

# University of Lincoln Sustainability Report

Welcome to our Annual Sustainability Report 2021/22, which shares progress we've made in the past academic year to reduce negative environmental impacts of our operations, as well as the positive sustainability impact we're making through teaching, learning and partnerships.

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



# 2021/22





# Key Sustainability achievements

## Transform

- Approval of two new and ambitious carbon reduction targets: to reduce carbon emissions by 60% by 2030 against a 2009/10 baseline and to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2040.
- Commissioned a Heat Decarbonisation Study for Riseholme.
- Supported the development of specifications for Lawress Hall (energy strategy) and Barbican (sustainability specification), including ongoing development of a Net Zero plan for Lawress Hall.
- Continued to develop the Environment and Energy Management System, with a combined surveillance audit.

## Challenge

- Delivered the Staff and Student Travel Survey in October 2021.
- Developed and achieved sign off for a new Parking Policy aiming to reduce single-occupancy car travel.
- Explored energy saving Opportunities with ICT teams, culminating in appointment of external consultant to develop plan for data centres to be more energy efficient.

## Collaborate

- Delivered SKA training to Estates Projects team.
- Supported two Geography Student placements, one working on the Environmental Management System and another on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).
- Delivered RAF Waddington Net Zero consultancy, culminating in a report on Sustainability Strategy development and coordination of research groups for future development.
- Delivered Climate Week in October 2021 - two highlights were the Climate Action Art Exhibition and the Schools Engagement event.
- Completed Carbon Literacy Training and developed a plan to deliver training to staff and students from 2022/23.
- Improved sustainability and energy data reporting to the Accommodation Services Team, to inform communications with students aimed at reducing energy consumption and improving recycling.
- Development of waste management in Minerva Building, with introduction of food waste collection and trial of new bins with the aim to roll out in other catering outlets.
- Achievement of the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Gold Award.
- Supported the Lincoln Students' Union in raising £60,408 for the British Heart Foundation through the "Pack for Good" donation campaign.

## Environment and Energy Management System (EEMS)

We manage the environment impact of our operations by maintaining an Environmental Management System, certified to the ISO14001 standard.



We also achieved the EcoCampus Platinum award in 2019. This demonstrates our commitment to environmental protection and enhancement; reducing risk of environmental harm and identifying opportunities for position sustainability engagement.

In each section of this report, we review the targets set and what progress has been made in 2021/22

### Progress Key

-  Target met – we need to keep up the good work
-  Target in sight – we're getting there, but more work to be done
-  Target not met – we need to improve



# Energy & Carbon Emissions

## *EEMS Target*

University to produce a net zero carbon plan by the end of the academic year incorporating appropriate targets and KPIs for future years.

*2021/22 Update - Target in sight*

Carbon emissions arising from energy and fuel use increased slightly from 6,634 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2020/21, to 6,741 tonnes in 2021/22 - a percentage increase of 1.6%. This is due to an increase in Gross Internal Area (GIA) from new buildings such as St. Mark's Student Accommodation and the acquisition of Lawress Hall at Riseholme.

The external Carbon Management Plan for 2030 was published and sets out the actions we are taking to reduce emissions in line with our 2030 target. The Net Zero Feasibility Study is being commissioned to run alongside the Estates Masterplan Project. This commenced in November 2022 and will be finalised by the end of 22/23.

## *EEMS Target*

Improve reporting of fugitive emissions as a result of F-Gas losses.

*2021/22 Update - Target in sight*

Work is underway to improve the reporting of F-gas losses. A new logbook has been developed and an internal audit cycle has been established. Going forward this will record information on new gas added, gas recovered for disposal and gas lost by leaks, to enable the calculation of fugitive emissions.

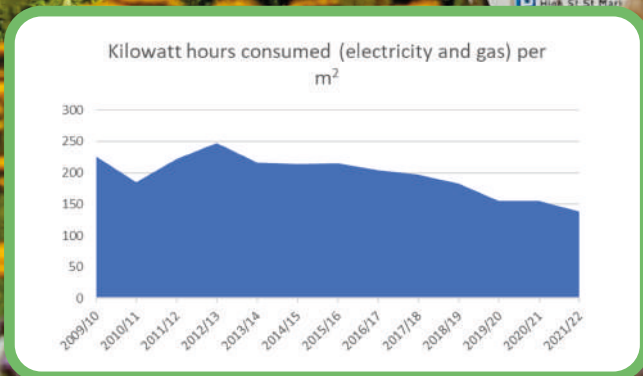
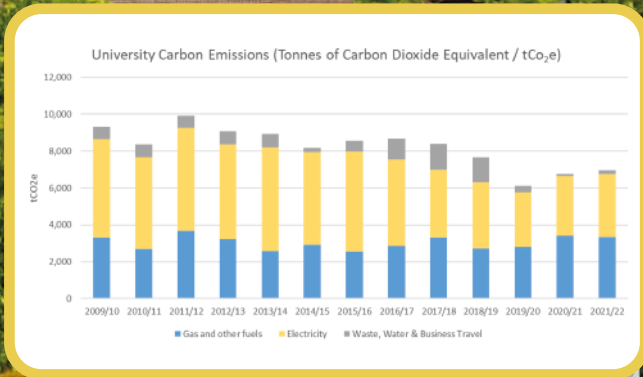
## *EEMS Target*

Overall reduction in electricity use across the Estate (kWh), measured kWh per m<sup>2</sup>.

*2021/22 Update - Target met*

Energy use at the university continues to be controlled in compliance with ISO 50001:2011 Energy Management Systems. The amount of energy consumed across our estate increased from 33.4 GWh in 2020/21 to 35.4 GWh in 2021/22 - a percentage increase of almost 6%.

The Sustainability Team worked closely with Colleges and departments to manage consumption and reduce energy wastage. Despite an overall increase in energy consumption, the kWh consumption reduced per m<sup>2</sup> of the Estate.





# Waste Management

## *EEMS Target*

Reduce amount (tonnage) of waste in general waste stream (compared with 20/21).

*2021/22 Update - Target not met*

The amount of waste produced in 21/22 increased by 203 tonnes, compared with 20/21. This was largely due to the return to normal activity following the Covid pandemic and the reduction of activity during the previous year. There was a significant increase in waste collected from University owned accommodation (from 291 tonnes in 20/21 to 433 tonnes in 21/22).

## *EEMS Target*

Increase the percentage of waste recycled.

*2021/22 Update - Target met*

738 tonnes of waste were collected from our buildings (excluding construction waste), of which 27% was recycled. For non-residential buildings, 293 tonnes of waste were produced, of which 31% was recycled. In 2020/21, 26.2% of all waste generated was recycled.





# Biodiversity

## *EEMS Target*

Biodiversity surveys and enhancement plans to be in place by the end of the academic year for all three campuses.

## *2021/22 Update - Target in sight*

A Biodiversity Net Gain Working Group (reporting to The Environment and Sustainability Committee) has been established to guide biodiversity measuring, monitoring and enhancing work. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is being drafted and will be completed by end of 2022.

Biodiversity Surveys have not yet been completed but will be commissioned for all three campuses in 22/23 and used to measure progress as part of the BAP.

## *EEMS Target*

Sustainability considered as part of relevant procurement events; number of tender events that include sustainability question will be monitored.

## *2021/22 Update - Target met*

The procurement team undertake an annual environmental review of all tenders and the consideration of environmental criteria as part of the process. All procurement exercises are rated as 'low/medium/high' environmental impact. All eight 'high' impact category tenders included sustainability questions and weighting in the evaluation for 2021/22, compared with 13 in 2020/21.

# Procurement



# Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)



## *EEMS Target*

Benchmarking of sustainability within current curriculum completed and plans in place for students to be offered a sustainability project for the 22/23 academic year.

### *2021/22 Update - Target in sight*

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been embedded within Teaching and Learning Strategy and Sustainability Strategy for 2022/23 onwards. Colleges have begun to map their curriculum against SDGs and this activity will continue in 2022/23.

'StAR Lab' programme has been developed to offer Climate Action Research opportunities to students, to be launched in 2023.

## *EEMS Target*

Provide opportunities for Face-to-Face Student engagement, following the Covid Pandemic. Use the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Campaign to recruit Student Ambassadors.

### *2021/22 Update - Target met*

- Climate Week - to support COP26 we supported the delivery of a climate week with numerous online and in-person activities. Including the Enviro-fayre, "have yourself a sustainable Christmas" webinar, Research Showcase, Community Litter picks, Environmental Art Exhibition, and a school engagement event.
- Freshers Fayre, Postgraduate Fayre and ReFreshers Fayre – we hosted a stall and spoke to many students on recycling, green spaces, sustainable transport (cycle hire), and wildlife.
- Hedgehog Friendly Campus volunteering – we delivered hogitat-habitat building events, Hedgehog first aid training and hosted a number of litter picks to protect local wildlife.
- Make a Difference Week- supporting the Student Union we delivered six events during the week which included a trip to Riseholme, cultivating the kitchen garden, hedgehog friendly campus and Dr Bike.
- Other events – wildlife identification sessions, the kitchen garden, supporting the development of the peace garden, wildlife walks and guided cycle rides through the local countryside.



# Construction & Contractor Management

## *EEMS Target*

Manage environmental impact of construction projects. Target zero environmental incidents.

*2021/22 Update - Target met*

There have been no environmental incidents as part of construction projects in 2021/22.

### **Construction projects in 21/22 included:**

- Joseph Ruston Building
- Smaller refurbishment projects, including refurbishment of the Student Support hub in Minerva Building
- Commencement of the Lawress Hall refurbishment project
- Completion of the Institute of Technology at Holbeach

Sustainability specifications are being developed to guide new projects including the Barbican Creative Hub, in collaboration with the Lincolnshire Co-op, and the Lawress Hall refurbishment project, using SKA Rating tool.

## *EEMS Target*

Ensure contractor management and integration of environmental considerations within induction.

*2021/22 Update - Target met*

All new staff attend the 'Lincoln Welcome' which includes information on the EEMS and sustainability initiatives.

## *EEMS Target*

Establish an SPS 'Green Champions' Group, to engage our Facilities Management Contract Partner in Sustainability initiatives and seek their ideas for improvement.

*2021/22 Update - Target met*

The SPS Green Champions Group was established, with quarterly meetings with representatives from the Security, Cleaning and Porter teams. Initial actions have included the development of a new waste management system and the introduction of energy checks during security patrols.



# Travel & Transport

## *EEMS Target*

Reduce single-occupancy car use by staff and students by 5% by 2021 travel survey (compared with 2019 results).

2021/22 Update - Target in sight

The Staff and Student Travel Survey was conducted in October 2021. An estimated 61% of staff travel via single-occupancy vehicles, compared with 65% in 2019.

## *EEMS Target*

Review and update the University's Parking Policy to support a new Sustainable Travel Strategy.

2021/22 Update - Target met

A new parking policy has been developed and approved in January 2022. A project to install ANPR technology will be introduced, as well as a Car Sharing platform to encourage a reduction in single-occupancy vehicles for staff commuting.

## *EEMS Target*

Development of the Staff Sustainability Advocates Network, with formalised quarterly meetings.

2021/22 Update - Target met

The SSA network has continued to grow in 2021/22 with over 35 active members who have been sharing best practise, supporting the sustainability team with communications and developing/requesting help for their own projects. Quarterly meetings have been scheduled and SSAs have all been offered Carbon Literacy Training.

# Training and Collaboration





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