

UWE Carbon Offsetting Statement

UWE Bristol is committed to reducing our carbon footprint and contributing meaningfully to climate action. Carbon offsetting is a means to compensate for greenhouse gas emissions by funding projects that reduce or remove emissions elsewhere – such as planting trees, building renewable energy or improving energy efficiency. At present, **UWE Bristol does not engage in carbon offsetting**. We believe our efforts are best directed toward **direct emissions reductions**, guided by the carbon reduction hierarchy: **avoid, reduce, replace**, and only then consider compensation mechanisms. This approach ensures that our actions are rooted in integrity, effectiveness, and long-term impact.

Our Approach

- **Focus on Reduction First:** We aim to reduce emissions at source wherever possible, aligning with science-based targets and sector best practices.
- **No Offsetting at Present:** We have chosen not to purchase external carbon offsets, as we believe our efforts are best directed toward internal transformation. Where required by funding bodies to offset particular emissions, this will be done to the highest standards, to minimise risk to reputation and ensure authentic carbon sequestration and approved through the UWE Sustainability Executive Committee.
- **Future plans for Insetting:** We are exploring carbon insetting – investing in emissions reduction projects within our own value chain or community that deliver measurable emissions reductions and co-benefits.
- **Transparency and Integrity:** Any future carbon management strategies, including insetting, will be guided by robust standards, transparent reporting, and alignment with our institutional values.

Looking Ahead

As our sustainability strategy evolves, we will continue to assess the role of insetting and other mechanisms in achieving our long-term climate goals. We will continue to report progress openly and engage staff, students, and partners in shaping our carbon journey.

Review

The UWE Carbon Offsetting Statement will be signed off and updated annually by the UWE Sustainability Executive Committee to amend and take account of any technological, strategic or legislative changes.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a circle. The signature appears to read 'Elena Marco'.

Professor Elena Marco DPhil PFHEA NTF ARB RIBA

Pro-Vice Chancellor & Head of College of Arts, Technology and Environment

As approved by the UWE Sustainability Executive Committee 6th November 2025