

Working together to meet the Sustainable Development Goals

Update Report – June 2025

Preface



At Reading we act together in partnership with others, to deliver a better world through the transformational power of quality education and research. We work with more than 2000 institutions across multiple sectors, in 110 countries around the world, to help progress towards the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our commitment to being a leader in sustainability is widely recognised, and in 2024 we topped the **People & Planet** University League, achieved our highest ever ranking in the Times Higher Education (THE) **Global Impact Rankings** – ranked joint 28 in the world and fifth in the UK, among participating institutions – demonstrating our leadership in sustainability across all areas of our work.

The University's values of community, excellence, sustainability and engagement are embedded in everything we do. By collaborating with partners across sectors, we maximise our contribution to the SDGs, and our internationally recognised academic community actively supports policy developments and initiatives to combat poverty, inequality and environmental degradation.

We welcome students from more than 140 countries to our campuses in Europe, Africa, and Asia, with students studying a wide range of issues and topics relevant to every aspect of humanity and the planet we call home. Building students' understanding of sustainable development is a key part of the experience at Reading and through ongoing curriculum development, we are helping students develop the skills and knowledge needed to help build a sustainable future for all. Our expertise spans critical areas through four research themes that cover the Environment; Agriculture, Food and Health; Heritage and Creativity; and Prosperity and Resilience.

Here we highlight recent activities to address the SDGs through our collaborative research in science, policy, and people affected by climate change; our engagement at global, national and local levels, from the United Nations to the UK government and local climate action groups; and through our commitment to becoming more sustainable in our own activities, all of which demonstrate the huge difference a university can make.

Professor Parveen Yaqoob
Deputy Vice-Chancellor

University of Reading June 2025

28th in the world in THE Global Impact Rankings 2024

Contents

SDG 1: NO POVERTY 4

SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER 6

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING 8

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION 10

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY 12

SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 14

SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 16

SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 18

SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE 20

SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES 22

SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 24

SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION 26

SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION 29

SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER 32

SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND 34

SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 37

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 39

SDG 1: End poverty In all its forms everywhere

2522 **students received financial support from the university to attend courses in 2023/24 from a total of 16,745**

Outreach



Supporting better livelihoods

Reading academics are working in partnership through knowledge exchange activities and **community involvement projects** with government and local partners in Andhra Pradesh, India, to enhance livelihood resilience of smallholder farmers to climate and land-use change, while increasing their income and improving food security, and soil fertility.

Whitley researchers

A community-led participatory research collaboration between Reading researchers and **disadvantaged communities in Reading**, is helping to address local issues including poverty, young people's aspirations, and social isolation.

Research



Promoting natural farming in India

An interdisciplinary team at Reading has combined soil science and social science to show that a **Zero Budget Natural Farming** (ZBNF) approach can boost soil health, yields, and farmer resilience while reducing costs. The team worked with 150 farmers, using experiments and participatory photography to highlight the cultural and economic benefits of ZBNF, supporting plans that could benefit six million farmers in Andhra Pradesh in India.

Addressing poverty and ecological destruction

A **collaborative project** within the GCRF-funded Trade, Development and the Environment Hub at Reading is unpicking the complexities of unsustainable trade practices from different angles that will help find solutions to enhance trade and alleviate poverty without reducing biodiversity.

Teaching and learning

Poverty reduction through social policy

Reading's School of Agriculture, Policy and Development offers a **module** titled Addressing Poverty and Inequality through Social Policy to students. The module aims to teach students the ways in which social policy is essential to the promotion of poverty reduction, equity, rights and sustainable development, and to the creation of resilient livelihoods.

International Development, Agriculture and Economics Masters courses

The Graduate Institute for International Development, Agriculture and Economics (GIIDAE) at Reading offers globally focused programmes combining theory and practice in development, agriculture, and economics. Students from low- and middle-income countries can apply for the **Empowering Change scholarship** to study for a Masters at GIIDAE, helping future leaders tackle global challenges of food security, poverty, and inequality.

Stewardship/operations

Access and Participation

Reading aims to tackle educational inequality with targeted strategies addressing economic and ethnic attainment gaps in student outcomes. Our Student **Access and Participation Plans** support students from low-income families to attend the University and are helping to address attainment gaps in underrepresented groups.

Supporting low-income students

The University offers a range of grants, bursaries, scholarships and fee-waivers to students and prospective students to help overcome the perceived or actual cost of applying and/or going to higher education. The **financial support** can also help current students succeed on-course by alleviating the financial costs of studying.



SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Research



Sustainable cocoa production

Crop and soil scientists from the University have been working with local partners in Ghana to make **cocoa farming in Ghana** more sustainable. Trials on 15 farms to implement sustainable soil management using compost and biochar from farm waste, improved yields, engaged farmers, and attracted private funding. Industry partnerships should help to drive global adoption.

Raising the pulse in our food

Reading researchers are incorporating faba bean flour into white bread. The **Raising the Pulse** project is part of the UKRI's Transforming UK Food Systems initiative. The project is benefiting from genetic information, including the full sequence of the faba bean, generated by a collaborative group including Reading scientists. The genetic toolkit will help scientists to breed beans with optimum nutritional content and grow them sustainably.

Outreach



FoodSEqual

As part of the **Food Systems Equality** (FoodSEqual) project, an interdisciplinary team from Reading and four partner universities are working alongside food sector, government and civil society stakeholders to address food poverty in culturally diverse disadvantaged communities. Through co-creation, FoodSEqual is helping tackle the lack of access to healthy, sustainable food, empowering communities to have choice and agency over their diets.

Linking environment and farming

Reading's **Centre for Dairy Research** (CEDAR) is a LEAF Innovation centre and works with farmers, the food industry, scientists and consumers, to inspire and enable sustainable farming through research, innovation, knowledge exchange and education programmes. CEDAR hosts visits and research workshops involving farmers, students and international collaborators.

Teaching and learning

Global food security knowledge

Reading academics have developed a **toolkit to train farmers** in more than 23 countries. The Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) toolkit helps farmers make informed decisions about their agricultural practices, offering seasonal support and fostering strategic planning and adaptation for improved livelihoods and sustainability.

Online food and agriculture courses

For farmers and people with interest in the food industry, the University offers a range of **free short courses**, covering topics from food waste to producing sustainable foods.

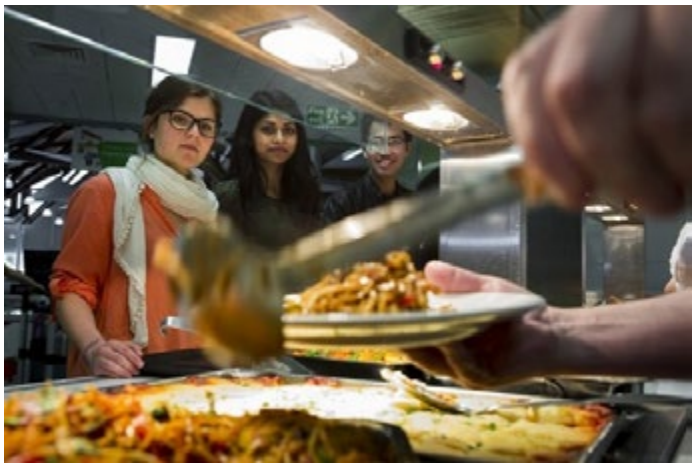
405 students graduated from Agriculture courses with a sustainability focus in 2023/24.

Stewardship/operations

Reducing food waste at source

The University's catering team aims to **reduce food waste** by 50% by 2030 compared to 2018. It uses technology to predict service levels, reusing leftover food where safe to do so, and cooks in smaller batches. Food waste is given away (where permitted legally), and any remaining waste is used to generate energy. Our Meal Plan system provides meals free of charge for 40 students.

Food Made Good Award 2024
3 stars



Food Made Good

The University is committed to providing food that is safe, healthy and nutritious, and has implemented a **Sustainable Food Policy** and Framework. All food and drink outlets on campus have been independently audited and certified through the Sustainable Restaurant Association's Food Made Good scheme, receiving the maximum three stars award. We offer vegan and vegetarian options at all our food outlets, and our Café Trilobite sells solely plant-based food.

Menus of Change

Reading has adopted the 24 key principles for crafting **healthy and sustainable menus** developed by Menus of Change, an international collaboration between academic and food operator organisations. As a member of the Menus of Change Universities Research Collaborative, Reading carries out operational and academic research to inform and advance these principles, transforming how its food is produced and how its catering services operate.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

1045 students graduated from courses that will take them into health professions

Research

Disrupting food-poisoning bugs

The food-poisoning bacteria Campylobacter affects thousands of people and costs the UK £500 million annually. A Reading researcher is using **genetic technology** to disrupt the bug's genes and reduce infections. The research should lead to new treatments for infection, reducing the burden of disease and supporting better health.

Saving sight in Malawi

The University's **Walker Institute** have teamed up with the charity Sightsavers to help reduce sight loss due to tropical disease in Malawi. They are working with local communities to analyse rainfall, migration, and insect populations that transmit neglected tropical diseases, to predict high-risk areas. The research will help to increase resilience in vulnerable populations as the climate changes.

Teaching and learning

CPD for mental health leadership in education

The award-winning **Charlie Waller Institute**, a collaboration between the University, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the Charlie Waller Trust, is the NHS provider of choice for training for mental health professionals in evidence-based psychological treatments. It offers **remote CPD training** to all educational settings across the UK and is ranked 4th nationally among intermediate level course providers.

Collaborative autism hub

The University's Centre for Autism runs a **Wellbeing Hub** that aims to create an inclusive community where school-aged autistic children, their families, and supporting professionals can collaborate. As well as supporting research projects, the Hub is playing a role in training future clinicians, educators and researchers, through active participation in Hub activities.



Outreach



Engine Room Sound lab

A **community-led research pilot** project in partnership with the British Science Association, is exploring how noise on a Reading housing estate affects residents' mental health and wellbeing. The Engine Room Sound Lab is exploring how sound affects wellbeing by recording local soundscapes and developing creative outputs and was named the England Runner-up in the **Creative Lives Awards** (2024).

Technology driven healthcare improvement

Professor Vicky Li, based in the Henley Business School, is pioneering AI tools to provide innovations in **blood testing**, **arthritis detection**, and musculoskeletal disease referral. Her work integrates digital data platforms with clinical pathways and decision support systems to help tackle health inequalities and has already reduced missed hospital appointments in high risk groups by 40% across the **Royal Berkshire Hospital**.



Resilience Rucksacks

Over 1,000 pupils aged 10–12 in Berkshire and Oxfordshire have received **rucksacks** filled with wellbeing tools focused on sleep, activity, self-compassion, and friendships. The packs, which include comics, playing cards, and pedometers, were designed following a Reading research project that included co-production workshops involving children, parents, teachers, and mental health experts.

Stewardship/operations

Clean air initiative

The University, in partnership with Reading Borough Council and local organisations is delivering the Clean Air Living Matters (CALM) programme that offers free **air quality education** to schools providing curriculum-based workshops and assemblies. Learners use air-quality measuring kits and analyse data to help raise awareness of air-quality issues among local communities.

Employee assistance programme

The University of Reading is committed to **employee health and wellbeing** and aims to provide a workplace that embraces inclusivity and flexibility while providing everyone with the opportunity to manage their time and commitments in the best way that they can. Staff also have access to mental health support and counselling through the free, independent **Employee Assistance Programme** (EAP).

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Research

Inclusive education for all

Reading's **education specialists** are helping to improve equity and inclusion through education by exploring areas such as education and social mobility, outdoor learning, SEN inclusion and social justice, and ethnicity and gender in educational engagement.

Understanding language learning

A **four-year longitudinal study** led by Reading is exploring how young children learn foreign languages in primary school (aged 7-11) and what influences their progress. The data will help set clear goals and standards, based on 2019 recommendations from the Research in Primary Languages Network.



Outdoor learning

Research led by Reading's Institute of Education has highlighted the importance of outdoor learning spaces to support children's physical, psychological, and social growth. The University has launched two **outdoor classrooms**, inspiring local pupils to connect with nature. The initiative aligns with the National Education Nature Park, promoting biodiversity awareness and climate-focused education opportunities.

Outreach

Inspiring young minds

The University is committed to providing and supporting accessible and inclusive higher education opportunities. **Outreach events** hosted by the University in 2024 reached more than 250 students from local schools. The activities, including history workshops, creative writing on masculinity, and access to the Reading Scholars study skills programme are fostering curiosity, confidence, and highlighting academic potential.



Co-created reading initiatives

A community-based project to promote a **love of reading** among families in low-income areas in Reading is providing benefits beyond improved literacy in children, such as increased confidence and better mental health. By co-designing book related activities with community members, the project fosters trust and engagement and has generated national policy interest.

Teaching and learning

Future educators

The University's Institute of Education provides training for a new generation of teachers, offering **PGCE, QTS and EYTS** qualifications in early years, primary and secondary teaching. Each year, over 300 students graduate from teaching courses which partner with schools in Berkshire and surrounding area.

Supporting excellence in clinical training

The University of Reading has opened a new **Clinical Simulation Training Suite**, replicating a hospital ward with advanced equipment. Developed with Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, it offers students and healthcare staff immersive training, 3D anatomy tools, and inter-professional education, enhancing clinical skills in a safe, collaborative environment.

Life-long learning

In partnership with the FutureLearn platform, Reading supports life-long learning by providing a range of **free online short courses**, from exploring the archaeology of **early Roman Britain** to **understanding depression**, **microbes** or **the weather**. The University boasts over 10 years of **innovation in online learning**, with more than 1.5 million learners from 160 countries enrolling on its online courses in that time.

255 students graduated with a qualification to teach in primary schools





SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Research

Highlighting gender disparities in computer science education

A study co-led by Reading researchers has highlighted how the English school system fails to engage female students in **computer science**, creating a gender imbalance that is reflected in the workplace. The research team in collaboration with others has also found that previous changes to the **ICT curriculum** have led to a drastic reduction in the number of girls studying it at GCSE level.

Nurturing BAME women in academia

Reading is part of the **Generation Delta project**, which aims to address the institutional and individual barriers experienced by Black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) women at different stages of the postgraduate research life cycle: access and admissions, retention and progression within the programme, and career development following doctoral studies.

Outreach

Maternal wellbeing

A Reading researcher is exploring the wellbeing, opportunities, and workplace **experiences of new mothers** in the UK who want to continue to breastfeed on return to paid work. The project aims to develop a toolkit that will help employers to better support working mothers who want to continue to breastfeed while also reducing skill and talent loss and increasing the productivity of working mothers.

Women's history month

Each year in March, the University celebrates **Women's History Month** with a programme of workshops and seminars to engage staff, students and local communities and highlight the important role women play in shaping the future by educating, empowering, and inspiring the next generation.

Teaching and learning

Women in leadership scholarship

To support women in leadership, Henley Business School runs a **scholarship competition** each year to offer practical support for the development of strong female talent. The competition is open to people of all genders, and the winner receives a fully-funded place on Henley Business School's part-time Executive MBA programme.

Stewardship/operations

Equal opportunities

The University has a dedicated **Diversity & Inclusion team** that provides co-ordination and support for the D&I efforts of staff and students across Reading. There is a **Gender Equality plan** in place and in 2024, the University succeeded in reducing its mean and median average **gender pay gaps**. Reading continues to take actions to further close the gender pay gap by increasing its focus on flexible working, improving guidance on starting salaries and equal selection processes, and supporting more women to gain promotions through development programmes.

Athena SWAN

Reading is one of only a small group of universities to hold an **Athena SWAN Silver Award**, which was received in recognition of its work on gender equality. Additionally, eight of its Schools are proud to hold Athena Swan awards at the Silver level.



Supporting gender equality

The University is committed to gender equality, providing support for all colleagues, such as job share arrangements, mentoring and development schemes for students and staff, and a nursery on campus. It supports several **staff networks** including women@reading and a women's Springboard network to support female colleagues.





SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Research

Predicting sewage pollution

A study by Reading researchers has highlighted that UK **bathing water forecasts** are outdated, leaving swimmers exposed to sewage after heavy rain. Current models fail to predict pollution risks, with pathogens like E. coli posing serious health threats. The research team is urging authorities to adopt improved, frequently updated forecasting systems to protect public safety.

India's water security under climate change

A study by Reading researchers found that climate change is changing the timing of key winter storms in **northern India**, affecting both water supplies and flood risk. The research highlights the growing challenges facing communities that rely on Himalayan snowmelt and provides valuable evidence to help policymakers and planners develop strategies for managing water resources in a warming world.

Outreach

Solving local flooding threats

Reading scientists codeveloped a new method that empowers citizens to identify solutions to **local flooding** threats. This citizen-led adaptation planning process is helping communities prepare for the significant impacts of climate change. The method was also piloted internationally in Ghana and India.

Teaching and learning

Water Resources module

The University's Department of Geography and Environmental Science offers a module to students titled **Water Resources**, which focusses on water quality, public health and associated water resource management. The module engages students with past, current and future water quality problems to enable critical examination of their impact, particularly on public health, and the effectiveness of water resource management strategies and legislation.

Stewardship/operations

Water action plan

The University is a key partner in the **Reading Climate Action Network**, which oversees the Reading Climate Emergency Strategy. This strategy includes a **Water Theme Action Plan** that covers water stress, water supply, water conservation, water efficiency and water education. The University promotes free drinking water for all staff, students and visitors, and has more than **30 water stations** across its Whiteknights campus.

Reducing water consumption on campus

In 2023/24 the University **used 8.6% less water** than against the 2011/12 baseline. It has improved water use monitoring by installing additional automatic meter enabling half-hourly data on water supplies and alarms set to warn of spikes in consumption. Additional building-level meters are now connected to the University's utilities management database, enabling closer monitoring of consumption at a building level.


LIBRARY



SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

4.3% of our electricity was self-generated in 2023/24 from onsite solar panels

Research

Flexible energy usage

Reading is leading the Flexibility Theme of a new £15 million **Energy Demand Centre** that is exploring ways to shift energy consumption at different times of the day or the year to make the most of renewables. The Centre is part of a £53 million investment in six research hubs and centres that will help the UK meet its net zero target by 2050.

Exploring a hydrogen economy

Reading is one of 12 European institutions working on the **HYway project**, funded by the EU, that will measure hydrogen's climate impacts. Teams of experts will measure hydrogen emissions, leakage, and atmospheric effects to guide policymakers on risks, benefits, and strategies for hydrogen's role in achieving carbon neutrality and replacing fossil fuels sustainably.

Harnessing untapped heat

Reading researchers have identified durable **thermoelectric materials** that convert waste heat into electricity more efficiently. The breakthrough could help reduce carbon emissions, support net zero goals, and improve energy use in industries, cars, and wearable devices like smartwatches. Innovations in heat harnessing will also support greener manufacturing and sustainable power.

Outreach

Changing behaviours

To encourage students, staff and the wider public to think about how they might change their behaviour to live more sustainably, the University is running a campaign called **Partnering for the planet** that features suggestions from Reading academics on what people might do to reduce their carbon footprint. The University also offers a free **Planet Partners online course** to increase awareness around the key issues and impacts of climate change.

Teaching and learning

Sustainable technologies

The University has a range of undergraduate and postgraduate modules that focus on sustainable environments and energy use. For example its **MSc Renewable Energy**: Technology and Sustainability in the School of Construction Management includes a module on sustainable heat and power that gives students the opportunity to learn from academics and industry experts about the challenges of designing sustainable technologies.

Stewardship/operations



Net Zero by 2030

Reading is committed to becoming Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and has developed an ambitious **Net Zero Carbon Plan** to achieve this aim. 100% of the electricity supplied to the University is from **renewable sources** and we continue to expand our solar PV generation capacity, significantly reducing our reliance on the Grid.



SDG 8: Full and productive employment and decent work for all

18% **of total spend at the University in 23/24 was with local suppliers in the RG postcode**

Research

Building better workplaces

Henley Business School's Leadership, Organisations, Behaviour and Reputation department researches leadership, workplace culture, ethics and sustainability to help organisations create productive, inclusive and responsible workplaces. Its work supports employee wellbeing, effective leadership and sustainable organisational performance, contributing to decent work and economic growth.

Working smarter

Research from the University's Henley Business School is helping to shape the future of flexible working. Henley researchers played a leading role in Portugal's government-backed **four-day week trial**, which found benefits for both employers and employees, including improved wellbeing and work-life balance.

Outreach

Diversity in the workplace

A group of Reading researchers is working on projects to find the best ways to accommodate **diversity in the workplace**. The group aims to create a two-way dialogue between researchers, and employers and other stakeholders to reach a shared understanding around issues related to diversity and inclusion at work, and their implications for good workplace practice and policy. Current projects include studies of **diversity in recruitment** and **pay gaps and career progression**.

Campus jobs

Campus Jobs is the University of Reading's dedicated service that provides paid part-time work opportunities for students across the Reading campuses, helping hundreds of students to supplement their income and gain skills during their studies.



Teaching and learning



Sustainable business planning

A team of PhD students from Reading won the **2023 YES prize** for Best Sustainable Agriculture Business Plan with a project called TropiCultivar. TropiCultivar incorporates innovations from vertical farming and transferring tropical crop plants to Europe, increasing choice for consumers and reducing air miles. YES is a global competition developed to raise awareness among young investigators on how research can be commercialised.

Apprenticeships

Henley Business School is one of the top UK providers for Senior Leader Apprenticeships and is supporting more than 400 employers to drive growth and develop future leaders through its **apprenticeship schemes**. To date, more than 1900 apprentices have been placed via the scheme.

Stewardship/operations

Fair work for fair pay

The University sets out clear policies on **diversity and inclusion** in the workplace, fair pay and equal rights to ensure all staff have fair and equitable working conditions. The University also reports annually on its **Gender Pay gap** to assess progress made and identify areas for further improvement.

£1 billion annual contribution to UK economy

A new report commissioned by the University estimates that University of Reading **contributes around £1 billion** to local, regional, national and global economies, through direct employment, supply of highly skilled graduates, CPD, business productivity and research enterprises. Around half of the amount is retained within the local area, equivalent to 2.9% of the economy of Reading.

1900+ **Leadership apprentices currently supported by Henley Business School**



SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Research

New AI model to predict atomic structures

An **AI model, CrystaLLM**, codeveloped by researchers at Reading and UCL can predict atomic crystal arrangements by learning patterns from millions of structures. The model generates realistic structures for new and existing materials and could accelerate development of more efficient batteries, solar cells, and computer chips worldwide.

Satellite data boosts climate science

The **National Centre for Earth Observations** (NCEO) hub at Reading is the largest in the UK outside the NCEO headquarters in Leicester. The hub team uses satellite data to improve climate and weather predictions, refine carbon estimates, and study atmospheric chemistry. In 2024, the **EarthCARE satellite**, conceived by Reading Professor Anthony Illingsworth, was launched via SpaceX, in Europe's largest Earth Explorer mission. Equipped with four advanced instruments, it will deliver unprecedented data on clouds and aerosols, improving climate models and predictions and informing global climate science and policy.

Fog forecasting

University of Reading scientists have discovered how fog can be predicted up to two hours earlier by monitoring atmospheric electric field changes. The researchers used decades of weather records from the University's **Atmospheric Observatory** to link electric charge shifts to fog onset. The breakthrough is improving forecasts and increasing efficiencies at airports and transport services.

Outreach

Just IMAGINE if... competition

The University's **just IMAGINE if...** competition, created by Chancellor Paul Lindley, offers sustainability entrepreneurs up to £100,000 in research and business support. The initiative aims to empower innovative social enterprises tackling global challenges and driving positive societal impact. **Ten finalists** were shortlisted in 2024, with projects ranging from manufacturing compostable nappies to leather-like products from wasted grape skins. The winning project was an AI-powered musical education tool for neurodivergent learners.



Community cinema

The University of Reading's Film, Theatre & Television Department is working with Shinfield Parish Council to develop a community-led programme for a **new cinema**. Drawing on research, consultation and community feedback, the initiative will shape screenings around local interests, enriching regional film culture and fostering a stronger sense of place.

Teaching and learning

Improving climate education

Researchers at Reading, in collaboration with the Royal Meteorological Society are pushing for changes to the National Curriculum. Their action plan, published in July 2024, in the National Climate Education Action Plan **Curriculum Mapping report** highlights opportunities to embed climate and sustainability education into UK schools. Both quick curriculum adjustments and long-term reforms are proposed to help prepare all young people for future green jobs.

Doctoral training centre to support climate science

The University of Reading is leading a £16m EPSRC-funded Mathematics for our Future **Climate Doctoral Centre** . In partnership with Imperial College, London and Southampton University, the Centre will equip graduates with skills in mathematical modelling, computing, statistics, and data science to improve predictions to tackle climate challenges, and develop solutions to enhance sustainability, resilience, and global climate action.

Stewardship/operations



Shinfield studios

The University's Thames Valley Science park is home to the UK's largest new **state-of-the-art film studios** which features 18 sound stages, workshops, offices, and a filming backlot. The University is a key partner in Screen Berkshire, a BFI-funded programme addressing film industry skills gaps and diversity that will expand local job opportunities and training for students and local residents.

Investment in museum collections

With investment from **Research England**, the University's Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) and its Special Collections will expand their digital infrastructure to support wider research, teaching, and public engagement opportunities. Since 2016, when a digital collections website was launched, the MERL team has responded to thousands of enquiries and welcomed over half a million online visitors to their collections.



SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Research

Celebrating linguistic diversity

Reading's **Centre for Literacy and Multilingualism** (CeLM) is a hub for leading multidisciplinary research into literacy and multilingualism. Research teams engage with, learn from and empower diverse communities. In 2024, an event '**My Mother Tongue**: a celebration of community languages' was organised in a multicultural part of Reading to celebrate and preserve Reading's linguistic and cultural diversity.

Transnational Families

As part of the **Transnational Families in Europe** research project, Reading researchers in collaboration with others are highlighting the challenges faced by migrant families across borders, including language barriers and limited social rights. Based on 122 case studies in four countries, the research reveals caregiving struggles and wellbeing impacts, and makes recommendations for policymakers to introduce **inclusive frameworks** that support families and strengthen cross-border care.

New guide for autism-friendly supermarkets

A participatory research project led by Reading has produced a new **guide for supermarkets** that goes beyond 'quiet hours' to support people with autism as they shop. The guide recommends reducing sensory input, improving staff training, increasing predictability by providing maps, and providing quiet spaces for people to rest. More inclusive design will improve retailer reputation and revenue.

Outreach

Reading Scholars

To encourage wider participation in higher education, the University's **Reading Scholars programme** gives Year 12 students a taste of life as an undergraduate, and provides practical support as participants begin their University applications. Young people from low-income areas or care-leavers are among participants for the programme which focusses on supporting those who may find it difficult to access higher education.





Museum of Sanctuary

The University's Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) has achieved **Museum of Sanctuary** status, working with refugees and local charities to deliver activities including craft sessions and theatre projects. It builds on Reading's 2023 recognition as a **University of Sanctuary**. The University strives to support displaced people through inclusive teaching, research, community engagement, and dedicated scholarships.

Teaching and learning

Paid work experience for design students

Real Jobs is the University Typography department's scheme for bringing together students and clients for personalised work placements, providing valuable work experience and increasing employment prospects for participants post-university. Many of these projects centre around initiatives aimed at reducing inequality. In a recent project, **students developed two guides** to support prospective students from underrepresented groups applying for university.

Undergraduate research opportunities

The University's **Undergraduate Research Opportunities** Programme provides students from all disciplines the opportunity to gain paid research experience, helping them develop valuable skills, confidence and career prospects.

Stewardship/operations

Gender pay gap

The University of Reading's average **gender pay gap** has been reduced in 2024 to 17% (compared to 19.4% in 2022), with a median average of 15.7% (down from 18.7%). Initiatives to advance gender pay equality include early data analysis, career progression focus groups, refreshed recruitment training, and leadership development. Female professor representation now exceeds the sector average by 6%.



Community engagement fund

Reading is committed to making an impact in local communities. In 2024, fourteen Thames Valley **community projects** received grants through the University of Reading's annual £30,000 Community Engagement Fund. Initiatives include food banks, tech support for visually impaired people, sanctuary seeker integration, and awareness campaigns. The University also launched a '**Charity of the Year**' scheme in 2024, which includes a staff vote to shortlist applicants.

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Research



Visualising global heating

Striking data visualisations created by a Reading professor are showing the impact of climate change on UK cities. The graphics can be adapted for cities and regions anywhere in the world and are being used globally to encourage **conversations about global heating** and sustainability.

Urban meteorology

A Reading researcher, Professor Susan Grimmond, has pioneered the modelling and observing of the urban environment, focusing on the exchange of heat, moisture and momentum between urban surfaces and the overlying atmosphere. Her contributions to the science of **urban meteorology** at both national and global level have been recognised with the European Meteorological Society's Silver Medal 2024.

Smart business energy tariffs

A University of Reading expert is part of a government-backed project to help small businesses cut energy bills. Dr Rory Jones is developing a smart tool that uses electricity meter data to compare **time-of-use tariffs**, encouraging off-peak electricity use. The initiative is part of the UK's Net Zero Innovation Portfolio.

Outreach



Community Festival

The University's annual **Community Festival** brings together local residents, students and researchers for a day of free, family-friendly activities on the Whiteknights campus. Showcasing the University's research through hands-on activities, talks and demonstrations, the festival helps strengthen community connections, promotes lifelong learning and creates opportunities for people of all ages to engage with ideas that shape sustainable and resilient communities.

Cultural heritage at our fingertips

The University's **Museums and Collections** website brings together digitised collections from across the University's diverse archives, including objects from the **Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology** to the **Cole Museum of Zoology**, making the collections of fascinating objects and stories of our past available to everyone.

New green space open to public

A green space owned by the University has been made accessible to the public. Working in partnership with a local organisation, Earley Environmental Group, the University has recently installed new signs and a gate in an area known as **Swallow's Meadow**. To make the space more accessible for walkers while preserving wildlife habitats, the meadow will include mown pathways.

Teaching and learning

Educating future city makers

Henley Business School's **Real Estate and Planning** department educates future professionals in sustainable development, urban planning and the built environment. Through industry-accredited courses and close links with employers, students gain the knowledge and practical skills needed to help create inclusive, resilient and sustainable communities. The University's **School of the Built Environment** complements this through internationally renowned research and education in the design, construction and operation of buildings and places.

Stewardship/operations

Our Future First

The **Our Future First** initiative at Reading has embedded sustainability champions in every department, to ensure everyone can play a part in a more sustainable future. The sustainability champions empower individuals to take actions that collectively make significant sustainability impact, from reducing individual energy use to redesigning teaching curricula that will encourage graduates to consider sustainability and social justice.

Sustainable Travel

As part of the University's strategy to promote **sustainable travel**, its **Business Travel Policy** introduced carbon budgets to cut emissions by 30%. In its first year, thanks to excellent staff engagement, emissions fell by more than twice that, saving 5,248 tCO2. As a result, the University won an **Energy Management award** in 2024 and brings it closer to its goal of achieving Net Zero by 2030.



SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Research

‘Bump tag’ reduces food waste

The University of Reading is partnering with the company Mimica on an EU-funded project to cut food waste and boost sustainability. Researchers are testing **Mimica’s Bump Tag**, a temperature-sensitive label that extends expiry dates and reduces waste by up to 63%. The study aims to influence consumer behaviour to reduce food waste and promote informed food choices.

Sustainable proteins

In partnership with Imperial College London’s Bezos Centre for Sustainable Protein, Reading researchers from the University’s Food Processing Centre, Flavour Centre and Sensory Science Centre, are developing and assessing **novel proteins** that can be incorporated into food. The team are assessing novel proteins for qualities including texture, flavour, and taste.

Wildflower margins protect fruit trees

Researchers at Reading have shown that wildflower strips around apple orchards boost **natural pest control**, reducing fruit damage from 80% to 48%. The research estimates that farmers could gain 6.9% more premium apples – about 2,420 kg per hectare – while cutting insecticide use. This sustainable approach supports biodiversity and improves crop quality for UK apple production.

Outreach



Knowledge transfer partnership with Waitrose

With UKRI funding, Reading is partnering with Waitrose on a Knowledge Transfer Programme as part of Waitrose’s **Farming for Nature** campaign to make their farms Net Zero by 2035. The initiative will connect agricultural research from Reading with practical applications, helping farmers adopt resilient methods and access resources to implement sustainable practices directly on their farms.

InformPack survey

A collaborative EIT food funded project, including Reading researchers has found that across Europe there is still confusion around recycling food packaging. A **survey of 2000 consumers**, who are generally keen to recycle, highlighted confusion over recycling symbols on packaging and disposal options while ‘on the go’.

Teaching/learning

Improved packaging recycling

To improve recycling knowledge and packaging disposal practices on campus, a five-month EU-funded EIT Food programme at Reading engaged 100 students in **sustainability activities**. Students responded positively and the project is now being expanded to assess wider campus recycling practices and impacts.



Plant-based yoghurt drink

A team of students from Reading's School of Agriculture, Policy and Development (SAPD) and the Food and Nutritional Sciences (FNS) department have developed an innovative plant-based ready-to-eat drink from rotational crops. **PeaChata** is a nutritious drink for all ages was highly commended by 'Pea-Licious', a food solutions programme funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

Stewardship /operations



Waste and Resource Use Strategy

The University met its targets for 2024 for its **waste reduction** against its Waste and Resource Use Strategy. The University encourages increased re-use of plastic and other materials through the **Warp-It platform**, where members of staff can claim unwanted items for business use, and the **UniGreenScheme**, which donates unwanted equipment to third-party organisations.

Giving food more thought

The University's **Catering Team** is committed to continually improving its sustainability profile in a financially sustainable way and scored top marks in the **Food Made Good awards**. Regular suppliers are helping Reading to achieve its goals by adopting and embracing the Catering Team's **sustainability framework**. The University welcomes micro-, small and medium-sized local and regional suppliers to join its supply chain, either directly or via one of its appointed wholesalers.

Food Made Good Award 2024
3 stars



New farm supports AgriFood strategy

As part of its new **Agrifood Futures Strategy**, the University has purchased a 635-acre Farm to strengthen agricultural research. This investment adds to the University's portfolio of farms and secures space for sustainable farming studies, food security solutions, and hands-on student training, positioning Reading as a global leader in agriculture and future food systems.





SDG 13: Take urgent action to tackle climate change and its impacts

Research

AI and machine learning transform weather forecasting

In a new report, **United in Science 2024**, scientists including Reading's Professor Hannah Cloke, highlight AI's transformative role in weather forecasting and note that AI/ML can make modelling faster, cheaper, and more accessible. However, challenges remain, including data gaps, resolution limits, and ethical issues.

Trade-offs in aviation impacts

Aviation contributes 2.5% of global CO2 emissions but around 4% of warming due to non-CO2 effects, including water vapour, nitric oxide and soot. Collaborative research including experts at Reading has detailed **aviation's non-CO2 effects** on the atmosphere, both in terms of climate and air quality, and how these may change in the future as new technologies and fuels develop.

Cloud engineering counteracts warming

A research team, including Reading-based scientists, is using Hawaii's volcanic aerosols as a natural experiment in **marine cloud brightening** (MCB), to understand the effect of tiny "aerosol" particles on clouds and sunlight. The research suggests that particle pollution may have increased cloud cover and counteracted warming of climate more than previously thought, contributing 60–90% of the cooling effect.

Computer models add weight to climate action

Advanced **computer modelling** by Reading researchers suggests summer rainfall in southern Europe could decline by up to 48% by the year 2100 if emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise rapidly – but rapid climate action could reverse the decline. The models predict that meeting net-zero targets with immediate fossil-fuel cuts could stabilise temperatures, reducing drought, fires, and rainfall loss.

"Our academics and graduates are tackling some of the biggest issues of the 21st century aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including sustainable food production, biodiversity conservation, animal welfare, food security, poverty alleviation, international development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, ethical food systems, consumer behaviour, diet and health."

Professor Simon Mortimer
Head of School SAPD
reading.ac.uk/apd

Outreach

Climate Ambassador programme

The University's pioneering **Climate Ambassadors** Scheme is expanding nationwide with £2 million funding from the Department of Education. The scheme connects volunteer climate and sustainability experts with educators to provide free support and guidance and help them develop and deliver impactful climate action plans. The plans will help to boost climate education, promote green careers, reduce carbon emissions and increase biodiversity, nationally.

Inspiring climate action

A Reading climate scientist has been working with schools, businesses, local authorities and community groups to improve **understanding of climate change** and inspire positive action. Drawing on the latest climate science, his public engagement activities combine research, education and practical solutions, helping diverse audiences understand climate risks while highlighting opportunities to support the transition to a low-carbon future.



Radio play raises awareness of climate impacts

A BBC Radio 4 play, **Chloe's Ark**, inspired by University of Reading research on flooding and climate risk aired in 2024. Reading researcher Professor Hannah Cloke helped shape the romantic comedy exploring disaster preparedness and health impacts. The drama highlights the need for climate resilience and imagination amid extreme weather.



DiCaprio film features climate stripes

The **Climate Stripes** visual, developed by Reading climate scientist Professor Ed Hawkins are being used around the world to start conversations about rapidly rising temperatures. The stripes now appear in an animated film called '**Ozi: Voice of the Forest**', produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, that follows an orphan orangutan who saves her home from deforestation.

Teaching and learning

MSc climate change and AI

The University's **MSc in Climate Change and AI** is the first of its kind in the UK and unites expertise from departments across the University in a course that empowers students to explore causal networks and statistical concepts and design networks that will support climate adaptation strategies in real-world projects.

Building capacity in agricultural policy and development

Each year, 800 students from more than 80 countries are taught by world-leading academics on courses at Reading relating to **agriculture, policy and development**, supporting a new cadre of highly skilled professionals who go on to help address the significant challenges facing the world due to climate change.

Teaching informed by farming practice

The University's **Farm Management Unit** develops high-quality farm management teaching in the School of Agricultural, Policy and Development. The curriculum is grounded within the changing needs of employers, and students undertake professional development opportunities during their studies, including work placements. Complemented by excellent research and strong partnerships, its courses produce high quality, policy relevant research and employable graduates.

Stewardship/operations

Sustainability champions

In 2023/2024 the University achieved a **59.7% reduction in carbon emissions** against baseline, with a **31% reduction in waste generated** per person against baseline. We also run the **Our Future First** sustainable behaviours programme, which has established a network of sustainability champions across the University's schools and functions.



Phasing out gas in campus catering

In 2023/24 the University switched from gas to electric for cooking in its catering outlets as part of the wider **decarbonisation plan** for the campus and its halls of residences that aims to in future also move away from gas for heating and hot water. Park Eat, the largest eatery on Whiteknights campus is also closely monitored for electricity usage, which has led to changes generating 40% savings.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Research

Marine ecosystem science

Reading's Marine Ecosystem Science Research Group is advancing understanding of **ocean health** through innovative research on marine food webs, phytoplankton and the global carbon cycle. Using satellite observations and machine learning, researchers are developing new ways to monitor marine ecosystems and ocean carbon dynamics, generating knowledge that supports the sustainable management of marine resources and improves understanding of the oceans' role in regulating the Earth's climate.

Ocean mixing affects climate

Research led by a team at Reading has discovered that changes in the ocean's mixed layer – the topmost section where wind and waves blend warm surface waters with cooler depths – is influencing weather patterns, rather than heat exchange between oceans and the atmosphere. The findings will inform **updated climate models** to enhance long-term forecasting and climate mitigation strategies.

Wave size increasing as climate warms

An international research study, including Dr Xiangbo Feng at Reading, has revealed that **hurricane-driven ocean waves** have expanded 80% in size over 40 years, with North Atlantic coverage rising 20% per decade. Wave heights and energy are also increasing, intensifying risks for coastal regions. The researchers warn that climate change will worsen impacts and recommend better coastal defences to protect businesses, communities and ecosystems.

Teaching and learning



Monitoring ground water sources

Undergraduate and graduate students in Reading's Geography and Environmental Sciences Department have opportunities to carry out research relating to water quality and management of **local rivers and catchments**, including projects to monitor ground water sources to explore how metal contamination spreads from soil to the environment.

Stewardship/operations

Water quality on campus

To protect local ecosystems, wildlife and human health, the University adheres to local water quality standards and guidelines for water discharges. The **Emissions and Discharge strategy** aims to minimise the risk of incidents through monitoring and maintenance of drainage systems and compliance testing of servicing of relevant equipment.



SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

16th in THE Impact rankings 2024 for SDG15

Research

Multi-habitat landscapes support biodiversity

A collaborative study including Reading researchers, investigating 30 different sites, showed that **multi-habitat landscapes** boost biodiversity, ecosystem stability, and pollination. The research found that diverse habitats support more species and resist species loss better than single-habitat areas. The researchers recommend prioritising interconnected habitats that allow mobile species to link ecosystems together will reduce biodiversity loss and enhance resilience and long-term sustainability.

Mine landscape regeneration

A new review, published by a Reading specialist, proposes converting open-cast mines into **wildlife havens** through progressive land rehabilitation. Professor Mark Tibbett, the review's author, recommends restoring land during excavation, cataloguing soils, and reusing materials. The review demonstrates that with proper planning, landscapes can regenerate ecosystems, support biodiversity, and create new sites for agriculture or eco-tourism.



Pollinator health hit by herbicides

A **study of 106 field sites** across eight European countries, including in the UK has shown that, despite tightened regulations, approved pesticides in European agricultural landscapes negatively impact non-target organisms, such as bees. Reading's Dr Deepa Senapathi and Professor Simon Potts led work in the UK and highlight the need for new legislation to reduce pesticide use and risk of harm to pollinators.

Raptors declining in Africa

An international collaborative research study including Reading researchers has revealed a devastating **decline in Africa's raptors** with many species facing extinction. Large eagles and vultures in particular suffer steep losses outside protected areas, due to habitat loss, persecution, and human activity, underscoring an urgent need for expanded conservation efforts.

Outreach





Restoring wildflower meadows

Reading owns and manages a community nature reserve at **Langley Mead**, comprising of 18 hectares of wildflower meadows adjacent to the River Loddon which support a significant number of rare plant species. A number of outdoor learning spaces have been created on the reserve for use by local schools, and arable farmland is being steadily restored into meadow habitats to help sustain local biodiversity.

Gardeners identify future plant invaders

Researchers from the University of Reading and Royal Horticultural Society have found that gardeners can play a vital role in spotting **potential invasive plants**. Surveying 558 gardeners identified 251 species that could become a threat, with a shortlist including Mexican fleabane and Himalayan honeysuckle. Early detection will help experts design risk assessments and prevention strategies to protect biodiversity.

Flower margins boost crop yields in India

A collaborative project between researchers in Reading and in South India has found that planting marigold and red gram beside moringa crops **increased pollinator diversity** by 33% and abundance by 50%, boosting yields by 30% and improving fruit quality. This sustainable technique supports smallholder farmers with better food supply, added income, and enhanced biodiversity through stronger pollination services.

Nature Park Project

As part of its commitment to promoting better climate education for young people across the UK, the University is developing its own **Nature Park** aligned with the National Education Nature Park scheme. The park will offer local schools access to nature-based learning experiences across the University estate and gain a deeper appreciation of our changing climate.

Teaching and learning

Sustainable farming

A **free online course** developed by academics at Reading in partnership with the FutureLearn platform is allowing learners to explore and learn about the processes that farmers and food producers use to ensure our food is sustainable.

Climate and the past

An undergraduate module – **Tropical Forests**, Climate and Lost Civilisations – available to Geography and Environmental Science undergraduates, draws on extensive research and case studies developed from historical research to explore the interrelationships between climate change, human land use and tropical forest ecosystems.

Stewardship/operations

Designated wildlife site

Reading's Whiteknights Campus is designated as a **Local Wildlife Site** for its mosaic of habitats that support more than 2000 species of plants, insects and mammals. These include several protected and notable species, such as the Stag Beetle and Common Toad. Several endangered bird species have also been recorded across the site.

Award-winning biodiverse campus

The University's Whiteknights Campus has for the 14th consecutive year been named as one of Britain's top green spaces in the **Green Flag Awards**. Currently around 40% of the campus is managed primarily for biodiversity. Every year, staff and students from the University take part in the **ICA Biodiversity Challenge** to monitor biodiversity. In 2024, **Reading placed 6th** in the challenge, recording 934 species in May and June.

Trends in tree flowering

Reading scientists lead **FruitWatch**, a citizen science project which monitors changes and trends in fruit tree flowering dates. The University also curates the UK's **National Fruit Collection** to protect approximately 3500 varieties of apple, pears, plums, cherries, and bush fruits as part of an international programme to protect diversity in food crops for the future.





SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

6.5% of students graduate from Law and Law enforcement related courses

Research

Legal framework for equitable climate action

While decarbonisation is vital, projects and policies are at risk of harming vulnerable groups. A study co-authored by Reading's Professor Chris Hilson, Director of The Reading Centre for Climate and Justice, proposes a framework to support "**just transition litigation**," and ensure fairness in climate policies. Systematic tracking of legal challenges should help ensure equitable climate action and prevent delays in tackling global heating.

Global Law

The **Global Law at Reading** research group has particular strengths on topics relating to international peace and security, such as cyber warfare, the role and responsibilities of the UN, peace operations and human rights.

Diversifying drone stories

A Reading academic led an Economic and Social Research Council-funded research project that explored the use, perception, and **impact of drones** in changing UK airspace. The project produced a report aimed at lawyers working on **drone cases** and drone policy makers that explores the legal dimensions of drone incidents and misuse.

Outreach



Travel advice tool for LGBTQ+ communities

Reading law researchers developed and launched a free tool to help guide **safe international travel** for the LGBTQ+ community. Funded by Research England, the tool provides tailored guidance on legal and safety risks in different countries while helping universities and employers develop inclusive travel policies. It also enables users to share feedback and experiences, supporting safer travel and reducing the risk of discrimination, violence or prosecution abroad.

Developing open research methods

A national collaboration, including the University of Reading is working towards reform in research assessment practices. Running until 2026 with 43 UK institutions involved, the **OR4 project** will provide tools, frameworks, and resources to support and recognise open research practices. The project will help shape fairer, transparent, and inclusive research evaluation aligned with the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA).

Teaching and learning



Law at Reading

Master's courses in Law at Reading are taught by leading experts in global governance. Modules cover the contemporary issues that affect the relationship between legal systems and the legal regulation of human rights. In 2023, the School of Law ran the **Jim Sturman Mooting Competition** giving students an opportunity to gain advocacy experience, with winners earning mini-pupillages at leading chambers.

Informing debates on antisemitism

A book series on **contemporary antisemitism**, co-edited by Reading's Professor Rosa Freedman, is informing debates and counter discrimination, targeting academics, students, and activists.

Prompted by rising antisemitism after the October 2023 events in Israel and Gaza, the volumes explore discourse, law, society, and universities, offering evidence and analysis to help counter hatred and discrimination.

Stewardship/operations



Peace and Unity programme

To support staff and students affected by global conflicts, the University of Reading and its Students' Union launched the **Peace and Unity programme**. A programme of events, training, and activities including an interactive online mural, is being rolled out to promote diversity, dialogue, and community at a time of worldwide turmoil.

Freedom of Speech

The University adheres to a **Freedom of Speech** Code of Practice, developed to ensure freedom of speech is protected, within the law, across all University activities. It is part of a suite of **governance policies and procedures** that ensure the University remains accountable.

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Research



Assessing the cost of nature degradation

Analysis from the **Green Finance Institute**, with input from experts at Reading, shows that UK nature degradation could cut GDP by 12%. Risks include soil decline, water shortages, zoonotic diseases, and antimicrobial resistance, threatening agriculture, utilities, and banks. The report recommends urgent protection, global cooperation, and disclosure of nature-related risks to safeguard economic resilience.

Trust in food

To understand what drives consumer behaviour when it comes to food, Reading academics in partnership with the EU knowledge innovation community, EIT Food, have developed the **EIT Food TrustTracker**. This evidenced-based model of what drives consumer trust in the food value chain now forms part of the EIT Food's Consumer Observatory programme, and more than 19,000 consumers were surveyed using TrustTracker in 2023.

Outreach



Knowledge exchange network for sustainable farming

Reading researchers Dr Andrew Daymond and Dr Ross Maidment are advancing **sustainable cocoa farming** and drought resilience in Africa. Their projects are helping to build networks linking farmers, policymakers, and scientists, and use satellite data and finance information to create tools that will help protect farmers' livelihoods and foster impactful knowledge exchange across sectors.

Climate+ Co-Centre launched

A new €41.3 million Centre to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and water degradation, is bringing together 60 researchers from Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Great Britain, including a team at Reading. Professor Ed Hawkins is GB lead for the **Climate+ Co-Centre** which has headquarters at Trinity College, Dublin, and is fostering cross-border collaboration to deliver transformative, innovative environmental solutions.

Teaching and learning

Sustainability learning

Sustainability is a cornerstone of the **University strategy**, and **embedding environmental sustainability** across both the curriculum and staff training programmes is a priority. All students can access modules or extra-curricular activities relating to sustainable development, such as the **Reading Experience and Development** (RED) Award, which provides volunteering opportunities with organisations such as Reading Climate Action Network and conservation group Instant Wild.



COP29

The University's **Walker Institute** has led the University's COP involvement for almost a decade and is an accredited official observer at COP. Representatives co-hosted two official events at **COP29 in Baku**, focusing on Transboundary Climate Risks as part of the implementation of the COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace. Research students from Reading participated remotely through the University's **COP Climate Action Studio** (COPCAS) programme.



Japan-UK Fellowship

A **fellowship scheme** to foster collaboration between Japan and UK has been launched at Reading to support climate change scientists. The fellowship scheme has been made possible thanks to Reading's Professor Sir Brian Hoskins who was awarded the 2024 Japan Prize for his pioneering work on extreme weather. He donated his prize to establish the scheme as part of his legacy of advancing meteorology and his commitment to tackling climate change collaboratively.

Stewardship/operations

Reading Climate Change Partnership

As a lead partner in the **Reading Climate Change Partnership**, the University is helping to revise the town's Climate Emergency Strategy to achieve net zero by 2030. The partnership launched a '**Year of Climate Engagement**' in 2024, gathering community input through workshops and surveys. The University also played a lead role in organising and hosting events during Reading's annual **Climate Festival**.

Community involvement

Reading's university-level decision-making benefits from partnerships with local people through the **University Council** and **Community Forum**, and helps the University to better coordinate its regional engagement. In addition, the University's long-standing collaborations and **participatory research activities** with communities across Reading are supporting **local and regional improvements**.





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