



FEIT Sustainability Impact Report

August 2026

Faculty of
Engineering
and
Information
Technology



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

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“ Sustainability is no longer a standalone agenda – it is embedded within our mission to cultivate a sustainable future.

FEIT Sustainability Portfolio

Sustainability at FEIT is no longer an aspiration, it is becoming how we operate, educate and lead.

In 2025, we made significant progress in embedding sustainability across our Faculty, aligning our education, research and operations with the University's Sustainability Plan 2030. We strengthened curriculum integration, improved the visibility of our sustainability research, advanced operational practices, and built a connected and engaged community through our Sustainability Community of Practice.

Importantly, this work has moved us beyond fragmented initiatives toward a more coordinated and measurable approach. It has also revealed a critical insight: achieving meaningful impact requires sustainability to shift from a program of work to a shared culture and everyday practice.

As we move through 2026, this report marks a transition. Under the FEIT 2035 Strategy, sustainability is no longer a standalone agenda – it is embedded within our mission to cultivate a sustainable future. Our focus now is on translating strategy into behaviour, capability and impact across all areas of the Faculty.

This is not simply about delivering targets. It is about redefining how we work, how we collaborate, and how we contribute to global challenges through engineering and technology.



Abbas Rajabifard
Associate Dean Sustainability

“*Advancing Sustainability:
Turning Knowledge into Action.*”



Acknowledgment of Country

The Faculty of Engineering and IT acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work and learn, particularly the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the land on which our Parkville campus is situated.

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original custodians of Australia's lands and waterways and honour their enduring knowledge and cultural practices of caring for Country. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge the vital place of Indigenous knowledge within education, research and our shared commitment to a sustainable future.

About the FEIT Sustainability Portfolio

The FEIT Sustainability Portfolio exists to position the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the forefront of creating a sustainable, resilient and equitable future. More than a framework for coordinating activity, it is a catalyst for transformation – bringing together education, research, innovation, operations and partnerships to accelerate positive impact at scale.

Aligned with the University of Melbourne Sustainability Plan 2030 and guided by the ambitions of the FEIT 2035 Strategy, the Portfolio seeks to embed sustainability as a defining lens through which the Faculty shapes its future. Our ambition is not simply to reduce environmental impact or meet institutional targets, but to cultivate the knowledge, technologies, leadership and collaborative capacity required to address the most significant challenges facing humanity.

Engineering and technology will play a critical role in determining the future of our planet. Through the FEIT Sustainability Portfolio, we are building a Faculty where every graduate is empowered to contribute to sustainable solutions, where research drives meaningful societal change, where innovation creates new pathways for prosperity and resilience, and where our operations demonstrate the practices we seek to advance in the wider world.

We aspire to create a culture in which sustainability is embedded in decision-making at every level and recognised as a shared responsibility across our community. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, strengthening partnerships

across industry, government and society, and championing bold thinking, we aim to amplify the Faculty's contribution to global efforts to achieve a sustainable future.

This report marks an important milestone in that journey. It reflects the progress we have made in building momentum across the Faculty, while also highlighting the opportunities ahead. As we look toward 2035 and beyond, our vision is to establish FEIT as a leader in sustainability-driven engineering and technology – educating future changemakers, advancing transformative research, and delivering solutions that create lasting benefit for people, communities and the planet.

“ We have the opportunity not only to adapt to the future, but to help define it.

We envision a future where every graduate we educate, every partnership we build, every discovery we make and every decision we take contributes to a more sustainable world. Through collective leadership and innovation, FEIT has the opportunity not only to adapt to the future, but to help define it.



Delivering a Sustainable Future

The University of Melbourne's Sustainability Plan 2030 provides a bold vision for harnessing the University's collective expertise to address the defining sustainability challenges of our time. Built around three interconnected domains – Mobilising Knowledge for Action, Walking the Talk in Our Operations, and Amplifying Action Through Campus and Communities – the Plan recognises that meaningful change requires leadership, collaboration and innovation across every aspect of the institution.

The FEIT Sustainability Portfolio was established to translate this University-wide vision into meaningful action across the Faculty. Rather than viewing the Sustainability Plan as a framework for compliance, we embraced it as an opportunity to redefine how sustainability is embedded within engineering and information technology education, research, operations and engagement.

Our initial focus was on establishing strong foundations. This included strengthening governance and accountability, embedding sustainability across education and research, improving operational performance, building capability

across our community, and aligning Faculty priorities with the University's broader sustainability ambitions. These achievements created the structure, partnerships and momentum needed to drive long-term change.

As this work progressed, one insight became increasingly clear: lasting sustainability cannot rely solely on projects, reporting or institutional targets. To create enduring impact, sustainability must become part of the Faculty's identity – embedded within everyday decision-making, organisational culture and the way we design education, conduct research, build partnerships and operate as a community.

This evolution marks the transition from delivering the University's Sustainability Plan 2030 to realising the broader ambitions of the **FEIT 2035 Strategy**. Under the Strategy's mission to **Cultivate a Sustainable Future**, sustainability is no longer viewed as a standalone portfolio or strategic priority. Instead, it becomes a unifying principle that shapes every aspect of the Faculty, influencing educational excellence, mission-driven research, industry engagement, Indigenous knowledge integration, operational culture and community impact.



This represents a significant strategic shift. The emphasis moves beyond delivering sustainability initiatives towards creating a Faculty where sustainability is embedded within systems, behaviours and culture. Success is measured not only by the initiatives we deliver, but by the extent to which sustainability becomes the way FEIT thinks, collaborates, innovates, and leads.

This next phase is captured through the theme **Advancing Sustainability: Turning Knowledge into Action**. It reflects our ambition to translate knowledge into meaningful outcomes, strengthen collaboration across disciplines and sectors, and create lasting impact through engineering and technology. It also recognises FEIT's unique responsibility to educate future leaders, generate transformative research and develop solutions that address the complex environmental, social and economic challenges facing communities locally and globally.

Our four strategic anchor projects embody this transition. Together they demonstrate how sustainability can be embedded across curriculum, research, operations and engagement while directly supporting the FEIT 2035

“*Lasting sustainability cannot rely solely on projects, reporting or institutional targets.*”

Strategy. More importantly, they represent a shift from isolated initiatives to an integrated operating model – one where sustainability informs decisions, shapes culture and drives innovation across the Faculty.

The following sections illustrate how these ambitions are being translated into action. Collectively, they tell the story of a Faculty moving beyond implementation towards transformation – building the capability, partnerships and leadership required to establish FEIT as a recognised leader in sustainability-driven engineering and technology, and to create lasting benefit for people, communities and the planet.

FEIT Sustainability Impact



From Strategy to Action

The following initiatives demonstrate how FEIT is translating its sustainability ambitions into meaningful action. Together, they represent the evolution of sustainability within the Faculty – building on established programs, expanding successful initiatives, and investing in four strategic anchor projects that will shape the next phase of our sustainability journey.

While each initiative contributes to one or more of the University of Melbourne's three domains for action, collectively they illustrate a broader shift: from establishing strong foundations to embedding sustainability as a defining characteristic of education, research, operations and engagement across FEIT.

At the centre of this portfolio are four strategic anchor projects that directly support the ambitions of the FEIT 2035 Strategy. These projects provide a clear focus for embedding sustainability across curriculum, mission-driven research, operational excellence, Indigenous knowledge, industry partnerships and place-based impact. Together, they move the Faculty beyond individual initiatives towards a connected, integrated approach where sustainability is not simply something we do, but a fundamental part of how FEIT creates value and delivers lasting impact.

The following sections are organised around the University's three domains for action, demonstrating how individual initiatives contribute to a cohesive Faculty-wide sustainability agenda while collectively advancing our vision of establishing FEIT as a recognised leader in sustainability-driven engineering and technology.

“Sustainability is not simply something we do, but a fundamental part of how FEIT creates value and delivers lasting impact.”

2026 FEIT Sustainability Anchor Projects



Amplifying Action Through Campus and Communities



Building a community of sustainability learners, practitioners and leaders

Creating a sustainable future requires more than individual initiatives – it depends on a connected community that shares knowledge, builds capability and works collaboratively to drive meaningful change. In alignment with the University of Melbourne Sustainability Plan 2030, FEIT has continued to strengthen a culture where sustainability is learned, practiced and championed across the Faculty.

The FEIT Sustainability Community of Practice has become the cornerstone of this work, bringing together staff from across disciplines and professional areas to collaborate, share knowledge and accelerate action. Through this network, we have:

- Established dedicated Education, Research and Operations working groups to drive Faculty-wide collaboration.
- Strengthened cross-divisional knowledge sharing and fostered new interdisciplinary connections.
- Built a thriving community of peer learning and continuous improvement.
- Recognised and empowered sustainability champions to lead change within their local contexts.

Together, these initiatives contribute to a growing culture of collaboration, capability and collective leadership – supporting the University’s ambition to create a thriving community that co-creates, applies and shares sustainability knowledge, while positioning FEIT to lead meaningful change within the University and beyond.

“ *Sustainability is accelerated through people, partnerships and shared learning.* ”



Sustainability Foundation Modules

Building sustainability capability in every student

Why it matters

Tomorrow's engineers and technology professionals will be expected to address increasingly complex sustainability challenges, regardless of their discipline. Developing a shared foundation of sustainability knowledge is essential to preparing graduates who can lead innovation, make informed decisions and create positive impact throughout their careers.

Our approach

The Sustainability Foundation Modules represent a strategic shift from integrating sustainability into selected subjects towards establishing a consistent Faculty-wide capability. Through stackable micro-credentials embedded within core academic pathways, every FEIT student will develop a common understanding of sustainability principles while applying them within the context of their own discipline.

This initiative directly supports the FEIT 2035 Strategy by embedding sustainability into curriculum design and ensuring graduates are equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence required by industry and society.

Expected impact

- Establish a shared sustainability literacy baseline across all programs.
- Embed sustainability capability within core curriculum.
- Deliver stackable micro-credentials recognised across disciplines.
- Strengthen alignment between graduate capabilities and industry expectations.

Our ambition

Every FEIT graduate will leave the Faculty with the sustainability capability required to contribute confidently to a more sustainable future.

Education Strategic Anchor Project KPIs

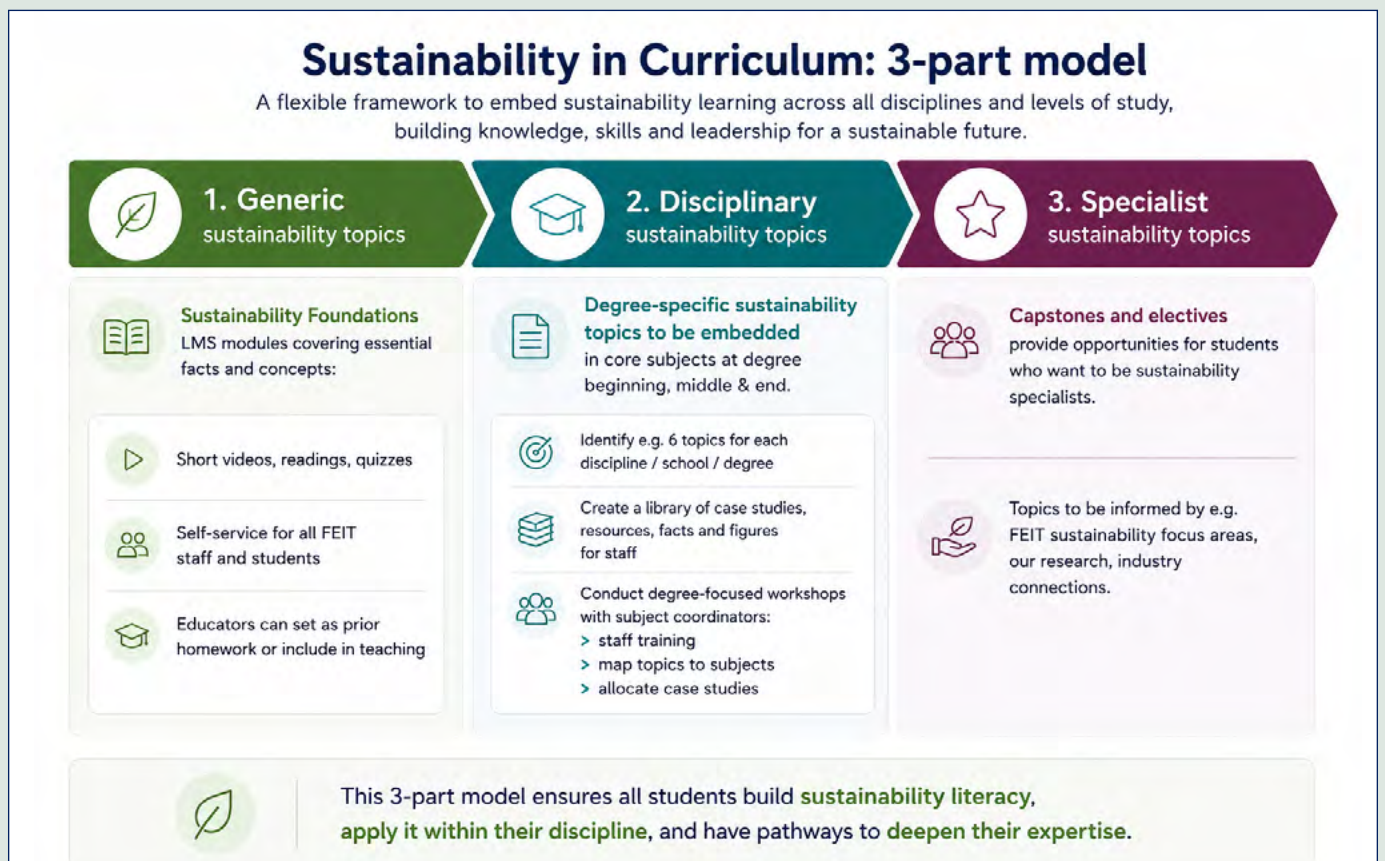
KPI

- Sustainability Foundation Modules adopted across FEIT programs
- Student and staff participation in sustainability micro-credential
- Enhanced student sustainability knowledge and confidence
- Industry co-designed sustainability assessment components introduced

“ Ensuring every FEIT graduate is prepared to contribute to a sustainable future.”



Sustainability in Curriculum Diagram



Connecting people to accelerate sustainability

FEIT Community of Practice in Sustainability

Why it matters

Meaningful sustainability outcomes are achieved through collaboration. Bringing together diverse expertise across teaching, research, operations and professional services enables ideas to be shared, partnerships to form, and collective action to emerge. The FEIT Sustainability Community of Practice provides the foundation for this collaboration, helping to build a connected community committed to advancing sustainability across the Faculty.

Our approach

Chaired by the Associate Dean of Sustainability, the Community of Practice brings together more than 60 academic, professional and student representatives from across FEIT and the wider University. Meeting quarterly, it provides a Faculty-wide forum for sharing knowledge, identifying opportunities and coordinating sustainability initiatives.

To support focused action, the Community is organised into three interconnected working groups:

- Education – Embedding sustainability across curriculum and student learning.
- Research – Connecting interdisciplinary expertise and growing sustainability-focused research.
- Operations – Improving environmental performance and operational sustainability across the Faculty.

Over the past year, the Community has expanded its engagement across FEIT, strengthening connections with staff and students involved in sustainability while improving visibility of existing expertise and initiatives. This growing network is enabling more informed decision-making, greater collaboration and stronger alignment across the Faculty.

“*Meaningful sustainability outcomes are achieved through collaboration.*”

Impact

The Community of Practice has become the Faculty's primary mechanism for connecting people, sharing knowledge and building sustainability capability. By strengthening collaboration across disciplines and professional areas, it is creating the culture, leadership and partnerships required to accelerate sustainability at scale.



Showcasing our people, projects and impact

Making Sustainability Visible

Why it matters

Creating impact requires more than delivering sustainability initiatives – it also depends on making them visible. By sharing stories, celebrating achievements and providing clear pathways for engagement, FEIT can strengthen collaboration, inspire action and demonstrate the value of sustainability across the Faculty.

Our approach

Over the past year, FEIT has strengthened its sustainability communications through the development of a dedicated Sustainability Portfolio brochure and a refreshed Sustainability website. Together, these resources provide a central platform for showcasing our vision, priorities, initiatives and achievements while connecting staff, students and external partners with opportunities to participate.

Impact

These resources have improved the visibility of sustainability activity across FEIT, strengthened engagement with the Sustainability Community of Practice, and provided a clear and accessible platform for communicating progress towards the University's Sustainability Plan 2030 and the ambitions of the FEIT 2035 Strategy.

“ Strengthen collaboration, inspire action and demonstrate the value of sustainability.”



Harnessing AI to support smarter sustainability decisions

UMAMI - University of Melbourne AI for Mapping and Insights Tool

Why it matters

Universities generate vast amounts of data relevant to sustainability, yet much of this information remains fragmented across systems, limiting its value for decision-makers. Unlocking this data is essential for evidence-based planning, emissions reduction and campus renewal.

Our approach

Developed collaboratively by FEIT and the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, the **University of Melbourne AI for Mapping and Insights (UMAMI)** combines artificial intelligence with spatial analytics to make complex sustainability data accessible through natural language. Users can explore campus information without specialist software or technical expertise, supporting more informed planning and investment decisions.

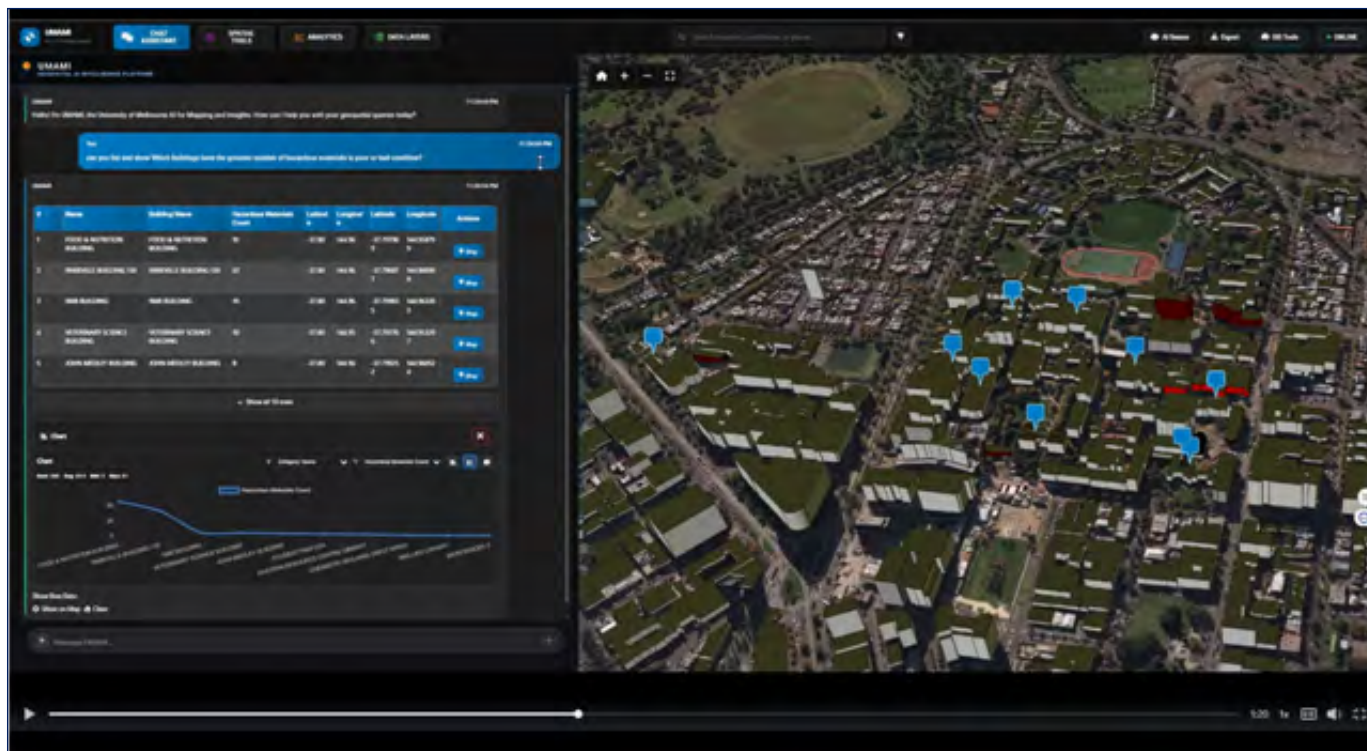
Impact

UMAMI demonstrates how digital technologies can transform sustainability decision-making by:

- improving access to sustainability data for planners and estates teams;
- identifying opportunities for emissions reduction, passive cooling and building renewal;
- supporting more efficient use of existing infrastructure and reducing embodied carbon; and
- providing a scalable model that can be applied across campuses, precincts and cities.

More broadly, UMAMI showcases FEIT's leadership in applying artificial intelligence to solve complex sustainability challenges.





About UMAMI

UMAMI is a prototype AI-powered campus decision-support tool designed to improve how sustainability and retrofit decisions are made across the University's built environment. The project responded to a recognised challenge: while the University holds extensive data relevant to sustainability - such as energy use, carbon emissions, building condition and spatial information - this data is fragmented across systems and often difficult to access or analyse by non-specialist users. Through interviews, workshops and engagement with data custodians and estate decision-makers, the project identified critical data gaps and usability barriers affecting sustainability-led retrofit planning. UMAMI addresses these challenges by enabling users to query complex campus datasets using plain language. The AI system integrates spatial and asset data, allowing staff to identify opportunities for emissions reduction, passive cooling, tree canopy improvements, building reuse, and infrastructure upgrades without requiring specialist software or advanced technical skills. By lowering barriers to data discovery and analysis, UMAMI supports evidence-based sustainability decisions aligned with decarbonisation, climate resilience and campus renewal objectives.

Operational Benefits

- Improves accessibility and usability of sustainability data for planners, estates teams and decision-makers.
- Supports faster, evidence-based retrofit and capital planning decisions without reliance on proprietary software or specialist expertise

Environmental and Social Benefits

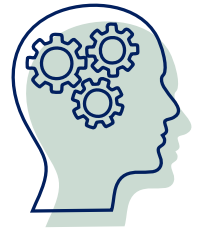
- Enables targeted identification of emissions reduction opportunities, passive cooling interventions and nature-based solutions (e.g. tree canopy).
- Supports more sustainable use and repurposing of existing buildings and spaces, reducing resource consumption and embodied carbon

Sector Benefits

- Demonstrates how AI and spatial analytics can support decarbonisation and sustainability decision-making in large institutional estates.
- Provides a scalable model that can be extended to precincts, cities and infrastructure portfolios beyond the University, contributing to broader sustainability practice and innovation.

Mobilising Knowledge for Action

Empowering graduates, advancing discovery, and translating knowledge into impact



Engineering and technology have a critical role to play in addressing the world's most complex sustainability challenges. By educating future leaders, generating transformative research and partnering across disciplines and sectors, FEIT has a unique opportunity to create knowledge that delivers lasting environmental, social and economic impact.

Aligned with the University of Melbourne Sustainability Plan 2030 priorities of Graduates for a Sustainable Future, Discovery, and Indigenous Knowledge, FEIT is embedding sustainability across teaching, research and innovation to ensure our knowledge translates into meaningful action. Our focus extends beyond individual initiatives, creating a connected ecosystem where education informs research, research influences practice, and collaboration accelerates solutions to real-world challenges.

Through this work, we have:

- Expanded the integration of sustainability principles across curriculum and academic programs.
- Progressed the development of a shared sustainability capability for all graduates, supporting the University's vision of Graduates for a Sustainable Future.
- Increased the visibility of sustainability research and strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration across the Faculty.
- Fostered stronger connections between research, industry and campus practice, enabling knowledge to be translated into real-world outcomes.

Together, these initiatives represent a shift from isolated sustainability activities towards an integrated model of education, research and innovation. By embedding sustainability into the Faculty's core academic mission, FEIT is preparing graduates, generating new knowledge and building the partnerships needed to help create a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future

“ *Engineering knowledge becomes real-world impact.* ”





FEIT Sustainability Research and Impact Dashboard

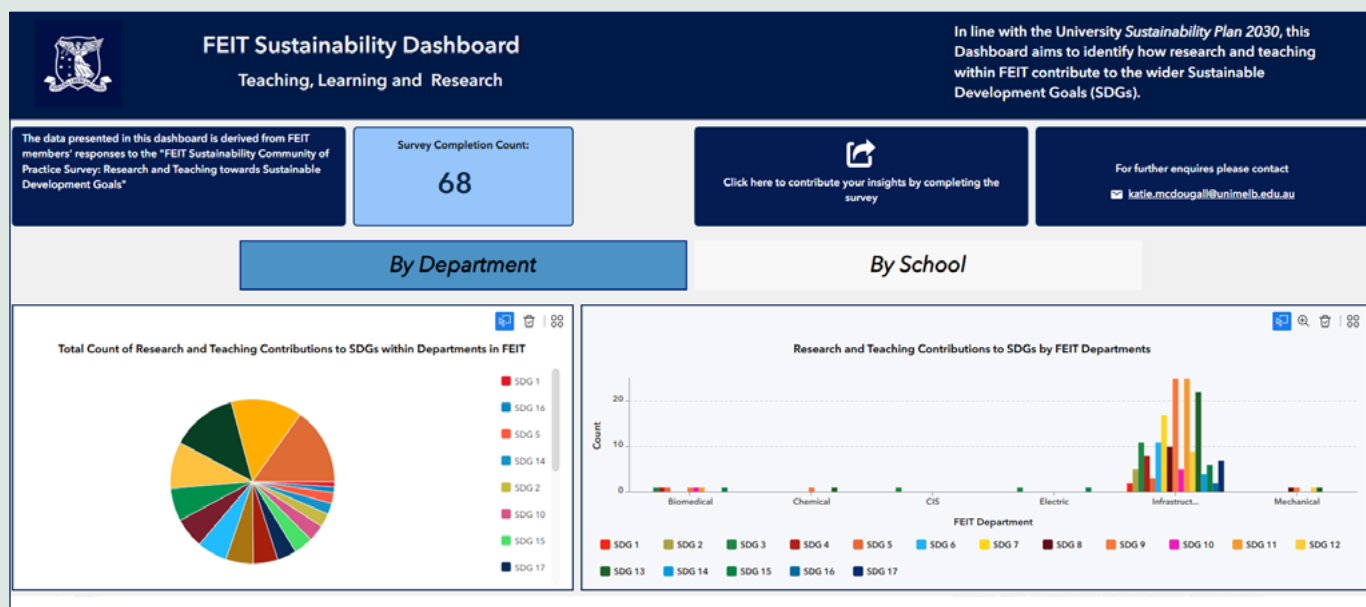
Why it matters

Great sustainability research is only valuable if it can be discovered, connected and translated into action. While FEIT delivers world-leading research across many sustainability themes, this expertise is often dispersed across disciplines, projects and partnerships. Creating greater visibility of our sustainability ecosystem is essential to fostering collaboration, informing strategic investment and demonstrating our collective impact.

Our approach

The Sustainability Research and Impact Dashboard will bring together research activity, education, industry engagement, partnerships and community participation into a single connected ecosystem. By visualising the breadth of sustainability activity across the Faculty, the dashboard will strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, support evidence-based decision making and reveal new opportunities for research translation.

Rather than simply measuring activity, the dashboard will demonstrate how knowledge flows across the Faculty – from discovery and education through to partnerships, implementation and societal impact.



“Clearer demonstration of FEITs sustainability leadership.”

Expected impact

- Greater visibility of sustainability expertise
- Increased interdisciplinary collaboration
- Stronger industry engagement
- Better evidence for strategic planning
- Clearer demonstration of FEITs sustainability leadership

Our ambition

To make FEITs sustainability ecosystem visible, connected and measurable, ensuring our leadership is recognised not only through what we produce, but through the impact we create.

Proposed metrics

The Dashboard will showcase the FEIT Sustainability ecosystem by mapping collaboration, industry engagement and interdisciplinary sustainability impact through areas such as:

- SDG survey
- Event attendance (engagement)
- Event surveys
- Education module completion rate
- Industry Partnerships
- Industry Trends
- My Green Lab certification metrics



Research Strategic Anchor Project KPIs

KPI
• FEIT research projects mapped to sustainability mission • Participation of staff and students in the dashboard • Cross-disciplinary sustainability collaborations • Industry partnerships linked to sustainability research • Research translation case studies published • Indigenous sustainability research engagements tracked

Indigenous knowledge for a sustainable future

Why it matters

Indigenous peoples have sustained healthy landscapes, ecosystems and communities for tens of thousands of years through deep knowledge of Country, stewardship and interconnected systems. Integrating these knowledge systems with engineering, technology and research creates new opportunities to develop more holistic, resilient and culturally informed approaches to sustainability.

Our approach

This strategic pillar brings together Indigenous knowledge, digital technologies and sustainability research through respectful partnerships with Traditional Custodians.

By combining advanced digital capture with Indigenous-led governance, the initiative supports cultural preservation while creating new opportunities for education, research, storytelling and community engagement.

Featured Initiative

Digitalising Indigenous Cultural Heritage

The **Digitalising Indigenous Cultural Heritage Project** is a collaborative initiative focused on preserving, documenting and sharing culturally significant Indigenous artefacts from the Thomson Collection. The project aims to:

- **Digitally preserve artefacts and cultural heritage** by creating high-quality digital records that can be retained for future generations.
- **Capture cultural knowledge and stories** associated with each artefact, ensuring that the history, significance and context shared by Elders and custodians are recorded alongside the objects themselves.
- **Undertake 3D scanning and modelling** of artefacts and collection spaces, creating accurate digital replicas that can support research, education, conservation and virtual exhibitions.



- **Improve accessibility** by enabling communities, researchers, students and future generations to engage with the collection without requiring direct handling of fragile or culturally significant items.
- **Support cultural preservation and repatriation efforts** by providing secure digital records that can assist with knowledge sharing, cultural revitalisation and long-term stewardship.
- **Create educational and engagement opportunities** through digital exhibitions, immersive experiences, teaching resources and interactive storytelling that highlight Indigenous histories, knowledge systems and cultural practices.

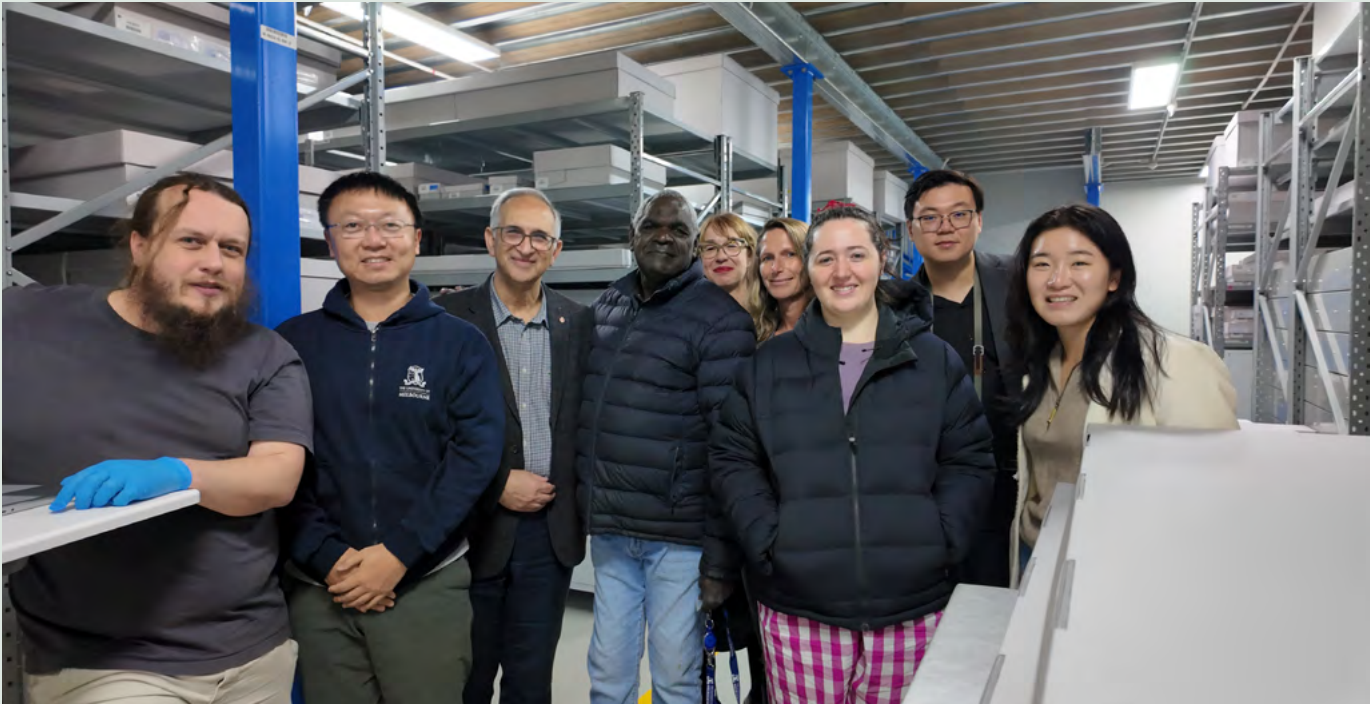
The project begins with documenting and cataloguing the collection, followed by photography, metadata capture and 3D scanning of selected artefacts and storage spaces. Throughout the process, Indigenous cultural protocols, permissions and data sovereignty principles guide how information is collected, stored and shared.

Ultimately, the project seeks to honour and safeguard the Thomson Collection by combining Indigenous knowledge with digital innovation, ensuring that these important cultural stories and artefacts remain accessible, protected and meaningful for future generations.

Expected impact

- Preserves cultural knowledge
- Supports Indigenous data sovereignty
- Creates immersive educational resources
- Strengthens community partnerships
- Demonstrates respectful innovation

This project strongly aligns with FEIT 2035 by demonstrating how engineering, technology and community partnerships can be leveraged to create meaningful social impact while advancing sustainable futures.



Community Strategic Anchor Project KPIs

KPI
• Documentation and preservation of Indigenous cultural narratives associated with digitised artefacts. • Development and implementation of a cultural governance framework to guide permissions, access and data sovereignty. • Integration of project materials into FEIT teaching and learning activities. • Community access and engagement opportunities.

Mapping research to the Sustainable Development Goals

Measuring Our Contribution

Why it matters

Understanding our contribution to sustainability is the first step towards strengthening it. By mapping research to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), FEIT can better understand where its greatest strengths lie, identify emerging opportunities and demonstrate its contribution to global sustainability priorities.

Our approach

The FEIT Sustainability Dashboard visualises sustainability activity across the Faculty, enabling staff and students to explore how research aligns with the SDGs and identify opportunities for collaboration and impact.

Impact

The Dashboard transforms sustainability from something that is assumed into something that is visible, measurable and strategically actionable. This outcome reveals the depth and diversity of sustainability-focused work taking place across our community. It encourages reflection, sparks collaboration, and empowers our community to see their work as part of a collective effort to address complex sustainability challenges. This initiative goes beyond measurement, it builds awareness, fosters alignment, and inspires action. It is a key step in strengthening FEIT’s role in driving meaningful, measurable progress towards a more sustainable future.



“ Understanding our contribution to sustainability is the first step towards strengthening it.

High Dynamic Range (HDR) Mapping

Building the Next Generation of Sustainability Researchers

To further understand the extent of sustainability-focused research within FEIT, an analysis was undertaken of higher degree by research (HDR) projects across the Faculty. This work examined current PhD topics to identify those aligned with sustainability themes, providing a clearer picture of how sustainability is being embedded within our research training and future research pipeline.

The analysis revealed a strong and growing cohort of HDR students – **100+ students** – contributing to sustainability-related research across multiple disciplines. These projects

span a diverse range of areas, reflecting the breadth of sustainability challenges and the interdisciplinary strengths of the Faculty.

This insight strengthens our ability to track and communicate the role of HDR research in advancing sustainability outcomes. It also supports more strategic supervision, collaboration, and alignment of future research opportunities, ensuring that FEIT continues to build capacity in areas critical to a sustainable future.



Making sustainability expertise visible and discoverable

Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into Find an Expert

Why it matters

FEIT researchers are making significant contributions to addressing the world's most pressing sustainability challenges. However, identifying expertise across the Faculty – and understanding how it aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – can be difficult for colleagues, industry, government and community partners. Making this expertise more visible strengthens opportunities for collaboration, research translation and real-world impact.

Our approach

FEIT is working with the University's Academic Technology Team to work towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) alignment within the University's Find an Expert profiles, enabling researchers and academics to identify the SDGs most closely connected to their research, teaching and engagement activities. This creates a shared language for describing sustainability expertise while making it easier for internal and external audiences to discover researchers working on specific sustainability challenges.

The initiative also supports a more comprehensive understanding of the University's collective contribution to the SDGs by making sustainability expertise visible across disciplines, encouraging new interdisciplinary collaborations and strengthening connections with industry, government and community partners.

“Making this expertise more visible strengthens opportunities for collaboration, research translation and real-world impact.”

Expected impact

Integrating SDGs into Find an Expert profiles will:

- Increase the visibility and discoverability of sustainability expertise across FEIT (and the whole University).
- Support interdisciplinary collaboration by connecting researchers with complementary interests.
- Strengthen engagement with industry, government and community partners seeking SDG-related expertise.
- Provide a clearer picture of the University's contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Position sustainability as a visible and integral part of FEIT's research identity.

Our ambition

To create a connected, searchable network of sustainability expertise that enables knowledge to be discovered, partnerships to flourish, and research to deliver greater impact for society.

The screenshot displays the 'Find an Expert' profile for Prof. Abbas Rajabifard, a Professor in the Department of Infrastructure Engineering. The profile includes a navigation bar with links to 'Find an Expert', 'Profile', and 'Help'. The main content area features a circular diagram of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 'Land Administration' and 'Capacity Development' highlighted. Below this, a 'Primary Interest' section lists 'Planning'. The profile also includes a 'Short Profile' and 'Enquiries' section. A detailed biography of Prof. Rajabifard is provided, along with a section on 'Expertise related to UN Sustainable Development Goals' and 'Abbas Rajabifard's research groups'. The bottom of the page features a 'Find out more about Abbas Rajabifard's experience' section with icons for 'My Highlights', 'Study with me', 'My Insights', and 'My Network'.

Connecting Indigenous knowledge and sustainability

Indigenous Knowledge for a Sustainable Future

Why it matters

Embedding Indigenous knowledge within engineering education strengthens sustainability by introducing perspectives grounded in long-term stewardship, reciprocity and Caring for Country.

Our approach

As part of the National Indigenous Engineering Summit, FEIT brought together Indigenous engineering educators, senior sustainability practitioners and government leaders to explore how Indigenous and Western knowledge systems can work together to address contemporary sustainability challenges. The panel session was themed *Indigenous knowledge for a sustainable future*.

Impact

The event strengthened Indigenous leadership within sustainability, inspired new approaches to engineering education, storytelling and knowledge transfer and demonstrated practical pathways for integrating Indigenous perspectives into research, engineering curricula, teaching, community partnerships and professional practice.

Operational and Institutional Benefits

- Strengthened FEIT's leadership in sustainability education by integrating Indigenous knowledge into mainstream engineering discourse.
- Enhanced cross-faculty and external collaboration with government, industry and Indigenous leaders, supporting the University's sustainability and reconciliation objectives

Environmental and Social Benefits

- Promoted sustainability approaches grounded in long-term ecological stewardship and resilience, informed by Indigenous knowledge systems developed over millennia.
- Supported social sustainability by elevating Indigenous voices, strengthening cultural capability, and fostering inclusive learning environments for students and staff

Sector and Systemic Benefits

- Contributed to national conversations on sustainable engineering practice by modelling how Indigenous and Western knowledge systems can work together.
- Provided a scalable exemplar for other universities seeking to embed Indigenous knowledge within sustainability, engineering education and policy practice

Panel Discussion



Mark Allan
Enterprise Fellow
Urban Analytics Lead
Moderator



Helen Vaughan
Commissioner for
Environmental Sustainability



A/Prof Joseph West
Associate Dean
Indigenous



A/Prof Kaya Prpic
Assistant Dean
First Nations Relationships

Topic: *Interrelationships between indigenous perspectives and contemporary sustainability practices – exploring 3 themes of Education, Storytelling and Knowledge Transfer*

Walking the Talk in Our Operations

Demonstrating leadership through the way we work



A sustainable future cannot be achieved through education and research alone. The environments in which we learn, work and innovate should embody the values we teach, serving as living demonstrations of sustainable practice, innovation and continuous improvement. Through our campuses, laboratories and operational systems, FEIT is embedding sustainability into everyday decisions, ensuring our actions reflect the future we aspire to create.

Aligned with the University of Melbourne Sustainability Plan 2030 priorities of **Climate Leadership**, **Just and Circular Economy**, and **Living Labs**, FEIT is transforming its operational environment into a catalyst for sustainability. Rather than viewing operations as a support function, we recognise our places as powerful platforms for demonstrating sustainable leadership, testing new approaches and inspiring behavioural change.

Through this work, we have:

- Contributed to the University's pathway towards carbon neutrality through operational sustainability initiatives and emissions reduction.

- Improved transparency and accountability through the FEIT Sustainability Dashboard, enabling evidence-based decision-making.
- Strengthened awareness of sustainable procurement, resource stewardship and responsible consumption.
- Increased participation in operational sustainability initiatives, empowering staff and students to contribute to positive environmental outcomes.
- Expanded the adoption of **My Green Lab** certification, establishing research laboratories as living demonstrations of sustainable practice and continuous improvement.

Together, these initiatives represent more than operational improvements. They demonstrate how sustainability can be embedded into the everyday environments where teaching, research and innovation occur. By making sustainability visible, measurable and actionable, FEIT is ensuring that our operations reinforce our academic mission while demonstrating leadership to the wider University sector.

“ Our campuses and laboratories should demonstrate the sustainable future we seek to create.





My Green Lab Roll-Out

Transforming laboratories into living demonstrations of sustainability

Why it matters

Research laboratories are among the most resource-intensive environments within a university, consuming significant amounts of energy, water, materials and specialised equipment. Improving the sustainability of these spaces presents one of FEIT's greatest opportunities to reduce environmental impact while demonstrating leadership in responsible research practice.

Our approach

Building on the successful certification of the Materials Characterisation and Fabrication Platform, FEIT is expanding the rollout of My Green Lab certification across the Faculty.

The initiative goes beyond operational efficiency. It embeds sustainability into the culture of research by integrating resource efficiency, waste reduction, sustainable procurement and continuous improvement into everyday laboratory practices.

In doing so, our laboratories become living laboratories – not only for scientific discovery, but for sustainable innovation.

Expected impact

- Establish consistent sustainability standards across laboratories
- Reduce energy consumption and waste generation
- Improve sustainable procurement practices
- Build a culture of shared responsibility among researchers and technical staff
- Position FEIT as a national leader in sustainable research environments

“ *Its greatest value lies in the cultural change.* ”

Our ambition

To create research environments where sustainability is embedded in every experiment, every purchasing decision and every laboratory practice – ensuring our operational environments reflect the excellence of our research.

Operations Strategic Anchor Project KPIs

KPI

- Expansion of My Green Lab certification across FEIT labs, with an initial focus on five pilot labs.
- Improvements in lab energy intensity and waste reduction .
- Staff engagement in operational sustainability training.

From Certification to Transformation

The Materials Characterisation and Fabrication Platform became FEIT's first laboratory to achieve **My Green Lab Certification**, marking an important milestone in the Faculty's sustainability journey.

While certification recognises improvements in energy efficiency, resource stewardship, waste reduction and sustainable procurement, its greatest value lies in the cultural change it creates. The certification process encourages researchers and technical staff to continuously evaluate how laboratory practices can reduce environmental impact while maintaining research excellence.

As FEIT expands My Green Lab across the Faculty, this certified laboratory provides a scalable model for future implementation – demonstrating how operational excellence and world-class research can be achieved together.



Creating the future we want to see

Our Journey Continues

Sustainability is not a destination – it is an ongoing commitment to learning, collaboration and continuous improvement.

Throughout this report we have shared the initiatives, partnerships and strategic investments that are shaping the future of sustainability within FEIT. While each project contributes in its own way, together they form a connected ecosystem – one that builds capability, creates knowledge, demonstrates leadership and delivers meaningful impact.

As we continue implementing the FEIT 2035 Strategy, our focus will remain on embedding sustainability as a defining characteristic of the Faculty. By empowering our people, mobilising knowledge for action and ensuring our campuses and laboratories reflect the future we seek to create, we are building a culture where sustainability becomes part of every decision, every partnership and every graduate's journey.

Our sustainability journey continues:

- People build capability
- Knowledge creates solutions.
- Practice demonstrates leadership.
- Impact creates lasting change.

Our purpose

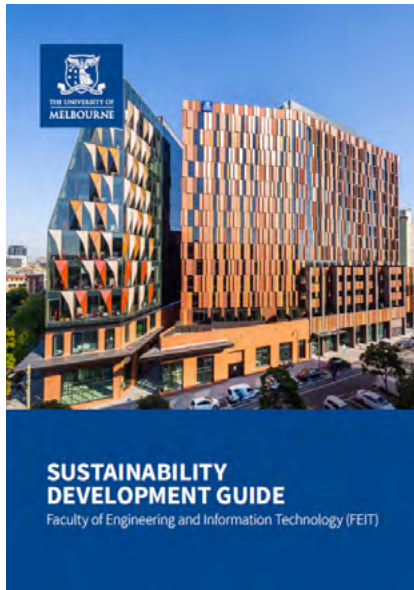
Together, we are creating a Faculty where sustainability is embedded in every graduate, every partnership, every place and every decision.



Available Resources

Website link

<https://eng.unimelb.edu.au/about/sustainability>



FEIT Sustainability Guide

The FEIT Sustainability Guide clearly sets out goals and targets across the Faculty, with the goal of building sustainability into our core business of delivering education and conducting research, our engagement, as well as our operations and governance.

<https://eng.unimelb.edu.au/about/sustainability/feit-sustainability-development-guide>



FEIT Sustainability Brochure

https://eng.unimelb.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/5584584/FEIT-Sustainability-Portfolio-Brochure_Sept-2025.pdf