

The University of Manchester Environmental Sustainability Team:

Our progress in 2022-2023 and our priorities for 2023-2024

In October 2022 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 2023-2024.

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 17.10.23

Our commitments for 2022/23	What we achieved
We will complete the new Environmental Sustainability Strategy and secure approval from all relevant committees and groups	We completed the new Strategy and it was signed off by the Board of Governors in May 2023. You can read "Our Sustainable Future" here: Sustainability strategy The University of Manchester
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.	A schedule of work has been developed and implementation is underway by our colleagues in Estates & Facilities. The programme is a mix of energy efficiency measures and heat decarbonisation projects.
We will support The University's aim of entering into a corporate Power Purchase Agreement to reduce our carbon footprint.	Our Power Purchase Agreement is moving forwards and we hope it will come into operation mid-2025. This will mean a large proportion of our electricity will be sourced from a new renewable energy efficiency built specially for us.
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 have completed our first Scope 3 estimate; more details can be found here . We have set a target of achieving net zero for our Scope 3 emissions by 2050. We will develop further targets focusing on specific aspects of our Scope 3 footprint as our understanding grows.
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 have produced a range of comms sharing information on the travel target. More details can be found here .
We will develop plans to increase the number of charge points available to electric vehicle users on campus.	We have agreed who we'll work with to install more EV chargers on campus.
We will plan how to decarbonise our fleet of vehicles.	We have studied how we use our vehicles to ensure we choose the right EVs to replace our existing cars when their leases expire.

We will develop a plan to deliver environmental training to staff, prioritising senior colleagues.	We've not made as much progress as we would like here. However, development of an online course for all staff is underway.
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 spoke to a number of potential partners for this project. However, we've decided to pause work on this while we focus on biodiversity on campus. We hope to return to it at a later date.
We will increase awareness and take up of the LEAF sustainable labs scheme.	77 of our labs are now LEAF certified, about 5% of the total. We have a long way to go but take-up is increasing.
We will launch the new version of our website, ensuring it is clear and accessible.	We worked with our colleagues in Comms & Marketing to create our new website, which can be found here .
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.	Ecologists undertook biodiversity baseline surveys and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessments (BNGA) across the state. An evaluation and assessment of the ecological value using biodiversity metric calculations was completed and recommendations for further biodiversity enhancements included. Discussions took place with stakeholders to explore the possibility of an on-campus allotment. Having secured interest for managing such a space, talks are underway to find a suitable location.
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 ran several consultation sessions for staff and students as part of the process of writing our new strategy. However, we didn't do as much engagement as we hoped or planned. We intend to do more in 23/24.
We will continue to submit data to Race to Zero, the Green League and the Impact Rankings to enable scrutiny of our work.	We have completed all this reporting and more. Details can be found here .

Priorities for 2023/24

All our actions will contribute to the delivery of our environmental sustainability strategy, Our Sustainable Future.

- We will continue to reduce the University's direct ("Scope 1&2") footprint, focusing on energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation
- We will do all we can to ensure our Power Purchase Agreement is ready to go live in 2024.
- We will estimate our Scope 3 footprint for 2022-23 and publish it.
- We will develop a three-year plan for reducing our Scope 3 footprint and publish it.
- We will develop an appealing new "identity" for environmental sustainability at UoM which can be used in all future engagement activities with staff and students.
- We will develop a communications plan and increase the number of events we stage.

- We will continue to submit data to Race to Zero, Nature Positive Universities, the Green League and the Impact Rankings to enable scrutiny of our work.
- We will consider how best to continue the work begun with our 50,000 Actions platform, updating and/or replacing the platform if necessary.
- We will continue our work to limit air travel emissions to 50% of pre-pandemic levels, working with colleagues to ensure staff are aware of the changes and how they can contribute while continuing to deliver world class research and teaching. We will monitor and share progress against our target.
- We will continue plans to decarbonise our fleet vehicles.
- We will work with Estates colleagues to implement EV charging infrastructure across campus.
- We will develop and seek approval for an integrated travel plan that aligns car parking management and sustainable travel practices so that both areas complement each other.
- We will conduct a staff and student travel survey to assist with monitoring and measuring the impact of interventions associated with the travel plan above.
- We will develop and seek approval for a valuing nature plan that will set targets and associated actions to enhance campus green space for wildlife and people, working in collaboration with our academics, staff and students.
- We will develop an approach to connect teaching and learning with campus biodiversity data and resources.
- We will work with our academics to conduct a survey to assess the impacts of campus green space on staff and student wellbeing and monitor how scores are changing over time.