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Brunel University of London is a world-class research university, combining a technical focus with research excellence that is closely aligned with the needs of equitable and inclusive, environmentally-sustainable global societies and economies. The final part of that vision is especially important, as our research and education are focused on preparing students for real-world challenges that they will encounter in their careers and on using our research expertise to directly address those same global issues.

As a campus-based university located within a global city, Brunel has a range of challenges and opportunities. Our campus has space for nature to thrive, with areas of woodland and meadow along with a biodiverse stream running through the estate. We attract staff and students from across the globe, and many people commute daily to our site. Ensuring that we provide sustainable travel options, encourage flexible working and support people to take sustainable travel options are important elements of our approach. The campus is a full-time home to over 5000 students, with over 20000 people studying or working on the site in any one month: we work with our catering suppliers to deliver sustainable food options and minimise waste, with our waste management company to reduce waste and maximise recycling, and with the local authority to deliver sustainable transport routes to and from the campus. Much of our estate is around 50 years old, and we have a rolling programme of improving energy efficiency and building utilisation to deliver year-on-year reductions in heat and power consumption. As a consequence, our carbon emissions are reducing in line with the university's commitment to achieve net zero by 2040.

Brunel has a long history of problem-oriented research, a substantial part of which addresses the SDGs directly. Working with businesses, government agencies and NGOs, we are delivering projects locally, nationally and internationally to reduce consumption of energy and other resources, minimise waste and improve human and environmental health. Our research has an embedded social mission and this transfers across into our education where deliver research-informed education to students who do not have ready access to educational opportunities. These opportunities, delivered to a uniquely diverse student body by a diverse staff, allow us to promote creativity and innovation.

Sustainability is core to our mission. We recognise that students, staff and society expect universities to be at the forefront of addressing environmental challenges and that we have to lead by example. As is true for all universities, the history of our estate influences how we operate today and the choices that we make for the future. There will always be work to be done to improve our environmental performance and to enhance the working environment for the campus community. At all levels, Brunel University of London will remain focused on seeking opportunities to become more sustainable in our operations, to enhance the impact made by our researchers and to expand our education to promote sustainability.

Professor Andrew Jones

Vice-Chancellor and President

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