

UiO's action plan for climate and environmental work

"UiO will lead the way in environmental work, both nationally and internationally, and act as a role model for other institutions." – UiO's Strategy 2030.

On 8 February, a new and comprehensive climate and environmental strategy was adopted by the University Board. The action plan, which will be adjusted annually, is organised according to the five main work areas described in the comprehensive climate and environmental strategy. The goals introduced at the start of each main paragraph, are the same that were adopted in the climate and environmental strategy.

Research

«UiO shall make top-quality scientific contributions to the knowledge base relating to climate and environmental challenges in a broad sense of the words, both from a disciplinary and an increasingly interdisciplinary point of view.» UiO's Comprehensive Climate and Environmental Strategy.

Research goal 1: Experiment with new models of how to bring researchers together across disciplinary and faculty boundaries in order to further develop top-quality international research on climate, environment, and sustainability

2022	R1.1: Ensure that UiO participates at an early stage in the work-process aimed at developing "missions" for a new long-term plan for research and higher education.
2022	R1.2: Establish meeting-points for exchanging best practices and competence building related to cross-disciplinary project management.
2023	R1.3: Thematic workshops with partners in Circle U. the ERIA-project, Oslo Science City, and other relevant actors.
2023	R1.4: Use existing interdisciplinary research areas and centres as catalysts for new collaborative projects.
2024	R1.5: Provide support for short-term and co-located radically interdisciplinary projects (inspired by CAS – Centre for Advanced Study).

Research goal 2: Build on high-quality disciplinary research in the work to further developing interdisciplinary initiatives and linking research more closely to education within the field of climate and environment.

2022	R2.1: Involve more of the academic environments at UiO in Circle U.'s projects and subject fields related to sustainability.
2023	R2.2: Strengthen UiO's research within the fields of climate, environment and sustainability, for example through initiatives/calls from the interdisciplinary research areas.
2023	R2.3: Establish incentives/project funds for researchers connected to established disciplinary subjects, who need to develop new research within the fields of climate, environment and sustainability in order to better integrate this in teaching.

Research goal 3: Strengthen the opportunities available for enabling PhD students to conduct multi- and interdisciplinary research based on strong disciplinary knowledge.

2022	R3.1: Highlight offers of Ph.D. courses across disciplines and faculties.
2022	R3.2: Provide economic incentives for creating Ph.D. courses across faculties.

Research goal 4: Reduce existing cultural and structural barriers to the advertising of interdisciplinary and cross-faculty positions.

2023	R4.1: Map barriers – implement measures accordingly.
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Research goal 5: Assess the possible negative climate and environmental consequences of research where relevant.

2022	R5.1: Create arenas within various academic environments for discussions about the financing and operationalisation of this research goal, as per the University and University Colleges Act § 1-1d: “contribute to environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development”.
2022	R5.2: Increase transparency related to form and content in external cooperation agreements for research financing.

Education

“Students at UiO shall have the opportunity to develop research-based and basic knowledge about climate, environment, and sustainability throughout their studies.” UiO’s Comprehensive Climate and Environmental Strategy

Education goal 1: Develop new forms of top-quality research-based education on climate and environment at all levels from Bachelor to PhD and in further and continuing education.

2023	E1.1: Develop, in Norwegian and English, a package of courses leading to a 20 study points sustainability certificate at bachelor level open to all students and possible to integrate in Circle U.
2023	E1.2: Establish offers of continuing and further education related to climate, environment, and sustainability.
2023	E1.3: Consider incentives for faculties to establish and strengthen teaching within the fields of climate, environment, and sustainability – both disciplinary and interdisciplinary.
2023	E1.4: Ensure that Ph.D. candidates are offered courses within the fields of climate, environment, and sustainability.
2024	E1.5: Establish 2-5 interdisciplinary honours certificates (20 study points) at master level within the fields of climate, environment, and sustainability.
2024	E1.6: Facilitate for all bachelor students having an available offer of courses within the fields of climate, environment, and sustainability (for example in 40-groups, as part of a development semester, or as elective courses).

Education goal 2: Reduce barriers to educational collaboration across units.

2023	E2.1: Lessen economic and administrative barriers to teaching across faculties, and establish incentives for teaching across units.
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2023	E2.2: Make it easier for master students to access courses at other units related to climate and/or the environment.
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Education goal 3: Ensure that the teaching of as many discipline-based study programmes as possible includes subject-relevant climate, environmental and/or sustainability topics.

2023	E3.1: Update descriptions of study programs that have course-relevant thematics related to climate, environment, and sustainability in the teaching offered.
2023	E3.2: Develop a pedagogical course on how sustainability thematics can be integrated in teaching at university level.
2023	E3.3: Ensure that more ex.fac-variants at UiO deal with climate, environment, and/or sustainability.

Education goal 4: Strengthen communication towards students and employment sectors about existing educational programmes relating to climate, environment, and sustainability.

2022	E4.1: Ensure that study programs and courses related to sustainability are highlighted in the program and course descriptions.
2023	E4.2: Present UiO's study offers within the fields of climate, environment, and sustainability online in a way that is clear and accessible to both applicants, students and staff.

Education goal 5: Promote climate and environmentally oriented student-participation and student-driven initiatives and innovation.

2022	E5.1: Conduct a feasibility study on "Green Office" at UiO modelled on the international Green Office Movement.
2023	E5.2: Set aside funds for measures that help achieve the goals in UiO's comprehensive climate and environmental strategy, to be applied for by students in collaboration with employees and/or student organisations.
2023	E5.3: Develop an international education and student cooperation related to sustainable innovation, for example through Circle U.

Education goal 6: Develop teachers' competence in subject-specific and interdisciplinary climate, environmental, and sustainability education (sustainability didactics).

2023	E6.1: Consider whether the UN Sustainable Literacy Test is relevant for lecturers.
2023	E6.2: Develop a dynamic collection of best practice examples and models related to teaching within the fields of climate, environment and sustainability.

Innovation and Relations with Society

“UiO shall be an active dialogue partner and mediator of research-based knowledge about the climate, environmental, and social crisis, as well as contributing towards a green transition and green innovation.” UiO’s Comprehensive Climate and Environmental Strategy

Societal goal 1: Strengthen the dissemination of important interdisciplinary research that can contribute to a knowledge base for the green shift, nationally and internationally.

2022	S1.1: Improve and make a clearer profile for UiO's web pages on climate, environment and sustainability.
2022	S1.2: Actively develop and use meeting points in Oslo Science City and other arenas of cooperation.
2023	S1.3: Develop meeting places where pupils and university students collaborate on knowledge development, innovation and change related to climate, environment, and sustainability (such as the Norwegian Centre for Science Education, the school laboratories, the Lector Program).
2024	S1.4: Expand the offer of climate, environment, and sustainability thematics in continuing and further education for teachers and other employees within the public and private sector.

Societal goal 2: Actively use its own arenas to promote research-based dialogue on climate, environment, and sustainability.

2023	S2.1: Organise more events, locally and centrally, related to the dissemination of research-based knowledge about climate, the environment, and sustainability.
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Societal goal 3: Work to ensure that climate and environment become key topics in relevant national and international arenas for cooperation where UiO is a partner.

2022	S3.1: Contribute to concretisation through Circle U., The Guild, and the National Committee for Agenda 2030.
2023	S3.2: Actively contribute to sustainability initiatives and focus in Oslo Science City.

Societal goal 4: Strengthen efforts for research-based green innovation that also includes students.

2023	S4.1: Scale up Circle U.'s "Student-Led Sustainable Innovation"-program.
2023	S4.2: Ensure student involvement in green innovation cooperations.
2023	S4.3: Involve more students in Circle U.s online “Sustainable change maker program”.
2023	S4.4: Further developing Oslo Science City to encompass additional thematics to sustainable urban development, for example climate adaptation, biodiversity and more.

Organisation

“UiO shall incorporate climate, environmental, and sustainability perspectives in the university’s organisational culture.” UiO’s Comprehensive Climate and Environmental Strategy

Organisation goal 1: Ensure that climate and environmental work is incorporated into all units – academic and administrative – with a view to continuous improvement.

	O1.1: Following-up on the action plan is regularly discussed in meetings with deans, directors, the Student Parliament, and civil servants' organisations.
	O1.2: Annual adjustment of action plan.

Organisation goal 2: Facilitate the building of competence for administrative and scientific staff in the fields of climate, environment and sustainability, and for expanding collaboration – including increasing the exchange of best practices and experience.

2022	O2.1: Engage the Competence Panel for Climate, Environment and Sustainability in order to strengthen the exchange of experience, best practice, training and so on.
2023	O2.2: Identify and support the specific needs of administrative units for competence building.

Organisation goal 3: Explore opportunities available for launching a major sustainability initiative at Lower Blindern.

2022	O3.1: Develop a concrete proposal based on professional and economic opportunities and limitations, to be presented to the University Board.
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Climate and green campus

“UiO shall reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030 and develop a campus that reflects a sustainable institution.” UiO’s Comprehensive Climate and Environmental Strategy

Climate goal 1: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from travel by at least 50% by 2030 compared to 2018. This means an average reduction in emissions of 7% per year.

2022	C1.1: Develop principles and suggestions as to how emissions from travel can be cut by the units, and highlight examples of best practice.
2022	C1.2: Initiate a pilot project for climate-friendly study and research trips to UiO’s centres in Paris and Rome.
2022	C1.3: Put forward semi-annually reports on emissions, broken down to institute level and similar.
2022	C1.4: Update the current travel policy to take more clearly into account issues of environment and sustainability.
2023	C1.5: Ensure a travel agreement that makes it possible to book as climate-friendly travels as possible both domestically and abroad, that provides information about the climate emissions of a travel, and that guarantees that it is possible to book train travels in Europe.

Climate goal 2: Reduce energy usage in buildings by at least 30% by 2030 and generate more of our own energy.

2022	C2.1: Provide units with information about their own energy usage so that they can develop targeted measures.
2022	C2.2: Carry out an assessment of environmental consequences in connection with all major building and rehabilitation projects. For new constructions, the level of ambition is BREEAM Excellent, at minimum. For rehabilitations, an assessment must be made from project to project concerning which environmental certification is the best.
2023	C2.3: Develop a plan for more effective use of space in rented buildings where we have little influence on our own energy usage.
2023	C2.4: Make use of smart control systems in buildings to reduce energy usage without reducing comfort.
2023	C2.5: Produce more of our own energy using solar cells and energy wells that can be utilised in research as well.
2023	C2.6: Assess the possibility of more energy-efficient solutions in existing buildings and in new construction-projects (e.g. rock source heat pumps, solar cells, solar collectors, ventilation systems with high efficiency on heat recovery, etc.).
2023	C2.7: UiO shall have fossil-free vehicles as far as it is possible depending on available technology.
2024	C2.8: Assess the use of heat exchangers and the reuse of heat from equipment and facilities.

Climate goal 3: Improve online facilities for teaching, meetings, conferences, and presentations.

2023	C3.1: Further improving solutions that will make it easy to choose and carry out digital and hybrid conferences and events.
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Climate goal 4: Manage outdoor areas and buildings in ways that take the environment and biodiversity into account.

2023	C4.1: Map and initiate pilot project to use roof surfaces for energy production, planting designated for surface water management and/or increased biodiversity. Use nature on campus for climate adaptation, such as surface water regulation.
	C4.2: Develop green spaces on campus using indigenous species, flower meadows, and the preservation of geologically important sites.

Climate goal 5: Facilitate reduced and sustainable consumption both at UiO and when it comes to environmentally friendly travel to/from UiO for students and employees.

Procurements/circular economy

2022	C5.1.1: Clarify the responsibility of adhering to established "Principles of Procurement" for managers (leaders) authorised to approve procurements.
2022	C5.1.2: Ensure that purchasers have solid knowledge by having regular updates and dialogue between the Procurement Office and the units.
2022	C5.1.3: Engage in dialogue with SiO about offering sustainable food in the canteens.
2022	C5.1.4: Increase the scope of recycling and consider framework agreements with suppliers in the circular market. UiO shall have an "in between" storage facility for

	furniture, with accompanying solutions for repair and digital distribution of furniture that can be reused.
2022	C5.1.5: Avoid unnecessary single use plastics at meetings and events, and convey this as a prerequisite to suppliers.
2023	C5.1.6: Clarify how to include estimated greenhouse gas emissions and environmental/life cycle costs as part of purchasing criteria.
2023	C5.1.7: Demand a better offer of sustainable food as part of a framework agreement for catering. The agreement must also ensure that surplus food from UiO can be delivered to charitable organisations and the likes. UiO shall be responsible for serving sustainable food at our events. Sustainable food shall be the standard option when ordering catering for UiO.
2023	C5.1.8: Set requirements in relevant supplier agreements for data quality and reporting on emissions. Develop clear minimum requirements for carbon footprints based on the character of the procurement, and convey such requirements actively in the supplier market.

Waste/recycling

2022	C5.2.1: Establish exchange and renting arrangements on campus for students and staff.
2023	C5.2.2: Extend the life span of IT equipment.
2023	C5.2.3: Improve recycling and reuse of materials, reduce the volume of waste.
2023	C5.2.4: On a regular basis, arrange repair workshop/fixing café on campus for and with students and staff.

Mobility to/from campus

2023	C5.3.1: Facilitate for people walking and biking on UiO's campus
2023	C5.3.2: Enter into dialogue with Ruter and Vy about an agreement for students and staff traveling to/from campus.
2023	C5.3.3: Establish lockable bicycle parking at all major buildings, and improve wardrobe and shower facilities at the faculties for people biking.
2024	C5.3.4: Introduce a payment scheme for the parking of all types of vehicles and the charging of electric vehicles, and earmark revenues for climate and environment measures.
2024	C5.3.5: Increase the number of charging points for electric vehicles.

Other

	C5.4.1: Prepare annual greenhouse gas accounts that are based as much as possible on physical data.
2023	K5.4.2: Prepare greenhouse gas budgets towards 2030.
2023	K5.4.3: Inform students and staff about environmental costs associated with prints, e-mails, and data storage, and facilitate for reducing these costs.
2024	K5.4.4: Actively use signs on campus to highlight measures related to biodiversity, energy consumption and production.

Approved by Rector Svein Stølen 30 June 2022