

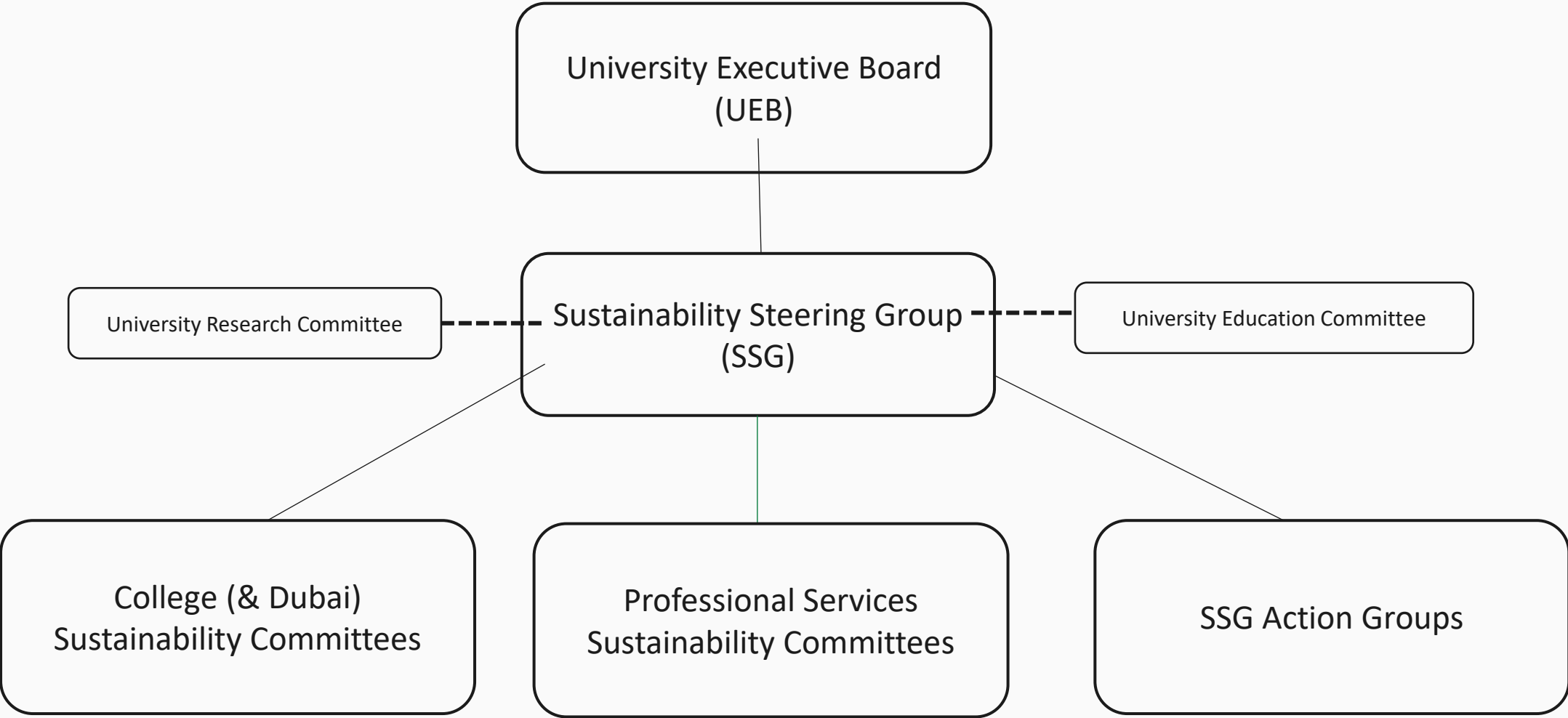
# Sustainability Governance

Updated January 2026, endorsed by Sustainability Steering Group



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

University of Birmingham Sustainability Governance



— Direct reporting responsibility  
- - - - - Subject-specific reporting to enable strategic oversight

## University Executive Board (UEB)

[UEB](#) is a committee of the Council that meets weekly to steer the implementation of University strategy and policies

### Terms of Reference

UEB shall consider and take decisions in respect of any aspect of the University's strategy, operation or management with the authority delegated by Council. UEB shall monitor the Colleges' individual and collective implementation of University strategies and policies and direct the College Boards, as necessary, including sustainability priorities and net zero commitment, embodied in the [Birmingham 2030 Strategic Framework](#). The Provost acts as an executive sponsor and advocate for sustainability at UEB. The DvPC for Sustainability presents an update on the University's progress to deliver the sustainability priorities and net zero commitment embodied in the Birmingham 2030 Strategic Framework (minimum) annually, on behalf of the Sustainability Steering Group.

### Membership

VC, Provost (and Sustainability Sponsor), Pvc Education, Pvc Research, Pvc International, Heads of College (5), Registrar, Chief Finance Officer

## Sustainability Steering Group (SSG)

SSG is the leadership body for sustainability within the University and meets monthly to drive delivery of the University's sustainability priorities and provide advice to UEB on strategic sustainability matters

### Terms of Reference

SSG is responsible for ensuring that sustainability is embedded into university governance, planning, risk management, decision making and delivery. SSG is responsible for providing strategic oversight and directing delivery of sustainability priorities and net zero commitment, embodied in the [Birmingham 2030 Strategic Framework](#). SSG shall agree targets and track progress; commission projects to deliver sustainability priorities and net zero commitment; develop institutional sustainability strategy and policy; oversee delivery of sustainability league table action plans. SSG produces annual sustainability and carbon accounting reports that are made publicly available. Members advise and steer on a broad range of strategic issues.

### Core Membership

Deputy Pvc Sustainability (Chair), Head of Sustainability (Deputy Chair), Director of Sustainability Education, Academic Representative (Net Zero), Academic Representative (Responsible Business), DPvc Research Environment, Guild Sustainability Officer(s), Director of Estates, Director of Campus Services or Director of Facilities Services, Chief of Staff, Director of Planning, Deputy Director Finance, Deputy Director of IT Services, Deputy Director of Communications, Sustainability College Lead representative.

Members will nominate an alternative senior leader or college lead to deputise, as required.

### College (& Dubai) Sustainability Committees

The College and Dubai Campus Sustainability Committee, chaired by the Sustainability College Lead, provides strategic oversight and direction for the delivery of sustainability priorities, including the University's net zero commitment and oversees the implementation of sustainability league table action plans across the five Colleges and the Dubai campus. Membership is drawn from within each College and will include representation from Research, Education, and Operations. The Committee will meet at least termly and report on progress, risks, and opportunities to the SSG through the College Sustainability Lead, using the SSG reporting framework and a scheduled 'College Spotlight'.

### Professional Services Sustainability Committees

The Professional Services Sustainability Committee provides strategic oversight and direction, ensuring alignment with the University's sustainability priorities within the division and supporting the delivery of relevant SSG priorities. The Committee will champion the development and adoption of policies, practices and provide infrastructure necessary to embed environmentally-responsible practices across the University. Membership will include divisional leaders and the Head of Sustainability. The Committee will meet as required and report on progress, risks, and opportunities to SSG through its representative annually.

### SSG Action Groups

Action Groups will be established and attended (or led) by a member of the SSG to drive and coordinate the University's sustainability priorities that require collaboration across departments, divisions, or colleges. Each Action Group may propose new policies or business cases for SSG approval. Membership will be drawn from across the University, bringing together subject matter expertise, with each member responsible for driving progress in their area. The Action Group will meet as required (directed by the chair) and report progress to the SSG. The existence and purpose of each Action Group will be reviewed at least every two years.

Current SSG Action Groups 2025/2027

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity Action Group                   | Chaired by Academic Lead (Biodiversity) and attended by Director for Sustainability Education and Head of Sustainability. Responsible for overseeing delivery of the Biodiversity Plan and objectives, including accurate data collection and reporting against biodiversity measures in the UEB Sustainability Scorecard.                                                                                                      |
| Waste & Circular Economy Action Group       | Chaired by Director of Facilities Service. Responsible for overseeing delivery of University waste and circular economy priorities across campus.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Sustainable IT Action Group                 | Chaired by appointed IT Action Group Lead. Responsible for all matters related to the environmental impact of IT and Digital Services across University of Birmingham, including waste and circular economy practices, decarbonising digital infrastructure, responsible AI and sustainable computing and research practices.                                                                                                   |
| Net Zero Action Group                       | Chaired by Head of Sustainability. Responsible for tracking net zero performance and overseeing delivery of University net zero carbon priorities and sustainable procurement approach (environmental and social) , including oversight of annual carbon accounting reports.                                                                                                                                                    |
| Sustainable Travel Action Group             | Chaired by Head of Logistics. Responsible for championing, coordinating and embedding more sustainable travel behaviours across the institution (business and commuter travel). The Action Group take the lead on reviewing and proposing amendments to the University travel policy as required, sharing data and travel analysis and supporting behaviour change and engagement across campus.                                |
| Sustainable Research Practices Action Group | Chaired by a Senior Research Academic. Responsible for developing and overseeing delivery of the University sustainable research practices action plan, fostering commitment to sustainable research practices across campus and provide an annual summary of progress to inform our external reporting, as a signatory to the <a href="#">Concordat for Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice</a> . |

# Professional Services Sustainability Committees

## Campus Services Sustainability Committee

Chaired by Director of Facilities Service. Responsible for all matters relating to the environmental performance of on-site operations and facilitates management across Edgbaston campus; including waste management and circular economy infrastructure, sustainable food and beverages, sustainable conferences and events, sustainable travel, sustainable accommodation and campus services-led initiatives designed to embed a sustainability culture beyond our campus and accurate data collection and reporting.

## Estates Sustainability Committee

Chaired by Director of Estates and Decarbonisation & Sustainability Manager. Responsible for all matters relating to the environmental performance, decarbonisation and resilience of the University estate; including biodiversity enhancement, environmentally responsible estate operations and maintenance (including water efficiency and space management), climate adaptation, business case development and sustainable construction practices. The committee will oversee any estates-led initiatives designed to embed a sustainability culture beyond our campus and be responsible for accurate data collection and reporting. The committee will have oversight of the investment of the net zero carbon fund, to ensure alignment with both university and net zero estate priorities.