

Sustainability Report 2020-21





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UNIVERSITY OF

Formerly
THE POLYTECHNIC
Founded by
QUINTIN HOGG

309

GEORGE CAYLEY



Introduction

The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are used to frame our strategic decisions to help us improve sustainability on campus in line with our University's values and priorities.

Through 2020 and 2021 we have accelerated our efforts to work collaboratively across the university on environmental sustainability. Despite challenges from a year of working remotely, we have continued accelerating our progress on creating more sustainable campuses across the University. We have developed new programmes tackling Climate Change, habitat loss, and sustainable development.

We have demonstrated our continued strong commitment to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our university recognises the role that we have as an institution based at the heart of London in achieving sustainable development. Therefore, we are committed to using the SDGs as a mechanism to effectively report on our environmental progress and achievements while embedding these goals in estates activities to enhance strategy and to benefit students, colleagues and other

stakeholders as well as our planet.

Our impact has been externally measured and recognised through submission for a second year running to the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking. We placed 19th globally for SDG 5: Gender Equality, 23rd for SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and 49th for SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production out of 1115 universities that applied for the Impact Ranking worldwide. On SDG12, our high recycling rate and best practice in waste management were commended.

As a part of our work on the SDGs, we are developing our Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) strategy in collaboration with the University Centre for Education and Teaching Innovation (CETI). Workshops and resources around the SDGs and sustainability pedagogy for teaching and research are being developed to provide the necessary training for our colleagues to pass on the knowledge

to our students. We have also worked in collaboration with the Quintin Hogg Trust (QHT) to include a section on SDG impact in the annual report for projects funded by the QHT, to monitor, measure and report on the positive impact being made by our researchers.

Alongside our commitment to the SDG, the University is committed to reducing our energy consumption and carbon impact. As part of this commitment, we maintained a long-standing scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction target of 43% against the baseline year of 2005-06 since August 2019.

Our focus this year on energy and carbon management has been on reviewing and analysing our current consumption data to develop a long-term strategic plan to improve energy performance and decarbonise our university estate. We are aiming to achieve a net-zero emissions target by 2050.

To become a carbon-neutral University, we are committed to the use of renewable energy across all our campuses. We installed our first combined solar PV and solar thermal system self-generating electricity and heating for part of the Harrow Halls of Residence. We have been procuring 100% renewable electricity since 2014. In 2021, we have reviewed our energy procurement and has started to purchase 20% of green gas across our estate.

In 2022, we will be looking to review our energy procurement, aiming to purchase a higher portion of green gas and explore new

opportunities to install additional solar PVs on site. This will allow us to further commit to cleaner energy and carbon reduction across the university.

We have maintained a high recycling rate across all campuses and have worked in collaboration with academic colleagues and students to raise awareness of waste management and the correct segregation of waste.

In addition to energy and waste management, we have started developing a biodiversity strategy for the University estate to protect and conserve habitats for our local fauna and flora. A new Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Policy and Action Plan were developed in collaboration with colleagues within the Estates and Planning Services and academic colleagues with expert knowledge to maximise impact.

Our progress on creating a sustainable campus was achieved by working in collaboration and partnership with various stakeholders across the University this year. SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals was exemplified across all our activities and we will continue to do so moving forward as we acknowledge the importance of partnership to achieve sustainable development.

Our Priorities and the SDGs



At the University of Westminster, our strategy outlines our commitment to show “compassion to each other, and look out for our individual and collective wellbeing, being actively inclusive, sensitive to difference, building a united community. We take responsibility for doing the right thing, even when that feels difficult.

We adopted the SDGs' framework to support this core social mission and to record, measure and improve our contribution to a wide range of social, environmental and economic outcomes and benefits. We have now prioritised several of these, according to where we feel able to make the most significant differences.

We have been making great strides towards reducing the environmental impact of campus operations and activities. From incorporating sustainability into procurement to supporting staff and student-led projects, sustainable practices and policies are framing the decisions made across the University.

In this report, we report on our progress made on the environmental SDGs during the 2020-21 academic year; especially focusing on the positive steps that we took towards responsible energy and waste management, land and habitat protection, and collaboration. to increase awareness of environmental issues across the University campuses to our colleagues and students.





2021 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 has been an important driver of our progress. This year, we saw an increase in our overall score from 75.5 to 80.5 out of 100. From the 7 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: 19th out of 776 universities

Our high proportion of senior female academics and female graduates at the University is reflected in our results for SDG 5. Our various access measures, resources, and policies to support and empower our female students and colleagues also contributed to our positive outcomes.

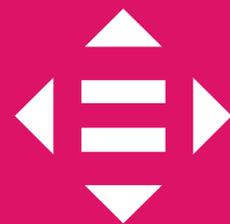
5 GENDER EQUALITY



Global Ranking: 23rd out of 669 universities

Our commitment to creating an inclusive University is also reflected in our outcomes for SDG 10. Our proportion of disabled students is 9 times the global average, and we employ 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: 49th out of 503 universities

Our research output and excellence in relation to SDG12 were highlighted in our results this year. Alongside research, our responsible management of waste and comprehensive reporting of our energy, water and waste data in our annual Sustainability Report also contributed to successful outcomes.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Highlights

This year, we have seen many collaborations and partnerships being formed in the names of Sustainability within the University. Our students and colleagues have been more engaged than ever, with many new sustainable initiatives launching and programmes starting.

Many online and in-person sustainability activities were delivered throughout the academic year, despite the challenges from the

pandemic. We will continue the delivery of hybrid events and activities to be more inclusive towards and students and colleagues moving forward.

Below are some of the highlights from the last year, which involved collaboration and partnership with students and colleagues across the University to raise awareness of various sustainability issues.



Green Fund

CETI and the Sustainability Team launched a pilot Green Fund scheme to provide opportunities for our students to design and deliver projects that contribute to the SDGs. Students will be in a team with staff to encourage collaboration and knowledge exchange. Various training workshops are offered to successful project teams for further educational opportunities.



Carbon Literacy Training

Our first round of Carbon Literacy Training was offered to our students as a pilot scheme. The training was open to all Westminster students through two online half-day sessions. The training material was designed to align with our Employability Strategies to help our students understand the relevance of Climate Education and increase their employability skills.



Green Gown Awards and Footprint Awards Finalists

As a finalist in the Green Gown Awards 2020 for the Campus Health, Food and Drink category and the Footprint Awards' Sustainability in Education category, our catering team, Aramark, are leading the way to the global sustainability agenda and proving the social value that university food services bring to the economy and society.

Highlights



Sustainability Month

Leading up to the United Nation's COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow, we celebrated our commitment towards sustainable development with Sustainability Month, a month of sustainability-focused activities and events, including workshops, book launches, training, and conferences.

A month-long programme focusing on sustainability had not been delivered before at the University. However, we saw a positive shift in our students' and colleagues' attitudes and interests in sustainability issues, whether they are environmental, social, or economic sustainability issues. Many of our students engaged with our activities and actions, we will capitalise on this momentum to keep championing sustainability at Westminster.



Launch of ArCCAT

The University's Schools of Architecture and Cities launched the Architecture and Cities Climate Action Taskforce, ArCCAT. The School of Architecture and Cities, Westminster Business School, and Estates and Planning Services, as well as students, are working in partnership to address four areas within ArCCAT. The four areas are:



Curriculum Change, Climate Conscious Practice, Events Campaigns and Communication, and Strategic Planning. Since its launch, ArCCAT has delivered a number of campaigns and initiatives including academic talks, exhibitions, competitions for students and book launches to increase climate awareness within Westminster.



Our Operational Targets and the SDGs

We are committed to embedding sustainability across all our University sites and in all the work we do. Developing, supporting and promoting environmental activities and events, engaging internal and external communities through initiatives that engender lasting change. To this end, we have developed a framework that encompasses our activities into three areas:

Sustainable Campus and Environmental Management, Curriculum and Research, and Partnerships and People. Therefore the University is working towards ensuring that sustainable development is fully embraced by our students and colleagues; is enshrined within all aspects of strategy, planning and activities, with resources available to ensure operational implementation and cultural change.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Curriculum and Research

We ensure that the SDGs and sustainability are considered as part of our curriculum and through our Research Communities. Links to the SDGs are being identified as we start developing opportunities for further embedding these in the curriculum and research at Westminster to develop our ESD strategies.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Sustainable Campus and Environmental Management

We ensure sustainability is considered across all our University sites by embedding Environmental Management into our decision-making processes. We cultivate a built environment that prioritises sustainable development, design and operation to improve environmental performance across our estate.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Partnerships and People

We empower and engage our students, colleagues and the local community to become active citizens for sustainability – developing and promoting environmental initiatives and events to help the University achieve our sustainability objectives. We ensure that effective partnerships are in place with our suppliers to reflect our values in the products and services we procure.



Energy Management



Solar Panels at Harrow Campus

The university is committed to reducing our carbon footprint towards our wider targets to decarbonise the campuses. To achieve this, new combined solar PV and solar thermal system were installed at Harrow halls of residence. Since its successful installation in 2020, we have started providing self-generated solar electricity and heating to the halls. To further widen the impact, we are planning to increase the numbers of panel across Harrow Campus and introduce them to other University campuses.

LED Lights across Campuses

We have 100% LED lights in Regent Street Foyer, New Cavendish Campus, Little Titchfield Street Campus and Chiswick Sports Ground.

Marylebone campus has also been changing light fittings to LEDs. Westminster Business School office on the ground floor have changed all fittings to LEDs. Also, part of the learning platform and corridors have also changed from fluorescent to LEDs. To further roll out the programme, we are planning to change the library light fittings with PIR sensors to LEDs next year.



More LED lights in Harrow Halls

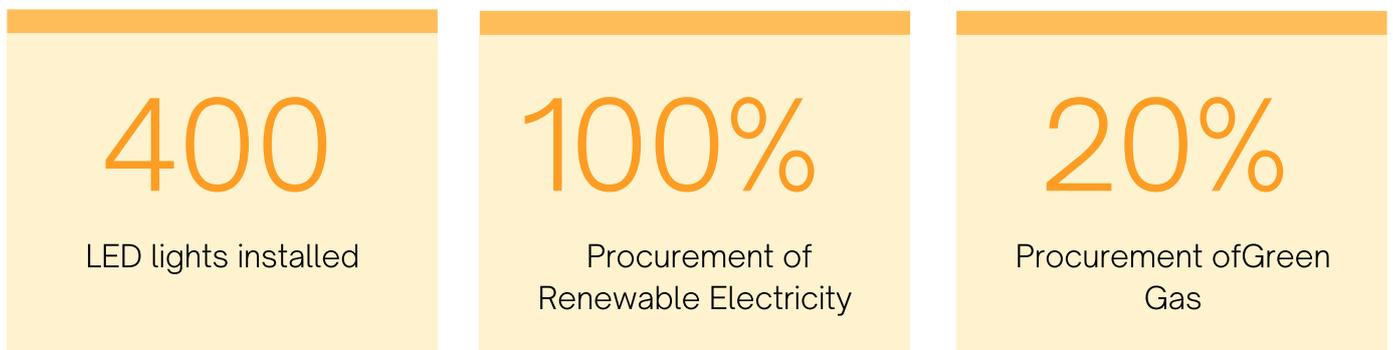
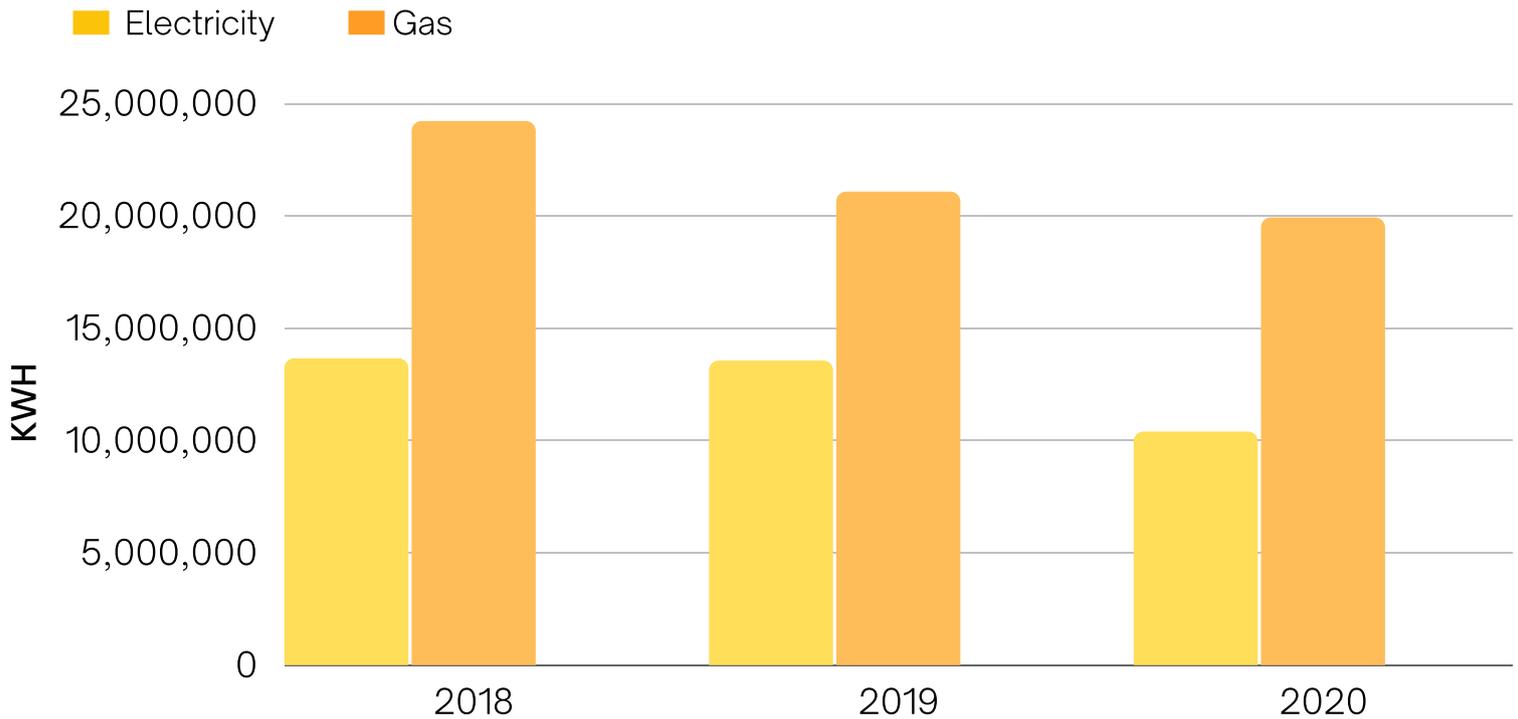
This year, 150 bedrooms in Harrow Halls P&Q Block have changed into LED fittings. Over 400 fluorescent lamps were changed to LED with an estimated saving of over 28 tonnes of carbon per annum.

There is still an ongoing programme of replacement of tungsten and fluorescent lights with LED lights and PIR sensors across the campuses. We aim to have 100% LED lights within the halls of residence.

Energy Performance

Our focus this year has been reviewing and analysing our current consumption data to develop a long-term strategic plan to improve energy performance and decarbonize our university estate. We have also installed our first combined solar PV and solar thermal system generating renewable energy for our halls of residence.

Electricity & Gas Consumption



This year, Westminster has invested in a number of projects which have resulted in substantial energy savings and carbon reductions across our estate. Significant projects include:

- New combined solar PV and solar thermal system were installed at Harrow halls; providing self-generated solar electricity and heating to the halls. An estimated carbon saving of 40 tonnes of carbon per annum
- Replacement of Chiswick Sports Ground Irrigation system and borehole pumps with new high efficient lower running costs pumps

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Waste Management

University Increases Recycling Rate

This year the University carried out a Recycling and Waste Benchmarking Review through external consultants from SiteMark. The review commends our high recycling rate of 65.07% and our excellent zero to landfill solutions across the estate. The Sustainability Team introduced radical solutions that helped us to reduce items that need to be recycled or become waste. These include the introduction of reverse vending machines, water fountains, a paper cup collection process, and a clear bag process for internal dry mixed recycling consoles.



New Signage & Facility Tours

This year the University introduced new signage to disposal areas to help improve segregation of material before disposal.

In addition to the new signage tours of the Material Recovery Facility our dry mixed recyclable waste is sorted were offered to students. This helped improve their understanding of waste management and the importance of correctly segregating different types of waste.

Fabrication Lab Launches Material Re-use Station

The University Fabrication Lab (Fab Lab) launched a material reuse station to raise awareness of waste production to our students in the School of Architecture and Cities. The Material Re-use Station provides our students with the opportunity to take part in a sustainable initiative to reduce the overall material waste produced from the Fab Lab and encourages them to be creative with how they design and fabricate models in the lab.

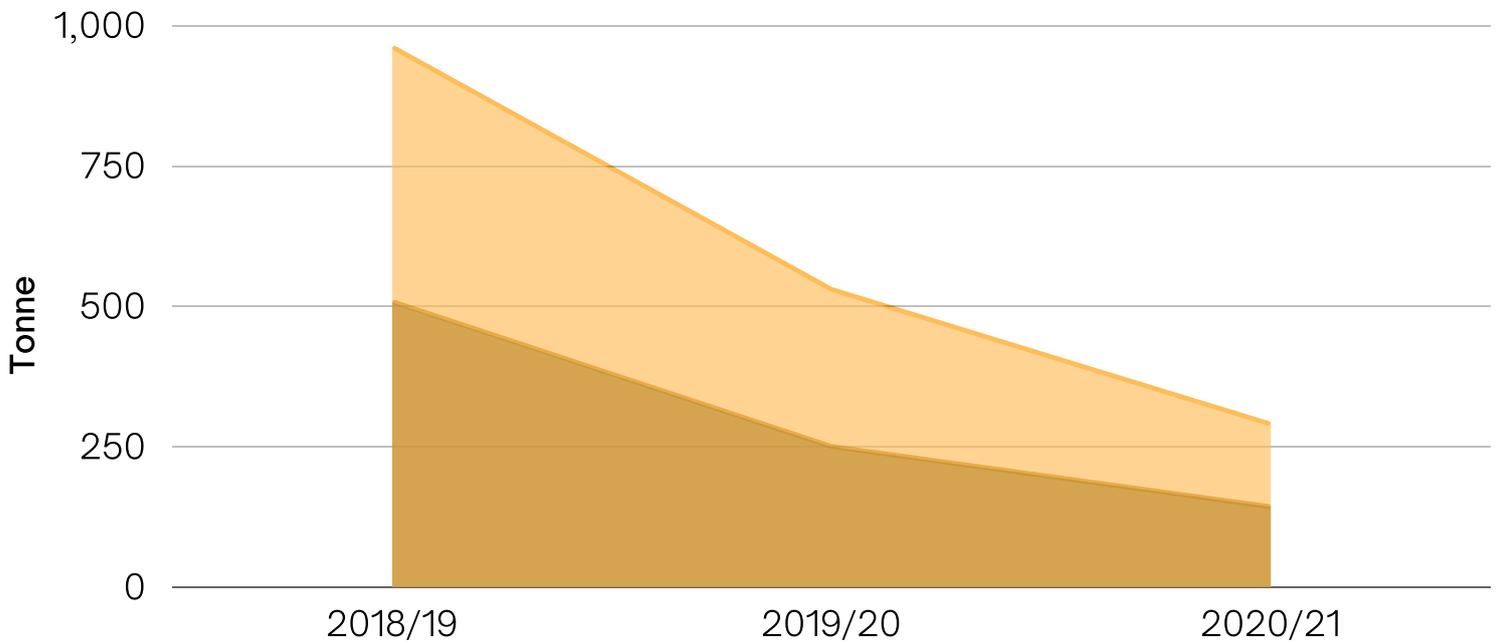


Waste Performance

Over the last year the university has seen a dramatic reduction in waste production, by 233 tonnes, due to reduced on site activity during Covid-19. Waste will inevitably rise again but we are promoting ways of reducing waste after lock down. We will be focusing on initiatives that contribute to a more circular economy by valuing the material and resources on site.

Incineration VS Recycling

■ Energy From Waste ■ Recycled



65%

Recycling Rate for
2020/21

0kg

Waste To Landfill

14

Tonnes of Furniture
Donated to Good Causes

As students and colleagues have returned to campus waste and recycling collections have been closely monitored and only increased as required to prevent any unnecessary vehicle movements. We have also achieved the following:

- Introduced a furniture reuse target for refurbishment projects in the waste management policy
- Achieved our target of 65% recycling (measured by third party)
- 69% decrease in waste production between 2018/19 and 2020/21



Climate Action



Funding for University Heat Decarbonisation Plan

The University Estates Department was awarded £80000 from Salix Finance to develop a University-wide Heat Decarbonisation Plan. The funding scheme was a part of Salix's Low Carbon Skills Fund programme to provide funds for UK organisations to tackle climate change, support the economy and work towards the UK's net-zero target. The Heat Decarbonisation Plan will set out how our buildings' fossil fuel heating systems will be replaced by low carbon heating when the fossil fuel systems reach the end of their natural lifetime.

Carbon Literacy Training

The Sustainability Team held the first in a series of carbon literacy training aimed to educate students about carbon dioxide costs, impacts of everyday activities and how to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis. The first two day course was fully booked and will be the first of many.

The Careers and Employability team have contributed to the course curriculum to support student employability.

Carbon Literacy Project



Climate Action Week

In the lead to COP26 the School of Architecture and Cities Climate Action Taskforce held its first Climate Action Week. The week consisted of talks, exhibitions, a campaign launch and workshops.

The design of the material reuse station will help reduce the studios need for materials, reducing deliveries and cut carbon emissions from procurement. The reduce, reuse and recycling campaign will help raise awareness of this new system whilst ensure the correct segregation and recycling of materials that cannot be reused.

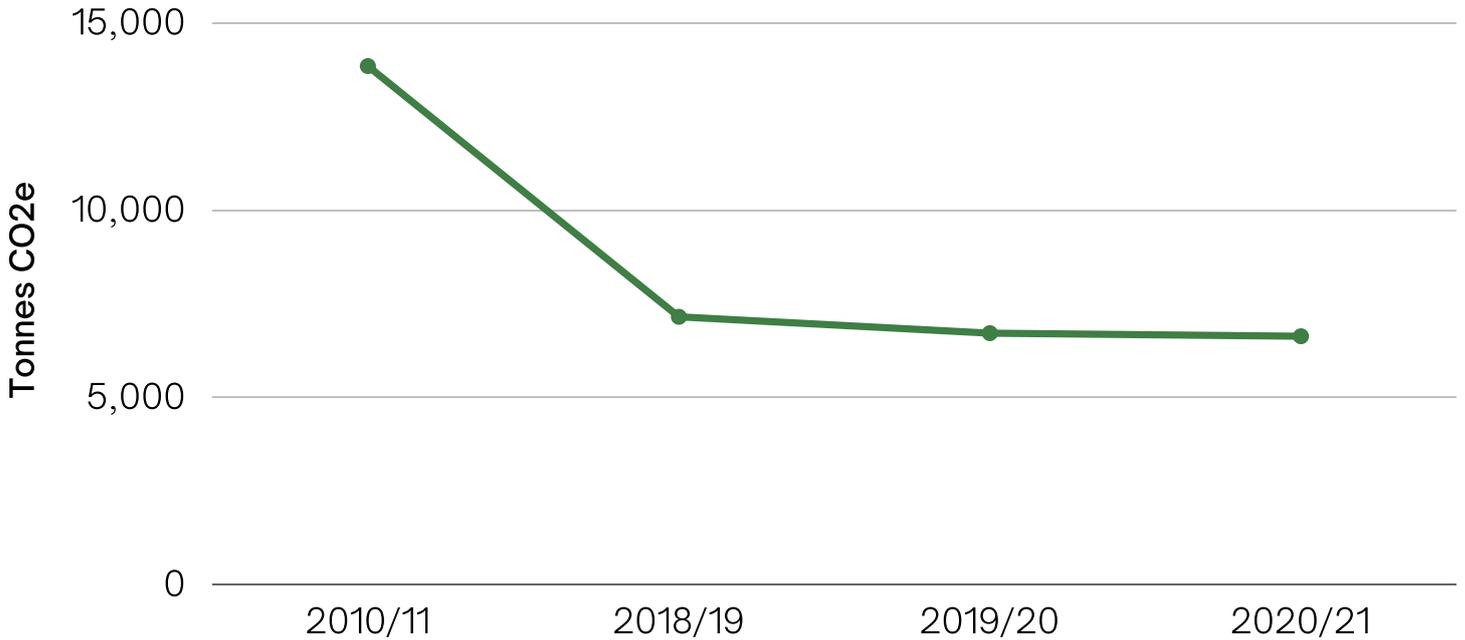


Carbon Performance

The University of Westminster is committed to reducing our energy consumption and carbon impact. As part of this commitment, we maintained a long-standing scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction target of 43% against a baseline year of 2005-06 since August 2019.

GHG Emission Data

Total (Scope 1, 2 and 3) carbon emission data



0

We are aiming to achieve Net Zero Emissions by 2050

1.2%

decrease in CO2 emission compared to 2019/20

2

Tonne reduction in Scope 3 Emissions

This year, Westminster has invested in a number of projects which have resulted in substantial energy savings and carbon reductions across our estate.

- New Pipework, thermal insulations and associated valves were installed in Harrow campus saving an estimated 20 tonnes of carbon per annum.
- New efficient boiler upgrade in Harrow Halls of Residence
- Our scope 3 emissions have reduced by 2 tonnes this year due to a drop-in waste produced and increase in recycling during the national lockdown. We have also diverted all waste from landfill this year by introducing a new end destination for our clinical waste streams.

15 LIFE ON LAND



Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience



University Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Policy and Action Plan

This year, the University Sustainability Team and Campus Services Teams worked in collaboration to develop a new Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Policy and Action Plan. The documents set out our ambitious aims and objectives to conserve and protect our outdoor spaces across all campuses, including the Chiswick Sportsground.

Hedgehog Survey at Harrow Campus

Two rounds of hedgehog surveys were carried out at the Harrow campus to determine their presence on campus as a part of our Hedgehog Friendly Campus accreditation from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Hedgehog presence was confirmed during both surveys, therefore the Campus Services Team at Harrow will take measures to protect their habitat and encourage the growth of natural forage for hedgehogs which are an endangered species in the UK.



Hedgehogs at Harrow Campus

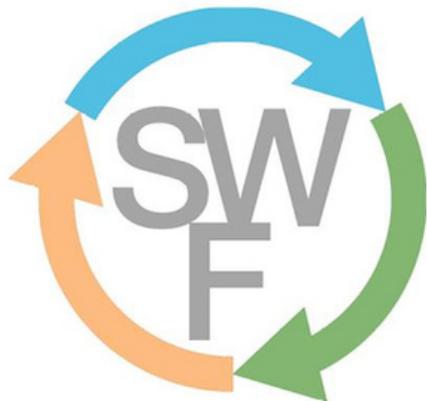
With the presence of hedgehogs confirmed on site two hedgehog homes, a log pile and hedgehog highways were set up on site to enable hedgehogs to thrive on site.

These actions have gained us achieve the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Bronze accreditation and the University will be aiming to achieve silver next year.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Partnerships and People



Sustainability Web Festival

Sustainability Web Festival

Students from the Event Design and Management course organised the Sustainability Web Festival to promote Westminster's sustainability objectives. The events aimed to educate attendees on how to pursue a sustainable lifestyle and raise awareness on health and wellbeing. It was sponsored by a range of sustainable organisations, including Olio, 100% BIOLOGICO, Blue Farm, Too Good To Go, Rawlala and The Coconut Collaborative.

University of Westminster Hosts Virtual TEDx Countdown Event

The student-led TEDx Countdown event was presented by Westminster's Environmental Society in collaboration with the SU to champion and accelerate solutions to the climate crisis. The event welcomed three speakers from the built environment and sustainability industries, including Dr Rosa Schiano-Phan from the School of Architecture + Cities.

TEDx
University of
Westminster



PRESENTS

COUNTDOWN

#JoinTheCountdown

OCTOBER 16, 2020 . LONDON, UK



Educating Londoners About Bees

The Bees in the City research team carried out socially distanced outdoor workshop sessions this summer to educate Londoners about bees and their important role in maintaining a healthy eco-system. The project leader Dr Tony Madgwick delivered a series of these sessions across a variety of local communities as a part of the project's outreach programme, with over 50 families across London signing up to participate in the project as citizen scientists.

Next Steps



We will continue embedding the SDGs across all our activities within the University's sustainability objectives and measure our progress each year. Our students will be educated on sustainable development with an understanding of how they can use their potential to positively impact our society, while our operations will continue to become more sustainable each year through innovation, collaboration and creativity.

Energy and Carbon

Following the delivery of the University's Heat Decarbonisation Plan, a wider decarbonisation plan will be produced next year. This will set out our net-zero targets and plans to become a carbon-neutral University which will frame our actions relating to energy and carbon to help us reduce our carbon footprint.

Waste

With new waste contractors who will start working with us from 2022, we aim to increase our recycling rate and decrease our proportion of non-recycled waste on campus by introducing new waste solutions that are innovative and responsible.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience

We will carry out a University-wide Biodiversity survey to understand our current status and develop projects based on the findings to protect the local flora and fauna found in our estate. We will achieve this by working in partnership with estates and academic colleagues.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainability Team will continue to lead on the delivery of the SDG framework working in partnership with the Head of Culture and Inclusion and many other colleagues within the University. We will also continue our submission to THE's Impact Rankings to track annual progress on the SDGs.



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