

**Sustainability
Programme 2026-2030**
**Turku University of
Applied Sciences**



At Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS), sustainability is integrated into education, research, regional development and everyday operations

We develop expertise and solutions that support the green transition, well-being and the renewal of business and industry. In particular, we aim to promote sustainable development in Southwest Finland and the Baltic Sea region together with our students, staff and partners.

Our sustainability work is based on promoting ecological, social, economic and cultural sustainability. We reduce the harmful impacts of our operations, strengthen our positive handprint and develop solutions that help build a sustainable and just future.

TUAS Sustainability Programme 2026–2030 guides the work of our higher education community towards an increasingly sustainable and responsible future

The programme is an update to the previous sustainability programme and supports the implementation of our strategy in education, RDI activities, regional development and our own operations. During the previous programme period, we strengthened the role of sustainability in the management and operations of TUAS. Going forward, we will place particular emphasis on monitoring impact, knowledge-based management, strengthening sustainability competence and taking biodiversity into account in all our activities.

Education

– *sustainability competence for everyone*

Our commitment



Our education produces experts who have the knowledge, skills, and motivation to advance sustainable development in working life and society.



All our graduates possess foundational knowledge of sustainable development and responsibility, as well as topic-specific expertise related to their own field.



We ensure that sustainable development and responsibility permeate all our education. We also offer continuing education courses that promote sustainable development.



Out measures

We ensure shared sustainable development learning outcomes for TUAS degree programmes and support the integration of the topic into field-specific studies, for example by sharing good practices.

We strengthen the role of sustainable development and responsibility in all TUAS curricula and in the continuing education offering.

We promote and enable the development of sustainability competence by extensively integrating RDI activities into teaching.

We monitor the implementation and impact of sustainability and responsibility learning outcomes.

We encourage students to take action to promote sustainable development.

We collaborate with higher education institutions, other education providers, working life partners and stakeholders, to advance sustainable development.



RDI activities

– *solutions to sustainability challenges*

Our commitment

-  We develop impactful sustainability solutions to address ecological, social, cultural, and economic challenges, while promoting positive outcomes for the climate and biodiversity.
-  We build a sustainable future together with businesses, the public sector, civil society, and international partners by leveraging our RDI expertise and supporting the sustainability transition.
-  We strengthen expertise and increase our impact by developing RDI activities that advance sustainable development through knowledge, collaboration, and lessons learned, while creating opportunities for the wider application of expertise.

Our measures

We guide RDI activities to identify and integrate sustainability and responsibility perspectives into their objectives and actions.

We assess the sustainability impacts of projects in accordance with shared practices and use the findings to improve our operations, including by providing tools to support the integration of sustainability into project activities.

We utilize evaluation data and lessons learned from projects in the planning of new initiatives and in the continuous improvement of sustainable practices in RDI activities.

We promote responsible RDI activities by incorporating sustainability considerations into the preparation, implementation, and development of collaboration with RDI partners and stakeholders.

Management and competent staff

– *we act as we teach*

Our commitment



We lead our operations in a knowledge-based, transparent, and responsible manner.



We strengthen the well-being, competence, and capacity of our staff to promote sustainable development as part of their work.



We foster an inclusive, diverse, and accessible organizational culture.

Our measures

We integrate sustainability and responsibility into orientation, competence development, and leadership practices.

We strengthen our staff's sustainability and responsibility competencies by providing training opportunities and by encouraging and supporting continuous learning and professional development.

We monitor the development of our staff's sustainability and responsibility competencies and utilize the results to improve our operations.

We regularly assess and enhance well-being at work, equality, diversity, and accessibility.

Climate and nature work

*– climate-smart solutions and strengthening
biodiversity*

Our commitment

-  We systematically reduce the climate and nature-related impacts of our operations.
-  We increase our positive handprint by enhancing the positive climate and nature-related impacts of our operations and by promoting biodiversity.
-  We base our climate and nature work on reliable data, target-driven monitoring, and transparent reporting.

Our measurement

We conduct an annual carbon footprint assessment and continuously develop the evaluation and monitoring of our climate and nature-related impacts.

We steer procurement, travel, and the use of facilities towards solutions that reduce emissions and negative impacts on nature while promoting the circular economy.

We utilize climate- and nature-related information in decision-making and in our

financial, facilities, and procurement processes.

We promote biodiversity in line with the objectives of the City of Turku's LUMO Programme across our campuses, on our land holdings, and in our project activities, while strengthening the protection of the Baltic Sea together with our partners.

We report annually and transparently on our climate and nature-related impacts, as well as on the societal impact of our actions.

Sustainability reporting

– *monitoring, communication and development*

Our commitment



We make our sustainability progress visible through reliable data and transparent reporting.



We utilize sustainability data in decision-making, operational development, and strategy implementation.



We develop sustainability monitoring in collaboration with staff, students, and partners.

Our measures

We incorporate key sustainability indicators into Turku UAS's annual reporting and management performance metrics.

We regularly monitor the most significant sustainability impacts of our operations and report openly on their progress.

We integrate sustainability-related information into strategic planning, quality management, and risk management.

We continuously develop our reporting practices to ensure that data is generated as far as possible through normal operational processes.

We leverage our regional and national collaboration networks to assess the impact of our sustainability efforts and share good practices.

Towards sustainable future

The TUAS Sustainability Programme 2026-2030 builds on and strengthens our previous efforts to advance sustainability. We updated the programme to respond to the evolving demands of our operating environment, our growing expertise, and increasing expectations regarding the societal responsibility of higher education institutions.

We are committed to monitoring our objectives systematically and transparently. We report on our progress, achievements, and lessons learned in our annual sustainability report, which examines both the reduction of our negative impacts and the positive handprint we create. The report supports data-informed management and strengthens our accountability to students, staff, partners, and society.