Campus Sustainability Plan

Campus Sustainability Plan 2025-2030

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Environmental Sustainability Team

University of Salford MANCHESTER

Document Control Information

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Our University Strategy 2025-2030

Our new University Strategy for 2025-2030 'Innovating to Enrich Lives' specifies that the purpose of the University is to create a more just and equitable society. One of the four delivery themes within the new strategy is to improve environment and sustainability through the delivery of our Sustainability Strategy.

Our Vision for Sustainability

By embedding sustainability in all aspects of University life, we will enable our University community to have maximum beneficial impacts for society and environment.

Our Three Sustainability Goals

Our refreshed Sustainability Strategy, reinforces our commitment to embed sustainability into every aspect of university life. This strategy sets out a clear vision for a Net Zero Carbon campus by 2038, a stronger focus on Education for Sustainable Development, and deeper engagement with local and global communities to drive impactful change.

Sustainable Campus

We are tackling carbon emissions by reducing energy use and increasing renewable sources to strive towards being Net Zero Carbon by 2038. We are embracing the circular economy, enhancing our greenspace for biodiversity and embedding sustainability into decision-making. This plan describes how we intend to meet this pillar of our sustainability strategy.

Sustainable Impact

It is highly important to look further into our operations by working with our supply chain and investments. We can spread our impact to all partnerships and integrate Education for Sustainable Development into all taught programs and prioritise sustainability in research.

Sustainable Communities

This commitment is about advocating for a future of sustainability by sharing expertise, fostering partnerships, and supporting local and global sustainability efforts.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals, or Global Goals, are a call for action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

We are aligning our Sustainability Strategy to the Global Goals by mapping each area to the relevant goals.

About this Plan

This Plan provides a narrative to the University of Salford Sustainability Strategy theme on creating a sustainable campus. This is one of the three key themes that form our strategy to embed sustainability in all aspects of university life. At the University of Salford we are proud of our place in the world. Situated in the heart of the vibrant Greater Manchester conurbation we play a significant role in the community. While our heart is anchored in the Northwest, we have a powerful global reach.

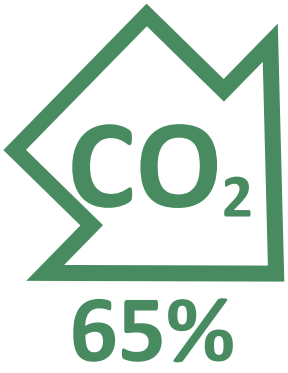
We recognise the global climate crisis and that climate change and related impacts are some of the biggest challenges facing our society across the globe. As a higher education provider we have a major role to play in enabling our students and staff to respond positively to global challenges and we want to reflect this in the way we operate. This is evidenced in the results of the SOS-UK Sustainability Skills Survey, which found that 89% of students want their place of study to incorporate sustainable development. This has also been reflected during our student listening events, which emphasise the importance of green spaces on campus.

We also recognise our responsibilities for the direct impact on the environment; as one of the largest organisations in the Greater Manchester region offering a place of study and work to over 26,000 students and 2,500 staff across 27 buildings and around 70 hectares. In the 2016/17 Academic Year (the baseline year selected for most of this Plan), energy and water costs were around £2.1 million per year. Total carbon emissions from energy use for the same period were 8,901 tCO_2e and waste from University operations was 900 tonnes. We have an obligation to reduce our negative impact but also an opportunity to demonstrate environmental sustainability through our operations and using our campus environment as a living laboratory.

This plan sets out how we manage environmental sustainability including how we will mitigate climate change, be resource efficient and contribute towards sustainable development through the operation of our campus. Our Environmental Sustainability Policy sets the framework for our environmental objectives. This plan sets the key actions we will take, how we will monitor and review our progress. This plan is reviewed at least every two years and any amendments to objectives, targets and KPIs will be highlighted.

Our Story so Far

We have built on our first Carbon Management Plan launched in 2011 and our Environmental Sustainability Policy, adopted in 2015, to ensure that our commitments around environmental sustainability remain current, challenging and reflect our Campus Connectivity Plan. Most notably through the adoption of significant objectives to support the Greater Manchester science-based carbon target and ambition to become the greenest city region in the UK. Our Net Zero Carbon Plan builds on our significant progress in carbon reduction (71% reduction since 2005/6) to ensure we can achieve our objective of an 81% reduction by 2030 and work towards net zero carbon by 2038. We have also committed to eliminate avoidable single use plastics from our campus.



We recognise the importance of our green space on campus for staff and students to enjoy and have committed to maintaining these to a high standard including encouraging wildlife. In recognition of this we received a prestigious Green Flag Award for our Peel Park and Frederick Road Campuses, well ahead of our target date. Our Campus Connectivity Plan will also look for opportunities for new green spaces in our urban environment to help promote learning, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles.

In 2018 we completed development and implementation of our environmental and energy management into a system through the EcoCampus framework and are proud to have subsequently been awarded EcoCampus Platinum, ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certifications.

We are proud of our achievements so far but we are committed to doing more. In 2024 we were positioned 8th, a 1st class achievement in the People and Planet University League. Our aim as specified in our University Strategy is to position in the top 5 every year.

Environmental Management

An Environmental Management System is a mechanism for an organisation to demonstrate that it addresses and minimises its environmental impacts, manages its legal compliance and continuously improves its environmental performance. An Environmental Management System is a systematic approach to managing an organisation's impacts on the environment. An effective EMS will involve the following:

- An initial assessment of how the organisation's activities, products and services might affect the environment
- Ensuring compliance with all relevant environmental regulations
- Gathering data e.g. energy use, waste, water, raw materials
- Developing and communicating an environmental policy
- Developing procedures for controlling activities with significant environmental impacts
- Identifying risks and opportunities associated with environmental issues
- Setting targets and measuring progress
- Defining roles and responsibilities for all employees
- Training and awareness
- Periodic internal auditing
- Management Review and commitment from Leadership

The University Estates and Facilities Division leads on the Environmental and Energy Management System (EEMS) which is certified to both BS EN ISO 14001: 2015 and BS EN ISO 50001:2018 standards covering all our physical estates and campus operations. The EEMS was developed over several years using the EcoCampus approach with awards from bronze to platinum.

We will meet our environmental compliance obligations, protect the environment in which we operate our estates and facilities, and prevent pollution by reducing and eliminating pollution sources

We will achieve this by

- Maintaining an Environmental and Energy Management System (EEMS) externally accredited (ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 50001:2018 standards) for our physical estates and campus operations.
- Maintaining a register of environmental compliance obligations and regularly evaluating our compliance
- Reducing pollution risk (emissions & discharges) to land, water and groundwater

We will monitor this by

- ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 50001:2018 certification
- Number of major non-conformities related to a breach in compliance obligations
- Number of pollution incidents

Relevant Documents

- Environmental Sustainability Policy
- EEMS Manual

Energy, Water & Carbon

Carbon emissions are broken down into three categories by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol in order to better understand the source.

Scope 1 – All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers and fleet vehicles.

Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.

Scope 3 – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water.

In 2011, we launched our first Carbon Management Plan with targets to reduce scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 43% by September 2020 compared to a 2005/06 baseline. This target was achieved by 2018, when a further target was set for an 81% reduction by 2030, while working towards net zero carbon by 2038. As of end of academic year 2023/24 the University had already reduced its scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 71%. This has been achieved partly through reductions in energy use at the University through investment and our decarbonisation plan, partly through reductions in the grid electricity emissions factor, and partly through the University's divestment of its student accommodation in 2007/08.

Our Net Zero Carbon Plan builds on our significant progress in carbon reduction to ensure we can achieve our objective of a scope 1 and 2 reduction by 81% by 2030 and work towards net zero carbon by 2038 in line with the Greater Manchester carbon reduction strategy.

Scope 3 carbon emissions account for over 90% of the University's total emissions and we recognise the impact of these emissions so have committed to improving our monitoring and measuring of these and setting reduction targets where possible.

We will reduce the energy and water consumption of our buildings to meet the targets as established in the Energy, Water and Carbon Management Plan

We will achieve this by

- Optimising building management systems and controls to reduce energy consumption
- Installing on-site solar photovoltaic systems for renewable energy
- Upgrading to LED lighting as phasing out with fluorescent lighting
- Replacing gas fired equipment at end of life with electric air-source heat pumps
- Improving building envelopes
- Changing to all electric heating, cooling and other systems
- Considering total building performance, resiliency and future climate impacts
- Developing a Water Conservation Plan
- Developing a Climate Resilience Plan
- Monitoring our scope 3 carbon emissions

We will monitor this by

- Percentage reduction of scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions from baseline
- Energy consumed by gross internal floor area
- Percentage reduction in water use (per staff and student FTE) from baseline
- Publication of an annual scope 3 carbon emissions report

Relevant Documents

- Energy and Water Policy
- Buildings Net Zero Carbon Plan
- Scope 3 Carbon Emissions Report

Waste Management & Circular Economy

Waste and recycling is one of the most visible areas in the sustainability agenda and can demonstrate our commitment to staff, students and visitors as well as offering an opportunity for people to easily get involved in environmental improvement. The "waste hierarchy" ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste generation. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).

Waste management and recycling are co-ordinated by the University Estates and Facilities Division. In the academic year 2016/7 we produced approximately 930 tonnes of waste across the University (excluding construction waste). We have worked with our waste contractors to divert as much waste as possible from landfill with most of our waste sent for energy recovery or recycling. We operate a reuse scheme through Warp-it which facilitates reuse within the University and local charities, schools, and hospitals. Our recycling rate in 2016/17 was 38%, and we have worked hard to increase this as well as reducing our total waste consumption. In 2023/24 our recycling rate was 47% and we produced just 482 tonnes of waste, a reduction of 44% over this period.

Along with other universities and colleges in Greater Manchester, The University of Salford will work to eradicate avoidable single-use plastics from campus with a focus on catering, labs and stationery.

We are working towards becoming a certified Plastic Free Community with the charity Surfers against Sewage. This involves working with different groups such as departments, suppliers, contractors and local businesses who pledge to eliminate three single-use plastics from their operations.

We will apply the principles of the waste hierarchy to prioritise reduction, reuse and recycling to reduce the impacts of waste management

We will achieve this by

- Reducing total waste generation
- Increasing waste recycled
- Eliminating avoidable single use plastics on campus supported by the Plastic Free Communities certification
- Encouraging contractors to apply the principles of the waste hierarchy on capital projects
- Reduce construction non-hazardous waste to landfill
- Developing a new Waste Management & Circular Economy Plan for 2025-2030
- Further develop our reuse and refill programmes

We will monitor this by

- Percentage reduction in total waste from baseline
- Percentage reduction in total waste per staff and student FTE
- Percentage waste recycled
- Weight of furniture and other equipment re-used on campus

Relevant Documents

- Waste Management & Circular Economy Plan

Sustainable Construction

As a Future Enabler, one of the key pan-university projects that will enable us to deliver the university's vision, is our Campus Connectivity Plan. As Greater Manchester is developing into a greener, climate resilient city region; sustainable development is a crucial focus. We are protecting and creating new urban green spaces, designed for the wellbeing of people *and* biodiversity as each construction project is assessed to ensure we can provide a net positive impact.

Sustainable development is central to our plans working towards a zero-carbon future, while providing high quality spaces for residential, teaching, research and commercial uses that are cost-effective to run.

We are committed to managing design, construction, refurbishment and post completion occupancy of its buildings to reduce environmental impact, enhance the wellbeing of staff and student users of the building, minimise operating costs and comply with all relevant sustainable building legislation.

We recognise there may be competing priorities and financial pressures, therefore we have developed a framework including policy and design standards to guide our development teams on our sustainability principles.

We will ensure sustainability is a core principle of the Campus Connectivity Plan by embedding sustainable construction practices and performance specifications into plans for new buildings and refurbishments

We will achieve this by

- Implementing our Sustainable Construction Policy and framework
- Aiming for BREEAM Excellent for high value new builds where possible
- Sustainability Office representation at Project Boards
- Considering the use of SKA methodology targeting at least Silver for lower value new builds and refurbishments
- Updating and implementing our Energy and Water Design Standard on all projects regardless of value
- Ensuring Post Occupancy Evaluations are undertaken on all buildings including

We will monitor this by

- Percentage of construction and refurbishment projects meeting sustainable construction policy requirements

Relevant Documents

- Sustainable Construction Policy
- Energy and Water Efficiency Design Standard

Sustainable Food and Drink

The University of Salford provides a food and drink services across all campuses through retail catering outlets, hospitality and catering for conferences and events. We recognise our responsibility to offer and promote sustainable and healthy food choices to the University community and incorporate environmental, ethical and social considerations into the products and services we provide.

In August 2024 our food and drink offering were brought in-house giving us much more control over the food we serve and the way we serve it. This has resulted in a comprehensive review of our Sustainable Food Policy and Action Plan. We now work closely with our suppliers and offer local and seasonal menu choices.

As a result, we were successfully awarded two stars under the Sustainable Restaurant Association's Food Made Good standard in March 2025 that assesses our performance under three categories: Sourcing, Community and Environment.

We will ensure sustainability is a core principle of the Campus Connectivity Plan by embedding sustainable construction practices and performance specifications into plans for new buildings and refurbishments

We will achieve this by

- Implementing our Sustainable Food Policy
- Maintaining our Sustainable Restaurant Association's Food Made Good award aiming for 3 stars
- Working closely with our suppliers to encourage local and seasonal produce
- Reducing the sale of plastic bottles in our Food and Drink outlets
- Measuring the carbon and nutritional value of our menus
- Moving away from disposable packaging in the serving of our food where possible
- Growing produce on campus

We will monitor this by

- Ongoing registration under the Sustainable Restaurant Association's Food Made Good Standard
- Measuring carbon emissions associated with our menus
- Measuring food wase generation

Relevant Documents

- Sustainable Food Policy
- Sustainable Food Action Plan

Travel & Transport

Our recent travel survey completed in 2025 showed that most students travel by sustainable modes (82% compared to 75% reported in our last plan) however this is much lower in staff (46% compared to 49% reported in our last plan). Single occupancy car use has increased for both staff potentially due to more hybrid working following the pandemic.

Working life is different post-pandemic with people on campus less and therefore less incentivised to use sustainable methods of travel. The surveys also show that a high number of staff and students are unaware of the existing tools and infrastructure measures.

Our ambition is to consolidate and rationalise car-parking across campus and to reduce internal car circulation to promote a healthier, more pedestrian and cycle -friendly campus through our Campus Connectivity Plan. Cycle parking (including accessible stands) and associated facilities are considered in new builds and upgrades of our current facilities are in progress to encourage sustainable movement across and between our campuses. Improved pedestrian connections will be key to improving permeability across the campus – such as tree-lined boulevards, public squares and a generally more well-defined network of sustainable transport routes and open spaces.

We will develop an updated travel plan which encourages alternative methods to single-occupancy car journeys and minimises the environmental impact of the University fleet and business travel

We will achieve this by

- Developing an updated Sustainable Travel Plan for 2025-2030
- Establish a Sustainable Travel Group to encourage the use of sustainable travel modes
- Improving facilities for cyclists on campus
- Supporting the use of electric vehicles by staff and students
- Increasing the use of electric bikes and electric vehicles on campus by Estates & Facilities staff
- Establishing business travel targets and incentives

We will monitor this by

- Monitoring staff and student travel modes
- Monitoring the number and use of cycle parking spaces
- Monitoring the number of electric vehicle charge points on campus
- Monitoring the percentage of electric vehicles in Estates & Facilities fleet

Relevant Documents

- Sustainable Travel Plan

Biodiversity

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the variety of life! This includes variety in habitats (e.g. grassland and woodland) as well as diversity in species and the ecosystems in which they occur. Biodiverse ecosystems are more resilient to a variety of conditions like climate change, disease and weather disturbances. Nature is important because of the essential contribution that it makes to the functioning of our planet and because of all the benefits that it provides, from foods and medicine to climate regulation. Contact with the natural world is also linked to improvements in health and emotional well-being.

Despite being only a mile and a half from the City of Manchester, our main campus in Salford is a leafy, riverside site adjacent to Peel Park and the River Irwell. The habitats on the University campuses include lawned areas, memorial gardens, wildflower areas and woodlands. Many common British wildlife can be found on the campus and surrounding areas, as well as some not so common.

We have some priority species such as hedgehogs as well as urban birds and pollinators such as bees and butterflies as they provide such vital ecosystem services. This is in line with Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy and priority species/habitats.

Through our Connectivity Plan, we will look for opportunities for new green spaces in our urban environment to help promote learning, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles.

We will protect and enhance the natural habitats and biodiversity on the University estate

We will achieve this by

- Developing a new Landscape Management Plan for 2025-2030
- Maintaining our Green Flag Award
- Maintaining our Hedgehog Friendly Campus Platinum Award
- Implementing our Pollinator and Bird Protection Policies.
- Providing local and diverse habitats for insects and mammals
- Undertaking a baseline ecological survey and aiming to become a Nature Positive University

We will monitor this by

- Green Flag Award outcomes
- Biodiversity net gain value of the estate and specific plots
- Monitoring species on campus
- Tree canopy on campus

Relevant Documents

- Biodiversity Policy
- Landscape & Biodiversity Management Plan
- Pollinator Policy and Guidance
- Bird Protection Policy

Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable Procurement is the process of recognising the negative and positive environmental, social and economic impacts of purchased goods, works and services. It is a cradle to grave approach and should consider the entire supply chain rather than just the individual product or service. The UN Marrakech Task Force define Sustainable Procurement as "Sustainable Procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment".

The Estates and Facilities Division at University of Salford has significant spend covering everything from facilities management, minor works and regulatory maintenance and testing to major building projects and infrastructure development. With this amount of spend and potential environmental impact, the need for staff involved in purchasing to ensure that spend provides value is evident. Environmental and social responsibility is considered as part of our value for money process and appropriately considered in the procurement of supplies, services or works. For example we refer to the Energy and Water Technology Lists in relevant purchases.

Through our membership of North West Universities Purchasing Consortium, we are members of Electronics Watch, an independent monitoring organisation set up with the purpose of protecting the rights of workers within electronics supply chains. Through this membership we can collaborate to have a positive impact on workers through the electronics we purchase. We are also exploring ways to ensure transparency in supply chains of other goods.

We will develop and apply an ethical and sustainable procurement system to ensure social and environmental impacts of purchases are appropriately considered

We will achieve this by

- Implementing our Sustainable Purchasing Policy for Estates & Facilities
- Ensuring all Estates & Facilities tender evaluations include sustainability
- Meeting Level 4 in all areas of the Flexible Framework
- Developing and implementing a Sustainable Food Policy

We will monitor this by

- Flexible Framework Self-Assessment
- Reviewing Estates & Facilities Invitation to Tenders for sustainability

Relevant Documents

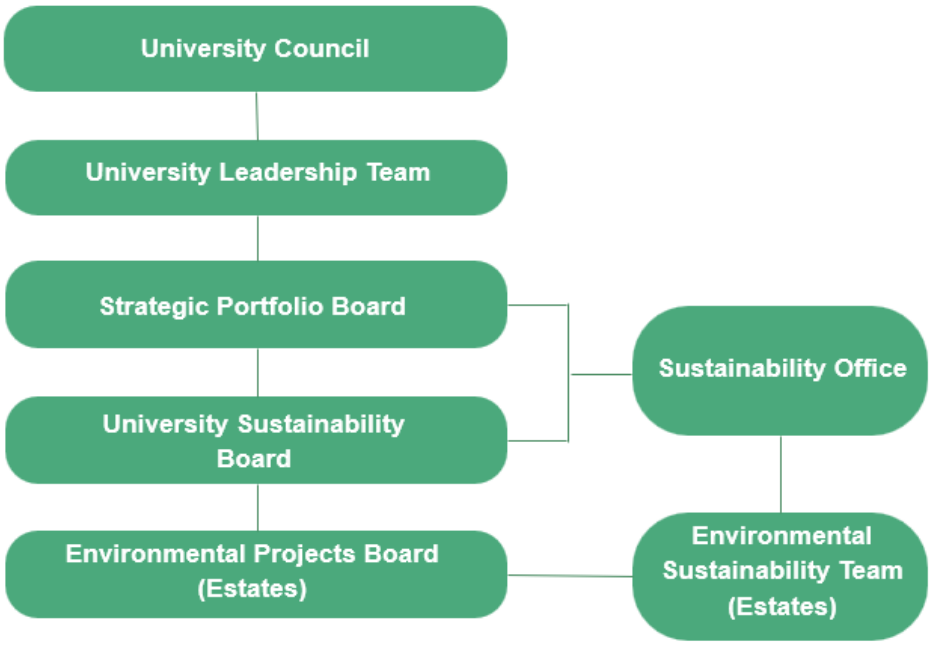
- Sustainable Procurement Plan
- Sustainable Food Policy

Our Governance

We manage and control environmental sustainability on our campus and in our operations through our Environmental and Energy Management System (EEMS) which is certified to ISO 14001:2015 and ISO 50001:2018. This provides the framework for continual improvement in our environmental performance. We will deliver, review and monitor this plan through our EEMS.

Environmental sustainability is embedded within the University through high-level commitment from University leadership and our policies. A number of University groups provide strategic direction, support and oversight for implementation of the University policies.

The Environmental Sustainability Team lead the delivery of this plan, directly reporting to the Environmental Projects Board, chaired by the Director of Estates & Facilities and the Sustainability Office, who report to the University Sustainability Board through to University senior management groups to University Council.



The Environmental Sustainability Team manage budgets for energy management, waste management and campus sustainability improvements.

We have created a number of policies and detailed plans to support our continual improvement aims and progress is reported quarterly to the Environmental Projects Board and publicly annually.

Environmental Sustainability Policy

- Energy and Water Policy
- Sustainable Construction Policy
- Estates Sustainable Procurement Policy
- Biodiversity Policy
- Sustainable Food Policy

- Net Zero Carbon Plan
- Waste Management and Circular Economy Plan
- Landscape & Biodiversity Management Plan
- Sustainable Travel Plan
- Sustainable Food Plan

Appendix A Environmental Sustainability Performance

Impact Area	Objective	Key Performance Indicators	Baseline Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Target/date	Performance 2023/24
Environmental Management	Maintain ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certification	ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certification	N/A	Achieved re-certification	Maintained certification	Maintained certification	Maintain certification	Achieved
Environmental Management	Reduce pollution risk (emissions & discharges) to land, water and groundwater	Number of pollution incidents	N/A	0	0	0	0 annually	Achieved
Environmental Management	Maintain compliance with environmental legislation and other requirements	Number of major non-conformities related to a breach in compliance obligations	N/A	1	0	0	0 annually	Achieved
Energy, Water & Carbon	Net Zero Carbon by 2038	% reduction of scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions	2005/06 19,095t	-71%	-69%	-71%	81% reduction by 2030 Net Zero by 2038	On Track
Energy, Water & Carbon	Improve energy efficiency	kWh energy consumed per m2 gross internal floor area (ISO data))	2016/17 212kWh/m2	185 kWh/m2	171 kWh/m2	158 kWh/m2	25% reduction 158kWh/m2 by 2030	Achieved
Energy, Water & Carbon	Reduce water consumption	L of water used per staff & student FTE (% reduction from baseline shown)	2018/19 3.55L/FTE	-10%	0% *updated figure	-9%	10% reduction By end 2024/ 2025 from 2018/19	On Track
Waste Management	Reduce waste disposal	Total operational waste, tonnes Kg waste produced per staff & student FTE	2018/19 661t 34.4kg/FTE	385t 17.16 kg/FTE	407t 16.97 kg/FTE	483t 18.03 kg/FTE	Maintain below 500 tonnes per year	Achieved
Waste Management	Increase waste recycled	% waste recycled	2016/17 38%	47%	48%	47.2%	50% by end 2024/25	Work To Do
Waste Management	Eliminate avoidable single use plastics	Plastic Free Community requirements	2019/20	N/A	N/A	N/A	Become SAS Plastic Free Community by end 2025/26	Not Achieved

Impact Area	Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Target/date	Performance 2024/25
Sustainable Procurement	Develop and embed sustainable purchasing policy in Estates	Flexible Framework Self Assessment All Estates tender evaluations to include sustainability	2016/17	65% complete	65% complete	65% complete	Meet level 4 in all areas of the Flexible Framework by end 2025/26	Work To Do
Sustainable Construction	Ensure sustainability considered within construction through implementation of the sustainable construction policy	% of construction projects meeting sustainable construction policy requirements	2018/19	75%	100%	100%	100% of construction projects meeting sustainable construction policy requirements	Achieved
Travel & Transport	Improve facilities for cyclists on campus	Number of cycle parking spaces	2016/17 410	379	379	412	Undertake Travel Surveys Update Sustainable Travel Plan to review target	Not Achieved
Travel & Transport	Support use of Electric Vehicles by staff and students	Number of Electric Vehicle charge points on campus	2016/17 6	5	9	9	Maintain number of EV charge points on campus	Achieved
Travel & Transport	Increase use of Electric Vehicles on campus by Estates	% Electric Vehicles in estates fleet	2016/17 0%	19%	41%	41%	50% of Estates fleet by end 2024/2025	Achieved
Biodiversity	Maintain Green Flag Award	Green Flag Award	2018/19	Green Flag Achieved	Green Flag Achieved	Green Flag Achieved	Maintain Green Flag Award annually	Achieved