

Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021-22



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER**

309

UNIVERSITY OF

Formerly
THE POLYTECHNIC
Founded by
QUINTIN HOGG

309

GEORGE CAYLEY

Contents

- [4](#) Message from our Vice-Chancellor and President
- [5](#) Introduction
- [6](#) Education for Sustainable Development
- [7](#) Our Research and the SDGs
- [8](#) Our Operational Targets and the SDGs
- [9](#) SDG Case Studies
- [26](#) THE Impact Rankings 2022 Results
- [29](#) Next Steps

Message from our Vice-Chancellor and President



"Our unequivocal commitment to progressing our work and positive impacts against the UN SDGs has been further strengthened in our refreshed University Strategy, 'Being Westminster 2022-2029' as our overriding University priority along with well-being and inclusion. This requires and enables our whole University community of some 25,000 people, with all our associated endeavours, to put our energies towards and more sustainable future."

Dr Peter Bonfield OBE

The University of Westminster began using the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2019 as a blueprint to help frame all our actions and activities across the University. We have used the SDGs to help bring together all the positive work that is being undertaken across the University and our wider communities, that relate to the global challenges of climate change and creating a just and equitable society for all.

Since our introduction to the SDGs we have worked together to further progress our commitments, embed these goals across our University and develop practical activities and work plans to ensure progress. Importantly, the SDGs are recognised as a core priority in our Being Westminster 2022 – 2029 Strategy in line with our progressive, responsible and compassionate values. This cements our ongoing commitment to the SDG framework and our approach to ensuring that these Sustainable Development principles are a part of everything we do.

Over the past 12 months we have continued to embed the SDG framework in our governance, Strategic Operating Plans, curriculum and departmental objectives. This SDG Annual Report records our achievements against every goal, outlines our continuing priorities over the next 12 months and recognises our ongoing positive impacts.



Introduction

The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are used to frame the University's strategic decisions to help us be compassionate, progressive, and responsible.

Through 2021 and 2022 we have continued to accelerate our efforts to work collaboratively across the University on the areas of inclusion, sustainability and social responsibility. We continue to use The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to frame the University's strategic decisions our values of being progressive, compassionate and responsible in everything that we do.

This year, we have continued to develop our Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programmes by engaging with colleagues and students on integration of sustainability in the curriculum. In collaboration with the Westminster Centre for Education and Teaching Innovation (CETI) we have successfully developed and run our first Green Fund programme which funds collaborative, innovate projects designed by our students to address sustainability challenges. This will be a recurring programme and is now fully embedded in our annual sustainability calendar.

Our focus in 2022 has been on our Climate Action programme. We have an obligation to reduce our operational impacts, but also an opportunity to radiate sustainability awareness and best practice within our communities and throughout our student body. Alongside developing our operational sustainability targets, we have therefore been focusing on training and opening up discussion around climate activity, through Carbon Literacy training.

Our impact has been externally measured and recognised through submission for a third year running to the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking.

To further highlight our commitment to the SDGs, this year our Being Westminster Strategy was updated to explicitly reference our programmes in these areas. We are now focusing on the key activities we need to deliver in order to achieve our ambitions in these areas.

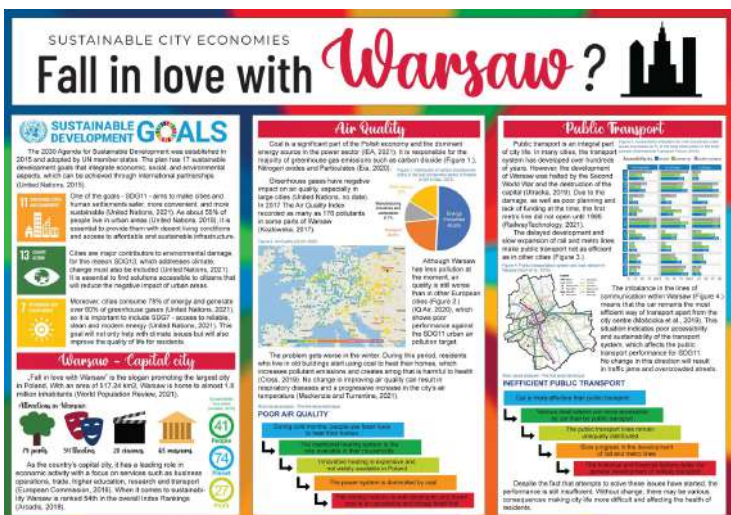
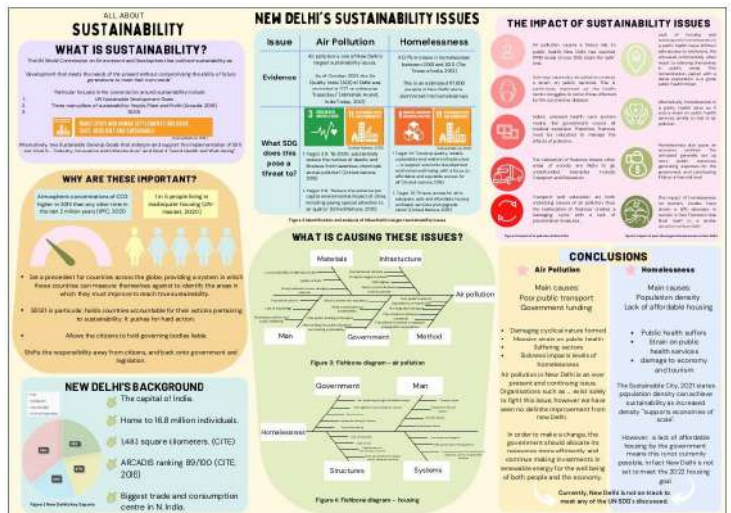
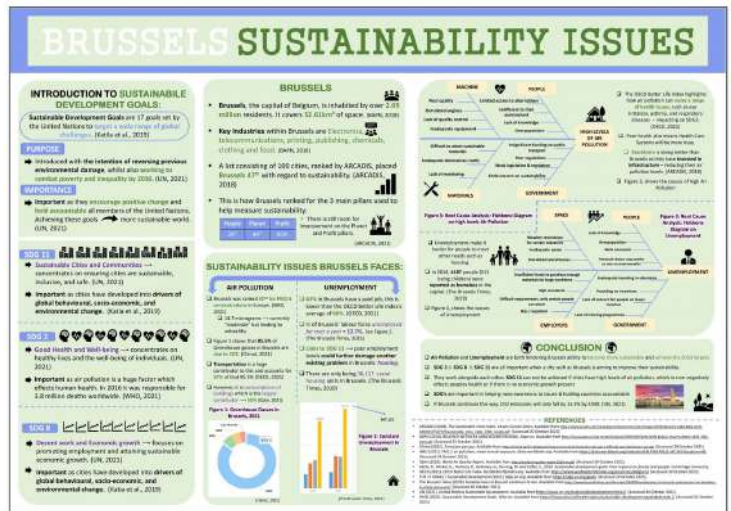


Education for Sustainable Development

We have started taking action towards our responsibility to educate all our students about Sustainable Development and the various global issues that the SDGs address. The University's Centre for Education and Teaching Innovation is driving our progress on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in partnership with the Sustainability Team and various stakeholders across the University. The first objective is to map out courses that already deliver ESD in the curriculum, and the outcomes from students enrolled on those programmes.

The Sustainable City Economies (SCE) module exemplifies the aims of ESD. Cities are the arena of turbulent and contradictory interplay between drivers influencing profitable business opportunities, social equity and environmental stability. The SCE module uses cities as a 'field of enquiry' for exploring both global and local issues of urban development and sustainability in the context of varied socio-economic, political and natural environments, introducing both theory and practice of managing 'profit, people, planet' conundrum.

SCE's teaching team invited the University's Sustainability Team to help judge their annual poster competition. Many congratulations to the three winners Sonida Ceraj, Griselda Bucpapaj, and Barbara Szarpak for their analyses of Brussels, New Delhi, and Warsaw respectively.



Our Research and the SDGs

The University believes in knowledge exchange and partnership to achieve sustainable development, and our researchers offer innovative solutions to real-world problems and contribute to society through collaboration with other local and global universities, governmental bodies, non-governmental organisations and industry partners. Highlighted below are examples of the sustainability-related efforts from each of our four research communities: Arts, Communication and Culture; Diversity and Inclusion; Health Innovation and Wellbeing; and Sustainable Cities and the Urban Environment.



Arts, Communication, and Culture

Ecological Futurisms (EF), a collective of University faculty and doctoral researchers, recognises that the damage brought on by global climate change, who it affects and to what extent, is inextricably linked to historical lines of inequality. Partnering with networks across the Caribbean, North America, Europe, and Southeast Asia, EF provides a platform for the cultural and academic sectors to develop updated modes of collaboration, internally and with the sciences, to establish new forms of performative, time-based, and on-line practices.



Diversity and Inclusion

Bass Culture is a project led by Professor Mykaell Riley via the Black Music Research Unit. It aims to define Black British music through exploring its historical and cultural significance over six decades. Its key objective is to change the narrative and perceptions of the distorted history of popular music in Britain, recognising the role played by reggae and its accompanying historical and political narrative in the British music industry, media, and scholarship. The project is currently collaborating with the British Library on the upcoming 2024 exhibition 'Black British Music'.



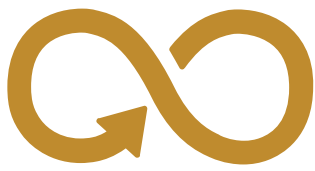
Health Innovation and Well-being

Professors Louise Thomas and Jimmy Bells' work on non-invasive magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is revolutionising diagnosis and treatment of liver disease. Their partnership with UK Biobank tested the ability to measure multiple organs and tissues in one short examination by MRI. The research led to the pair being awarded a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Perspectum Diagnostics, which has then enabled a LiverMultiScan (LMS) technology entering mainstream clinical use. LMS helps measure fat and iron in the liver without the need for invasive biopsy.



Sustainable Cities and the Urban Environment

Professor Andrew Smith's research on staging events in urban parks has helped reposition public policy and professional practice to protect access to these important green spaces. Green spaces in a city mean many things - a place to exercise, relax and socialise for free. They are also a place for nature to thrive, thus their protection is essential. Smith analyses the growing use of public spaces for ticketed events to cover local authority budget cuts and the dangers associated with this trend. Currently, his research focuses on festivals.



Our Operational Targets and the SDGs

We are committed to embedding sustainability across our University and in all the work we do. A sustainable campus is one in which colleagues and students work together to develop initiatives that engender lasting change and have a net-positive impact on our environment and society.

We have responded to this by developing our three priority areas to help shape this sustainability agenda: Pathway to Net Zero, Sustainable Campus and Sustainable Community. Each of these areas has their own set of objectives and activities that we have developed to progress this agenda.

The University's sustainability agenda has become increasingly important over the past year, as the challenges associated with climate change become more prominent. As a responsible organisation, we have an obligation to act and to play our part in finding long term solutions to climate change.

These objectives ensure that we not only comply with emerging regulatory requirements, but also that sustainable development is fully embraced by our students and colleagues, is enshrined within all aspects of strategy and that we have resources available to ensure positive changes are made.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Pathway to Net Zero

Our newly revised 2035 net-zero target shows our commitment to taking action against Climate Change. Alongside improvements to our scope 1, 2, and 3 benchmarking, we have developed decarbonisation plans for all of our sites and increased renewable on-site generation by 50%.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Sustainable Campus

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

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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. We are continually developing our ESD programmes and identifying ways we can measure the reach and impact of our sustainability research.

SDG 1: No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1 NO POVERTY

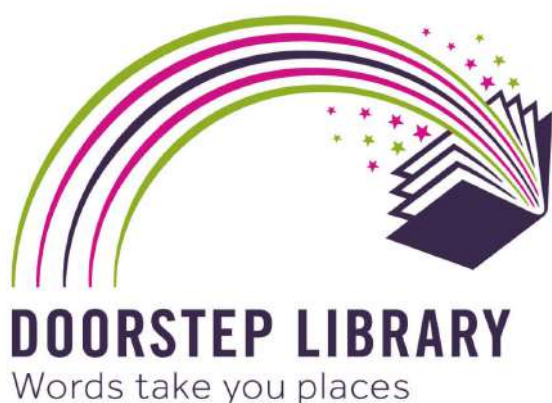


'Universities and Social Mobility' Report

The University scored second highest among universities in England for social mobility. The report, published in November 2021 by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the educational charity Sutton Trust, is the most comprehensive of its kind and looks both at the share of students from low-income backgrounds at the university and whether their university studies have helped move them up to the top of the income ladder. Find out more about the report and its data [here](#).

Legal Advice Clinic Expansion

Since 2018, the Quintin Hogg Trust has supported the successful expansion of the University's community-facing Legal Advice Clinic. It has allowed the Clinic to: offer immigration legal advice; offer triple the number of free legal advice sessions held in areas of housing, employment, and family law; increase the numbers of Westminster students working within the Clinic; and produce online legal information for students. Find out more about the Clinic [here](#).



Christmas Family Appeal

Following 2020's successful collections for North Paddington Food Bank and Greenhouse Sports, the University again invited its community to donate to the Christmas Community Appeal in 2021 to bring festive cheer to some of Westminster's most vulnerable families. This time the University supported Doorstep Library, a not-for-profit community organisation near the Marylebone Campus dedicated to bringing the gift of books and reading into the homes of local families.

2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG 2: Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Hydroponic Green Wall

Students from the School of Architecture + Cities created the University's first hydroponic 'Green Wall' at the entrance to Marylebone Campus. Besides producing lettuce, it clearly communicates our commitment towards creating a more circular and sustainable food system on campus while aligning with our values of being progressive and responsible.



'Winter Warmer' Discounts at University Cafés

The University introduced 'winter warmer' discounts at our cafés and restaurants to ensure that colleagues and students can enjoy appealing, inclusive and cost-effective meals together throughout the winter period. This will include: Free porridge and filter coffee or tea between in the morning, £3 lunch deals available in the afternoon, and a range of other discounts on food and drinks throughout the day.

Recent Graduate Award 2022

Ayanna Deane, Global Public Health Nutrition MSc of 2019, won the 2022 Recent Graduate Award for her work combatting food insecurity. Upon completion of her thesis, Ayanna was selected to present her research at the World Public Health Nutrition Congress. She then secured a role at charity School Food Matters. During COVID-19 she used her role to implement, coordinate and manage the day-to-day logistics of the Healthy Breakfast Boxes Project, responding to food insecurity amongst families with children. She delivered more than one million breakfasts to children severely impacted by the pandemic, exposing the scale of food insecurity and the knock-on impact on children's health.



SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Workshops

The University's Wellbeing Team ran a series of interactive Cognitive Behavioural Therapy workshops for students and colleagues through the 2021-22 academic year. Each workshop focused on providing Cognitive Behavioural Therapy techniques for specific topics including social wellness, challenging negative thoughts, managing stress, and overcoming lack of motivation.

University Mental Health Charter Programme

The University proudly renewed its partnership with charity Student Minds to create cultural change as part of the University Mental Health Charter Programme. The Programme brings together 58 universities committed to prioritising mental health and wellbeing, sharing best practice and creating cultural change. The University continues to work with the University of Westminster Students' Union towards achieving the aims of the Charter, so that the priorities for action are informed by students' experiences and views.



Global Knowledge Exchange Partnership for SDG 3

The University created the 'Learn, Earn and Return' programme with Hong Anh Medical Centre of Vietnam to provide an innovative, flexible medical and healthcare workforce through training and knowledge exchange. Welcoming its first students in September 2022, this work-based programme allows students to study on Westminster's Integrative Health and Wellbeing with Professional Experience MSc. Trainees are recruited in Vietnam, trained in Vietnam and at Westminster, and experience professional life in UK healthcare facilities before returning to work on the Hong Anh Medical Campus.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4: Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Critical Thinking Course for Schools and Colleges

Taking some pressure off school teachers preparing post-16 pupils for higher education across the UK and around the world, the University has partnered with Future Learn to build and launch an online short course on critical thinking and research skills with the help of world-class researchers and lecturers. The course is launched in response to post-16 teachers expressing an acute need for materials to support learners with developing the essential skills of critical thinking and research.



Prison Delivery Pilot Programme

The 2021-22 academic year saw 26 prisoner students engaging with the University's 'Education on the inside - Prison Delivery Pilot Programme' which allows inmates to study for Westminster credits. The Programme is developing a model of teaching delivery which will allow the University to offer full degrees to people across the prison estate. The project is focused on understanding and overcoming the many barriers to providing high quality higher education in prisons.

Sanctuary Scholarships

In recognition of the impact of ongoing conflict and political upheaval around the globe on the livelihoods and opportunities for displaced people, the University recently launched its Sanctuary Scholarships which aim to help displaced students from affected areas enter UK higher education. Sanctuary Scholarships are open to applicants who have entered the UK and have been granted indefinite leave to remain or discretionary leave to remain by the UK Home Office. The selection process is based on financial need and the merit of the application.



SDG 5: Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5 GENDER EQUALITY

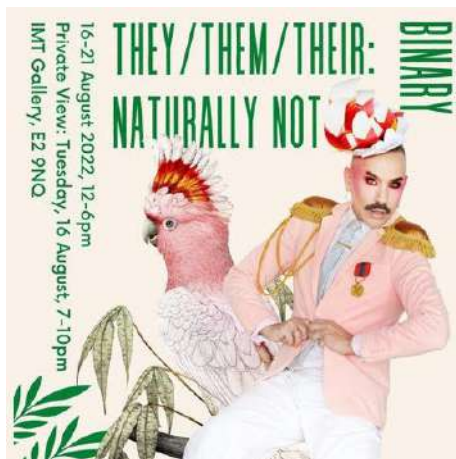


East African Voice Technology Project

University Reader Winston Mano working on the Mozilla-funded project, 'Wezesha na Kabambe: Swahili Voice ChatBot for Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Kenya'. Wezesha na Kabambe is a chatbot which does not rely on internet connection. It is developed in collaboration with rural small-holder women farmers in Kenya as an alternative source for agricultural information. The chatbot is powered by a database of frequently asked questions from small-holder women farmers, a marginalised and digitally excluded group.

Gender Empowerment for Social Enterprises

Supported by the University's Participatory Research Fund allocation, academics from Westminster Business School have developed an online guide for social enterprises interested in gender empowerment, in collaboration with Social Enterprise UK. It aims to increase awareness of gender issues and provide examples of gender empowerment practices. The guide outlines suggested indicators that can be used to measure the impact of social enterprise practices, and identifies potential challenges which can arise in the process of empowering female employees.



'They/Them/Their: Naturally Not Binary' Exhibition

Anett Kiss, a student of the Museums, Galleries, and Contemporary Culture MA course curated, along with co-curator Cas Bradbeer, the 'They/Them/Their: Naturally Not Binary' exhibition which celebrated Queer ecology through art, representing eco-feminism, environmental justice, social ecology, LGBTQIA+ geography, trans and gender non-conforming experiences, and networks of support. The exhibition ran between 16-21 August 2022 at the IMT Gallery in London with entry free of charge.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Automatic Water Meter Reading

To monitor and measure the use of water, the University has installed automatic water meter reading devices to the water meters at Marylebone Campus and Alex Fleming Halls. This allows the University to track water consumption in real time via a live digital portal and compare water use over various durations. The devices alert the University if it spots any potential issues like leaks or ongoing consumption. The aim is to install a device to each water meter across the all campuses



Green Kitchen Standard

University catering service Aramark has won the Green Kitchen Standard Award for the third year running. In 2018, the University was the first London university to achieve the standard, and in 2019 it won the Green Kitchen Standard Champion award at City Hall. The award recognises caterers who are making positive steps to sustainably manage their energy, water, and waste. It is accredited by the Soil Association, the UK's leading membership charity campaigning for healthy, humane and sustainable food, farming, and land use.

Square Mile Farms

A project team of University students and colleagues collaborated with Square Mile Farms to install a hydroponic growing wall at Marylebone Campus. Square Mile Farms use vertical farming to help people and businesses be healthier and more sustainable. They provided training for wall installation and maintenance, including correctly balancing the water and nutrients which fill the water tank. Square Mile Farms has committed to training future students so the wall continues to be used and produce. This enables the wall to live a parallel life as an active learning tool for conscious water use and management.



SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



The Transition to 100% Renewable

For over five years the University's electricity has come from 100% renewable sources, with the majority from wind power. In an effort to clean up gas consumption, the University has purchased a higher percentage of biomethane year on year. Biomethane is a green gas backed by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin certification. Last year, 20% of our overall gas consumption was locally produced in Anaerobic Digestion facilities in Roundhill, UK. This year the University has increased that to 25% and aims to increase to 30% biomethane next year.

Live Energy Monitoring

The University is committed to reducing its carbon footprint towards wider targets to decarbonize the campus. To achieve this, solar electricity panels and solar collectors for heating were installed at the Harrow Campus Halls of Residence in 2020. Since then, a live energy monitoring system has been introduced to monitor the amount of heat and electricity generated as well as carbon saved in real time. The University aims to install digital screens displaying the monitoring system in the Harrow Campus Foyer by end of this academic year.



Heating Decarbonisation Plan

In 2021, the University received £80,000 from Salix Finance to develop University-wide Heating Decarbonisation Plans as part of their Low Carbon Skills Fund programme to provide funds for UK organisations making efforts to tackle climate change, support the economy, and work towards the UK's net zero target. The plans are now complete and enable the Estates Department to review the University's heating performance, identify key areas for improvement, and to adopt a strategic approach towards achieving net zero scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 2035.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Future Ready Mentoring

Future Ready Mentoring is one of the flagship programmes within the University's Employability Strategy. Designed as an inclusive programme with a range of opportunities to support mentors and mentees from every background, industry, and career level, it connects our students with employers for graduate career success. Three branches are open to students and recent graduates: long-term Career Mentoring; course-embedded Group Mentoring; and the short-term Ask a Mentor service.



West London Green Skills Hub

The University partnered with the West London Green Skills Hub, part of the Mayor of London's Academies Programme, which is designed to support Londoners hardest hit by the pandemic to enter good work in sectors key to London's recovery from the pandemic and long-term economic growth. The aim is to provide opportunities for progression from relevant programmes in Further Education to some of Westminster's courses in subject areas such as construction and architecture.

Centre for Employability and Enterprise

The University has submitted a planning application to turn 29 Marylebone Road into the UK's most inclusive Centre for Employability and Enterprise, with accessibility, inclusivity and sustainability at its heart. Located across the road from Marylebone Campus, the Centre is set to bring employers and the University's communities under one roof. It would provide our students, alumni, and the wider community with access to inspirational employer-led events and activities as well as training and networking opportunities.



SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

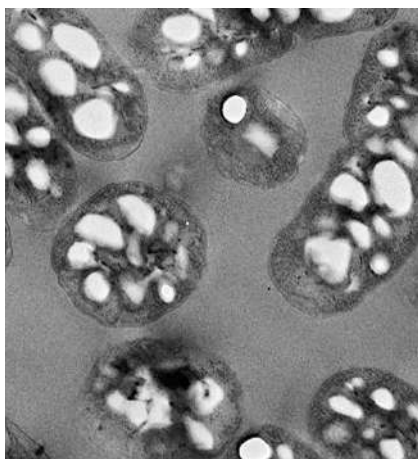
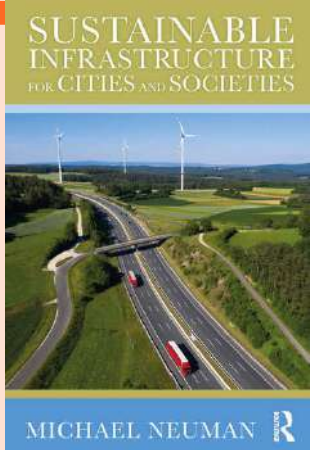


The Big Idea Competition

The Big Idea Competition encourages students and graduates to advance their entrepreneurial skills by developing and commercialising their ideas or growing their business. Finalists pitched their business ideas and services to a live audience and panel of judges at the University's Portland Hall, where they were judged across three categories: freelance, ideation and acceleration. See the 2022 winners [here](#).

Sustainable Infrastructure for Cities and Societies by Professor Michael Neuman

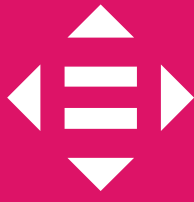
Professor Michael Neuman, Professor of Sustainable Urbanism, hosted a launch event at the University for his 2022 book *Sustainable Infrastructure for Cities and Societies* published by Routledge. At a time when infrastructure is at or near the top of many agendas, this timely book offers principles and practices to make cities, economies, and societies much more sustainable, competitive, and equitable. A key theme throughout is the integration of infrastructure networks amongst themselves, as well as the urban fabric of neighbourhoods, cities, and regions.



Bacteria-derived Bioplastics

Dr Pooja Basnett, senior lecturer and co-course leader for BSc. Biological Sciences, and her team are investigating the production of bacteria-derived polymers. These biobased, biodegradable plastics represent a green alternative to conventional plastics. The team's primary focus is to build a sustainable, competitive, and cost-effective route to produce biodegradable bioplastics that can compete with petroleum-based plastics in terms of price and performance. Dr Basnett will use food waste and products generated in the kitchens of the Cavendish campus as substrates for microbial growth to generate the plastics as part of the Cavendish Living Lab Project. Find out more and get involved [here](#).

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Queering Public Space

Queering Public Space, the 2021 report co-authored by the University's Professor Pippa Catterall and Dr Ammar Azzouz of multi-national built-environment firm Arup, has started a new conversation around urban design and inclusivity. They explore how LGBTQ+ people can feel safer and included in urban public spaces, to establish a set of recommendations that help address this deficiency. Read the report [here](#).



Fashion Needs Colour

University lecturers and film students created, for Fashion Academics Creating Equality, the short film 'Fashion Needs Colour', to inspire and encourage young creatives of colour to consider futures in fashion, design, and related industries. It features fashion students and recent graduates of colour who share their experiences and personal narratives. They discuss the challenges and rewards of pursuing a creative career at university, as well as their individual personal style, projects, and attitudes.

Windrush Justice Clinic

The Windrush Justice Clinic, consisting of the University's Legal Advice Clinic, and partners have carried out research into the unmet need for legal advice for people making claims under the Windrush Compensation Scheme. The preliminary report titled 'The Windrush Compensation Scheme: Unmet Need for Legal Advice' found an acute need for more legal advice and help for claimants during the application process and warns that more resources are needed to ensure members of the Windrush generation receive the compensation they are entitled to from the Home Office.



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Student Award For Research Excellence by the Royal Town Planning Institute

Samantha Simmons, recent graduate of the Urban and Regional Planning MA course, has won the prestigious Student Award for Research Excellence by the Royal Town Planning Institute. The awards recognise and promote high quality and impactful spatial planning research. Samantha's research, titled 'Mental Health and the Built Environment: delivering mentally healthy places', explores the extent to which planning practices consider and implement theories on how the built environment can be favourable for mental health.

Architecture Acts

The University's School of Architecture + Cities' Climate Action Task Force organised the event 'Architecture Acts: A Climate Performance in Three Parts'. The event was in response to the London Festival of Architecture 2022's call for action and aimed to encourage participants to see beyond carbon calculations as architecture's response to climate change. The suggestion being that we need to change cultural attitudes to the natural environment rather than focus solely on technological transformation.



Making British Transport More Sustainable

Professor Rachel Aldred's, Professor of Transport and Director of the University's Active Travel Academy, influential research is energising the race to decarbonise our cities by helping to build a safer, more inclusive cycling culture in the UK. Cycling is one of the most sustainable modes of transport available, yet it remains a minority choice for British commuters. For over a decade, Professor Aldred has devoted her research to finding out why that is, and how we can bring cycling into the mainstream. See more from the Active Travel Academy [here](#).

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

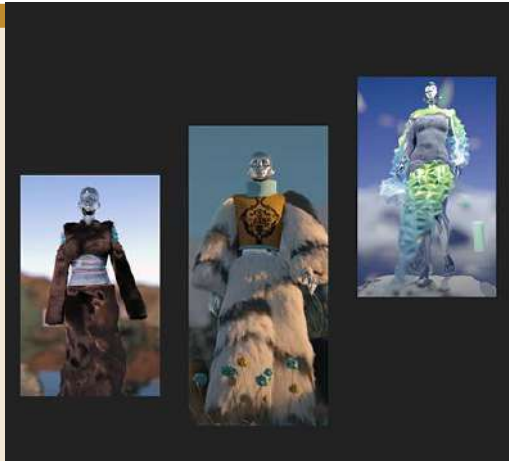


SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

UNFUR

University Fashion Design BA students designed an award-winning digital fashion collection, entitled UNFUR, to fight the fur industry. This collaboration with digital asset company Mobyquity was recognised by Awwwards and supported by the International Anti-Fur Coalition. The students created experimental digital outfits from 'fur' – but no animals were harmed as the pieces only exist in the Metaverse. Project lead Paul Van Raak commented, "The UNFUR project intentionally brings tension between buying a digital fashion piece (because it is considered beautiful) while you are aware that it should not be bought in the physical world."



Ethical and Sustainable Investment Policy

The University published an Ethical and Sustainable Investment Policy for the first time in 2021, demonstrating its commitment to responsible investing. This includes investing in organisations and countries that demonstrate a positive approach to individuals, communities and environmental performance, and those that develop environmental technologies to reduce the impacts of polluting and destructive industries and climate change. The policy also ensures the University will not invest in businesses where the investment might be considered to be unethical or conflicts with its aims.

Green Laboratory Audit

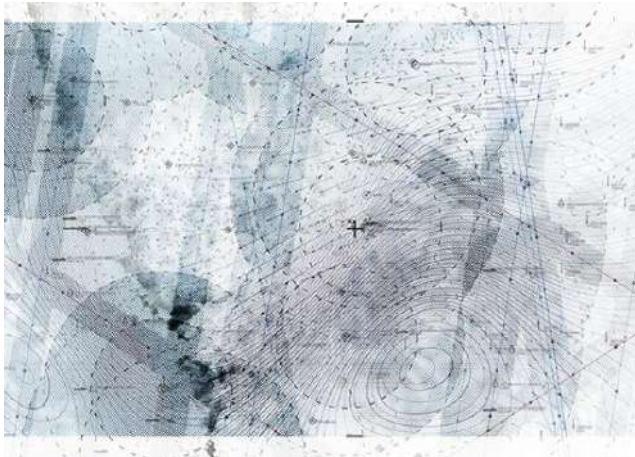
Green Lab Associates conducted an audit of all laboratories at the New Cavendish Street Campus. When compared to typical academic spaces, laboratories are significantly more expensive to maintain and operate. Energy data collated from the universities across the UK revealed that laboratory spaces consume approximately four times more energy per m² than offices. They also procure and carry out specialised tools and techniques which generate out-of-the-ordinary waste. The goal of the audit was to identify opportunities to improve environmental sustainability, as well as identify and standardise good practices already in place.



SDG 13: Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13 CLIMATE ACTION

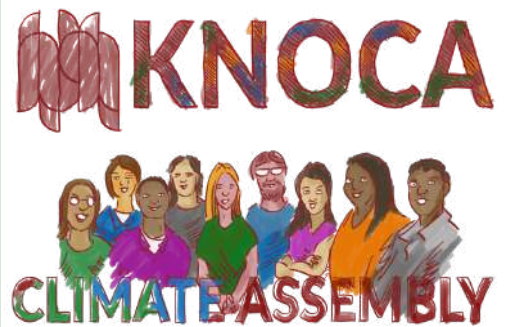


Climate Cartographics

Professor Lindsay Bremner has been awarded a European Research Council Proof of Concept Grant for 'Climate Cartographics,' a project to test the societal and commercial potential of pilot cartographic products using visual sense-making and visual storytelling techniques. This builds on the work of the Monsoon Assemblages project, which examined the confluence of changing monsoon climates and globalisation in cities in south and south-east Asia.

Climate Assemblies

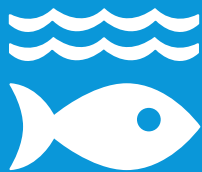
Professor Graham Smith has been appointed as the founding chair of the Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies (KNOCA) funded by the European Climate Foundation. Climate assemblies are increasingly being used in a variety of different European countries at different scales of governance to inform policy responses and social action on climate change. KNOCA aims to bring together the knowledge and expertise of policymakers, academics, and civil society actors to explore challenges in the design and application of Climate Assemblies and promote best practice for those organising and advocating for climate assemblies.



Westminster Sustainability Month

Leading up to the United Nation's COP26 Climate Conference last year, the University celebrated its commitment towards sustainable development with 'Sustainability Month' – a month of sustainability-focused activities and events, including workshops, book launches, and panel discussions. Highlights included: vegetable growing workshops; a screening of 'Climate Urbanism Studio: Regenerating East London' which addresses issues at the intersection of urban change and climate change; and Westminster Sustainability Day where students and colleagues had a chance to meet companies and start-ups who are putting sustainability at the centre of their business models.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



SDG 14: Life Below Water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Cody Dock Conservation

University students from the School of Architecture + Cities have volunteered to contribute to the environmental conservation of Cody Dock on the River Lea, supported by the Environmental Agency and the Green Recovery Grant. The restoration works include the removal of silt containing historic pollutants and the interception of polluted surface water of the Lower Lea River. The aim is to increase green infrastructure and biodiversity, recreate priority habitats, improve the water quality of River Lea, and rely on sustainable energy sources, such as solar and hydro power.



Electromethanogenic Reactor Treating Brewery Wastewater

Kyle Bowman, a first year PhD student from the School of Life Sciences' Applied Biotechnology Research Group, won the Best Poster award at the fourth Annual Early Career Researcher conference organised by the UK Environmental Biotechnology Network for treating brewery wastewater to meet discharge limits, generate energy as biogas, and minimise the cost of wastewater treatment. Kyle's poster was titled 'Pilot scale electromethanogenic reactor treating brewery wastewater – progress to commercial implementation'.

Bioelectroremediation of Petroleum Hydrocarbons

PhD student Belinda Yayork's research, supervised by Dr Godfrey Kyazze, focuses on developing and testing bioelectrochemical systems-based petroleum hydrocarbon remediation technologies at laboratory scale in environmentally-relevant conditions with a view for field deployment. This study will contribute to the development of an environmentally sustainable, efficient and low-cost solution that requires no or minimal chemical additives for the remediation of petroleum hydrocarbons pollutants that are a threat to human health and the environment.



SDG 15: Life on Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

15 LIFE ON LAND



Growing at Marylebone Campus

As students and colleagues returned to campus following the pandemic, Matthew Dark from the University's Library and Student Centre and colleagues took over growing spaces at Marylebone Campus that had become overgrown. After tending to the weeds and planting late in the season, the team managed to grow and harvest shallots, garlic, two varieties of tomato, chilies, and squash as well as nasturtium plants. Planning for the growing season ahead, the team aim to grow cut flowers to display at the Library and Student Centre front desk.

Bees in the City

Bees in the City is an ongoing project exploring the factors which impact on wild bee populations in London. The project team designed and built 'bee hotels' and installed them and observation boxes at University campuses along with other sites across London. These have attracted a range of solitary bees, and samples will be recovered for testing this year when breeding, roosting, and foraging activity has ceased. Lectures were delivered to Life Sciences students and to those in the School of Architecture + Cities on the value of non-human inhabitants in architectural design.



Mini Meadows at Harrow Campus

ADP Architecture and University architecture students have developed a plan to create biodiverse pocket gardens on the Harrow Campus. The first, titled 'Mini Meadows' has renovated a courtyard space dominated by a large area of grass. This courtyard is intended to be the first in a series of spaces across the campus that provide nectar-rich plant species which thrive throughout the year, prolonging the availability of food for insects all year round. In addition to this, various patches of wildflowers have been planted in areas of the campus to benefit pollinating insects, in particular solitary bees and dragonflies.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Can't Buy My Silence Pledge

The University has joined a number of universities across the sector by signing the Can't Buy My Silence Pledge. The pledge calls on organisations to stop using non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) for complaints about sexual harassment, bullying, and other forms of misconduct. The Pledge is backed by the Department for Education, Members of Parliament, and campaign groups. It commits the University to not use NDAs against those who come forward to report abuse.



Community Sponsorship Research

A University-led research project has recently investigated the nature of Community Sponsorship, a refugee resettlement programme with local people at its heart, with the aim of improving social integration of Syrian refugees in London. The team worked with eight community sponsorship groups (CSG) to identify recommendations which can make resettlement planning more effective. It was suggested: providing a framework to reduce the dependency of refugees towards CSGs; exchanging information with families before arrival to help manage their expectations towards the CSGs; and building a database for CSGs to help with exchanging information between themselves.

International Humanitarian Law

Marco Roscini, Professor of International Law at the University, has been appointed as Swiss Chair of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. There he will coordinate research on disruptive military technologies and the digitalisation of armed conflict, including a joint project carried out with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Professor Roscini is a leading expert in international law of armed conflict, the use of force in international law, and international cyber security law. He has published widely in the field of International Security Law.



SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Sustainable Screen Industry

The University has joined the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and Albert's Education Partnership, which is aimed at teaching students the importance of creating sustainable content both on and off screen. The partnership between Albert and UK universities, a collaboration tackling the environmental impact of the screen industries, is specifically designed for students enrolled on production courses and equips lecturers with learning materials, industry case studies, customised tools and support in order to integrate an 'Applied Skills for a Sustainable Screen Industry' module into pre-existing courses.

Green Fund

The University ran a 'Green Fund' for the first time during the 2021-22 academic year. The Fund provides students with the opportunity to carry out sustainability-related projects and interventions which are co-created, designed, and implemented by students and University colleagues working in partnership. Last year's projects addressed food waste, sustainable agriculture practices, recycling sorting issues, and environmental conservation at the River Lea. The University is very pleased to offer the Green Fund to student-colleague projects teams again in 2022-23.



London Student Sustainability Conference

Last year the University collaborated with five other London universities to deliver the London Student Sustainability Conference (LSSC) in February 2022. The conference highlights student research and projects from multiple London universities which create positive impacts in the world. Entirely student-led, the conference offers a chance to not only exhibit their work through presentations, posters, and performances but also to connect and work with other students across London and different disciplines. The next LSSC will take place in February 2023, with now ten participating universities.



2022 Results

The Times Higher Education (THE)'s SDG Impact Rankings launched in 2018 as the first global attempt to measure how universities around the world perform against the 17 SDGs.

The Rankings use carefully calibrated indicators to provide comprehensive and balanced comparison across four broad areas: research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching through evidence submitted by universities.

Since our first submission in 2019, the Impact Rankings have been an important driver of our progress. This year, we saw an increase in our overall score from 80.8 to 85.4 out of 100. From the 11 SDGs that we supplied evidence for, we are particularly proud of our outcomes for SDGs 5, 10 and 12 as the results reflect our commitment to EDI within the University and our values of being responsible, progressive, and compassionate.

Global Ranking: 77th out of 938 universities

Our various access measures, resources, and policies to support and empower our female students and colleagues is reflected in our results for SDG 5. Our research on gender equality also contributed to our positive outcomes, including scoring 97.4 out of 100 for publications on the subject.

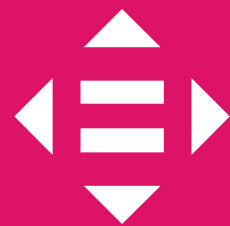
5 GENDER EQUALITY



Global Ranking: 29th out of 796 universities

Our commitment to creating an inclusive University is also reflected in our outcomes for SDG 10. Our proportion of disabled students is 10 times the global average, and we employ over double the global average proportion of disabled staff members. We also have comprehensive measures against discriminatory behaviours which stands us out globally.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Global Ranking: 46th out of 606 universities

Our comprehensive policies on ethical sourcing and procurement, responsible waste disposal, and waste minimisation were highlighted in our SDG 12 results this year. Our waste management and comprehensive reporting of waste data in our annual Sustainability Report also contributed to successful outcomes.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Global Ranking: 401–600th out of 1101 universities

The University's commitment to Health and Well-Being was not reflected in our scores for SDG 3 due to our absence of a medical school. However, our various well-being resources for students and colleagues were commended for SDG 3. We aim to continue supporting our Health Innovation and Well-being research community to build on our research excellence in relation to SDG 3.

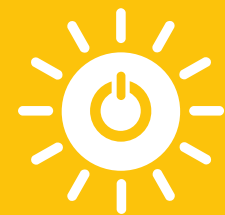
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Global Ranking: 401–600th out of 706 universities

The University is committed to greening and improving the energy efficiency of its estate, as demonstrated by the SDG 7 case studies above and a score of 82 out of 100 in this category. Moving forward, we can improve our overall SDG 7 score by contributing more to global research regarding the transition to clean energy.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Global Ranking: 201–300th out of 850 universities

Our value of being responsible and compassionate is demonstrated here by our excellent employment practice to provide a safe and inclusive working environment. Our score suffered from the low proportion of our students taking work placements. We look forward to this score improving due to the recent progress by our Careers and Employability Team.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Global Ranking: 101–200th out of 783 universities

We highlight our research volume and excellence relating to SDG 11 by our Sustainable Cities and Urban Environment (SCUE) research community. Our commitment to sustainable practices across campus and our support of arts and heritage has also contributed to our outcomes. We encourage our SCUE research community to continue their great work on SDG 11.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Global Ranking: 201–300th out of 674 universities

The University scored above the average higher education institution in all categories of research on climate action, low carbon energy use, environmental education measures, and commitment to carbon neutral university. Our local education programmes on climate, co-operative planning for climate change disasters, and role in informing and supporting government scored perfectly for SDG 13.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Global Ranking: 101–200th out of 521 universities

Our dedication to supporting land ecosystems through education was highly commended for SDG 15, as well as our land-sensitive waste disposal policies on hazardous waste and plastic waste reduction. We can augment our research output relating to land ecosystems to continue living our commitment for healthier life on land.

15 LIFE ON LAND



Global Ranking: 85th out of 809 universities

The University's comprehensive and transparent governance measures contributed to our strong SDG 16 ranking. Our participation in government research, policy and lawmakers outreach and education, and our standing as trusted providers of expert advice to government scored perfectly in the THE Impact Ranking matrix.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Global Ranking: 101–200th out of 1441 universities

Our commitment to education for the SDGs and to annually reporting on our SDG progress brought our SDG 17 score up to 87.6 out of 100 from 68.1 last year. Our international collaborations and cross sectoral dialogue regarding the SDGs have also contributed to this impressive jump in score.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Next Steps - A Roadmap

We will continue embedding the SDGs across all our activities within the University and measure our progress each year, ensuring: our students have the education necessary to be tomorrow's sustainability thought leaders; our researchers are supported in their innovative collaborations addressing today's social and ecological issues; and our campuses become even more sustainable and inclusive for all students and colleagues. We have identified eight strands to help roadmap sustainable development at University of Westminster.



Next Steps - Targets

Planning and Performance

- Undertake annual submission to THE Impact Rankings
- Ensure that SDGs are embedded within all workstream charters and operating plans for departments, Schools, and Colleges
- Undertake internal monitoring and measuring of impact via SDG Annual Report

Research and Knowledge Exchange

- Support development of interdisciplinary research projects and groups
- Work to embed SDG integration in funding calls and within research communities
- Assist in providing SDG support for researchers

Social Enterprise and Employability

- Identify opportunities for Social Enterprise activities to link with the SDGs for increased student engagement and awareness
- Work to ensure that SDG-related employability activities are offered to all of our students

Communications, Campaigns, and Events

- Undertake an Annual SDG Week and conference programme
- Ensure a strong digital SDG presence
- Undertake regular SDG communications to ensure all colleagues, students, alumni, and stakeholders are aware of relevant programmes

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

- Develop an ESD Framework, Policy, and Guidelines
- Develop a programme for ESD training and development
- Work towards an increased offer of sustainability courses and modules

Organisational Development

- Ensure that SDG training and support is available for both existing and new colleagues
- Identify opportunities to embed SDG commitments and plans within the recruitment and induction process and Professional Development Reviews

SDG Outreach and Collaboration

- Ensure SDG representation across all relevant internal and external groups
- Identify potential SDG grant and scholarship opportunities
- Identify opportunities to reflect SDGs in our business engagement, development and QHT activities

Environmental Sustainability

- Focus on Climate Action and developing plans for net-zero carbon emissions
- Develop SDG standard specification for all capital programmes
- Increased eco-system resilience across the estate
- Develop Responsible Procurement Framework in line with SDGs



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER**

309

UNIVERSITY OF

Formerly
THE POLYTECHNIC
Founded by
QUINTIN HOGG

309

GEORGE CAYLEY