



**Maastricht University**



# Sustainable UM2030 - Strategic framework

UM's Impact on a sustainable future

# 1. Introduction

With this document Taskforce Sustainable UM2030 (SUM2030) provides a framework for the UM strategy for 2021-2026. As we work towards achieving the sustainability goals for 2030, this framework will provide focus and structure. Our mission, vision and ambitions, as stated in this document, will be further defined and translated into key objectives and measurable results.

## 2. Mission & vision

### Mission

Maastricht University aims for a sustainable world through its research and education and leading by example in its operations.

### Vision Statement

Maastricht University believes a sustainable world can be achieved by using research to accelerate innovation, by focusing on education to share knowledge and change mindsets, and by leading by example. UM aims to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and making a true impact by university wide multi- and interdisciplinary expertise.

### Thought leadership

In 2030 sustainability will be embedded in our UM DNA. Academic staff will actively integrate sustainable development into our curriculum and additional programs. We will deliver research results that will boost the development of a sustainable society and alumni who are able to act as change agents, both within their professional life and as citizens of tomorrow's society. We aim to create thought leaders, who will actively contribute to regional and global development for a sustainable world.

### Community and co-creation

We believe in connection and partnerships to accelerate transition. Therefore, our research co-creates knowledge with societal stakeholders and partners that lead to impact and concrete solutions to the challenges of today's society. We take

our responsibility to the planet and people in our community by reducing our environmental emissions and promoting health & well-being. We focus on growing an active community (students, academic and non-academic staff) in which innovative ideas and initiatives are stimulated. Knowledge and solutions will be co-created in living labs or hubs, where our community works together on relevant topics.

As a university, our task is to deliver high quality scientific research and to educate and train the next generation to have an impact on society. Sustainability creates a positive impact.

### 3. Ambitions

#### Ambitions

The ambitions of SUM are divided into 'Overall ambitions' and three pillars: Education, Research, and Operations.



#### OVERALL

1.



2.



3.



#### EDUCATION

4.



#### RESEARCH

5.



6.



#### OPERATIONS

7.



# 3. Ambitions

## Ambitions SUM2030

### OVERALL



Sustainability is part of the University's DNA



Students and staff are inspired, competent and empowered to accelerate the transition towards a more sustainable world



UM has developed cross-sector partnerships, both locally and globally, to enhance our impact on society

### EDUCATION



All educational programs have integrated sustainability into the curriculum

### RESEARCH



UM has an active research community that connects cross-faculty sustainability and facilitates interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary sustainable research



UM has established at least 3 Centers of Excellence focusing on one or more SDGs

### OPERATIONS



UM operations inspires and leads by example by reducing its carbon footprint, improving health and wellbeing and stimulating circularity

## 3. Ambitions

What does it mean?

1. 2. 3.

OVERALL

The Taskforce will focus on embedding sustainability into the DNA of the UM, by creating awareness and engagement around the sustainability ambitions.

We will share knowledge and create visibility on challenges we are working on, and on initiatives, which are being realized.

Building a sustainable future requires the next generation of students to have 21st-century skills and global citizenship competencies.

We stimulate thought leadership and sustainability by inspiring and teaching competencies to our staff, such as innovative problem analysing, systems thinking, co-creation, transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking, etc.

We will create a platform to bring our community together, inspire and stimulate initiatives to accelerate the transition.

UM will build partnerships and initiate collaborations with other educational or research facilities, businesses and governmental organizations.

4.

EDUCATION

Each educational program incorporates sustainable development (competencies) into the core curricula in a way that is appropriate and relevant to the programme.

This is done by finding faculties unique perspectives and ways to add value to contribute to a sustainable world.

5. 6.

RESEARCH

5. Researchers work across faculties on the UN SDGs and integrate their research in educational programs and projects/initiatives on societal challenges on regional, European and global level

6. UM has at least three centers of excellence, which also serve as living labs where students and staff work on SDGs in collaboration with governments and companies.

7.

OPERATIONS

The UM develops and implements a programmatic approach to reduce the University's CO2 footprint in line with the Paris Agreement. Furthermore the UM uses opportunities to improve health & wellbeing, also in our supply chain, and help the transition towards a circular economy.

# 3. Ambitions

**Approach** The sustainability challenges which lie ahead, and our ambitions as stated above, require a systematic approach for 2021-2026.

