# Climate Plan Annual Progress Review Public Consultation

## Background

The [University of Leeds Climate Plan](https://spotlight.leeds.ac.uk/climate-plan/) sets out how the University will address the climate crisis by delivering on seven principles: Net Zero by 2030; sustainable travel; sustainable curriculum; reorienting research and teaching; supporting a Net Zero city; shaping institutional decision making; and enabling responsible investment. The Climate Plan Programme Board has commissioned an annual independent review of progress led by the Priestley International Centre for Climate.

In response, the Priestley Centre has set up the [Climate Plan Research Partnership Committee](https://climate.leeds.ac.uk/news/academic-partnership-to-support-climate-plan-delivery/) to provide ad hoc expert advice to support developments in the Climate Plan delivery programme; lead the process for the annual progress review; and to support engagement from the broader University of Leeds community.

An open call is being made to provide constructive feedback on progress made one year into the Climate Plan delivery programme. This progress is set out in the [Climate Plan Progress Report](https://spotlight.leeds.ac.uk/climate-plan-annual-review-2022/index.html). Responses to this consultation will be analysed and taken into consideration by the Climate Plan Research Partnership Committee during the annual progress review.

**Please read the following instructions and return the completed form to the Priestley Centre team via email on** **climate@leeds.ac.uk** **by 5pm on Wednesday 9 November.**

## Responding to the call for Constructive Feedback

To gather constructive feedback on the progress towards delivery of the Climate Plan, the Priestley Centre have developed a set of questions that relate to the key sections of the annual progress report. When responding to this consultation please consider the following:

* Respondents are not expected to provide feedback on every part of the report and should respond to the questions most relevant to their interests and expertise.
* Please provide constructive, actionable and evidence-based input.
* Responses should be brief and to the point (i.e., a maximum of *ca.* 400 words per question, along with links to supporting evidence);
* The Climate Plan Research Partnership Committee may follow up for more detail where appropriate.

The deadline for responses is **5pm on Wednesday 9 November 2022**. Please return completed forms to the Priestley Centre at climate@leeds.ac.uk.

## Respondent Details

Please provide the relevant information next to or underneath the prompt or field.

**First Name (required)**:

**Surname (required)**:

**Email (required)**:

**Organisation (required)**:

**Role (required)**:

**Response of behalf of:**

**Please tell us whether this response in on behalf of an individual, organisation or other. If other, please specify.**

## Confidentiality and Data Protection

Consultation responses will be analysed and considered as part of the annual progress review by the Climate Plan Research Partnership Committee. Responses will also be summarised in the committee’s report to the Climate Plan Programme Board which will be made public in early 2023 following the conclusion of the review process.

Please indicate if you would prefer your submission to be treated as confidential. It would be helpful if you could explain why you regard the information you have provided to be confidential.

**Is the information that you provide to be treated as confidential and not automatically published? (required)**

**Please answer either ‘Yes’ if you would like** this submission to be treated as confidential, or ‘No’ if this submission is not confidential.

**If ‘Yes’, please provide brief details as to why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.**

## Questions

Please provide constructive, actionable and evidence-based input of *ca.* 400 words per question (references and links to evidence are not included in this word limit) for those questions most relevant to your interests and expertise. Please provide your answers in the space below the relevant questions.

### 2) Progress against our objectives

#### **Principle 1: Delivering Net Zero by 2030**

In a bid to achieve net zero by 2030, the University’s commitment to zero direct emissions covers scope 1 and 2 emissions. The University’s pathway to net zero emissions by 2030 couples demand reduction and decarbonisation of energy supply.

**Question 1**

Is the progress made through measures to date in line with the University’s commitment? Are there other effective measures that the University should consider beyond those outlined in the report?

#### **Principle 2: Achieving Sustainable Travel**

The Sustainable Travel principle seeks to reduce the impact of business travel and commuting with the aim to reduce and maintain emissions to 50% of their 2018-19 levels. The Climate Plan Progress report acknowledges that travel policy is a complex subject and there is a need to balance emission reductions with safety, equality, and development considerations.

**Question 2**

With relevant evidence, please comment on the effectiveness of current measures to meet the University’s travel related emissions target. Are there other evidence-based and practical measures that the university can undertake to support development of a sustainable travel policy and travel emissions reduction?

#### **Principle 3: Sustainable Curriculum**

Through the Sustainable Curriculum principle, the University has committed to providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to have a positive impact in the world and to contribute solutions within the local community and globally, in an equitable and just way.

**Question 3**

With relevant evidence, please comment on the effectiveness of current measures to meet the University’s Sustainable Curriculum principle. Are there other evidence-based and practical measures that should be considered to advance the progress of this commitment beyond those outlined in the report?

#### **Principle 4: Reorienting Research and Teaching**

The Climate Plan Reorienting Research and Teaching principle outlines how the University will increasingly reorient research and teaching away from the fossil fuel sector as part of its transition to a low carbon future.

**Question 4**

Please comment on the effectiveness of current measures towards reorientation research and teaching. Are there other practical measures that should be considered to advance the progress of this commitment beyond those outlined in the report?

#### **Principle 5: Supporting a Net Zero City**

As an anchor organisation within Leeds, the Supporting a Net Zero City principle recognises the role the University has have to play in the wider city region, and that helping the city find pathways to reduce emissions will also help bolster the University’s own net zero plans.

**Question 5**

What is your assessment of the plans underway, and progress made on collaborations between University and the wider city region on climate change? With actionable evidence, are there any other strategies that could be employed by the University to support a resilient net zero transition for the city region?

**Question 6**

The Climate Pledge to be launched this year by the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission will see businesses and organisations receiving support to incorporate climate risks into their organisation management and decision making. What additional support could by the University provide to businesses, communities, local government and other city actors to support deliver a resilient net zero city region?

#### **Principle 6: Shaping Institutional Decision-Making**

The Shaping Institutional Decision-Making principle committed the University to ensuring that sustainability - and in particular our trajectory towards net zero emissions - is considered within institutional decision-making processes.

**Question 7**

An environmental value assessment has been developed and made available to University of Leeds decision making boards as a means of shaping institutional decision-making. Please comment on the effectiveness of this measure. What other practical and evidence-based strategies and/or measures can be employed to ensure the University's climate commitments are considered throughout decision making processes?

#### **Principle 7: Enabling Responsible Investment**

The Climate Plan reaffirms and strengthens the University’s commitment to investing responsibly. The University has maintained the existing Climate Active strategy which has meant that since 2019 the University had no shareholding in any company whose primary business is the extraction of fossil fuel, or which derives significant revenue from such extraction. The University is also transitioning to a Tomorrow’s World investment strategy.

**Question 8**

Please comment on the effectiveness of the measures taken to enable responsible investment. Are there other investment strategies (investing in or out) that university could undertake to ensure responsible investment?

### 3) Emissions reporting

**Question 9**

Emissions data reporting follows the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard reported by location and market based on 2021/22 on quarterly basis for scope 1 and 2 and made available to the committee for review. Is there any guidance for how best to present and use these data or supplement it with other data?

**Question 10**

Are there any insights from the latest emissions data provided in the progress report with respect to the quality of the data themselves or strategies that should be considered in relation to the University’s net zero target?

### 4) Cross-cutting priorities

#### **Just transitions**

The University have committed to deliver the Climate Plan in a just way including accounting for international inequality.

**Question 11**

With actionable evidence, what strategies and measures can be used to ensure the University’s transition to net zero is equitable and just?

**Question 12**

With actionable evidence, how can equity and justice of the University’s net zero transition be accounted for, in particular with respect to the Global South?

#### **Academic leadership and living lab projects**

Academic contribution was essential to the development of the Climate Plan and the net zero pathway and must continue to be embedded throughout delivery.

**Question 13**

A number of living lab projects have been developed to support knowledge and learning on delivering net zero. How can the University improve the process for identifying and setting up living lab projects and reporting progress on existing projects?

**Question 14**

Academics, researchers and R&I facing professional staff have been embedded in delivery working groups of the climate principles. What other practical mechanisms can be used to ensure delivery of the climate plan draws on the University’s academic expertise and current research?

#### **Communication and engagement**

The progress report recognises that effective and transparent communication is critical to maximising the positive impact of the Climate Plan.

**Question 15**

How can the University further develop the communications plan to support wider engagement of University student and staff, and broader stakeholders with the Climate Plan delivery process?

### 5) Investment overview

An investment of £174 million over the next decade is being made by the University to support the implementation of the Climate Plan.

**Question 16**

Please provide any feedback you have on the budget commentary provided in the report.

### 6) Risk overview

Risks to the delivery of our Climate Plan have been consolidated into themes to provide an overall picture of the biggest threats and any dependencies between activities in different principles and across the University.

**Question 17**

Please provide feedback on the most significant current risk themes identified in the Climate Plan progress report. Are there other consolidated areas of risk (risk themes) that have not be considered in this report? (Please provide details on how to mitigate identified risks if possible whilst taking into account the risk themes already presented in the report.)

### Other comments

Please submit any other evidence you would like the Climate Plan Research Partnership to consider as part of the review process.