

The University of Manchester Environmental Sustainability Team Priorities 2021-2022

In September 2021 we published our priorities for the forthcoming academic year. These are listed below, alongside a brief description of what we achieved on each topic.

Underneath the table you'll find our new priorities for 2022-2023.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on what we achieved (and didn't achieve) and our to-do list for this academic year. Please send any comments to es@manchester.ac.uk

Richard Smith, Head of Environmental Sustainability 17.10.22

Our commitments for 2021/22	What we achieved
We will create a "Zero Carbon Masterplan", a document which will describe the steps the University needs to take to become zero carbon by 2038 at the latest and within our "carbon budget". The plan, developed in association with Siemens, will address energy efficiency, heat decarbonisation, renewable energy generation and procurement and funding options.	We created the Zero Carbon Masterplan and are using it to guide our actions in the coming years and beyond. Although the full document is not publicly available, a summary of the main findings can be found here .
Once we have decided how to implement the Masterplan, we will engage with and seek approval from the University's Senior Leadership Team. We will then work with our colleagues in our Directorate, Estates & Facilities, to begin the practical work.	A summary of the ZCM and the proposed actions was received by the Board of Governors on May 25th 2022. While appreciative of the funding difficulties in delivering the full decarbonisation strategy, the aims of the ZCM were supported and £11.5m of funding has been allocated to energy efficiency measures in 2022/23. Subject to Board approval, it is expected that a total of £136m will be committed to energy efficiency projects by 2032/33. The funding quoted here is in addition to the (much smaller) annual budget of the Environmental Sustainability team.
We will launch 50,000 Actions, the updated version of our award-winning engagement platform which encourages users to take at least one positive social or environmental action. While the previous version, 10,000 Actions, was aimed at staff, the revised version will be for both staff and students. The new platform launches in the 2021 autumn term and will feature all-new content and features.	<p>50,000 Actions was launched to all staff and students in November 2021. Encouraging people to use the platform is part of our ongoing engagement plans.</p> <p>We'll consider tweaking the 50,000 Actions website to improve navigation and recording of actions which could help increase long-term usage of the platform. We've made a good start in terms of numbers of users but we'd like to see a lot more.</p>
We aim to revise and strengthen the University's Travel Policy and introduce a carbon reduction target which reflects the radical impact the pandemic has had upon the way we all work. The Environmental Sustainability Team will support the new policy and target with a series of measures which will	Proposals to limit aviation emissions to 50% of 18/19 levels, strengthen the Travel Policy and measures to communicate changes were approved by the Senior Leadership Team and the Policy and Resources Committee.

<p>aim to ensure staff are aware of the changes and how they can contribute to the target while continuing to deliver world class research and teaching.</p>	<p>A travel decision tree, FAQs and a guide to the carbon impact of different transport resources have been made available to help assess need and mode to reduce emissions. We supported the Faculty of Science and Engineering in the development of faculty travel guidance and SEED ‘Sustainable Travel, Alternative Routes’ pilot project that combines policy change (mandating rail travel to UK and northern Europe) together with funds to support more expensive, low-carbon travel.</p>
<p>We will work with our colleagues in Estates & Facilities to ensure we manage our grounds on campus in a sustainable way.</p>	<p>The Landscaping Team have trialled peat free products with great success and will now use peat free compost across campus, effective immediately.</p> <p>We have worked with the Landscaping Team to assess condition of green roofs and agree maintenance responsibilities going forward.</p> <p>The Landscaping Team continue to increase the number of wildflower areas on campus and we are working together to establish a mowing regime that benefits both wildlife and people.</p>
<p>We will develop a plan to ensure every student, no matter what subject they are studying, will leave the University with a solid understanding of key sustainability issues – including climate change and biodiversity – and have the skills and motivation to take positive action on these issues throughout their lives.</p>	<p>Sustainability teaching and learning, within the University and beyond, has been aligned with the Institute of Teaching and Learning and through the new Informed and Inspired Challenge of Sustainable Futures. A “Green Teaching Network” has been formed across the University to better support discussions and actions. From this stronger base of University academics, a detailed plan is being developed to cascade through each Faculty.</p>
<p>We will research and develop a scheme which enables staff, students, alumni and any other volunteers to support activities which will capture carbon and enhance biodiversity. We will look for external partners to help us deliver the scheme, with the aim of eventually providing the opportunity to participate through giving or joining volunteering sessions locally, nationally and even internationally.</p>	<p>The Nature Action Group have developed a set of principles to underpin the “Climate Care” scheme. Conversations with various potential partners have taken place. The three organisations are preparing proposals detailing how a partnership with the University might work.</p>
<p>We will develop and deliver a campaign which seeks to inform staff and students as to our progress on the elimination of single-use plastic and inspires them to take action, reducing their use of disposable items and using the right material in the right situation.</p>	<p>Recycle Week took place online and on social media at the start of Semester 2, February 2022. A series of video interviews in which academic & operational staff answered questions from students & staff were shared, alongside information on campus recycling facilities & poster to encourage re-use of</p>

	plastics. These materials remain live for future use and can be found here .
We will work with our Procurement team to develop a strategy for further engaging with our suppliers on sustainability and tackling our “Scope 3” (indirect) carbon footprint.	<p>A Sustainable Procurement Working Group has been established which has developed an action plan to reduce carbon through our supply chain.</p> <p>We are in the process of estimating our entire Scope 3 carbon footprint (including supply chain). We will then set targets and create an action plan based on this information.</p>
We will offer “Sustainable Lab” certification through the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) and aim to get participants to at least Bronze level.	The new online LEAF tool went live in Spring 2021 and across the year 29 labs signed up, of which 15 submitted and were certified at Bronze level or higher. Online LEAF workshops were delivered in November 2021 and March 2022 to encourage further engagement in the programme going forwards.
We will write and seek approval for a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy for the University. The strategy will align with the University’s wider strategic plans and cover our operations, our teaching and learning, research and public engagement. Students and staff will be encouraged to contribute to the development of the strategy.	Writing the new Strategy has taken longer than expected but is nearing completion. Many stakeholders from across academia and Professional Services at the University have contributed to it and we will be holding formal consultation sessions with staff and students in Autumn 2022. We hope and expect the strategy will be approved soon afterwards and published in Spring 2023.
We will update our website as and when appropriate to ensure our plans are accessible to all and clear to understand.	Research has taken place and a new site structure has been agreed. The new website is due to launch at the start of 2023.

Priorities for 2022/23

- We will complete the new Environmental Sustainability Strategy and secure approval from all relevant committees and groups
- We will develop a programme of energy efficiency works which will ensure the £11.5m funding allocated to the Zero Carbon Masterplan will be spent in a way which will give maximum environmental and financial benefit.
- We will support The University’s aim of entering into a corporate Power Purchase Agreement to reduce our carbon footprint.
- We will complete the estimate of our Scope 3 carbon footprint, set a target to reduce it and develop a plan for how we will do that. We will publish the results on our website and continue to calculate subsequent years’ footprint.
- We will promote awareness of The University’s new guidance around limiting travel to no more than 50% of pre-pandemic levels and provide support and information to staff on how to adapt to the guidance.
- We will develop plans to increase the number of charge points available to electric vehicle users on campus.
- We will plan how to decarbonise our fleet of vehicles.

- We will develop a plan to deliver environmental training to staff, prioritising senior colleagues.
- We will select a partner for the Climate Care project and plan to launch it at the start of the 23/24 academic year.
- We will increase awareness and take up of the LEAF sustainable labs scheme.
- We will launch the new version of our website, ensuring it is clear and accessible.
- We will calculate a baseline and set a target to improve biodiversity, agree priorities for enhancement on our campus grounds and begin implementation. This will include plans for an on-campus allotment.
- We will increase our engagement with staff and students, raising awareness of the new Strategy, 50,000 Actions, the work of the ES Team and general environmental sustainability activity across The University.
- We will continue to submit data to Race to Zero, the Green League and the Impact Rankings to enable scrutiny of our work.