



Climate Positive Plan

UTS is walking the talk, the first Australian university to commit to Climate Positive by 2029.

Climate change is one of the greatest existential threats the world has ever faced. At UTS we are working to decarbonise as rapidly as possible in line with our values.

This Climate Positive Plan will guide our response to the climate emergency and our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is a vital strategic priority for UTS.

This plan creates the framework for the university to achieve net zero and climate positive by 2029.

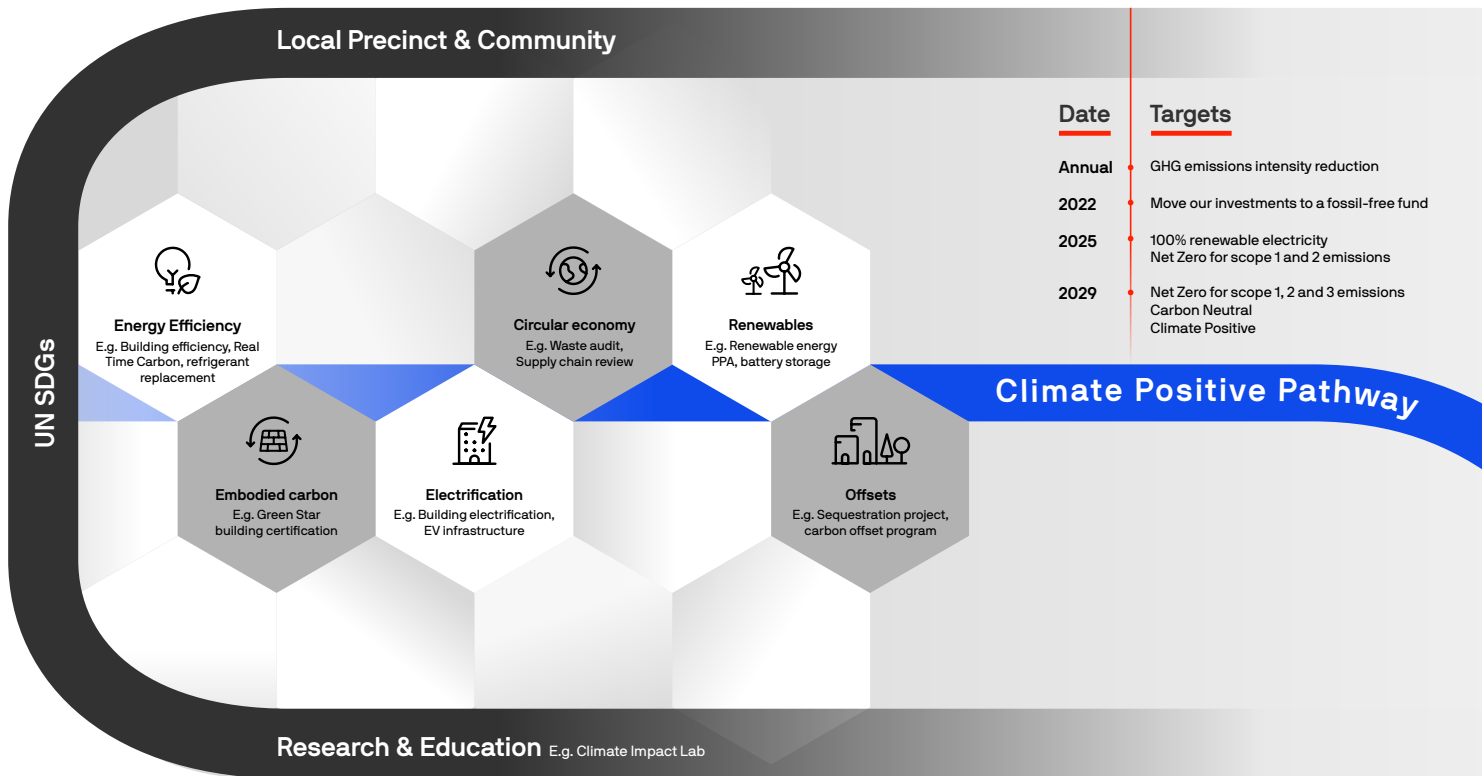
Climate Positive refers to going beyond net zero

carbon emissions by removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, creating an environmental benefit and moving towards climate repair.

Our vision is that UTS's net impact is positive for the global climate.

How we'll do it

Key initiatives and commitments are outlined in the diagram below.



The climate wars are over. It's now time to develop practical, innovative solutions and UTS is leading the way.

Informed by the RACE for 2030's Green Wave research project, the pathway towards Climate Positive consists of six key themes, with targeted initiatives that will enable us to decarbonise as rapidly and cost-effectively as possible in line with our values. These themes are:

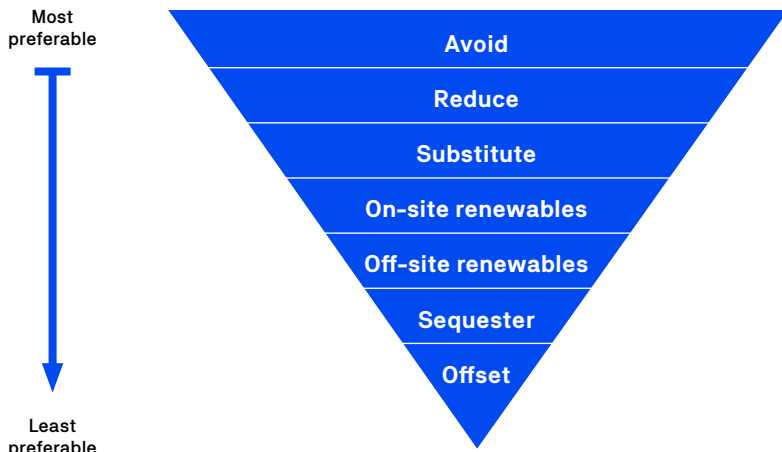
- **energy efficiency** - HVAC tuning, LED lighting, demand management, real-time carbon accounting, chiller/refrigerant replacement
- **electrification** - building electrification, EV infrastructure
- **renewables** - renewable energy partnerships, battery storage
- **embodied carbon** - Green Star building certification
- **circular economy** - waste audits, supply chain review
- **offsets** - sequestration projects, carbon offset program.

Universities play a vital role in equipping current and future leaders, thinkers and entrepreneurs with the knowledge to forge solutions to shared global challenges. In 2019 UTS was the first Australian university to sign the global Climate Emergency Declaration.

UTS's climate action extends beyond operational emissions, harnessing and strengthening our research and education, extending our boundaries of influence to our local precinct and community, and reframing net zero through a social impact lens to integrate our delivery of the UN SDGs.



The UTS Decarbonisation Strategy

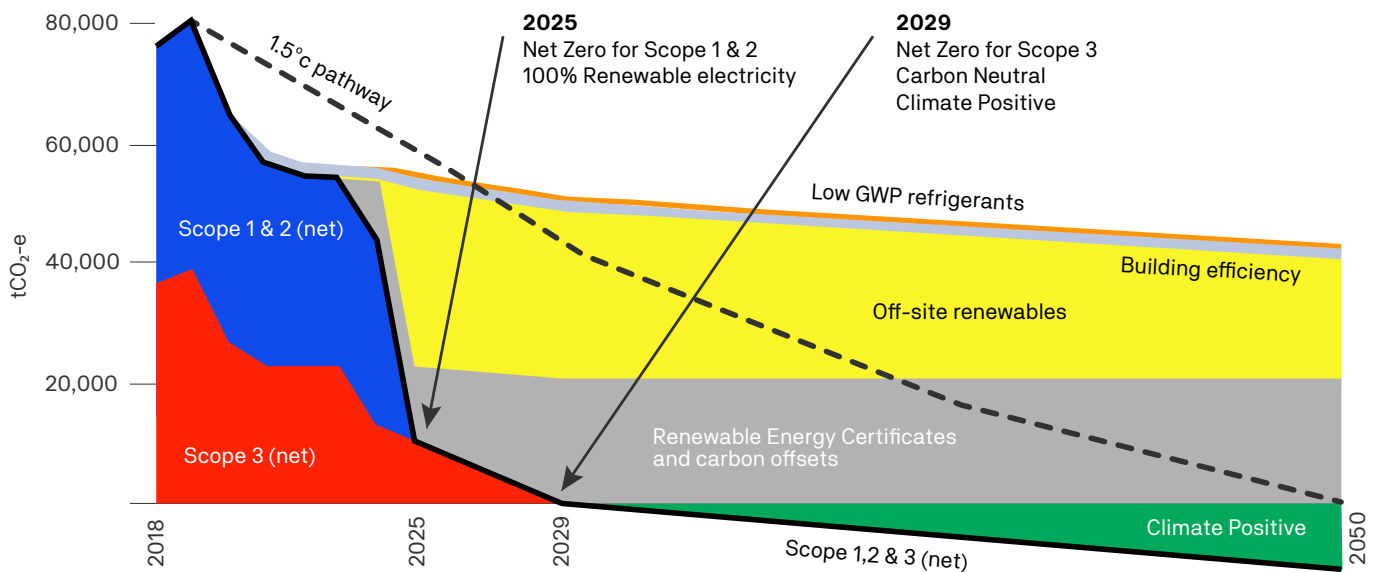


Our Decarbonisation Strategy is based on the above hierarchy, with activities planned at each level.



Climate Positive Pathway

Here is our pathway to achieving Climate Positive by 2029 and beyond with key initiatives, milestones and targets.



UTS sustainability commitments

- 1998** Signatory to the Talloires Declaration
- 2003** Founding member of the Green Building Council of Australia
- 2008** Signatory to the Australian Technology Network Agreement
- 2011** Founding member of the City of Sydney Better Buildings Partnership

- 2013** Member of Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- 2016** Signatory to the University Commitment to the UN SDGs
- 2019** Signatory to Global Compact
- 2019** First Australian University to sign a Climate Emergency Declaration
- 2019** Signatory to Race to Zero

The benefits

The UTS Climate Positive Plan will deliver the following benefits:

- urgently address climate change
- demonstrate leadership
- meet our Climate Emergency Declaration and UN SDGs commitments
- achieve financial savings by capitalising on already adopted smart technology whilst continuing to invest in innovative energy cost-saving solutions
- leverage innovative initiatives for research, and teaching and learning
- future-proof campus infrastructure
- leverage our experience for others to encourage a green economic recovery
- help fulfil community, industry, and government expectations.

Tracking our progress

Progress towards our Climate Positive targets will be tracked through regular internal and external reporting, including the UTS Corporate Plan, National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting scheme, Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association Benchmark Report and the annual UTS Sustainability Report.

Progress will also be monitored through several committees including the University Leadership Committee, Sustainability Steering Committee, Utilities Steering Committee, Property Steering Committee and Sustainable Development Goals Working Group.



What are scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions?

Scope 1 – from sources directly controlled by the university, such as gas used on campus for heating or fuel for campus vehicles.

Scope 2 – from indirect sources where UTS has some control, such as emissions from our purchased electricity.

Scope 3 – indirect emissions from sources not directly controlled by UTS but related to its activities, such as from purchasing goods and services and staff travel.

Contact: Sustainability@uts.edu.au