



May 2019

Dear Professor Lamberts,

Welcome to Sheffield. We appreciate you have been very busy building a full picture of the many things that go on in the University and, as part of that process, we hope you will allow us to introduce to you the activities of the Carbon Neutral University Network (CNU).

The Carbon Neutral University Network is a diverse group of students, staff and members of the wider public founded in 2014 by five UoS members, who were very concerned by the serious threat that climate change represents, and felt the University should make a difference, both through the research and education it does, but also in its day-to-day actions. The mission of CNU is to inform and connect people, and help develop solutions, which will enable the University to deliver fast carbon reductions in line with climate science.

In short, we need to walk the talk.

Since our inception, we have grown to include professors, postdoctoral researchers, students (PhD, Masters and Undergraduate), alumni and other residents of Sheffield, with up to 300 registered supporters at any given time. Most importantly we work directly with existing sustainability leaders on campus, including the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Future and our Students' Union representatives and societies. We have organised a number of successful outreach events, hosted by UoS and attended by a wide range of people from across the city and the UK. These have included information-based workshops, highlighting the ways we can make our homes more energy efficient and reduce our carbon burden, lectures given by climate change experts such as Prof Kevin Anderson and workshops giving intellectual tools for spreading the sustainability message. All of these are highlighted on the enclosed timeline.

CNU has also been instrumental in developing publications such as the 2016 Carbon and Sustainability Strategy (CASS) proposal and a more recent 'System Change' guide to help institutions such as UoS make the transition to a carbon-neutral future. CASS was developed by Dr Christian Unger, co-founder of CNU, whilst working at The Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures. It takes learning from across the network's activities and uses this to inform a zero carbon sustainability plan for the University. The more recent 'System Change' guide compiled ideas and experience from sustainability activities at several universities to develop guidelines for wider change. Both are enclosed for your information. More about our publications, resources, and supporters can be found on our website – [www.carbonneutraluniversity.org](http://www.carbonneutraluniversity.org).

The efforts of CNU have been recognized by the University, extending to representation on the (now defunct) Carbon Management Group. The CASS proposal was officially presented to this group in 2016, stimulating discussions on the need for a wider sustainability strategy. We met several times with



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Professor Keith Burnett and are keen to continue to work with University management to help deliver a more sustainable campus.

We are greatly encouraged by the current moves within the University to develop a deeper and more systematic programme of sustainability action, and we hope that CNU's experience and membership can play a useful part that process. With a unique cross-strata network of people both within the institution and outside it, we are well placed to help engage the wider university community. As a grass-roots network with members in a large number of departments, we can help connect all the different groups working within the university and enable everyone to work together towards the shared goal of achieving a sustainable future.

We hope this summary, and the enclosed timeline, is of interest.

We will continue to work to encourage and facilitate action on climate change and sustainability issues, and we would value the opportunity to meet with you and discuss the ways in which we can support the University in delivering its developing sustainability plans.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Unger, Chair

On behalf of  
The UoS Carbon Neutral University Network

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