

Climate Change Lunchtime Protests – 20th September-FAQ's

What if I am busy with essential University business?

If you have something important between 1pm and 130pm on 20 September, then feel free to show your support earlier or later in the day.

Do I have to participate?

No. It is a personal choice whether to participate.

What if I want to participate for longer than half-an-hour?

The University is supporting staff to participate in a 30 minute stoppage only. If you wish to join for longer, you will be expected to use your lunch break or request annual leave.

Could I take time on a different day?

No. The stoppage is planned for 20 September. A significant purpose of the event is to show global solidarity by all participating on the same day therefore if you want to take part, it must be on that day.

Do I need to let my line manager know?

Yes. You and colleagues may need to discuss and agree with your line manager how the service you provide will continue during that half hour. The purpose of the stoppage is to show solidarity, not to disrupt the work of the University. Please plan your work accordingly.

What is the University of Aberdeen doing to address the threat of climate change?

The University has made considerable efforts to address its own impacts on sustainability and social responsibility in recent years. At an operational level we are on track to significantly exceed our current Carbon Management Plan (having made a 20% reduction in two years) while a collaborative waste contract with Robert Gordon University has seen recycling rates improve, and landfilled waste reduce (to less than 1%). Our innovative and award-winning passive-house Nursery was the first of its kind in the sector.

Academically we are home to globally relevant research across the spectrum of sustainability issues e.g. alternative energy, green building materials, reducing hunger, sustainable cities, and public health and as such we can be seen to be making a significant institutional contribution to addressing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Current University-wide strategic dialogue has also showcased the scale of interest from colleagues around enhancing our institutional commitments to sustainability.

Our strong performance in this area was acknowledged in the inaugural Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, published in April 2019, which measure the social and economic impact of universities all over the world and their success in delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In the 2019 THE Impact Rankings the University ranked 31st in the world, with a particularly strong performance in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 12: 'Responsible Consumption and Production', where the University ranked 5th in the world.