

# University of Westminster

## Sustainability Report 2023-24



## INTRODUCTION

Throughout the 2023-24 academic year, we have continued our focus on our operational emissions while also accelerating our work under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While this work is closely linked and all ties together, we will continue to publish a Sustainability Report covering our activities towards reducing our impacts in our own operations, while also covering SDGs activity in our [annual SDGs Report](#).

This Sustainability Report builds on the structure introduced last year, focusing on three key pillars: Pathway to Net Zero, Sustainable Campus, and Sustainable Community. While many initiatives align with the SDGs, this report specifically highlights efforts within our direct operations and community engagement.

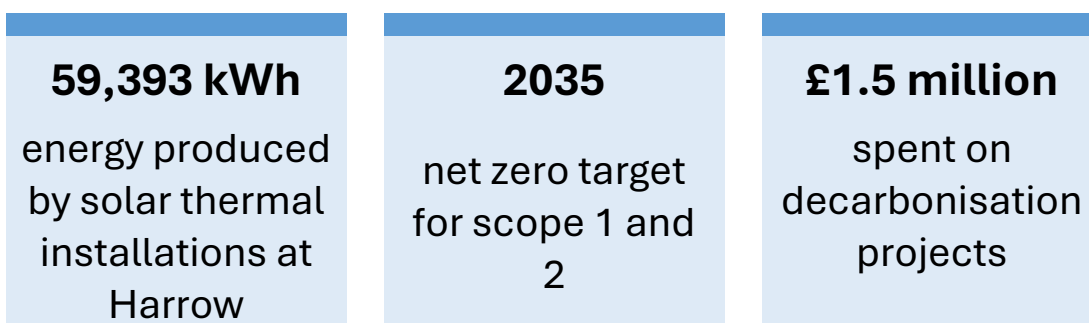
In the academic year 2023-24 we have continued to refine and improve our EMS, with the creation of a new Environmental Management Working Group to set and monitor progress towards Westminster's Environmental Objectives and helps integrate the EMS within all University processes. These will now be reported on in an annual cycle, with a report on activity published around September each year covering the previous year's activity (from August to July).

We have also continued progressing our Net Zero activity. For the first time we have trialled calculations of parts of our Scope 3 emissions beyond waste. While we do not yet have a full picture of Westminster's Scope 3 footprint, this has helped us to identify where there are gaps in our data and how we can work to ensure accurate data collection in the future.

This report will outline Westminster's progress and achievements towards its environmental objectives throughout the 2023-24 academic year. It will also outline some of the steps we expect to take next.

## PATHWAY TO NET ZERO

Our 2035 net zero target demonstrates our commitment to climate action. Alongside improvements to our scope 1, 2 and 3 benchmarking, we have developed decarbonisation plans for all our sites and increased renewable on-site generation.

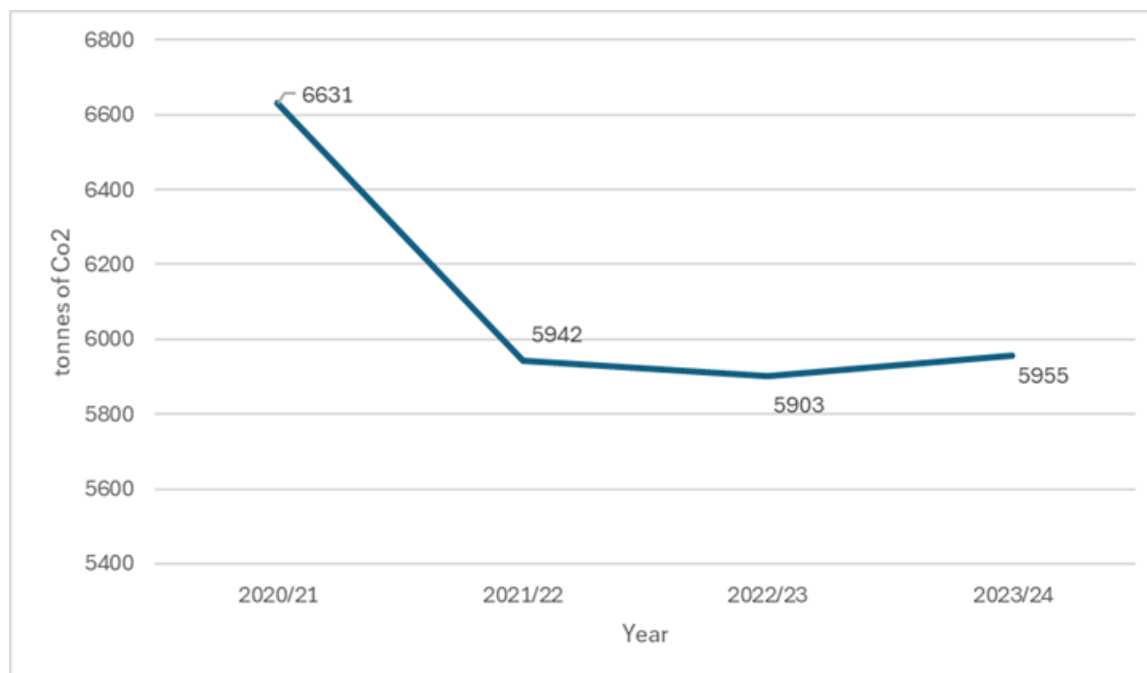


## OUR OBJECTIVES

Target area	Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Target date	2023-24 progress
Emissions	Monitor, measure and report on Scope 1 and 2.	Carbon net-zero for Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions.	1 Jan 2035	Slight increase of 55 tCO <sub>2</sub> e for scope 1 and 2 from 2022-23 to 2023-24 due to cold weather persisting into May 2024
Emissions	Monitor, measure and report on Scope 3 emissions.	Reduce Scope 3 carbon emissions by 50% against the 2019/20 average.	1 Jan 2035	Initial scope 3 reporting complete to help us better understand the data and evidence needed to calculate our scope 3 emissions
Emissions	Monitor, measure and report on Scope 3 emissions.	Carbon net-zero for indirect (Scope 3) carbon emissions.	1 Jan 2050	Initial scope 3 reporting complete to help us better understand the data and evidence needed to calculate our scope 3 emissions
Emissions	Monitor, measure and report on Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.	Spend £2m each year in carbon related projects	1 Aug 2024	Approximately £1.5 million spent in 2024-25
Gas and Electricity	Procurement and use of renewable energy sources across the university.	Increase in the energy use from renewables produced on site.	1 Sep 2035	2023-24 generation: Solar thermal: 59,393 kWh Solar PV: 3,020 kWh Decarbonisation projects – Harrow and Marylebone installed new solar arrays in summer 2024
Water	Minimise waste of water across all sites.	Reduce water consumption across all campuses by 5% from the 2019/20 baseline.	1 Sep 2024	Water metering project initiated in summer 2024. This will complete by end of September 2024 to allow for more accurate monitoring.
Water	Minimise waste of water across all sites.	All buildings to have automatic meter readings.	1 Aug 2024	Water metering project initiated in summer 2024. This will complete by end of September 2024 to allow for more accurate monitoring.

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the past five years, the University of Westminster has been able to significantly reduce its carbon emissions by over 50%. This is through a variety of interventions, such as energy reduction programmes, improving efficiency of buildings, and introducing lower carbon technology. However, since academic year 2021/2022, our emissions for scope 1 and 2 have remained relatively stable. These emissions have increased slightly between 2022/23 and 2023/24 (~0.9%). Scope 1 & 2 carbon emissions, and energy consumption, in the last three years can be seen in the graphs below.



	2021-22	2021-22	2023-24
Gas Consumption (kWh)	20,509,68	19,456,87	18,395,139
Electricity Consumption (kWh)	11,151,69	12,619,32	12,542,269

This increase is primarily down to a higher use of electricity rather than gas and is potentially due to longer building opening hours and increased on-site attendance as compared to the previous year. Our focus this year has been to prioritise the ‘quick win’ energy-saving projects, and we have continued to fund LED lighting improvements, installation of PV panels and improvements to heating systems.

We have also undertaken the following during 2023/24:

**Decarbonisation projects:** To support Westminster’s net zero targets, a series of decarbonisation projects have taken place across our estate in 2023-24.

An outline of what took place can be seen in the table below.

	Harrow	115 NCS	Regent Street	Little Titchfield Street	Wells Street	Marylebone
BMS updates	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lighting		x	x	x		x
Solar PV	x					x
Solar thermal	x					
Pipework insulation	x					
Metering	x					

In 2023-24, we generated 3,020 kWh from solar PV installations at Harrow, and 59,393 kWh from solar thermal installations at Harrow. Solar PV generates electricity, and solar thermal helps to heat water to reduce gas used by boilers – each kWh generated by the solar thermal displaces 1kWh of gas. A year-to-year comparison of electricity generated from these installations can be seen in the table below. In summer 2024, further solar PV was installed at Harrow and Marylebone, and further solar thermal at Harrow, so we expect to see a significant increase in these figures next year.

3,020 kWh: the same amount of electricity it would take an average electric car to drive 9,437.5 miles – about the same distance as driving in a straight line from London to Cairns, Australia

59,393 kWh: the amount of energy required to offset the gas used at our Alexander Fleming Halls, block A, B & C, for 180 students' heating in December 2023

**Carbon footprinting:** Westminster has a target of beginning to incorporate further Scope 3 emissions in its carbon footprint reporting for the 2024- 25 academic year. As a first step towards meeting this goal, the Sustainability Team have in 2023-24 gathered data on a trial basis for waste, water, and business travel for its 2022-23 and 2023-24 carbon footprints to identify where gaps exist and to assess how we can improve data gathering for future years.

**Renewable energy:** Over the past year, our solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at Harrow generated 3,020 kWh of electricity for the Halls of Residence—enough to power an average electric vehicle for approximately 9,438 miles, equivalent to the distance from London to Cairns, Australia.

Our solar thermal systems at Harrow produced 59,393 kWh, fully offsetting the gas consumption used for heating Blocks A, B, and C of the Alexander Fleming Halls (housing 180 students) during December 2023.

In July and August 2024, due to the success of these projects, additional solar PV panels were installed at both Harrow and Marylebone campuses, alongside further solar thermal capacity at

Harrow. The Marylebone installation alone is projected to generate 78,330 kWh annually, accounting for approximately 3.5% of the University's total electricity use. This installation could reduce carbon emissions by 15.2 tonnes per year—equivalent to planting 696 trees annually.

This year marks the tenth year in a row that the University of Westminster has procured 100% renewable electricity from its energy suppliers. Westminster will continue to procure low-carbon energy, with a focus on renewable energy, in future years. As renewable energy comes at about a 10-15% price premium, pricing will need to be considered during any future energy procurement exercises; however, our installations of solar PV will help to offset these increasing energy costs in future years.

**Energy management system:** The Sustainability Team has appointed Global to introduce a new Energy Management System. This will initially gather energy data (both electricity and gas) to allow us to see a 'big picture' overview of energy consumption at our main campuses via online dashboards. Over time, as our metering improves, we will be able to see a more granular outline of energy use – for example, on specific floors of each building. This will help us to better identify ways to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency throughout our estate.

## NEXT STEPS

Work will continue to identify energy saving measures, which will both decrease our energy consumption to reduce our carbon footprint and our energy bills. As part of this, further decarbonisation projects are already planned to take place in 2024-25. These are outlined in the below table.

	Harrow	115 NCS	Regent Street	Little Titchfield Street	Wells Street	Marylebone
Lighting		x	x	x		x
Solar PV	x	x				x
Solar thermal	x					
Replace/upgrade AHUs	x	x	x	x	x	x
Roof insulation	x					
Double glazing upgrade	x					
Metering	x					x

An Energy Metering Strategy has been drafted and is currently under review, with the aim of introducing the new strategy in 2024-25. The strategy will allow us to determine where and when to place meters in the future so we can gain a more granular understanding of energy use across Westminster's estate and will ensure that this is done in a consistent manner across all campuses so that all meters follow the same specifications for easier reading and interpretation of data.

Having trialled data gathering to measure Scope 3 emissions from waste, water, and business travel in 2023-24, Westminster will improve its focus on Scope 3 emissions in 2024-25, seeking carbon footprint verification via PlanetMark. We will also begin looking at supply chain emissions, beginning with a focus on large construction projects and gradually expanding this throughout our supply chain to include smaller suppliers.

## SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

We ensure sustainability is considered across all our sites by embedding Environmental Management into our decision-making processes. Our revised environmental targets prioritise waste reduction and ensure that standards such as BREEAM are considered in all capital projects.



## OUR OBJECTIVES

Target area	Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Target date	Progress
Environmental Management System and reporting	Embed the EMS framework into all university sustainability objectives.	Achieve EcoCampus Gold award following recertification.	1 Jun 2023	Achieved in 2022-23 and maintained through 2023-24 – aiming for Platinum in 2024-25
Environmental Management System and reporting	Embed the EMS framework into all university sustainability objectives.	Zero non-conformances due to non-compliance with environmental obligations.	1 Aug 2023	Achieved
Waste Management and Pollution	Focus on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.	Achieve a 99% diversion from landfill each year	1 Sep 2024	100% diversion achieved on all campuses and at all Halls of Residence
Waste Management and Pollution		Recycle at a rate of 70% across the university.	1 Sep 2025	Average monthly recycling rate for 2023-24 was 48.7%, with a further 6.4% sent to anaerobic digestion
Sustainable Buildings	Promote and account for sustainability in estate management and future building, refurbishment, and reuse plans.	Achieve BREEAM 'excellent' rating as minimum on all new builds each year	1 Sep 2024	No new builds completed in 2023-24. 29 MBR on track to achieve 'Excellent' when it is completed in 2025.



Sustainable Buildings	Promote and account for sustainability in estate management and future building, refurbishment, and reuse plans.	Achieve a DEC rating of C or above across the estate.	1 May 2024	Not achieved due to increased energy use in 2023-24
Sustainable Buildings	Promote and account for sustainability in estate management and future building, refurbishment, and reuse plans.	Establish criteria for diversion from landfill from construction projects.	1 Sep 2024	Sustainable Buildings Standard document in progress
Sustainable Buildings	Promote and account for sustainability in estate management and future building, refurbishment, and reuse plans.	Achieve a minimum of 60% recycling rate for all construction and demolition projects.	1 Sep 2024	Construction waste data has not previously been recorded on a regular basis. The Sustainability and Projects teams will gather this regularly from September 2024 onwards
Sustainable Buildings	Promote and account for sustainability in estate management and future building, refurbishment, and reuse plans.	Reuse 100% of usable furniture or equipment as part of refurbishment / new build projects each year.	1 Sep 2024	Construction waste data has not previously been recorded on a regular basis. The Sustainability and Projects teams will gather this regularly from September 2024 onwards
Sustainable Procurement	Consider the social, ethical, and environmental impact of procurement, purchasing and suppliers.	Achieve the Green Kitchen Standard and Food for Life Served Here certifications at Silver Level in partnership with catering suppliers	1 Sep 2024	Both certifications are currently in progress and are expected to be achieved by the end of 2024.
Sustainable Procurement	Consider the social, ethical, and environmental impact of procurement, purchasing and suppliers.	Ensure sustainability is included as part of all tendered contracts	1 Sep 2024	Supplier Sustainability Charter being re-vamped – to re-launch late 2024
Sustainable Procurement	Consider the social, ethical, and environmental impact of procurement,	Achieve Living Wage Employee status	1 Sep 2024	Westminster offers living wage to all direct staff but are not eligible for status because not all contractors' employees receive this

	purchasing and suppliers.			
Sustainable Procurement	Consider the social, ethical, and environmental impact of procurement, purchasing and suppliers.	Procure 100% renewable electricity from the grid each year.	1 Sep 2024	100% renewable electricity purchased from the grid for the 10 <sup>th</sup> year in a row
Sustainable Travel	Encourage greener methods of transport to reduce the university's carbon footprint.	Increase bicycle parking and associated facilities.	1 Sep 2024	Refurbished showers and lockers at 115 NCS New cycle rack installed at Harrow
Sustainable Travel	Encourage greener methods of transport to reduce the university's carbon footprint.	Increase in attendees at sustainable travel sessions	1 Apr 2024	There was no baseline to record this against, so an events attendance log has been created for 2023-24, which will be used to measure progress against in the future
Biodiversity and Habitats	Establish a baseline value for the number and type of species and habitats across all sites.	Measure, maintain and increase the number of species and habitats.	1 Sep 2024	Little progress to date due to lack of available resource. A specific Biodiversity Student Team member will be appointed in 2024-25, who will support creation of a Biodiversity Working Group and Action Plan during Semester 1 and 2.
Biodiversity and Habitats	Establish a baseline value for the number and type of species and habitats across all sites.	Formalise a Biodiversity Action Plan across all sites.	1 Sep 2024	Little progress to date due to lack of available resource. A specific Biodiversity Student Team member will be appointed in 2024-25, who will support creation of a Biodiversity Working Group and Action Plan during Semester 1 and 2.
Biodiversity and Habitats	Establish a baseline value for the number and type of species and habitats across all sites.	All projects involving landscaping to target a net biodiversity gain each year.	31 Aug 2024	Little progress to date due to lack of available resource. A specific Biodiversity Student Team member will be appointed in 2024-25, who will support creation of a Biodiversity Working Group and Action Plan during Semester 1 and 2.

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

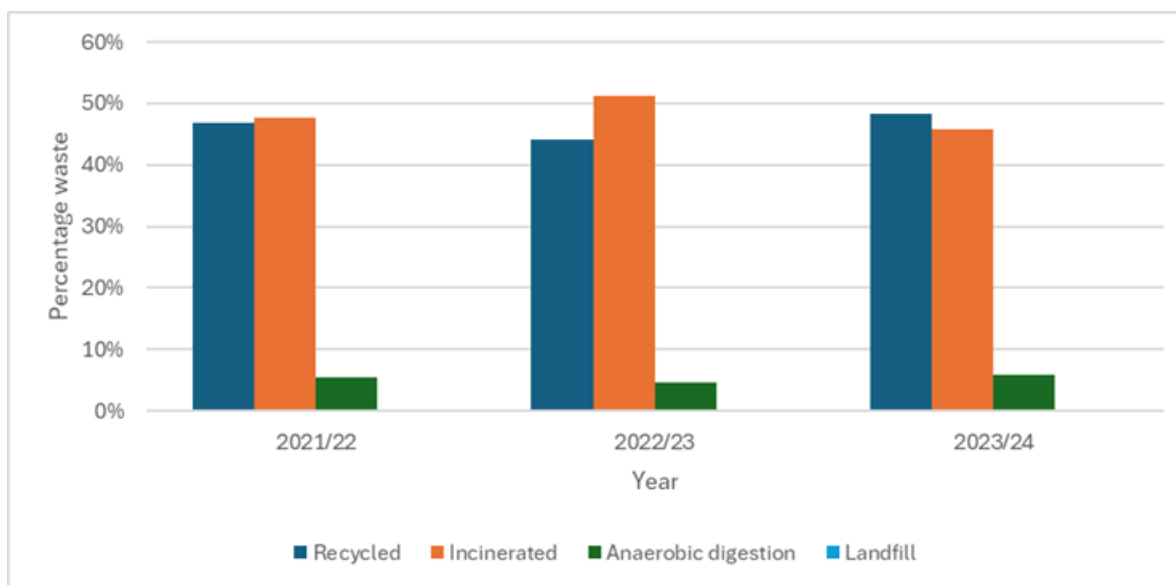
### Waste reduction and resource use:

Although Westminster is consistently achieving a 100% diversion of waste from landfill, our total waste production has increased slightly this year, as compared to academic year 2022/23. However, of this waste, a slightly bigger proportion (48%) was recycled, as compared to last year (44%), rather than going to incineration.

This year has also seen an increase in food waste going to anaerobic digestion. This year has seen a focus on increasing awareness of food waste bins in the canteen areas, and so this increase may be, in part, due to this campaign. This may also be reflected in the slight decrease in general waste this year – food waste may have previously been going into the general waste bins and is now being better segregated.

The 2023-24 academic year marks the first time that we have seen more waste sent to recycling than to incineration. Work continues to decrease waste overall and to increase our recycling rates, particularly in line with new waste legislation to be introduced in 2025

Our waste disposal by weight and by percentage can be seen in the following chart and table, covering the past 3 academic years:



	2021-22	2021-22	2022-23	2022-23	2023-24	2023-24
Total waste, tonnes	356,394	356,394	637,775	637,775	679,786	679,786
Recycled	46.8%	166,870kg	44.1%	281,014kg	48.3%	328,246
Incinerated	47.7%	170,166kg	51.3%	327,131kg	45.8%	311,201
Anaerobic digestion	5.4%	19,359kg	4.6%	29,630kg	5.9%	40,339
Landfill	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Environmental Management:** Throughout 2023-24 we have focused on maintaining our Environmental Management System (EMS), which was re-certified with the Gold Award through the EcoCampus Scheme in 2023. Our EMS provides a robust framework to manage sustainability and helps us improve our sustainability performance. We have focused on developing this EMS further, incorporating internal environmental audits. We are aiming to achieve the highest Platinum level during the next re-certification in 2025.

**Growing spaces:** The growing spaces at our Marylebone and Harrow campuses continue to provide students and staff with a valuable opportunity to connect with nature. Throughout the 2023–24 academic year, the Sustainability Team hosted a series of gardening workshops and drop-in sessions at both locations. Open to all students and colleagues, the sessions attracted over 50 participants across the year.

**Sustainable Travel:** On-site Dr Bike sessions were offered to carry out simple bike repairs and servicing, as well as providing advice on more complex repairs that can't be completed on the spot. The University of Westminster's Sustainability Team organised six of these sessions in the 2023-24 academic year to support colleagues and students in cycling in and around London to encourage use of active travel options

**Sustainable catering:** We have worked closely with our catering partner, Aramark, to successfully take part in three food sustainability award programmes this year. As a result, our cafes have earned: Food For Life Bronze certification – for serving fresh, local, and sustainable food that supports climate, nature, and health; MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certification – for offering sustainably sourced seafood and; Red Tractor certification – which guarantees that food can be traced back to British farms.

In addition, The University Student Union on-campus shops make sure their food suppliers are Red Tractor approved and their products are Fair Trade certified.

## NEXT STEPS

The Sustainability and Projects teams will be working closely in 2024-25 to establish a new Sustainable Construction checklist. This will ensure that all projects continue to meet high sustainability standards, and that work is reviewed by both teams throughout each project's life cycle.

The Supplier Sustainability Charter will also be refreshed for 2024-25. The Sustainability, Procurement, and Projects team will be working together on this to ensure that suppliers are aligned with Westminster's requirements, and to trial monitoring of large construction projects' energy and waste footprints, as well as recycling rates, on a pilot basis.

A member of the Student Sustainability Team is expected to focus on biodiversity across campuses, with an initial focus on a scoping exercise for a new biodiversity plan.

Throughout 2024-25, a waste reduction campaign will take place, with an initial focus on the cafeterias on campus. This will help Westminster to reduce the amount of waste we produce overall, and to increase our recycling rate. We will also need to work to meet new waste legislation to be introduced in April 2025. This will require the separation of food waste from general waste, meaning the introduction of new food waste bins in further areas of our campuses as well as in Halls of Residence.

Following the formation of a new Environmental Management Working Group in 2023-24 to help develop Westminster's Environmental Objectives, we will aim to at least maintain our Gold award and ideally achieve a Platinum EcoCampus award in 2024-25. The Platinum award is the equivalent of [ISO14001](#). This standard helps organisations to ensure they work continuously to minimise their environmental footprints, comply with relevant legal requirements, and achieve their environmental objectives, while reducing risks associated with not meeting any of these requirements.

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

We measure our impacts not only through our operational targets, but also by how well our University communities reflect the values of the SDGs and our environmental objectives. We are continually developing our Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programmes and identifying ways we can measure the reach and impact of our sustainability research.

We run a number of University-wide programmes for colleagues and students to engage our whole community in sustainability initiatives and ensure that everyone on campus is aware of how they can reduce their environmental impacts.



#### OUR OBJECTIVES

Target area	Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Target date	Progress
Students and Staff	Instil a behaviour change amongst colleagues and students to raise the profile of sustainability across the university.	Further develop the sustainability section of the UoW website each year.	31 Aug 2024	To be updated by start of 2024-25 academic year
Students and Staff	Instil a behaviour change amongst colleagues and students to raise the profile of sustainability across the university.	Carbon literacy training to be offered to all new colleagues and students within the next five years.	1 Sep 2023	3 sessions offered in 2023-24, with around 45 colleagues and students completing the course
Staff	Instil a behaviour change amongst colleagues and students to raise the profile of sustainability across the university.	100% of new employees to be directed to the Sustainable Development Policy	31 Aug 2023	All new joiners are directed to Sustainable Development web page within their starter pack, which links to the Sustainable Development Policy
Staff	Instil a behaviour change amongst colleagues and students to raise the profile of sustainability across the university.	New Sustainability module to be introduced to induction process.	31 Aug 2023	To be developed in 2024-25 academic year

Community engagement and external organisations	Promote sustainable initiatives amongst the wider community and develop collaborative partnerships.	Increase in engagement with sustainability events 2022/23 average	31 Aug 2024	There was no baseline to record this against, so an events attendance log measured by provision of tickets, has been created for 2023-24, which will be used to measure progress against in the future
Community engagement and external organisations	Promote sustainable initiatives amongst the wider community and develop collaborative partnerships.	Engage with local councils, business improvement districts and community engagement groups relating to sustainability each year.	31 Aug 2024	Westminster is an active member of Westminster City Council's Sustainable City Charter Technical Working Group. Different campuses are also linked with Business Improvement Districts on several topics and projects.

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

**Working in partnership:** The University of Westminster is a signatory to the Westminster City Council Sustainable City Charter, and a member of the Technical Working Group. This group is developing a toolkit for local small businesses to create and work towards net zero targets.

Westminster is also involved with several BIDs, including Fitzrovia, who have based their sustainability strategy loosely on Westminster's approach to use of the SDGs as a framework for their sustainable development activity.

**Student Sustainability Team:** In 2023, four students were appointed to form Westminster's first Student Sustainability Team, each leading a key area to strengthen student engagement with sustainability initiatives across the University - Student Engagement, Community Engagement, Gardening and Biodiversity, and Greening the Campus. This initiative aimed to increase student involvement and foster a culture of sustainability throughout the university community. The students worked on a number of sustainability projects, and these roles will continue into 2024-25.

**Sustainable Fashion Hub:** For the start of the 2023-24 academic year, a space used by the Fashion Department at the University of Westminster was repurposed to create a sustainable fashion area on Harrow Campus, now called the Conscious Fashion Space. This space was supported by the University's Sustainability Fund, in 2022-23. It now acts as a generator for ideas and action, bringing together students and colleagues in an informal, creative space focused on sustainable fashion to encourage the move towards a circular, renewable system

**Wildlife photography competition:** Westminster's Sustainability Team hosted its first-ever Wildlife Photography Competition in May 2024, to highlight London's biodiversity and the importance of wildlife conservation and sustainable practices. The winning photographs, a collaboration between two students, were taken in a nature reserve in Hyde Park, which is home to numerous animals including grey squirrels and ring-necked parakeets.

**Repair Fair:** Westminster's first Repair Fair, held in March 2024 at the Marylebone campus, was dedicated to reducing waste and improving environmental awareness by encouraging students to reuse and repair old items instead of disposing them. A range of stalls and workshops promoted waste reduction, including a sewing workshop with The Seam, a Dr Bike session with Bikeworks, a 'How Bad Are Bananas' stall for participants to learn more about their carbon footprint, and a Sustainability at UoW stall. Westminster has a strong focus on waste reduction, with a landfill diversion target of 100% and a recycling rate of approximately 50% achieved in 2023-24.

**Carbon Literacy Training:** Westminster has offered Carbon Literacy Training to all students and staff since 2021-22. Carbon Literacy is the knowledge and capacity required to create a positive shift in how mankind lives, works and behaves in response to climate change. Learners who have completed a day's worth of Carbon Literacy learning can be certified as 'Carbon Literate'. In 2023-24, three sessions were hosted on a hybrid basis allowing participants to complete the first part of the training online and the second part in person. Around 45 colleagues and students completed the training, compared to just under 30 in the previous academic year.

**Sustainability Fund:** The Sustainability Fund, formerly the Green Fund, continued in 2023-24 to give students the opportunity to carry out sustainability-related projects and initiatives. These projects are co-created, designed and implemented via partnerships between students and university colleagues. In 2023-24, each project was eligible to receive up to £5,000 of funding, supported by the Quintin Hogg Trust and Graham Hobson, a Westminster alum who is a successful entrepreneur and co-founder of the online photo printing company PhotoBox. This year's eight projects were:

- **New Build Systems and the Common Brick:** an eco-brick system made from regenerative materials to proactively support biodiversity and host sites for plant colonies. The project team designed and produced three different brick types: the double pot, the moss grower, and the single pot bricks. Using diverse designs, the bricks aim to host inter-dependent life forms at a variety of scales, from micro to macro, and can create a continuous corridor of planting across a wall or building facade.
- **Screen Futures: Widening Participation in UK Screen Higher Education:** This initiative supports the diversification of the student body in UK screen-arts higher education by widening participation in university screen degrees and the screen production industries. Through a series of online resources, Screen Futures supports students aspiring for careers in film or television production but lacking the support to proceed with a successful application to a Higher Education Institute.
- **EcoEscape: AI-Powered Sustainable Tourism Mini-Tool:** an eco-friendly AI-driven travel route planner designed for road trips across the United Kingdom. EcoEscape customises nationwide itineraries from London based on the group size, trip duration and vehicle type, whilst calculating the CO2 emissions for each journey
- **Transformation Workshop II – Prototype Structure:** saw the construction of a full-scale Prototype Structure using recycled plastic from the Transformation Workshop and bamboo.



The Prototype Structure construction serves as a tangible representation of sustainable design principles, promoting environmental consciousness within the campus community, aiming at raising awareness about innovative construction methods and materials.

- **Sustainable Photobook:** The project team created a book that shares research and best practice on sustainable photobook publishing, which is set to be published soon. The book aims to test sustainable production and alternative distribution methods as a proof of concept, and share tools, resources, and practical steps to grow the conversation about sustainable practices both within and beyond the University.
- **Greening the Campus: towards a more biodiverse Marylebone:** this team developed a design plan for Westminster's Marylebone Campus facade, the project reflects streetscape improvements in the nearby Marylebone High Street and Baker Street, aimed to rejuvenate the public realm, increase biodiversity in the space and foster a shift in perspective among students, pedestrians and residents, while illustrating the collective benefits of these enhancements.
- **MicroVision:** Low Power, Motorized, Automated Microscope Scanning Stage for Pathological Image Analysis: The project aims to design and develop a low-power, automated, slide positioning unit for microscopes to facilitate the detection, identification, and analysis of pathogens. The unit would be beneficial to researchers and medical workers in diagnosing certain pathogens which require manual analysis of blood samples.
- **MaSt+:** a physical and digital materials library that supports and promotes ecologically conscious art and design practices. It is located at the BAIA Studios at the University of Westminster and is the first connection point for Architecture and Interior students who want to investigate and connect further with sustainable construction materials, sources, and makers. As an online library, MaSt+ highlights sustainable, traditional, innovative, recycled, and low carbon building materials. It is the first independent and non-profitable physical and digital material database for students created by students.

## NEXT STEPS

The Student Sustainability Team will enter its second year in 2024-25. The roles will be refined based on this year's students' feedback, with an additional two roles created. The students will be expected to begin their roles in November 2024 and will help to increase student engagement at a series of events and by conducting their own campaigns.

The Sustainability Fund will enter its fourth year in 2024-25. The Fund will again focus on partnerships between students and academics and will provide grants for projects that can demonstrate how they support different SDGs. Details of the Fund will be announced during Semester 1.

A new SDG Prize is also expected to be introduced in 2024-25, which will sit alongside the Employability Awards. Criteria for the SDG Prize are currently being developed and will be made available during Semester 1.

Further Carbon Literacy training will take place in the academic year 2024-25, with five training sessions planned. The Sustainability team will work with colleagues in different teams as well as course leaders to widen participation among both colleagues and students.

A new Sustainability module will be created and made available to all colleagues over the course of the 2024-25 academic year. An initial draft will be developed by the Sustainability team, with wider consultation to take place to develop requirements throughout the year.

A new SDG Coordinating Group has been created, and its first meeting took place in September 2024, with meetings to take place quarterly thereafter. The SDG Coordinating Group will:

- Coordinate SDG activities across priority areas
- Develop processes to ensure activity across the University is underpinned by the principles of the SDGs
- Support the annual cycle of monitoring and reporting on SDG activity
- A new SDG Network will also be created to support the SDG Coordinating Group. This is expected to be a more social and engagement side of the group and will be open to both colleagues and students to join.