



People & Planet University League 2026/27 Information

Assessment document 3 of 3

People & Planet's University League is a league table of UK universities ranked by environmental and ethical performance. It is compiled annually by the student campaigning network, People & Planet.

The ranking is assessed by People & Planet over summer 2026 and is expected to be published in December 2026.

The following information outlines Leeds Arts University's sustainability activity in relation to [People & Planet criteria](#).

Assessment period 3 between August 3 - August 14 2026:

- [Managing Carbon](#)
- [Workers' Rights](#)
- [Staff and Student Engagement](#)

MANAGING CARBON

1. Does the University have a publicly available carbon management plan which includes...(a) - (e)

We recognise our role in contributing to local and national initiatives regarding carbon reduction and the climate emergency.

Progressing from our previous Carbon Management Plan 2012-20, we have developed our **Estate Sustainability Plan which sets out our target to achieve net zero carbon emissions for the Leeds Arts University Estate by 2035.**

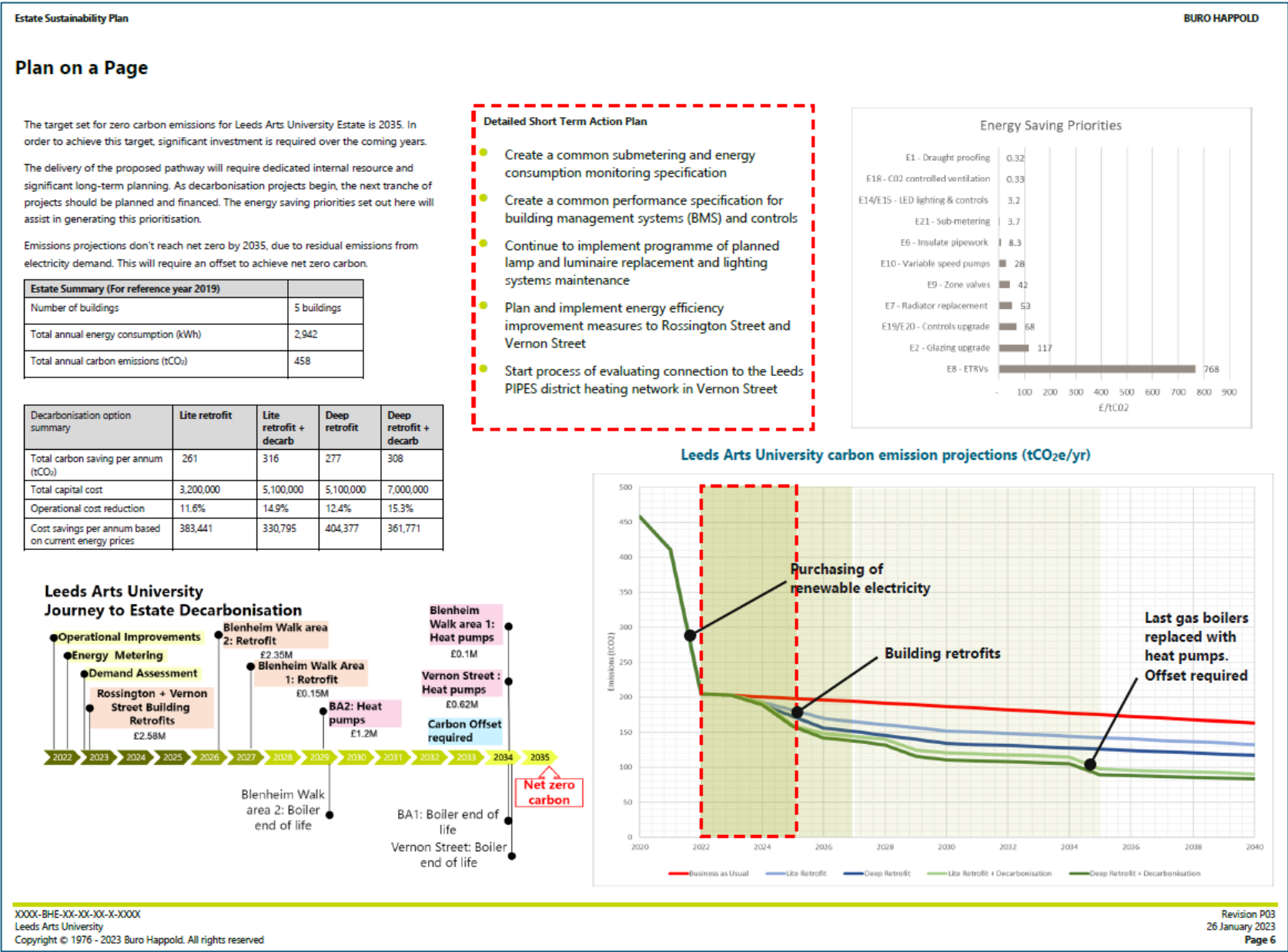
The Plan has been approved by the University's Senior Management Team and resources to deliver the plan have been budgeted for in advance. Significant long-term planning and collaboration with our partners and suppliers will also be required to meet the 2035 target.

The Carbon Management Plan is publicly available:

Webpage: <https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/about-us/sustainability>

Direct weblink: [Estate Sustainability Plan](#)

The “Plan on a page” from the Estate Sustainability Plan is extracted below:



a) **A carbon emissions baseline for 2005 or later which covers all scope 1 and 2 emissions.**

The total scope 1 and 2 emission baseline for 2005 measured 893 t CO₂e (source: HESA EMR data).

In 2008, total scope 1 and 2 emissions measured 1238 t CO₂e (the highest recorded for the estate).

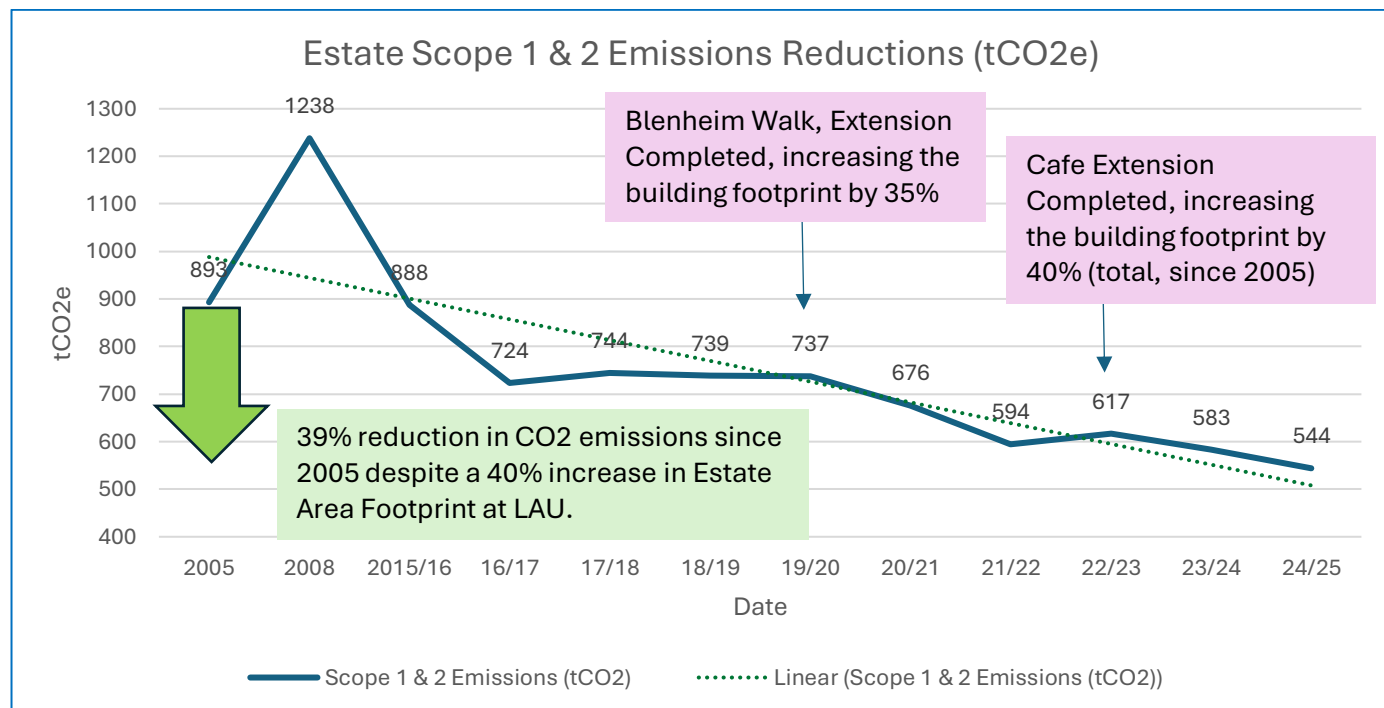
Since then, the University's carbon emissions have seen a downwards trend, despite the size of the estate increasing during this time (see comments in the table and graphs below).

University carbon emissions are reported annually by consumption and generation source. Cumulative annual carbon emissions are included within the University's Annual Financial Statements, available here: <https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/about-us/legal-and-governance-at-leeds-arts-university>.

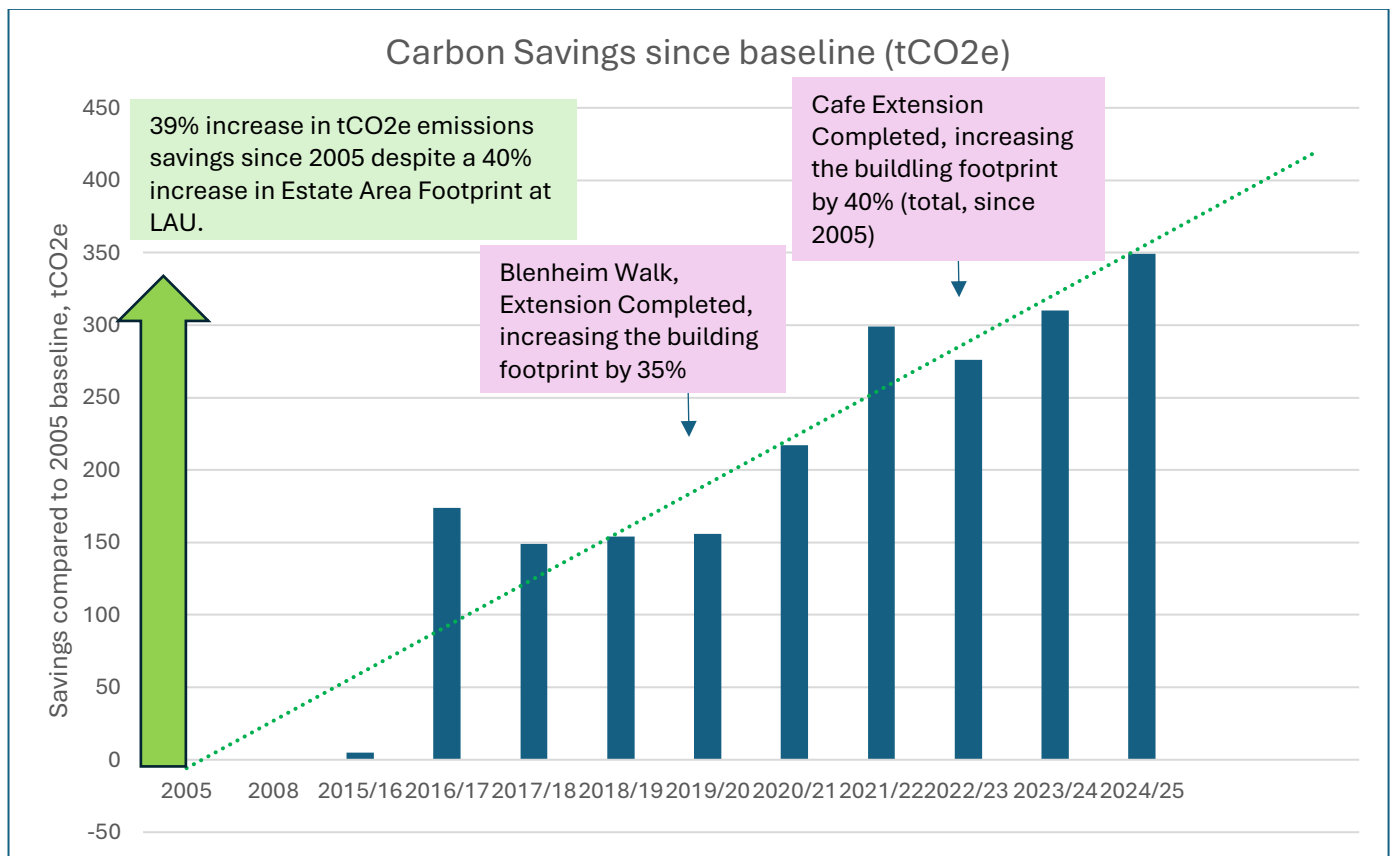
Year	Scope 1 & 2 Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Comment	Decrease compared to 2005 baseline data
2005	893	Initial Baseline Data	Baseline Year
2008	1238	2008 Baseline (highest levels recorded for the estate)	No decrease
2015/16	888	Reduction of 5 tCO ₂ e against 2005 baseline.	0.6%
2016/17	724	Reduction of 174 tCO ₂ e against 2005 baseline.	18.9%
2017/18	744	Reduction of 149 tCO ₂ e against 2005 baseline.	16.7%
2018/19	739	Reduction of 154 tCO ₂ e against 2005 baseline.	17.2%
2019/20	737	Blenheim Walk: Extension completed. Increasing the overall Estate Area Footprint by 35%. Reduction of 156 tCO ₂ e against 2005 baseline, and 2 t CO ₂ e compared to the previous year.	17.5%
2020/21	676	Reduction of 217 tCO ₂ e against 2005 baseline and 61 tCO ₂ e compared to the previous year, despite 35% increase in the Estate Area Footprint.	24.3%
2021/22	594	Reduction of 299 (tCO ₂ e) against 2005 baseline.	33.5% <i>Significant milestone, saving over 25% of CO₂e compared to the 2005 baseline.</i>
2022/23	617	New construction project (café extension) commenced, further increasing the Estate Area Footprint by an additional 5%, resulting in a slight increase against the previous year (2.6tCO ₂ e), but retaining a 276 tCO ₂ e reduction against 2005 baseline.	30.9%

2023/24	583	Reduction of 310 tCO₂e against 2005 baseline despite increased building area (café extension) and 40% increase to the Estate Area Footprint since 2005.	34.7% <i>Significant milestone, saving over 33.3% (1/3) CO₂e compared to the 2005 baseline.</i>
2024/25	544	Reduction of 349 tCO₂e against 2005 baseline	39.1%

The graph below shows the University's Scope 1 and 2 emissions (tCO₂e) since 2005, showing a continued reduction in the University's Carbon Emissions despite a significant expansion of the University's Estate, which has increased by 40% since 2005:



The graph below shows the Carbon Savings in t CO₂e since 2005, indicating an overall increasing trend in carbon reduction despite a significant expansion of the University's Estate, which has increased by 40% since 2005:



Note: The University resumed reporting - including of carbon emission data - to the HESA EMR for 2022-23, 2023-24 and most recently (May 2026) for 2024-25.

- b) A carbon reduction target for covering scope 1,2,3, consistent with an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 at a minimum AND at least one milestone towards this target before 2030.**

The University's emissions target of a net zero carbon estate by 2035 far exceeds the minimum 80% reduction target by 2050, and we are proud to be moving faster and ahead of expectations. Our net zero target is detailed in the Estate Sustainability Plan, which was conducted with a third-party specialist consultant to ensure credibility. It covers scope 1, 2 and selected scope 3 emissions and aligns to the decarbonisation targets of the UK Government.

We are proud to have achieved some significant milestones in our carbon reduction already, including achieving over 25% carbon emissions reductions against the 2005 baseline since the 2021/22 reporting period, and subsequently over 33.3% (1/3) carbon emissions reductions since the 2023/24 reporting period. This reduction is much higher at over 44% carbon saving when measured against the 2008 (highest recorded) baseline.

The Estate Sustainability Plan includes an Action Plan which indicates a number of short, medium and longer-term milestones towards our net zero target, including the retrofit of several building areas between now and 2030:

Pathway to Net Zero Carbon

Sustainability Action Plan

Short term: 2023-2025

- Implement sub-metering and energy consumption monitoring
- Implement no/low-cost energy saving interventions on buildings
- Replace LTHW pipework in Vernon Street
- Plan and implement energy efficiency improvement measures to the Vernon Street and Rossington Street

Medium term: 2025-2027

- Rossington and Vernon Street replacement for district heat network connection
- Plan and Implement energy efficiency improvement measures to Blenheim Walk Area 2.

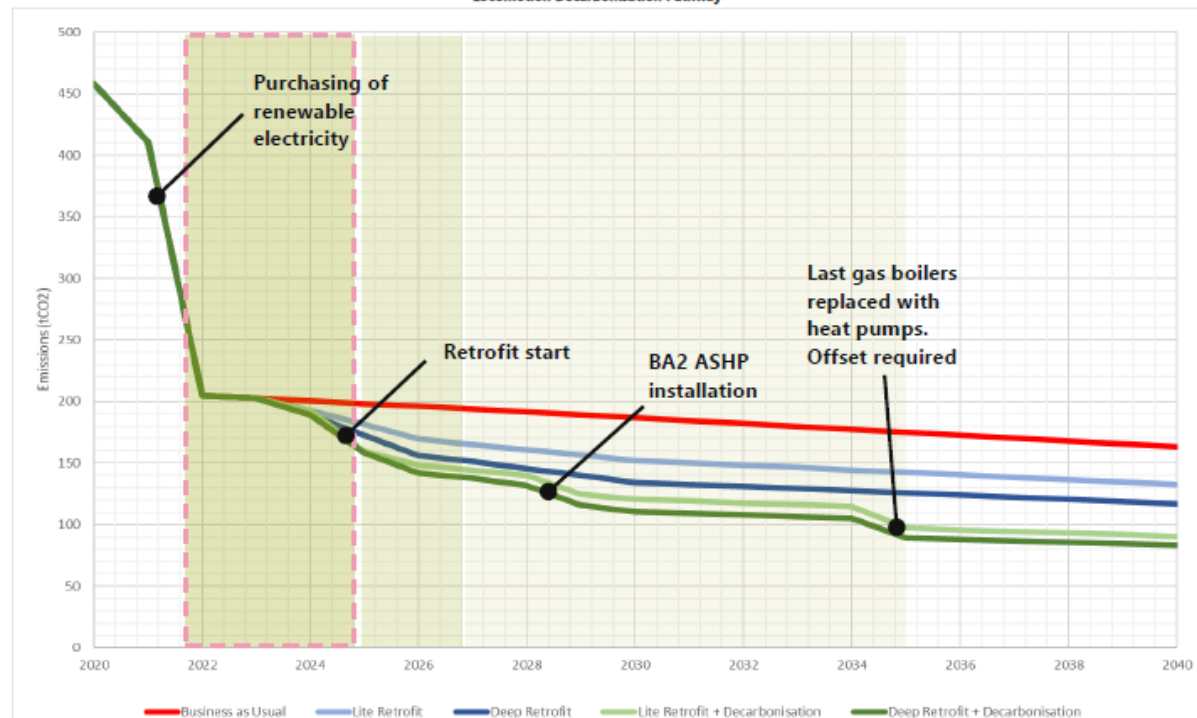
Long term: 2027-2035

- Plan and Implement energy efficiency improvement measures to Blenheim Walk Area 1
- Blenheim Walk Area 1 boiler comes to end of life.
- Install air source heat pumps for BA1 in Blenheim Walk and Vernon Street estate.

Detailed Short Term Action Plan

- Create a common place submetering and energy consumption monitoring specification
- Create a common performance specification for BMS and controls
- Continue to implement programme of planned bulb replacement for LED and lighting systems maintenance
- Plan and implement energy efficiency improvement measures to Rossington Street and Vernon Street
- Start process of evaluating connection the Leeds PIPES district heating network in Vernon Street

Locomotion Decarbonisation Pathway



Over 2023-24, a range of refurbishment works have been progressed to deliver on actions in the University's Estate Sustainability Plan. These include:

- **LED roll-out:** 100% of lighting has been switched to energy efficient LEDs at Blenheim Walk campus. It has been calculated that 92% of lighting at the Vernon Street campus is already LED and the remaining 8% will now be progressed, following completion at Blenheim Walk.



- **Secondary glazing:** The installation of new sympathetic and fully reversible secondary glazing to our Grade II listed Vernon Street and Rossington Street buildings was completed in September 2025. Since its introduction the thermal and acoustic performance of these buildings has been monitored and the sustainable performance of these buildings has significantly improved as a result of these works. This has resulted in an average month by month reduction of 20% in gas consumption across this site.



The summary matrix below outlines proposed Estates sustainability projects and milestones over the next 5 Years:

LAU Estates Sustainability Capital Projects 2025-2030	Within Period	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30
Blenheim Walk						
Complete roll out of LED lighting						
Complete Install/programming of remaining lighting controls						
BA2 Main Plant Room Obsolete Gas Boiler Replacement for Heat Pumps						
BA2 DCB Gas Boiler Replacement Pumps Heat Pumps						
BA2 Replacement of Remaining old Windows						
Install Additional PV's for energy Generation						
BA2 Improve Flat Roof Insulation						
Vernon Street						
Complete roll out of LED lighting						
Complete Install/programming of remaining lighting controls						
Install PV's for energy Generation						
Install External Glass Box/Porch at Entrance to Create Insulating Lobby						
Install Heating Control Valves to Each Floor						
Connect to Leeds Pipes District Heating Scheme if energy market conditions make it viable						
Rossington Street						
Complete roll out of LED lighting						
Complete Install/programming of remaining lighting controls						
Install PV's for energy Generation						
Install Heating Control Valves to Each Floor						
Upgrade Roof Lights to Double High Performance						

c) Named persons or titles responsible for the carbon reduction plan.

The Estate Sustainability Plan is delivered by the following dedicated roles:

- The Estates Project Support Manager;
- The Facilities Manager; and
- The Sustainability Manager.

The Director of Estates and Resources has oversight and is responsible for the Estate Sustainability Plan. They sit on the Sustainability Committee and report directly to the Vice-Chancellor.

d) A reporting mechanism for monitoring the carbon management plan.

The following reporting mechanisms are in place:

- Progress made against the Estate Sustainability Plan is documented and reported to the University's Senior Management Team and the Sustainability Committee which meets three times a year (once per semester).
- Energy consumption is measured monthly and reported to the Sustainability Committee.
- Minutes from Sustainability Committee meetings are available internally via the staff Sharepoint.
- Annual monitoring of our carbon management and reduction activities are included in the Annual Sustainability Report which is publicly available on the University's website, half-way down the top section:

<https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/about-us/sustainability>

- The Estate Sustainability Plan is also publicly available on the University's website, under the heading "Emissions Reduction":

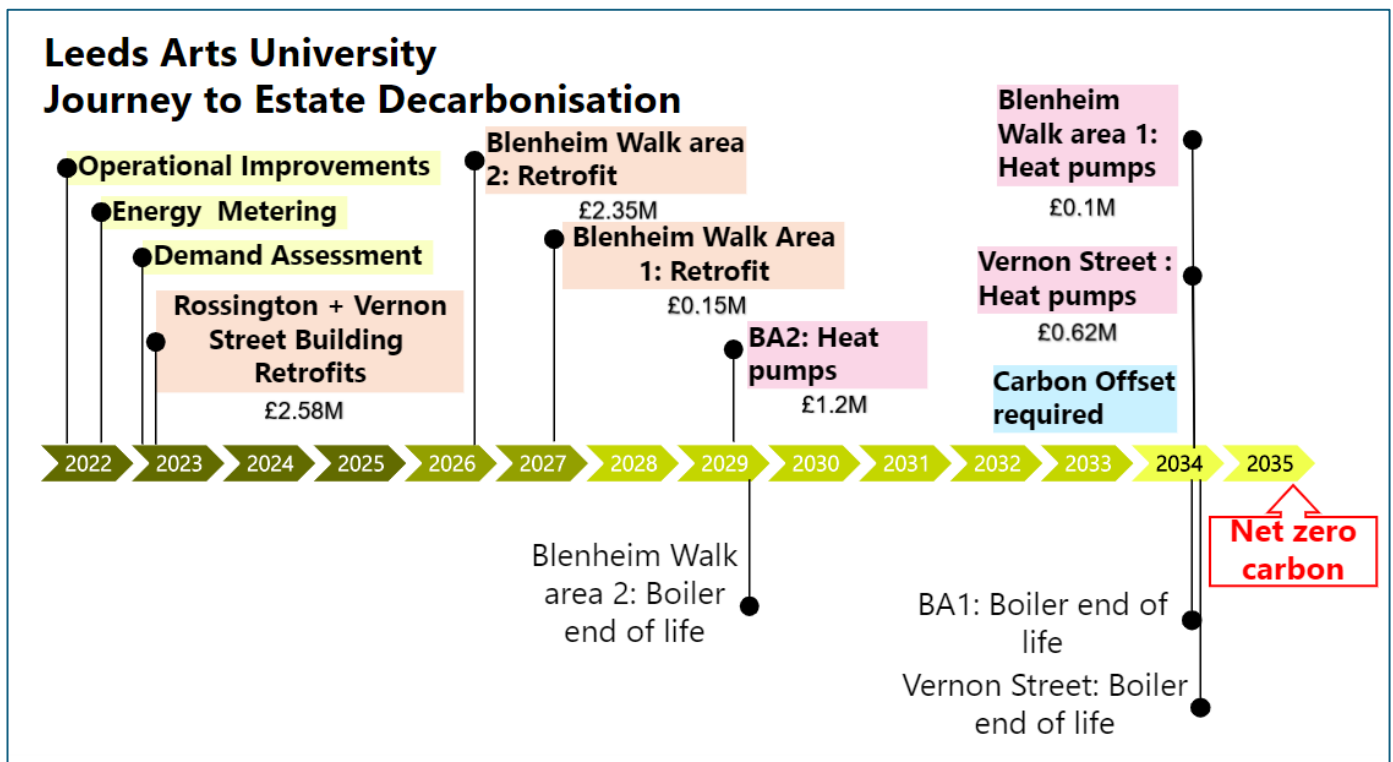
Click here to view our latest Sustainability Report 

Reducing emissions

We recognise our role in contributing to local and national initiatives regarding carbon reduction and the climate emergency. Progressing from our previous Carbon Management Plan 2012–2020, we have developed our [Estate Sustainability Plan](#) which sets out our target to achieve net zero carbon emissions for the Leeds Arts University Estate by 2035. Delivering on this will require dedicated internal resource, significant long-term planning and collaboration with our partners and suppliers.

Budget management and monitoring for the carbon reduction plan:

The “Plan on a page” extract (provided below) from the Estate Sustainability Plan shows the indicative budget required for Leeds Arts University’s journey to complete estate decarbonisation. As feasibility studies are undertaken to inform priority and phasing of planned measures, the budgets are reviewed and reported to the Sustainability Committee which meets three times a year.

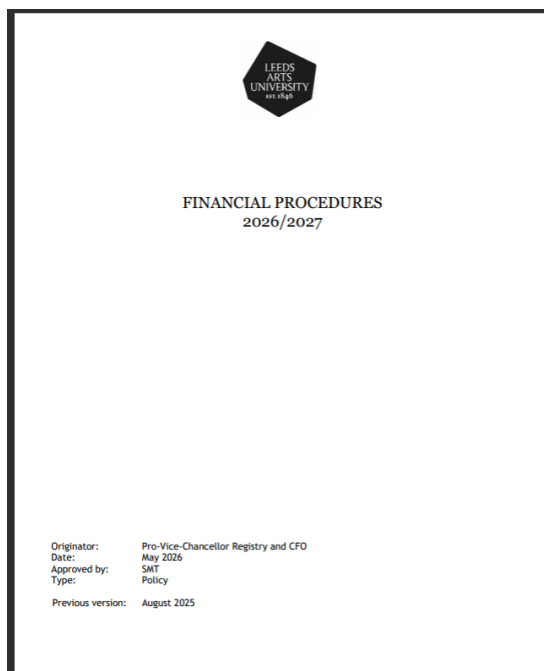


Significant investment has been made recently in improving the energy and thermal performance of our Buildings within the Estate.

The roll out of LED lighting at our main Blenheim Walk campus is now complete and over 90% complete at our Vernon and Rossington Street campus. The installation of secondary glazing in our Grade II properties at Vernon and Rossington Street in the city centre was

completed in September 2025. Further improvements are planned for 2026/27 including the appointment of specialist consultants to review building heating demand and provide options to replace gas boilers with more energy efficient heating systems.

2. a) Does the institution have a sustainable travel policy that seeks to reduce emissions from staff travel?



The current Travel Policy and Claims Procedure is part 13 of the University's Financial Procedures which are available internally on the Staff Sharepoint. It was last updated by the Pro-Vice Chancellor Registry and CFO in May 2026.

Travel is generally localised or occasional, and when activities cannot be conducted successfully online. As such the travel policy is used when public transport and cycling cannot be utilised. Due to cost limitations, flights between UK destinations are infrequent and on isolated occasions only with Senior Management Team approval.

Relevant extracts include the following:

13.1 It is the responsibility of management and each employee to critically evaluate the need for incurring travel and other expenses against the anticipated benefits to the University.

A tender process has taken place and a supplier has been awarded the contract to provide all University business travel and accommodation. All orders must be placed with the approved supplier in line with the Public Contract Regulations

13.2 Rail and Air Travel

Travel should be by the cheapest means of transport which is consistent with the business objective of the trip. Normally this means second class rail travel within the UK and economy class air travel abroad. However, where first class rail or premium rate air travel enables key employees to utilise their time more effectively, reimbursement of these higher costs may exceptionally be allowed at the discretion of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors/Vice-Chancellor subject to the procedures below.

The employee must locate and book the lowest cost rail/air ticket for the date and time of travel and therefore ensure that wherever possible reservations are made sufficiently in advance to take advantage of lower rates.

First class train travel may be considered provided the fare is booked in advance and the first-class fare is not excessive. For flights over 8 hours long, Premium Economy may be considered provided the fare is booked in advance and the Premium Economy fare is not excessive. All rail/air travel must be authorised by the appropriate Budget Holder prior to booking and all rail/air travel should be booked using the University's approved travel supplier. Human Resources will book all rail/air travel linked to staff development unless exceptional circumstances apply.

13.4 Use of Cars for University Business

The University always encourages staff to use public transport, however it is recognised that in exceptional circumstances public transport may not be suitable. The use of employee's own vehicles is permitted if it is agreed in advance by the Budget Holder.

The University's Travel bookings suppliers provide carbon data:

- CMT - for staff business travel
- Study link - for student trip travel - on which staff also travel

2. **b) Does the university calculate total carbon emissions attributed to offsite, externally managed residential accommodation?**

Leeds Arts University is a small University with 615 student bed spaces at two externally managed local student accommodation providers:

- Carr Mills (298 spaces)
- The Leatherworks (317 (of 455) spaces)

Data provided by Njoy for Carr Mills, for 2024/25 indicates that their Scope 1 and 2 emissions are 79,251 kg CO₂e, equivalent to 79.3 t CO₂e. This is using UK Gov 2025 grid emissions factor for electricity (there is no gas at the property).

In March 2025, Njoy invested significantly to increase the capacity of their solar PV array on the roof of Carr Mills student accommodation (see image below). The 159.46 Kw system increased their energy from solar from 17% to 28% and represents an estimated annual carbon emissions reduction for the site of 31,900 kg CO₂e, equivalent to 31.9 t CO₂e in 2024-25, and reduced total emissions from 2023-24 by 23,619 kg CO₂e, equivalent to 23.6 t CO₂e. For 298 students, this is equivalent to 266kg CO₂e per student.

Carr Mills Student Accommodation solar array:



Data provided by Prestige Student Living for The Leather Works, for 2024/25 indicates that their Scope 1 and 2 emissions are 228,649 kg CO₂e, equivalent to 229 t CO₂e. This is using

UK Gov 2025 grid emissions factor for electricity and gas and is equivalent to 503kg CO₂e per student per year.

We continue to actively work with both accommodation providers to obtain relevant environmental data from their operations, including carbon emissions.

Partnership sustainability activities and innovations are included in the Annual Sustainability Report which is publicly available on the University's website, half-way down the top section:

<https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/about-us/sustainability>

Click here to view our latest Sustainability Report 

3. Does the carbon management plan report scope 3 emissions calculated in the following areas?

The Carbon Management Plan is publicly available:

Webpage: <https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/about-us/sustainability>

Direct weblink: [Estate Sustainability Plan](#)

Whilst scope 3 emissions are not reported in the University's Estate Management Plan (this was not the focus at the time), we are now measuring and monitoring scope 3 emissions in a number of significant areas:

- **Purchased goods and services**
- **Capital goods including building and refurbishment***
- **Transportation of goods to the institution***

Note: People & Planet guidance:

*“*Universities using the Higher Education Supply Chain Emissions Tool (HESCET) to calculate scope 3 emissions may incorporate capital goods and transportation of goods to the institution into their purchased goods and services calculations. If this is the case, this should be made clear in the carbon management plan so that universities can score separately for all 3 areas of scope 3 emissions”.*

As part of work to better understand Leeds Arts University's Scope 3 carbon emissions, we have included **Procurement supply chain** data derived from the HESCET dataset available via our Procurement function, in our HESA EMR return this year.

Information on the relevant areas is listed as follows:

- **Waste**

Leeds Arts University reports our scope 3 emissions arising from Waste to HESA as part of the annual HESA EMR (Estates Management Record) data return.

- **Business Travel**

The University's Travel bookings supplier provides carbon data:

- [CMT](#) - for staff business travel
- [Study link](#) - for student trip travel - staff may also use this

2024-2025 Carbon emissions from the University fleet, derived from van fuel data: 0.50 t CO₂e.

- **Staff commuting**

Emissions from staff and student commuting can be calculated from the results of the University's Annual Staff & Student Travel Survey.

- **UK Student Travel & International Student Travel**

The University's Travel bookings supplier provides carbon data:

- [Study Link Tours](#) - for student trip travel

- **Externally managed accommodation on University Estates**

Please see response to Qu 2. b) outlined above.

The University's ongoing work on estimating and calculating carbon emissions is and will continue to be aligned to the [Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework \(SCEF\)](#).

Carbon emissions (kg CO₂e) are, and will continue to be, reported to the Sustainability Committee (three times each academic year) and the Annual Sustainability Report, recommended by the University's Senior Management Team (SMT) for approval by the Board of Governors.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

1. Is the University accredited by the Living Wage Foundation as a Living Wage employer?

The University is not accredited by the Living Wage Foundation as a Living Wage employer but assesses the ability to pay this annually and all permanent staff are currently paid this as a minimum.

2. Does the university have a policy that ensures outsourced staff receive the same or equivalent pay and benefits as directly employed staff?

No, the University does not currently have a policy for this. Please see 1., above, for further information.

3. Is the institution a Fairtrade University?

The University is not accredited as a Fairtrade University; however, we have developed a new sustainable food policy [Sustainable Food Policy](#), this is something we will continue to review and assess. [Dot the Lions](#), our small local catering provider who run the on-campus café - were sourced for their work towards sustainability and offer a range of ethically considered brands such as [Tony's chocolate](#) which is certified Fairtrade.

Furthermore, Dot the Lions' sole coffee supplier is [Darkwoods](#), a locally based coffee roastery committed to a Triple Bottom Line business model balancing People, Planet, and Profit. In 2020 Darkwoods coffee became a certified B Corp following a successful sustainability and ethics audit. In 2024, they were recertified, with an increase in their B Corp score to 147.4, reflecting the progress made towards their sustainability goals, and making Darkwoods one of the leading B Corp businesses globally.

More information on Darkwoods' values can be found here: [Values - Dark Woods Coffee](#)

4. Are the university ITC supply chains covered by Electronics Watch?

Yes. Through the University's membership of [NEUPC](#) (North Eastern Universities Purchasing Consortium), we are an affiliate of [Electronics Watch](#), through which we support work to promote and protect the rights of workers in global supply chains through the monitoring and reporting of supply chain activity.

5. Is the university Signed up to the Can't Buy My Silence universities pledge?

No, although we have committed to not entering into non-disclosure agreements with students and will continue to review this annually with a view to continuous improvement.

6. What proportion of all academic staff are on fixed term contracts?

The University, for many years, has employed staff on permanent contracts where the work is known to be continuing. 5% or less of all academic staff are on fixed-term contracts.

STAFF AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

1. Does the university publish a strategy for student and staff engagement in sustainable development?

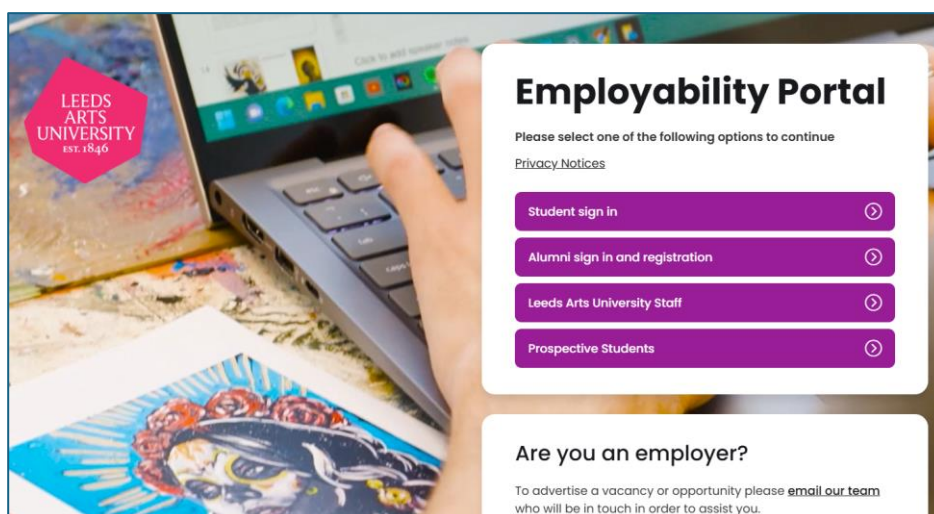
The University's strategy for student and staff engagement in sustainable development is integrated into our [Sustainability Framework](#), particularly through the 'People' strand in which we engage with our staff, students and communities.

Since its initial development, the Sustainability Framework has been reviewed at the Sustainability Committee which meets three times a year with staff and student representation to ensure continued alignment to the University's sustainability activity and strategic direction.

To ensure continued alignment to sector best practice, the Sustainability Framework has been updated, and has been launched in academic year 2025/26.

Engagement in sustainable development is supported and embedded in university activity through a range of channels including the following:

- [Student Union](#) comms channels, activities and events.
- Offering an annual Student Exec Sustainability Officer role and [student societies](#) e.g. Plant society, and Conscious Creatives.
- Our Sustainability Committee, which has student and staff representation from across the University and meets three times a year (once every term/semester).
- Staff networks, e.g. Staff Conscious Creatives network, in place since 2015, and the new Staff Sustainability Champions Group which will supersede this and is currently under development for 2026/27 as part of the overall refresh of the Sustainability Framework.
- Staff involvement in department/ area-level Sustainability Action Plans.
- Sustainability-relating career / industry opportunities and events promoted on the University's Careers Portal.



- [University News Stories](#).
- Student Sustainability Inductions to all students as part of Welcome week.
- Staff inductions for new starters as part of the VC's Welcome session.
- Sustainability Manager Updates at Course team meetings.
- Survey development / promotion / participation e.g. Annual Staff & Student Travel Survey, the [SOS-UK Sustainability Skills survey](#), National Student Survey questions, End of Module Evaluation.
- **Baselines, or ways of measuring progress toward targets for student and staff engagement**

Student and staff engagement is measured primarily through attendance/participation in sustainability activity.

Engagement has also been considered as part of the Student Union's response to the assessed [NUS/ SOS-UK Green Impact scheme](#) which has achieved "Excellent" status in 3 of the 5 previous years. We are not currently using this scheme due to the significant resource requirement which the University has considered can be used more effectively to employ directly to engagement activities, in preference to the assessment.

Current activities are tracked through the Student Union and are shared in a dedicated



Sustainability in the
SU 25-26.pptx

tracker, as shown here:

- **The student and staff engagement strategy/plan or summary should have been updated or published within the last 5 years and be in date.**

The University's strategy for student and staff engagement in sustainable development is integrated into our [Sustainability Framework](#), particularly through the 'People' strand in which we engage with our staff, students and communities.

Since its initial development, the Sustainability Framework has been reviewed at the Sustainability Committee which meets three times a year with staff and student representation to ensure continued alignment to the University's sustainability activity and strategic direction.

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- **A mechanism for reporting on student and staff engagement and tracking progress**

Progress in student and staff engagement is reported to the Sustainability Committee.

Examples include:

- Student participation in the annual Student Sustainability Research Conference.
 - Student Conscious Creatives events and related activities.
 - Student Survey and its promotion.
 - Wellbeing events run in conjunction between Students Union and Student Advice & Wellbeing teams for social benefit.
 - Engagement between Sustainability and the Research team to contribute a sustainability narrative to the Institution's submission to the REF 29 REF People, Culture and Environment Pilot which the University is participating in.
 - Sustainability Manager attending Course team meetings throughout the year to update staff & students on current and upcoming sustainability initiatives and opportunities such as the Annual Student Sustainability Award.
- **An implementation plan for student and staff engagement activities including:**
 1. **staff or teams responsible**
 2. **budget and resources allocated**
 3. **targets and time-frames**

Leeds Arts University acknowledges its role in highlighting opportunities for creative subjects in sustainability, both in terms of material use and process design, but also in the communication and exploration of complex environmental and social issues.

The University encourages and supports all staff to develop their awareness and knowledge of sustainability as applicable to their role. This occurs from the outset when staff join the University. Staff inductions are delivered throughout the year by the Sustainability Manager as part of the VC's Welcome session for all new starters. 44 staff have had inductions in the last 12 months. The University's [Sustainability Framework](#), [Estate Sustainability Plan](#) and an overview of staff sustainability engagement opportunities are a component of every new starter staff induction.

Academic staff have been supported to integrate Education for Sustainable Development into the curriculum in their course specialism through the **Staff Conscious Creatives network** since its inception in 2015.

As part of an overall refresh of the University's [Sustainability Framework](#) launched in academic year 2025/26, the creation of a new Staff Sustainability Champions Group has been approved by the Senior Management Team and the Sustainability Committee. This champions group will be represented by all areas of the University and will include academic, resource and business support staff.

The group has three strands:

- Teaching and Learning
- Research
- Business Support

The Teaching and Learning, and Research strands build on the activities of the Staff Conscious Creatives to:

- Create spaces for dialogue, collaboration and participation around Education for Sustainable Development through regular scheduled opportunities to meet (in person / online via TEAMS) to share updates, hear about upcoming events/ opportunities and support integration of ESD in academic planning.
- Promote and encourage student awareness and engagement with sustainability and the SDGs within the context of individual specialist areas of creative practice through promotion of the Annual Student Sustainability Award as one opportunity for students to focus consideration of how the SDGs link to their work, as well as signposting / exploration of sector and discipline-specific resources/ networks e.g. Julie's Bicycle, the Theatre Green Book, Albert for the screen industries, Sustainable Fashion Week.
- Support the development and sharing of resources for Education for Sustainable Development by providing online resources e.g. on SharePoint sustainability page (Staff) and E-studio (students), liaison with the library to review/update/develop Sustainability reading and resource lists, regular communications of events/ opportunities
- Contribute to the monitoring of sustainability activity to support alignment with the University's overall sustainability framework and associated policies by helping to provide the on the ground eyes and ears of Education for Sustainable Development in action around the University, providing representation across course specialisms to feedback case studies and examples that can be included in the reporting of sustainability reporting e.g., at Sustainability Committee, annual SDG Accord reporting/ case studies, and our Annual Sustainability Report.
- Explore opportunities for the development of research projects / student opportunities including Living labs sharing ideas for research / learning projects that will bring social and/or environmental benefits to the University and/or wider community, either as part of the curriculum or extra-curricular.

Resources or requests for staff time will be considered and may be awarded and allocated on a case-by-case basis after due consideration of the merit and benefit of the project, or a staff time allocation will be provided as necessary to drive an initiative. The University has a “can do” and innovative approach to problem solving and aspires to being best in class, which drives continuous improvement and often reduces the need for capital expenditure to implement change over time.

Membership of the Teaching and Learning, and Research strands of the Sustainability Staff Champions Group is open to all academic staff and researchers, seeking representation across all course areas.

Departmental Sustainability Action Plans (DSAPs)

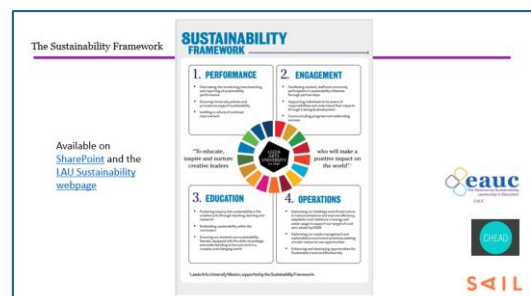
The University’s Sustainability Committee has recently approved the roll out (during 2026) of Departmental Sustainability Action Plans (DSAPs) which are intended to provide a consistent approach for staff teams to monitor and track the sustainability actions they are taking at a departmental level.

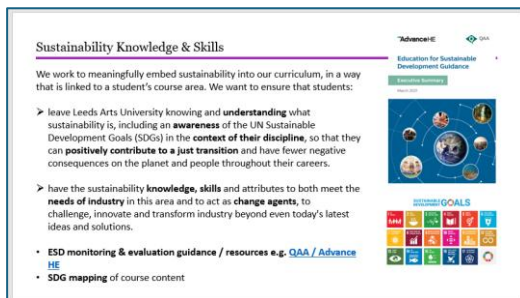
The Plans will align to the four strands of the new Sustainability Framework: Performance, Engagement, Education and Operations. A draft DSAP Plan Survey has been developed on Microsoft Forms. The Survey sets out suggested actions under each of these strands which are either appropriate to all departments/staff, or those relevant to Academic teams/ staff only.

Departments will be invited to consider and record their own function-specific actions bespoke to their area, with input and support from the Sustainability Manager as appropriate. The uptake and progress of DSAPs will be monitored by the Sustainability Manager and fed back to the Sustainability Committee on an annual basis.

2a. Are the university sustainability policy and strategy and other student engagement opportunities for sustainability a component of every student induction?

Student inductions are delivered to all students by the Sustainability Manager during Welcome Week at the start of the new academic year. The University’s Sustainability Framework and student sustainability engagement opportunities are covered in the induction:





(Above: Extract of Student Induction slide deck)

Information is also listed on the LAU Website: [Sustainability | Leeds Arts University](#), and is integrated into the Students Union website also: [Sustainability | Leeds Arts Union | Leeds Arts University](#).

2b. Does the university actively and regularly promote events and activities aimed at increasing engagement?

The websites and social channels of the [University](#), the [Students' Union](#) and [Careers Service](#) actively and regularly promote opportunities, events and activities aimed at increasing engagement amongst our staff, students and the public in sustainability and the creative arts. One example is the annual Staff & Student Travel Survey which is promoted via these channels. The University is involved in the local and wider community in a number of ways, many of which are highlighted in our News Stories, via the Annual Sustainability Report and Annual Equality & Diversity Report.

One example is the University's continued participation in the Student Changeover/Moving Out campaign with partners including Leeds City Council, Unipol and other HEIs in the city as part of the Leeds Universities Community Partnership, supporting responsible citizenship, community cohesion and reducing waste in the local community generated when student tenancy agreements conclude at the end of June and students leave their accommodation for the summer.

2c. Does the university provide funds for student-led sustainability projects?

Note: The funds must be from the university rather than from student union - unless the university has funded the student union to be the administrator.

The University funds student-led sustainability projects via the cash prize fund for the Annual Student Sustainability Award, through which students are encouraged to explore sustainability themes that align to one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a small specialist institution, the majority of Students' Union funding comes from the University, and all SU staff are employed by the University. Therefore, the University does fund the Student Union to be the administrator of student-led sustainability projects.

Following student feedback, sustainability events and activities occurring during 2025-26 have occurred as part of an integrated schedule of SU activity, rather than within a standalone Sustainability Fair as in previous years.

The following extracts from the SU Sustainability Tracker document indicate some examples of SU-funded and supported student-led sustainability projects via the Conscious Creatives Society, other related Societies and University Communities:

Conscious Creatives Events

All our Society Leaders and Executive Roles are on a part-time voluntary basis that students take up alongside their roles. As a smaller Union we usually have one Society each year that is branded as the sustainability related, this is the Conscious Creatives for 24/25 and is run by our Sustainability Executive Officer.

The Union supports all it's societies by providing training, reserving rooms, financing any equipment needed for such workshops, getting Risk Assessments approved and overall supporting Society Leaders with any ideas for workshops. We also provide the societies with their own social media accounts and mailing lists so they can do their own promotion as well as the Union Team promoting society events through out newsletter and our own Instagram page.

For our society events we can't always track who attended as the SU Team may not be around for the actual event as it is up to the Society Leader to run the event themselves.

Conscious Collage (16th Sept) - 15 signed up/4 attended: A chance to connect with other sustainable-minded students and discuss important issues whilst collaging in the workshop. Also a chance for students to put ideas forward for what future events they want to see.

Conscious Creatives Meeting (12th Nov) - 0 signed up/unknown: A relaxed meeting to share ideas, introduce yourself and projects students would like to run.

Veganuary Lunch (28th Jan) - 4 signed up/14 attended: Giving students the chance to partake in Veganuary if they haven't done so before and getting some free tasters food from DTL vegan menu.

Sustainability Book Club (January- February): Collaboration with the Library hosting a friendly meet-up to share thoughts on set readings about sustainability and creativity.



Other Society Events

These events are other society events that are not the Conscious Creatives Society but still have a sustainability element to workshops. Whether that be using up the Unions scrap materials we hold in the SU space, upcycling items students have brought in or opening discussions on particular topics.

The Union supports all it's societies by providing training, reserving rooms, financing any equipment needed for such workshops, getting Risk Assessments approved and overall supporting Society Leaders with any ideas for workshops. We also provide the societies with their own social media accounts and mailing lists so they can do their own promotion as well as the Union Team promoting society events through out newsletter and our own Instagram page.

For our society events we can't always track who attended as the SU Team may not be around for the actual event as it is up to the Society Leader to run the event themselves.

Plant Society meet up. 3rd Oct. 5 signed up / unknown: A relaxed first session were students get to know each other and the society. Leaders encouraged students to bring their favourite plant along and do a show and tell type session. Plant Society is about spreading information about planting and looking after plants be it for fun or for our mental health.

Stitch and Bitch Bunting making (14th Nov) - 8 signed up / unknown: Students came along to crochet, knit, sew or embroider a piece to make a Stitch and Bitch collaborative bunting. Scrap materials were used throughout the workshop and students upcycled old fabric items.

Stitch and Bitch, Upcycling Workshop (30th Jan) - 7 signed up / unknown: Students: The Stitch and Bitch Society utilised old Union merchandise and upcycled these including totes and hats.

Creative Queers Zine Making for LGBTQIA+ History Month (10th Feb) - 12 signed up/Unknown: A chance for the Creative Queers Society to come together to celebrate LGBTQIA+ History Month and do some crafting using recycled collage materials.



LAU Communities

Unlike our LAU Societies, our LAU Communities are not run by student leaders but instead work as drop-in style events in an open space that are run by the Union and other University departments. We use the SU Space to host these events and offer food, beverages and crafting materials.

The idea for these communities has come from research that the WP Team has done as well as feedback the Union has received regarding its societies.

The Union promotes these on our What's On page, via Wix emails, in our newsletter, on social media and sometimes by advertising around the building.

Hello Café: Meets every Wednesday from 1pm - 2pm in the first term. A space to support students and help them settle into Uni life. Food from DTL is provided and a light crafting activity is run by one of the University departments. Run in collaboration with WP, SAW and International. Average of 21 students attended every week, 103 individuals attended.

My/Your/Our Space: A creative and social space for students who identify as a person of colour or coming from a minoritised ethnicity, and are looking to connect. Meets every Thursday in term time. Food from DTL is provided and is run in collaboration with WP. Average of 7 students attended every week.

This year My/Your/Our Space also did an open call for an exhibition under the theme of "Wealth". 10 Students had their work displayed as part of exhibition and there was also a launch night with x2 student performances. This allowed both students and external visitors to come together and celebrate students work as part of this LAU community.

Neurodivergent Social Club: This is run in collaboration with Academic Support and provides a social space for neurodivergent students. Students are encouraged to bring their own projects along to work on and board games are provided. Average of 10 students attended every week.

We also have plans to put together a new LAU Community based around collaboration that may run monthly for the next academic year.



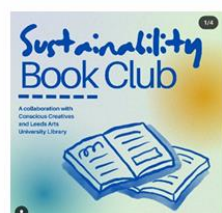
All events are promoted widely to all students, including via the SU social channels and the 'What's On' page of the SU website where full event listings and links to reserve a place / obtain a ticket are found.

A further example of the University providing funds for student-led sustainability projects is the **Annual Student Sustainability Award** (further details on this can be found in the [Annual Sustainability Report](#), page 6) which services to encourage student engagement in sustainability issues. In addition to winning the share of a cash prize, the work of selected students is displayed as part of the [University's End of Year Shows](#).

Our Union aims to embed sustainability in everything they do, across their campaigns, events and student opportunities.

This year, particular areas of focus for the Union embedding sustainability have been:

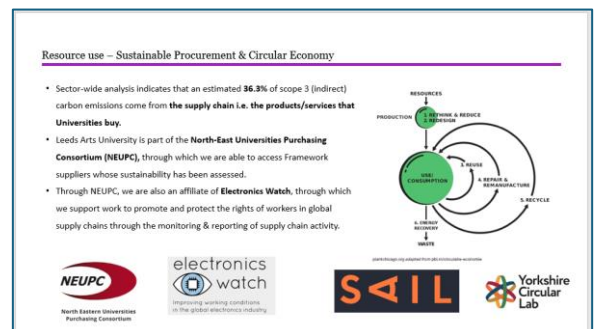
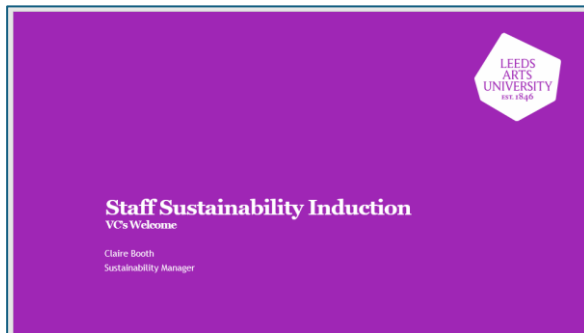
- Developing a variety of sustainable Freshers events and resources
- Supporting this year's Sustainability Officer in the running of events/campaigns under the Conscious Creatives Society, including the redesign of the Sustainability Map that went out to all new students
- Supporting other societies in their workshop ideas and use of recycled materials
- Collaborating with the Student Advice and Wellbeing Team on themed campaigns and events
- Having a variety of cultural and religious celebrations throughout the year to highlight the diversity of our community.
- Conscious Creatives collaborated with the Library to launch the Sustainability Book Club, hosting three individual-title focused events
- Providing free period products (dispenser located in SU Space) and working with Trans Leeds to provide free second-hand Binders
- Promotion of campaigns including the Sustainability Award, Travel Survey and Student Sustainability Research Conference.



leedsartsunion.org.uk/sustainability
[@leedsartsunion](https://twitter.com/leedsartsunion)

3. Do all staff inductions cover university sustainability policy, strategy and areas for staff to engage?

All staff inductions are delivered by the Sustainability Manager as part of the VC's Welcome session for all new starters to the University and the University's Sustainability Framework, Estate Sustainability Plan and an overview of staff sustainability engagement opportunities are a component of every new starter staff induction, and include information about the University's strategy, policy and areas for staff to engage. A sample from the induction pack is below:



4. Are invitations extended to recognised Trade Union representatives by way of membership at committees to which the sustainability strategy, carbon management plan and other relevant strategic areas of sustainable development are reported?

Three staff consultative meetings take place over the academic year, which are chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, there are no current recognition agreements with trade unions.

The Staff Consultative meetings have nominated staff representatives from across the University, who attend and bring any matters raised by staff. Minutes are made available to all staff via Sharepoint.

The Vice Chancellor's Briefings, which all staff attend, cover a wide range of matters including sustainability.

5. Is there student representation on university committees concerned with estates, planning, finance and strategic decision making?

Yes, the Student Union President and elected student Governor sit on the Board of Governors where estates, planning, finance (including budgets) and strategic decision-making take place at the highest level of the University. The Students' Union President sits on the Academic Board - the highest academic committee in the University, and there is student representation on the following University committees: the Sustainability Committee, the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

In addition, individual course areas recruit for student representatives at every level. Student representatives attend termly course team meetings and collective Student representative meetings with the Directors of Higher Education.

6. Does the university conduct a student or staff-led mapping, auditing or tracking of actions completed to promote environmental sustainability annually?

Staff-led mapping, auditing / tracking of actions is completed to promote environmental sustainability, this is undertaken annually and is part of the coordination of the [Annual Sustainability Report](#) led by the Sustainability Manager, with contributions from staff and students. The Annual Sustainability Report includes collated environmental sustainability data, examples and case studies of student work, staff and student research and wider engagement activity relating to sustainability at Leeds Arts University.

The University has contributed annually to the Student Union's response to the [NUS/ SOS-UK Green Impact scheme](#) on an annual basis and has been awarded "Excellent" status in 3 of the last 5 years.



Sustainability in the
SU 25-26.pptx

Additionally, the SU maintains a **Sustainability Tracker document**:

This serves as a planning tool and evidence repository for sustainability activity (both staff- and student-led) throughout the year. This is reviewed and updated on a regular basis in conjunction with the Sustainability Manager.

Tracking and monitoring of staff and student actions is completed to promote environmental sustainability and occurs through termly reports at the Sustainability Committee.

Proposals for the introduction of Staff Sustainability Champions (SCCs) and Departmental Sustainability Action Plans (DSAPs) were presented to the Sustainability Committee meeting in May 2026 (see below). These will be rolled out across the University in 26/27.

Sustainability Champions

The objective is to refresh a staff group on sustainability which has been running since 2015, and broaden the membership beyond the academic focus of the previous Staff Conscious Creatives group, to enable participation by all staff including Business Support and raise overall engagement and awareness of sustainability initiatives. The champions will be a group of volunteers that will represent a cross section of the University. Additionally, the group will support the fulfilment of People & Planet University League criteria, including across the following sections: Staff and Operations, Staff and Student Engagement, and Education for Sustainable Development.

Staff Sustainability Champions Group (SSCG)

Proposed Purpose & Responsibilities

The intention is to create a staff group of Sustainability Champions which will represent a full cross section of the University. This new group of staff representation will replace the former Conscious Creatives group and will be more representative of the University as a whole.

The purpose and responsibilities of the group are outlined below:

LAU SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS GROUP

Staff Sustainability Champions represent a cross-section of the University and are involved in improving our environmental performance by supporting over-arching Sustainability Objectives within the Sustainability Framework at a departmental level.

Champions Responsibilities - All Areas (Academic, Business Support, Workshops & Resources):

- Support in the development, monitoring and delivery of Departmental Sustainability Action Plans (DSAPs) in alignment with the University's overall Sustainability Framework.
- Create spaces for dialogue, collaboration and participation around operational Sustainability at the University
- Promote and encourage student awareness and engagement with Sustainability and the SDGs in University-wide initiatives e.g. Annual Travel Survey
- Support the development and sharing of engagement and operational resources for sustainability
- Support Biodiversity via initiatives to enhance and monitor green spaces on University-owned land and/or in the community

Champions Responsibilities - Academic Staff Areas (Teaching / Research):

- Create spaces for dialogue, collaboration and participation around Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Promote and encourage student awareness and engagement with Sustainability and the SDGs within the context of individual specialist areas of creative practice and research
- Support the development and sharing of teaching, learning and research resources for ESD
- Explore opportunities for the development of research projects/student opportunities e.g. Living Labs

SSCG in practice:

- The group will be open to all interested members of staff (all roles/levels) with line manager approval. The aim will be to have one representative from each area.
- The aim will be to run a minimum of one meeting (in person/on Teams, TBC) per term/semester, scheduled with reference to the University calendar.
- The proposed meeting agenda will cover Sustainability Updates (Sustainability Manager), Departmental Updates (all/as invited) and Focus topics (Sustainability Manager/as invited).
- Links and resources will be issued following the meeting; a Teams channel can be set up to support the group, enabling shared digital access to resources and ideas in a single, accessible location.

Departmental Sustainability Action Plans (DSAPs)

The proposed Departmental Sustainability Action Plans (DSAPs) are intended to provide a consistent approach for teams to monitor and track the sustainability actions they are taking at a departmental level. The Plans will align to the four strands of the new Sustainability Framework:

- Performance;
- Engagement;
- Education;
- Operations.

A draft DSAP Plan Survey has been developed on Microsoft Forms (attached). The Survey sets out suggested actions under each of these strands which are either appropriate to all departments/staff, or those relevant to Academic teams/ staff only. Departments are invited to consider and record their own function-specific action bespoke to their area, with input and support from the Sustainability Manager as appropriate.

The uptake and progress of DSAPs will be monitored by the Sustainability Manager and fed back to the Sustainability Committee.

In addition to the above, Leeds Arts University has been undertaking scoping to explore the options available for the development of an EMS e.g. accredited to ISO 14001 or via the staggered Eco Campus route. This has involved engagement with peers from other Universities via the EAUC EMS Communities of Practice, review of potential supplier frameworks and direct enquiries made to potential consultants and auditors.

Environmental auditing will be formalised further through the development of objectives as part of the development of the Departmental Sustainability Action Plans (see Staff & Student Engagement section, above) underpinning the refreshed new [Sustainability Framework](#) which was launched in academic year 2025-26.

Environmental Auditing in place during academic years 2023-24 / 2024-25 and 2025-26 has included the following:

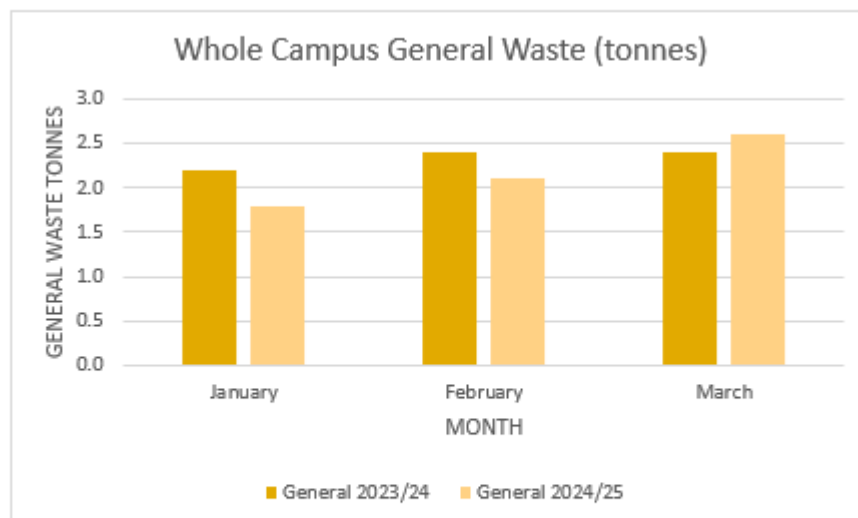
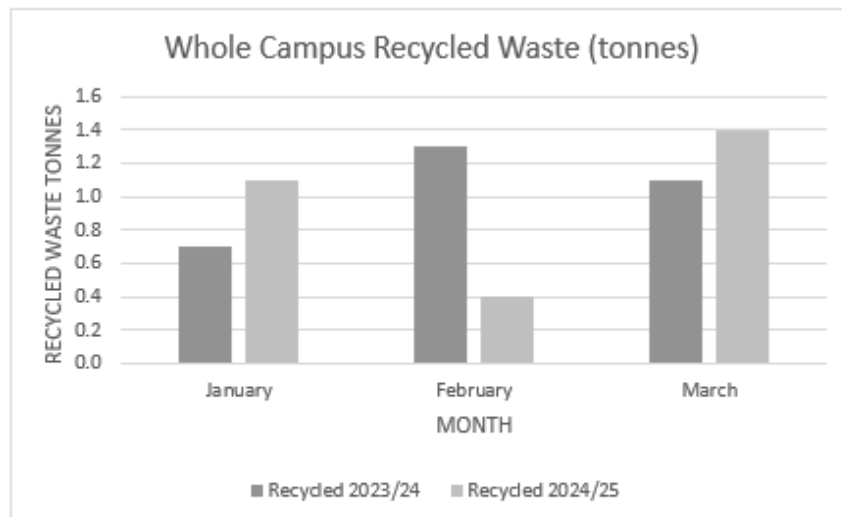
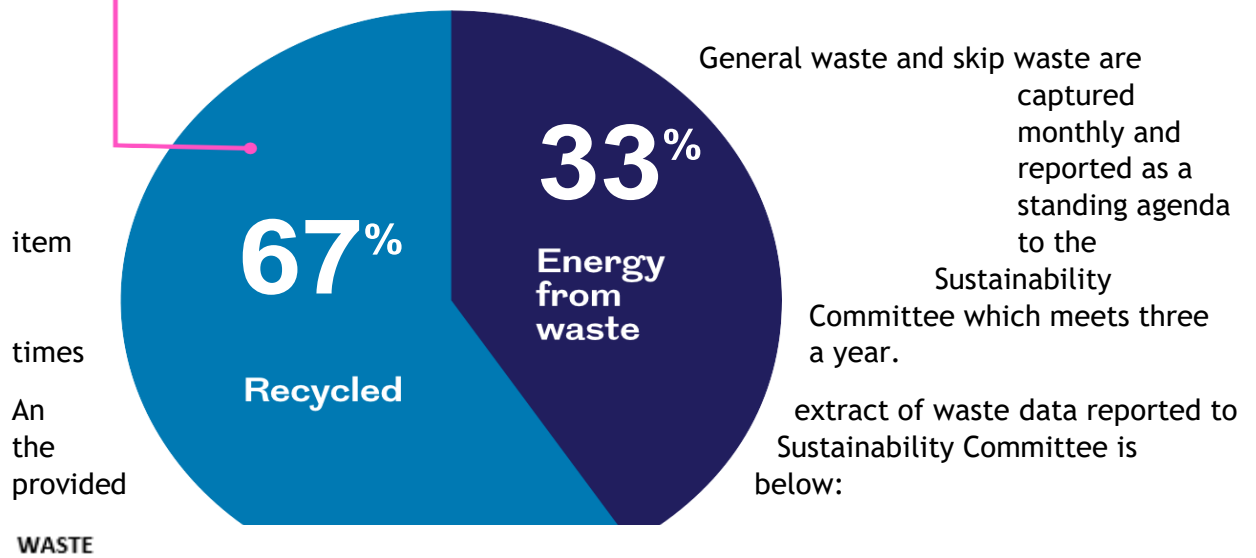
1. Waste management:

Waste management is continually monitored, and reported to every Sustainability Committee meeting.

The University operates a zero to landfill policy for waste. Auditing indicates that overall resource use and waste generation reduced compared to the previous year. Recycled waste has increased as awareness of waste types increases amongst students and staff.

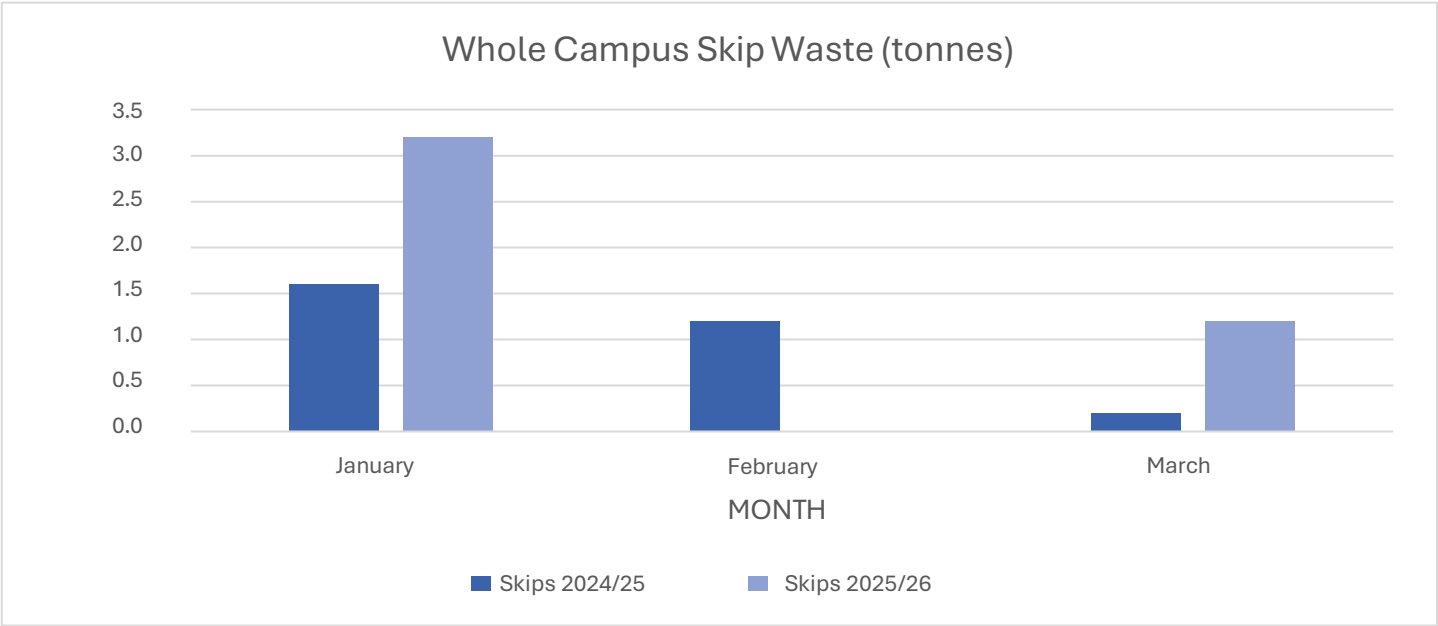
During 2024-25, 67% of the University's waste was recycled (+8% increase compared to 2022-23) with the residual 33% of general waste (-8 % decrease compared to 2023-24) going to the local energy waste plant as fuel for Leeds City Council's sustainable district heating network.

Final Destination for University Waste Streams in 2024/25



ABOVE – Just like the recycled waste, the total general waste that we produced during these 3 months in 2025 is less than the same months in the previous year. Across the board with waste, staff and students seem to be following the reduce/reuse/recycle methodology which is seeing our waste numbers reducing.

Source: Estates Report to Sustainability Committee, May 19th 2026.



Summary data is also captured in the Annual Sustainability report, available online here: [sustainability-report-2025-final.pdf](#)

From Monday 31 March 2025, new Government legislation known as ‘Simpler Recycling’ came into force to increase waste material segregation and improve recycling rates in organisations. In practice at Leeds Arts University, this has meant the introduction of separate waste bins for food and for glass.

The University works with our Waste Management Contractor to monitor the bins for usage and contamination and to minimise waste and increase recycling wherever possible.

Travel and Transport:

Leeds Arts University undertakes an Annual Staff & Student Travel Survey to monitor commuting patterns and inform the promotion of sustainable travel measures.

As summarised in the table below, latest results from the 2026 Travel Survey undertaken in March 2026, indicate a sustained high level of commuting by sustainable mode especially for students:

	STUDENT %			STAFF %		
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026
TOTAL Travel by Sustainable mode						
(On foot, Cycle, Train, Bus, Car-share)	95	97	96	70	74	68

Of

2026
in

to the
students was 96% (comparable to 2025) and by staff was 68% (-6% compared to 2025).

those who
completed the
Travel Survey run
March 2026,
sustainable travel
University by

From these results, a set of recommendations/objectives/targets is developed to inform the University’s sustainable travel priorities for the year ahead (2026/27) and documented in the Travel Survey report which is presented to the Sustainability Committee:

- Update staff and student Travel Information Travel Guide to promote sustainable travel options

Mode-specific:

Walking

- Continue to support and promote this via walking route maps/guides/ links
- Signpost to travel safety advice e.g. the free “WalkSafe” Leeds app promoted by Leeds City Council

Cycling

- Promote cycle routes, safe cycling advice, cycle parking, shower and change facilities via university communication channels
 - additionally signpost to public cycle racks located close to campus
- Promote the [Leeds City LNER Beryl Bike scheme](#) and identify the locations of Beryl bike bays close to LAU sites.
- Further promote the staff Cycle to Work scheme alongside the new cycle storage at Blenheim Walk.
- Share as appropriate updates on local travel infrastructure changes including the [Woodhouse Lane Gateway](#).

Bus and Rail

- Promote the [Student MCard](#) which offers discounted bus and bus-and-rail ticket options across the Metro region and specific local operator offers including [First Bus](#) student tickets.
- Promote the [Corporate Annual MCard scheme](#) available to Leeds Arts University staff via our membership of the [West Yorkshire Travel Plan Network \(WYTPN\)](#) which offers up to 12% off pre-paid travel (different options are available) and specific local operator offers including the Arriva and First Bus travel discounts and the [Leeds Park & Ride](#).

Driving

- Promote car-sharing to staff e.g. via the national lift-share scheme: <https://liftshare.com/uk> (any member of staff wishing to participate in such a scheme would have to do so as private individuals as this is external to the University).
- [Enterprise Car Club](#) membership may be an option for staff or students who require the use of a vehicle on an ad-hoc/short-term hire basis. Vehicles are located in marked bays and accessed via the member’s smart card, MCard or app.

2. Sustainable Procurement:

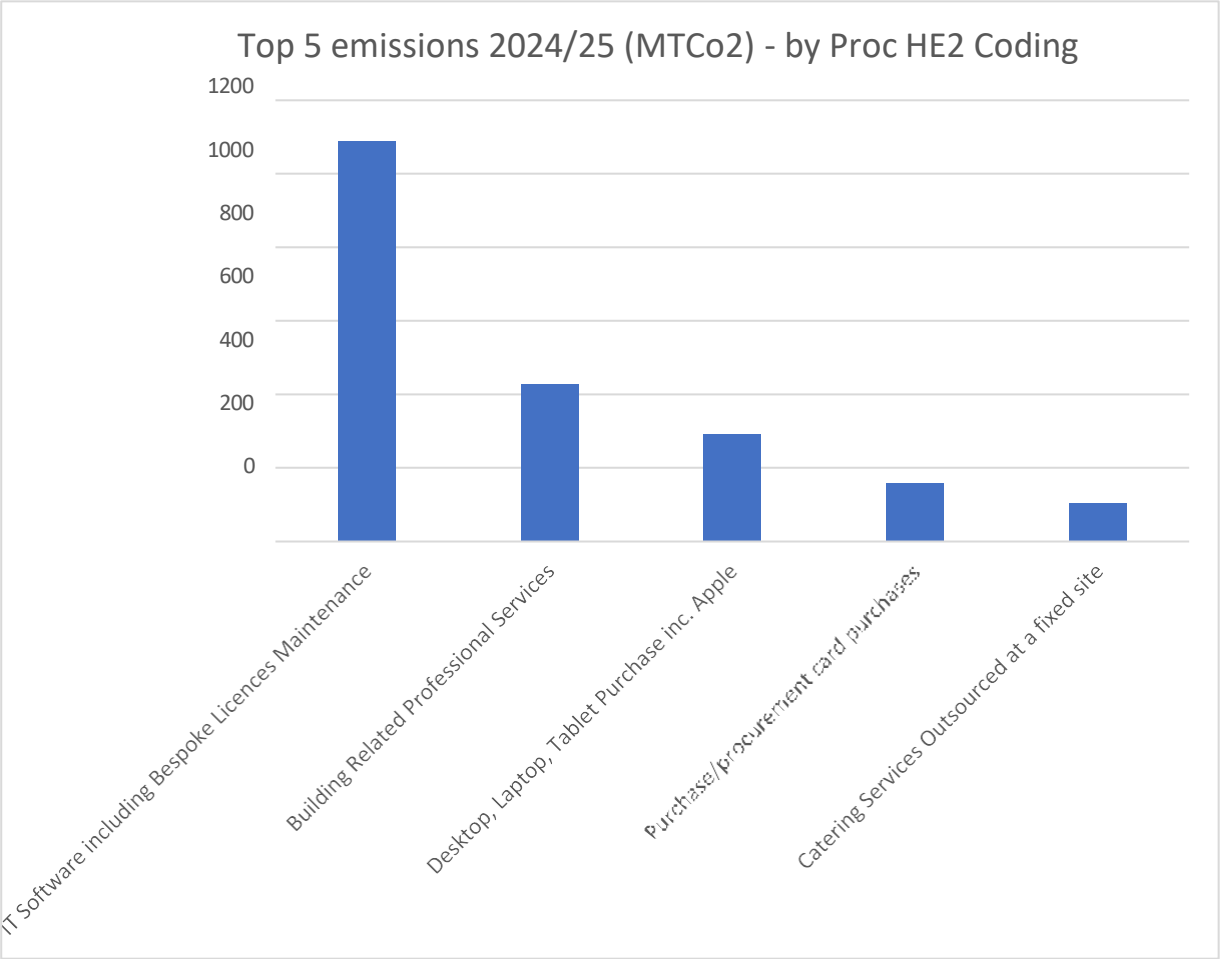
Sustainable procurement activity is audited in a number of ways, including:

- Leeds Arts University is part of the **North-East Universities Purchasing Consortium (NEUPC)**, through which we are able to access Framework suppliers whose sustainability has been assessed. Updates on this are provided via the Procurement Consultant’s updates on tender activity to Sustainability Committee on a termly basis.
- Through NEUPC, the University is also an affiliate of **Electronics Watch**, through which we support work to promote and protect the rights of workers in global supply chains through the monitoring and reporting of supply chain activity. Updates received by Electronics Watch by the Sustainability Manager and Procurement Consultant, with engagement from IT as required.

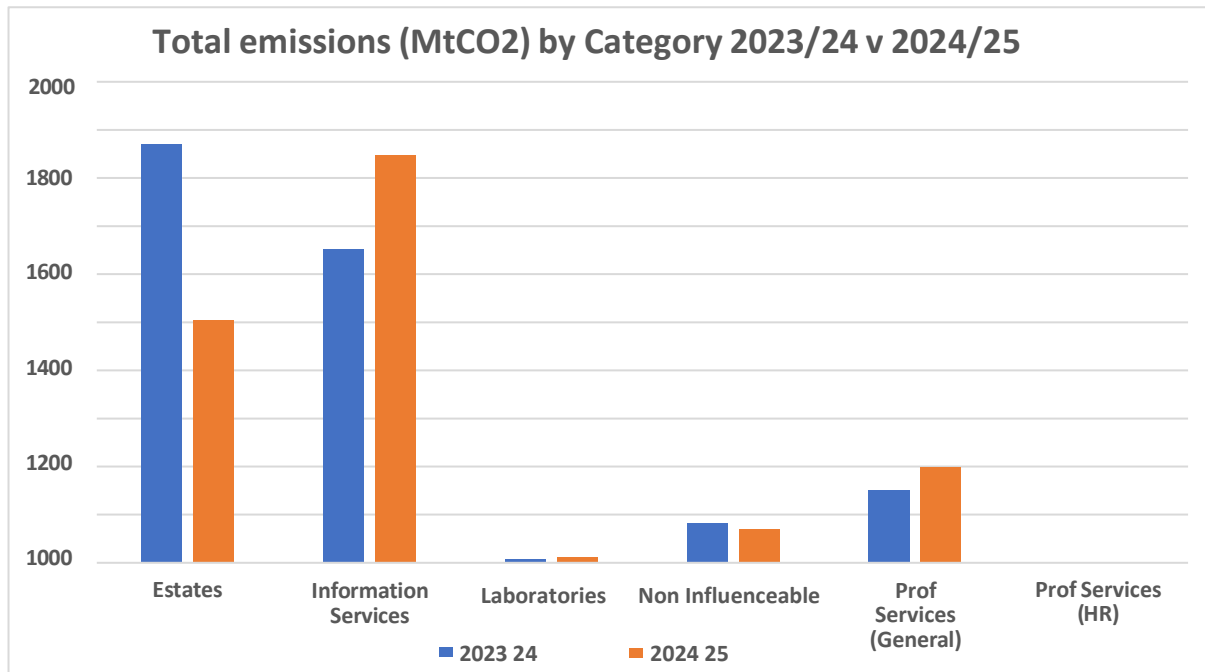
- The percentage of work procured via Frameworks i.e. applying sustainability criteria is reported as a standing agenda item to the Sustainability Committee which meets three times a year. Scope 3 emissions from calculated from (HESCET) supply chain data is reported annually to the Sustainability Committee.

Total Emissions

Top 5 scope 3 by Procurement coding ('Proc HE2 code')



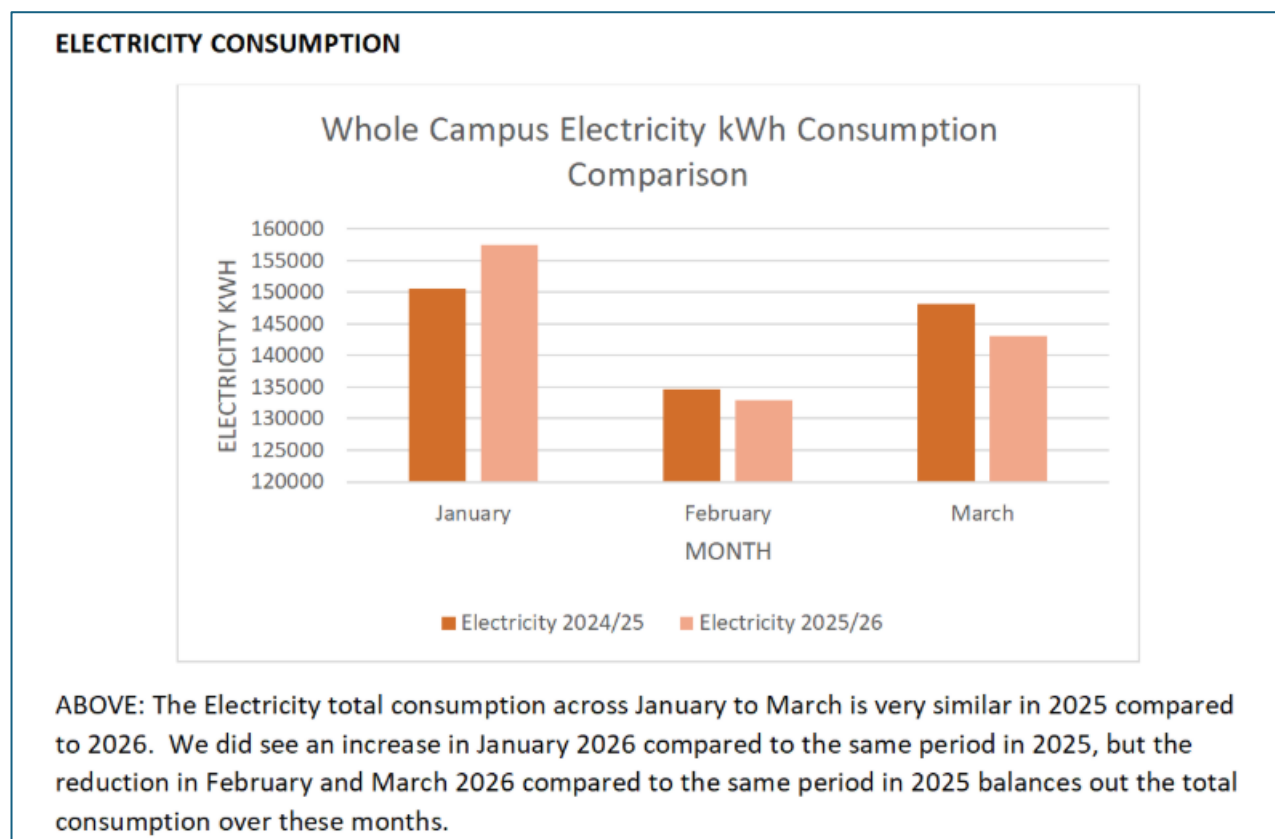
Total Emissions by over-arching Category



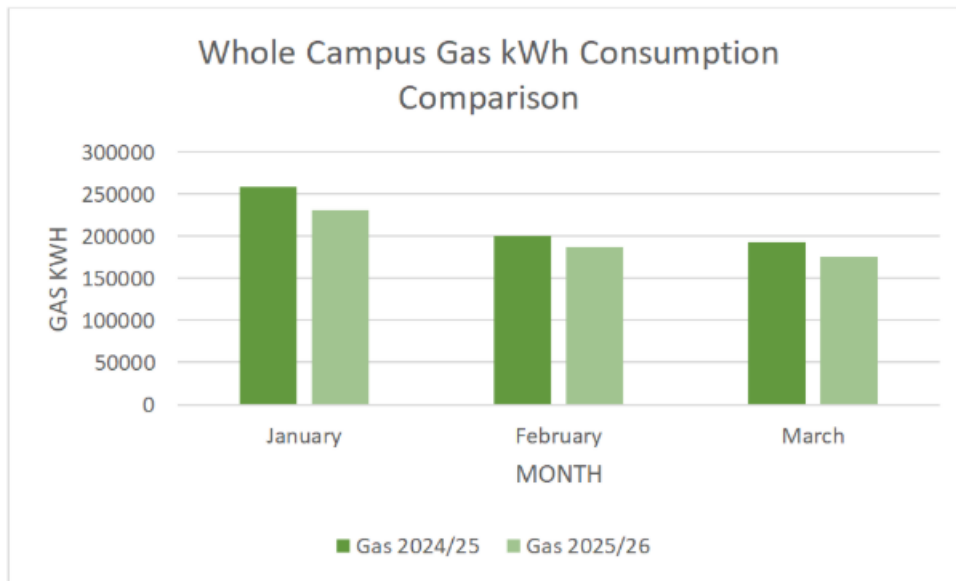
3. Energy:

Energy has been extensively audited through the development of the University's Estate Sustainability Plan, which sets out the target for a net zero carbon Estate by 2035. The Plan is publicly available here: [Estate Sustainability Plan](#)

Additionally, electricity and gas consumption data is available via half hourly metering, reviewed monthly by Finance/Estates and reported as a standing item to the Sustainability Committee. Extract of energy data reported to Sustainability Committee is provided below:



GAS CONSUMPTION



ABOVE: The secondary glazing installation at Vernon Street has continued to show a decrease of gas consumption over this period. Average external temperatures are similar in comparison between the same period in 2025 and 2026.

Summary data is also captured in the Annual Sustainability report, available online here: [Sustainability | Leeds Arts University](#)

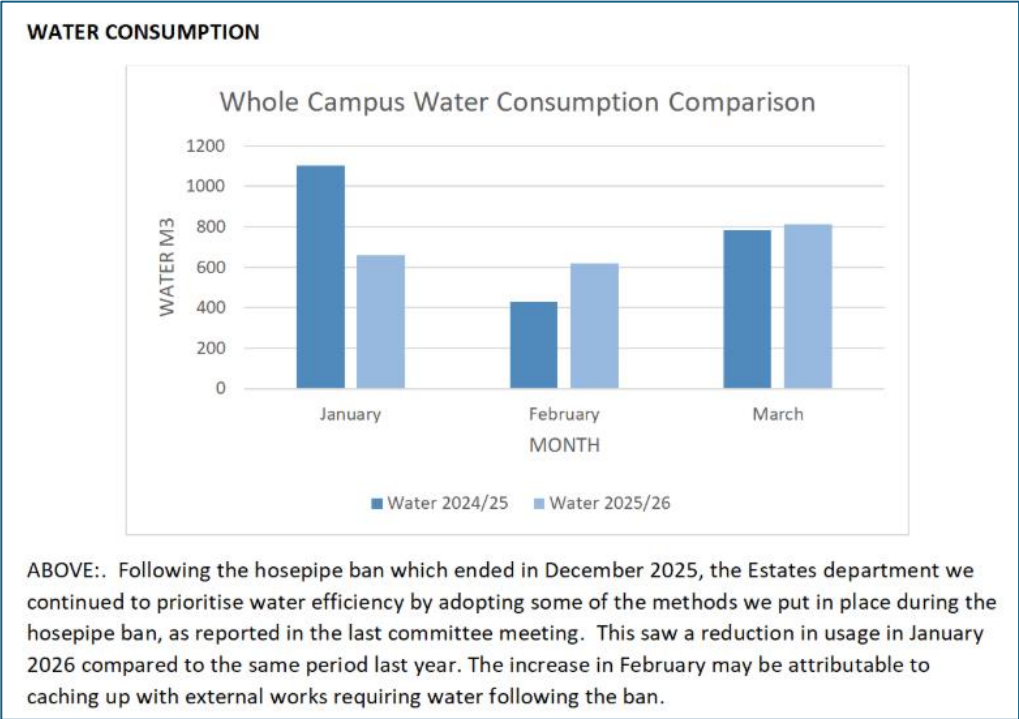
On an annual basis we work with an external contractor to renew our **DECs (Display Energy Certificates)** for each of our sites. The energy performance operational rating is based on its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions for the last year, and the score/rating scale is from A (lowest emissions) to G (highest emissions). The typical score for a public building is a rating of D.

Our current DEC ratings are as follows:

Blenheim Walk:

- [Building Area 1 - C Rating](#)
- [Building Area 2 - C Rating](#)
- [\(GRADE II Listed\) Vernon Street / Rossington Street - B Rating](#)

4. **Water** - Water consumption data is captured monthly and reported as a standing item to the Sustainability Committee. Extract of water data reported to the Sustainability Committee is provided below:



Summary data is also captured in the Annual Sustainability report, available online here: [Sustainability | Leeds Arts University](#)

5. **Construction & Refurbishment**

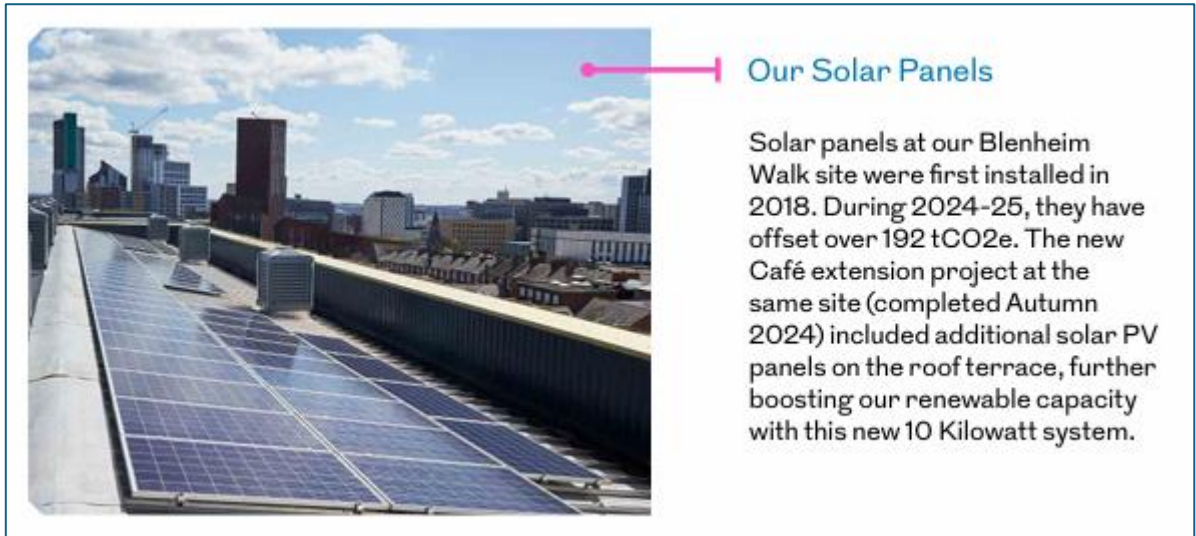
Construction

The extension to our Blenheim Walk campus (known as B1) undertaken in 2019 achieved a Very Good BREEAM rating. Certificate details here:

Certified BREEAM Assessments							
Scheme	Assessor/ Auditor	Certification Number	NSO	Other Information	Client/ Developer	Project Type	Rating (%)
Education	Tetra Tech Limited	BREEAM-0079-8736	BRE Global	2014: Further Ed Stage: Final Score(%): 59.3 Cert. date: 12/11/2019 Stage/Valid until: Final	Leeds Arts University	Education	59.3% Very good

<https://www.greenbooklive.com/search/displaycompany.jsp?partid=10023&companyid=16023730>

This project incorporated a large green (Sedum) roof, bat and bird boxes, Solar PV Panels and a covered secure Cycle store for 20 bikes to support sustainable travel methods.



In Autumn 2024, construction works occurring to extend the Café area at Blenheim Walk were completed.

A number of sustainable elements have been designed in to the project including:

- Additional 10Kw generating solar PV panels on new roof terrace, in the first 12months of operation this system has generated enough clean electricity to power a small home for 2 years.



- Total removal of gas use from our commercial kitchen, replaced with electrical appliances powered by energy from 100% renewable sources.
- Replacement of old catering equipment for new more energy efficient equipment.
- Replacement of an old Air Handling Unit for more energy efficient systems serving the café and first floor studios.
- Installation of a new bicycle shelter with sedum roof.



- Installation of a flourishing and managed living green wall.



- Installation of several bee bricks and bird boxes.
- Planted a wildflower meadow boarder to the front of the building.



- Establishing new planted borders and tree planting.



- Replacement of 5 x 15-year-old studio Air Conditioning units for new energy efficient units.
- Extension of the Building Management System at Blenheim Walk allowing improved visibility and control of internal environments.
- Donations of surplus furniture to charity via our Framework contractor for reuse.

Refurbishment

The University's Estate Sustainability Plan sets out the target and proposed actions for the University to achieve net zero emissions from its estate by 2035.

The summary matrix below outlines proposed Estates sustainability projects and milestones over the next 5 years:

LAU Estates Sustainability Capital Projects 2025-2030	Within Period	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30
Blenheim Walk						
Complete roll out of LED lighting						
Complete Install/programming of remaining lighting controls						
BA2 Main Plant Room Obsolete Gas Boiler Replacement for Heat Pumps						
BA2 DCB Gas Boiler Replacement Pumps Heat Pumps						
BA2 Replacement of Remaining old Windows						
Install Additional PV's for energy Generation						
BA2 Improve Flat Roof Insulation						
Vernon Street						
Complete roll out of LED lighting						
Complete Install/programming of remaining lighting controls						
Install PV's for energy Generation						
Install External Glass Box/Porch at Entrance to Create Insulating Lobby						
Install Heating Control Valves to Each Floor						
Connect to Leeds Pipes District Heating Scheme if energy market conditions make it viable						
Rossington Street						
Complete roll out of LED lighting						
Complete Install/programming of remaining lighting controls						
Install PV's for energy Generation						
Install Heating Control Valves to Each Floor						
Upgrade Roof Lights to Double High Performance						

Over the past 12 months a range of refurbishment works have been progressed. These include:

- **LED roll-out:** 100% of old lighting switched to energy efficient LEDs at our main Blenheim Walk campus. 92% of lighting at the Vernon Street campus is already LED and the remaining 8% will be completed by December 2026
- **Secondary glazing:** The installation of new sympathetic and fully reversable secondary glazing to our Grade II listed Vernon Street and Rossington Street buildings was completed in September 2025. Since its introduction the thermal and acoustic performance of these buildings has been monitored and the sustainable performance of these buildings has significantly improved as a result of these works. This has resulted in an average month by month reduction of 20% in Gas consumption across this site.

6. Emissions & Discharges:

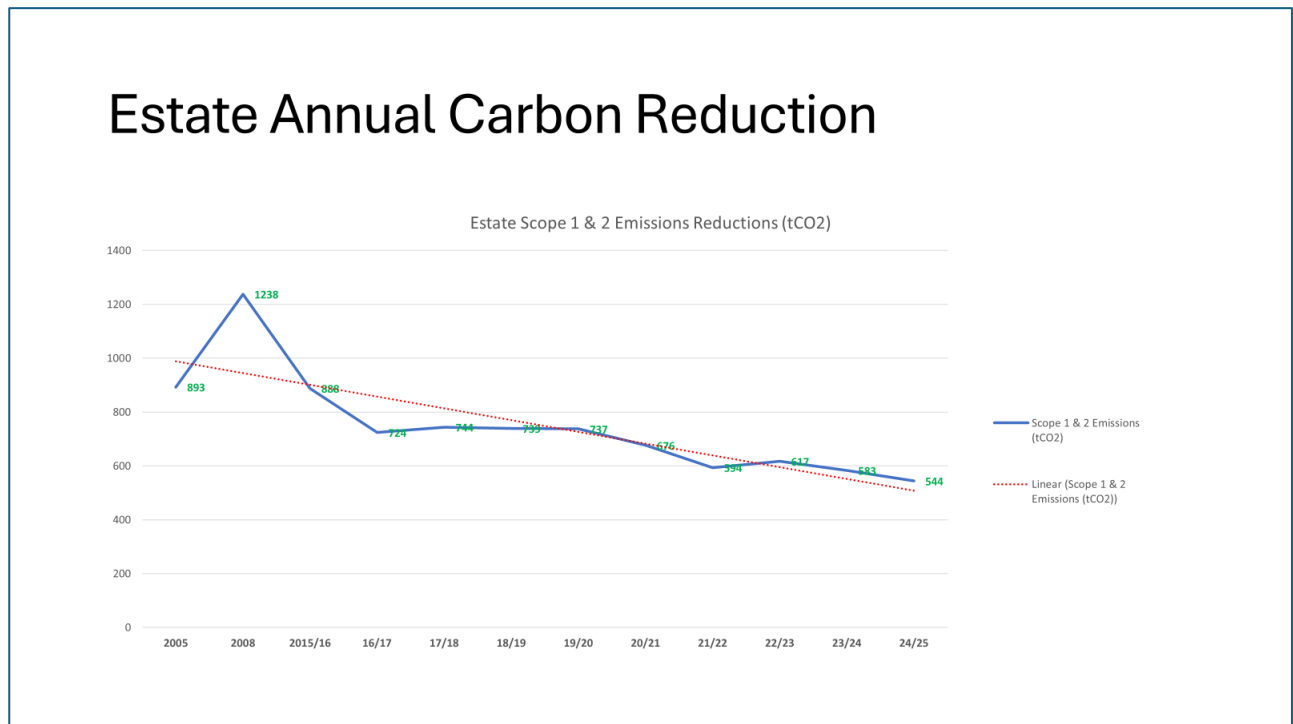
Our Estate Sustainability Plan sets out our actions, initiatives and resources to reduce our environmental impact and ensure we are on target for a net zero carbon emission by 2035.

The plan was approved by the University's Senior Management Team, and resources to deliver the plan have been budgeted for. Significant long-term planning and collaboration with our partners and suppliers will also be required to meet the 2035 target.

University carbon emissions are reported annually by consumption/generation source.

Cumulative annual carbon emissions are included within the University's Annual Financial Statements, available here: <https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk/about-us/legal-and-governance-at-leeds-arts-university> (direct link to Annual Financial Report 2024-25 is [here](#)).

The graph below shows the University's Scope 1 and 2 emissions (tCO₂) which have halved since 2008, indicating a continued reduction in the University's Carbon Emissions despite a significant expansion of the University's Estate, which has increased over 40% since 2008.



Note: The University resumed reporting - including of carbon emission data - to the HESA EMR for 2022-23, for 2023-24 and most recently for 2024-25.

7. Biodiversity

As a smaller specialist University with two city centre sites, we have limited external spaces, so there are constraints in implementing biodiversity initiatives.

Nonetheless, at Blenheim Walk there are bat and bird boxes, bee bricks and a green roof, recently enhanced further with a green wall, additional tree and wildflower planting, and new cycle storage with a sedum roof.

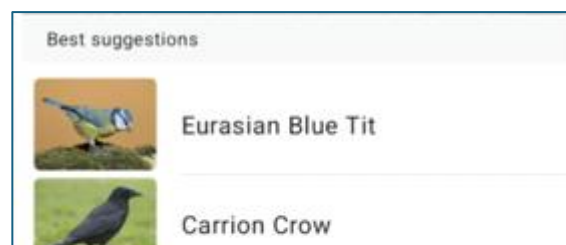
In January 2025, a preliminary Biodiversity Audit was undertaken by staff of the 5590m² of urban green space land owned by the University. This green space had been continually maintained with the grass cut on a monthly basis.

To support and improve the bio-diversity in this urban environment, a decision was made to let the grass land rewild to increase the diversity of plant species and encourage more habitation from wild life.

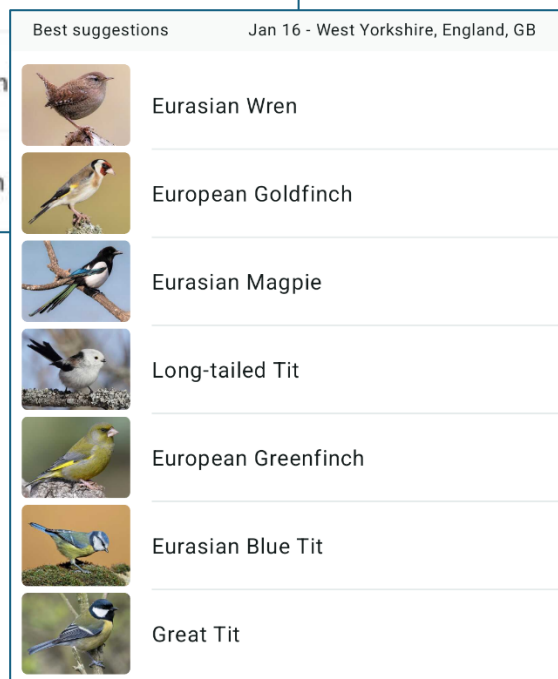
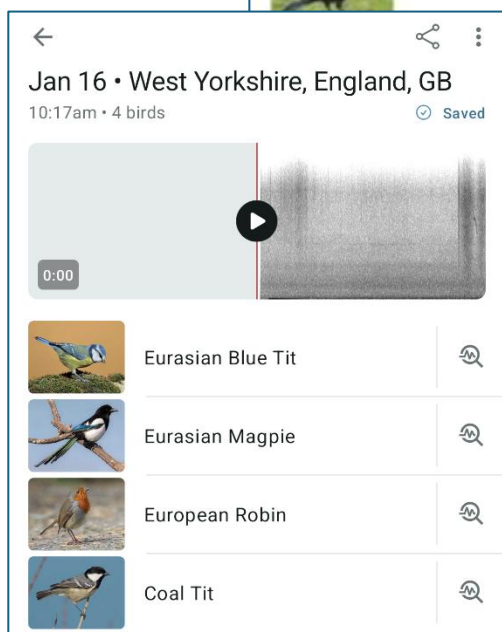


Once the rewilding had established, a sample bird audit was undertaken by the Sustainability Manager and the following birds were identified via the Merlin app:

The site survey and January 2026 and the observed:



bird audit were repeated in following birds were



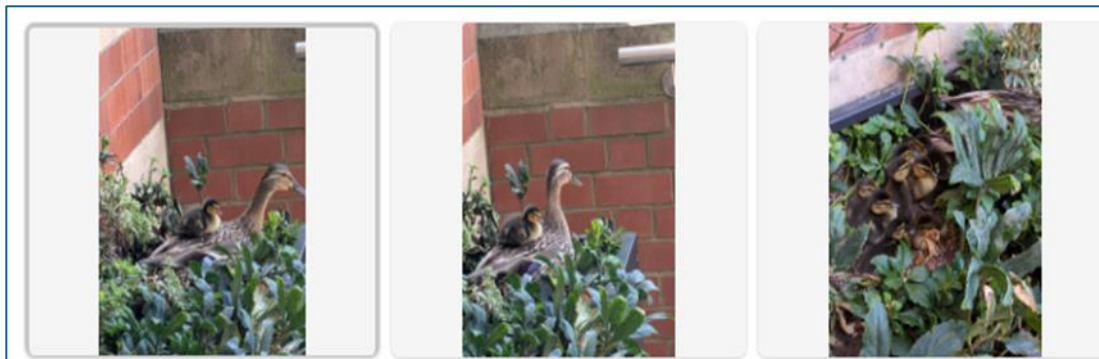
The

opportunity was taken to retain wood timber as a result of tree pruning works undertaken in April 2026 at the site. Smaller branches were chipped and main stems were used for log piles around the site to encourage further biodiversity.

chip and



In June 2025, staff working at the University's Vernon Street site in the city centre discovered a duck's nest containing nine eggs in our green planter at the main entrance of the building.



On the advice of RSPB, the nest was left undisturbed. All nine eggs hatched and the mother duck was observed leading the ducklings through Leeds city centre to the canal.



Future annual auditing is planned to be undertaken to inform proposals and the development of opportunities for future Biodiversity objectives as part of the new Sustainability Framework.