WHAT ARE LSPS (LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY PLANS)?

LSPs identify the key sustainability impacts for your institution and suggest actions which can be taken to manage, mitigate or maximise those impacts (depending on their nature).

Sustainability impacts can be positive and negative. LSPs will aim to enhance the positive impacts we have, for example in our research and teaching, as well as addressing negative impacts, such as those in our operations.

Each LSP will be tailored to your institution and aligned with the University’s overarching strategic ambitions, priorities and plans.

Why are we encouraging Institutions to create and deliver an LSP?

Sustainability needs to be embedded to be delivered. Institutions are critical to delivering sustainability ambitions and encouraging local engagement.

The Environmental Sustainability Team (EST) has developed the LSP approach to help institutions understand how they can contribute to the University’s sustainability commitments by aligning their own activity to the programmes and projects delivered by the team. This will also help the EST to amplify and replicate successes and target support and guidance interventions more effectively.

How does this fit with wider University sustainability commitments?

We are defining sustainability as the pursuit of long-term wellbeing for all people and the planet. Within the context of the University, some examples of sustainability issues include the environmental impact of our estate; how we carry out our education provision and research; the diversity and wellbeing of our staff and students; our impact on, and relationship with, the wider community; and the role we play in scaling solutions to global crises. At present, the University is developing a new Sustainability Strategy that will address how we can create positive impact across all of these areas.

We see the LSP toolkit as a practical method for delivering the University’s sustainability commitments at a local level, by encouraging and enabling sustainability to be embedded in institutions across the University.

Who is involved in delivering an LSP?

The creation and delivery of LSPs should ideally involve all staff and students within your institution. The EST will support a key contact to understand the programme and the support available to get started.

Timescales

An institution can create an LSP and take sustainability action immediately. The approach is not constrained by an annual cycle as it is designed to be a dynamic process that supports continuous improvement.

How to get involved

If you are interested in finding out more about LSPs or becoming the LSP Lead for your institution, you can arrange a chat by emailing admin@netpositivefutures.co.uk

Benefit to institutions of LSPs

- Demonstrate sustainability action and impact at a local level.
- Align institutional activity with the University’s sustainability commitments.
- Provides a practical framework for your sustainability activity.
- Supports engagement with sustainability activity (staff and students).
- Meets you where you are!
  - Helps you get started if you are new to sustainability
  - Celebrates existing activity if you are building on existing activity

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STAGE 01
CONTEXT AND DATA CAPTURE

Provide the EST with key information and ensure you are presented with the relevant impacts to explore.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CONTEXT

- Allows your activity to be aligned with sustainability impact reporting (EMS for example)
- Enables the EST to support and celebrate your efforts
- Ensures you explore only relevant impacts*

*In a simple example, only teams selecting they have laboratories will explore impacts associated with these facilities.

This provides the first level of tailoring for your institutional LSP.

Use the tool to answer key questions, enabling the EST to better understand where sustainability is being embedded by institutions.

It will help us create an evidence base of engagement across the University to improve impact reporting and amplify good practice.

It will mean we can identify who is leading sustainability in your institution, so they are included in activities that support and celebrate this network.

It will help us understand how sustainability is being embedded so we can share approaches and learning.

The platform will present those actions most relevant to your activities making it easier to prioritise, thereby increasing positive sustainability impacts.
STAGE 02
EXPLORE RELEVANT SUSTAINABILITY THEMES AND IDENTIFY KEY INSTITUTIONAL IMPACTS

Themes relevant to the University's sustainability commitments are presented with a list of associated impact statements. Select the statements that apply to your context.

Identify your key impacts to auto-generate an LSP for your institution.

This provides the second level of tailoring for your institutional LSP.

The scale, scope and complexity of sustainability can be overwhelming, so we present impacts initially in themes: Travel and Agile Working, Buildings and Grounds, Procurement and Resource Use, Intellectual Leadership and Governance and Impact.

These areas align with the University’s sustainability commitments and enable teams to better understand the impact areas beneath the term ‘sustainability’ or ‘environmental sustainability’.

Impact statements are presented for each theme to deepen understanding. Exploring the impact statements (which are positive and negative), selecting and prioritising those which are relevant is an important part of creating a tailored LSP.

The impacts you select will again inform what is presented in the next step and be used to auto-generate suggested activities for your LSP.
STAGE 03
TAILOR YOUR LSP AND CAPTURE EXISTING ACTIVITY

Your LSP is presented for consideration. It provides suggested actions to manage, mitigate or maximise the impacts you identified.

You can tailor your LSP in several ways:

- **ADD NEW ACTIONS TO THOSE AUTOMATICALLY GENERATED**
- **DELETED IRRELEVANT ACTIONS (OR EDIT THEM)**
- **CAPTURE EXISTING ACTIVITY BY MARKING ACTIONS AS NOT STARTED, IN PROGRESS OR COMPLETED**
- **SPACE IS ALSO PROVIDED FOR EXPLANATION OR EVIDENCE OF THIS ACTIVITY TO BE ADDED**

LSPs are designed to recognise existing activity and progress and provide information, support and guidance to encourage further activity.

You have now created a LSP for your institution and can start (or continue) your sustainability journey.

An LSP has now been generated. It is based on your interactions so should relate closely to your context and the impacts you identified as priorities.

Several actions are suggested for each of the statements you have selected for you to review, it is **your decision which of these remain part of your LSP**.

This is also your opportunity to capture any progress you have already made in your institution and further tailor your LSP. You can indicate any actions already completed or in progress and provide some narrative as explanation or evidence.

Suggested actions have been designed to align with the University’s sustainability commitments and any supporting resources provided by the EST (or others) will be signposted. This should help you decide which actions will form your final LSP.