

'Making a Mark'

Gold Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

The University of Winchester

The University of Winchester has been an integral part of the City of Winchester's community for 175 years. A key part of our mission is 'to serve the common good' and this is lived through numerous initiatives to engage with and enhance both our local and wider communities.



We take our responsibility to society very seriously and this can be seen at many levels, through partnerships, links to other community groups and our commitment to widening participation in HE.

We were awarded the Social Enterprise Gold Mark in June 2017, joining a growing network of 'gold standard' social enterprises. The Gold Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to provide 'social impact statements', which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/ environmental objectives. Below are examples of how **The University of Winchester** is Making a Mark, striving to create a lasting positive impact on people and planet.

Transforming lives and inspiring change

We are deeply committed to reducing our environmental impacts, and strive to remain an exemplar of environmental sustainability. As well as taking steps to reduce our impact on the environment, we aim to develop our students' understanding of global issues, including climate change. Examples of initiatives and approaches include:

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- Integrating climate change across our curriculum, ensuring that every student who leaves the University has a good understanding of the impacts of climate change in their areas of study
- 100% of grid bought electricity is sourced from renewables
- Target reductions set for carbon emissions, waste energy and water consumption - 5th highest reduction of carbon emissions intensity in the HE sector
- Launched an innovative new 25p tax on disposable coffee cups which has increased sales in reusable cups from 3% to 25%
- Leading within the sector for sustainable sourcing of food

Engaging with the local community

Our Community Engagement Strategy serves as a mechanism for monitoring our achievements, identifying best practice and driving continuous improvement. Examples of community engagement activities include:



- Members of the public are encouraged through our local partnerships to use the University's sports facilities
- Invested with the local council in shared sports facilities, which are highly utilised by the local community
- We encourage staff and students to be involved in the community through a wide range of activities

Examples of how we create social impact

- **Student Hub** – we support the Winchester Hub, which supports students to engage with the local community and increase their impact on the world around them
- **Widening Participation** – we have numerous initiatives in place to encourage applications from those who are under-represented in HE. These include bursaries and awards for those with obstacles to entering HE
- **Supporting local social enterprise** – we work with unemployed and economically inactive people to help those interested in creating and running their own Social Enterprise

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