



United Nations Global Compact Communication on Engagement January 2019 - December 2020



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

Contents

Statement of Continued Support	1
Principles 1 & 2: Human Rights	2
UWA Response	2
Links to Resources.....	2
Principles 3 – 6: Labour.....	4
UWA Response	4
Links to Resources.....	4
Principles 7 – 9: Environment	6
UWA Response	6
Links to Resources.....	8
Principle 10: Anti-Corruption	9
UWA Response	9
Links to Resources.....	9



Statement of Continued Support

Dear Secretary General,

With this letter, the University of Western Australia is pleased to reaffirm its commitments to the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact across the areas of human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.

As a leading university in the Indian Ocean Rim, we have a responsibility to support and advance these principles amongst our stakeholders and the broader public. For this reporting period, evidence of our commitment includes:

- The release of [UWA's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2020](#), which embeds our sustainability values and commitments into our campus operations;
- The release of UWA's inaugural [Modern Slavery Statement](#) which reflects the University's approach to managing its modern slavery requirements and addressing modern slavery risks in its supply chain; and
- The launch of [Grand Challenges](#), uniting our world-class teaching, research, and student experience, and partnering with communities to tackle some of the world's most complex problems. The first topics to be addressed are "A more just and equitable world post COVID-19" and "Climate Change."

These initiatives mark important milestones towards meeting UWA's [Vision 2030](#) Mission to provide world-class education, research, and community engagement for the advancement of the prosperity and welfare of our communities.

The University of Western Australia also pledges to take part in the activities of the United Nations Global Compact where appropriate and feasible – through participation in local networks, involvement in specialised initiatives and work streams and engagement in partnership projects.

We enclose evidence of the embedment of the United Nations Global Compact Principles within our operations and commitments.

Yours sincerely



Professor Amit Chakma
Vice-Chancellor



Principles 1 & 2: Human Rights

Businesses should:

1. Support and respect the protection of internationally acclaimed human rights; and
2. Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

UWA Response

At UWA we believe that people work and learn best in a setting marked by mutual respect and where the worth of the individual is valued. We aim to foster an environment that welcomes, accepts, and embraces the diversity of our staff and students. Our agenda is guided by the UWA 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan 2020–25.

The UWA Grand Challenges initiative, launched during this reporting period, unites our world-class teaching, research, and student experiences, and partnering with communities to tackle some of the world's most complex problems. The initial focus will be on efforts to develop solutions to Climate Change and a More Just and Equitable World Post-COVID-19. The protection of human rights is an essential component of both areas.

In addition to ongoing initiatives by the [UWA Centre for Social Impact](#) and the [McCusker Centre for Citizenship](#), the University also released a new Disability and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2020-2025, which outlines the University's ongoing commitment to strengthening and responding to the needs of those living with a disability, and actively promoting strategies that will maximise opportunities for participation in employment, education, and research. The plan embraces and develops diversity and inclusion.

Links to Resources

Resource Name	Link
UWA 2030	https://www.web.uwa.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/3438056/UWA-2030.pdf
UWA Strategic Plan	https://www.web.uwa.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/3438057/UWAstrategic-Plan-2020-2025_Web.pdf
UWA Grand Challenges	https://www.uwa.edu.au/grand-challenges/Home
University Charter	https://www.uwa.edu.au/students/getting-started/university-charter
Indigenous Strategy	https://www.indigenous.uwa.edu.au/indigenous-strategy
Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020 – 2025	https://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/3641087/UWA-Disability-Access-and-Inclusion-Plan-2020-2025-Final.pdf
Inclusion and Diversity	https://www.web.uwa.edu.au/inclusion-diversity

LGBTIQA+ inclusion

<https://www.web.uwa.edu.au/inclusion-diversity/sexualities>

Accessibility and
Mental Health
Inclusion

<https://www.web.uwa.edu.au/inclusion-diversity/disability>



Principles 3 – 6: Labour

Business should:

3. Uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the rights to collective bargaining;
4. The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
5. The effective abolition of child labour; and
6. The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

UWA Response

Equity is a fundamental element of the UWA Vision, and is reflected in its policies, procedures, and professional culture.

During this period, the UWA Modern Slavery Research Cluster led the development of UWA's first Modern Slavery Statement in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth). This statement reflects the University's approach to managing its modern slavery requirements and addresses modern slavery risks in its supply chain.

The UWA Business School is actively engaged as a signatory to the United Nations Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME), with a significant focus on ethics, social responsibility, and sustainability.

Links to Resources

Resource Name	Link
UWA Equity and Diversity Policies	https://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/policies/policies/equity
UWA Modern Slavery Statement	https://modernslaveryregister.gov.au/statements/4689/
UWA Modern Slavery Research Cluster	https://www.uwa.edu.au/grand-challenges/Home
UWA Business School: UN Principles of Responsible Management Education	https://www.unprme.org/university-of-western-australia-business-school
Pursue Inclusion UWA	https://alumni.uwa.edu.au/page.aspx?pid=629

UWA Professional and
General Employees
Agreement 2017

https://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/_data/assets/file/0006/3071670/Professional-and-General-Employees-Agreement-2017.pdf

UWA Academic
Employees Agreement
2017

https://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/_data/assets/file/0008/3068936/Academic-Agreement-2017.pdf



Principles 7 – 9: Environment

Business should:

7. Support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
8. Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
9. Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

UWA Response

UWA has long recognised and responded to environmental challenges facing humanity by drawing upon its world-class education and research in areas including oceans and the marine environment; life sciences and building healthy communities; environmental science, sustainability, and engineering; and clean energy.

The impact of this work is leveraged through UWA's interdisciplinary Institutes and international networks, for example:

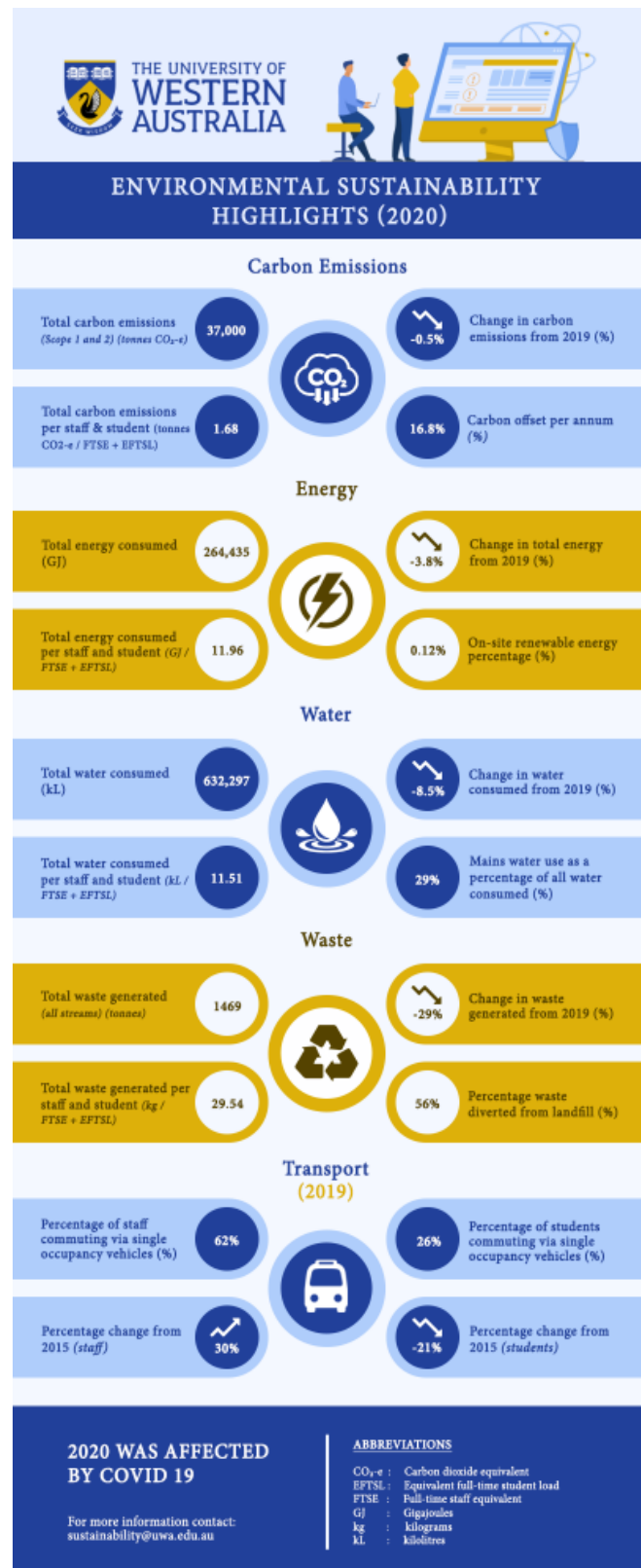
- [The UWA Oceans Institute](#) nurtures an ecosystem of cross-disciplinary researchers and educators to serve the needs of the ocean community of Westerns Australia, the Indian Ocean, and the world. This represents UWA's commitment to supporting the scholarship of our blue planet for a better tomorrow.
- [The UWA Institute for Agriculture](#) fosters innovation and provides research-based solutions to food and nutritional security, environmental sustainability, and agribusiness. The Institute works with the agricultural and natural resource sectors to create knowledge and improve workforce skills, such that those committed to agriculture may advance their individual aspirations, contribute to local and regional prosperity, and exercise responsible stewardship of the environment.
- The [UWA Centre for Energy](#) is a dedicated centre for world-class energy research and technology development.
- Since 2011, UWA has hosted the Secretariat for the [Regional Centre of Expertise \(RCE\) on Education for Sustainable Development](#) in Western Australia. Its objectives are to build the capacity of UWA and partner organisations to support a process of change and embed education for sustainability, and to support research translation that informs education and climate action initiatives. In 2019 the RCE hosted a *Global Goals Challenge* to showcase effective curricular and extracurricular practices to mainstream Education for Sustainable Development in schools.
- UWA is a founding member of the [inVIVO collaborative network for Planetary Health](#), with a mission to transform personal and planetary health through awareness, attitudes and actions, and a deeper understanding of how all systems are interconnected and interdependent.

Campus Operations

UWA is also deeply committed to the sustainability of our campus operations. This reporting period saw the release of the Environment Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025, with a commitment to develop innovative programs and improve existing ones to make its activities more cost-effective and environmentally efficient. UWA aspires to become a leader in aiming to achieve carbon neutrality within Australia and particularly within Western Australia by 2025. This will be achieved through:

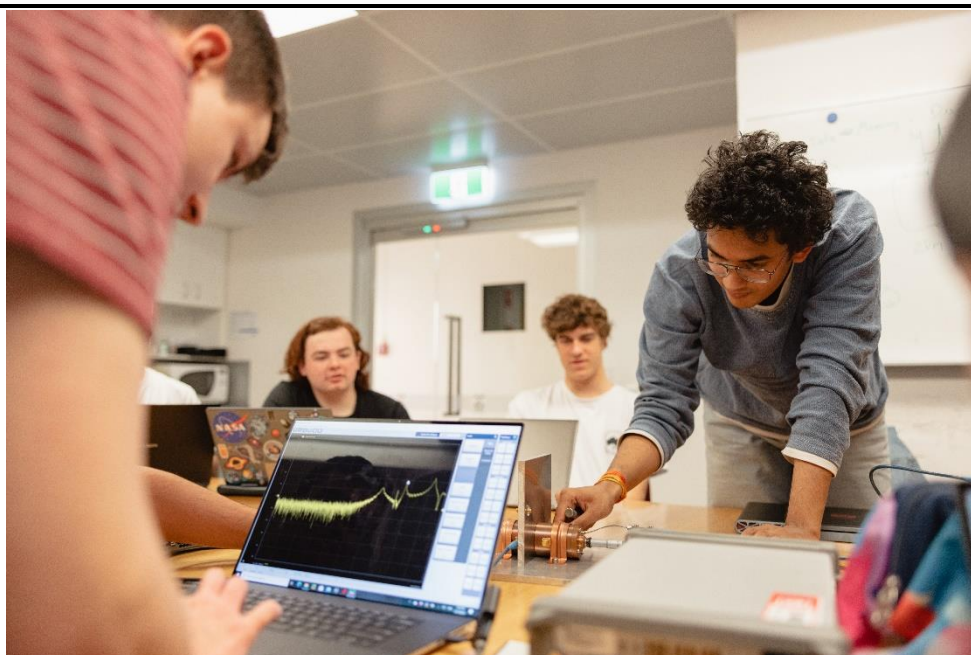
- reducing energy use
- generating renewable energy on-site (solar photovoltaics)
- ensuring our energy comes from renewable sources
- off-setting carbon emissions from natural gas use

Energy Carbon Neutrality reinforces UWA's commitment to Clean Energy, one of the seven focus areas for the University, and supports the notion that it is 'walking the talk.' This work also affords the University opportunities to integrate its teaching and research activities with its operations, and explores opportunities such as energy storage, demand management and emerging technologies.



Links to Resources

Resource Name	Link
UWA Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025	https://www.cm.uwa.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/3648862/Environmental-Sustainability-Strategy-2020.pdf
UWA Grand Challenges	https://www.uwa.edu.au/grand-challenges/Home
UWA Green Impact Program	https://www.cm.uwa.edu.au/sustainability/green-impact-program
UWA Statement on Sustainable Environments	https://www.uwa.edu.au/uwa2030/our-strategy/sustainable-environments
UWA Energy Carbon Neutral Project	https://www.cm.uwa.edu.au/projects-and-works/current-projects/energy-carbon-neutral-project
Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development Western Australia	https://www.rcenetwork.org/portal/rce-profile-detail/934
UWA Alumni in Action: The Environment	https://alumni.uwa.edu.au/page.aspx?pid=986
Student Guild Environment Department	https://www.uwastudentguild.com/departments/environment



Principle 10: Anti-Corruption

10. Business should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

UWA Response

UWA has policies, processes, and training to ensure integrity within its operations and supply chain.

Over this period, academics from the UWA Law School, all members of the UWA Modern Slavery Research Cluster, prepared a submission on the Proposed WA (Western Australia) State Government Procurement Debarment Regime. Their recommendations reflect international best practice that has identified public procurement as an important measure in preventing foreign bribery, protecting people's human rights, preventing exploitation, and ensuring safety at work.

Links to Resources

Resource	Link
UWA Fraud Guidelines	https://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/policies/policies/conduct/fraud-guidelines
UWA Professional and Personal Relationships	https://www.uwa.edu.au/policy/-/media/Policy/Policy/Code-of-Conduct/Conflicts-of-Interest/Professional-and-Personal-Relationships/Professional-and-Personal-Relationships-
UWA Procurement Conditions	https://www.finserv.uwa.edu.au/procurement/conditions/general
Submission on Proposed WA Procurement Debarment Regime	https://research-repository.uwa.edu.au/en/activities/submission-on-proposed-wa-procurement-debarment-regime



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