That’s why we’re thinking way beyond 2020 to our vision for a sustainable university in 2050.

Our vision has been created for the University of Leeds by the University community. But we don’t exist in isolation; we take a wider view of everything we do, from the effects on our local communities to the impact on the world.

As a result of this global outlook, we are also ensuring that our vision and commitments contribute to the United Nations’ Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Throughout the report, we have linked the relevant UN SDGs to our four themes to demonstrate how our approach aligns with this wider set of global commitments.

Our Sustainability Strategy sets out the commitments we have made to 2020. But we know that a longer term vision is vital; a sustainable future for all requires a change in behaviour and a combined effort forever.

What does our vision for a sustainable university actually look like?

Here we outline the characteristics we will have, the ways we will work, and the priorities we will focus on:

Our education is excellent and is accessible to all. We will increase the recruitment and success of high quality students regardless of background.

We have an open, accessible campus that is interconnected with the city.

Our supply chain is sustainable and we continuously strive for further improvement and innovation.

Our campus is a test bed for new ideas and an exemplar of sustainable design.

Our research addresses the grand challenges of sustainability and is accessible to all.

Sharing space, equipment, skills and knowledge across the institution is the norm.

Challenging the status quo and making a real difference are the norm.

We are an equitable and open employer that creates opportunities across the spectrum of our activities.

Partnership and collaboration, globally and locally, are at our heart.

All staff have the capacity and knowledge to make sustainable decisions and this is the norm.

We will increase the recruitment and success of high quality students regardless of background.

All of our students know and understand sustainability.

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