

Status Quo

How sustainable is my university?

The 'Nachhaltige Hochschule: Kriterien zur Bestandsaufnahme' project defines 45 criteria for surveying the status quo of sustainability at higher education institutions. They help universities implement sustainability across their activities.

This is how we are doing at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (last updated: June 2021):

RESEARCH	
Understanding of the concept of research for sustainable development and research structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflected in the JMU mission statement • Signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding of the Bavarian Network for Sustainability in Higher Education • Sustainability-related research being conducted at all Faculties • Professorships focusing on sustainability issues • Collaborations and spin-out companies
Discipline-specific research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being conducted at all Faculties
Interdisciplinary research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various interdisciplinary projects investigate issues of sustainability, e.g. the 'BigData@Geo', the 'We4Bee' and the 'ArtZeiten' project
Research projects focused on sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being undertaken at all Faculties
Incentives and transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Albrecht Fürst zu Castell-Castell-Preis' sustainability award • Regular provision of information and communication at the Faculty level and through University-wide portals

TEACHING	
Understanding of the concept of education for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existent across the University
Subject-specific and interdisciplinary courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability-related courses offered by all Faculties • Degree programme in Computer Science and Sustainability • Teach'n'learn garden at the Botanical Garden
Theses about sustainability-related topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be written at each of the University's Faculties
Opportunities to obtain additional qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSiK: interdisciplinary certificates for 'Global Systems and Intercultural Competence' as well as 'Sustainability and Global Responsibility' • The 'Bildung, Ökologie und Nachhaltigkeit' (BOeN) certificate for education, ecology and sustainability offered by the Institute of Pedagogy • Teach'n'learn garden • Plastic Summer School • Degree programme in Computer Science and Sustainability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture series on sustainability-related issues running since 2012
Other opportunities to learn about sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability-related courses and events offered as part of the 'ProfiLehre', 'Kinderuni' and 'Schüleruni' programmes
Methods, education for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach'n'learn garden • CampusGarden
Incentives, recognition of education for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Albrecht Fürst zu Castell-Castell-Preis' sustainability award • Student demand
Quality assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being developed

CAMPUS OPERATIONS	
Understanding of the concept of sustainable campus operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largely existent
Resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building standards • LED lighting • Energy supply heating/cooling • Cold aisle containment in the Information Technology Centre • Cooperation with the wind farm operator Bürgerwindpark Sailershäuser Wald GmbH
Purchasing/supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contender in the 'Papieratlas' university competition • Chemical recycling • Office supplies • Multimedia equipment pool
Waste disposal/emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste separation • Special waste • Recycling
University properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced mowing of grasslands on campus • Incorporation of nest boxes in buildings • Rainwater harvesting • FSC-certified operations in the university forest
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Semesterticket' students' public transport pass • The 'DB-Job-Ticket' rail pass for staff members • The 'Mobil-Firmen-Abo' public transport pass • Setting up more electric vehicle charging stations on campus • Making available more bicycle parking facilities on campus • Gradual replacement of the petrol and diesel vehicles on the University fleet with electric or hybrid models • Electric bikes included in the University fleet
Eating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetarian and vegan meals offered at the canteens and cafeterias operated by the Studentenwerk Würzburg • Fairtrade certified coffee • Annual employee health and wellbeing day focusing on areas such as healthy eating

Animal welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified and monitored care and use of laboratory animals • Hunting in the university forest with non-lead ammunition only
Nature conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particularly ecologically valuable spaces on campus being managed in an ecologically sustainable manner • Insect hotels • Nest boxes • Management of the pigeon populations on campus • FSC-certified forestry operations
Social sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance and advice • Family Services • Childcare • KIS Disability Resource Centre
Management of courses and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Faculties and other organisational units (decentralised)
Campus design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus is becoming (largely) car free
Incentives for the sustainable use of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being developed

GOVERNANCE	
Sustainability embedded into our culture at the JMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission statement • Vice-President for Sustainability • Sustainability Committee • Signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding of the Bavarian Network for Sustainability in Higher Education
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Board • Advice provided by committees • Points of contact for sustainability-related matters • Heads of Unit for their areas of responsibility
HR matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation • Equal Opportunities Representative, Women's Representative • KIS Disability Resource Centre • The 'PROMI – Promotion inklusive' project for doctoral researchers with disabilities • Internationalisation • Welcome Centre
Financial matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility of the University Board
Incentives and recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Albrecht Fürst zu Castell-Castell-Preis' sustainability award • Regular provision of information and communication
Memberships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bavarian Network for Sustainability in Higher Education
Communication and transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press and Public Relations Office • Points of contact for sustainability-related matters • Sustainability report • Website

Reflection and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual status report on gender equality presented to the University Council, gender report • Annual KIS report presented to the Senate
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STUDENTS	
Student initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working group for ecology and sustainability of the JMU Student Representation • CampusGarden • Sustainability workshops • How-to guide to living a more sustainable lifestyle
Student working groups and centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working group for ecology and sustainability of the JMU Student Representation
Provision of funding and rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students House • Infrastructure for the CampusGarden provided by the Technical Maintenance Service Centre and the state building authority • Funds for consumables
Incentives and recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By attending sustainability-related courses, e.g. lecture series, students can earn ECTS credits towards their degrees • Cooperation with the teach'n'learn garden and the 'Lebendiger Campus' initiative of the Faculty of Biology
Student projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working group for ecology and sustainability of the JMU Student Representation
Courses organised by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working group for ecology and sustainability of the JMU Student Representation
Collaboration with businesses/potential employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject-specific collaborations, e.g. with the Würzburg city administration or other authorities • Links with businesses that offer placement opportunities or opportunities for thesis projects