



DRIVING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN RESEARCH
ORGANISATIONS: BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE?

Environmental sustainability strategies: best practices and lessons learned

Júlia Seixas
Pro-Rector for Sustainability
NOVA University Lisbon
julia.seixas@unl.pt

<https://www.unl.pt/en/sustainability/>

BE EXEMPLARY INWARDS AND FOR
NOVA COMMUNITY

INFRASTRUCTURES
AND SERVICES

TEACHING / TRAINING

NOVA

9 schools
25 k students

INNOVATION AND VALUE
CREATION

RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT

HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN
SOCIETY

1. BE EXEMPLARY INWARDS AND FOR NOVA COMMUNITY

NOVA reduces the negative impact on the planet and promotes personal development and the happiness of your community.

Environmental sustainability

Social sustainability

Education for Sustainable Development

Sustainability in Research

2. HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN SOCIETY

NOVA contributes to the transformation of society towards sustainable development.

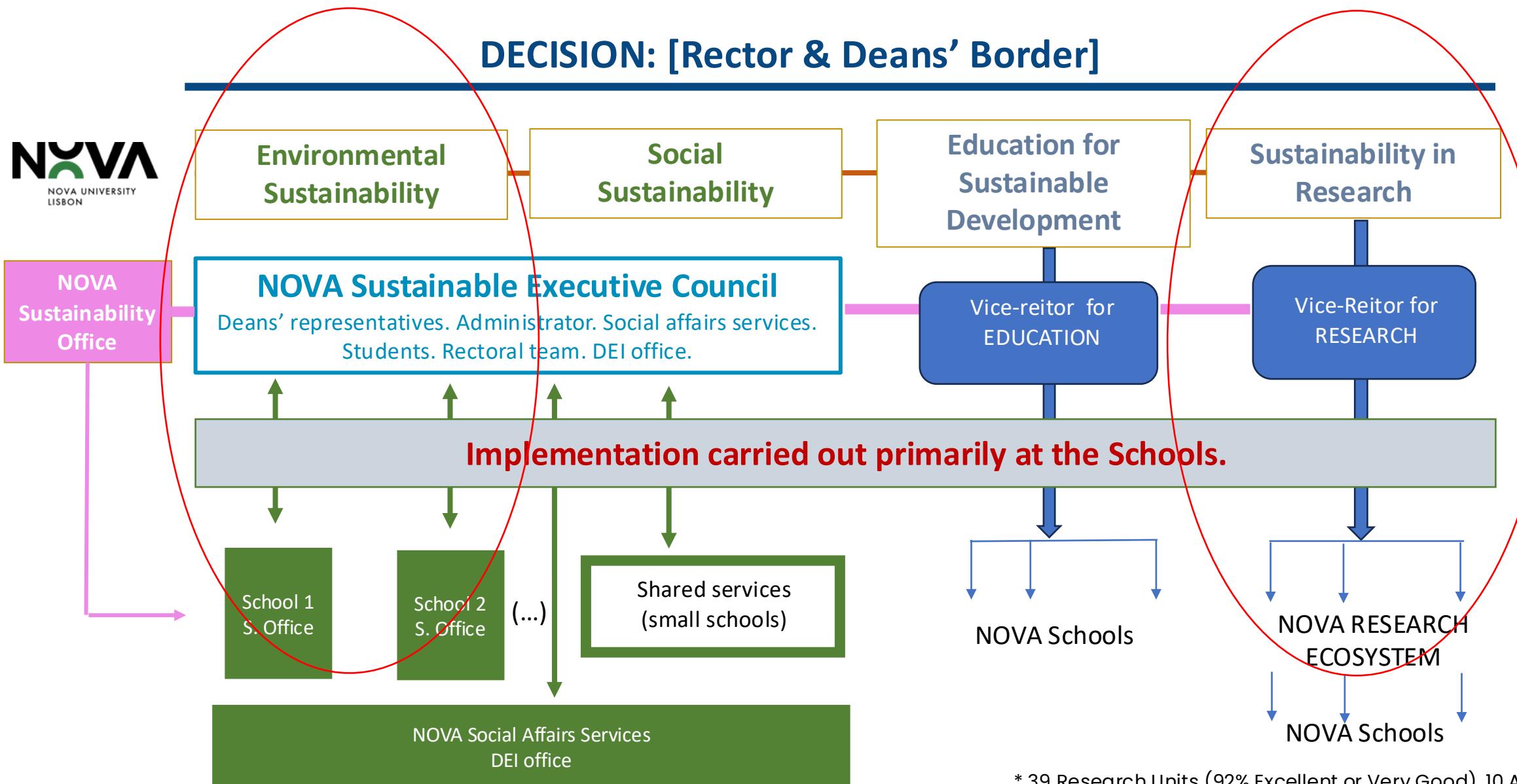
Knowledge and tools from NOVA's scientific areas at the service of society, contributing to:

- Value science in the literacy of society;
- Public policies, based on scientific evidence;
- 2030 Agenda, the European Green Deal, the Paris Agreement, and other global UN treaties;
- Bridge the gap in 'green skills'.

VALUES

INTERDISCIPLINARITY | SYSTEMIC THINKING | EUROPEAN VALUES | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A HUMAN RIGHT | SOLIDARITY (LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND/EVERYONE COUNTS) | TRANSPARENCY

DECISION: [Rector & Deans' Border]



* 39 Research Units (92% Excellent or Very Good), 10 Associated Laboratories, 15 Research Infrastructures (80% are integrated into international networks), 12 Collaborative Laboratories.

POLICIES AND COMMITMENTS



COMMITMENT OF NOVA DEVELOPMENT IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE GOAL OF CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2040

26.06.2025

	Short-term goals 2030	Long-term goals 2040
Scope 1 emissions	<p>Border: all activities under NOVA's direct control</p> <p>Target: 40% reduction in NOVA's emissions estimated for 2023</p>	<p>Border: all activities under NOVA's direct control</p> <p>Target: 95% reduction in NOVA's emissions estimated for 2023</p>
Scope 2 emissions	<p>Frontier: all electricity purchased from the electricity grid</p> <p>Target: Zero emissions</p>	<p>Frontier: all electricity purchased from the electricity grid</p> <p>Target: Zero emissions</p>
Scope 3 emissions	<p>Frontier: Supply chain activities that represent sources of material emissions, and over which it has operational control (e.g. travel), and has relevant influence capacity (e.g. public procurement criteria). In the case of NOVA, they include activities from the following categories (% of total A3 emissions in 2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C1. Goods and services (32%) C2. Capital goods (15%) C6. Staff missions (air travel) (9%) C7. Student commuting and international mobility (31%) <p>Goal: Proactive approach to defining actions with an impact on reducing emissions.</p>	

Source: adapted from STBi (2025)

POLICIES AND COMMITMENTS



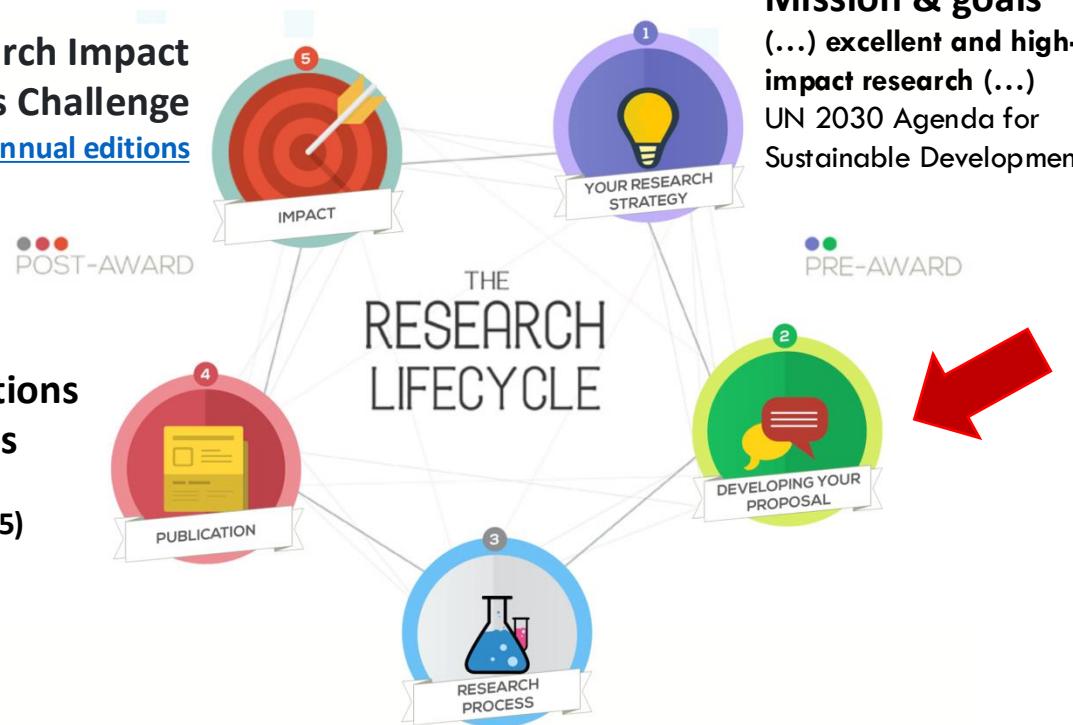
COMMITMENT OF NOVA DEVELOPMENT IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE GOAL OF CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2040

26.06.2025

	Short-term goals 2030	Long-term goals 2040
Scope 1 emissions	<p>Border: all activities under NOVA's direct control</p> <p>Target: 40% reduction in NOVA's emissions estimated for 2023</p>	<p>Border: all activities under NOVA's direct control</p> <p>Target: 95% reduction in NOVA's emissions estimated for 2023</p>
Scope 2 emissions	<p>Frontier: all electricity purchased from the electricity grid</p> <p>Target: Zero emissions</p>	<p>Frontier: all electricity purchased from the electricity grid</p> <p>Target: Zero emissions</p>
Scope 3 emissions	<p>Frontier: Supply chain activities that represent sources of material emissions, and over which it has operational control (e.g. travel), and has relevant influence capacity (e.g. public procurement criteria). In the case of NOVA, they include activities from the following categories (% of total A3 emissions in 2023):</p> <p>C1. Goods and services (32%)</p> <p>C2. Capital goods (15%)</p> <p>C6. Staff missions (air travel) (9%)</p> <p>C7. Student commuting and international mobility (31%)</p> <p>Goal: Proactive approach to defining actions with an impact on reducing emissions.</p>	

Source: adapted from STBi (2025)

What NOVA Route Zero means for NOVA Research?



NOVA Green Labs

4 labs certified as GREEN by



Sustainability for Research

PhD students training course



Júlia Seixas



NOVA SCHOOL
OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



- Full Professor at NOVA FCT
- Pro-Rector for Sustainability
- Director of the Doctoral Program in Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies
- Full Member of CENSE research unit
- As a collaborating scientist with the IPCC, she received the Nobel Peace Prize from the Nobel Foundation in 2007.
- Coordinates studies supporting public policies in climate mitigation for more than 25 years.
- Research interests: energy and climate just transition, including resilience and adaptation.
- Passionate about mentoring young people in climate action and sustainability.



[ACCESS LINK](#)