



University of Essex

The University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
CO4 3SQ

17 April 2024

Letter of commitment to the priorities of the Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice

I, **Professor Anthony Forster, Vice Chancellor**, on behalf of **The University of Essex** confirm our commitment to the priority areas outlined in the Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice.

The University of Essex fully supports the priority areas outlined in Concordat. We will deliver against all the priorities in practice and recognise our responsibilities as a signatory, as set out in the Concordat.

By signing this concordat we recognise the need to change how we conduct research and innovation as well as promote wider solutions. We also agree to take shared action now and into the future to reduce and eliminate our own environmental impacts and emissions and achieve the transition to sustainable practices.

The priority areas outlined in the concordat align closely with Essex values. Our researchers are daring, visionary thinkers, constantly asking difficult questions and providing answers that give insights into our lives, both now and into the future. From how your online footprint affects your human rights to how we can feed the world's growing population, our research shapes thinking and influences policy.

We recently opened our innovative new Smart Technology Experimental Plant Suite (STEPS), leading the way in research on climate-resilient plants for food security. Work to reduce our impacts through sustainable procurement, reducing travel emissions and monitoring our scope 3 emissions are well under way, and we foster strong collaborations and partnerships as central tenets of our work.

Our commitment and action around Sustainability is reflected in our top 100 position in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings in 2022, 2023 and 2024 for our contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Yours sincerely,

A. W. Forster

Professor Anthony Forster
Vice-Chancellor
The University of Essex
17 April 2024