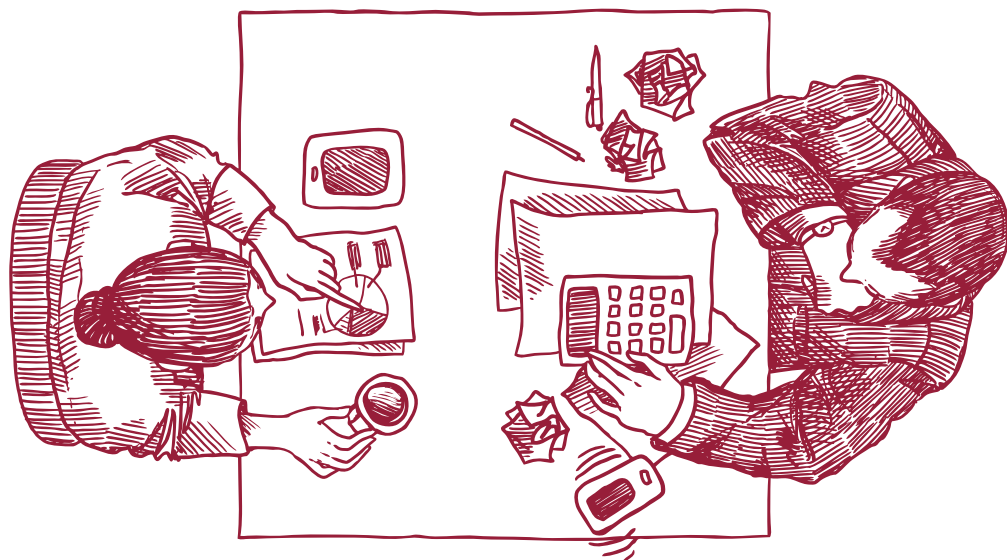


## We are updating the Sustainability Strategy and its Action Plan.

We continuously update the 2030 Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan, which allows us to respond to current developments in the field and our current needs. The University emphasises the reflection of the development of individual measures and the topicality of the issues.



# STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABILITY



## We are pursuing public funding opportunities to deliver Sustainability Strategy objectives.

Not only do we use our own resources, but we also look for opportunities to fund sustainability activities from other available sources.



## We regularly report on the achievement of the Sustainability Strategy objectives.

The goals set by the 2030 Sustainability Strategy will be implemented through biennial Action Plans. Progress in their implementation will be continuously monitored and regularly reported to the academic community and the public.



## We have a communication strategy and plan for communicating sustainable issues and meeting the goals of the Sustainability Strategy.

We want to inform students and staff about opportunities to get involved in sustainable activities at the university. At the same time, we raise awareness among the general public about the University's activities that are linked to sustainability issues and contribute to the goals of the 2030 Sustainability Strategy.

# PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

We believe in the value of collaboration and what it can bring. Partnerships can be at different levels, whether international or local, and in both cases they reinforce common goals. This is also true in the area of sustainability. Our way is to build long-term and stable partnerships that have a positive impact on the university community, society as a whole and the environment.



## Target:

Establishing partnerships and deepening cooperation



## What we're already doing at SU:

- We are part of the UNILEAD (University Leaders in SDGs) project, in which 24 Czech universities are working together to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- We are part of the Hotspot Initiative - INCIEN (Institute of Circular Economy).
- We are part of the STARS EU European University.



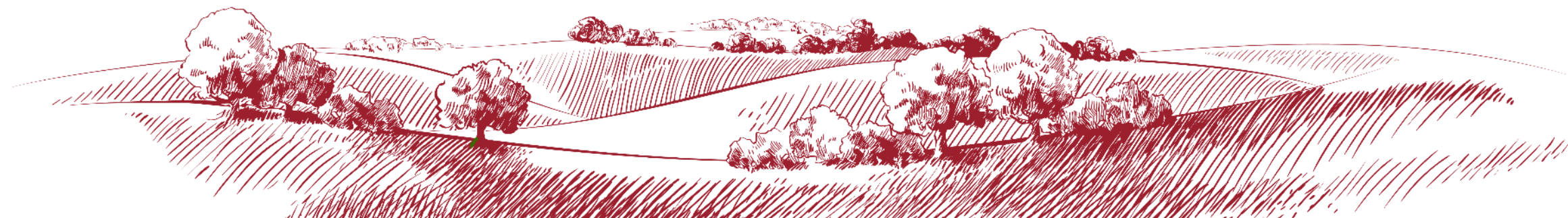
## We are deepening our cooperation in the field of sustainability within international projects.

We believe that international cooperation projects allow students and staff to discover new opportunities that would not otherwise be available. International projects are key to the University's competitiveness and to spreading awareness of the University. We strive to support not only international but also local sustainability projects that bring new themes for the future and are shared across countries. A major opportunity in this respect is the involvement in the European University STARS EU.



## We work with the private and public sectors in the area of sustainability on student internships and projects.

We prepare students for internships and to this end we work with the private and public sector not only for internships but also for practical assignment topics and final qualification papers on sustainability. Practical cooperation with the business sector in the implementation of Business Gate Academy projects (Karviná/Opava) provides us with valuable impulses for the solution of projects in the field of sustainability in business.



# RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT

From the position of the university, we have already set up the conditions for issuing and awarding public contracts. We know how important it is to set the right conditions for tenders, which is why we also address social and environmental criteria in the award of contracts.



## Target:

We buy responsibly using sustainability criteria.



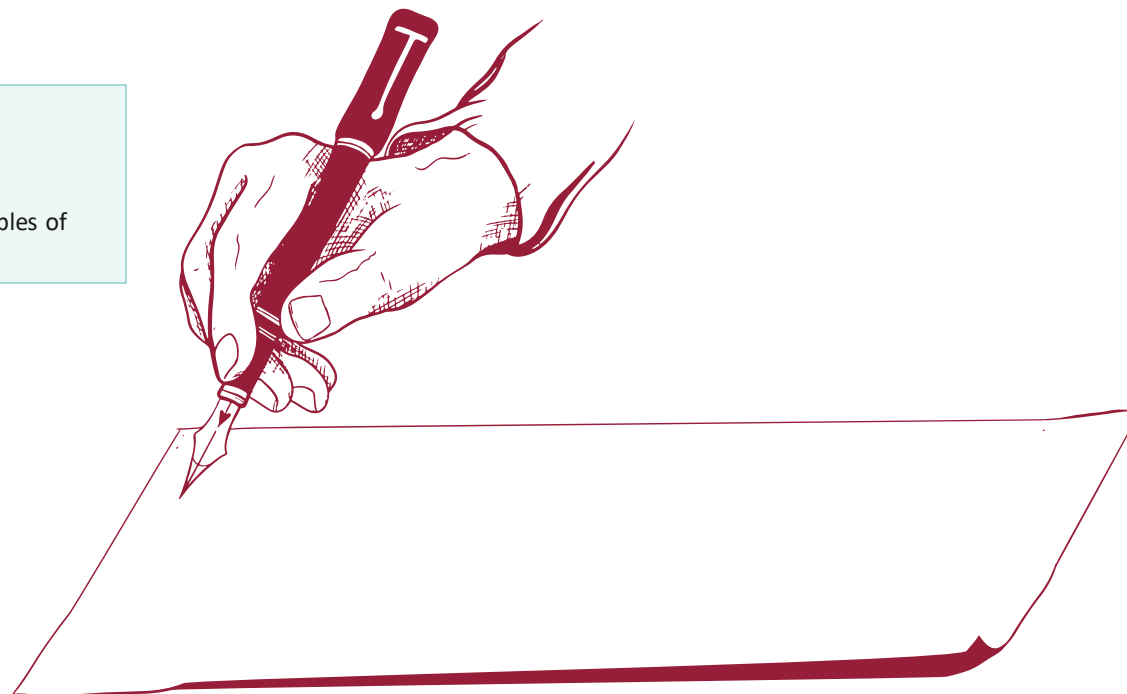
## What we're already doing at SU:

During the preparation of the CEPIS and EDEN Silesia project and follow-up activities, the principles of sustainability were observed.



## We implement environmental and social sustainability criteria in our tenders (public procurement).

We see the inclusion of sustainability criteria in tenders as one of the main areas to select suppliers who share the same values as our university and at the same time mitigate the environmental impact of our activities. By setting social and environmental requirements, as well as being transparent about how suppliers operate, we avoid reputational risk from irresponsible tendering. We will focus on ethical practices, transparency and fairness in our procurement process.





# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY ANNEXES FOR INTERNAL USE

**1**

Sustainability  
at the Silesian  
University

**2**

SWOT analysis



# SUSTAINABILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA



## Our approach to sustainability

We are currently going through a period of fundamental change where the need to focus on sustainability and environmental protection is increasingly emphasised. We are fully aware of our responsibility to society and its environment and want to play an active role in creating a sustainable future. That is why we are developing a sustainability strategy as a key strategic framework for achieving these goals. The strategy aims to reduce the University's environmental and energy impact, promote research and education in sustainability and strengthen collaboration with important partners. We are also publishing a two-year Action Plan to accompany the Sustainability Strategy 2030, which includes specific actions that will lead to the goals set out in the Sustainability Strategy 2030, including actions in the areas of waste management, renewable energy, mobility and economic sustainability.



## 1. Environment

Environmental sustainability encompasses all activities related to the protection of nature, sustainable use of resources and reduction of negative impact on the environment.

In the area of environmental sustainability at SU, we are making efforts in several areas. Last year we started waste sorting in selected faculties and in the coming period we will expand it to other areas of the university.

From the point of view of the application of renewable energy sources, we have a difficult situation at SU. Most of the buildings are located in the city centre and are historic buildings on which it is not possible to install renewable energy technologies. Nevertheless, we are trying to find new solutions and ways to implement renewable energy sources.

The energy saving measures included, for example, upgrading lighting, replacing windows, insulating buildings and reducing the temperature in buildings.

At SU, we offer students and staff the opportunity to use shared bicycles to move quickly and easily between different buildings of the university. In 2022, two electric vehicles were purchased and are used to distribute internal and external deliveries and to move between the cities of Opava and Karvina.

Overall, we are aware of the importance of environmental sustainability and strive to actively participate in the protection of nature and the reduction of the negative impact on the environment. Despite limited opportunities, we at SU are looking for ways to support the environment and reduce negative impacts resulting from our operations as much as possible.

# SUSTAINABILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA



## 2. Social area

The area of social sustainability is an important aspect for us at SU, which relates to social responsibility and includes activities aimed at the development of employees and students.

Social sustainability is an important part of the University's Strategic Plan, which sets the direction for this area. Specific action steps are specified in the implementation plan.

We are aware of our role in the region and are actively involved in social initiatives and projects. The main motivation to develop social sustainability was the winning of a prestigious HR Award.

We are also actively involved in cooperation with local communities and organisations, especially in the fields of education, culture and sport. These collaborations have a positive impact on both students and staff of the University, as well as external stakeholders.

At SU, we don't just focus on external collaborations, we also focus on promoting an inclusive environment and diversity. We strive to promote equal opportunities, diversity and eliminate discrimination among students, academic and non-academic staff.

As part of social sustainability, we also focus on supporting volunteer activities and philanthropy. We support student volunteer activities, whether at faculty or university-wide level, that aim to actively engage for the benefit of the community and society as a whole.

Overall, we at SU are aware of the importance of social sustainability and actively seek to promote social development, an inclusive environment and volunteer activities.



## 3. Management area

We strive for continuous improvement and innovation in the management of the University in order to achieve the best possible results and use our resources efficiently.

We focus on strategic planning, monitoring of results and evaluation of the activities carried out with an emphasis on the achievement of set objectives and indicators. An important part of this for us is the involvement of academic and non-academic staff in the decision-making and management of the University, with the aim of ensuring broad participation and promoting collective responsibility for achieving the University's goals.

We place emphasis on transparency and accountability. We make information about strategic planning, decision-making and outcomes available to the general public, students, staff and other stakeholders. We actively cooperate with representatives of Czech and foreign universities and institutions to share know-how, best practices and innovations.

The area of management is an important part of our University's strategic plan, where we place emphasis on strategic management in general, human resources and the working environment, cooperation and external relations. Action steps are specified in a two-year action plan.

# SWOT ANALYSIS

## Auxiliary to the goal Strengths

Internal origin

Promoting reusable packaging	Historic buildings - promoting culture and heritage	Membership and active cooperation with relevant stakeholders	Retrieved from strategic plan
Interest in energy	HR Award - methodological support	Professional focus	Partnership and cooperation
Renovated buildings			
Introduction of central printing - progress with the times, elimination of waste	Joint meetings with other universities and sharing of know-how	Newly accredited programmes	
Donation of decommissioned assets	Individual approach	Artistic activities (ITF)	
Promoting ecomobility	Small walking distance between classrooms		
Energy-saving technologies on water consumption	Excellent science		

## Opportunities

External origin

Light for photocells	LED lights	Combined studies - working students	Care for Combined Students	Managing the sustainability agenda
Insulation/replacement windows (Hradecká)	Central printing - support for digitisation	Internal communication	Expert volunteering	Partnerships and cooperation
			Communication of sustainable activities	Grant opportunities
Modernization of air conditioning in the dormitories	Promoting biodiversity	Support for the region	Equal opportunities	Comprehensive risk analysis
Community Energy	Waste audit	Institute of Sustainable Development	Cultivation of public space	
	Rainwater storage			
Renewable energy production	Promoting sustainable transport	Leisure facilities for students	Working with feedback	
Purchasing renewable energy	Calculating the University's carbon footprint	Utilization of faculty diversity, emphasis on diversity	Writing of thesis topics with sustainability themes	

## Harmful to achieve the goal Weaknesses

Historic buildings - RES cannot be applied	Lack of student community activity	Low identification with the university	High heterogeneity of individual faculties
Waste sorting	Location	Lack of student community activity	Implementation of measures across faculties
	Contact with alumni		
Digitisation of documents	Media coverage in the Czech Republic and abroad	Internal interfaculty communication	Responsible procurement
Calculating the carbon footprint	Unoccupied tracks	Communication of sustainable activities	
Rainwater storage	Combined studies - low frequency of face-to-face meetings	Administration and bureaucracy	
RES			

## Threats

Energy prices	Lack of student interest in studying	High inflation
		Lack of subsidy opportunities
Natural phenomena	Lack of interest from academic staff about working at the university	Weakening of the SU brand - due to location
The end of landfilling	Demography - outflow of people from the region	Competition
	Competition for applicants	Weaknesses in ESG management

E

Environment  
Environmental issues

S

Social  
Social issues

G

Governance  
Governance issues