

Sustainability and higher education

Establish a Digital Led University that embraces responsible practices

- An Advisory Services PoV





The higher education sector has a key role to play in mitigating the impact of global climate change, with universities providing the innovations that set global sustainability standards, and simultaneously educating future generations of change leaders.

Sustainability is a strategic priority

This sustainability responsibility goes beyond initiatives such as energy management and recycling on campus, with an essential need for universities to demonstrate their progress towards sustainability goals.

It is clear that universities have the opportunity to inspire students and staff with best practice operations and responsible learning that fosters a sense of personal and social responsibility. When successful, universities' policies and best practices will help stakeholder to develop their own social impact mentality, wherein they will embrace and consider sustainable approaches in everything they do.

Furthermore, by working closely with communities and the locality, universities and their students can develop practical experience and deliver rewarding societal impact. This is important because as sustainability moves further into the front and centre of society, employers are increasingly looking to hire people with new skills in sustainability engagement, collaboration and inclusive decision-making. Embedding sustainability into your university's culture will therefore



not only increase your organisation's reputation, but will attract more students who are looking to their futures. It is important therefore to use social media and other digital mediums to promote your approach to responsible operations.

For many years, estate and energy management professionals across university campuses have driven building performance improvements in the name of sustainability. However, it is now more important than ever to consider how new, broader sustainability skills and clearer strategies will help your university achieve net zero. To achieve eminence in sustainability, universities need to:



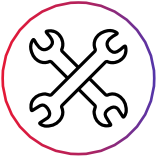
Create a sustainability mindset across the campus



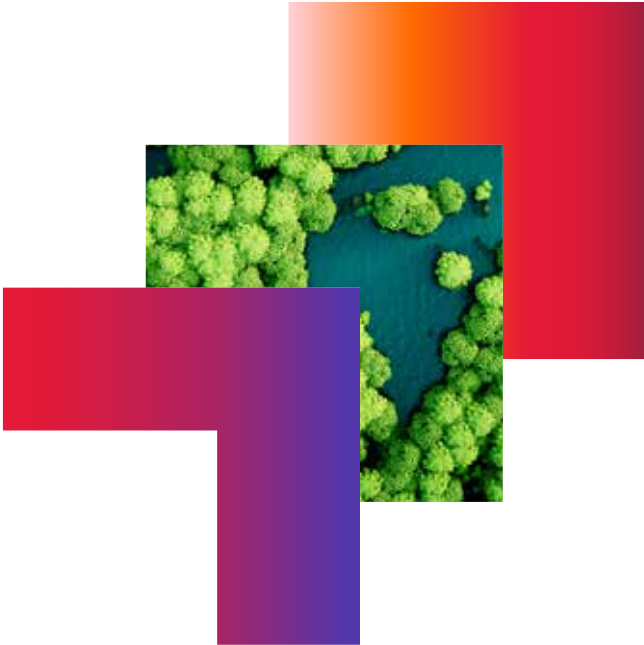
Inspire programmes across the locality and amongst communities to create reputation and civic impact



Prioritise sustainability learning into every field of research and pedagogy practice



Provide the tools and inspiration to allow sustainability-motivated students to take their passions further



CGI as a sustainability partner

We work with universities to turn sustainability visions into practical strategic delivery. Together, we can deliver your ‘pathway to net zero’ whilst inspiring future leaders within your university’s sustainability ecosystem.

As an organisation with 82,000 members across the globe, CGI is passionate about addressing all sustainability challenges, from the broad, worldwide organisation, to local level operations. In the UK specifically, we have committed to achieve net zero for our own operations by 2026, and have set science-based targets (SBTs). Our sustainability ambition is

aligned to the latest climate science, with all operational practices, policies, partnerships and actions taking into account the protection of our environment.

We are fully aware that our impact as an organisation extends beyond our own CGI operations alone; hence, as part of our SBTi commitment we collaborate with our vibrant supplier ecosystem to support and engage them on their own respective net zero journeys.

Through our Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory, CGI’s commitment to protecting the planet extends to helping our clients achieve sustainable competitive advantage alongside positive economic, social and environmental impact.



We understand that the higher education sector has experienced a long period of intense disruption that has resulted in the economic sustainability of the campus being under threat. However, we believe this presents new opportunities for commercial and local engagement partnerships, enabling universities to embrace new service delivery designs that encourage more sustainable learning and impact across the campus. Furthermore, these universities will become innovators by successfully developing strategies and delivery partnerships that will help achieve sustainability targets and create wider societal impact.

We partner with universities to support:

- The digital led campus, including a “green campus” strategy throughout
- Insight-driven change supported by real-time data
- Supply chain veracity
- Community engagement and change management
- Digital transformation strategies that accelerate and embed sustainability into all support and collaboration services.

“Climate change is a serious focus for our members and our operations here at CGI, and we are on this net zero journey not just because we have to be, but because we want to be. . . Achieving net zero might not be a typical business goal, but it is the only goal that makes sense when it comes to emissions. The climate crisis is affecting all of us now, and the sooner our emissions are net zero, the better, which is why we aim to meet this goal 26 years earlier than the Paris Agreement suggests.”

President of CGI UK and Australia, Tara McGeehan

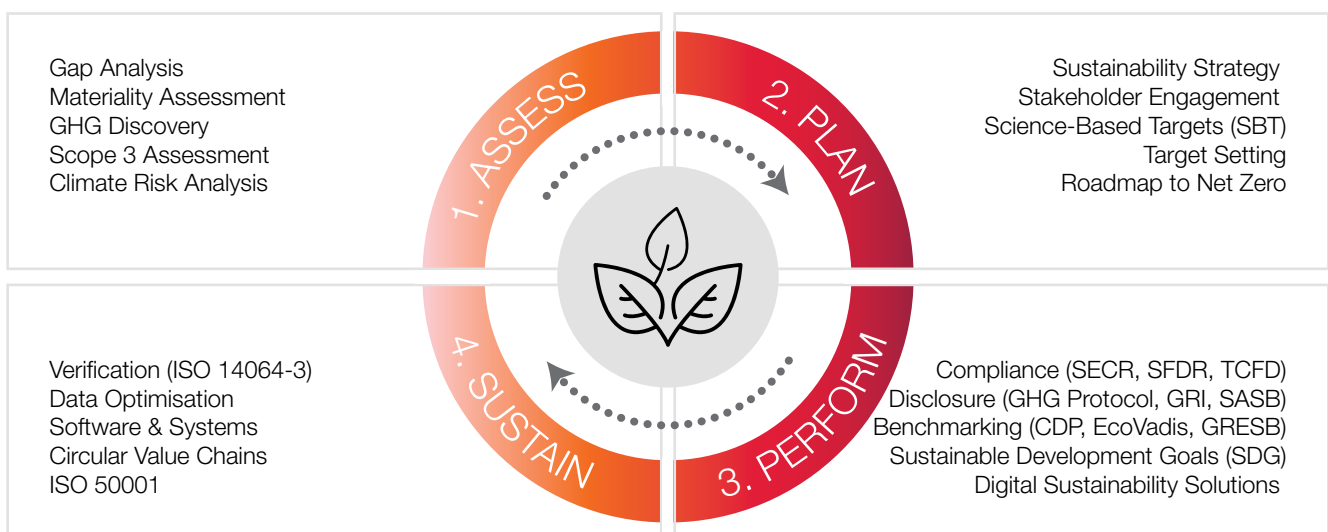
The Digital Led University – delivering pathways to net zero

We are an organisation of innovators, and recognise that our own experiences in sustainable digital transformation will be invaluable to the higher education sector. We therefore combine our investment in supporting intellectual property and innovations, leading IT solutions and in-depth sustainability knowledge, together with supporting partners and SMEs to help universities achieve their sustainability ambitions.

Digital techniques are essential to the delivery of sustainability commitments, with tools to measure progress, optimise resources, reduce emissions and encourage a circular economy. Our digital-based sustainability strategies can help with areas including:

- Data gathering
- Measuring efficiencies across campus utilities
- Supply chains
- New hybrid working models
- Optimising processes and resources
- Data security and privacy
- More sustainable ICT, using the best of hybrid delivery models such as cloud services.

We are enablers, and use our four-step approach to help achieve your organisation’s sustainability goals.





About CGI

Insights you can act on

Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest IT and business consulting services firms in the world. We are insights-driven and outcomes-based to help accelerate returns on your investments.

Across hundreds of locations worldwide, we provide comprehensive, scalable and sustainable IT and business consulting services that are informed globally and delivered locally.

Find out more about our [responsible business approach](#).

Learn more at cgi.com/uk

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