



UNIVERSITY
OF HULL

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
INSTITUTE

Energy and Environment Institute Strategy

We are an internationally-leading, transdisciplinary institute extending across the University of Hull and focused on research exploring the impacts of climate change on environments, societies and cultures, and the pathways for a global transition to a carbon net zero future.

Our new strategy sets out how we will unlock the answers to the biggest challenge humanity has ever faced - simultaneously delivering just and equitable solutions to climate change, addressing climate injustices during a carbon net zero transition. Our research, skills and capability will identify solutions to mitigate, adapt, and build resilience in the face of climate change, alongside educating and training the future leaders of green and blue economies and delivering across the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Strategic Aims

Research and Discover

Foster a transdisciplinary research environment to gain transformative insights from the intersections of climate change, societal and cultural change, and a carbon net zero transition, alongside building environmental resilience to broad global challenges.

We strive to create an enabling environment where people feel supported, respected and motivated. Our values underpin and guide our interaction and partnerships.

- Double world-leading research delivered and enabled across the Institute through to the next national research assessment cycle
- Pioneer ethical delivery of research in an inclusive and collaborative environment with responsible innovation at its core
- Consolidate enhanced research income levels across Institute facing areas, support strategic platform/institutional grant and funding applications
- Enhance our diversity of research income across funding sources
- Invest in talent via growth of the academic base through targeted PG Research Clusters, a Chancellor Fellowships Scheme, along with an Academic Partner Scheme to offer opportunities for faculty staff to embed within the Institute for specific projects and outcomes
- Nurture diverse talent via dedicated inclusive mentoring and leadership pathways within the Institute, across the University and with partners.

Knowledge Exchange and Impact

To accelerate pathways to research impact, through strong partnership and engagement, ensuring we inform and influence societal change through policy and practice, shaping a climate resilient and carbon net zero future.

We push the boundaries and work within and across transdisciplinary interfaces to find solutions to environmental challenges, and champion new ideas within our organisation and with external partners.

- Enhance transdisciplinary knowledge exchange and impact performance with all activities in the upper 30% of our KEF institution comparator set and an aligned doubling of the University's Knowledge Exchange Framework return and assessment
- Undertake agenda-setting and focused outreach and engagement activities that are transformational and inspirational
- Foster and support impact from research, developing at least three impact case studies in the next REF period
- Appoint dedicated project support that underpins our knowledge exchange activities and grows our activities with industry and businesses
- Broaden our policy impact, IPR development, commercialisation and licensing (Intellectual Property Rights and Commercialisation) activities through targeted support that encourages colleagues to engage with KE activities
- Drive enterprise through innovation and services, particularly in net zero transition advice and support and consultancy.

Educate the World

To deliver a world-class suite of sustainable high-quality education experiences at different levels, rooted in our research and sharing our knowledge to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change alongside the adaptation of societies, communities and behaviours globally.

- Grow a cohort of 200 masters students per annum across a portfolio of distinctive, high quality PGT programmes; diversifying our current offer by building on our research and KE strengths
- Foster an inclusive and supportive environment reflected in above sector norm student satisfaction survey results with high quality professional service support
- Develop and deliver a suite of distinctive Continuing Professional Development courses with flexible accreditation options in thematic areas of relevance to a suite of sectors
- Deliver a suite of public engagement and outreach activities that drive reputation and engagement of communities with sustainability and social justice
- Enhance the opportunities to study with us by developing alternative funding opportunities through schemes such as apprenticeship programmes.

Our Vision

Our vision is to shape a sustainable, resilient and productive global environment for the benefit of all.

Our Mission

Our mission is to undertake transdisciplinary research, education and knowledge exchange of international standing that makes a difference to the world around us.

Focused on the University's core elements of People, Place and Partnerships and delivered through a global sustainability and social justice lens, we will work across the interfaces between sustainability, biodiversity loss, climate change and a societal transition to a net zero carbon future that promotes healthier, more sustainable and more equitable relationships between communities and their environments in the face of a changing planet.

Enabling Values

Collaboration and Connectivity

To provide a supportive and inclusive environment, and nucleation point, for academics, researchers, students and external partners to come together to create ideas in a dynamic, internationally-leading research environment, where diverse talent is mentored and developed to its full potential.

We aim to be flexible and responsive to emerging global opportunities and issues of greatest societal relevance.

- Enhance our international links via targeted collaborations that build global reputation for these areas of research and knowledge exchange
- Create an enabling and vibrant research environment that fosters, cultivates and delivers transdisciplinary research across the University
- Provide leadership for the University's 2027 Net Zero ambition via key input into the University's Sustainability Board and the evolution of a living laboratory centred on low carbon and climate resilience
- Invest in and leverage new and existing external networks and relationships to further our strategic priorities
- Build our international reputation across the Energy and Environment theme through delivery of a focused marketing approach and digital media and social media presence.

Engaged Learning

A 'glocal' approach. Building and enabling bi-directional partnerships and sustainable networks that support innovative research and knowledge exchange, driven through relevant connections across regional, national and global challenges that are centred on the application, projection and societal acceptance of an energy transition and addressing the consequences of climate change.

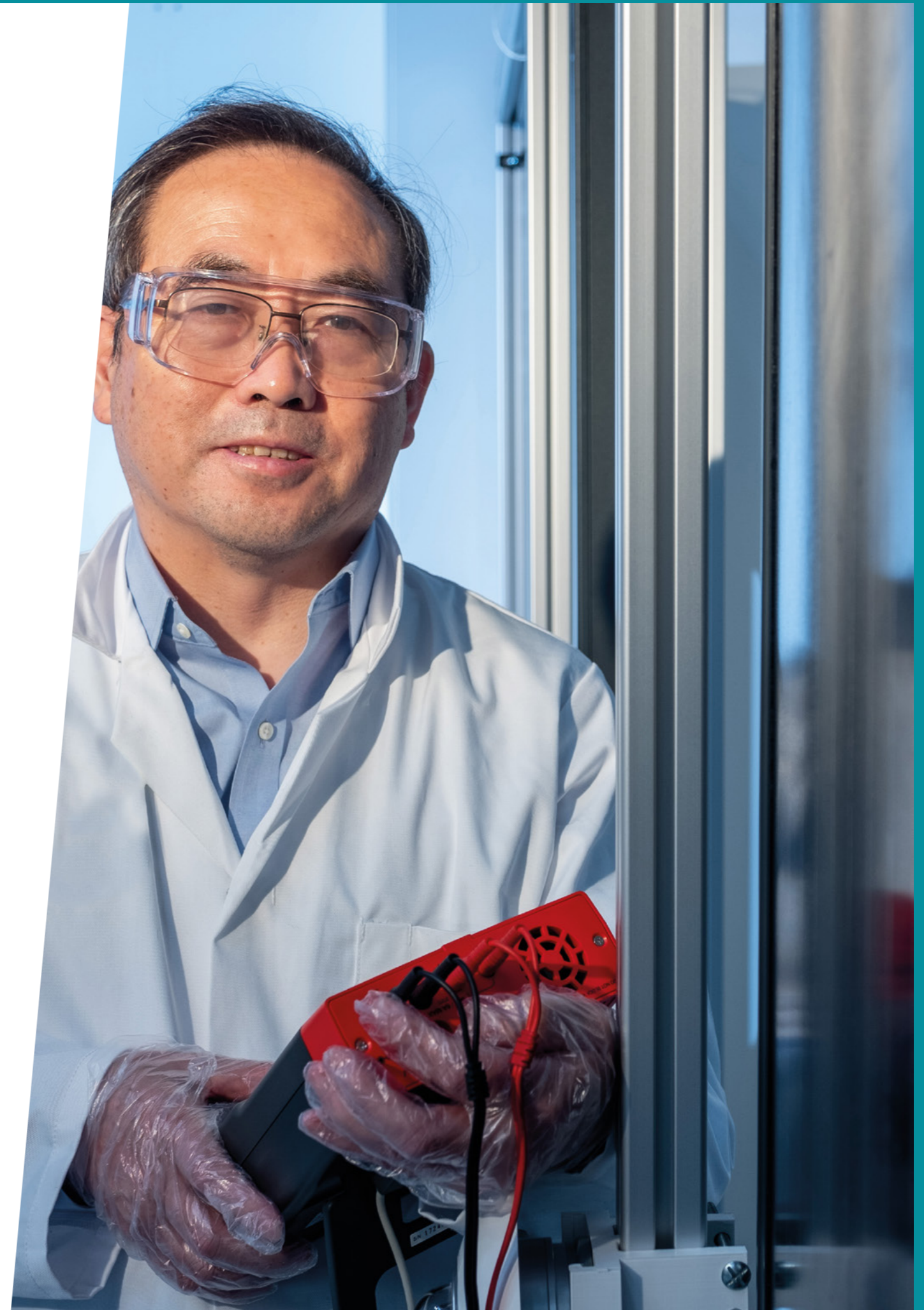
- Grow our contributions to agenda-setting education at undergraduate levels that delivers on the University Vision and the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Deliver, through the work of the Sustainability Board, staff and student micro-training in sustainability and carbon net zero.

Integrity and Fairness

We are open, generous and trusted, with transparency and accountability at our heart.

We strive to be a just organisation, fully committed to embedding equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do alongside driving our own sustainability goals.

- Construct a programme of events that demonstrate and convey our approaches to EDI and broader cohesivity and support
- Build a reputation and achieve external recognition and accreditation for best practice in EDI, including Athena SWAN and diversity charters
- Support and provide leadership for the sustainability agenda and strategy for the University.



A focus on the biggest challenges facing humanity

The Institute strategy is transdisciplinary. Founded on discipline excellence, it draws on our experience of working across the interfaces of climate change, environmental resilience, sustainable energy and net zero transition.

The strategy is enabled by the Institute's global reach and impact that is based upon being internationally excellent in all that we do: our quality will drive our profile and our success. We will develop four major themes focused on the interface of energy and the environment in its broadest sense:



Global Change, Risk and Resilience

Focussing on understanding how earth surface systems respond to climate change and the broad impacts this will have on societies, health and wellbeing. For example, global flood risk is set to double by 2050, impacting billions of people and critical infrastructure. We will foster a transdisciplinary environment exploring the holistic impacts of climate change on societies and how living with environmental change through adaptation and mitigation will be vital into the future.



Climate Change and the Co-evolution of Earth and Life

The rate of biodiversity loss presently being experienced as a result of anthropogenically driven impacts takes us into the sixth major global mass extinction event. Understanding biologically mediated processes and cycles at the interface between the inorganic materials of Earth and the organic systems that live on its surface is a key area of research, as these systems provide the foundations for the bioeconomy, a suite of ecosystem services, mitigating climate impacts through working with natural processes and rewilding nature in the face of climate change impacts as well as carbon sequestration strategies. Understanding these interactions and the effects of human-derived pollution on these systems is key to better understanding many aspects of both past and future global climate change and environmental resilience, as is understanding biodiversity and ecological function.



Clean Growth and Carbon Net Zero Transition

This thematic area will focus on the advantage of our geography, being based within one of the world's most vulnerable industrial estuaries, which is an exemplar of global issues. We will lever the Institute's partnerships and networks fostering an Estuarial Carbon Net Zero transition, taking our learning to the wider world as well as bringing home lessons learnt internationally. We will pioneer research and innovation across this agenda and will develop and exploit innovative new low carbon and/or net zero technologies, along with their social acceptance. We will pursue new and existing opportunities to connect to academic and commercial partners across a range of areas, in particular those offered through Aura, and will focus on the environmental, social and health impacts of a net zero transition. Work will focus on developing and delivering platform funding grants built in collaboration across the Aura facilitated network.



Societies, Cultures and Climate Justice

This thematic area will enhance intergenerational and intercultural learning and communication related to climate change impacts and climate injustices. Key areas of focus include understanding human behaviour at the individual and societal scale, which is crucial to the development of resilient communities. Understanding the importance of blue-green spaces and the importance of environment in improved health and wellbeing across societies, within the context of environmental and climate changes, are central to the effective adaptation and mitigation responses that address climate injustice and achieving a net zero future. Environmental humanities, cultural and societal transitions responding to future climate change will be a key focus of our work in this area, which will deliver new understandings of the dynamic links between health sciences, social sciences, humanities, the arts and cultures at the interfaces between people and their environment.



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