



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

 **Sustainability**  
at the University  
of Salford



# **SUSTAINABILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25**

Table 1 Document Control Information

Author	Summary of changes	Version	Authorised & Date
Bec Bennett, Associate Director of Sustainability	Updated to new design	V2.0	Professor Will Swan, Director of Sustainability May 2026
Bec Bennett, Associate Director of Sustainability	Creation of document	V1.0	Professor Will Swan, Director of Sustainability October 2025

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# FOREWORD

I am proud to introduce the University of Salford's Sustainability Annual Report for 2024–25, which reflects our continued commitment to embedding sustainability across every aspect of university life. This year's report showcases the progress we've made in delivering our Sustainability Strategy 2025–2030, aligned with our institutional vision of "Innovating to Enrich Lives."

Our achievements span three strategic goal areas: **Sustainable Campus**, **Sustainable Impact**, and **Sustainable Communities**. From reducing Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 78% since 2005–06, to securing over £3 million in funding for decarbonisation projects, we are making tangible strides toward our Net Zero Carbon target by 2038. Our sixth consecutive Green Flag Award, Two Star Food Made Good Award, EcoSmart Gold certification, and top 10 ranking in the People & Planet University League are testament to the dedication of our staff, students, and partners.

We continue to lead impactful research through initiatives like Energy House Labs, Environmental Research and Innovation Centre, THINKlab's MOBILISE project and Centre for Sustainable Innovation, while embedding Education for Sustainable Development across our curriculum. Our community engagement, from the Go Green Salford Festival to support for the Cycling UK inclusive cycling programme, demonstrates our belief that sustainability must be inclusive, collaborative, and locally rooted.

However, we recognise that sustainability is a journey. Achieving our ambitious goals requires the collective effort of our entire University community and strong regional partnerships. This report is not only a reflection of our progress but a call to action, to share knowledge, inspire innovation, and build a more equitable and resilient future.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our sustainability journey. Together, we are creating a university that leads by example and inspires change.

**Professor Will Swan**  
Director of Sustainability  
University of Salford

# HIGHLIGHTS 2024-25

## Recognition & Awards

- **8th place** in the *People & Planet University League* (Top 10 UK ranking)
- **6th consecutive Green Flag Award**
- **5 Green Gown Award nominations: Highly Commended: Energy House 2.0** in Research with Impact
- **Eco-Smart Gold Award**

## Carbon & Energy

- **78% reduction** in Scope 1 & 2 carbon emissions since 2005–06
- **Energy intensity** improved by 37% from 2016–17
- **Net Zero Carbon Plan** launched – targeting **96% reduction by 2038**, **£3M+ funding** secured for decarbonisation projects

## Campus & Biodiversity

- **58,000 bulbs planted**, 15 bird feeders, 40+ bird boxes
- **7 bee posts** and wildflower areas added

## Sustainable Travel

- **54% electric fleet vehicles**
- **400+ cycle parking spaces**

## Food & Waste

- **Two Star Food Made Good Award** from Sustainable Restaurant Association
- **£48,690 saved and 7,527 kg waste diverted** via Warp-It reuse platform
- **Waste reduced over 30%** since 2016-17

## Education

- **Carbon Literacy** embedded in all Salford Business School PGT programmes

## Research Impact

- **Energy House Labs** leading net-zero housing innovation
- **THINKlab MOBILISE Project** improving climate resilience in Asia
- **LEAF Bronze Awards** for two labs

## Community & Partnerships

- **Go Green Salford Festival**: 25+ events, 1,000+ participants
- **Youth Net Zero Conference** hosted with 150+ attendees

# STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE

## Commitment

We will ensure that the organisation’s environmental sustainability ambitions are effectively embedded into strategic decision-making processes and communicated to colleagues throughout the organisation



The **University Strategy (2025-2030)**, “Innovating to Enrich Lives”, commits to creating a sustainable, equitable, just, healthy, creative and prosperous society.

One of our four delivery themes is “Improving Environment & Sustainability”, which explicitly calls for building an environmentally sustainable university, supporting placemaking and the Greater Manchester Net Zero target. Our university ethos of innovation, social impact, and civic responsibility is reflected in our sustainability strategy, action and impact. Guided by our values of Collaboration, Ambition, Inclusivity, and Integrity, we create partnerships, set bold sustainability targets, ensure community-wide benefits, and support regional and national climate goals.

The **University of Salford Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030** received final approval in early 2024-25. Developed from a broad consultation across students, colleagues and partners our 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.

Our Sustainability Strategy focuses on three key areas:

- ✓ **Sustainable Campus** – Aiming for Net Zero Carbon by 2038, reducing energy use, embracing the circular economy, and embedding sustainability into decision-making.
- ✓ **Sustainable Impact** – Working with our supply chain as well as integrating Education for Sustainable Development into all taught programmes, prioritising sustainability in research, and tracking contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ **Sustainable Communities** – Sharing expertise, fostering partnerships, and supporting local and global sustainability efforts.

Sustainability will be driven by action. We will drive change through the following principles: **embedding sustainability, collaboration and knowledge sharing.**

By embedding sustainability, we aim to make sustainable decision-making business as usual for the University.  
We will work collaboratively both inside and outside the University.

We will focus on knowledge sharing and the celebration of good practice across the University, as well as supporting those with good ideas in their implementation.

Within the Sustainability Strategy we acknowledge the **three elements of sustainability**: social, economic and environmental and their interconnectedness.

The **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)**, or Global Goals, are a call to action by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting people and planet and provide a framework for action on sustainability globally. We recognise the critical role that education has in delivering the UN SDGs and are using them as a framework for action by mapping our Sustainability Strategy activity to the relevant goals.



Figure 1 The UN Sustainable Development Goals

In December 2024, the University signed the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) Accord](#). The purpose of the Accord is to inspire, celebrate and advance the critical role that education has in delivering the SDGs and the value it brings to governments, business and wider society.

Through our research, learning and teaching, operations and community of staff, students and alumni, we are committed to delivering the SDGs with partners, including the Salford Students' Union, both locally and globally. We commit to annually report on progress and share learning within the education sector both nationally and internationally.

[View our case study submitted for the 2025 SDG Accord report.](#)

This year our progress in sustainability has been recognised in the People and Planet University League and the UK & Ireland Green Gown Awards.

We were delighted to achieve a **First-Class award and top ten position in the 2024 People & Planet University League**. The independent ranking, published by The Guardian, places Salford 8th out of 149 UK institutions.

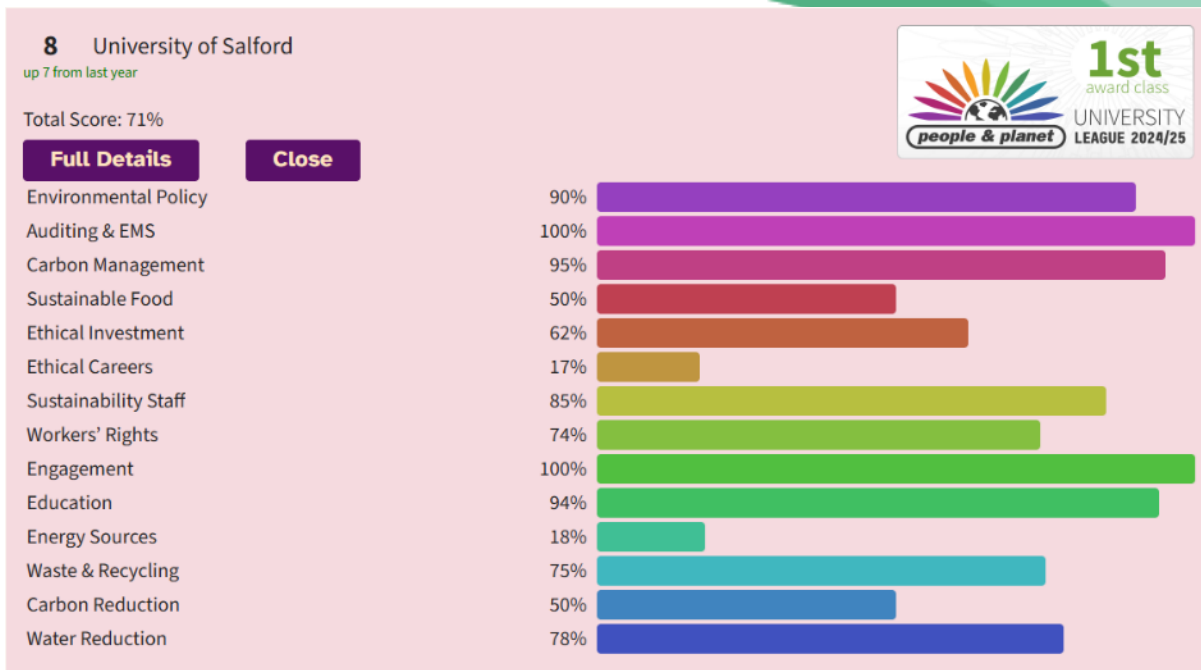


Figure 2 The University of Salford score summary from the 2024 People and Planet University League

Compiled by the UK's largest student campaigning network, People & Planet's University League is the only comprehensive and independent league table of UK universities, ranking UK institutions by their environmental and ethical performance. The assessment system considers a wide range of criteria, including carbon management, engagement, waste and education.

This year, we scored especially highly in Environmental Management (100%), Sustainability Engagement (100%), Carbon Management (95%) and Education for Sustainable Development (94%). We have also increased our score in waste and recycling due to reductions in waste produced.

Our goal is to be in the top 5.

The University of Salford was also nominated for an impressive five projects at the **2024 UK & Ireland Green Gown Awards**.

Established in 2004 in the UK and Ireland, the Green Gown Awards recognise exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges. With sustainability moving up the agenda, the Awards have become established as the most prestigious recognition of best practice within the further and higher education sectors.

Our Production Managing the Planet initiative in the School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology was shortlisted in the **Next Generation Learning and Skills** category. Delivered as part of several undergraduate and postgraduate film and television production programmes, the initiative encourages media professionals of the future to take action on sustainability.

Our unique MSc Sustainable Air Transport Operations and Planning course was also nominated in this category. We are proud that it is the first postgraduate air transport programme in the UK that is fully focused on all three pillars of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

MA Fine Art student Lizzie King was a finalist in the **Student Sustainability Champion of the Year**. Lizzie uses sustainable photography practice to raise awareness and inspire action on the climate crisis. She has advocated for the University of Salford Sustainability Strategy to increase engagement in campus green spaces and the development of a campus community garden.

Our one-of-a-kind research facility Energy House 2.0 was nominated in the **Research with Impact – Institution** category and took away the Highly Commended Award. The world-leading initiative is forging the way in making our buildings carbon neutral. Through commercial and grant funded research Energy House 2.0 helps businesses understand how effective their products and services are in lowering consumers' carbon footprint and reducing energy bills.

Our brilliant Friends of Energy House 2.0 scheme was also a finalist in the **Money for Good** category. Launched in 2022 as a philanthropic arm to Energy House 2.0, the campaign raises funds from businesses to develop a pipeline of talent in sustainability, raises awareness of climate change issues, encourages the public to reduce their carbon footprint and tackles issues around fuel poverty.

Our Sustainability Strategy is supported by our **Sustainability Team**. Working centrally and across our Estates and Facilities Division they champion sustainability as a core institutional value, ensuring it is embedded in decision-making, policy, and practice across the University.

“This internship has shown me how seriously the University of Salford takes its climate responsibilities. From cutting-edge research to student-led campaigns, the university is leading the way in sustainability—and most importantly, it’s creating opportunities for students like me to get involved, contribute, and grow.”

**Saadan Hussain, MSc Sustainability**

Read more: [Growing Green: My Journey as a Summer Intern in Sustainability at the University of Salford - Sustainability at The University of Salford](#)

Providing **opportunities for our students** to engage with and help deliver our strategy is a key consideration. Within the Sustainability Team there have been two Education for Sustainable Development Champion student roles, two graduate and one student internship throughout the year, as well as a rolling 12-month graduate role and voluntary roles including Green Impact Auditors. All these opportunities support employability with all previous interns successfully moving on to full time roles.



*Figure 3 L to R: Zoe Pegg Environmental Management Assistant, Nigel Blandford Sustainability Innovation Manager, Skye Beauchamp Sustainability Intern, Bec Bennett Associate Director of Sustainability, Janny Okpeahior Energy Management Intern from the Sustainability Team*

# SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

## Commitment

We will be Net Zero Carbon by 2038 through reducing energy use, decarbonising our estate and fleet, purchasing zero carbon electricity and seeking to increase use of onsite renewables

We will develop a position and approach to offsetting emissions with prioritisation of emission reductions

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



13 CLIMATE ACTION



This year we published the first phase of our plan to achieve **Net Zero Carbon by 2038**: [Carbon, energy and water | University of Salford](#). Our plan details how we will work towards our interim target of an 81% reduction in scope 1 and 2 carbon by 2030 and 96% reduction by 2038. Our plan is under regular review using our Net Zero Carbon Planning Tool and financed via internal funding obtained via project businesses cases, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding and an internal 'energy-gains' fund where 50% of identified energy savings are reinvested.



This year we have confirmed **over £3m is available to support Net Zero Carbon projects** during 2025-26 to 2027-28. This funding includes £1.5M external funding provided via the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to deliver a whole building decarbonisation of our Mary Seacole building which will save 260 tonnes of carbon annually.

Our decarbonisation projects this year have contributed to an overall **reduction of 78% in scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions** since 2005-06 which had a baseline of 19,095 tonnes. Emissions are calculated using location-based data.

Table 2 Overview of University annual scope 1 and 2 emissions

Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions, tCO <sub>2</sub> e	2005-06 Baseline	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Electricity	13284	6382	5496	4462	3977	3107	2586	2782	3350	3395	2585
Gas	5393	2746	2988	2762	2393	2339	2703	2391	2284	1897	1565
Oil	262	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fleet	52	40	29	30	35	26	14	15	8	11	13
Refrigerant Gases	105	95	95	237	75	328	290	321	182	227	8
<b>TOTAL Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions</b>	<b>19095</b>	<b>9263</b>	<b>8608</b>	<b>7491</b>	<b>6480</b>	<b>5800</b>	<b>5594</b>	<b>5509</b>	<b>5824</b>	<b>5530</b>	<b>4171</b>

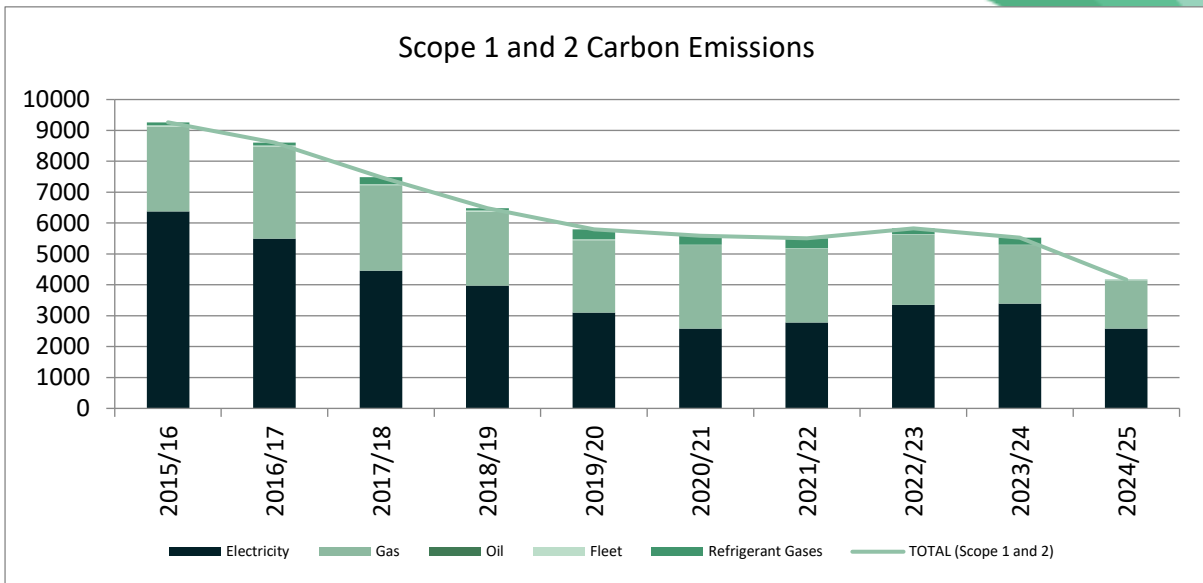



Figure 4 Summary of University annual scope 1 and 2 emissions

We continue to invest in enhancing the **energy efficiency** of our buildings and campus infrastructure, supporting our ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2038. In alignment with our Buildings Decarbonisation Plan, this year’s efforts have focused on improving energy data monitoring, optimising building controls, upgrading lighting systems, and decarbonising heat sources. Most of our existing buildings rely on fossil fuel heating that contributes to our emissions. Our Net Zero Carbon plan prioritises the decarbonisation of heat. Notably, gas consumption has been reduced by over 50% compared to our 2016-17 baseline. The next phase of our Decarbonisation Plan was launched this year, involving further building optimisation, the installation of solar panels to generate renewable energy, and a major retrofit of the Mary Seacole Building. This work has been part-funded through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. Despite a modest rise in overall fleet carbon emissions this year, we are proud that **54% of our vehicles are now electric** with further reductions expected as infrastructure and operational efficiencies continue to improve.

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 
We will monitor, report and take action to address scope 3 carbon emissions	

Scope 3 carbon emissions are reported using the [Standardised Carbon Emissions Reporting Framework for Further and Higher Education](#) which is based on the GHG protocol. A summary is provided below.

Table 3 University of Salford Scope 1 Carbon Emissions 2024-25

Emission Source	Reporting Level	Data	Unit	Conversion Factor	Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Material - Y/N	Reason for exclusion/ commentary
<b>Natural Gas</b>	Level 3: Best-in-class accuracy	8,553,967.00	kWh	Natural Gas kWh (Gross CV)	1565	Yes	N/A
<b>Fleet (owned/ operated)</b>	Level 3: Best-in-class accuracy	4,663.70	L	Diesel (average biofuel blend)	12	Yes	N/A
<b>Fleet (owned/ operated)</b>	Level 3: Best-in-class accuracy	4,663.70	L	Petrol (average biofuel blend)	1	Yes	N/A
<b>Refrigerants &amp; researched-based f-gas, VOC</b>	Level 3: Best-in-class accuracy	2.00	kg	R410a	4	Yes	Data not available for VOC emissions
<b>Other fuels</b>						No	Minimal fuel use for equipment, included in fleet calculation
<b>Land-related emissions &amp; Livestock</b>						No	No livestock and minimal land use
				<b>TOTAL SCOPE 1</b>	<b>1582</b>		

Table 4 University of Salford Scope 2 Carbon Emissions 2024-25

Emission Source	Reporting Level	Data	Unit	Conversion Factor	Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Material - Y/N	Reason for exclusion/ commentary
<b>Purchased Electricity</b>	Level 2: Medium-accuracy	14604202	kWh	UK Electricity	2585	Yes	
<b>REGO</b>	Level 3: Best-in-class accuracy	152666	kWh	N/A	0	Yes	
<b>Purchased heat or steam</b>	Level 2: Medium-accuracy	0	kWh	0	0	Yes	
				<b>TOTAL SCOPE 2</b>	<b>2585</b>		

Table 5 University of Salford Scope 3 Carbon Emissions 2024-25

Emission Source	Reporting Level	Data	Unit	Conversion Factor	Total Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Material - Y/N	Reason for exclusion/ commentary
<b>Purchased goods and services</b>	Level 1: Lower-accuracy	Various	Various	Various	37947	Yes	
<b>Purchased water</b>	Level 3: Best-in-class accuracy	68754	m3	Water Supply	13	Yes	
<b>Capital goods</b>	Level 1: Lower-accuracy	Various	Various	Various	3578	Yes	
<b>Fuel- and energy-related activities</b>	Level 3: Best-in-class accuracy	Energy & fuel data	Various	Various WTT and T&D for energy & fuels	1261	Yes	
<b>Upstream transportation and distribution</b>	Level 1: Lower-accuracy	Various	Various	Various	0	Yes	Included in procurement emissions
<b>Waste generated in operations</b>	Level 2: Medium-accuracy	All waste data - operational and construction	Various	Various waste related	23	Yes	
<b>Waste Water</b>	Level 2: Medium-accuracy	68754	m3	Water Treatment	12	Yes	
<b>Business Travel</b>	Level 3: Best-in-class accuracy	Various	Various	Various	1438	Yes	
<b>Employee Commuting</b>	Level 1: Lower-accuracy	Various	Various	Various	1354	Yes	
<b>Employee Homeworking</b>	Level 1: Lower-accuracy	Various	Various	0.3 tCO <sub>2</sub> e/FTE/annum	652	Yes	
<b>Upstream leased assets</b>						No	Included in scope 1 and 2
<b>Downstream transportation and distribution</b>						No	No products sold
<b>UK Student &amp; International Student Travel</b>	Level 1: Lower-accuracy	Various	Various	Various	16585	Yes	

<b>Student Accommodation</b>	Level 3: Best-in-class accuracy	Various	Various	Various	1593	Yes	Data provided by Campus Living Villages for Peel Park Quarter, Eddie Colman and John Lester accommodation
<b>Processing of sold products</b>						No	No sold products
<b>Use of sold products</b>						No	No sold products
<b>End of life treatment of sold products</b>						No	No sold products
<b>Downstream leased assets</b>						No	All included in Scope 1 and 2
<b>Franchises</b>						No	No franchises
<b>Investments</b>						No	No data currently available
				<b>TOTAL SCOPE 3</b>	<b>64455</b>		

## Commitment

We will limit transport emissions by reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport and managing the demand to travel by car

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



This year marked a **major review of our University Sustainable Travel Plan**, which is due to be finalised during 2025–26. To inform this, we conducted a comprehensive travel survey across staff, students, and visitors, achieving our highest-ever response rate, with 1,702 student responses (7.3%) and 975 staff responses (40%). These insights have shaped our understanding of current travel behaviours and identified clear opportunities to support and encourage more sustainable travel and reduce carbon emissions.

We continued to invest in sustainable travel infrastructure and initiatives across our campuses. **Cycle-friendly improvements** included the expansion of secure cycle parking (now over 400 spaces) with the addition of visitor stands. This, alongside our previous installation of maintenance stations and offering a Cycle 2 Work scheme for staff, has enabled us to maintain our status as a Cycle Friendly Employer, supporting active travel through facilities and engagement.

Public transport remains a key focus, with the **University-subsidised number 50 bus** service continuing to provide free travel between the Peel Park, Frederick Road, and MediaCityUK campuses for staff and students. We continued to promote season ticket loans and integrated fare options for staff through the Bee Network to make sustainable commuting more accessible.

We also offer a Salary Sacrifice scheme to support the purchase of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. Adding new capacity for onsite charging of public electric vehicles via new infrastructure is targeted over the next 5 years.

These actions support our broader sustainability goals, including carbon reduction, improved wellbeing, and inclusive access to education and employment. The updated Travel Plan will guide future investment and policy, ensuring that sustainable travel is embedded into the everyday experience of our University community.

## Commitment

We will reduce emissions from business aviation travel

13 CLIMATE ACTION



We continue to promote the use of video conferencing tools such as Microsoft Teams, Blackboard Collaborate, and THINKlab to reduce the need for air travel where possible. Staff are encouraged to follow a **sustainable travel decision framework**, which prompts colleagues to think about the need to travel and prioritises low-carbon alternatives including rail before considering air travel.

We raise awareness of the carbon intensity of aviation and support staff in making informed travel choices. Where air travel is essential, we are exploring ways to improve data capture and reporting to better understand and manage its impact. These actions form part of our broader strategy to address Scope 3 emissions and contribute to our net zero carbon target by 2038.

## Commitment

We will reduce the impact of our resource use, embracing the principles of a circular economy

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



In 2024–25, we continued to make progress in reducing waste and promoting reuse across campus operations. **Total waste generated decreased by 7%** compared to the previous year, with a 32% reduction from the 2018–19 baseline. Our **recycling rate reached 48.3%**, maintaining steady improvement just shy of our ambitious 50% target, with food waste segregation increasing by 70%. These reductions reflect ongoing efforts to embed circular economy principles into procurement, facilities management, and community engagement.

A key driver of reuse has been our participation in the Warp It platform, which facilitates the **redistribution of surplus furniture, equipment, and supplies** within the University and externally to benefit the wider community. In 2024–25 alone, Warp It enabled:

- £48,690 in internal savings through avoided procurement and waste costs
- 7,527 kg of waste diverted from landfill
- 26,767 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e saved, equivalent to planting over 36 trees



Since launching the Warp-it platform 10 years ago, together our community has saved over

**£250,000**

by reusing, sharing and keeping items in circulation!

**Reuse in Action:**

- **Lab Coats for Learning:** Over 600 lab coats were redistributed to schools and summer programmes, including Star Academy and Harper Green School, supporting STEM education while reducing textile waste.
- **Furniture for Community Spaces:** Office chairs, desks, and storage units were donated to organisations such as Sale West Youth & Community Centre, Moss Side Boxing Club, and East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, enhancing local facilities and extending the life of campus assets.
- **Outdoor Planters for Urban Greening:** Eight large planters were repurposed for the Friendship Blossoms Community Garden, promoting biodiversity and wellbeing in Salford.

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER 	<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 
We will reduce the negative impact of our food provision		

This year, we transitioned the majority of our catering provision in-house, allowing greater alignment with our Sustainable Food Policy. Our commitment to ethical sourcing, environmental responsibility, and social impact was recognised with a **Two Star rating in our first Food Made Good Awards** assessment by the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA). The SRA evaluates sustainability across three pillars: Sourcing, Society, and Environment.

We performed particularly well in the Celebrate Provenance category, reflecting our dedication to a responsible supply chain, including the use of Fairtrade-certified products. In the Treat Staff Fairly category, our Real Living Wage accreditation and focus on staff wellbeing were highlighted as strengths. Our high score in the Environmental pillar was driven by ambitious net zero targets, robust waste reduction efforts, and our certified environmental and energy management systems.



Our Eat and Drink Team achieved a 69% overall score through initiatives such as sourcing local and seasonal produce, minimising food waste, and promoting healthier, Fairtrade-certified options.



*Figure 5 Our Sustainable Restaurant Association Two Star Food Made Good Award*

**Next Steps:** We aim to build on this success achieving a three star rating by expanding plant-forward menu options, promoting healthy eating and supporting local communities.

Our University Conferencing and Events team have also achieved the **Gold EcoSmart certification** from Greengage, recognising their excellence in sustainable practices across energy, waste, transport, and social responsibility. We are now targeting the Platinum level.

Commitment	<b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 
Sustainable development will be a key principle of our Campus Connectivity Plan		

Our **Sustainable Construction Framework** continues to guide new developments, challenging design teams to embed sustainability principles throughout the design process. During 2024-25, work has commenced on the construction of the Greater Manchester Institute of Technology (GMiOT) and the new Health Clinic, Thrive Building. Both buildings have been designed to be all electric, incorporate living green walls, solar panels, rainwater harvesting, new cycle facilities and improve the biodiversity by at least 25%. The Health Clinic Building is also targeting **BREEAM Excellent** and will be our first University building to achieve the **WELL standard**.





Figure 6 University of Salford Sustainable Construction Framework



Figure 7 An artistic impression of the University of Salford new Health Building at Frederick Road Campus

We have also advanced our approach to **Climate Risk Management and Adaptation**. Working alongside a student intern, we have identified climate-related risks and opportunities. In the coming year, we will continue engaging stakeholders to develop actionable insights that inform strategic decision-making and strengthen our climate resilience.

<p><b>Commitment</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND</p> 	<p><b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 
<p>We will continue to recognise the value that our green space offers and enhance biodiversity</p>		

We are proud to maintain one of the best green campuses in the UK, having been awarded the prestigious **Green Flag Award** for the sixth consecutive year, with our highest ever score on the field assessment. Our campus provides valuable green spaces that benefit students, staff, and the wider community, offering opportunities for social interaction, enhanced physical and mental wellbeing, and meaningful engagement with nature. This was emphasised in a student listening event this year focusing on the University public realm. Students shared that they appreciate the significant amounts of green space on campus and that they enjoy spending time within a natural environment as this enhances their wellbeing.

As part of our continued commitment to biodiversity and sustainable landscaping, key initiatives undertaken this year include:

Figure 8 One of our bee posts installed in our memorial garden on Peel Park Campus



Installation of seven **bee posts** and a **sand planter** designed to accommodate ground-nesting bees.

Adding **new pollinator areas** including planting of 58,000 spring-flowering bulbs and the creation of new wildflower areas across campus.

Placement of 15 **bird feeders** located in Strawberry Hill Woodland and the David Lewis Playing Fields.

We have added new **bird boxes**, now with over 40 across campus.

Continue our **Hedgehog Friendly Campus** through engagement with our landscaping team, creation of hedgehog-friendly habitats and removing hazards through regular litter picks.

Our biodiversity work was further supported by a graduate intern, who helped to establish baseline data and develop guiding principles to ensure nature is actively supported across campus. These efforts align with our Campus Connectivity Plan, which prioritises biodiversity net gain, urban ecological enhancement, and the promotion of healthy, nature-connected lifestyles. Through this work, urban design practice Planit has been appointed to lead on **public realm transformation** across our campuses.

“Our shared vision is to create a people-focused environment which will enhance wellbeing, support biodiversity, and bring our community together through vibrant and accessible outdoor spaces.”

Mike Hardman, Professor of Urban Sustainability and chair of the University Public Realm



Figure 9 Our lead growing space volunteer, Michael Christopher and Sustainability Intern, Skye Beauchamp working in our Community Growing Space

Thanks to our colleague and student volunteers, our **community growing space** continues to thrive as a hub for sustainable food production, biodiversity, and engagement. Providing a space to support wellbeing, health and strengthen connections between people and the environment.

### Commitment

We will meet all environmental compliance obligations and maintain continual improvement in sustainable operations



Following a successful external audit, the University’s Environmental and Energy Management System has been re-certified to BS EN ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 standards. These certifications reflect our commitment to regulatory compliance and continual improvement in environmental and energy performance.



Figure 10 EcoCampus Platinum, NQA ISO 14001 and NQA ISO 50001 Logos

# SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

## Commitment

We will develop a strategy to embed Education for Sustainable Development into all taught programmes in a meaningful way



Our University Strategy outlines our commitment to **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**: ‘We will support our students to develop the knowledge, skills, values and behaviours necessary to be empowered and equipped to take action to support sustainability, and tackle and cope with the environmental, social and economic challenges we face today and in the future’. During 2024/25 the University has collaborated with Salford Students’ Union (SU) to progress the ESD agenda and continue our work towards [Responsible Futures](#) accreditation, an [SOS-UK](#) ESD programme.

**Student voice** has been key in developing our approach to ESD. A student listening event this year explored sustainability in the curriculum, with participants recognising the benefits of and need to have sustainability embedded across curricular for all programmes. We have also delivered awareness sessions for Salford Student’s Union student officers and student school and course representatives.

Academic colleagues have been supported to embed ESD into their programmes through our ESD Community of Practice and specific programmes such as a session delivered by our ESD Officer as part of the **Post Graduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PGCAP)**. 30 colleagues explored and reflected on what sustainability means to them, what ESD is and why it’s important, as well as how they can take it into their practice. At the end participants reported feeling more confident in incorporating ESD into their practice.

The University of Salford Business School (SBS) and University Sustainability Team collaborated to embed ESD through the development of a **Carbon Literacy programme**, accredited by The Carbon Literacy Project. The course has initially been incorporated into all SBS Post-graduate Taught programmes. Salford Business School continues to demonstrate its commitment to the **UN Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)**, as outlined in its [2025 Sharing Information on Progress \(SIP\) report](#), by embedding sustainability, ethics, and social responsibility across teaching, research, and partnership, empowering students to become responsible leaders equipped to address global challenges

ESD is also exemplified by the **Environmental Justice module** developed by Dr Dave Beck, to address the urgent need to educate social science students about the intersection of environmental issues and social inequalities. The module uses transformative pedagogy and a Living Lab style assessment focussed on campus

sustainability challenges. This module has been recognised as a finalist in the Next Generation Learning and Skills category of the 2025 Green Gown Awards.

In our collaboration with the **Greater Manchester Civic University Board** through the **Green Skills Sub-group**, we have mapped our current programmes to help identify pathways across the city region to meet the green skills needs of the future economy. This cross-institutional group also collaborated on the Green Careers Mission (see p32).

### Celebrating Sustainability at the 10th Annual Create Student Awards

BA Film Production student Holly Bellack won the Sustainability Champion Award for completing the Albert Certificate and putting these practices into her major project. The award was presented by Bec Bennett, Associate Director of Sustainability at the University. Other finalists included BA Photography student Eve Brickhill for her displays ‘deconstructing nature’ and MA Fashion Business and Marketing student Sam Cheng Law’s campaign for sustainable and ethical fashion in China.

### Commitment

We will make sustainability a key theme of UoS research and track our positive impacts in relation to the UN SDGs



The University of Salford continues to embed sustainability across its research portfolio, driving innovation and real-world impact aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For the first time we submitted information to the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, being ranked overall 801-1000 in the world, out of 2,526 universities from 130 countries. THE’s Impact Rankings measure the contribution of universities to the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and assess their commitment to sustainability across four broad areas: research, stewardship, outreach and teaching. For our first entry in the Rankings, we chose to submit against the following SDGs:

*“The Impact results provide a great benchmark for us to work from to continually improve across all of the Sustainable Development Goals, which reflect our own overall strategic vision to enrich lives and create a more just and equitable society. Thank you to everyone involved in working on the submission, and to our entire community for their continuous energy to improve and innovate here at Salford.”*

Professor Nic Beech, Vice-Chancellor

- Good Health and Wellbeing
- Gender Equality
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Reduced Inequalities
- Partnerships for the Goals (compulsory for all institutions)

We're pleased to share that we received the following results:

- - Overall ranking: 801 – 1000
- - Good Health and Wellbeing: 601 – 800
- - Gender Equality: 401 – 600
- - Affordable and Clean Energy: 301 – 400 (top 25%)
- - Reduced Inequalities: 201 – 300 (top 15%)
- - Partnerships for the Goals: 801 – 1000

Some examples of this impactful research.

### **Energy House Labs: Accelerating Net Zero Innovation**

Our Energy House Labs remain at the forefront of sustainable building research. Facilities such as Energy House 2.0 and the Salford Smart Home enable industry-leading testing of low-carbon technologies under controlled conditions. Collaborations with major partners like Barratt Redrow, Bellway, and Panasonic are helping to shape the future of net-zero housing in the UK.

In 2024, the Friends of Energy House 2.0 Impact Fund supported three innovative projects that extended our research into the community:

#### **Greener Houses of the Future**

Led by Dr Silvia Tedesco, this project engaged Year 5 pupils from deprived areas of Salford and Blackburn in sustainable development and green building practices. Children explored carbon footprints, bio-based materials, and energy-saving technologies, culminating in the design and construction of miniature eco-homes equipped with basic monitoring sensors. The initiative aimed to inspire future engineers and responsible citizens by demonstrating how buildings can be retrofitted to reduce environmental impact.

**SDGs addressed:** SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action).

#### **Net Zero Terrace Houses – Salford**

Delivered by Rossendale Valley Energy, this project focused on making traditional terrace homes more energy-efficient using a modular retrofit approach. The team conducted research and shared findings through community workshops and webinars, helping residents understand practical steps toward net-zero living.

**SDGs addressed:** SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action).

#### **Food Discovery at St Joseph's**

In partnership with The Country Trust, this programme introduced children at St Joseph the Worker RC Primary School to the connections between personal health, food systems, and planetary wellbeing. Through hands-on learning, students developed eco-literacy and a toolkit for making informed, sustainable choices. **SDGs addressed:** SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action).

### **Environmental Research and Innovation**

Our **Environmental Research and Innovation Centre (ERIC)** brings together over 200 researchers working across biodiversity, pollution, green infrastructure, and urban farming. Projects such as the Green, Grow and Thrive Catalyst and the PuRe (Pollution) Research Group are tackling ecological challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration.

The **Built and Human Environments Research Centre** also contributes to sustainable urbanism, wellbeing, and climate resilience, supporting SDGs related to health, infrastructure, and inclusive communities.

### **THINKlab and the MOBILISE Project: Global Impact**

We're proud to highlight **Professor Terrence Fernando** and the **THINKlabSalford** team, winners of the "*Making a Difference: Improving Environment and Sustainability*" award at the 2025 Research and Knowledge Exchange Awards.

This recognition highlights the transformative impact of the **MOBILISE project**, a digital platform that empowers government agencies in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Pakistan to assess disaster risks and coordinate responses using web-based and 3D virtual reality tools.

In Sri Lanka's Kalutara District, MOBILISE has strengthened climate resilience and early warning systems. Its success is now being scaled further, with the Maldives Ministry of Environment and Energy piloting a nationwide rollout on the island of Fuvamulah.

This project exemplifies how Salford research is delivering global impact, advancing SDGs such as **Climate Action (SDG 13)**, **Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)**, **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9)** and **Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17)**.

## Commitment

We will increase the sustainability of all research and innovation practice



Following the launch of the programme this year, two of our laboratories have achieved a bronze LEAF award. The Environment Lab and Megalab Teaching Lab in Cockcroft Building have demonstrated their commitment to operating more sustainably.

[The Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework \(LEAF\)](#) is a sustainable labs accreditation scheme that provides lab users with a framework to address and improve their sustainability practices.

The University is undertaking an institution-wide rollout of LEAF. The adoption of LEAF across the organisation will support the University in achieving its net-zero carbon targets across all scopes, and bring several additional benefits, including financial savings from the reduced use of lab consumables, electricity, and water; safer lab working practices; and lab users who are empowered to proactively change and challenge processes in the workplace.

This is one of the programmes implemented in response to the University of Salford becoming a signatory to the [UKRI Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice](#) in December 2024.

The voluntary concordat has been co-developed by the UK research and innovation (R&I) sector and represents a shared ambition for the UK to continue delivering cutting-edge research, but in a more environmentally responsible and sustainable way.

The aim of the Concordat is to ensure research and innovation continues to play a critical part in understanding how our planet is changing, while helping us to act responsibly to protect and promote our environment. Signatories will align with the science of climate change and ecology and commit to transparently sharing information and learnings about the environmental impacts of their work.

As a signatory to the Concordat, we have committed to taking action to deliver change in the following six areas:

- Leadership and system change
- Sustainable infrastructure
- Sustainable procurement
- Emissions from business and academic travel
- Collaborations and partnerships
- Environmental impact and reporting data

These actions will reduce environmental impacts and emissions associated with carrying out research and innovation, supporting our aim of achieving net zero carbon as set out in the sustainability theme of the new University Strategy '[Innovating to Enrich Lives](#)' and our [Sustainability Strategy](#).

*“Sustainability matters – not just in as a focus of our research at Salford, but also in how we conduct this research. The UKRI Concordat for Environmental Sustainability rightly sets ambitious goals in this regard, and I would therefore like to congratulate warmly the teams behind our first two LEAF awards”*  
**Professor Simon Green, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)**

**Case Study: Reducing single-use plastic in laboratories**

Spreaders are tools used in microbiology to distribute microbes across surfaces to monitor their growth in experiments. Many of them used in labs are plastic, come in plastic packaging and are thrown away after use.

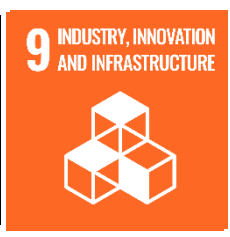


As part of the drive to make our labs more sustainable through LEAF, lab technicians, Dr Nicola Morgan and Adam Sharples partnered with Michael Clegg from our Maker Space to produce metal spreaders which can be cleaned, treated and reused instead of discarded after each use.

This is estimated to save around 9.5kg of plastic waste each term from just one lab!

Read more about how we are embedding [sustainability in our research](#) and find out how to get involved in [LEAF](#).

Commitment
We will support sustainability research and innovation on campus



The University of Salford continues to advance sustainability-focused research and creative practice across disciplines, transforming our campus into a living laboratory for innovation and impact.

**Energy House Labs: A Hub for Net Zero Innovation**

Our Energy House Labs with facilities such as Energy House 2.0 and the Salford Smart Home support collaborative projects with industry leaders to accelerate the development of energy-efficient housing and smart living solutions.

## IGNITION Project: Greening Urban Spaces

As part of the IGNITION project, our campus showcases nature-based solutions that support climate resilience and wellbeing. Green roofs, living walls, and rain gardens demonstrate how urban infrastructure can be adapted to mitigate climate impacts while enhancing biodiversity and student experience.

## New Adelphi Gallery: Sustainability Through Art and Design

The New Adelphi Gallery continues to spotlight sustainability through exhibitions that explore environmental themes and social change. Featuring work from students and external artists, the gallery provides a platform for creative expression that challenges perceptions and inspires action on sustainability.

## SHAPE Programme: Arts and Humanities Tackling Sustainability

Members of the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Working Group from Social Policy and Photography were successful in their application to the SOS-UK British Academy-funded SHAPE programme. This initiative uses an applied learning ‘living laboratory’ model to demonstrate the critical role of the arts, humanities, and social sciences in addressing sustainability challenges. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, the SHAPE programme is helping to reframe sustainability as a cultural and societal issue, not just a technical one.

### Commitment

We will reduce the impact of our supply chain through a Responsible Procurement Strategy

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



We continue to embed sustainability into procurement practices, recognising the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the goods and services we purchase. Our **Responsible Procurement Approach** is guided by the principles of value for money across the full life cycle, ethical sourcing, and minimising harm to people and planet.

We follow a category and risk-based approach, assessing each area of spend for its sustainability risks and opportunities. High-impact categories such as Estates and Buildings, Catering, and Furniture and Textiles, are prioritised in our Sustainable Procurement Plan, which is aligned with the UK Government’s Flexible Framework for sustainable procurement.

Key actions in 2024–25 included:

- Implementation of **life-cycle costing and non-financial benefit assessments** in procurement decisions.
- Ongoing collaboration with the **Estates and Facilities** Division to ensure that major capital projects meet high environmental and social standards, including through the Sustainable Purchasing Policy.

- Collaboration with **Digital IT** to ensure sustainability is embedded into major procurements.

We also work closely with suppliers to raise standards, remove barriers to sustainable procurement, and promote innovation. This approach supports our broader goals around net zero carbon, social value, and ethical finance, ensuring that our purchasing power contributes to a more sustainable and equitable economy.

### Commitment

We will embed principles of sustainability within partnership activities and share best practice

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



We embed sustainability at the heart of our strategic partnerships, ensuring that regeneration, innovation, and education are aligned with our environmental and social goals.

A flagship example is the **Crescent Partnership** - a collaboration between the University, Salford City Council, and ECF (English Cities Fund). This long-term partnership is delivering the £2.5 billion Salford Crescent Masterplan, a transformative regeneration programme that will create a thriving innovation district, support inclusive growth, and deliver sustainable infrastructure for future generations. The University developments are part of our Campus Connectivity Plan, which prioritises sustainability, accessibility, and innovation. All new buildings are being designed to meet high environmental standards, with targets including net zero carbon by 2038, BREEAM Excellent, and WELL Gold certification where applicable. Through these projects, the University is not only delivering sustainable infrastructure but also sharing best practice in low-carbon design, inclusive development, and community engagement, demonstrating how partnerships can drive meaningful change at a city and regional scale.



We also work closely with **Salford Students' Union**, including through the Graduate Sustainability Communications and Engagement Officer role, which bridges the University and SU to co-deliver campaigns, events, and student-led sustainability initiatives.

Additionally, the University is an active member of the **Greater Manchester Civic Universities Board**, which brings together higher education institutions across the region to address shared challenges. Through this we have contributed to a joint Civic Universities Agreement on Net Zero, aligning our institutional strategies with regional climate goals and reinforcing our role as a civic anchor institution.

We continue to collaborate with **RHS Garden Bridgewater** to promote sustainability, creativity, and wellbeing through nature-based engagement. A key initiative this year has been the OFFSHOOT project, delivered in partnership with Open Eye Gallery Liverpool and supported by Arts Council England. The project

brings together socially engaged photography, environmental storytelling, and community participation, with University of Salford MA graduates working alongside local groups at RHS Bridgewater to explore themes of nature, identity, and place.

In addition to this cultural collaboration, the RHS team is also supporting the design of a new wellbeing garden on campus as part of the Greater Manchester Institute of Technology (GMiOT) building development. This green space will provide a restorative environment for students, staff, and visitors, enhancing biodiversity and contributing to the University’s wider goals around health, inclusion, and sustainable campus design.

<b>Commitment</b>		
<p>We will ensure that the University, as an investor, is part of the solution to climate change and biodiversity loss</p>		

The University of Salford is committed to aligning its financial practices with its sustainability values. Within our **Treasury Management Policy, our Ethical Investment Policy**, ensures that our investments actively support climate action, social justice, and biodiversity protection.

In 2024–25, we reaffirmed our commitment by continuing to **exclude investments in fossil fuel companies, arms manufacturers supplying oppressive regimes, and organisations complicit in human rights violations**. Instead, we **prioritise green, sustainable, and ethical funds** that support renewable energy infrastructure, low-carbon innovation, and socially responsible enterprises.

We are proud to be part of the **Fossil Free campaign**, joining over 100 UK universities in formally divesting from fossil fuels. This decision was shaped through consultation with the Salford Students’ Union, and student representation continues to play a role in financial governance through the University Council.

Our ethical finance approach also includes:

- Annual review of investment practices by the Finance and Resources Committee
- Transparent governance, with meeting minutes and policy documents available upon request
- A robust Gift Acceptance and Ethical Fundraising Policy, ensuring donations align with our mission and values

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

## Commitment

We will ensure that the organisation's sustainability ambitions are effectively communicated to colleagues throughout the organisation and beyond

We will use our academic and professional expertise to provide training, advice and support to staff, students and community

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



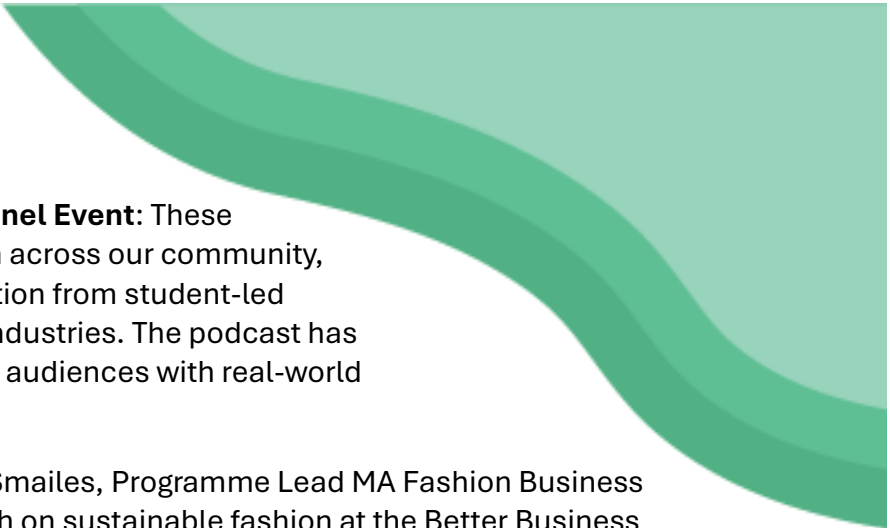
The University of Salford continues to embed sustainability into the culture of the institution by engaging staff, students, and external partners through targeted communications, training, and collaborative initiatives. Our approach combines practical action with academic insight, helping to ensure that sustainability is not only understood but actively championed across the University and beyond.

Key highlights from 2024-25:

**Green Impact and LEAF:** These national programmes have supported departmental engagement with sustainability, encouraging teams to take practical steps to reduce their environmental impact. Over the past year, seven departments achieved Green Impact awards, while two laboratories across the University participated in the LEAF (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework), improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, and embedding sustainable lab practices.

**SOS-UK Sustainability Skills Survey:** With 264 respondents from the University, the survey revealed that **81%** believe sustainable development should be actively promoted by places of study, and **73%** feel the University is taking meaningful action. These insights are helping shape our education for sustainable development and engagement strategies.

**Carbon Literacy and Biodiversity Collage Workshops:** These interactive training sessions have equipped staff and students with the knowledge and confidence to take climate and nature-positive action. Participants explore the science behind climate change and biodiversity loss and reflect on how they can contribute to solutions in their personal and professional lives.



**Talking CoP Podcast and Alumni Panel Event:** These platforms have amplified voices from across our community, sharing stories of sustainability in action from student-led projects to alumni working in green industries. The podcast has helped connect internal and external audiences with real-world examples of climate leadership.

**Better Business Summit:** Deborah Smailes, Programme Lead MA Fashion Business and Marketing presented her research on sustainable fashion at the Better Business Network Summit. This event brought together pioneering fashion brands to have meaningful conversations about what it truly means to lead with purpose and provide a space to connect with like-minded individuals who believe in doing business differently, ensuring that profits never come at the expense of people or the environment.

**Mental Health Awareness Week:** We highlighted the intersection between wellbeing and sustainability through events and communications that promoted nature-based solutions, active travel, and inclusive spaces reinforcing our commitment to a thriving, health-enabling campus.

**Salford Business School Sustainability Award:** The School Employability Team launched this new award to recognise student engagement with sustainability. The launch event featured LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® workshops, a Sustainability Careers and Volunteering Fair, and a keynote from Bec Bennett, Associate Director for Sustainability at the University. Students connected with employers and discovered how they can make a difference through their studies, volunteering, and future careers.

**International Retrofit Conference:** Our academic expertise was showcased at this high-profile event, where University researchers presented cutting-edge work on sustainable building design, retrofit technologies, and climate resilience, reinforcing Salford's leadership in sustainable innovation.

## Commitment

We will coordinate community projects and outreach events to advocate for and enable a sustainable future



The University of Salford continues to engage with local communities through creative, educational, and research-led outreach that inspires climate action and promotes sustainability.

**Go Green Salford: Our Festival of Sustainability** ran from 10–22 March, featuring over 25 events and engaging more than 1,000 participants. Highlights included:



- Carbon and nature literacy training
- A student-led swap shop
- Green careers activities led by the Library, Careers and Enterprise team
- Supplier collaborations
- A BioBlitz with the Salford Ranger Team and academic experts
- Launch of sustainability principles by the Art Collection Team

**Feedback from attendees emphasised the sense of community and connection:**  
*“I enjoyed the social aspect” | “Meeting other like-minded colleagues and students and making a difference” | “It strengthened community”*

- The **Salford Sustainability Showcase** on 4 December 2024 demonstrated how our research and innovation are helping businesses and communities transition to a sustainable future. Attendees explored four key tracks - Sustainable Infrastructure, Automation, Sustainable Risk Prevention, and Sustainable Materials - and toured cutting-edge facilities including the Centre for Sustainable Innovation, Energy House Labs, and the Northern Engineering and Robotics Innovation Centre.
- The **Greater Manchester Institute of Technology Sustainability Conference** featured lightning talks and a keynote from Emily Penn, inspiring attendees with insights into circular economies, sustainable fashion, and ocean plastic pollution.
- The **Urban Food Futures at the Rochdale Science Extravaganza**, where Dr. Andrew Jenkins showcased innovative approaches to urban agriculture. Visitors explored Salford’s DIY vertical farming bay, a compact, tech-enabled system using hydroponics and LED lighting to grow fresh produce in small urban spaces. The exhibit also featured a window sill growing system, co-developed with The Making Rooms, Blackburn, which uses sensors for self-watering and real-time environmental monitoring, making home food growing more accessible and efficient.

- The University’s Sustainability Team and Professor Andrew Clark participated in the **Cleaner, Greener, Safer Salford Conference**, contributing academic insight and community engagement strategies to support local environmental action.
- The Sustainability Team also attended the **Wigan Youth Climate Summit**, connecting with young people to discuss climate challenges and empower the next generation of sustainability leaders.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to using research, creativity, and collaboration to inspire sustainable thinking and action across Greater Manchester and beyond.

Commitment	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	5 GENDER EQUALITY
We will specifically coordinate community projects and outreach events to advocate for sustainability with local groups that support people with protected characteristics		

We are committed to inclusive sustainability, working with local groups and supporting people with protected characteristics through targeted outreach.

The University of Salford is proud to host **Cycling UK’s Inclusive Cycling Experience**, a programme designed to make cycling accessible to all, particularly individuals with long-term physical or mental health conditions, sensory impairments, or disabilities. The initiative offers guided inclusive cycling sessions and a flexible adaptive cycle loan scheme. Participants can try a range of specially adapted bikes in a safe, supportive environment, build confidence, and borrow a cycle for a day, a week, or even a month. Sessions are held regularly on campus.



Figure 11 A photograph from one of Cycling UK’s guided rides in their Inclusive Cycling Experience

We were proud to host the **Youth Focus North West Net Zero Youth Conference** again this year, bringing together over 150 young people from across the region to explore climate action through the lenses of energy, transport, green jobs, the circular economy, and green spaces.

The event, co-produced by the North West Net Zero Youth Steering Group, provided a platform for young people aged 13–19 to share their ideas, concerns, and solutions for achieving a just transition to net zero. Through interactive workshops, creative activities, and expert-led sessions, participants explored topics such as greenwashing in fashion, hydrogen energy innovation, accessible green spaces, and youth-led climate policy.

We were also pleased to host a workshop, **Youth Action for Nature Recovery** as part of the GMCA consultation on the GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Our involvement reflects our commitment to supporting youth voice, civic engagement, and climate education. By hosting these events, we helped amplify the perspectives of young people and connect them with decision-makers, reinforcing our role as a civic institution committed to sustainability and social equity .

On **International Women’s Day**, Salford Business School hosted a roundtable on *Accelerating Sustainable Development*, exploring gender inequality and its impact on environmental progress. The week also featured advice from women leaders in sustainability, amplifying diverse voices and driving positive change.

<b>Commitment</b>	<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS  
We will continue to support regional sustainability through our role in local partnerships	

Our regional partnerships continue to play a vital role in advancing sustainability across Greater Manchester.

- A key example is our involvement in the **Energy Innovation Agency**, a collaborative initiative between the University of Salford, the University of Manchester, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), and industry partners. The agency aims to accelerate clean energy innovation and bridge the gap between research and implementation, supporting Greater Manchester’s 2038 carbon neutrality target. Through projects like Future Homes, the University has contributed world-class facilities such as Energy House 2.0, enabling rigorous testing of low-carbon technologies and supporting SMEs in bringing sustainable solutions to market.
- Through projects like Future Homes, the University has contributed world-class facilities such as Energy House 2.0, enabling rigorous testing of low-carbon technologies and supporting SMEs in bringing sustainable solutions to market.
- Through our collaboration with the **Peel Park Ranger team at Salford City Council** we support biodiversity, green space enhancement and community engagement.
- We work together with **Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)** on sustainable travel initiatives and infrastructure improvements.
- Through the **Green Careers Mission**, we worked with other Greater Manchester universities to bring together students from across all institutions and disciplines to work with employers to tackle key sustainability challenges linked to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) 5 year Environment Plan.

- Students Deborah Essel Anane and Xavier Catalla joined peers from other Greater Manchester universities to present interdisciplinary solutions to GMCA challenges, showcasing their work through poster exhibitions at the **Manchester Green Summit**.
- At the Green Summit, Professor William Swan, Vice-Chair of the **GM Low Carbon Challenge Group**, updated delegates on progress in energy and buildings. Our Energy House Labs team also led a workshop on the Innovation Accelerator Future Homes project. The Energy House Labs team also feed into the Retrofit Taskforce and the Totally Affordable Net Zero Homes group.

These activities demonstrate our commitment to regional collaboration and our role in supporting the updated **GM 5-Year Environment Plan 2025–2030**.

# Progress Summary 2024-25

## Headline Indicators

Strategy Area	Indicator	2024-25	2023-24	Baseline	Target 2024-25	Progress Summary	Target
Sustainable Campus	Absolute carbon emissions – scope 1, 2 (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	4173	5527	19,095 (2005-06)	81% reduction by 2030 96% reduction by 2038	78% reduction on baseline	81% reduction by 2030 96% reduction by 2038
	Absolute carbon emissions – scope 3 (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	TBC	66211	66211 (2023-24)	Net Zero 2038	TBC	Net Zero 2038
	Energy intensity (kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /year)	134	158	212 (2016-17)	N/A	37% improvement in energy efficiency from baseline	TBC
	Waste generation (tonnes/year)	450	483	661 (2018-19)	500 tonnes	32% reduction on baseline	Waste below 500 tonnes annually
	ISO 14001/50001 certification	Achieved	Achieved	2019-20	ISO 14001/ISO 50001 recertification		ISO 14001/ISO 50001 recertification 2028
	Green Flag Award	Achieved	Achieved	2019-20	Green Flag Award 2025		Green Flag Award 2026
	Biodiversity metric	N/A	N/A	2025-26	N/A	Biodiversity baseline to be established in 2025-26. Ecology Surveys Summer/Autumn 2025	Net Gain Biodiversity 2030
Sustainable Impact	Responsible Futures accreditation	N/A	N/A	2025-26	N/A	Audit planned for November 2025	Responsible Futures accreditation
	Curriculum mapping reporting	-	SBS – 286 modules	2023-24	N/A	Further mapping deferred for new curriculum management platform and budget	Extend curriculum mapping in 2026-27
	THE Impact reporting	Achieved	N/A	2024-25	N/A	5 SDGs reported on in THE Impact Rating in 2024-25	5 SDGs reported on in THE Impact Rating in 2025-26
Sustainable Communities	Sustainability Awards	3	3	2024-25	N/A		3 in 2025-26
	Sustainability Team engagement	3,836	3,428	2020/21 1,539	Increase by 5% each year	Achieved	Increase by 5% each year
	People and Planet University League Position	8	15	2019 64	Maintain top 10 position	Achieved	Top 5 by 2030

## Environmental Sustainability Performance 2024-25

Impact Area	Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Target/date	Performance 2024/25
Environmental Management	Maintain ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certification	ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 certification	N/A	Maintained certification	Maintained certification	Maintained certification	Maintained 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	0	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	-69%	-71%	-78%	-81% 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/m <sup>2</sup>	171 kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	158 kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	134 kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	25% reduction 158kWh/m <sup>2</sup> 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	+12% 3.55	-0.5% 3.53	-21%* TBC	10% reduction By end 2024/ 2025 from 2018/19	On Track * Data awaiting verification

Waste Management	Reduce waste disposal	Total operational waste, tonnes  Kg waste produced per staff & student FTE	2018/19  661t  34.4kg/FTE	407t  16.97 kg/FTE	483t  18.03 kg/FTE	450t  TBC	Maintain below 500 tonnes per year	Achieved
Waste Management	Increase waste recycled	% waste recycled	2016/17 38%	48%	47.2%	48.3%	50% by end 2024/25	Not Achieved
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	Work to Do
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  100%	65% complete  100%	  100%	Meet level 4 in all areas of the Flexible Framework	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	100%	100%	100%	100%	Achieved
Travel & Transport	Improve facilities for cyclists on campus		2016/17 410	379	412	Survey complete	Undertake Travel Surveys Update Sustainable Travel Plan to review target	Work to Do

Travel & Transport	Support use of Electric Vehicles by staff and students	Number of Electric Vehicle charge points on campus	2016/17 6	9	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%	41%	41%	54%	50% of Estates fleet by end 2024/2025	Achieved
Community Engagement	Increase influence of Green Impact at the University	Number of staff/students influenced in Green Impact	2023/24 338	N/A	338	TBC	Increase in number of staff/students influenced yr on yr by 5%	Work To Do
Community Engagement	Increase engagement with staff and students at the University with sustainability	Number of staff/students engaged with sustainability campaigns & events	2020/21 1,539	1,216	3,428	3,836	Increase in number of staff/students Engaged by 5% each year	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
Biodiversity	Biodiversity Net Gain across campus	Biodiversity Credits	2025-26					Baseline to be established 2025-26