

University of Lincoln Sustainability Report

Welcome to our Annual Sustainability Report 2022/23, which shares the progress we have made in the past academic year to reduce the negative environmental impacts of our operations, as well as the positive sustainability impacts we're making through environmental improvements, teaching, learning, engagement and partnerships.

Our Strategic Plan (2022-2027) and ambition is articulated around three core themes: **We transform; We challenge, and We collaborate.**

2022/23



Environment and Energy Management System (EEMS)



We manage the impact of our operations by maintaining an Environmental Management System, certified to the ISO14001 Standard and an Energy Management System to ISO50001 standard.

Since 2019, we have held the EcoCampus Platinum award; demonstrating our commitment to environmental protection and enhancement; reducing risk of environmental harm and identifying opportunities for positive sustainability engagement.

In each section of this report, we review the targets set and what progress has been made in 2022/23.

Progress Key

Target met – we need to keep up the good work

Target in sight – we're getting there, but more work to be done

Target not met – we need to improve

Key Sustainability achievements

Key achievements from 2022/23, which have progressed the delivery of these objectives include:

Transform

- A Net Zero Roadmap has been developed in partnership with AECOM, to guide the University's transition to Net Zero emissions by 2040.
- Pledged to be a founding member of the Nature Positive University Alliance.
- Biodiversity surveys were commissioned for the Riseholme and Brayford Campuses, to establish a baseline for biodiversity net gain. These identified opportunities for improvement on the two sites and will be used to set objectives as part of the University's Biodiversity Action Plan, to be delivered in 2023/24.
- Recertification of our ISO14001 (Environmental Management Systems) and ISO50001 (Energy Management Systems) management systems.

Challenge

- Including the Net Zero Roadmap, £453,000 was spent on Carbon Management Projects in 22/23. Collectively, these projects are estimated to save almost 700,000 kilowatts of energy per year, resulting in cost savings of circa £88,000 per annum and 123 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e).
- An exercise to map the curriculum using the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) has commenced and an Education for Sustainable Development working group has been established. This will be led by the Dean of Sustainability to embed sustainability across the curriculum of both Colleges.
- All research projects are now tagged using the UN SDGs, to enable reporting of the contribution that our research output is having on the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Collaborate

- The University supported over 45 businesses on projects directly relating to Net Zero or Climate Action, via research partnerships or on a consultancy basis.
- The Staff Sustainability Advocates network was developed, with over 50 members of staff taking responsibility for embedding sustainability within their team or department.
- Carbon Literacy Training has been launched internally, with two training sessions delivered to Staff Sustainability Advocates in 2022/23, and optional training offered to all University Staff in 2023/24.
- Raised over £105,000 for the British Heart Foundation via the Pack for Good campaign.
- All new staff attend the 'Lincoln Welcome' which includes information on the EEMS and sustainability initiatives.

Energy & Carbon Emissions

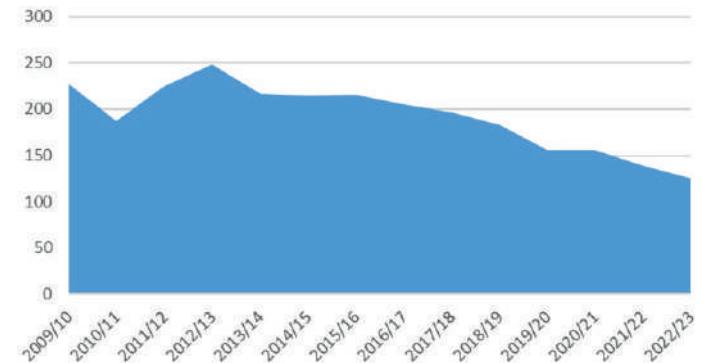
EEMS Target 2022/23 Update - Targets met

EEMS Objectives:

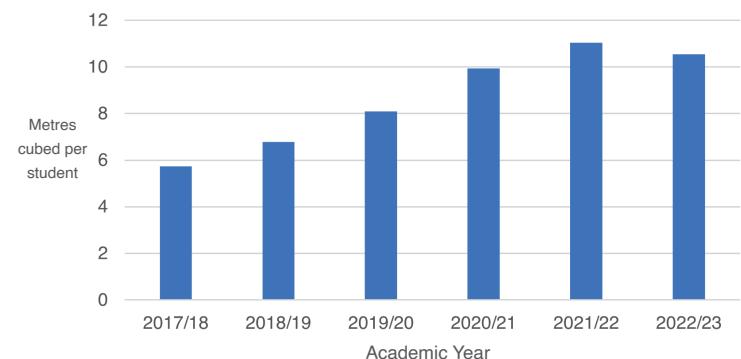
- a. **Publish a Net Zero Roadmap and work towards annual carbon reduction targets.** Report was published.
- b. **Ensure assets containing F-gases are maintained and losses are documented.** F-gas losses have been recorded and audited for the whole of 22/23. These losses are classed as “fugitive emissions” and contributed 323 tCO₂e to the University’s emissions in 22/23.
- c. **Reduce water consumption (m³ per student).** Water consumption reduced from 11.05m³ per student in 2021/22 to 10.54m³ in 2022/23.
- d. **Reduce Energy Consumption across the estate (per m²).** Energy use continues to be controlled across the estate. Total energy consumed (which includes electricity, gas, oil, LPG and vehicle fuel) fell from 35.6GWh in 21/22 to 33.7GWh in 22/23, and from 141kWh/m² in 21/22 to 128kWh/m² in 22/23. New buildings have improved the overall efficiency of the estate, ventilation settings have returned to pre-pandemic norms and there has been ongoing energy efficiency works across the estate.



Electricity, gas, oil & LGP consumed per m²

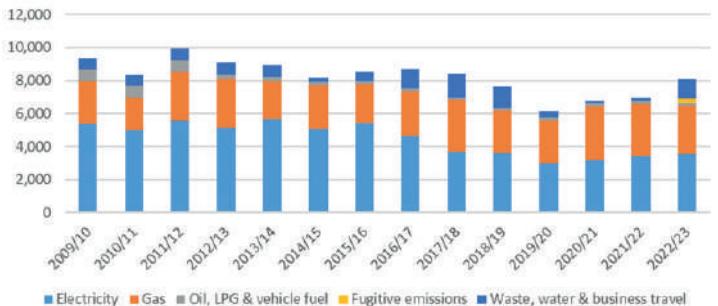


Water consumption in m³ per student



Carbon Management Projects in 22/23

University of Lincoln Carbon Emissions (tCO₂e)



EEMS Target 2022/23 Update - Target met

EEMS Objectives:

Invest in targeted energy efficiency projects to increase efficiency of worst performing buildings.

Completed projects include:

1. AECOM provided a decarbonisation survey and roadmap.
2. Solar-powered streetlighting at Wordsworth Hall car park and Lawress Hall drive.
3. BMS improvements in five locations.
4. Server room improvements in Isaac Newton Building.
5. New efficient water heaters in Courts 1 and 5.



Waste Management & Pollution Prevention

EEMS Objectives:

EEMS Target 2022/23 Update - Target not met

- a. **Reduce amount (tonnage) of waste produced by 5% from 21/22 measured per student and increase the percentage of this that is recycled.** Kg/waste per student increased from 11.1kg in 21/22 to 12.77kg in 22/23.

EEMS Target 2022/23 Update - Target in sight

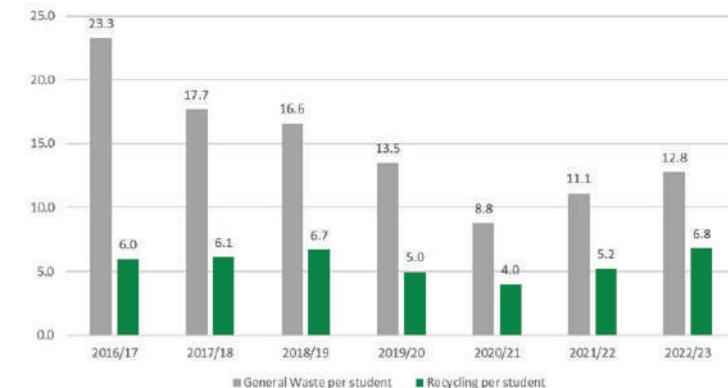
- b. **Reduce risk of spills entering water courses and causing pollution.**

Spill response training planned for key staff for December 2023.

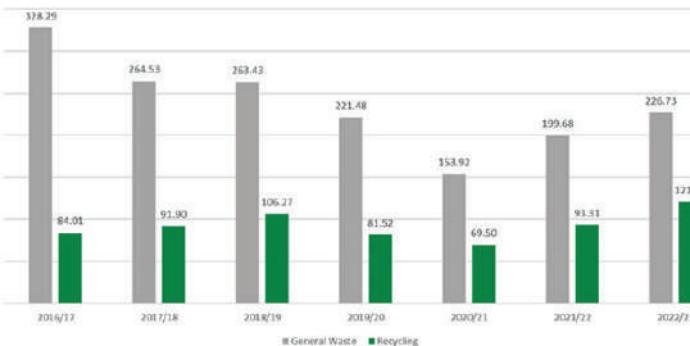
Reducing overall waste volumes continues to be a challenge. Waste tonnage has increased by 8% between 21/22 and 22/23. The percentage of waste recycled has decreased slightly, from 27.2% in 21/22 to 26.7% in 22/23.

The team worked with Accommodation and the waste contractor to improve the waste recycling within St Marks accommodation. Projects included implementing league tables, sending out communications, and adding signage into the bin stores; further actions are due to be completed in 2023/24.

General waste/recycling per student (kilograms)



Annual waste and recycling produced (tonnage)



Biodiversity

EEMS Target 2022/23 Update - Target met

EEMS Objectives:

- a. **Biodiversity surveys and enhancement plans to be in place by the end of the 2022/23 academic year for all three campuses.**

Biodiversity surveys were conducted at both the Brayford and Riseholme Park Campuses in 2022-23. During the COP15 Summit, the University of Lincoln joined the Nature Positive Universities Alliance as a Founding member. As part of this, we have committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity across our estate, creating Biodiversity Action Plans that are now published and live for comment on the Estates website. A biodiversity survey for Holbeach has been scheduled.



NATURE POSITIVE
UNIVERSITIES

Education for Sustainable Development

EEMS Objectives:

EEMS Target 2022/23 Update - Target in sight

- a. **Support the integration of sustainability within course content.** Plans are in place to participate in the SOS Teach-in in March 2024, will include the UN SDGs within programmes across the university.

EEMS Target 2022/23 Update - Targets met

- b. **Offer sustainability-related student volunteering and employment opportunities.** Involvement in a variety of student projects including the UoL 4.0 Challenge focused on sustainability challenges in the University estate.
- c. **Increase staff awareness and understanding of sustainability.** Carbon Literacy Training available for all staff. The Staff Sustainability Advocates network continues to grow and welcome new members from all areas of the university. Work with contractors and suppliers to promote sustainable practices and initiatives.

Sustainable Transport

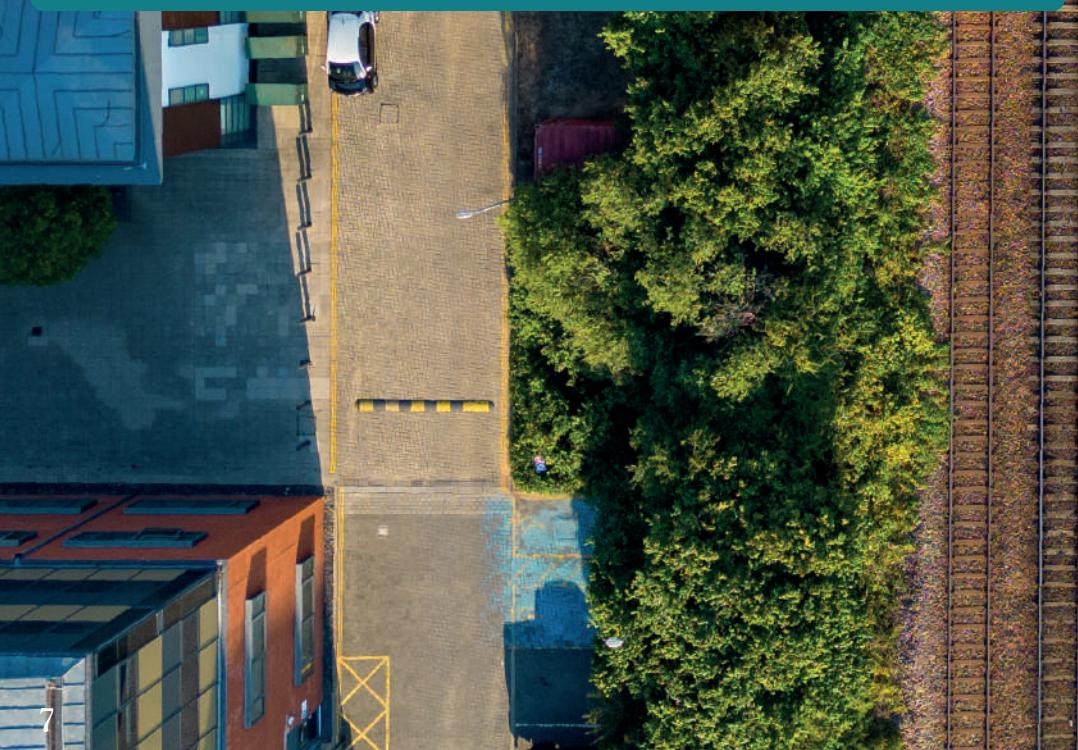
EEMS Target 2022/23 Update - Target in progress

EEMS Objectives:

- a. Measure and reduce carbon emissions associated with business travel.

Work began on the Sustainable Travel Policy, which aims to reduce the amount of business travel miles accumulated by the University; and offer guidelines for more sustainable travel or working options.

Additionally, in 2022/2023 the Parking Policy was redeveloped to be implemented in the 2023/2024 academic year. The purpose of this is to impose stricter parking guidelines and include enforcement. Through this updated policy it would see a reduction in people who are not authorised to park on campus, potentially reduce the number of people driving to campus and increase the funds in the travel budget, which can then be spent on sustainable travel projects.



Procurement

EEMS Target 2022/23 Update - Target in progress

EEMS Objectives:

- a. Sustainability considered as part of relevant procurement events.

The Procurement Team undertake an annual review of all tenders and the consideration of environmental criteria as part of the process. All procurement exercises are rated as 'low/medium/high' for environmental impact, with the expectation that all 'high' impact tenders include sustainability questions and weighting in the evaluation. In 2022/23, there were six contracts rated as 'high' environmental impact, with five of these including sustainability related questions in the evaluation.

In 5/6 contracts this objective was achieved. Work has progressed to create Sustainable Procurement Guidelines, it is hoped that these will help us achieve 100% of this goal in the future.

Construction & Contractor Management

EEMS Target 2022/23 Update - Target met

EEMS Objective

Improve sustainability of future construction projects.

No environmental incidents have resulted from construction projects in 2022/23. A new policy due to come into effect in 2024 to set minimum requirements for the sustainability specification of new buildings and refurbishment projects, including biodiversity net gain requirements.

Construction projects in 2022/23 include:

- Completion of the Lawress Hall Refurbishment Project.

Innovation is required within high-impact contracts, including to improve the sustainability of the service. This applies to hard and soft services contracts, and waste management.





Targets for 2023/24

- a. New policy to govern sustainability of refurbishment and construction projects to be published.
- b. Implement the updated Car Parking Policy.
- c. Implement and distribute the newly developed Sustainable Travel Policy.
- d. Conduct the Biennial Staff and Student travel surveys.
- e. Deliver 3 Carbon Cafes for staff and students to attend.
- f. New carbon reduction projects to begin.
- g. Review of staff and student travel arrangements to encourage sustainable travel.
- h. Work with procurement to promote sustainable practices within existing University contracts & partnerships.
- i. Gain a fuller understanding of Scope 3 emissions and plan for year-on-year reduction.
- j. Further biodiversity surveys to measure progress against Biodiversity Action Plans for all three campuses.

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