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## *Sustainability and Health Working Group* **Action Plan**

2026-2028



(Sustainable Development Goals 3 & 12)

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## Background

It is undeniable that climate change is having an impact on our health, from the rising temperatures and more extreme weather to an increase in CO2 levels and rising sea levels. For example, extreme heat and severe weather leading to heat-related illness and death, as well as mental health impacts, increasing allergens causing respiratory allergies and asthma and a food supply that is compromised.

The College of Health and Enablement are training future health practitioners, and it is important for our graduates to be equipped and empowered to help make a difference in supporting the health of themselves and others within the community. This starts with a focus on themselves and extends to others around them, including the workplace.

The Sustainability and Health working group was established in 2022 with the goal of taking action within the college to support sustainable practices. This began as a passion project and developed into a team of motivated staff who are dedicated to encouraging awareness and education around sustainable practices and the links to health.

This is our second action plan, designed to strengthen and extend the sustainable culture and practices developed in recent years.

### Relationship with University Policy and Strategic Plan:

The Sustainability and health working group aligns directly with [Agenda 2035](#) by translating the University's commitments to wellbeing, sustainability, and societal impact into coordinated, cross-disciplinary action. For example, addressing climate change in the form of improving sustainability practices at Flinders University as well as teaching and equipping students studying health topics in understanding the health consequences of climate change. The strategy explicitly commits to *"a fairer, healthier world for generations to come"*. It also emphasises **responsible, ethical and sustainable practices that protect the environment and support long-term wellbeing**.

The University is committed to sustainability evidenced by the [2030 Sustainability Strategy](#). The College of Health and Enablement (CHE) is leading local action through the establishment of the Sustainability and Health Working Group—the first college-based working group of its kind across the University.

### Relationship with CHE Strategic Plan:

The Sustainability and Health Working group supports the [CHE Strategic Plan](#) by embedding sustainability as a core driver of health and wellbeing across research, education and practice, contributing to a culture of care, strengthening partnerships, and enabling innovative, real-world solutions that improve outcomes for communities.

## College Actions

This Sustainability and Health Working Group is in close consultation with the Flinders University *Sustainability Advisory Group* and the *Embedding Sustainability in the Curriculum Working Group* in which CHE is represented. The priorities and actions from this collaboration will be in line with the wider values of Flinders University and sustainability goals. Reporting between groups will ensure this action plan is maintained and provide opportunities for projects, ideas, and information to be shared.

The CHE Sustainability and Health Action Plan identifies three focus areas that are important to CHE staff and students aligning with the university priorities and culture. CHE is committed to achieving the objectives outlined on the following pages.

## College Objectives

### Objective 1: To influence and advocate for embedding sustainability within learning, teaching and research

Success indicators:	
<b>A</b>	Sustainability related content is embedded within curriculum across the college.
<b>B</b>	Teaching and research staff have the resources to implement sustainable practices into their teaching and research activities.

Success Indicator	Strategy	PIC representative and/or lead responsible person	Target (related to indicators)	Progress	Timeframe for completion
<b>A</b>	Flinders University wide project: Sustainability within the curriculum mapping project	Carolyn	A framework is available to map the curriculum		Dec 2026
<b>A</b>	Partner with CMPH Sustainability colleagues to streamline processes for embedding sustainability into curriculum	Carolyn Tegan	(SoT Grant)		Dec 2026
<b>A</b>	Explore staff and student beliefs and attitudes towards sustainability to help inform resource need and content	Tegan	(SoT) Grant		Dec 2026
<b>B</b>	Collate resources on easy ways to implement sustainable practices into teaching, research and learning.	Carolyn Georgia Tegan			ongoing
<b>B</b>	Communicate these resources with staff through either a canvas page or Teams site	Carolyn Georgia Tegan			ongoing

## Objective 2: To strengthen staff capabilities for sustainable practices in the workplace

### Success indicators:

<b>A</b>	Staff are equipped with strategies and tools to be more sustainable in the workplace, which fosters a culture of sustainable practice in everyday life.
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Success Indicator	Strategy	PIC representative and/or lead responsible person	Target (related to indicators)	Progress	Timeframe for completion
<b>A</b>	Provide another lunch and learn activity or record some short videos for staff to view.	Louise Tegan			Dec 2026
<b>A</b>	Look into running the "Which Bin?" game at the next college retreat	Carolyn Alice Chloe			October 2026
<b>A</b>	Provide regular staff communication keeping sustainability on the agenda e.g. newsletter, videos.	Alice Katie			Ongoing
<b>A</b>	Run a small, interactive activity in Sustainability week and other dates leading up to that week (x2).	Alice Chloe Katie			Sept 2028

## Objective 3: To support and advocate for opportunities in the college environment to enable sustainable behaviours

### Success indicators:

<b>A</b>	A workplace environment that enables sustainable behaviours
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Success Indicator	Strategy	PIC representative and/or lead responsible person	Target (related to indicators)	Progress	Timeframe for completion
<b>A</b>	Keep Cup Initiative – Collect sales data to promote benefits to college staff and students	Chloe	Report every June		Ongoing
<b>A</b>	Run a college wide survey to identify staff awareness of keep cup initiative	Chloe Georgia	Run each June		Ongoing

Success Indicator	Strategy	PIC representative and/or lead responsible person	Target (related to indicators)	Progress	Timeframe for completion
<b>A</b>	Bin waste signage – what happens to my waste? What happens if my waste goes in the wrong bin?	Chloe Tegan	Staff understand how waste is recycled		July 2027
<b>A</b>	Explore possibilities about recycling aluminium tins, hard plastics, paper and cardboard.	Chloe			December 2026
<b>A</b>	Explore option for green lab accreditation for our nursing labs	Tomi Chloe Tegan	Green lab accreditation is initiated or target met if not possible to advance this		Dec 2027
<b>A</b>	Liaise, consult, and advocate with interested parties for the Sturt Community Garden	Tegan	Report annually	Update at regular working group meetings	Ongoing



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