

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY**

*Report*

2020–21

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## Sustainable Development Goals

King's College London recognises that as an educator, we have a responsibility to play a central and transformational role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The SDGs are a set of 17 goals aimed at transforming the world by 2030 and were approved by the member states of the United Nations (UN) in 2015. To showcase how our work relates to the Sustainable Development Goals, we have highlighted the relevant goals in each section of this report.



# Foreword

Sustainability is one of the enabling foundations of King's Strategic Vision 2029, and while 2020-21 has been a challenging year, we continued to make significant progress in achieving our environmental sustainability ambitions.

In October 2020, we founded the King's Climate Action Network with the aim of co-creating our climate plan with the King's community. The network grew to more than 200 members over its first year, and its recommendations and feedback now directly feed into the development of our King's Climate and Sustainability Action Plan.

In early 2021, we announced that King's had now fully divested from all fossil fuels almost two years ahead of our target. This announcement built on many years of work from our finance team, investment sub-committee, and the campaigning of our students and staff.

We shifted our sustainability and climate engagement activities online in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and had higher than ever numbers of King's students and staff join our programmes and activities over the course of the academic year. Our community connected through virtual spaces and meetings to bring about positive change for sustainability across the university.

Our Sustainability Champions scheme successfully continued to embed sustainability across departments, faculties and directorates. In its first year of being fully online, 57 teams received Bronze, Working Towards Silver, Silver, and Gold awards.

Events and workshops throughout the year included an online Sustainability Month, a hackathon, climate campaigning training, and a fully online Welcome to King's programme. In total, students volunteered more than 900 hours for sustainability initiatives in 2020-21.

While many of our activities took place remotely, we also continued to improve the sustainability of our operations. We reduced our scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 51% compared to 2005-06, not including renewable energy purchases. After achieving our 2020 carbon reduction target, we are now identifying our next steps towards net zero carbon. We have been awarded funding from the Public

Sector Heat Decarbonisation Grant, and have begun work on a Heat Decarbonisation Plan which sets out how we will reduce emissions from heating our buildings over the next 20 years. We also continue to further embed sustainability into our capital projects, and have achieved BREEAM and SKA accreditation for a number of buildings over 2020-21.

This report summarises the efforts made by the entire King's community to make the university more sustainable, from managing our estates and providing sustainable food, to engaging with our local communities and mapping climate research. We hope it inspires you to take action on climate and sustainability, no matter your role within or outside of King's.



# 2020–21 Sustainability Targets

Target: ■ TARGET ACHIEVED/ON TRACK ■ PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET ■ TARGET NOT ACHIEVED

<b>Environmental Management:</b>	Maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) to the standard of ISO 14001:2015	
<b>Water:</b>	Achieve reportable environmental pollution incident rate of zero	
<b>Waste and Resources:</b>	Reduce consumption of water by 2% each year over the 2013–2021 period (cubic metres per total FTE – staff and student)	
<b>Carbon and Energy:</b>	Achieve 70% recycling by weight of total non-hazardous office and residential waste by July 2021	
	Reduce total annual operational waste produced by the university (excluding construction) from 2017/18 academic year	
<b>Food:</b>	Achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2025	
	Reduce energy emissions by at least 25% by 2025, from a 2018–19 baseline	
<b>Supply Chain:</b>	Achieve SRA Rating of three stars for King's Food: Scheme paused	
	Create Fairtrade Action Plan 2020–22 to maintain Fairtrade University status	
	Increase number of social enterprises in our supply chain	
	Consider provisions of the Social Value Act in procurement processes	
<b>Partnership and Community Engagement:</b>	Engage with at least one local community project which promotes and improves the environment	
	Take an active role in sector sustainability networks such as LUEG and EAUC	
<b>Clean Air and Transport:</b>	Implement at least 2 clean air initiatives recommended by Business Low Emission Neighbourhoods	
	At least 75% of King's directly-controlled fleet to be zero/low emission vehicles (excluding sports ground off-road vehicles and King's Food static food/ drink vehicles)	
	Increase number of bicycle parking spaces across the estate	
	Reduce air travel emissions by 10% per year from 2018–19	
<b>Construction &amp; Refurbishment:</b>	BREEAM assessments carried out on all new buildings / major refurbishments as required by planning	
	• New builds to achieve minimum "Excellent"	
	• Major Refurbishments to achieve "Very Good"	
	All large-scale fit-out projects to apply King's Sustainability Guidance (Capital Projects Brief) and Checklist, or complete SKA assessment	
<b>Biodiversity:</b>	Implement at least 75% of the agreed 2018–20 opportunities identified in Biodiversity Action Plan	
<b>Sustainability Engagement:</b>	Minimum 90% of eligible E&F staff to complete Fit For Kings sustainability module within 12 months from induction: Paused	
	Achieve at least 600 hours student engagement opportunities	
	Achieve minimum of 60 Staff Sustainability Champion teams completing bronze, silver or gold level	

# 2020–21 Highlights



# Service at King's

## Overview

At King's, we want to make the world a better place by going above and beyond what is expected of a university. That is why we made Service the third and equal part of our academic mission, alongside Education and Research. Service at King's embodies our commitment to positive social impact, at home in London, across the UK and around the world.

We work in partnership with students, staff and partners to implement community-centred initiatives that make the world a better, more sustainable and fairer place. In 2020–21, we worked on finding ways to measure social impact in the Higher Education sector and focused on empowering a generation of changemakers.



### Global Day of Service 2021

Each year on 25 March – the day King's was founded – our community comes together to take part in volunteering activities across the world as part of King's Global Day of Service. We are proud to be the first university in the UK to run volunteering events at this scale, and our Global Day of Service activities represent our ambitions to make positive impact in our local, national and international communities.



**544**  
volunteers



**2,323**  
volunteer hours

**£  
20.7k**  
economic  
impact



**53**  
countries



King's College London  
RANKED 11<sup>th</sup>

THE IMPACT  
RANKINGS 2021  
www.thewur.com



### Times Higher Education Impact Rankings

The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings recognise positive social and environmental impact, demonstrating the broader social responsibility of universities. The competition increased in 2021, with an additional 350 institutions taking part compared to 2020. Our commitment in service to society is reflected by our results, with King's



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS

### Advancing University Engagement

At King's, we believe that making a positive impact through engagement should be encouraged and celebrated more widely across the Higher Education sector. We partnered with the University of Chicago and the University of Melbourne to explore this issue and produced a report, *Advancing University Engagement: University engagement and global league tables*, that recommends social impact should be recognised in university rankings.

We believe that our framework to measure and rank this impact could be incorporated into global university league tables, thereby encouraging universities to ensure more of their activities benefit local communities and wider society.

ranking 11th in the world, 4th in Europe and 2nd in the UK.

King's was especially recognised for SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, placing 4th in the world. We also ranked highly for SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals, which is the only goal all participating universities must provide data on to be included in the overall ranking. King's successfully delivers against this goal through cross-sectoral dialogue with government bodies and NGOs, international collaboration and research, local and global student volunteering programmes, and our commitment to Service-learning and civic engagement.

Our greatest improvement was for SDG13: Climate Action, which saw us increase by 30 positions, placing King's among the top 20 universities in the world for acting to address climate issues.

In our report, we presented a framework and engagement indicators based on extensive global consultation and tested with universities around the world. Its publication is just the start of our efforts.

'The framework this report is proposing would provide a concrete way to measure that impact and encourage universities to not only invest further in engagement at a time when societal needs are most pressing, but also make it central to their identity as an institution.' — Derek R.B. Douglas, Vice President of Civic Engagement and External Affairs at the University of Chicago

# Service at King's *(continued)*

## Empowering a generation of changemakers



### Community Organising module

Dr Leonie Ansems de Vries, Reader in International Politics in the War Studies Department, worked with Citizens UK to develop a Service-learning module at Master's level entitled 'Migration, Social Justice & Community Organising'. This module ran for the first time in 2020–21 and allowed students to study migration theory while also learning practical skills to tackle social issues. Campaigns were developed on immigration status, hate crime and mental health provision through listening to the experiences of migrant communities and building campaigns that would lead to concrete change.

As part of the module, one group of students ran a campaign to establish a more efficient and consistent reporting process for hate crime, focusing on the 2021 London Mayoral Election. They spent two months listening to local

anti-hate crime organisations, schools and community groups in order to hear their perspectives. The students found that hate crime is inconsistently classified and reported across London boroughs, and that issues like misogyny are often ignored by the police, with conviction rates for these crimes being consistently low. They brought these issues before the mayoral candidates at the London Citizens Mayoral Assembly and encouraged them to commit to directly address these issues once they are in office. The Mayors of London, Manchester, Liverpool and Sheffield have all come out in support of the wider Citizens UK campaign on hate crime.

"This module gave me the language and tools to start my journey of knowing the intersectionality of the world we live in". – Migration, Social Justice & Community Organising MA student



### Citizens UK

In 2019, King's became the first whole-university strategic partner of Citizens UK, Europe's largest and most diverse alliance of civil society institutions that empowers communities to act together for power, social justice and the common good. Our partnership with Citizens UK is integral to our commitment

to serve our communities and make the world a better place.

King's works in partnership with Citizens UK to enhance the educational experience of our students and empower the next generation of changemakers through curricular and extra-curricular programmes.



### Community Organising Training

In 2021, we partnered with Citizens UK to run a bespoke Community Organising training course for King's students for the first time. The training was developed for students with an interest in creating a positive difference and aimed to help them become more effective community leaders. It allowed participants to learn more about key leadership skills, such as storytelling, strategy, action-planning and negotiation. The training also aimed to empower the students to become changemakers with the ability to take action and hold decisionmakers accountable on the social issues that matter most to them.

"I came in the training overwhelmed by all the problems I see around me and came out hopeful that change is possible if tackled one step at a time and with the right network to support you." – Community Organising Training participant

"The training gave a really good insight into community organising as a whole and the trainers were incredibly engaging and curious to hear about our thoughts and ideas. Overall, it was amazing to be part of such an open space and be surrounded by people whose big passion is to make the world a better place." – Community Organising Training participant

# Environmental Management



## TARGET

**Maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) to the standard of ISO 14001:2015:**

█ TARGET ACHIEVED

**Achieve reportable environmental pollution incident rate of zero:**

█ TARGET ACHIEVED



### Policy

Sustainability at King's is governed through our Environmental Sustainability Policy. It applies to all areas and activities of the university, and sets out our key environmental commitments, including setting and reviewing targets, and providing student and staff engagement opportunities. The policy was updated in 2019–20 to strengthen its links to the UN SDGs, and to commit King's to support targeting their delivery.

& Facilities (E&F), which spans our campus operations, King's Food, King's Residences, capital projects, as well as cleaning and security teams. Training and regular internal audits ensure that policies and procedures are followed, and that all staff within E&F can carry out their roles with sustainability in mind.

In June 2021, the EMS was re-certified to ISO14001:2015 standard following an external audit. With continual improvement being a key component of the EMS, we always seek to develop new initiatives to meet our sustainability objectives. The remainder of this report shares some of our key successes and developments, as well as our challenges, in 2020–21.

### Progress

Our Environmental Management System (EMS) ensures that our campuses are operated in an environmentally sustainable way, with continual improvement at the core. It covers all areas of Estates



# Spotlight on: Responsible Investment



### Policy

The King's College London Ethical Investment Policy commits King's to make no direct investments in tobacco, and to divest from all fossil fuel investments by the end of 2022 subject to there being no significant impact upon financial risks and returns. In addition, King's aims to invest 40% of its funds in investments with socially responsible benefits by 2025. In 2021, approximately 35% of our endowment was invested in funds that meet this commitment. For example, we have invested £31.5 million (12.8 per cent of our total investments) into Northern Trust's World Green Transition Index Fund, which not only screens out fossil fuel producers and the worst 10 per cent of companies by carbon emissions intensity, but also has a positive 'tilt' towards companies that generate 'green' revenue, such as energy efficiency and alternative energy. We have also invested £11.4 million (4.6 per cent of our investments) into RobecoSAM's Sustainable Water Strategy, which invests in companies with innovative technologies and products across the water value chain that will help deal with the issue of water scarcity.

### Progress

In March 2021, King's announced that it successfully divested from all fossil fuels nearly two years ahead of target. Since making a commitment to our full divestment target in 2017, we have steadily reduced our exposure to fossil fuels from 7.3 per cent in 2017 to zero in 2021.

Our journey towards investment has been guided by calls from our students and staff to take action. In 2016, the Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee was formed in response to a student-led Fossil Free campaign, which achieved a commitment to partial divestment



from coal and tar sands. Further student campaigning achieved the commitment to full divestment from all fossil fuels in 2017.

As well as achieving full divestment, King's has made progress on its commitment to invest 40% of its funds in investments with socially responsible benefits by 2025. In 2021, approximately 35% of our endowment was invested in funds that meet this commitment. For example, we have invested £31.5 million (12.8 per cent of our total investments) into Northern Trust's World Green Transition Index Fund, which not only screens out fossil fuel producers and the worst 10 per cent of companies by carbon emissions intensity, but also has a positive 'tilt' towards companies that generate 'green' revenue, such as energy efficiency and alternative energy. We have also invested £11.4 million (4.6 per cent of our investments) into RobecoSAM's Sustainable Water Strategy, which invests in companies with innovative technologies and products across the water value chain that will help deal with the issue of water scarcity.

### Challenges and opportunities

While we achieved our divestment target in 2020–21, we will continue to work towards more responsible investment. Our Ethical Investment Policy is due to be reviewed in 2021–22, which will provide an opportunity to work with the Finance team to further embed responsible investment principles in our policy.

Within the King's CAN (see page 12), the Responsible Investment sub-group will continue to investigate how King's can align its investments with our net zero target, and work with the wider higher education sector on issues such as pension funds.

# Carbon and Energy



## TARGET

**Achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2025:**  
■ PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

**Reduce energy emissions by at least 25% by 2025, from a 2018-19 baseline:**  
■ PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

### Policy

King's is committed to maximising energy efficiency and reducing our carbon emissions in line with limiting warming to 1.5°C through our Environmental Sustainability Policy.

Our previous target of reducing scope 1 and 2 emissions by 43% from 2005-06 to 2020 was exceeded in 2019-20, with King's achieving a reduction of 53%.

To support our continued aims to reduce emissions, we have set new emissions targets outlining our journey towards net zero carbon by 2025. We aim to reduce our absolute energy emissions: a 25% reduction by 2025 and a 50% reduction by 2030.

The Environmental Sustainability Policy is supported by our Carbon Management Plan. Our Carbon Management Plan 2010-2020 outlined our journey towards our 43% reduction target, and an Interim Carbon Management Plan 2020-21

ensures that we continue to implement energy efficiency measures and reduce emissions while developing our Climate and Sustainability Action Plan.

### Progress

By the end of 2020-21, we reduced our carbon emissions by 51% since 2005-06 using a location-based methodology, and 66% using a market-based methodology\*.

Despite the overall reduction, this is a small increase of 5% location-based and 7% market-based emissions compared to 2019-20. The first Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020 had a significant impact on campus footfall and energy consumption. In comparison, 2020-21 saw higher energy consumption due to higher footfall of students and staff returning to campus in a hybrid way, and due to increased ventilation requirements.

Despite this year-on-year increase, we have continued to work on energy efficiency measures.

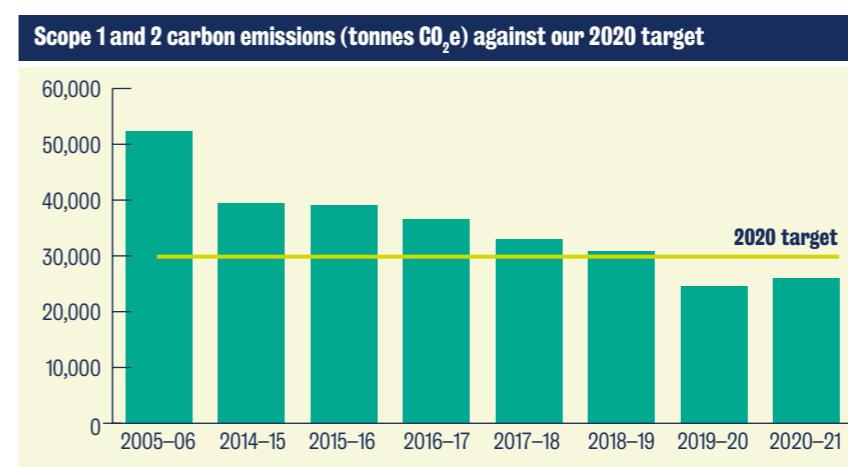
### Sources of King's carbon emissions in 2020-21

Scope	Emissions Source	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 1	Natural gas	10,221
Scope 1	F-gas	6
Scope 1	Fuel for vehicles	15
Scope 1	Fuel for generators	20
Scope 2	Electricity	13,262
Scope 2	Heat	2,404
Scope 3	Supply chain	287,236
Scope 3	Business travel – air	415
Scope 3	Business travel – land	6
Scope 3	Commuting	553
Scope 3	Homeworking	2,989
Scope 3	Third party residences	2,612
Scope 3	Electricity transmission and distribution	1,174
Scope 3	Water supply and treatment	143
Scope 3	Waste	18
Total scope 1 and 2		25,929
Total scope 1, 2 and 3		321,075

\*Location-based and market-based methods for carbon reporting

There are two key methods for calculating our carbon footprint, relating to our scope 2 emissions from electricity. The location-based method uses average carbon emission factors for each kWh of electricity we use, regardless of its origin or the tariff we have chosen. The market-based method takes into account the electricity we have purchased from renewable sources and assigns it zero carbon emissions. As King's directly purchases UK wind power, our carbon footprint is lower when using the market-based method.

Annual scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)									
	Unit	2005-06	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
CO <sub>2</sub> e	tonnes	52,389	39,416	39,013	36,532	32,904	30,882	24,612	25,929
University income	£000	387,951	684,225	738,286	778,150	841,030	902,000	964,200	1,000,500
CO <sub>2</sub> e per £000 of income	tonnes	0.14	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03
Staff and student numbers	FTE	21,764	28,888	30,616	32,669	34,521	35,764	37,383	41,359
CO <sub>2</sub> e per FTE	tonnes	2.41	1.36	1.27	1.12	0.95	0.86	0.66	0.63
Space (Net Internal Area, NIA)	m <sup>2</sup>	224,123	236,985	247,440	252,452	250,191	251,154	239,741	238,440
CO <sub>2</sub> e per NIA	tonnes	0.23	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.10	0.11



For example, this included installing LED lights and replacing fixtures in parts of our Weston Education Centre and IoPPN Building.

alternatives to natural gas are limited and associated with high costs.

In 2020-21, King's was awarded funding from the Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Scheme, which funds projects to reduce emissions from heating our buildings. The projects will be carried out in 2021-22, and include a range of measures. One significant part of this work is the development of a Heat Decarbonisation Plan, which will set out how King's can reduce heating emissions to work towards our net zero carbon target.

At Stamford Street Apartments, older radiators will be replaced with more efficient ones, which will have the ability to recognise when windows and doors are opened. We expect this to save 30% of energy when compared to current heaters. At the Rayne Institute at Denmark Hill, chiller optimization controls will save 40%

of energy used for the operation of chillers, and at the Maughan Library at the Strand Campus, improvements in the Building Management System will help identify where equipment is not performing as expected.

### Challenges and opportunities

While we have continued to make improvements to our campuses, Covid-19 has posed challenges to our energy management, in particular due to higher ventilation requirements which led to increased use of gas for heating in many of our buildings. We expect this to remain a challenge in 2021-22, but will continue working towards energy efficiency measures, in particular the projects outlined above as part of our Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Scheme funding. The Heat Decarbonisation Plan, which will be developed as part of this, will play a key role in the development of our Climate and Sustainability Action Plan, outlining how King's can achieve its ambitious energy reduction and net zero carbon targets.

We will also continue to work towards zero carbon energy generation on campus. There is ongoing work to install solar PVs on the roof of our Bush House building, which will help supply us with renewable electricity. Our King's CAN Zero Carbon Estate sub-group will continue to meet and engage students and staff in carbon reduction on our campuses.

# Spotlight on: King's Climate Action Network



## Policy

The King's Climate Action Network (King's CAN) is an open, interdisciplinary forum with the aim of supporting King's commitment to be net zero carbon by 2025. Launched in October 2020, it aims to bring together sustainability and climate expertise and interest from the King's community to create and implement our Climate and Sustainability Action Plan. The King's CAN is open to all students, staff and alumni.

The network was launched because we recognise that in order to take meaningful climate action, we have to invite our community in to co-create solutions with us.

By collaborating we can ensure our Climate and Sustainability Action Plan reflects the ambition and engagement of the King's community.

The King's CAN was structured around the Swedish Climate Framework for Higher Education Institutions. The Framework sets out 13 impact areas universities should focus on in their climate action. It not only focuses on reducing negative impacts, but also on maximising the positive impacts universities can have through their core missions of research and education.

In 2020–21, over 200 students and members of staff joined the King's CAN, with many actively taking

## We created seven sub-groups for the network, focusing on a variety of climate issues:

**Zero Carbon Estate:** This group looks at the construction, refurbishment and operation of our estate, with the aim to reduce our energy consumption to net zero.

**Procurement & Waste:** This group discusses ways to reduce two key scope 3 emission sources: the purchasing of goods and services, and the disposal of waste. Special attention is also given to carbon emissions from food served on campus.

**Travel:** Business travel, particularly flights, are a key source of carbon emissions at universities. The Travel group aims to reduce this, as well as look at our carbon emissions from staff and student commuting.

**Students & Education:** As well as reducing its negative impact, King's has the chance to increase its positive impact on the climate by educating and inspiring our

students. This group looks at ways to embed climate education into formal and informal education at King's.

**Community & Engagement:** This group looks at opportunities to amplify our climate action by connecting with our local communities, and communicating about the importance of climate action.

**Responsible Investment:** King's has fully divested from all fossil fuels, and has committed to investing 40% of our endowment into funds with socially responsible benefits. This group supports and pushes the implementation of this commitment.

**Zero Carbon Research:** This group discusses how King's can have a positive impact on the climate through its research, including through building stronger interdisciplinary partnerships across our existing research community.

part in the sub-groups, the regular plenary meetings, and our online community. In total, students and staff spent over 900 hours engaging with King's CAN activities throughout the year. The sub-groups developed over 45 recommendations to be included in the King's Climate and Sustainability Action Plan, ranging from ensuring our Heat Decarbonisation Plan is included in campus masterplans to embedding climate education into all degree programmes at King's.

Once the recommendations were developed, we consulted on the proposals with a variety of stakeholders at King's, including

many of our executive and governance committees, the King's 100, and through a survey open to all King's students and staff. The consultation showed that the King's community was supportive of taking action on climate, and wanted the university to be ambitious in our targets and aims.

In 2021–22, we aim to publish our Climate and Sustainability Action Plan, which will have the recommendations from the King's CAN at its heart. We will also change the focus of the network from developing recommendations, to taking actions towards the aims set in the previous year.

# Waste and Recycling



## TARGET

**Achieve 70% recycling by weight of total non-hazardous office and residential waste by July 2021:**

■ NOT ACHIEVED

**Reduce total annual operational waste produced by the university (excluding construction) from 2017/18 academic year:**

■ ACHIEVED

Our approach to waste and recycling is governed by the King's Waste and Resources Management Policy, which was updated in 2020–21 to reflect our increased focus on minimising waste, and working with suppliers to embed circular economy approaches. The policy sets out our commitments to managing waste sustainably, and to continually improve and innovate how we do this.

Central to this approach is the hierarchy of 'Prevent, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recovery, Disposal': avoiding the creation of waste in the first instance, minimising how much is created, repairing or refurbishing items for reuse where possible, and recycling waste that can't be avoided or reused. Recovery, which creates energy from waste, and disposal should be avoided where possible.

Ensuring this is embedded into our procurement decisions is essential to

preventing waste; therefore the new policy commits King's to integrating the principles of whole life-cycle thinking and circular economy principles into our operations. Our policy also commits us to eliminating disposable items where there are viable alternatives, providing training to staff, and working with academic departments to promote and support teaching and research around sustainable waste and resource management.

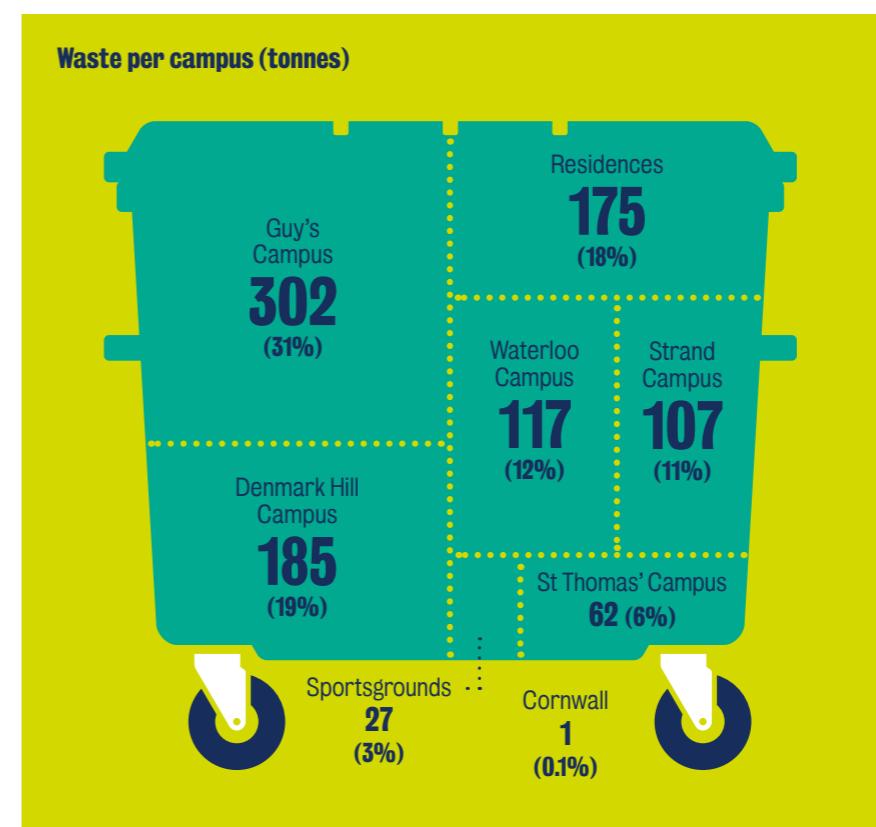
## Progress

In 2020–21, our recycling and reuse rate was 63%. This falls short of our target to recycle 70% of waste, and is a small reduction from 2019–20, when we recycled and reused 64% of our waste. However, we continued our work to improve waste management across King's, recognising the challenges and limitations brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. Introducing new waste streams, improving facilities, and engaging students and staff has enabled us to significantly increase our recycling rate from 45% in 2016–17.

Our recyclable non-hazardous operational waste is now separated into food waste, glass, cardboard and mixed recycling, with additional collections for confidential paper, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), coffee cups, and bulky waste such as furniture.

General waste that cannot be recycled is sent to Energy from Waste, ensuring our waste does not go to landfill.

During 2020–21, waste levels began increasing again during term time after dropping significantly in March 2020. However, the amount of waste created remained significantly below 2018–19 and our baseline year of 2017–18.



# Waste and Recycling *(continued)*

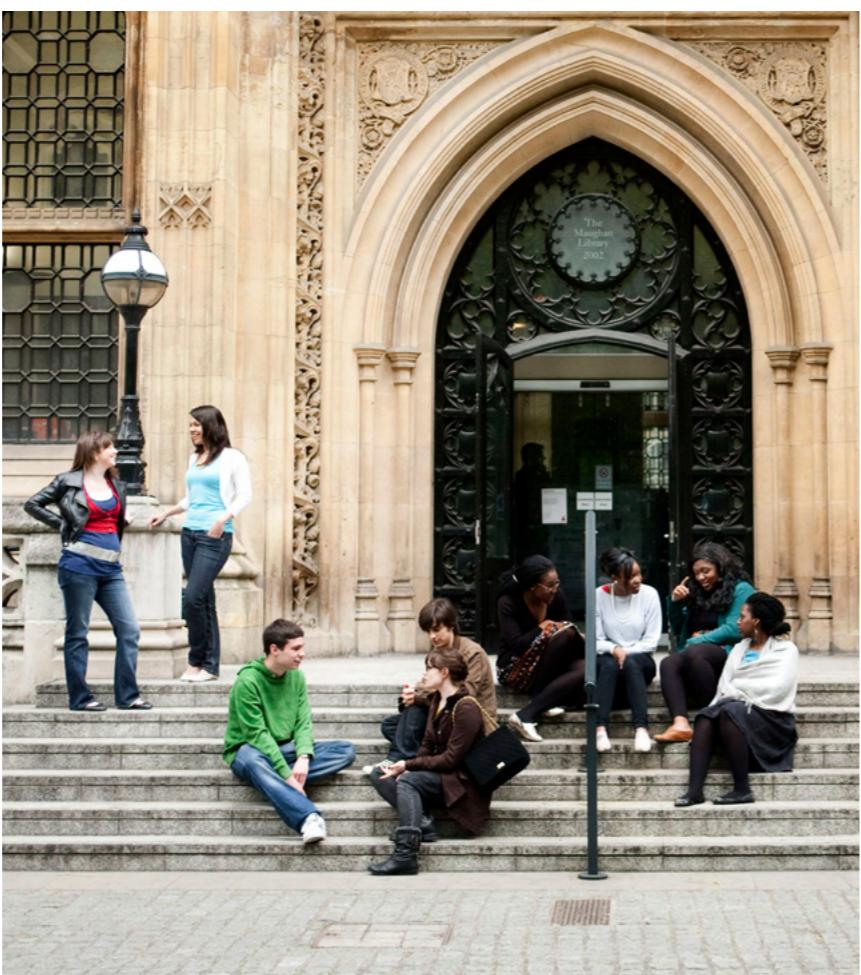
## Challenges and Opportunities

There remain a number of challenges related to waste and recycling, which we will continue to work on over the next years.

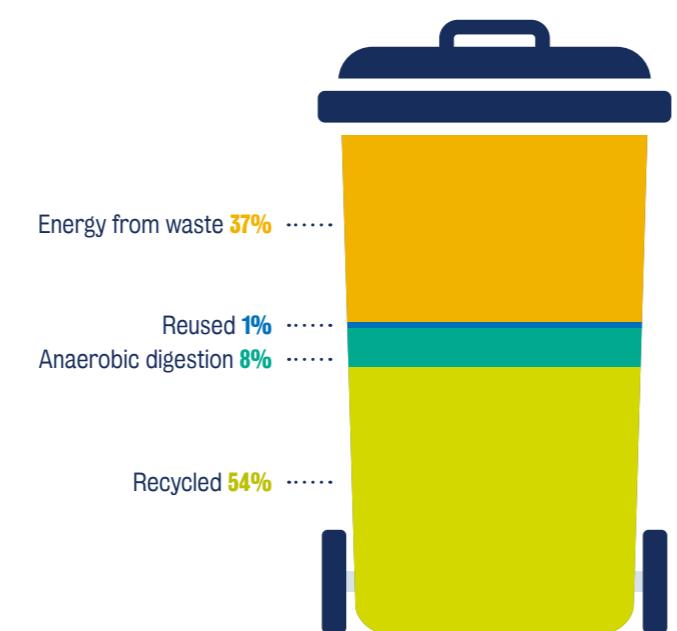
To deliver on the commitments of our Waste and Resource Management Policy, we are developing a Waste and Resource Strategy and Action Plan. Within this, we will set out our principles to waste management, key areas of opportunity, and targets to both increase recycling and reduce overall waste produced through our operations. Our target for 2023-24 will be a recycling rate of 75% and a total reduction of waste of 30% from 2017-18. The action plan will set out how we will achieve this by focusing on key impact areas such as procurement, IT, and laboratories.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also posed some challenges for waste management. While waste has reduced overall, the need for individual packaging of food items, and single-use PPE may have increased waste in some areas.

Our laboratories remain a key area of challenges and opportunities around waste management. Schemes such as LEAF (see page 25) aim to address these issues by engaging lab users in reducing and recycling waste where possible. Opportunities to improve waste include the replacement of conventional sharps bins, which are incinerated together with sharps waste, with reusable sharps bins which are emptied safely before being reused. We will also investigate how we can improve the classification of clinical waste at King's, so waste which may not have to be incinerated at high temperatures for health and safety can be sent for alternative treatment.



**Waste amounts per disposal method**



# Sustainable Food



## TARGET

**Achieve Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA) rating of three stars for King's Food: PAUSED**

## Policy

In 2020-21, we reviewed and published our Sustainable Food Policy. The policy commits King's to addressing sustainability impacts arising from our catering and hospitality operations, while providing healthy and sustainable food for our students, staff and visitors.

Recognising the significant progress on food sustainability made since the publication of our first Sustainable Food Policy in 2017, the new policy sets out wide-reaching commitments in the areas of sourcing, society and environment. This includes an increased focus on local and independent suppliers, the removal of palm oil from food produced in-house, engaging with students and the local community to redistribute unsold food, removing beef from restaurant menus, and serving vegan and vegetarian options as the default options at meetings and events.

## Progress, challenges and opportunities

2020-21 was a challenging year, as Covid-19 restrictions often limited on-campus activities, and many staff were furloughed or redeployed to support other teams across the university. Our target to achieve three stars in the 2020 Sustainable Restaurant



Association 'Food Made Good' rating had to be paused, as the SRA suspended the rating scheme for 2020.

However, the King's Food team continued to make progress towards sustainability. The review of the Sustainable Food Policy enabled King's Food to put many initiatives and commitments they had been working on into policy to ensure their longevity. After opening one of the first fully plant-based university cafés at Bush House, King's Food also continued to increase meat-free options at other outlets, with 70% of the King's Choice menu now being vegetarian or vegan.

Food sustainability was also a central discussion topic in the King's CAN Procurement & Waste sub-group, with staff, students and alumni discussing ideas on how to further embed sustainability.

King's Food also worked with student groups taking the Sustainability in Practice module (see page 21), including a project investigating food waste management, a project exploring the reduction of carbon emissions from food, and a project analysing the potential of a bring-your-own-lunchbox scheme.

In the summer 2021, King's Food worked with student interns on further sustainability initiatives. This included a project to estimate carbon emissions from King's Food menu options, and how to best display this on menus to encourage uptake of lower carbon dishes. King's Food also began work on piloting the Too Good To Go app to reduce food waste. Through the app, food that would have been wasted is sold at a discount at the end of the day. This enables students to buy affordable and nutritious meals, and helps to reduce food waste from our restaurants and outlets.

# Fairtrade



## TARGET

**Create Fairtrade Action Plan 2020–22 to maintain Fairtrade University status:**  
■ ACHIEVED

### Policy

In 2020–21, we reviewed our Fairtrade Policy to ensure it remains up to date and reflects our ambition to support Fairtrade. The updated policy aligns our commitments with the UN SDGs, and with the four categories that make up the new Fairtrade University Award: Leadership and Strategy; Procurement, Retail and Catering; Campaigning and Influencing; and Research and Curriculum. Key commitments within the policy include ensuring our Fairtrade Action Plan is publicly available, Fairtrade products are available at all outlets, and supporting students who would like to conduct research into Fairtrade.

### Progress

While 2020–21 was a challenging year for on-campus activities, we continued to promote Fairtrade at King's. In 2020, we renewed our Fairtrade University status under the new Fairtrade University scheme run jointly by the Fairtrade Foundation and Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK).

After our accreditation, we created a new Fairtrade Action Plan for the 2020–2022 certification, extending our commitments and aiming for two stars in the 2022 audit. The action plan is publicly available through our website, ensuring that all those with an interest in Fairtrade can learn about our plans, achievements, and challenges.

Our Fairtrade and Sustainable Food Steering Group continued to meet online throughout 2020–21, reviewing progress against our action plan, and discussing how to further embed sustainability and Fairtrade into our operations.

Offering Fairtrade products is key to our commitment as a Fairtrade University, and we monitor and aim to increase the Fairtrade products sold on campus.

King's and KCLSU continue to serve Fairtrade as standard for coffee, tea and hot chocolate, and offer a variety of other Fairtrade items such as fruit juice, chocolate, and snacks. In 2020–21, King's Food served 38,620 cups of Fairtrade coffee, 7,029 cups of Fairtrade tea, and 1,971 cups of Fairtrade hot chocolate. In addition to this, 6,667 other Fairtrade items such as snacks, fruit and juice were sold, and 4,206 cups of tea and coffee were served in hospitality.

This is significantly lower than previous years, as only minimal outlets were open for trading due to Covid-19, and most staff and students worked from home or in a hybrid format.

As well as selling packaged Fairtrade items, King's Food have moved towards Fairtrade raw ingredients in kitchens, ensuring that baked goods made in-house meet our ambition to serve ethical, sustainable food.

To ensure our support of Fairtrade beyond our catering outlets, we have embedded Fairtrade into our Sustainability Champions programme, requiring teams taking part to make the coffee and tea bought by department budgets either Fairtrade, organic, or Rainforest Alliance certified.

We also aim to engage students and staff in our work around Fairtrade. Each year, we celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight with events and special offers. In 2020–21, this was challenging due to closures and many of our students and staff learning and working from home. Therefore, we held two

online events to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight 2021. The Sustainability team held an introduction to Fairtrade webinar on the first day of the fortnight, highlighting the importance of Fairtrade, the links between Fairtrade and the climate crisis, King's commitments to Fairtrade, and what students and staff can do both at King's and at home. King's Food also held an online baking class, guiding students and staff through making vegan Fairtrade brownies.

During Welcome Fortnight, held online in 2020–21, we raised awareness of King's status as a Fairtrade University during our online sessions for new students. Our Fairtrade and Sustainable Food Steering Group is open to all those at King's who are interested in food sustainability, and we are open to supporting and working with student groups on Fairtrade and ethical trade related events and initiatives. For example, during Sustainability Month 2021 we held an online event on plant-based futures with King's Animal Rebellion student group.

In recognition of the importance of embedding sustainability in the curriculum, we have maintained a public list of potential dissertation projects for students who would like to collaborate with our team. This includes a suggested topic to investigate Fairtrade issues, and how we can further embed Fairtrade across King's.

### Challenges and Opportunities

Due to Covid-19, many of the actions we planned as part of our Fairtrade Action Plan had to be amended. This included on-campus activities such as Fairtrade Fortnight promotions and handing out Fairtrade chocolate at Welcome Hubs which had to be changed to online events and activities.



Other actions, such as carrying out a kitchen audit and a uniform audit to prepare for upcoming tenders had to be delayed due to staff shortages and the need to prioritise our response to Covid-19. The number of Fairtrade items sold on campus has also reduced due to the lower footfall on campus, and closures of our outlets.

However, we will continue work on our Fairtrade Action Plan in 2021–22, in preparation for our next audit in May 2022. Our Fairtrade and Sustainable Food Steering Group will continue to monitor progress, and some events, such as International Coffee Week and Fairtrade Fortnight will see more events on the benefits of choosing Fairtrade.

# Sustainability Engagement



## TARGET

**Minimum 90% of eligible E&F staff to complete Fit For Kings sustainability module within 12 months from induction:**  
**PAUSED**

**Achieve at least 600 hours student engagement opportunities:**

**■ ACHIEVED**

**Achieve minimum of 60 Staff Sustainability Champion teams completing bronze, silver or gold level:**

**■ PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET**

## Policy

King's Environmental Sustainability Policy commits us to providing opportunities for students and staff to actively engage in the sustainability work of the university. In addition, we are committed to providing training, and giving students the opportunity to embed sustainability and sustainable development in their formal and informal education.

## Students

### Progress

Despite the challenge of remote learning and working, we offered a wide range of opportunities for students to get involved in Sustainability in 2020–21.

Welcome Week saw the largest number of sustainability events offered to new students, with introductory sessions on sustainability, and on related areas such as food, climate action, zero waste and community gardens. In total, over 550 students attended a sustainability session during Welcome Week.

In addition, a virtual Welcome Hub on the Welcome to King's app showcased key sustainability information and initiatives for students.

Our annual Sustainability Week was extended to a Sustainability Month covering all of February, with daily activities and events. These included a panel on sustainability careers, a climate campaigning workshop, a webinar on sustainability education, and a zero waste workshop. A particular highlight was the London Student Sustainability Conference, which was held in collaboration with City, University of London.

At the conference, over 30 students presented their research in front of an audience of students, staff and judges. The topics covered a wide

range of social and environmental sustainability issues, including health inequalities, promoting sustainable and healthy food in a university, and the potential of alternative energy sources such as solar and hydrogen.

As part of Sustainability Month, we held a #TakeAction hackathon which presented students with four key sustainability challenges: creating an online sustainability module, supporting diversity in sustainability, communicating sustainability, and launching a sustainability conversations initiative. After the hackathon, students were given the option to continue working on the project they started developing during the event. The result of this was the development of an online module available to all students and staff through the King's e-learning platform KEATS. The structure and content of the module, called "Sustainability & Climate: Learn, Discover, #TakeAction", was co-created with students, giving them the opportunity to take an active role in developing education for sustainable development at King's. The module will launch as a pilot in 2021/22.

As well as taking part in the #TakeAction hackathon and follow-up actions, King's students volunteered on a number of sustainability projects throughout

## Case Study: Sustainability in Practice

Department of Geography

The 'Sustainability in Practice' module was launched to third year undergraduates and postgraduate students in September 2020, led by Dr. Emma Tebbs and Dr. Helen Adams from the Department of Geography.

The module uses problem-based learning to work with students to address challenges around sustainability at King's, as well as encouraging them to reflect on sustainability as a concept and broader global sustainability issues. The students interacted with the Sustainability Team and other King's entities and partners on sustainability-themed projects. Example projects included promoting low-carbon transport methods, exploring the possibility of switching a combined heat and power plant to hydrogen, and doing habitat surveys of King's Sports grounds to evaluate the possibility of enhancing wildlife on campus. Students presented their project findings to the project hosts, and developed a report outlining their proposed solution.

Student feedback on the module has been positive, with students agreeing particularly that the module helped develop their understanding and reflection on practical solutions for sustainability, knowledge of sustainability and the UN SDGs, critical perspectives on sustainability, and more practical skills like teamwork and interdisciplinary working.

2020/21. A group of students supported the Sustainability Team in organising activities for the King's Climate Action Network. This included a virtual exhibition on the topics and suggestions discussed in sub-groups, as well as a panel event on climate and education in Sustainability Month.

Our Sustainability Champions Assistant (SCA) programme continued remotely, with 16 students taking part in training and being matched with a staff Sustainability Champions team (see page 22) and supporting them in embedding sustainability into their departments. At the end of the academic year, 16 students were trained to audit staff Sustainability Champions teams, and ensured that Champions were given the right award.

In total, students volunteered more than 900 hours with sustainability initiatives.

Social media was an important tool for engaging students in sustainability, and we created new initiatives in 2020–21 to share our work and invite students to take part. In early 2021, we recruited Sustainability Engagement Assistants: paid, part-time roles for students to support the Sustainability team on communications and student engagement.

Each week, we featured a King's student involved in sustainability on our social media channels, such as SCAs and student societies. In Spring 2021, we launched the Shots for Hope initiative in collaboration with KCLSU and Project X, which

invited students and staff to submit images that present a hopeful message on sustainability. The photos were featured on social media, and will be exhibited at Bush House in 2021–22.

In our Residences, the Sustainable Living Communities were relaunched in 2020–21 following the pilot in 2019–20. More information on the scheme is available on page 28.

## Challenges and Opportunities

While sustainability activities continued, the shift from in-person to online events provided some challenges on engagement. In previous years, Welcome Week hubs and fairs, as well as stalls during Sustainability Week, were key to inform new students about the existence of sustainability initiatives, even if they were not already interested in sustainability. Moving online, it is likely only those students who already had an interest in sustainability signed up to sustainability events.

However, online activities also provided some opportunities. Moving between campuses was a barrier to participation in sustainability events previously, and during Sustainability Week we had to ensure events and stalls were run at all campuses. Online sessions gave students from all campuses the opportunity to take part in events, and participation for events throughout the year was high.

In 2021–22, we will continue to offer student engagement opportunities. Key initiatives to be launched are our Spotlight on Sustainability podcast, co-hosted by the sustainability team and students, our pilot KEATS module and Sustainability Seminar Series, Sustainability Listening Campaigns, and Residences Sustainability Committees.

# Sustainability Engagement (continued)

## Staff

### Progress

Sustainability Champions is a behaviour change programme for staff, and is part of the national SOS-UK Green Impact scheme. Our Champions work across all areas of King's, including faculty offices, teaching spaces, Estates & Facilities, research labs and King's Residences.

Sustainability Champions work hard to make King's a more sustainable working environment, reducing the negative and maximising the positive social and environmental impacts of the university. The programme has proven crucial in helping the King's Sustainability team embed sustainability throughout the university. It also brings together King's staff and students (through the SCA programme) from different campuses, departments and faculties, empowering them to make positive changes within and beyond their work environments.

In 2020-21 the programme was updated to include a Sustainability Dozen category of 12 actions for all Champions teams in offices and residences. This replaced the previous Starter for Ten set of 10 actions, and has to be completed by all teams taking part in the programme, regardless of their award level. Recognising that many staff continued to work in a hybrid model or remotely due to Covid-19 restrictions, many of the actions were amended to ensure they could be carried out remotely.

We also worked with teams across King's to further embed social sustainability into the Sustainability Champions programme, introducing actions related to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Race Equality, Widening Participation, London and Service. We take part in the

At the end of the academic year, Champions submit their workbook online, and are audited by trained King's students. For the second year in a row, auditor training and audits took place remotely.

In total, 57 teams took part and received Sustainability Awards. Five teams completed the Sustainability Dozen, one achieved Working towards Bronze, six achieved Bronze, one achieved Working towards Silver, 11 achieved Silver, and 33 achieved Gold.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our large Sustainability Awards celebration, however, a number of small, campus-specific events for Sustainability Champions took place in October 2021. These combined a volunteering opportunity with a small social event, and included community gardening, volunteering at a food cooperative, and a tour of a sustainable grocery store.

To celebrate and showcase the achievement of our Sustainability Champions, we published a 2020-21 Sustainability Champions Stories booklet which contains 15 case studies from teams across the university, as well as quotes from students who audited the teams.

In addition to our Sustainability Champions programme, we offer opportunities for staff to learn about, and get involved in, sustainability.

When staff join King's, our

Environmental Sustainability Policy forms part of their induction checklist, and the Sustainability team have regularly presented at Welcome to King's events run by the Organisational Development (OD) team. We take part in the



annual Wellbeing Month organised by OD, offering Lunch & Learns on sustainability open to all staff. Many of our sustainability initiatives, such as the King's CAN and our upcoming KEATS module and seminar series are open to staff as well as students.

Within Estates & Facilities, sustainability forms a key part of the Fit For King's training programme. All staff joining Estates & Facilities go through the Fit For King's programme, which includes training sessions on service delivery, being inclusive, wellbeing, and professional communications. Sustainability is included in both the initial induction, and a dedicated sustainability workshop is part of the core programme. This ensures that E&F staff, who are key to sustainability through their roles in areas such as maintenance, campus operations, catering, security and cleaning, have a good understanding of sustainable practices and King's commitments in this area. In 2020/21, the focus of many teams within E&F was the operation of campuses under Covid-19 restrictions. Therefore, the Fit For King's training programme was paused in 2020, and then redesigned for online delivery. As a result, fewer staff took the training compared to previous years.

### Challenges and Opportunities

Engagement activities for staff were delivered online throughout 2020-21, which has brought some challenges. The Sustainability Champions programme traditionally focused on actions aimed at the teams' workplaces, such as ensuring their offices and laboratories were energy-efficient, procurement for the department was sustainable, and waste was reduced and recycled. Covid-19 restrictions meant many



staff worked from home, therefore the Sustainability Champions workbook had to be updated to reflect these changes. This included suggestions on energy saving and recycling at home, volunteering in the local community, and virtually attending workshops and collaborating with other teams across King's. However, fewer Sustainability Champions teams received awards in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20, when 70 teams received awards. This was largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in a number of challenges for teams, including additional workload pressures, redeployments, and furlough.

However, there were also some opportunities created by the move online. Lunch & Learn sessions which were previously held at each campus separately were combined into one online session. This meant that Champions from different campuses could join the same workshop and connect with each other. It was also possible to record the Lunch & Learns, and staff who couldn't attend due to their working

schedules were able to catch up with the content after the session.

The Sustainability Champions scheme will continue in 2021-22 with actions still carried out remotely, but we aim to return to in-person Sustainability Awards to celebrate our Champions' achievements in 2022.

The restrictions also created significant challenges for the Fit For King's training programme, which resulted in very few staff being able to take the sustainability training course. However, after the Sustainability workshop was relaunched in 2021, E&F staff have been taking part in the workshop and we expect this to increase in 2021-22.

In 2021-22, we will continue to offer staff the opportunity to get involved in sustainability and climate initiatives. The King's Climate Action Network will remain open to all staff interested in taking part. The Sustainability & Climate KEATS module to be piloted from autumn 2021 will be available to staff members who would like to learn more about sustainability.

# Sustainability Champions case studies

## **Sexual and Reproductive Health Education Outreach** Opeoluwa Olusoga, Women and Children's Health

"I was researching the new compulsory Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum and saw that there was still a big censorship on the topic. Young people are still being deprived of vital information needed during development. We can see the impact of this with one example being the rising cases of STI rates within the young population. This then prompted me to reflect on my own RSE lessons in school and how it only focused on cis-heterosexual relationships and sex.

I decided to put together an outreach project. The project is designed to provide young people with more useful, relevant, and engaging information and resources around sexual and reproductive health. Working in collaboration with Hertility Health, we are planning to produce and deliver workshop materials including presentations, activities, and information sheets to young people to get them

engaged in a very important discussion about their sexual and reproductive health. I endeavour to pilot this outreach with community trust charities that regularly deliver youth programmes and workshops.

My aim is to create a conversation around sexual and reproductive health with the younger generation that will inspire them to begin their own research and ask the questions they once would have felt too awkward or embarrassed to ask.

To have a more informed and self-aware generation, we need to change the narrative and remove the stigma around teaching young people about their own health and bodies. I believe that starting this conversation on youth programmes where young people feel safe and included is the best place to do so and can really change lives."

## **Dickson Poon School of Law** Dr Glyn Jones

"Since joining the programme, I have worked with members of our Law Sustainability Working Group in raising the profile of Sustainability in the Law School. We set up a new Sustainability email address to invite staff ideas and feedback on sustainability initiatives and projects in law. We then relaunched our Law Sustainability Working Group over the summer of 2020 and have since grown to 10 members, including our two student Sustainability Assistants. We then set up our Sustainability Newsletter for Law which goes out to all staff in the school and has a theme every month. In December 2020, for example, we did a 12 Sustainable Days of Christmas and in March 2021 we did a Service/Volunteering takeover to encourage staff to get involved and use their three allocated Service Days.

We have also sought to raise the profile of Sustainability through placing updates and agenda items at our

various Faculty committees. At our Students Culture and Community Committee (SC3 Committee), sustainability is a standing item on the Committee's agenda. I also presented a Sustainability Update paper at our Law Faculty meeting in March, 2021.

Inspired by King's provision of up to three Service Days per year and by my colleague Kate Southard, I have used my Service Days during lockdown to support a local community project in my home town of Alton, North Hampshire. The project is run by Alton Climate Action Network (ACAN) and falls under its Local Action for Nature whereby public spaces are rewilded and planted with native plants and flowers. My role has involved me in preparing the ground for planting trees & plants and making a composter. Going forward, I have a longer term responsibility for tidying and maintaining the site, including watering."

# Spotlight on: Sustainability in Laboratories

Our laboratories are essential in achieving a sustainable university. They are traditionally energy – and waste-intensive spaces, typically requiring 3–10 times more energy per m<sup>2</sup> than typical academic spaces, and consuming considerable amounts of single-use plastics. We run the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) through our Sustainability Champions programme, empowering lab users at King's to measure and reduce their environmental footprint.



## **Sustainability at the Wolfson Centre for Age Related Diseases**

The Sustainability Champions at the Wolfson Centre for Age Related Diseases (Wolfson CARD) achieved a Gold Lab Sustainability Award for their initiatives to embed sustainability into their lab.

They minimised the purchasing of new lab equipment, prioritising repair and reuse. When two of their ultra low temperature freezers broke down, they were repaired rather than replaced, and when there was demand for more microtomes, they brought two microtomes from storage back into commission rather than purchasing new ones. They also championed reuse across the campus: when another lab shut down centrifuges and sledge micromotives, the Wolfson CARD team relocated and recommissioned the equipment for use in their labs. This prevented working equipment going to waste, as well as new equipment being purchased.

The team also recycled material to create space for planting. Discarded tip boxes, which would otherwise go to waste, were used for indoor planting by the building's large south-facing windows, and used

wooden pallets were used to make garden and window planters, as well as pallet furniture in and around the Wolfson CARD building.

Communication and raising awareness of sustainability is also key to the sustainability initiatives at the lab. In 2020–21, they held a recycling competition, and shared practical tips on how to be more sustainable both in and out of the lab through their monthly sustainability newsletter.

## **Pollution monitoring in the Department of Geography**

The Strand–Aldwych area is a polluted, traffic dominated gyratory (typical of the gyratory systems of the 1960s) that is also home to world-leading cultural centres and universities. The Strand–Aldwych project aims to transform this to a pedestrian-focused destination with strong links to the surrounding districts as a global creative and cultural quarter. Under the proposals, a portion of the Strand will be pedestrianised, and with buildings on both sides of the proposed pedestrianised road, King's is a major stakeholder in the scheme.

The Department of Geography's Sustainability Champions team is working on pollution monitoring of this busy area as part of a larger research project called ReSET (Restarting Economy in Support of Environment, through Technology), supported by the European Innovation Council under Horizon 2020 (EIC Pathfinder).

The Strand–Aldwych pedestrianisation project is an opportunity to understand the net impact of pedestrianisation schemes on urban traffic flows and resulting noise and air pollution. The Department of Geography's aim is to understand how the scheme affects pollution on the Strand but also on the Aldwych and adjacent roads. They have deployed what may be the densest noise and air pollution monitoring network anywhere in the world: 22 stations in 3.5 hectares across the King's roofs, Strand, Aldwych, Kingsway and surrounding streets. All monitoring stations were designed and built in-house, and record levels of noise and air pollution every 10 minutes. ReSET is a three year project ending January 2024. The team will maintain the equipment for most of that period to understand how pollution is affected by different traffic and meteorological conditions.

# Supply chain



## TARGET

**Increase number of social enterprises in our supply chain:**  
■ ACHIEVED

**Consider provisions of the Social Value Act in procurement processes:**  
■ ACHIEVED

## Policy

Embedding sustainability into our supply chain is fundamental to achieving our sustainability and climate aims, as the supply chain is our largest source of emissions.

Our Socially Responsible Procurement Policy was published in 2019, and sets out how the King's Service Strategy is reflected in our procurement. It commits King's to sourcing from organisations with demonstrable practices and conditions beneficial to the welfare and wellbeing of staff by requiring all suppliers to sign up to our Sustainable Supply Chain Code of Conduct or the Electronics Watch Code of Conduct if considered a high risk supplier.

It also aims to use local and small and medium enterprises where appropriate, increase the number of social enterprises in our supply chain, and to incorporate social, economic and environmental when awarding contracts.

### Progress

As supply chain emissions make up a significant part of our total emissions, procurement is a key issue within the King's CAN. The Procurement & Waste sub-group was set up to identify and discuss recommendations of how supply chain emissions could be measured and reduced. As part of this, students and staff worked with a group of UK universities to update the tool used by universities to estimate supply chain emissions from spend with more recent emissions factors. Based on this new tool, our supply chain emissions for 2020–21 were 287,236 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, making up 89% of our total emissions.

The Procurement Team have embedded sustainability into the tender process throughout this reporting year. The new sports wear tender, jointly tendered with King's Sport and KCLSU, includes kit manufactured from recycled plastic bottles. The supplier put forward packages to support students from deprived backgrounds to get into sport, a sponsorship programme for LGBT+ students, and a percentage of sales to be given to King's Sport and KCLSU to provide kit to students.

The Procurement Team are active members of the newly established Sustainable Science Committee.

supply chain transparency. This partnership will allow us to better provide assurance regarding eradication of modern slavery and assurance of ethical employment practices in our IT hardware supply chains. An initial report has been completed by our main supplier of IT hardware end-user computing, and other key suppliers within our IT supply chain have been approached to do the same.

Three social enterprises were appointed to support clinical trials projects who re-direct profits into encouraging women into the technology sector and autism awareness. We have also engaged with Banner, our office supplies provider, to integrate sustainable products into our online catalogue.

A Responsible Procurement Group was established with membership from across the university. This Group allows for those with expertise and enthusiasm for sustainability and social value to contribute to procurement exercises that pose risks or opportunities in this regard. For example, a subgroup was established for the disposable glove tender given the modern slavery and environmental risks attached to this purchase.

The Procurement Team are active members of the newly established Sustainable Science Committee.

### Challenges and Opportunities

The Procurement Team's size remains unchanged despite the additional services it provides. Although great progress has been made in achieving sustainability, resource constraints prevent reporting, communications, and work other than getting contracts in place. More resources to collate and share information could provide an opportunity to highlight the great strides being made.

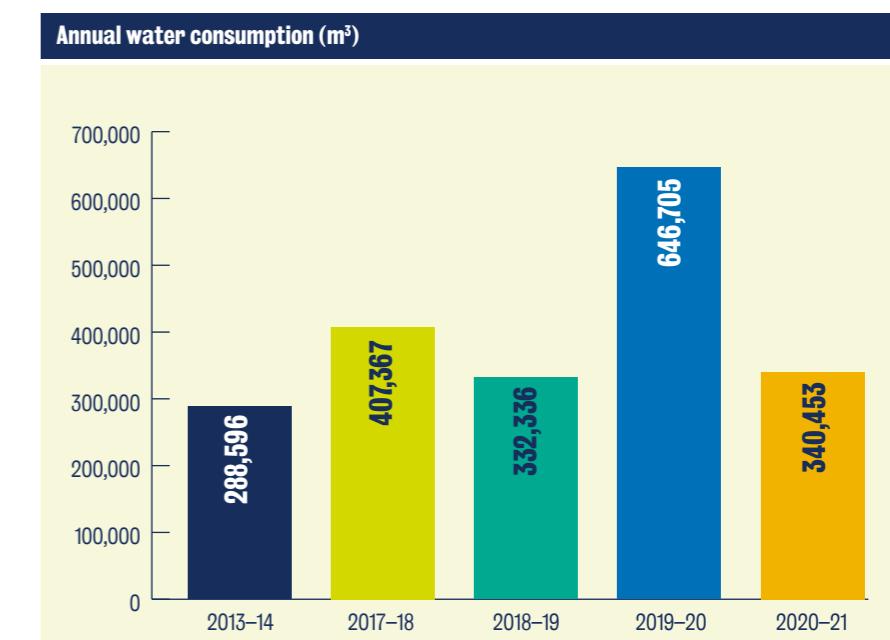
# Water



## TARGET

**Reduce consumption of water by 2% each year over the 2013–2021 period (cubic metres per total FTE – staff and student)**

### ACHIEVED



consumption has been challenging. Our reported water consumption in 2019–20 was significantly higher than in previous years, which was likely the result of inaccurate, lower billing in the year before. In 2020–21, our reported water consumption reduced by 47% compared to 2019–20, returning closer to consumption levels seen in previous years.

In June 2021, we changed water supplier, which will improve accuracy of water consumption data, which will allow us to track progress and undertake targeted water efficiency measures in the future.

## Annual water consumption

	Unit	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Water consumption	m³	288,596	385,252	329,409	338,627	407,367	332,336	646,705	340,453
Student and staff numbers	FTE	28,031	28,888	30,616	32,669	34,521	35,764	37,383	41,359
Water consumption per FTE	m³	10.3	13.3	10.8	10.4	11.8	9.3	17.3	8.2
Target water consumption per FTE	m³	10.3	10.1	9.9	9.7	9.5	9.3	9.1	8.9
University income	£000	603,668	684,225	738,286	778,150	841,030	902,000	964,200	1,000,500
Water consumption per £000 income	m³	0.48	0.56	0.45	0.44	0.48	0.37	0.7	0.3
Space (Net Internal Area, NIA)	m²	218,683	236,985	247,440	252,452	250,191	251,154	239,741	238,440
Water consumption per m² NIA	m³	1.32	1.63	1.33	1.34	1.63	1.32	2.70	1.43

# Spotlight on: Residences



Our halls of residence form an essential part of our estate, providing a home and community for thousands of students each year. In addition to the four halls of residence managed by King's, we have agreements with a number of third-party residences, and spaces within University of London Intercollegiate Halls.

Throughout all residences, the King's Residences team engages students on a range of sustainability topics including the UN SDGs. Our key sustainability campaign within residences is our Sustainable Living Community (SLC). Launched as a pilot in 2019-20, the SLCs facilitate

sustainable living and develop a community of changemakers in King's halls of residence. The programme was designed to offer two dedicated living communities: a zero-waste flat at Wolfson House, located near the KCLSU zero-waste store Nought, and a vegan flat at Champion Hill, where the residence team set up a community garden for students. In addition to this, sustainability events themed around the UN SDGs would be run throughout the year, and be open to all students in the residences. The project saw some challenges, and instead of designated flats a wider range of students from across flats in the two target residences took part. However, it gave students the opportunity to learn about a range of sustainability issues through events such as a tour of a recycling facility, a zero-waste talk with zero-waste author Bea Johnson, and litter picking on the Thames.

While the project was interrupted by the first Covid-19 lockdown in March 2020, it saw a soft re-launch in January 2021, and will officially be relaunched in 2021-22.

In addition to the SLCs, we will launch Sustainability Committees in our directly managed halls of residence in 2021-22, giving students the opportunity to directly feed into sustainability activities at their residence, and work with staff on initiatives.

## Residential carbon emissions 2020-21

Emission source	Scope	Emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)
Gas	1	931
Electricity	2	385
Waste	3	3
Water supply	3	12
Wastewater treatment	3	23
Carbon emissions from Intercollegiate Halls	3	857
Carbon emissions from other third-party residences	3	1,755
Total emissions (scope 1 and 2) from directly-managed residences		1,316
Total emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3) from all residences		3,966

## Residential and non-residential carbon emissions in 2020-21

University scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	25,929
University scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	321,075
Residential emissions % of total (scope 1 and 2)	5%
Residential emissions % of total (scope 1, 2 and 3)	1%

# Construction and Refurbishment



## TARGET

**BREEAM assessments carried out on all new buildings / major refurbishments as required by planning:**

- New builds to achieve minimum “Excellent”
- Major Refurbishments to achieve “Very Good”

### PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

**All large-scale fit-out projects to apply King's Sustainability Guidance (Capital Projects Brief) and Checklist, or complete SKA assessment:**

### ACHIEVED



In addition to this, a new Soft Landings document was drafted in 2020-21, ensuring buildings can perform as well as they have been designed to. Design standards are also being reviewed to ensure

sustainability is considered at all stages of a project.

We continue to aim for BREEAM and SKA accreditations of projects, but also consider alternative schemes such as EnerPHit, Passivhaus methods, or LEED.

In 2020-21, several of our construction and refurbishment projects achieved BREEAM or SKA accreditations:

- At Guy's campus, Phase 2 of the 10th Floor Advanced Therapies project achieved SKA Gold in January 2021
- At Denmark Hill, the IoPPN CTI refurbishment achieved SKA Silver in March 2021, and a 2021 refurbishment project at the Weston Education Centre is expecting SKA Silver accreditation in 2022
- At the Strand campus, the refurbishment of levels 1, 3 and 4 of the Macadam Building achieved SKA Gold in April 2020

## Challenges and opportunities

In the next year, we will continue to work towards embedding sustainability in our capital projects. We will continue the work started on reviewing and updating our guidance on sustainability and capital projects, reviewing our design standards to ensure sustainability is considered at all stages of a project.

We will continue to discuss construction and refurbishment in our King's CAN Zero Carbon Estate sub-group, ensuring students and staff can feed into key processes such as master planning, and setting principles for sustainability in construction projects as part of our Climate and Sustainability Action Plan.

# Sustainable Travel



## TARGET

**At least 75% of King's directly-controlled fleet to be zero/low emission vehicles (excluding sports ground off-road vehicles and King's Food static food/drink vehicles):**

■ NOT ACHIEVED

**Increase number of bicycle parking spaces across the estate:**

■ NOT ACHIEVED

**Reduce air travel emissions by 10% per year from 2018–19:**

■ ACHIEVED

### Policy

King's is committed to addressing its environmental impacts from all of its operations, and sustainable travel covers two important areas within this: business travel and commuting.

The King's Travel Policy and Procedures, which govern business travel at King's, were reviewed and approved in early 2019–20. Staff travelling on behalf of King's are now encouraged to consider environmental sustainability when booking travel arrangements. Where previously the cheapest option had to be booked, staff can now book more expensive land-based travel to ensure a more sustainable journey.

Our Environmental Sustainability Policy also commits us to contribute to reducing air pollution around our campuses. To do this, King's has set the target to replace existing university-owned vehicles with electric vehicles, and aims to encourage active travel such as cycling and walking to and between our campuses.

### Progress

Throughout 2020–21, business travel remained exceptionally low due to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions and policies. This means that compared to 2018–19, our air travel emissions have reduced by 94%. While travel in the UK was permitted at different points in the year, in line with government policy, emissions from land-based business travel also reduced by 89% compared to 2018–19.

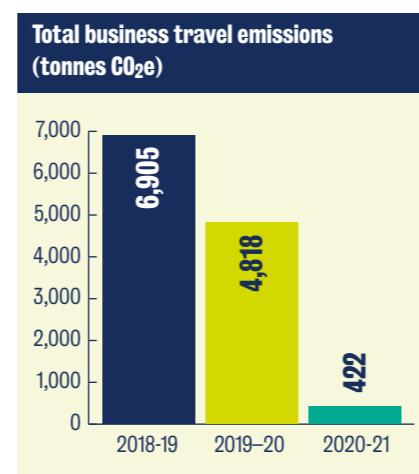
Although footfall on campus increased compared to the end of 2019–20, and many staff returned to work on campus on a hybrid basis, we

estimate that our commuting emissions remained significantly lower than in 2018–19.

To support students and staff who want to travel to campus more actively, and also potentially to avoid crowded public transport, Estates & Facilities formed an Active Travel group to explore improvements to cycling and walking facilities such as showers and bike parking spaces. One initiative set up by the group was the Bike Buddies scheme, which connected staff members interested in cycling to campus with a staff member with cycling experience and a similar commute. The aim of this was to give new cyclists confidence on busy London roads, and to encourage uptake of cycling among staff.

To reduce emissions from our own vehicles, we aim to replace our existing university-owned vehicles, which are used to transport goods between campuses, with electric vehicles. We have not yet achieved this, but moved closer to this goal with a project started in 2020–21 to install charging points for the electric vans at our campuses.

Together with Better Bankside, one of our local Business Improvement Districts (BID), we also took part



in the Smart Mobility Challenge, funded by the Mayor's Resilience Fund. The aim of this challenge was to work with tech companies to make our freight journeys around London smarter and greener, with the winner of the challenge being tasked with implementing their solution in 2021–22.

### Challenges and Opportunities

While business travel emissions were low in 2020–21, we expect travel to return over the next few years, with more meetings and conferences taking place in person again. This brings both challenges and opportunities.

One of our challenges will be to ensure that when business travel returns, it will be limited to essential travel. This could mean exploring virtual options first, carefully considering which conferences and meetings will be most important to travel to, and explore whether flights could be replaced with train journeys.

Reliance on virtual meetings and conferences due to Covid-19 restrictions has accelerated the uptake of digital solutions and alternatives to travel. While the sustainable business travel recommendations developed in 2019–20 suggested piloting a virtual conference and training staff on using online meeting software, these digital solutions have become part of everyday work at King's, and many conferences continue to offer hybrid options. The King's Venues team, responsible for managing hospitality and events at King's, have introduced a dedicated virtual conferencing offer in 2020–21, offering the opportunity to have conferences without the often significant carbon footprint from travel. This gives us the opportunity to return to travel more sustainably, and lower our travel emissions in the long term.

Business travel emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)			
Category	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Air travel emissions	6,849	4,787	415
Land-based travel emissions	56	31	6
Total travel emissions	6,905	4,818	422



# Biodiversity



## TARGET

**Implement at least 75% of the agreed 2018–20 opportunities identified in Biodiversity Action Plan:**

■ NOT ACHIEVED

### Policy

King's is committed to maintaining and enhancing green spaces on our campuses to support biodiversity and health and wellbeing through our Environmental Sustainability Policy. To promote biodiversity on our estate, we have developed our Biodiversity Action Plan, which assesses the current state of biodiversity on our campuses and recommends actions in four key areas: the exterior of our buildings, new capital developments, our grounds and open spaces, and our sports grounds.

Practice module (see page 21), one of the groups investigated the creation of a biodiversity measurement tool.

The King's Community Garden at Guy's campus returned to small in-person gardening sessions in 2020–21, cultivating a variety of vegetables and other plants such as wildflowers, chard, kale and radishes. They have also increased the number of planters in the community garden by repurposing wood pallets into planting beds.

### Challenges and opportunities

With students and staff returning to campus, we hope to have more opportunities to further biodiversity over the next years. The actions within the Biodiversity Action Plan will be reviewed for feasibility in early 2021–22 to ensure they are still relevant and appropriate.

We also hope to engage students in biodiversity improvements, for example by planning tree planting events at our sports grounds, and discussing biodiversity in our King's CAN Zero Carbon Estate sub-group.

### Progress

Progress on achieving the actions set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan continued to be challenging in 2020–21. As a result of Covid-19, budget restraints limited the biodiversity interventions that could be carried out. The closure of campuses, as well as the use of some of our outdoor spaces for vaccination tents further slowed down actions.

However, we still aimed to engage students on the topic of biodiversity. As part of the Sustainability in



# Partnerships and Community Engagement



### Policy

We recognise that as a university, we can have significant positive impacts by engaging with our local communities, and supporting local sustainability projects. Our Environmental Sustainability Policy commits us to collaborate with internal and external parties to promote knowledge sharing, community engagement, and to accelerate the achievement of local, regional, national and global goals. This supports wider work at King's to be a civic university at the heart of London, led by the London team.

We also continued to work with local BIDs. In particular, we collaborated with Better Bankside on the Smart Mobility Challenge to reduce air pollution (for more information, see page 30).

Within the King's CAN, our Community & Engagement sub-group has focused on how we can engage and support our local communities on climate action. For example, this includes listening campaigns, potential collaborations with local schools, and developing our relationships with local councils.



## TARGETS

**Engage with at least one local community project which promotes and improves the environment:**

■ ACHIEVED

**Take an active role in sector sustainability networks such as LUEG and EAUC:**

■ ACHIEVED

**Implement at least two clean air initiatives recommended by Business Low Emission Neighbourhoods:**

■ ACHIEVED

### Progress

Despite working online or in a hybrid format in 2020–21, we continued to build and grow links with communities around King's.

At the Strand campus, we supported the City of Westminster in the development of the Strand Aldwych project. Part of the Strand will close to traffic in September 2021, and over the following year, will be transformed into a new public space with planting, seating, and space for activities. King's researchers from the Department of Geography have installed air quality monitors throughout the area to measure the impact of the pedestrianisation (see case study on page 25).

In Lambeth, we have taken part in the council's work to develop their Climate Action Plan. The King's sustainability team was part of the steering group of the Lambeth citizens' assembly on the climate crisis, and Dr Robert Cowley from the Department of Geography was part of their Expert Advisory Group for the assembly. The findings from the assembly will feed into the Lambeth Climate Action Plan.

During London Climate Action Week, we took part in a session with London schools to explore how universities and schools could work together and share resources and knowledge on climate and sustainability.

We also continued to engage with university networks focused on sustainability and climate change. We are a member of the EAUC (The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education) and the London Universities Environmental Group (LUEG).

### Challenges and Opportunities

In 2021–22, we will continue to support local initiatives on climate and sustainability.

We will also continue to support local councils working on climate action, and take part in groups to develop local projects. Our King's CAN Community & Engagement sub-group will begin work towards the recommendations developed in 2020–21, with a focus on listening campaigns to ensure any projects developed meet the needs of our community.

# Spotlight on: Climate research



## The research context

The societal, economic, political, and technological transformations required to address climate change will be driven by world-class research. As a university committed to serving society, it is our duty to activate our distinguished research community towards providing answers to the most pressing challenges presented by the climate crisis.

**Table 1: Total number of staff and student researchers**

Staff or PhD Students	Number
Staff	191
PhD students	47
Total	238

**Table 2: Faculty breakdown**

Where are most researchers based?	Number	Percentage
Social Science & Public Policy	138	58.0
Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences	42	17.6
Arts & Humanities	14	5.9
Law	11	4.6
Business	11	4.6
Life Sciences & Medicine	11	4.6
Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience	10	4.2
Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	1	0.4
Total	238	100

King's is already a hub of interdisciplinary climate expertise. The university has many research centres focused on climate and sustainability across disciplines and faculties. Over 200 academic staff and PhD students engage with these topics through research, teaching and projects, focusing on areas including climate risk, sustainable development, the global south, the urban climate, and adaptation. Four of these researchers are IPCC authors, including three who worked on the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report cycle (Working Group I published August 2021, Working Group II published February 2022). Further supporting and expanding climate research at King's is a key step in the forthcoming Climate and Sustainability Action Plan, and a chance for the university to better demonstrate the important and impactful work already taking place. Alongside our activities in the King's CAN, we conducted a baseline mapping exercise on climate research at King's in 2020-21.

## Measuring our impact: by the numbers

The research mapping involved outreach and consultation with all faculties at King's. We found that even in fields that may, at face value, appear to lack an obvious connection to climate and sustainability issues for research and education, researchers have already begun innovative initiatives to connect their work to these topics. The results of this mapping are broken down in detail in tables 1 and 2.

Outreach and data collection involved a series of meetings with climate research leads and department heads from different faculties. In these consultations we learned about ongoing projects from individual researchers and relevant climate research groups, and future plans from each department. Through this process we established points of contact across the faculties and were also able to circulate a survey to research staff and students across the university.

## Research groups

We have several existing interdisciplinary research groups and hubs housed within and across our faculties:

- *King's Climate Hub*
- *Centre for Climate Law and Governance (CLG)*
- *Centre for Integrated Research on Risk and Resilience (CIRR)*
- *Environment and Public Policy Subgroup*
- *Environmental Security Research Group*
- *King's Water Hub*
- *Foresight Research Group*
- *Environment, Energy and Sustainability Research Group*
- *Earth Observation and Wildfire Research Group*

- *Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment, and Society*
- *Marjan Conflict, Biodiversity and Military Sustainability Study Group*

## Projects & Impact

Our community of climate and sustainability researchers have developed impactful partnerships in government, multilateral organisations, civil society, the private sector, and with researchers from peer institutions. A few examples of these projects are highlighted below.

### Social Science and Public Policy

**Geography:** Members of the Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society are working to improve detection of wildfires globally via satellite. They have collaborated with the Canadian Forest Service on the Canadian 'WildFireSat', the first operational wildfire monitoring satellite.

**Security studies:** Through a collaboration with the Anglican Church, researchers are developing an interfaith network for environmental peace-builders.

### Dickson Poon School of Law

The King's Legal Clinic has partnered with Jadavpur University and West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences and a renowned human rights barrister to study the impact of climate change and previous investment projects on communities living in the Sundarbans, which includes the Sundarbans Reserve Forest and spans the lower south-eastern border of India and Bangladesh.

### Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences

Researchers in the Department of Engineering are advising major

manufacturers to improve the energy efficiency and safety of batteries for energy storage and electric vehicles. Research staff are also working with students to explore circular economy and waste-reduction options to address the future increase in production of batteries.

## King's Business School

Academics in the Marketing research group have partnered with Lambeth Council to try to understand the perceptions of different demographic groups regarding barriers to adopting greener modes of transport and low traffic neighbourhoods.

## Progress in 2020–21

### I. Identify and activate successful existing work on climate

Through consultation with stakeholders across departments, we identified successful initiatives and researchers already working in this space for our mapping efforts. We particularly focused on outreach to departments that are less often included in climate research discourse in universities. We also brought on a team member in 2021 to work directly on connecting and expanding climate research at King's.

### II. Foster collaboration

Using this knowledge from our scoping activities, we worked to build stronger connections between existing research groups, and with individual researchers working on climate but less connected to sustainability work across the university. One important platform for this collaboration was the King's CAN Zero Carbon Research sub-group, where staff and students have come together to identify opportunities to further grow this collaboration and amplify our impact. The group plans to host interdisciplinary research events to bring people together in 2021–22.

## III. Communicate our successes

Through our mapping work, we identified two noteworthy gaps in our approach to climate and sustainability research at King's. The first is the lack of an overall framework to bring our individual work, interdisciplinary projects, and topic-specific research hubs together. The King's CAN sub-group was an initial step in addressing this, and we will continue to work on this in 2021–22. The second involved how we communicate existing successes. We connected with different communication teams at King's to link initiatives, and a cohesive approach to climate communications is emerging.

This has been demonstrated in the lead-up to COP26, where numerous projects and events were being shared across channels and on one landing page. We also worked with the communications team from the School of Global Affairs to build an interim website to showcase our climate work.

## Goals for the next year and beyond:

We will continue to work on collating and amplifying climate research at King's, and to identify areas where we need to bring together our expertise around sustainability issues. We will support the development of an interdisciplinary climate research network to foster stronger partnerships and expand our impact. We will also build on our partnerships with peer universities, including through the COP26 Universities Network, and send a team to COP26 to support our researchers there and make further connections. To encourage interdisciplinarity, we aim to find and share opportunities such as grants, projects and partnerships, and improve communications of climate research and education at King's.

# Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Table

The following key performance indicators have been chosen according to our key impact areas for sustainability. Their structure follows the principles of the International Sustainability Campus Network (ISCN) and Global Universities Leaders Forum (GULF) Charter.

	Priority Topics	Target	Unit	Baseline	Baseline Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Progress	Key initiatives
<b>Our buildings and their sustainability impacts</b>												
Resource Use	Electricity from grid	Reduce scope 1and 2 CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions by 43% by 2020, compared to 2005/06 baseline.	kWh	68,616,841	2005/06	67,528,476	68,511,946	70,806,839	58,045,452	62,458,035	Positive	Energy efficiency projects, including LED lights and fixture replacements.
	Gas excluding CHP input		kWh	59,894,645	2005/06	50,741,375	58,071,119	54,937,305	46,243,312	54,183,088		Funding received from Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Scheme.
	Gas for CHP input		kWh	0	2005/06	6,178,156	2,577,437	2,418,336	2,368,124	1,622,506		
	Gas oil (and diesel)		kWh	5,372,558	2005/06	39,612	240,262	120,755	29,367	78,066		
	Heat		kWh	31,418,485	2005/06	11,253,079	10,790,913	11,054,022	11,745,207	14,082,024		Funding received from Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Scheme.
	Energy (heat and electricity) generated/consumed from onsite CHP		kWh	0	2005/06	3,233,724	1,909,193	1,813,733	955,762	796,591		Only Denmark Hill CHP is currently operational.
	Energy generated/consumed from onsite photovoltaic		kWh	0	2005/06	143,142	123,448	117,276	57,731	5,101		Panel systems awaiting repairs to ensure more accurate data going forward.
	Vehicle fuel		Litres	Not recorded	2005/06	8,043	9,278	10,743	8,847	6,247		Two vehicles have been removed, and we aim to replace leased vehicles with electric vans.
	Water use	Reduce water use by 2% year on year per FTE.	m <sup>3</sup>	288,596	2013/14	338,627	407,367	332,336	646,705	340,453	Positive	Change of water supplier should lead to improved data in future years.
	Water use per FTE		m <sup>3</sup>	10.3	2013/14	10.4	11.8	9.3	17.3	8.2		
Waste	Renewable electricity as % of directly purchased electricity	Net Zero Carbon by 2025	%	0	2005/06	0	85%	100%	100%	100%	No change	Continued to purchase energy through PPA and REGOs.
	Renewable electricity as % of all purchased electricity		%	0	2005/06	0	54%	61%	58%	60%		
	Total waste	Reduce operational waste by 30% by 2023-24.	Tonnes	3,559	2017/18	4,322	3,246	2,932	3,387	1,065	Positive	New Waste and Resource Management Policy approved.
	Operational waste		Tonnes	3,559	2017/18	2,434	2,398	2,245	1,563	976		
Buildings Design	Operational recycling and reuse rate	Recycling rate of 70% for 2020-21		46%	2015/16	45%	47%	55%	64%	63%	Positive	
	Sustainable building standards	BREEAM to be carried out on all new buildings and major refurbishments.				No BREEAM carried out	No BREEAM carried out	No BREEAM carried out	Projects in planning stages targeting SKA and BREEAM.	SKA Gold: One project. SKA Silver: One project.	Positive	New action plan and guidance drafted.
<b>Campus-wide long-term planning and target setting</b>												
Carbon*	Carbon emissions (location-based)	Reduce scope 1and 2 CO <sub>2</sub> e emissions by 43% by 2020, compared to 2005/06 baseline.	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	52,389	2005/06	36,532	32,904	30,882	24,612	25,929	Positive	Increase in campus footfall from first Covid-19 lockdown, increased ventilation requirements. However, energy efficiency measures continued to be planned and installed.
	Reduction in location-based emissions since 2005/06		%	n/a	2005/06	30%	37%	41%	53%	51%		
	Carbon emissions per FTE (location-based)		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	2.41	2005/06	1.12	0.95	0.86	0.66	0.63		
	Carbon emissions per £000 income (location-based)		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	0.14	2005/06	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03		
	Carbon emissions (market-based)	Net Zero Carbon by 2025	Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	52,389	2005/06	36,532	22,345	19,753	16,728	17,965		
	Reduction in market-based emissions since 2005/06		%	n/a	2005/06	n/a	57%	62%	68%	66%		
	Carbon emissions per FTE (market-based)		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	2.41	2005/06	1.12	0.65	0.55	0.45	0.43		
	Carbon emissions per £000 income (market-based)		Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	0.14	2005/06	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02		
Food	Fairtrade Accreditation	Achieve Fairtrade University accreditation.		No	2015/16	Application submitted	Yes	Yes	1 star	1 star	No change	Fairtrade Action Plan for 2020-22 has been created.
	Sustainable Food Policy	Develop Sustainable Food Policy.		No	2015/16	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No change	New policy published in July 2021.
	Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA) rating	Receive SRA star rating.		n/a	2015/16	No	1 Star	2 Stars	2 stars	2 stars	No change	No new rating in 2021.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity Action Plan	Develop university-wide Biodiversity Action Plan.		No	2015/16	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No change	Many initiatives were paused due to Covid, but will be re-visited in 2021-22.
<b>Integration of research, teaching, facilities and outreach</b>												
Social integration	Sustainability Champions: Winning office and residences teams	Increase sustainability awareness.		14	2014/15	21	26	41	38	24	Negative	Covid has affected participation in offices, but lab participation remained high.
	Sustainability Champions: Winning laboratory teams	Increase sustainability awareness.		10	2014/15	25	20	25	32	33	Positive	
	Sustainability volunteering (hours volunteered by students)	Increase sustainability awareness.		195	2016/17	195	267	696	212	926	Positive	Key online opportunities included King's CAN, auditing, and Sustainability Champions Assistants roles.
	Hours of opportunities for students	1000 hours of opportunities for students		534	2017/18	Not recorded	534	1055	1048	1043	No change	Online events included Welcome to King's, Sustainability Month, and King's CAN events throughout the year.
	ISO14001:2015	Achieve ISO14001:2015 certification for Estates & Facilities.		No	2013/14	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No change	Audit was carried out by NQA.

\*Location-based vs market-based emissions: The location-based method uses average carbon emission factors for each kWh of electricity we use, regardless of its origin or the tariff we have chosen. The market-based method takes into account the electricity we have purchased from renewable sources and assigns it zero carbon emissions.

# 2021-22 Environmental sustainability targets



## Environmental Management:

- Maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) to the standard of ISO 14001:2015
- Achieve reportable environmental pollution incident rate of zero



## Water:

- Reduce consumption of water by 2% each year over the 2013–2022 period (cubic metres per total FTE – staff and student)



## Waste and Recycling:

- Achieve 70% recycling by weight of total non-hazardous office and residential waste in 2021–22
- Reduce total annual operational waste produced by the university (excluding construction) by 30% by 2023–24



## Training and Awareness:

- Achieve at least 600 hours student engagement opportunities
- Achieve minimum of 60 Staff Sustainability Champion teams completing Bronze, Silver or Gold level (including LEAF)
- Enrol 50 students in pilot Sustainability KEATS module



## Carbon and Energy:

- Achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2025
- Reduce energy emissions by at least 25% by 2025, from a 2018–19 baseline



## Community & Engagement:

- Reduce supply chain emissions by 25% by 2025, from a 2018–19 baseline
- Engage with at least one local community project which promotes and improves the environment
- Take an active role in sector sustainability networks such as LUEG and EAUC
- Engage with local councils on climate and net zero strategies



## Clean Air and Travel:

- Implement at least 2 clean air initiatives recommended by Business Low Emission Neighbourhoods
- At least 75% of King's directly-controlled fleet to be zero/low emission vehicles (excluding sports ground off-road vehicles and King's Food static food/drink vehicles)
- Increase number of bicycle parking spaces across the estate
- Reduce business travel emissions by 60% by 2025, from a 2018–19 baseline
- Set baseline for student end-of-term travel



## Construction & Refurbishment:

- BREEAM assessments carried out on all new buildings / major refurbishments:
  - New builds to achieve minimum “Excellent”
  - Major Refurbishments to achieve “Very Good”
- All large-scale fit-out projects to apply King's Sustainability Guidance (Capital Projects Brief) and Checklist, or complete SKA assessment



## Biodiversity:

- Implement at least 75% of the agreed 2018–21 opportunities identified in Biodiversity Action Plan



## Supply Chain:

- Achieve SRA Rating of three stars for King's Food
- Carry out Fairtrade Action Plan 2020–22 to maintain Fairtrade University status
- Increase the amount of local business in our supply chain to support our Boroughs
- Implement a supplier assurance tool to audit our supply chain
- Audit our major electronics suppliers via our partnership with Electronics watch
- Increase awareness of the socially responsible procurement policy internally and externally

# Stay in touch

We welcome your thoughts on sustainability at King's. If you have any comments, or would like to get involved with sustainability initiatives at King's, please get in touch with us: [sustainability@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@kcl.ac.uk)



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For further information on our sustainability initiatives, visit [kcl.ac.uk/sustainability](#)

Our King's Sustainability Podcast, 'Spotlight on Sustainability' is now available on Spotify and Google Podcasts.

It's our deeds that define us