RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY

Measures and Indicators Report

for RWTH Aachen University's Sustainability Strategy
As of March 2025

Preliminary Remarks

In early 2022, RWTH Aachen University launched a university-wide process involving all major stakeholder groups to develop a comprehensive sustainability strategy. The strategy was formally adopted by the RWTH Senate in December 2023.

The full strategy document is publicly available on the RWTH website:

www.rwth-aachen.de/nachhaltigkeitsstrategie

The Sustainability Strategy establishes a comprehensive framework for advancing sustainable development across four focus areas: Governance, Teaching and Learning, Research, and Operations. To guide the University's long-term sustainability transition, the framework defines 55 strategic targets and 165 associated measures, with milestone years set for 2025, 2028, and 2030. Progress toward these targets is monitored through 86 performance indicators.

This report provides an overview of the implementation status of the measures adopted as part of the Sustainability Strategy. Progress toward the defined targets is tracked using the performance indicators presented in this report.

The status of individual measures is based on annual updates provided by the university units responsible for implementation. Please note that there may be a time lag between the assessment of a measure and the publication or update of this report. All information in this report reflects the status as of the reporting date specified above.

Measures marked as "In progress (ongoing)" have already been implemented and are now part of regular university operations. Although these measures continue on an ongoing basis, they are considered completed for monitoring purposes. Measures marked as "In progress" are actively under implementation but have not yet been completed. The Measures and Indicators Report for RWTH's Sustainability Strategy is organized around the following four focus areas:

- Governance
- Teaching and Learning
- Research
- Operations

Structure

This report is presented in tabular format. Each focus area follows the structure outlined below:

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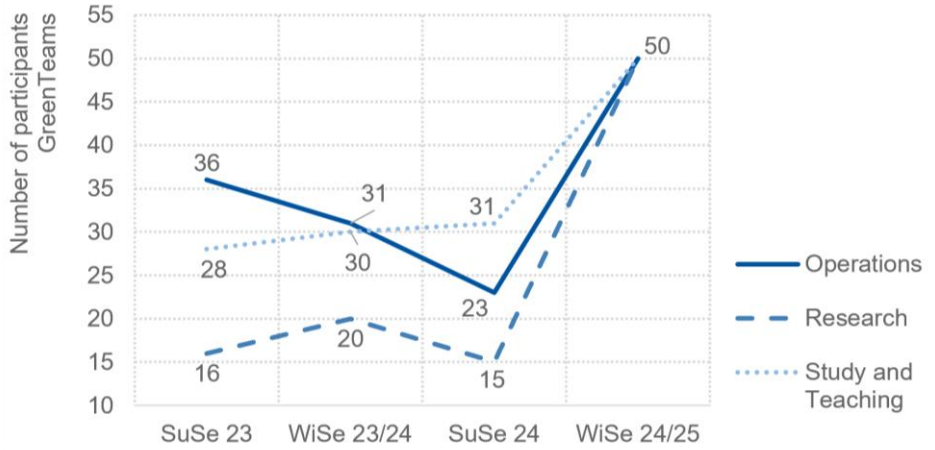
Note

Cross-cutting topics such as equal opportunity and diversity, internationalization, human resources development and talent management, and digitalization are also addressed within the Sustainability Strategy. However, they are not treated as separate focus areas because each is covered by its own dedicated strategy.

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Establish and expand opportunities for University members to participate in sustainability activities on campus and beyond.			
Measures	• Continue and expand existing formats for exchange and collaboration: ○ GreenTeams (operations, research, teaching and learning): Once per semester, open to all university members ○ Sustainability Round Table: once per semester, for students ○ Sustainability Office Hours: every Wednesday, open to all University members	In progress (ongoing) The listed formats are held regularly at the planned intervals.	2025
	• Expand RWTH's internal Sustainability Network: ○ by appointing sustainability officers in all faculties/divisions, departments, staff units, and central institutions ○ by holding regular meetings of the sustainability officers (once per quarter)	In progress Meetings of the Sustainability Network take place regularly throughout the year.	
Indicators	• Number of people engaged in participatory activities (each semester) ○ GreenTeams ○ Sustainability Roundtable ○ Meetings of the Sustainability Network		
	The GreenTeams, Sustainability Roundtable, and Sustainability Network meet regularly. Participation in the GreenTeams is shown in the figure. In 2024, 20 people took part in the Sustainability Roundtable, while 53 participated in Sustainability Network meetings.		

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Number of sustainability officers at RWTH	46	2025
	Target: Prepare and make key decisions relating to sustainability in a University-wide participatory process		
Measures	• Hold regular stakeholder dialogues and organize large-scale sustainability events or workshops for university members (at least every two to three years)	In progress (ongoing) To date, RWTH has hosted two University-wide sustainability workshops, each attended by more than 100 participants (2021 and 2023).	2025
Indicators	• Number of workshops held	Number of workshops (total): 2 2021:1 workshop, 2023:1 workshop	
	• Number of workshop participants	Number of participants: 2021 workshop: 113, 2023 workshop: 122	
	Target: Create opportunities for University members to contribute sustainability-related ideas and challenges and to stay informed about implementation progress.		Target achieved
Measures	• Improve communication about participatory sustainability activities across the University	In progress (ongoing) Communication takes place through a variety of channels and formats, including the university website, Instagram, newsletters, internal university platforms, and public events.	2025
	• Create opportunities for university members to contribute suggestions, feedback, and ideas, including anonymously	In progress (ongoing) University members can contribute ideas and feedback through exchange formats such as the GreenTeams, Sustainability Consultation Hours, and the Sustainability Round Table, as well as through communication channels such as Instagram and email. Anonymous feedback can also be submitted through a “suggestion box” available at public events featuring the sustainability booth.	

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Ind.	• Are opportunities available for University members to contribute their ideas? (yes/no)	Yes	2025
Target: Enhance the visibility of sustainability projects and activities at RWTH by strengthening existing communication channels, developing new ones, and expanding their reach.			
Measures	• Continue developing the digital sustainability landscape	In progress (ongoing) The digital sustainability landscape is continuously being updated and expanded. Existing projects are regularly reviewed for relevance and visibility.	2025
	• Make the topic of sustainability and sustainability-related activities at RWTH more visible by establishing information points on campus	In the planning phase As part of the “Sustainability meets Art” project, students from the Department of Recyclable Construction developed initial concepts. Suitable implementation opportunities on campus are currently being explored.	
	• Expand the Campus Tours offered by RWTHextern to include sustainability aspects	Completed Sustainability is now a permanent component of all regular campus discovery tours.	
	• Communicate sustainability-related developments and projects on campus on a regular basis through formats such as the N² – Sustainability Newsletter and social media activities	In progress (ongoing) Sustainability-related content is communicated regularly via Instagram and the N² – Sustainability Newsletter. Additional communication channels are currently being explored.	
Indicators	• Number of sustainability projects on the digital sustainability landscape	258 (as of January 2026)	
	• Number of sustainability information points on campus	In planning	
	• Newsletter reach (number of subscribers)	690	

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Social media reach (number of subscribers and impressions)	2,156 subscribers (data on impressions have been available since 2025.)	2025
	Target: Improve the internal flow of information on sustainability topics and events across the University.		
Measures	• Add a “Sustainability” filter (keyword) to the Events section of the university website	The filter was initially implemented but removed during the relaunch of the university website. The measure is currently under review.	2025
Measures	• Provide regular sustainability updates in the Prof-Info publication and present status updates at the Faculties Conference	In progress (ongoing) These activities are a core part of the Sustainability Staff Unit’s responsibilities.	
Measures	• Host regular meetings of the University’s Sustainability Network	In progress (ongoing) Meetings are held once per quarter. As of March 2025, nine network meetings have taken place.	
Ind	• Measures implemented (yes/no)	Yes	
	Target: Establish and promote funding opportunities for ideas from the University community that contribute to a more sustainable University.		
Measures	• Promote RWTH’s Creative Ideas Management System (KIM) as an incentive-based tool for submitting ideas related to sustainability and environmental protection	Not yet initiated In 2024, 31 contributions were submitted through the KIM system, six of which related to sustainability or environmental protection. Further activities to promote the system are still being planned.	2025
Measures	• Further develop the RWTH Sustainability Fund and secure its continuation following a positive evaluation	In progress To date, three funding rounds have been completed, supporting a total of 15 applications between 2022 and 2024. Beginning in 2025, the Sustainability Fund will continue as a low-threshold funding program offering grants of up to €1,500 and will also be expanded to include projects in teaching and research.	

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Indicators	• Number of applications funded through the Sustainability Fund (pilot phase 2022–2024)	15	2025
Indicators	• Amount of funding disbursed	€260,000	
Target: Strengthen political engagement and collaboration with universities at the state, federal, and international levels to advance the sustainable development of higher education institutions.			Target achieved
Measures	• Participate in the HumboldtN initiative	In progress (ongoing) Current activities include participation in summer and winter schools as well as lecture series.	2025
Measures	• Contribute to the German Society for Sustainability at Universities (DG HochN)	In progress (ongoing) Participation in DG HochN includes: • attendance at annual general meetings • organization and content development for hubs • participation in a range of different hubs	
Measures	• Contribute to the Sustainable Campus Working Group of the IDEA League	In progress (ongoing) Several joint projects have been developed within the working group, including: • an international IDEA League conference • an accompanying publication • participation in the Venice Biennale • the launch of a MOOC on sustainable urban development In addition, international contacts have been established to support future collaborations on climate protection in higher education. Participation is coordinated primarily through RWTH's Chair of Urban Design.	

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Participate in CESAER's Sustainability Working Group	In progress (ongoing) Discontinued at the end of 2025. The CESAER task force was dissolved due to limited staff capacity. Sustainability topics continue to be addressed in part through other CESAER task force.	2025
	• Contribute to sustainability-related initiatives and working groups in North Rhine-Westphalia	In progress (ongoing) Participation takes place through the Sustainability Staff Unit within the Network for Sustainability and Climate Protection Management at Universities in North Rhine-Westphalia (NaKliMa NRW).	
Ind.	• Document projects and activities developed through these collaborations	See Measures.	
Target: Increase the collaboration between University members and stakeholders, initiatives, businesses, and policymakers in the Aachen region			
Measures	• Participate in collaborative projects, including the "Engagierte Stadt" initiative, the Circular City Declaration, the City of Aachen's Sustainability Days, the Future Lab, and the Templergraben Living Lab	In progress (ongoing) Current activities include: Extension of the "Engagierte Stadt" project in 2023; Completion of the accompanying research for the Templergraben Living Lab; Establishment of a partnership between RWTH and the City of Aachen as part of the Future Lab; Participation since 2024, as a premium partner of the City of Aachen in the EU mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities"; Participation in the state government's Climate-Neutral State Administration initiative.	2025
	• Establish an expert pool by the end of 2024 consisting of RWTH experts who contribute their knowledge, particularly on sustainability-related topics, through media engagement and public events	In the planning phase Consultations are ongoing regarding the extent to which information on potential experts can be made publicly available.	
	• Develop sustainability-focused modules to complement the University's outreach activities for schools, such as the Learning Labs	In the planning phase	

Governance Focus Area			
	Measure / Performance Indicator	**Status**	**Time Horizon**
Ind.	• Description of the projects and activities advanced through these collaborations	See measures	2025
	Target: Develop a clearly defined roadmap by 2026 for achieving climate neutrality at the University within specified system boundaries by 2030.		
Measures	• Establish a climate action management function at the University	In progress Two climate action managers have been appointed (in Department 10.0 and the Sustainability Staff Unit). Work on the Integrated Climate Action Plan is currently underway (as of December 2025).	2028
	• Define a maximum budget for unavoidable emissions (introduction of a carbon budget approach)	In progress The definition of a maximum emissions budget and the system boundaries forms part of the Integrated Climate Action Plan and is being addressed within that framework (as of December 2025).	
	• Reduce the University's greenhouse gas footprint, up to the full balancing of RWTH's CO_2 emissions within defined system boundaries	In progress Greenhouse gas accounting is being continuously expanded, and available data are being consolidated. For example, non-grid-connected energy supplies are not yet centrally recorded.	
	○ Integrate RWTH's Energy Data Management System (EDMS) into greenhouse gas accounting	In progress As data collection for individual consumers and buildings becomes available through the EDMS, these sources will be integrated into greenhouse gas accounting. Full integration depends on further development of the Climate Action Plan. Development of the EDMS is progressing in parallel.	

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	○ Develop approaches for calculating additional Scope 3 emissions	In progress Certain Scope 3 emissions are already included in sustainability reporting. Additional categories and calculation approaches are currently being developed as part of the Climate Action Plan. While this work is being coordinated by the climate protection managers, implementation may require additional input from specialist departments. The extent of this effort is not yet fully known. One example is the collection of data on employee and student mobility (as of December 2025).	2028
	• Develop and publish an Integrated Climate Action Plan (IKSK), which will serve as RWTH's roadmap to climate neutrality."	In progress The project to develop the Integrated Climate Action Plan (IKSK) was launched on September 1, 2024. The first project staff were appointed on November 1, 2024, and work on the concept is ongoing (as of December 2025).	
Indicators	• Climate Action Plan published (yes/no)	No	
	• Maximum budget for unavoidable emissions defined (yes/no)	No	
	• Full greenhouse gas inventory completed (yes/no)	No	
Target: Increase the number of staff with dedicated sustainability responsibilities and clearly defined roles at both the University and Faculty levels.			
Measures	• Assign responsibility for sustainability topics in teaching and learning, research, and operations at the university leadership level (e.g., Rector's delegates)	Completed Three Rector's Delegates for Sustainability have been appointed, with responsibilities covering the areas of teaching and learning, research, and operations.	2028

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Assess staffing needs in the relevant departments and units	Not yet initiated No dedicated staffing analysis has been conducted to date. To date, sustainability responsibilities have primarily been integrated into existing roles and structures across the university. At the same time, three permanent FTE positions in the Sustainability Staff Unit (formerly Sustainability and University Governance) are dedicated exclusively to sustainability topics (as of December 2024). In addition, Dept. 10.6 – Sustainable Building Management was established in 2024, including the appointment of a climate action manager.	2028
	• Increase staffing resources in departments and units whose work is essential to achieving the University's sustainability goals	In progress Across the university administration, sustainability considerations are increasingly being integrated into operational activities. This is particularly evident in facility management. The establishment of Division 10.6 – Facilities Management and Sustainability, which had nine staff members as of December 2024, created the organizational capacity needed to address energy management more strategically and systematically. In addition, two climate action manager positions have been created, one of which is located in Division 10.6.	
Indicators	• Number of permanent full-time equivalents (FTEs) in sustainability management and coordination	Permanent FTEs in the Sustainability Staff Unit: 3	
	• Number of FTEs per 10,000 students	FTEs per 10,000 students: 0.67 (based on 44.892 students in the 2024/25 winter semester)	

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	Target: Continuation and expansion of reporting on sustainability-related data and developments at RWTH		
Measures	• Publish a University-wide Sustainability Report every two years, including a greenhouse gas inventory	In progress (ongoing) To date, two Sustainability Reports have been published (2022 and 2024). Beginning in 2026, the reporting framework will be revised and aligned more closely with the University's Sustainability Strategy.	2028
Measures	• Present current sustainability indicators and developments online, potentially through a digital dashboard	In the planning phase Beginning in 2026, sustainability indicators and developments will be presented digitally as part of RWTH's sustainability reporting and aligned with the Sustainability Strategy. Operational data will also be incorporated through reporting conducted as part of the Climate-Neutral State Administration Initiative (KNLV) of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and will provide a foundation for RWTH's future reporting system. The implementation of a digital dashboard remains a long-term objective and will require the necessary technical infrastructure, staffing resources, and funding.	
Indicators	• Sustainability Report published every two years (yes/no)	Yes	
Indicators	• Online presentation of current sustainability indicators (yes/no)	No	
	Target: Implement and further develop the Sustainability Strategy through 2030 and beyond		
Measures	• Establish a monitoring system for the Sustainability Strategy, including integration of the Energy Data Management System (EDMS)	In progress A process for regularly collecting and documenting status updates from the organizational units responsible for implementing the Sustainability Strategy has been established. The resulting data analysis serves as a basis for sustainability reporting. Integration with the EDMS has not yet been completed.	2030

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Continuously monitor the Sustainability Strategy and adapt and expand it based on monitoring results	In progress (ongoing) (as of December 2025).	2030
	• Further develop and implement RWTH's Sustainability Mission Statement	Not yet initiated	
	• Communicate sustainability goals regularly, including updates on targets, measures, and achievements	In progress (ongoing) Beginning in 2026, regular sustainability reporting will include updates on objectives, measures, performance indicators, and implementation status.	
Ind.	• Monitoring system established (yes/no)	Yes	
Target: Integrate sustainability as a key consideration in all structural and strategic planning processes and strategy documents			
Measures	• Ensure that university leadership considers sustainability in all processes related to the university's strategic development, including the Excellence Strategy process	In progress Among other activities, university leadership has identified sustainability as a key cross-cutting priority within the Excellence Strategy process. Sustainability aspects have been considered at the operational level in the individual proposals. The topic is also addressed in the annual meetings with the faculties.	2030
	• Integrate sustainability considerations into strategic documents such as the University Development Plan, faculty structural and development plans, and the roadmaps of the Profile Areas	In progress Sustainability is addressed in a dedicated chapter of the University Development Plan. It is also reflected in several faculty structural and development plans and in the roadmaps of the Profile Areas (see also the Research focus area).	

Governance Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Indicators	• Sustainability is addressed in the following documents (yes/no)		2030
	○ University Development Plan	Yes	
	○ Faculty structural and development plans	More than 50% include sustainability-related content	
	○ Roadmaps of the Profile Areas	More than 50% include sustainability-related content	
Target: Provide new educational opportunities that promote sustainability-related knowledge and competencies among students, staff, and University leaders.			
Measures	• Introduce dedicated sustainability-focused learning formats and expand existing offerings	In progress (ongoing) The Sustainability in Brief course has been offered twice a year to all employees through RWTH's professional development program since 2022.	2030
	• Integrate sustainability topics and approaches into existing professional development and training formats	Not yet initiated	
	• Develop and publish factsheets on sustainability topics (e.g., photovoltaic systems)	In progress The factsheet on photovoltaic systems has been published. Factsheets on sustainability in teaching and learning and in research are currently being finalized.	
Indicators	• Number of participants in sustainability mini-courses and similar formats per year	2023: 18 participants 2024: 16 participants	

Teaching and Learning Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Ziel: Ausbau des Unterstützungsangebotes zur inhaltlichen sowie didaktischen Verankerung von Nachhaltigkeit für die in der Lehre eingebundene Personen.			
Measures	• Expand specialized continuing education offerings on sustainability for instructors and teaching staff, increase the visibility of (and information on) the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and systematically embed sustainability topics into ExAcT's existing professional development frameworks	In the planning phase	2025
Measures	• Develop a dedicated sustainability section within the "Moodle LehrBar," providing instructors and teaching staff with information and materials, such as fact sheets, examples, and case studies to support integration of sustainability in coursework	In the planning phase	
Indicators	• Sustainability themes have been integrated into ExAct offerings (yes/no)	No	
Indicators	• A Moodle LehrBar focused on sustainability has been made accessible online (yes/no)	No	
Target: Identify RWTH courses relevant to sustainability issues and communicate these finding annually, beginning in 2024.			
Measures	• Indicate which sustainability issues RWTH courses help advance, for example, in terms of their relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	In the planning phase	2025
Measures	• Develop a system for assessing courses' relevance to climate and sustainability	In the planning phase	

Teaching and Learning Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Ensure module descriptions showcase the sustainability aspects of courses	In the finalization phase As part of the ALLADiN project—an initiative dedicated to aligning module handbooks with the University's core teaching mission by emphasizing digital competencies and sustainability—we developed a framework to systematically integrate sustainability into future module handbooks. A guiding document with key questions is available, and academic departments are now responsible for updating their module handbooks. The revised content will be incorporated beginning winter semester 2025/26. Quality assurance of sustainability integration in module descriptions is scheduled for summer semester 2026, after which regular review—at minimum during program evaluations—will ensure continued alignment and necessary updates.	2025
	• Incorporate sustainability topics into standard surveys and teaching evaluations, including the Student Course Evaluation (LVB), the First-Semester Student Survey, and the Graduate Survey (AB).	Currently undergoing revision Consideration of SDG relevance has thus far been included in the Student Course Evaluation, the First-Semester Student Survey, and the Graduate Survey (survey of graduates). Further integration into program-level discussions is under consideration.	
Indicators	• Sustainability topics have been incorporated into: ○ the Student Course Evaluation (yes/no) ○ the First-Semester Student Survey (yes/no) ○ the Graduate Survey (yes/no)	Yes	
	• A system for determining courses' relevance to sustainability issues has been implemented (yes/no)	No	
	• The number of classes with relevance to sustainability issues (number)	Due to capacity constraints, data collection is expected to be feasible only from 2026 onward.	

Teaching and Learning Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Expand RWTH's sustainability curriculum by championing new interdisciplinary electives and specialized micro-credentials, beginning in 2024.			
Measures	• Mobilize teaching staff to expand course offerings within the "SDG Campus" collaborative project	In progress The "SDG Campus" course portfolio is continuously expanded. Currently, RWTH contributes a foundational course on "SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation," and two additional courses led by RWTH teaching staff are in development. Looking ahead, the follow-up initiative, "Campus Connected," focuses on building incentive frameworks to encourage instructors and teaching staff to design new sustainability-focused courses.	2028
	• Prominently feature and promote the "SDG Campus" project	In progress The Sustainability Staff Unit and central university communications regularly feature the SDG Campus across their respective Instagram channels. Outreach efforts also included a strong presence at major university events, including First-Year Orientation Week, utilizing information booths, targeted flyers, and more. Highlighting last year's promotional campaign, a guest lecture by the Indonesian ambassador on "SDG 14 – Life Below Water" was cross-promoted via email lists, Instagram, posters, flyers, and a dedicated press release in the Aachener Zeitung, drawing an audience of approximately 400 attendees.	
	• Launch a "Micro Bachelor's Degree Program in Sustainability" at RWTH	In progress Implementation of the Sustainability Micro Bachelor's Program is actively underway. As an initial milestone, students can currently earn a Certificate of Basic Studies by completing a 10-ECTS credit learning pathway. Fully launching the RWTH-specific Micro Bachelor's, will require expanding the current course catalog and finalizing the institutional and regulatory frameworks governing microcredentials.	
	• Continue and expand the Leonardo "Sustainability and Transformation" project	In progress (ongoing)	

Teaching and Learning Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Integrate cross-disciplinary lectures and open existing courses to students across different faculties to foster hands-on problem-solving in sustainability	In the planning phase	2028
	• Develop introductory learning opportunities—including lecture series, summer schools, and winter schools—focused on sustainability and "future skills" in partnership with national and international institutions	In progress (ongoing) The delivery of summer schools and specialized lecture series is actively underway in collaboration with HumboldtN. Project teams are currently exploring administrative pathways to integrate the "lectures" offered by HumboldtN into the RWTH course catalog to maximize students awareness.	
Indicators	• The number of RWTH students who took part in the "SDG Campus" project	53 (last updated: September 2025)	
	• A micro-bachelor's degree program in Sustainability has been introduced (yes/no)	No	
	• The number of modules on sustainability issues within the micro-bachelor's degree program in Sustainability	N/A	
Target: Launch a series of annual sustainability events beginning in 2024 to highlight student achievements stemming from courses and research projects.			Target achieved
Measures	• Leverage existing formats—such as RWTH Science Night, "Schau am Bau," the Campus Festival, or Science Slams—to provide students with opportunities to present their work	In progress (ongoing) These existing formats are already successfully held on an annual basis. Students regularly present their work at RWTH Science Night, participate in the Science Slam, and actively organize entire major events such as Schau am Bau and the Campus Festival.	2028

Teaching and Learning Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Organize events that allow students to present their final theses to the university community	In progress (ongoing) The “Open Perspectives” initiative, newly introduced in 2024, has become an established fixture of the academic year. The ongoing plan to host the event once per semester has been successfully realized: demonstrating continuous implementation, the events for the Summer Semester 2024, Winter Semester 2024/25, Summer Semester 2025, and Winter Semester 2025/2026 have all been executed.	2028
Ind.	• The number of events held	See detailed breakdown under measures above	
Target: Develop a comprehensive framework of criteria by 2026 to define key sustainability competencies for courses, ensuring curricula effectively prepare students to contribute to sustainable development.			
Measures	• Establish an internal working group to develop this set of criteria	In the planning phase The initial plan is for the criteria framework to be developed through a master’s thesis to be offered at the Chair of Controlling. The thesis results will inform subsequent implementation steps. Further development at the chair – including the allocation of personnel resources – is currently under consideration.	2028
Measures	• Conduct interviews with business experts to identify essential skills for students as they prepare to contribute to a sustainable society later in their careers	In the planning phase Expert interviews are planned as a core component of the proposed master’s thesis project. The need for additional interviews will be evaluated as the project progresses.	
Ind.	• A framework of criteria has been developed (yes/no)	No	

Teaching and Learning Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Using the findings from the established set of criteria, provide targeted support for the development of new degree programs and the improvement of existing ones.			
Measures	• Prepare use cases and best practice examples for integrating sustainability into degree programs	In the planning phase A collection of sample lecture slides is available but further work is required to format and make these accessible. Because integration into the LehrBar is not feasible, alternative formats are currently being explored. The compilation of use cases for entire degree programs has not yet started; however, integrating these into future module descriptions is under consideration as an initial step.	2028
Measures	• Make relevant information available in the process portal or QMSL portal	Not yet initiated This initiative has not yet commenced due to the insufficient preparation of baseline materials.	
Ind.	• Available support resources have been listed and described (yes/no)	No	
Target: Embed sustainability across all University strategy documents and ensure its systematic integration into all structural and strategic decision-making by 2030			
Measures	• Integrate sustainability into all University leadership mechanisms regarding the strategic advancement of teaching and learning at RWTH (e.g., within meetings of the deans of academic affairs).	In progress Sustainability has been successfully integrated into the Teaching and Learning Mission Statement and the Teaching and Learning Guiding Principles. Key initiatives, including the SDG Campus, have been formally presented to the deans of academic affairs.	2030
Measures	• Implement the core principles of the Teaching and Learning Mission Statement and the Teaching and Learning Guiding Principles in practice.	In progress In late 2025, RWTH launched its second call for proposals to implement the Teaching and Learning Mission Statement and the Teaching and Learning Guiding Principles. Thirty-nine (39) project proposals totaling approximately €6.1 million were submitted, with implementation scheduled to begin July 1, 2026. The proposals are currently under active review (last updated April 2026).	

Teaching and Learning Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Incorporate sustainability into the catalog of key metrics and indicators for quality management in teaching and learning.	In the finalization phase The criteria catalog for degree program accreditation was revised and was awaiting final approval by the Accreditation Council, which was expected by the end of June 2025. The updated catalog draws on existing accreditation regulations, the Teaching and Learning Mission Statement, and the Teaching and Learning Guiding Principles, providing a unified framework for evaluating all RWTH degree programs. Sustainability is now a mandatory component under Quality Objective A.3, “Social Responsibility and Sustainability,” across all degree programs.	2030
Ind.	• Sustainability has been integrated into quality management for teaching and learning (yes/no)	No	
Target: Ensure all RWTH degree programs equip students with the core competencies necessary to drive the transition toward a sustainable society. By 2032, regular program evaluations must demonstrate that these core competencies are systematically embedded within each program’s educational objectives.			
Measures	Learning outcomes are systematically reviewed both during the launch of new degree programs and through regular program evaluations. This process is anchored in RWTH’s quality objectives and criteria, which establish institutional minimum standards that satisfy external legal requirements while aligning with the Teaching and Learning Mission Statement and the Teaching and Learning Guiding Principles. These foundational frameworks (Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, quality criteria and objectives) explicitly encompass diverse dimensions of sustainability competencies. To demonstrate compliance, these competencies must be clearly articulated within evaluation reports, program proposals, and all core program documentation, including the Diploma Supplement.		2030
	• Verify that sustainability skills are fully embedded in the accreditation criteria for all new degree programs	In progress The integration of sustainability competencies is now standard practice and is strictly reviewed during the design and formal accreditation of all new degree programs.	

Teaching and Learning Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Conduct regular evaluations to ensure sustainability skills remain central to all established degree programs across every Faculty.	In progress Degree programs are evaluated on an eight-year cycle. Consequently, reviewing the entire institutional portfolio is an ongoing process that will take up to eight years following the launch of the sustainability strategy.	2030
	• Incorporate defined sustainability knowledge and skills in the official Diploma Supplements of degree programs once their respective assessments are finalized	In progress Updating the Diploma Supplement has been made a mandatory, integral component of the formal accreditation and reaccreditation process for all degree programs.	
Ind.	• Percentage of degree programs structured around distinct skill profiles that enable students to develop sustainability solutions and act sustainably	Data collection pending	
Target: Continue expanding practice-oriented, interdisciplinary course offerings while transparently communicating their sustainability dimensions. Through strategic partnerships with external stakeholders, students will be provided with hands-on opportunities to actively address real-world sustainability challenges			
Measures	• Promote collaboration between industry and higher education through structured knowledge transfer and interactive idea-sharing formats	In progress The “Open Perspectives” event series is successfully fostering exchange between industry and academia, with two dedicated events hosted annually in 2024 and 2025.	2030
	• Expand collaboration within key university networks—including ENHANCE, IDEA-League, and HumboldtN—to co-develop practice-oriented and interdisciplinary courses	In progress Withing the IDEA-League, RWTH Aachen University remains highly active by collaborating on a joint degree program, Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) development, and annual summer schools. Simultaneously, collaboration within the ENHANCE Alliance is expanding the low-emission mobility portfolio through digital and blended formats under the “European Education Pathway Ecosystem.” This alliance’s key initiatives include an implementation toolkit for innovative course design, the joint MOOC “Responsible Innovators of Tomorrow” (led by RWTH’s GDI and ENHANCE	

Teaching and Learning Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
		partners), various summer and winter schools, Blended Intensive Programs (BIPs) at different ENHANCE locations, and the development of certificate courses (including the “ENHANCE Certificate in Sustainability”). Finally, seasonal (summer and winter) schools and lecture series continue to be offered through the framework of HumboldtN, with several of these formats eligible for ECTS credit transfer for RWTH students.	2030
	• Integrate sustainability topics into existing institutional networking and collaboration platforms focused on teaching and learning	In progress Sustainability was explicitly integrated into the “Talk Lehre” forums in 2023 and 2024, alongside a dedicated “Lunch Lehre” session on sustainability in higher education held in December 2024.	
	• Consolidate and actively promote the RWTH Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Sustainability track	In progress (ongoing) Sustainability-focused research projects are now well-established within the broader UROP framework, with 50 active RWTH UROP Sustainability projects currently cataloged in the UROP database.	
Indicators	• Total number of sustainability-focused courses offered collaboratively within our university networks	Data collection pending	
	• Number of structured idea-sharing formats and expert exchanges dedicated to sustainability	Data collection pending	
Target: By 2030, all those involved in teaching will be informed about sustainability support offers and aware of the importance of embedding sustainability in their teaching activities.			
Measures	• Actively promote the existing range of support services for creating curricula and designing and teaching courses with a focus on sustainability	In progress	2030

Teaching and Learning Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Establish an internal pool of experts to help educators implement concepts that embed sustainability in teaching and learning	Not yet initiated The establishment of the formal expert pool has not yet been explicitly initiated. A coordinated launch—in partnership with ExAcT and stakeholders in teaching staff continuing education—is currently under evaluation.	2030
Ind.	• Total number of instructors and teaching staff participating in sustainability-focused professional development courses	18 participants attended the “Short Format on Sustainability” (in 2023) 16 participants attended the “Short Format on Sustainability” (in 2024)	

Research Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Develop a concept for the systematic recording of sustainability aspects in the University's knowledge transfer activities, taking into account the various dimensions of sustainability.			
Measures	• Develop a set of sustainability-related indicators for the Transfer Barometer	Completed A sustainability assessment has been incorporated into the indicator set of the Transfer Barometer (as of April 2025).	2025
Indicators	• Concept for recording sustainability aspects in transfer activities developed (yes/no)	No. A definition of "sustainable entrepreneurship" is currently being discussed within the ENHANCE project. To date, the primary focus has been on environmental sustainability. Start-up teams working in this area have generally been assigned to the Circular Economy Expert Hub. As part of the EXIST funding application process, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relevant to a proposed business idea are identified. This provides a broad overview of sustainability-related activities but does not yet constitute a systematic approach. In cooperation with TU Berlin, a pilot project based on its Sustainability Assessment Tool was launched. However, the pilot did not produce the desired results, partly because there was limited incentive for start-up teams to participate in the assessment process.	
Target: Expand the support services already provided to better integrate sustainability in research.			
Measures	• Expand continuing education opportunities related to sustainability-oriented research, for example: ○ Workshop: Socially Responsible Research – What Does It Mean? (LeNa Shape/Move) ○ Develop a short-format offering on sustainability specifically for researchers ○ Sustainability Working Group of the Junges Kolleg of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences, Humanities and the Arts	In the planning phase A planned workshop for doctoral candidates had to be canceled due to insufficient registrations.	2025

Research Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Integrate sustainability-related educational offerings into the Doctoral Academy	In the finalization phase The Sustainability in Brief course has been integrated into the Doctoral Academy's offerings to raise awareness among doctoral candidates of sustainability-related topics and activities at RWTH. In addition, the Sustainability Staff Unit participates in the annual RWTH Young Academics Day to inform doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers about sustainability-related support services and funding opportunities	
	• Publish a Sustainability in Teaching and Learning factsheet	In the finalization phase The factsheet is currently being finalized and will be published on the Sustainability website.	2025
Indicators	• List of support services for integrating sustainability into research	Not yet available	
Indicators	• Number of support services for integrating sustainability into research	Not yet available	
Target: Create a reliable data basis for identifying and evaluating sustainability-related aspects and activities in research projects by 2028.			
Measures	• Integrate questions on the sustainability contribution of research projects into third-party funding reporting	Completed Third-party funding reporting has been expanded to include a question on the project's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The revised reporting framework is now in use.	2028

Research Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Integrate sustainability-related aspects into the Research Information System	In the planning phase Beginning in 2025, the Research Information System will process data required for reporting under the Core Research Data Set (KDSF) standard. Version 1.3 of the KDSF does not include sustainability-related data. Future revisions may incorporate such information if corresponding recommendations are issued by the German Council of Science and Humanities. Nevertheless, RWTH already has the ability to collect sustainability-related information through other systems and interfaces (see the measure “Create a comprehensive inventory of the University’s research infrastructure and its use”).	2028
Indicators	• Sustainability aspects integrated into third-party funding reporting (yes/no)	Yes	
	• Sustainability aspects integrated into the Research Information System (yes/no)	No	
Target: Identify opportunities and assess potential for the synergistic use of research infrastructure (RI) at RWTH.			
Measures	• Create a comprehensive inventory of the University's research infrastructure and its use	In progress Following initial challenges, a new pilot project is being prepared in cooperation with departments in Faculty 5. The project aims to document research infrastructure available at the faculty's institutes through a web-based platform. If successful, the approach will be expanded to other areas of the university. The initiative also seeks to identify opportunities to consolidate individual facilities into shared core facilities or equipment centers, thereby improving efficiency and supporting sustainable funding models.	2028
	• Develop a concept for regularly updating the inventory and simplifying future data collection and reporting processes (e.g., KDSF reporting)	In the planning phase Implementation of this measure depends largely on the successful completion of Measure 1. Once the inventory is complete and a comprehensive overview of existing infrastructure is available, a corresponding concept can be developed.	

Research Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Indicators	• Concept for inventorying research infrastructure developed and maintained (yes/no)	No	2028
	• Comprehensive inventory of research infrastructure completed (yes/no)	No	
Target: Develop and establish opportunities for the shared use of research infrastructure by 2025.			
Measures	• Expand access to research infrastructure for users who would not otherwise have access and who can contribute to its utilization and value creation	In progress A collection of University-wide best practices is currently being compiled to support the development of a comprehensive concept for the sustainable financing of research infrastructure. In addition, cooperation agreements relating to selected research infrastructures and facilities funded under Article 91b of the German Basic Law are being reviewed. The findings will contribute to the development of a general model agreement for the shared use of research infrastructure. At the same time, an inventory of research infrastructure in Faculty 5 is underway (see the objective “Identify opportunities and assess potential for the synergistic use of research infrastructure at RWTH”). The inventory distinguishes between broadly available infrastructure and strategically significant facilities with unique capabilities (*Leuchttürme*/beacons).	2028
	• Develop a strategic concept for the positioning and shared use of research infrastructure	In the planning phase A draft concept has been prepared and presented to the Rectorate, which approved the proposed approach. Further development and finalization depend on the progress and results of Measure 1 under this objective.	
Ind.	• Concept for the shared use of research infrastructure developed (yes/no)	No	

Research Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Promote sustainability-oriented spin-offs that contribute to the sustainable transformation of society and establish a system for recording them by 2026.			
Measures	• Develop a concept for identifying and recording spin-offs with an explicit sustainability focus	In progress (See also “Concept for Recording Transfer Activities Developed”, p. 25). RWTH spin-offs are already tracked. Adding a specific designation for sustainability-oriented activities is technically feasible. A framework defining sustainability-related criteria is currently under development.	2028
Measures	• Develop measures to support spin-offs that contribute to a more sustainable society and, together with RWTH Innovation GmbH, further enhance existing startup support services	In the planning phase Support services are available to all spin-offs. To date, the strongest teams have received prototype funding through the Innovation Sprint program. Options currently being explored include providing additional support for sustainability-oriented startups and incorporating sustainability as an evaluation criterion, or potentially a prerequisite, for participation in the Innovation Sprint. One challenge is securing funding for future Innovation Sprint programs.	
Ind.	• Concept for recording sustainability-oriented spin-offs developed (yes/no)	No	
Target: Conduct regular outreach activities that strengthen public understanding of sustainability, particularly by drawing on sustainability-related research at RWTH.			
Measures	• Implement public events and outreach formats, such as the Knowledge Hub with a GreenTech focus	In progress (ongoing) Depending on the annual theme, the Knowledge Hub and RWTHextern programs may focus on sustainability or integrate sustainability-related topics where appropriate. In 2023, the Knowledge Hub placed a strong emphasis on GreenTech. In the summer semester of 2025, RWTHextern will focus on future energy systems and will therefore include several sustainability-related formats.	2028

Research Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Host public lecture series and educational programs on sustainability topics and current research findings (e.g., at RWTH Science Night).	In progress (ongoing) RWTHextern regularly offers public lectures, some in cooperation with the City of Aachen. Sustainability-related topics are typically featured at least once per semester. At the RWTH Science Night, the inclusion of sustainability topics depends on the participating contributors. The Open Perspectives event series presents research findings and results from courses and theses to a broader public audience. Two events were held in 2024.	2028
	• Establish a Living Labs Incubator in collaboration with living lab researchers across all faculties	In progress The Living Labs Incubator is built around three core areas: • increasing the visibility of existing living labs and strengthening networking among them and with external partners; • conducting research on methodologies and stakeholder constellations in living labs; and • supporting research-oriented teaching. Activities to date include a publicly accessible profile database, the LLI Spotlight newsletter, internal and external networking events, 14 publications and approximately 20 presentations by the end of 2024, as well as a range of activities in research-oriented teaching.	
Indicators	• Number of events focused on knowledge transfer to society	Number of events focused on knowledge transfer to society: 6 (2023–2025) • Visit to Nivelsteiner Sandwerke (low-carbon sand extraction) • Lecture: Future Ways of Living • Late Night event: Bioeconomy • Visit to the Extensive Meadow at Europark with RWTH ecologists • Lecture series: Meet Circular Economy (Prof. Venghaus) • Biodiversity Show with Dominik Eulberg	

Research Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Integrate sustainability, including its various dimensions, into the structural and strategic development of the university's research profile.			
Measures	• Integrate sustainability into the University Development Plan, faculty structural and development plans, and the roadmaps of the Profile Areas	In progress Sustainability is addressed in a dedicated chapter of the University Development Plan. Due to their thematic focus, sustainability considerations are also reflected in several faculty structural and development plans as well as in the roadmaps of the Profile Areas.	2030
	• Consider sustainability in all processes related to the university's strategic development, including the Excellence Strategy process	In progress Among other activities, university leadership has identified sustainability as a key cross-cutting priority within the Excellence Strategy process. Sustainability aspects have been considered at the operational level in the individual Cluster of Excellence proposals. The topic is also discussed during the annual meetings with the faculties.	
	• Integrate sustainability into resource allocation processes by incorporating sustainability considerations into the guiding questions used in appointment procedures	In the planning phase At present, sustainability-related guiding questions are not yet included in the resource allocation process.	
Indikatoren	• Integration of sustainability into:		
	○ Faculty structural and development plans	More than 50% include sustainability-related content	
	○ Roadmaps of the Profile Areas	More than 50% include sustainability-related content	
	○ University Development Plan	Yes	

Research Focus Area

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: By 2030, sustainability considerations should, wherever possible, be incorporated into research projects from the earliest stages of planning.			
Measures	• Regularly issue calls for concepts and strategies that demonstrate how sustainability can be integrated into the research process	Not yet initiated.	2030
Measures	• Share examples of particularly sustainable research practices through internal communication channels	Not yet initiated.	
Measures	• Expand information and funding opportunities related to sustainable research operations	Not yet initiated	
Indicators	• Incentives are provided to address sustainability in the research process (yes/no)	No	
Indicators	• Information and support are available to encourage consideration of sustainability issues during the planning of research projects	No	
Target: By 2030, all researchers at RWTH will be aware of the available sustainability support services and the importance of integrating sustainability into research.			
Measures	• Promote support services for integrating sustainability into research through channels such as: ○ Events database ○ N² sustainability newsletter ○ Instagram	In the planning phase Implementation of this measure is linked to the planned expansion of support services for integrating sustainability into research.	2030
Ind.	• Number of participants in continuing education offerings on integrating sustainability into research	N/A The in-person training course was canceled twice due to insufficient registrations.	

Operations Focus Area – Energy

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Establishment of an energy data management system (EDMS) and monitoring of energy data at RWTH Aachen University by the end of 2024 and full connection of all buildings by 2028.			
Measures	• Expansion of the network infrastructure (digital meters) for comprehensive, building-specific recording of (energy) data	In progress Around 200 meters are currently connected to the new EDMS system, but these are distributed unevenly throughout the buildings. There are currently around 20 buildings listed, although not all the equipment is included in this figure. At the same time, we have set up a LoRaWAN network throughout RWTH to serve as an alternative possible transmission route. This is designed to enable us to connect buildings more quickly in the future, even if no MBUS cabling is present. The electrical and lightning protection work for the antenna sites is almost complete. At the same time, work on the IT structure is taking place to process, store, and visualize the data.	2028
	• Identification of measures that can be implemented in the short term to reduce energy consumption through the EDMS	In the planning phase The EDMS system is still under construction, so the measure has not started yet. Potential for improvement was evaluated on the basis of ten buildings. The next steps will be coordinated in the near future.	
	• Building-specific, digital recording of energy consumption (electricity, heating, cooling, compressed air) by the end of 2024	In progress Building-specific metering is largely available for electricity, heating and cooling meters. These meters cannot be read remotely—they must be read in person. A very small proportion of the meters are currently being monitored via the newly established LoRaWAN network as part of a pilot project. A large proportion of the electricity meters are currently monitored via the central control technology, but the figures are not validated and verified, and they cannot be accessed outside this technical network. The data must be merged in a later project phase of the EDMS project, and each data point must then be checked in detail. The central control technology database system may also need to be modified. Compressed air meters have not yet been installed across the board; a project has been established to achieve this, but it is currently on hold due to a lack of personnel. The same is true for water meters.	

Operations Focus Area – Energy

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Ind.	• Proportion of buldings with connected meters for energy media and availability of data	No buildings yet	2028
	Target: Maximum (within the scope of economically available resources) level of renewable energy generation and procurement solutions at RWTH Aachen University by 2030.		
Measures	• Connect the Hörn combined heat and power plant (CHP) to the district heating network and feed the exhaust gas into the district heating network	Completed	2030
	• Carry out a potential analysis of roof areas and open spaces to enable renewable in-house generation in collaboration with the energy think tank and in close consultation with the BLB	In the planning phase At the end of 2023, the SU presented an initial potential study based on the existing roof areas. The analysis showed that the maximum possible electricity generation from full occupancy of the roof areas could only cover a small proportion of total electricity consumption and that this proportion would be in the low single-digit percentage range. A comprehensive review of all possible options in and around the RWTH is therefore currently being prepared; this will include ground-mounted, rooftop and vertical PV systems. Initial discussions on this are already underway.	
	• Framework conditions for electricity procurement: o Prepare the next heat/electricity procurement process at an early stage, include sustainability criteria for electricity procurement	In progress In the current electricity procurement process, our intention is to restrict the guarantees of origin to the German transmission grid area. This will help to promote local renewable plants, particularly those covered by the Renewable Energy Sources Act, which might otherwise be shut down. In the current tender, PPAs are being considered or are they are seen as additional supply options.	

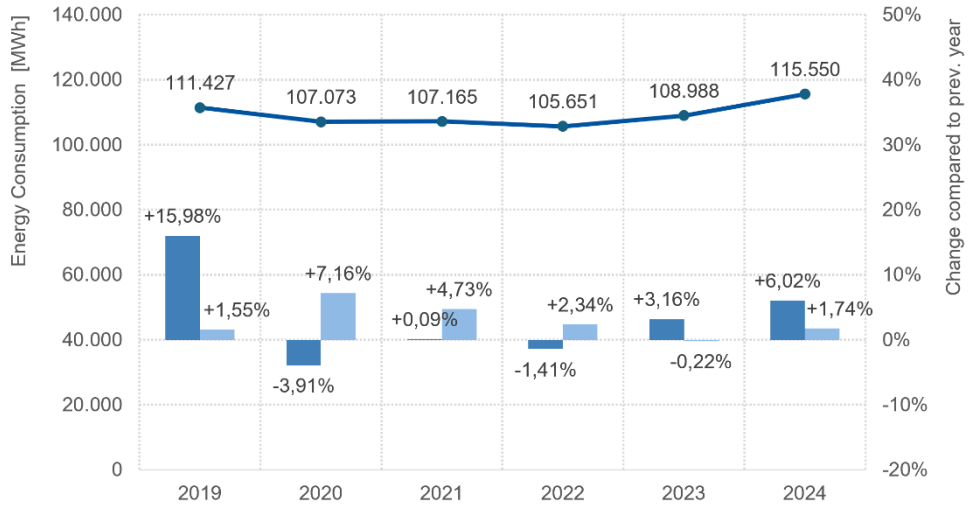
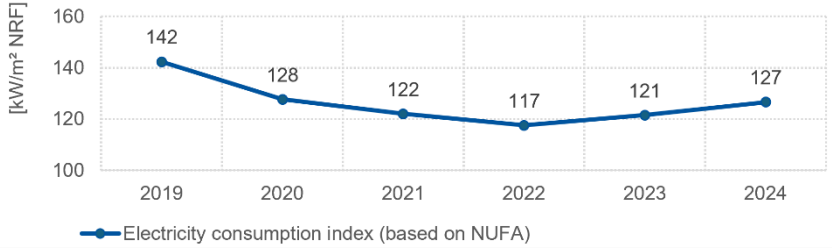
Operations Focus Area – Energy

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	○ Clarify the legal framework (networks, PPA, ...)	In progress RWTH Aachen University operates extensive medium and low-voltage grids, and this poses extensive challenges for the operational management of both the grids and the systems within them. For example, the legally compliant operation of metering infrastructure must be carried out in coordination with the grid operator. External expertise was consulted on both the latest tender for electricity supplies and the tax issues relating to in-house generation in RWTH facilities.	2030
	○ Market analysis (PPA)	In the planning phase Due to the current market situation in the PPA sector, these are not yet included in the supply concept, but they can be included in it as soon as suitable products become available.	
	• Publication of the factsheet on photovoltaic systems: "PV systems on buildings used by RWTH – What do we need to consider?"	Completed The PV factsheet has been published, and it has been advertised throughout the University.	
Indicators	• Share of renewable energy in total consumption	2023: 42%; 2024: 46 %	
	• Share of in-house generation through renewable energy production	2023: less than 1%; 2024: less than 1%;	
Target: Energy savings of at least 20 percent through user behavior and infrastructural adjustments by 2030 (reference year 2019)			
Measures	• Inventory of the waste heat potential (temperature levels, annual work) of process energy (e.g. test benches) by analyzing the existing cooling circuits with the provision of corresponding resources and close examination of the largest 20 percent of the systems	In the planning phase The Sustainability Staff Unit is exploring a university-wide call for the identification of waste heat potential. The installation of heat meters is being evaluated to support the identification and quantification of waste heat sources. Outreach to relevant users is currently being prepared. Overall responsibility for the project currently rests with the Facilities Management ann Sustainability Division.	2030

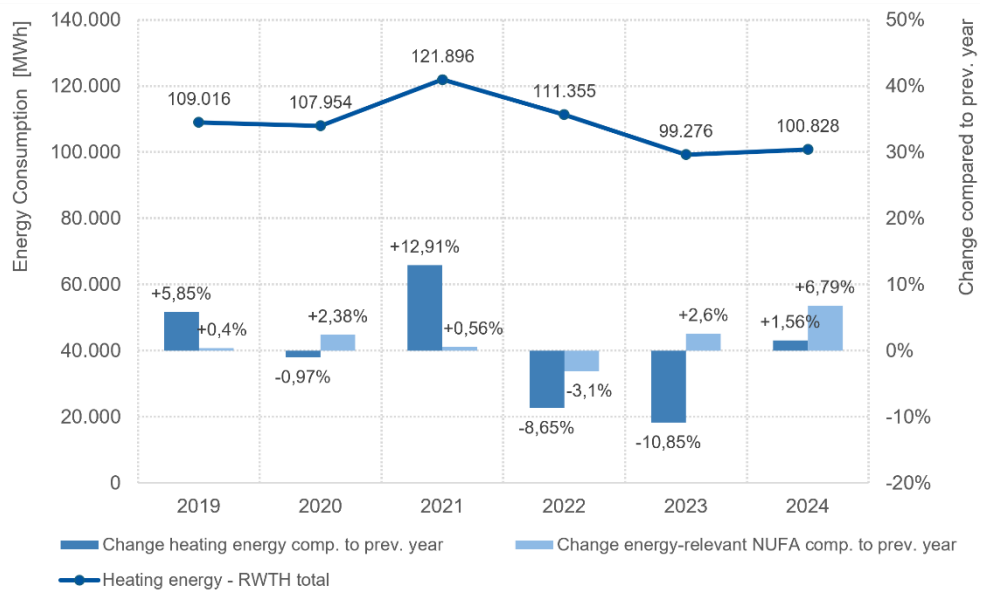
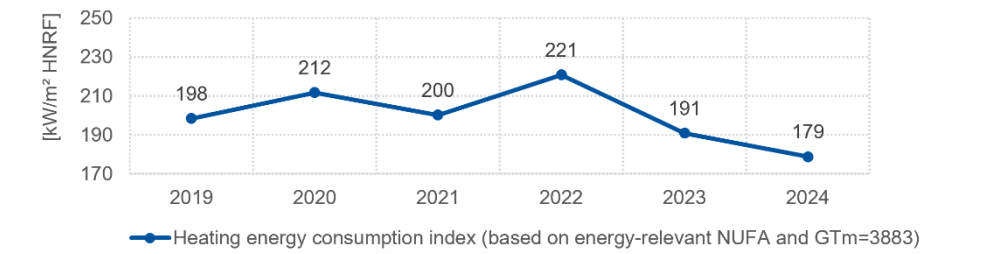
Operations Focus Area – Energy

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Measures	• Assessment of the economic performance and climate impacts of combined heat and power (CHP) systems, including adiabatic cooling systems	In the planning phase A feasibility study has been completed to evaluate the economic viability of the combined heat and power (CHP) plant on Campus Melaten. The study concluded that the facility can serve as an economically viable transitional technology. Preparations for the planning tender are currently underway. The measure must also be considered within the framework of the German Heat Planning Act and the associated requirements for renewable energy integration. As a result, a replacement heat supply solution will be required in the medium term.	
	• Raising awareness among users: ○ Creation of energy use certificates to inform and motivate users	In the planning phase Balancing energy data and, in some cases, system data that is specific to the buildings must be available in sufficient quality. This is to enable the individual buildings/institutes or the consumption to be evaluated properly. The resulting advice for users still needs to be designed and tested in order to bring about improvements through changes in behavior. An RWTH building profile is to be created for each building in the future as part of the RWTH Energy Efficiency Challenge.	
	○ Continue ongoing awareness campaign for the topic of energy saving	In progress (ongoing) A multi-stage, multimedia information campaign was launched to raise awareness among users, including a method that targets people on a personal level. In the buildings, on-site measures (such as stickers on radiators and energy-saving tips) are used to encourage people to actively help save energy. The information website on energy saving has been online since September 2022. All the measures are coordinated by a central "Energy Task Force". There are also various student initiatives (e.g. Energieforum e.V.) that work to raise awareness of the climate and the energy balance at RWTH.	2030

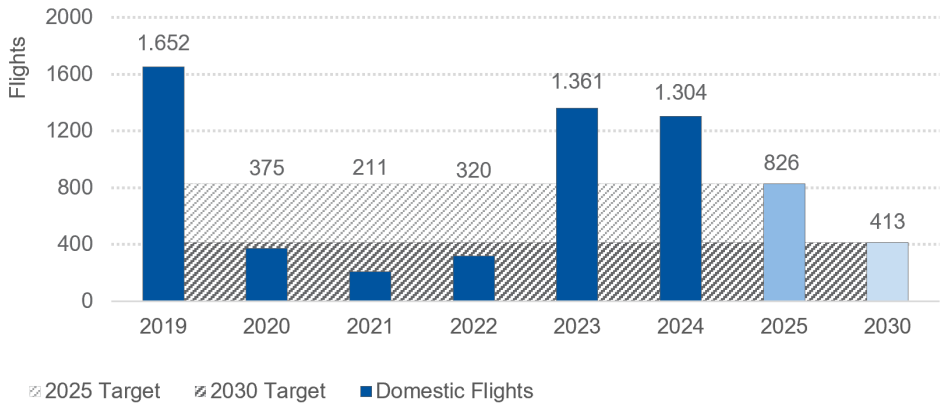
Operations Focus Area – Energy

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Drive forward local energy analyses in buildings with higher consumption figures and implementation of energy-saving measures	In the planning phase Local energy analyses will be carried out in buildings with higher consumption figures. We will check whether the building automation system or other factors are at fault. We will then generate specific measures from this and we will then initiate and monitor them. The local energy analyses are to be carried out as part of the RWTH building program and the Energy Efficiency Challenge.	
Indicators	• Total electricity consumption per year The total consumption of electricity at RWTH Aachen University (years 2019 to 2024) and corresponding changes in consumption compared to the previous year as well as the development of the net floor space (NRF) is shown in the adjacent diagram. • Electricity consumption index The development of electricity consumption over time (years 2019 to 2024) in relation to the net room area (NRF, in m²) is shown in the adjacent diagram.	 	2030

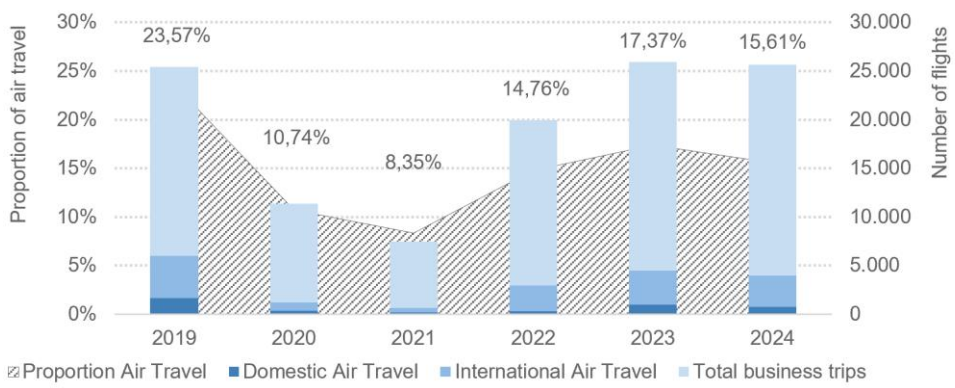
Operations Focus Area – Energy

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Indicators	• Total heating energy consumption per year The total consumption of heating energy at RWTH Aachen University (years 2019 to 2024) and corresponding changes in consumption compared to the previous year as well as the development of the net room area relevant to heating energy (HNRF, in m²) is shown in the adjacent diagram.		2030
	• Heating energy consumption index The development of the heating energy consumption index over time (years 2019 to 2024) in relation to the net room area relevant to heating energy (HNRF, in m²) is shown in the adjacent diagram.		

Operations Focus Area – Mobility

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Reduction of domestic flights by 50 percent by 2025 and by 75 percent by 2030 (reference year 2019)			
Measures	• Personally contacting travelers who have made domestic trips after the trips from business travel management and pointing out travel alternatives	In progress Travelers are made aware of the issue of domestic flights as the system requests a reason for domestic flights in the electronic travel expense workflow. Employees in business travel management have been informed that they need to mention that domestic flights are to be avoided when making telephone calls. Travelers are also informed about our sustainability strategy and its goals during training sessions. Follow-up information on domestic flights has not yet been gathered.	2030
	• In cooperation with RWTH's partner travel agencies, display alternatives to air travel when booking travel	In progress The partner travel agencies direct travelers towards booking direct flights in order to avoid the additional CO_2 emissions that are caused by frequent take-offs and landings. The coming talks will determine which steps are to be taken next. The main focus here should once again be on the climate fund.	
Indicators	• Number of these flights per year The development of domestic flights (years 2019 to 2024) and the targets for the years 2025 and 2030 are shown in the adjacent diagram.		

Operations Focus Area – Mobility

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Reduce the share of air travel in total business travel mobility by 2030 (reference year 2019)			
Measures	• The institutes with the most air travel will be consulted by business travel management	In the planning phase The data has already been collected here. There are still steps that we need to take.	2030
Measures	• Making the decision aid for air travel more visible and developing it further, for example integrating specific example trips into the decision aid tool	In the planning phase Clear examples of more climate-friendly trips are currently being collected (Traveling to Austria on an overnight sleeper train). Examples must be considered carefully and presented clearly and they should ideally be ones that have taken place in real life (including feedback from travelers).	
Indicators	• Proportion of business trips by air per year		

Operations Focus Area – Mobility

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Significantly reduce (mobility-related) greenhouse gas emissions from business trips and student mobility as part of studies by 2030 (reference year 2019)			
Measures	• Application, evaluation, further development of the "Internal Climate Fund" pilot project and, if necessary, continuation from 2027	In progress Implementation of projects financed by the Climate Fund since 2025 ("Tiny Forest" planting campaign). Evaluation of the first year by the Rectorate (March 2024). The evaluation of the climate fund for 2024 will take place in the first quarter of 2025. Further development and decision on continuation will be made at the end of 2026.	2030
	• Preparation of information on possible uses of electric cars as rental cars in order to significantly increase the proportion of electric cars in rental car bookings	In the planning phase Rental car companies were asked to give preference to electric cars. These firms would be prepared to make vehicles available for test drives on a specific day in order to quell any concerns people may have and provide information about how they can be used. The topic is already being discussed in the training courses. No information is available on this yet.	
	• Raise awareness of the topic by communicating it to the parties involved and providing them with relevant information ○ Integration of the topic of sustainability in online training for administrative offices ○ Integration and clear design of information on climate protection for business trips in the business travel portal and the sustainability website ○ Focus more strongly on individual advice and contact	In progress The topic of sustainability has already been integrated into online training courses, where it is addressed separately. The information available in the business travel portal and on the websites must be expanded upon. The number of personal consultations and communication methods still need to be increased.	
	• Telling employees about options for using hotels with a climate certificate in order to significantly increase the number of bookings they make in these hotels.	In progress In the HRS hotel booking portal used by RWTH, hotels with a climate certificate are specially marked as such. During telephone calls, it should be made clear that we prefer hotels that have a climate certificate. Supplementary advice and information can be provided on the University intranet or on HRS.	

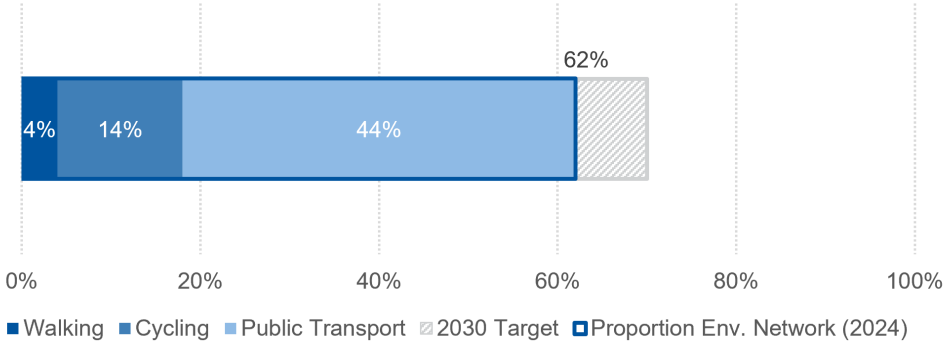
Operations Focus Area – Mobility

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Publicize and advertise Green Travel Support for Erasmus students	In progress In the 2024/25 academic year, the Green Travel grant was used by approx. 28% of these students. The funding covers up to 6 travel days in the academic year 24/25. Advertising is done through testimonials on social media, by e-mail, and at information events for future outgoing students. Students with relevant travel experiences have created videos for social media, and these are then posted on the RWTH International Office account to inspire new students. Despite the change in the level of funding, we are pleased that the number of applications for additional funding has increased significantly. Video and photo contributions have been submitted and they are currently being prepared for publication in order to achieve a higher quota.	2030
	• Take sustainability into account when planning and organizing excursions and integrate sustainability into the content of excursions wherever possible	In the planning phase When booking hotels for excursions, please use the HRS portal. Hotels with a climate certificate are specially marked as such on the HRS website. The excursion pages on the intranet and the booking information for excursions can still be supplemented or modified.	
Indicators	• Greenhouse gas emissions caused by business trips per year	2,642.94 tCO_2e (metric tons of CO_2 equivalent) (reference year 2023, source: RWTH Climate Action Plan)	
	• Amount of contributions to the climate fund per year	26,469.75 € (reference year 2023, with co-financing) 49,741.25 (reference year 2024, with co-financing)	
	• Proportion of electric cars in rental car bookings	No information available yet	
	• Proportion of hotel bookings with a climate certificate	No information available yet	

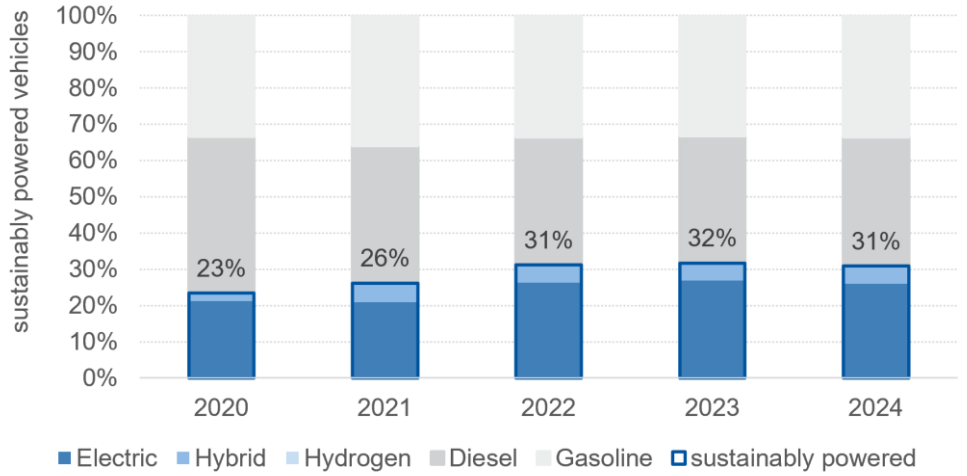
Operations Focus Area – Mobility

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Increase the share of eco-mobility (refers to the "environmentally friendly" means of transportation) in the modal split based on transport performance to over 70 percent by 2030.			
Measures	• Regular introduction of mobility surveys (modal split) of students and employees	In progress (ongoing) Since 2022, the Institute of Urban Planning and Transport (ISB) at RWTH Aachen University has conducted a survey on the mobility of students and employees of the University every two years.	2030
	• Transparent communication and information on the topic of sustainable mobility via various channels	In progress Information on the topic of sustainable mobility is communicated within RWTH via various channels (e.g. via the Sustainability Staff Unit's newsletter or the intranet). Communication on sustainable mobility takes place in particular as part of the Climate Fund and the topics of business travel and job tickets.	
	• Creation of bicycle parking spaces over the next five years; the number of spaces shall be determined by the level of demand	In the planning phase Funding from the National Climate Protection Initiative was approved for the KLIMACS project (Climate Protection through Bicycle Mobility at the Aachen Campus, RWTH Aachen University together with the City of Aachen) with a funding decision dated July 4, 2024. The project goals include the decentralized construction of 19 bicycle garages as a collective locking system, each with 24 parking spaces at an estimated 15 locations, as well as the conversion of a room at one location into a bicycle parking garage for 40 bicycles and the construction of another bicycle parking garage in an existing lecture hall building with 92 parking spaces by RWTH. In addition to the replacement of existing leaning racks, we plan to install 100 additional racks. Planning has started and regular project meetings have already been scheduled.	

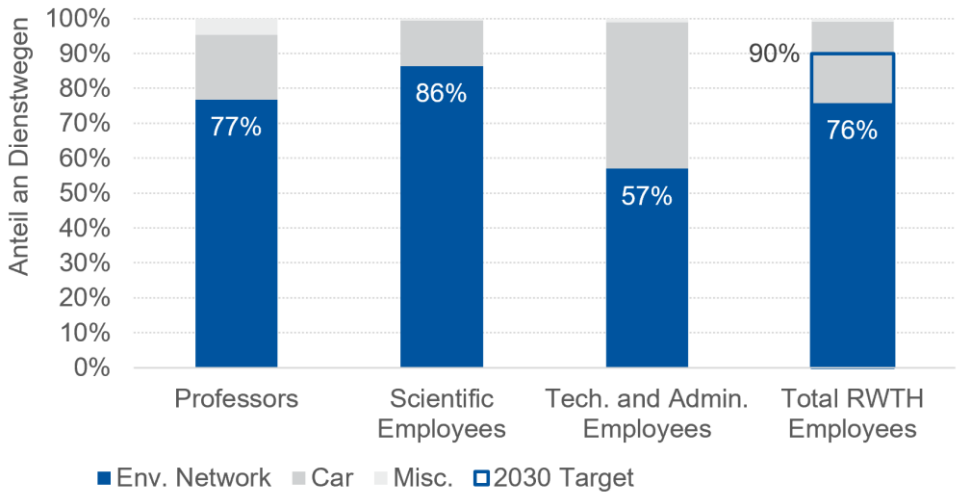
Operations Focus Area – Mobility

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Further concepts and concrete measures for implementation depend heavily on the political framework and developments in public transport. A number of decisions still need to be made before measures can be drawn up. But there will still be continuous commitment at local level (City of Aachen, STAWAG), including ○ better connections from the campus to main public transport routes ○ Traffic-calmed zones on campus ○ Further development of the parking space ordinance	In progress (ongoing)	2030
Indicators	• Share of eco-mobility in the modal split per year Walking, cycling and the use of public transport are included in the transport-related modal split for the status groups of students, professors and employees in academia and in technology and administration. The environmental network accounts for a 62% share, of which 44% is accounted for by public transport, 14% by cycling and 4% by walking (2024). Data source: Survey by the Institute of RWTH Urban and Transport Planning, 2024.		
	• Number of new bicycle parking spaces	Bicycle parking spaces (racks) financed via the budget. The following applies to all three figures: 50% mandatory/replaced in existing buildings and 50% built additionally. 2022: 60 parking spaces; 2023: 68 parking spaces; 2024: 52 parking spaces Bicycle parking spaces installed in new buildings in accordance with the building permit: 2022: 64 parking spaces; 2023: 38 parking spaces; 2024: 32 parking spaces	

Operations Focus Area – Mobility

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Increase the proportion of sustainably powered vehicles in RWTH's fleet (excluding special vehicles) to 100 percent by 2030.			
Measures	• Expansion of the charging infrastructure	In the planning phase There are currently 48 charging points at 5 locations (Computer Sciences, Villa Königshügel, Institute of Mineral Resources Engineering, Melaten Süd parking lot, Eon). The following funding programs are dedicated to charging infrastructure at RWTH: - ALigN (cars, completed), - KLIMACS (19 bicycle garages in planning incl. charging infrastructure for pedelecs), - AOLIS (cars, charging infrastructure)	2030
Indicators	• Proportion of sustainably powered vehicles in the fleet The diagram shows the proportion of vehicles with the specified drive types in the RWTH Aachen University fleet. Vehicles from departments 10.0 and 11.0 and from university institutes are taken into account. Vehicles that do not consume fuel (e.g. trailers) and special types of vehicles are not included. The proportion of sustainably powered vehicles includes electric, hybrid and hydrogen-powered vehicles. This vehicle group will make up 31% of the vehicle fleet in 2024.		

Operations Focus Area – Mobility

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Increase the proportion of business trips by RWTH employees that are carried out using environmentally friendly modes of transportation to 90 percent by 2030.			
Measures	• Further concepts and concrete measures for implementation depend heavily on the political framework and developments in public transport. A number of decisions still need to be made before measures can be drawn up. But there will still be continuous commitment at a local level (City, STAWAG), including for: ○ Better connections from the campus to main public transport routes ○ Traffic-calmed zones on campus ○ Further development of the parking space ordinance	In progress (ongoing)	2030
Indicators	• Proportion of business trips made using environmentally-friendly transportation The modal split of business trips within Aachen (weighted) for the various groups and for RWTH employees as a whole is shown. The proportion of business trips made by RWTH employees using modes of transport that are part of the environmental network is 76% for 2024. Data source: a survey by the Institute of RWTH Urban and Transport Planning, 2024.		

Operations Focus Area – Procurement

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Annual active communication and placement of the topic of "sustainable procurement" and sustainable product alternatives at RWTH via regular events and various communication channels from 2024 onwards.			
Measures	• Promotion of the topic of fair trade in at least two courses per semester - Recertification as a Fairtrade University	In progress (ongoing) Fair trade is promoted continuously across the university. At least two fair trade events are held each semester. RWTH was re-certified as a Fairtrade University on July 25, 2024.	From 2024 onwards
	• Continuation of advisory services on the selection of sustainable advertising materials and print products (by the Marketing Staff Unit)	In progress (ongoing) When procuring promotional materials and printed products, sustainability considerations are taken into account wherever possible. Preference is given to suppliers that offer sustainably produced materials and products.	
	• Offer regular training courses for employees on the topic of sustainable procurement. The topic of sustainability is to be integrated into the existing program, *Procurement in 90 minutes*	In the planning phase Implementation of this measure was postponed until 2025 due to technical changes to the procurement system. Training courses will be adapted to the new processes, and the content of the *Procurement in 90 Minutes* series will be revised in 2026.	
	• Development of new information and further development of existing leaflets and handouts on sustainable procurement (e.g. leaflet on sustainable procurement of products and services at RWTH; leaflet on information sources for sustainable procurement)	In the planning phase Implementation of this measure was postponed until 2025 due to technical changes to the procurement system.	

Operations Focus Area – Procurement

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Measures	• Equipping a workplace with the most sustainable product alternatives by 2026 and making it a role model as a "sustainable workplace" pilot project	Not yet initiated Office furniture from sustainable forestry and Energy Star-certified IT equipment are used across the board; employees working remotely have the option of making work-related calls via laptop rather than mobile phone. Digitalization measures also help reduce paper consumption and the use of printing and copying equipment where appropriate. At present, no dedicated pilot project is planned. Sustainability criteria are, however, routinely incorporated into major procurement procedures, for example through evaluation and exclusion criteria. These may include environmental management certifications such as ISO 14001, product durability, long-term availability of spare parts, and energy efficiency.	From 2024 onwards
	• Supplement and redesign the RWTH Purchasing Portal by prominently placing more sustainable product alternatives	Completed In the RWTH Purchasing Portal, the category "Organic / Fairtrade products" has been included under the "Catering" tab, so that all certified products are listed at a glance. Fairtrade coffee and tea varieties are offered. A fairtrade pastry mix can also be purchased. All new, certified products that are included in new framework agreements are being added to this category, meaning that the number of sustainable alternatives is steadily increasing.	
Indicators	• Number of (information) events held on sustainable procurement	No such events have been held yet.	
	• Number of "sustainable workplaces" after the pilot project has been implemented	Pilot project not yet launched.	
	• Recertification as a Fairtrade University completed (yes/no)	Yes (in 2024)	

Operations Focus Area – Procurement

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Reduction of resource consumption by changing the way we use resources, particularly with regard to the circular economy and the life cycle of products, continuously from 2024 onwards.			
Maßnahmen	• Establishment of the platform for the sale of expendable products in the RWTH Purchasing Portal to provide an alternative to purchasing new products	Completed The sale of dispensable products has moved to the RWTH Purchasing Portal and enables University institutions to offer expendable products for sale via an additional module of the Purchasing Portal.	From 2024 onwards
	• Gradual switch to sustainable shipping packaging for deliveries to and from the RWTH Purchasing Portal and the RWTH store	In progress Shipping bags have been switched to sustainable grass paper, and sustainable shipping cartons are also being ordered whenever existing stocks are exhausted. RWTH's textile supplier uses its own shipping cartons multiple times. Central Purchasing returns these after each delivery. Filling material is also reused if it has been used to deliver goods. When ordering office supplies via the RWTH Purchasing Portal, university institutions have the option of sending them without further packaging ("eco box"). In addition, sustainable shipping packaging is taken into account during the tender stage (such as for deliveries of swivel chairs) (as of April 2026).	
	• Consider product-as-a-service models (e.g., leasing or rental arrangements) as an alternative to purchasing and develop corresponding usage concepts for the University.	Not yet initiated This topic will be addressed in greater detail as part of the Climate Action Plan.	
	• Develop and, where feasible, implement a concept for increasing the utilization of existing equipment and enabling shared use across the University.	Not yet initiated This topic will be addressed in greater detail as part of the Climate Action Plan.	
Indikatoren	• Number of products posted via the platform for expendable items	193 products (September 2023 through the end of 2025)	
	• Number of products passed on via the platform for expendable items	An evaluation is currently in progress	

Operations Focus Area – Procurement

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Concept for increasing the utilization of existing equipment and the possibility of shared use developed and (where possible) implemented (yes/no)	No	From 2024 onwards
Target: Preparation and gradual expansion of the content of sustainability criteria, as well as the integration of these criteria into the procurement process, by academic institutions and the University's central procurement units by the end of 2026.			
Measures	• Inventory of product categories that have already been procured with sustainability labels/seals/criteria and availability of the results by the end of 2024	Completed An inventory of product categories procured under framework agreements that already incorporate sustainability-related labels, certifications, or procurement criteria has been completed. Examples include traditional Aachen Printen gingerbread biscuits (organic and fair-trade nuts and chocolate), secretarial supplies (organic and fair-trade coffee, tea, cookie assortments, and descaling agents), copy paper (Blue Angel certification and ISO 14001-certified environmental management), paper products (energy consumption criteria, PEFC/FSC certification, and ISO 14001-certified environmental management), Fairphone mobile devices, copier rental agreements (Blue Angel certification), IT clients (ISO 14001-certified environmental management and Energy Star certification), and monitors (Energy Star and TCO certification).	By the end of 2026
	• Analysis of existing seals/labels/criteria for other relevant product groups	In progress Current or new seals/labels/criteria for various product groups are taken into account on an ongoing basis. In addition, a more in-depth analysis will be carried out as part of the future Climate Action Plan.	
	• Establishment of guidelines for "sustainable procurement" with comprehensible and well-founded arguments for evaluation criteria and exclusion criteria, including the issuing of seals by 2026	In the planning phase Preparation of the requirement for an environmental or social criterion in all EU procurement procedures from January 2025 (anticipation of regulation from draft bill on GWB, Transformation Act). Already implemented in the area of IT hardware and mainly in the procurement of conventional equipment and services, partially implemented in the area of software and web projects and in the procurement of specialist scientific equipment.	

Operations Focus Area – Procurement

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Ongoing application of the University's guidelines for the procurement of sustainable paper for high-quality printed materials	In progress (ongoing) The template for the procurement of high-quality print products is available on the intranet and it is inspected by Central Purchasing. The Sustainability Staff Unit will review any procurement processes that differ from these guidelines.	By the end of 2026
Indicators	• Number of products for which sustainability labels/seals/criteria have already been taken into account	Not yet precisely recorded.	
	• Guidelines on "Sustainable procurement" published (yes/no)	No	

Operations Focus Area – Waste Disposal

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Ongoing provision and further development of information material and communication on the topic of waste and disposal with a focus on correct separation and reduction of waste from 2024.			
Measures	• Development and rollout of an awareness campaign on the topic of waste disposal ○ Development of information material on the correct separation of waste ○ Development of information material on reducing waste ○ Preparation of information on the services offered by the RWTH Waste Management Service Center; the information is to be tailored to each target group	In the planning phase	From 2024 onwards

Operations Focus Area – Waste Disposal

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Raising awareness among cleaning staff (e.g. providing multilingual information material (see above) that explains the proper collection and disposal of waste)	In progress Information material has been provided.	From 2024 onwards
	• Processing of legal requirements and framework conditions and integration of these into our communication, as well as raising awareness of measures already taken by the University	In the planning phase	
Ind.	• Awareness campaign on the topic of waste disposal carried out (yes/no)	No	
Target: Development of a concept for reducing the issues surrounding contamination and handling hazardous substances, as well as creating awareness of the problem and identifying disposal options by the end of 2025.			
Measures	• Creation of a "Hazardous substances officer" position	In the planning phase Training for an employee is scheduled for 2026 (as of early 2026).	By the end of 2025
	• Inventory of the current situation with regard to hazardous substances	Not yet initiated An inventory of hazardous substances can only be carried out after a corresponding job vacancy has been filled.	
	• Produce recommendations for action and guidelines for the further handling of hazardous substances and prevent sites becoming contaminated.	Not yet initiated Recommendations for action and guidelines can only be derived after the appropriate job position has been filled.	
Ind.	• Concept developed for the problem of contaminated sites (Yes/No)	No	
	• Concept developed for the future handling of hazardous substances (Yes/No)	No	

Operations Focus Area – Waste Disposal

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Exemplary concept development for pilot buildings and development of a disposal concept/guideline for action by 2026 as well as communication of the concepts for implementation at the University.			
Measures	• Waste consulting and development of specific waste concepts for individual locations and consulting for institutes and University facilities and development of specific solutions	In the planning phase Implementation of the measure by the RWTH waste management officers is scheduled to begin in March 2026.	2026
	• Continuation and expansion of the Yellow Garbage Can pilot project to other University buildings	In progress Since May 2025, the project has been managed by a staff member (on a two-year fixed-term contract, with the aim of extending the position) in Division 11.02 – Environmental Protection.	
	• Involve building service providers to determine responsibilities and develop joint options for implementing disposal concepts	Not yet initiated	
	• Pooling of findings and creating guidelines for transparent communication and implementation at the University	In the planning phase	
Ind.	• Guidelines developed for the implementation of disposal concepts (Yes/No)	No	

Operations Focus Area – Buildings and Areas

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Potential analysis of the RWTH properties by the end of 2024 (including existing land use and identification of possible development potential) in order to use the outdoor areas in a more ecologically valuable way wherever possible.			

Measures	• Real estate analysis of the RWTH campus areas
	  ○ Recording of the current status of the areas by the scientific community
	  ○ Management and strategic solution on how to deal with the individual areas (integration of BLB in the coordination process and integration of Campus GMBH in the coordination process)
	  ○ Definition of guidelines and objectives for the protection and improvement of biodiversity
		Not yet initiated	by the end of 2024

Measures	• Safeguarding/protection of areas classified as being valuable for long-term planning according to the potential analysis	Not yet initiated	
Measures	• Establish discussion and information events between research/teaching and operations in order to fully utilize the potential of RWTH	In progress (ongoing) The "Open Perspectives" event series was successfully established in 2024, and it consisted of two events.	
Ind.	• Clear presentation and identification of all areas that have potential for more ecological/sustainable use	No potential analysis has been carried out to date.	

Operations Focus Area – Buildings and Areas

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Implementation of measures identified through the potential analysis, including unsealing surfaces, introducing ecologically oriented maintenance practices, expanding green roofs, and integrating and supporting student initiatives.			

Measures	• Regular communication of biodiversity-related activities and raising awareness of biodiversity
	  ○ Provision of signage for biodiversity areas and maintained edge strips
	  ○ Communication of biodiversity initiatives across the University
		In the planning phase
		Maintained edge strips, flowering meadows, and biodiversity areas have been established across campus. Information about these areas is provided through on-site signage and, in some cases, through the digital sustainability landscape.
		All flowering meadows are signposted. The signage offers further opportunities to raise awareness of the links between sustainability and environmental protection.
		There has not yet been a uniform communication campaign in this area.
			2025

	• Planning concepts for unsealed surfaces on campus	Not yet initiated A collection of ideas for a future biodiversity concept has been developed, but no comprehensive concept has yet been finalized. During the preliminary phase, potential stakeholders for the development process were identified.	

	• Increase vegetation through the planting of ecologically valuable species
	  ○ Insect-friendly plantings
	  ○ Climate-resilient species based on recommended urban tree lists
		In progress
		New planting projects are being planned and implemented with ecological and sustainability criteria in mind. Particular emphasis is placed on supporting pollinators and selecting climate-resilient species.	

	• Ecological management approximately 2.2 km² of unsealed outdoor areas while maintaining traffic safety
	  ○ Use hot air and hot foam vegetation management methods
	  ○ Minimize the use of pesticides
		In progress (ongoing)
		Wherever possible, hot air technology is currently used throughout the campus grounds via a specialized Holder tool carrier. The hot foam process is not currently operational. The possibility of converting the carrier vehicle to electric propulsion is under consideration.
		No pesticides are used.	

Ind.	• Implementation of the measures (yes/no)	No	

Operations Focus Area – Buildings and Areas

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Integration of the results from the potential analysis and measures in the planning of all future building and outdoor areas, taking into account the relevant technical expertise from 2024.			
Measures	• Integration of the findings from the potential analysis into building planning processes	Not yet initiated No potential analysis has been carried out to date. As a result, implementation of the measure has not yet begun. Independently of this measure, campus grounds management is already being integrated into the early stages of building planning to ensure that outdoor areas are designed with sustainability and ecological considerations in mind. Particular emphasis is placed on reducing sealed surfaces and increasing permeable areas.	From 2024 onwards
Ind.	• Implementation completed (yes/no)	No	
Target: Buildings and technical systems will be assessed until 2026, and from 2027 the renovation list will be further developed on the basis of life cycle-based sustainability criteria.			
Measures	• Inclusion of sustainable criteria for the evaluation of (existing) buildings and technical systems on the refurbishment list	In progress This is planned for 13 buildings as part of the RWTH master plan. Further buildings are planned as soon as detailed documentation of the buildings and facilities becomes available.	2026
	• Transparent presentation of building data by linking with the EDMS	Not yet initiated Due to the delay in the connection of the buildings and the software tender for the EDMS, we can only link the data together by hand at the moment. The first annual key figures can already be derived from this, but dynamic and detailed information on when certain events occurred is not yet available.	
	• Carrying out life cycle (cost) analyses for construction projects	In the planning phase Life cycle cost analyses are currently being carried out for three construction projects. This information can then be used to determine how future projects should be evaluated.	

Operations Focus Area – Buildings and Areas

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Assessment of the energy performance of all RWTH buildings using criteria aligned with those applied in Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)	Based on building-specific energy consumption data collected to date, an assessment of the floor area-specific heating energy performance of university buildings was carried out using data from the past three years. The analysis shows that approximately 80% of buildings have a heating energy indicator of less than 150 kWh/m². The remaining 20% of buildings have higher values but also account for a disproportionately large share of the university's total floor area and energy consumption. The analysis will be further refined, expanded, and updated regularly in order to identify priority areas for action and support the evaluation of the buildings' overall energy performance.	2026
	• Assessment of energy-relevant technical building systems, including HVAC systems and climate-controlled facilities, using EPC-aligned criteria	To date, the energy performance of technical building systems has played only a minor role in the operational management of facilities. As a result, information on building systems and the key parameters required for energy performance assessments has not yet been comprehensively documented in the University's Computer-Aided Facility Management (CAFM) system.	
Indicators	• Evaluation of buildings and technical facilities (yes/no)	No	
Indicators	• Sustainability criteria added to the refurbishment list	No	
Target: Promoting sustainable building use and efficient use of resources through joint use of space and technical infrastructure as well as combining requirements for space and technical infrastructure from 2024.			
Measures	• Development of cross-faculty strategies to bundle requirements for space and technical infrastructure with the aim of them being used jointly	Not yet initiated	From 2024 onwards

Operations Focus Area – Buildings and Areas

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
	• Avoidance of empty spaces by developing concepts for optimized office space use	In the planning phase A detailed process is currently being developed on how empty spaces can be checked, identified, and documented. Many departments are involved in this process, and this makes a greater level of coordination necessary. The process will then be tested using selected pilot buildings.	From 2024 onwards
	• Raising awareness and training employees in resource efficiency	In the planning phase As part of the ongoing RWTH master plan, the space resources at RWTH are being analyzed in detail; this particularly applies to the available space in the individual facilities. To this end, we will also generate strategies to how to utilize space more sensibly and efficiently. The results and findings are communicated to the faculties.	
	• Regular, transparent communication on overall resource consumption in the University's energy/sustainability report	In progress (ongoing) The energy report is updated regularly, and the figures are used for reporting purposes, e.g. for climate-neutral administration purposes. Due to the complex supply and ownership structure with the various forms of energy supply (self-supply, external supply), it is very difficult to balance the whole of RWTH. Gaps occur in the balance sheet, which means that we must regularly revise it.	
	• Awareness campaign on the sustainable use of buildings	Not yet initiated	
Ind.	• Concept developed to optimize the use of office space (yes/no)	No	

Operations Focus Area – Events

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Target: Development of a sustainable (internal) event guideline by the end of 2024 and University-wide establishment of the options shown from 2025 onwards.			
Measures	• Give preference to certified hotels when arranging accommodation for university guests	In progress	2025
	• Avoid temporary structures wherever possible and give preference to venues with suitable permanent infrastructure	In progress (ongoing) Wherever possible, events are held in permanent venues. For outdoor events, efforts are made to design the required infrastructure efficiently and to minimize resource use and costs.	
	• Develop concepts for the reuse of materials, for example through centrally shared event equipment and the procurement of reusable or adaptable materials (e.g., bags made from sustainable materials)	In the finalization phase One approach has been further developed into a concept for the central lending of event equipment. The inventory has largely been completed, and additional acquisitions are currently being considered.	
	• Ensure that food and beverage offerings are sustainable and managed in a resource-efficient manner	In progress (ongoing) Fairtrade requirements are already incorporated into framework agreements. At least 50% of events organized by the Events Division and the RWTH Citizens' Forum offer vegetarian catering. Care is taken to order food and beverages in quantities that closely match anticipated demand. Surplus items can generally be returned to the caterer in reusable transport containers.	
	• Waste avoidance/separation, e.g. increasing reuse (e.g. drinks vouchers, checkroom tokens, rented plants, etc.), giving preference to reusable items and much more	In the finalization phase Waste separation is carried out in accordance with local conditions. Reusable tableware is used wherever possible to reduce waste. Plants are rented for events rather than purchased. While some single-use tokens remain in circulation, the majority are reusable. Reusable cups are available through RWTH.	

Operations Focus Area – Events

	Measure / Performance Indicator	Status	Time Horizon
Measures	• Include sustainability-related information in communications for the Graduation Celebration and similar events to raise awareness among participants	In progress Event communications, including websites and email announcements for the Graduation Celebration and RWTH Science Night, encourage participants to travel by bicycle or public transportation. Reusable cups were used at both the university carnival celebration and the RWTH Science Night.	2025
Ind.	• Event guidelines published (yes/no)	No	