



## People & Planet University League 2026/27 Information

### Assessment document 2 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.

Assessment period 2 between July 13<sup>th</sup> - July 24<sup>th</sup> 2026:

- [Sustainable Food](#)
- [Staff & Operations](#)
- [Policy and Strategy](#)
- The following information outlines Leeds Arts University's sustainability activity in relation to [People & Planet criteria for the following sections:](#)

### SUSTAINABLE FOOD

1. Does the university have a publicly-available sustainable food policy (or a Sustainable Procurement Policy which integrates sustainability criteria for food) that is reported on annually at a senior level of the university?

The University's Sustainable Food Policy (Link Below) has been drafted and developed in conjunction with the University's sole on-site caterer, Dot the Lions. This policy is reported on and reviewed at a senior level including at the Sustainability Committee and the University's Senior management team.

[Sustainable Food Policy.pdf](#)

2. Does the university's sustainable food policy require that sustainability standards are embedded in tenders and contracts with external contractors?

Within the Sustainable Food Policy and the University's overall procurement approach, Leeds Arts University ensures that sustainability standards are embedded in tenders and contracts with external contractors, and aims to align to relevant sector guidance including [The University Caterers Organisation's \(TUCO\) Frameworks](#) or the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)'s [guidelines on sustainable procurement](#).

The University's sole on-campus café is run by [Dot the Lions](#), a small, local, independent operator with an emphasis on top quality coffee and food, and vegetarian and vegan options. Dot the Lions offer a range of ethically considered brands e.g. [Tony's chocolate](#) which is certified Fairtrade, [Two Farmers crisps](#) (100% compostable packets), [Darkwoods coffee](#) (imported on Fairtrade terms), [Karma drinks](#) and [Charitea](#) (organic and Fairtrade), in addition to fresh products made in-house, sourcing local and seasonal ingredients where possible.

3. Has the university implemented a comprehensive framework for continual improvement in sustainable food and catering that is regularly audited and verified by an external organisation credible to the sustainable food standards movement and stakeholder bodies?

OR

4. Has the university published an internal audit of the sustainability of catering processes based on the progress towards a sustainable food policy or strategy?

We do not run our own on-campus café, but high priority to sustainability is given in choosing providers to work with, as outlined in the response above.

In conjunction with the University's sole on-site catering provider, Leeds Arts University will undertake an internal audit of the sustainability of catering processes.

The internal audit will include a review of issues such as supply chains, reducing meat and dairy consumption, waste and recycling, reducing carbon emissions and other issues linked to the sustainability of catering operations.

The audit will be undertaken every 3 years at a minimum, with updates reported to the Sustainability Committee.

5. Does the university provide space and/or other support for student/staff-led sustainable food projects?

As a smaller city centre University there are space constraints, with limited outdoor space suitable for the growing of food at either campus.

The Sustainability Manager and Students' Union may consider alternative future routes to provide support for a student/staff-led sustainable food project such as partnership with a local community project, garden or allotment.

6. Does the university have at least one plant-based food outlet on campus?  
*(Universities with fewer than 5000 students that can demonstrate they have just one outlet on campus can still score points by having a plant-based or vegetarian menu once per week)*

As a smaller specialist University with fewer than 5000 students, the sole food outlet on campus (the [Dot the Lions](#) café) is operated by an independent locally-based caterer. They exclusively operate a café on campus at the University and have an emphasis on offering a wide range of vegan (55%) and vegetarian (35%) options across the regular menu every day.

Additionally, Our Students' Union Conscious Creatives Society hosted a Vegan Lunch (18<sup>th</sup> September) which was attended by 60 students, giving students the chance to try some vegan specialties if they hadn't done so before, and getting some free tasters of food from DTL vegan menu.

Dot the Lions have also launched a weekly Vegan food promotion to further encourage plant-based dietary choices:



## STAFF & OPERATIONS

1. **Is sustainability included within the portfolio of responsibilities of a member of the university senior management team?**

The Vice-Chancellor chairs the Sustainability Committee, and the Board of Governors consider the Annual Sustainability Report.

Please see: [Sustainability | Leeds Arts University \(leeds-art.ac.uk\)](https://leeds-art.ac.uk/sustainability)

2. **Does the university have a dedicated sustainability department, or a sustainability committee that has a remit for setting and implementing the sustainability strategy of the organisation?**

The University has a dedicated Sustainability Manager role who reports to the Director of Estates and Resources. The Sustainability Committee which is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor and is held each term, has a remit for setting and implementing the University's sustainability strategy; the [Sustainability Framework](#).

## **Digital Infrastructure**

Leeds Arts University's progress on the following criteria is detailed below:

1. **Transferred all datacentre services to ones powered by renewable electricity, without the use of offsets to call themselves renewable.**

The University's own on-site energy is from 100% renewable sources. This includes power for IT infrastructure. Please see further information below from our website host company.

The University website is hosted using Storyblok (CMS) and Vercel (Frontend). Storyblok is built on AWS (Amazon Web Services) infrastructure, which reports that it matches 100% of its electricity consumption with renewable energy. Vercel also works with cloud providers that have strong

renewable energy commitments and uses serverless technology to reduce unnecessary energy consumption by only using computer resources when needed.

**2. Included sustainability standards in the procurement agreements with server providers, such as the EMAS standards, ISO 14001, ISO 50001.**

Storyblok's underlying AWS infrastructure holds internationally recognised environmental and energy management certifications, including [ISO 14001](#) and [ISO 50001](#). Both Storyblok and Vercel publicly report on their sustainability initiatives and environmental commitments.

**3. Published details of the specific measures taken to reduce data transfer of the website.**

Several measures have been implemented to reduce data transfer and improve efficiency:

- Images are automatically resized and optimised by Storyblok, ensuring users only download the files they need.
- Modern image formats are used, where supported, to reduce file sizes.
- Content is delivered through Vercel's global CDN, reducing the distance data needs to travel.
- JavaScript and other frontend assets have been minimised to reduce page weight.
- Browser and CDN caching help prevent users from repeatedly downloading unchanged content.

These measures reduce bandwidth usage, improve loading speeds and lower the website's overall environmental impact.

**4. Produced a policy or guidance on measuring and reducing emissions from digital infrastructure.**

A formal policy for measuring and reducing emissions from digital infrastructure has not yet been established. Current efforts are focused on implementing technical best practices that reduce resource consumption, including optimised hosting, image compression, caching, and minimising data transfer.

**5. Included sustainability standards in the procurement agreements with server providers, such as the EMAS standards, ISO 14001, ISO 50001.**

Please see information above in section 1

**6. Published details of the specific measures taken to reduce data transfer of the website.**

Please see information above in section 1

**7. Produced a policy or guidance on measuring and reducing emissions from digital infrastructure**

Please see information above in section 1

**8. Produced guidance on minimising energy consumption from digital infrastructure for staff and students.**

At the end of term/ahead of holidays e.g. before Christmas and Easter, 'switch off' guidance emails are issued in order to remind staff and students on how to minimise energy consumption from digital infrastructure.

This is supported by Student AI guidance which is available to students on the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) eStudio: [Student Guidance on the use of AI | eStudio](#) (see screenshots below).

9. Produced guidance on AI usage for staff and students that details the risks and recommended usage related to at least 1 of the following: Human accountability for output and declaring where AI has been used to generate output; Mental health risks from AI; Intelligence risks from AI use; Unreliability of AI output; Privacy risks from AI use; Loss of work from AI agent use; Legal risks of using AI; Climate implications of AI

Student AI guidance which is available to students on the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) (see screenshots below).

The guidance details the risks and recommended usage, including in relation to:

- Climate implications of AI
- Human accountability for output and declaring where AI has been used to generate output;
- Adverse impacts of AI use that could affect student learning and assessment outcomes. Copyright and intellectual property concerns from AI use;
- Unreliability of AI output;
- Privacy & Data protection risks from AI use;

This is set out in the following sections:

- What is Generative AI?
- Generative AI and your learning
- Generative AI and Academic Integrity
- Ethical considerations
- How generative AI can support students with a disability or SpLD
- What about generative AI as a medium?
- Further Support
- Test, Question, Reflect e.g. via Adobe Express, Microsoft CoPilot

**Extract from AI Guidance below:**

### **Copyright, Intellectual and Data Protection**

*Most AI tools are trained using information sourced from across the internet. This typically includes copyrighted texts, artworks, designs, photographs and more. Many of these items were not intended to be reused in this way and this raises questions about the rights of the creator.*

*It is important to note that some AI tools will use the prompts and content you input to train and improve responses in future uses. This means your own ideas, words, or images, as well as the potential views and thoughts of others could be used unethically and in ways you didn't intend. What you create is your own intellectual property, so don't risk giving that away unintentionally.*

*When thinking about copyright, intellectual property and data protection:*

- *Investigate and be mindful of how the tools have been trained, you can ask this question of the tool itself.*
- *Think carefully about what you're inputting into your prompts. Is it your work or someone else's? Do you have permission to use it in that way?*
- *Consider what rights you might be sacrificing or damaging by inputting your work, or the work of others into the platform.*
- *Carefully think about whether your prompt contains sensitive or private data and refer to the University's guidance on ethics.*

## Society and Sustainability

*As an emerging creative, you have the power to challenge assumptions, represent and celebrate diversity, and make thoughtful, sustainable decisions. This includes thinking about how digital technologies such as generative AI can shape your decisions, wider culture, and impact the environment.*

*Although the full extent is still unclear, generative AI tools require significant energy to train, process and respond to user prompts. The generated content is typically a blended copy of existing content, styles, biases and inaccuracies which can lack context, validity, meaning, authorship and depth, potentially leading to limited views, misrepresentation and biases. Through limitations and repurposing, the generated content can also make work feel formulaic, repetitive and disconnected from lived experiences.*

*It is good ethical practice to:*

- *Think about what decisions are being made by the Generative AI tools on your behalf. How might this impact the individuality of creativity within your work and wider society?*
- *Be critical of generated content by questioning which voices or cultures are represented. Are there any missing or misrepresented views? Can you find contradictory information?*
- *Carefully consider the value and purpose before using the tool as you would with any other material. Each prompt and the generated content uses energy and resources.*

## 10. Changed the default search engine in use by institution-controlled systems to a privacy and/or sustainability focussed alternative. e.g. Qwant, Ecosia, Duck Duck Go, LibreWolf, Waterfox

The University's annual student Digifair event open to all students includes a Sustainability stall and slide deck offering examples and guidance including on more sustainable alternative options of search engines available:

### Consider your browser choice / search engine?

Almost 93% of Internet traffic comes from search engines.

It is estimated that Google receives 99 000 requests per second.

While traditional web browsers and search engines dominate the global market, they do not all have the same ecological footprint. Some browsers are also more energy efficient than others.

**You can set your default search engine to your preferred choice in the settings of your preferred browser**



- world's largest not-for-profit search engine
- dedicates 100% of its profits to fighting climate change
- primarily through financing tree-planting projects in the planet's biodiversity hotspots - has helped to plant over 220 million trees to date in over 35 countries.
- Transparent about business operations and publishes their financial reports online.



*Note that many of the newer search engines like Ecosia are metasearch engines i.e. they send queries to other search engines (Google) with their own servers and return the results to the user.*

**Do your research, try some out and see what works for you!**

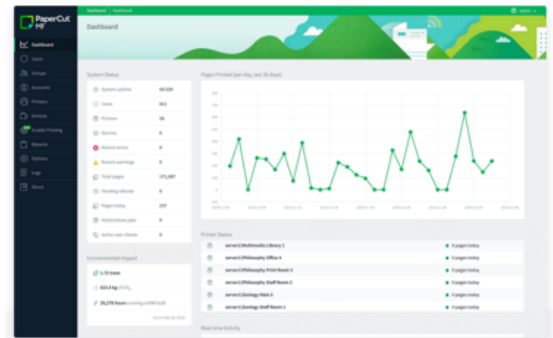
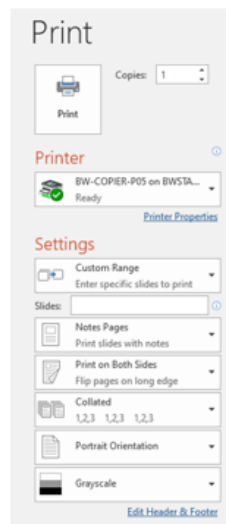
(slide extract from Digifair 2026)

## 11. Produced a policy or guidance on minimising e-waste from hardware, printing processes or other sources.

The University's student Digifair event is held annually and at the University and includes a Sustainability stall and slide deck offering examples and guidance including on minimising printing:

### *Think before you print?*

- Consider if you need to print every time?
- Alternative option could be to print or scan to pdf, (ensure good file management of digital documentation)
- Paper Cut can prompt to consider the paper and device energy impact of your printing
- If you do need to print:
  - Duplex (2 sided)
  - Black and white
  - 2 sheets to a page
- When printing final pieces, consider inks and paper types
- If you are unsure or need advice, ask for support e.g. Academic Computing, Digital Print room.



(slide extract from our Digifair 2026)

### Extract From 2024/25 Annual Sustainability Report:

Seeking Circular solutions: We worked with [Over2Hills](#) to reuse, recycle, and rework 300+ obsolete digital and film cameras, accessories, and components to divert them from landfill. Over 70 individual charities and non-for-profit organizations directly benefitted from this recycling project, with some great feedback from recipients:

*“Fantastic opportunity to give these cameras a new lease of life with my art students and other light-painting explorations!” and “thank you for the camera this will help my daughter with her course work for her photography GCSEs. Very kind and generous support for local communities”.*

Any items which could not be placed for re-use from the above processes were unassembled and categorized by material and processed at the relevant recycling plant. This prevented the remanufacturing of the already present raw materials.



Extract from the Sustainability committee meeting, December 2025:

## **Electronics Watch**

*The University is a consortium affiliate member of Electronics Watch (EW), via NEUPC. EW is a not-for-profit organisation which uses public procurement leverage to coordinate worker-driven monitoring and remediation activities in global supply chains, using partnerships with civil society monitoring partners in electronics production regions and experts in human rights and global supply chains.*

*The latest sector wide supply chain monitoring reports have been received. An annual affiliate form is required to be completed to provide details of the university IT suppliers.*

*Electronics Watch will use this information to provide us with more accurate monitoring status reports linked to IT products that the university procures.*

Extract from the eStudio pages Student Guidance on the use of AI:

## Ethical Considerations

As creatives, our work is not only shaped by common values such as originality, respect, responsibility and integrity, but also by the skill and imagination brought to the task. Collectively, we can reflect on these issues from an ethical perspective. Ethics are the moral principles that inform how we act, including how we learn and make. For creative students, this includes thinking about authorship, ownership, influence, and accountability.

In addition to the academic integrity we've explored, generative AI raises complex ethical challenges which you should aim to consider before choosing to use associated tools.

Click on each of the topics below to learn more about some key ethical areas. Each topic contains a short summary and suggested considerations to guide your own judgement.

Copyright, Intellectual Property and Data Protection

Society and Sustainability

As an emerging creative, you have the power to challenge assumptions, represent and celebrate diversity, and make thoughtful, sustainable decisions. This includes thinking about how digital technologies such as generative AI can shape your decisions, wider culture, and impact the environment.

Although the full extent is still unclear, generative AI tools require significant energy to train, process and respond to user prompts. The generated content is typically a blended copy of existing content, styles, biases and inaccuracies which can lack context, validity, meaning, authorship and depth, potentially leading to limited views, misrepresentation and biases. Through limitations and repurposing, the generated content can also make work feel formulaic, repetitive and disconnected from lived experiences.

It is good ethical practice to:

- ✓ Think about what decisions are being made by the Generative AI tools on your behalf. How might this impact the individuality of creativity within your work and wider society?
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- ✓ Carefully consider the value and purpose before using the tool as you would with any other material. Each prompt and the generated content uses energy and resources.

## POLICY & STRATEGY

### 1. Does the university have a public sustainability policy that has been published or reviewed and updated within the last 5 years?

Yes, throughout 2024-25, work was undertaken to develop an updated Sustainability Framework for the University. This work built on the strong foundations of the existing Sustainability Framework which was first developed in 2015 to ensure that it continues to guide sustainability activity effectively and align to best practice. The new Sustainability Framework launched in academic year 2025-26.

**Our Sustainability Framework** is publicly available [here](#).

This Framework guides how we engage with and advance our sustainability practices across all areas of the University, and through which we aim to educate and encourage our staff and students to consider sustainability more consciously. Alongside this we have an Estate Sustainability Plan which sets out actions, initiatives and resources to achieve our net zero carbon emissions target for the Leeds Arts University Estate by 2035.

Our Sustainability Framework was approved by the University's senior management team and by our Sustainability Committee. This committee is Chaired by our Vice-Chancellor and meets three times a year. The members of the committee comprise of both staff and student representation. The Sustainability Committee plans, supports and monitors the University's sustainability activity and how it adheres to the University's Sustainability Framework. Minutes of these meetings are available to all staff.

### 2. Does the university work to an environmental sustainability strategy, setting SMART targets for reducing environmental impact? (across 8 key areas)

The University is continually seeking opportunities to improve its sustainability performance and reduce its environmental impact. As part of developing the University's new Sustainability Framework, targets are under consideration across a number of areas.

A summary of activity across 8 key areas of Construction and Refurbishment, Emissions and Discharges, Community Involvement, Biodiversity, Waste Management, Travel and Transport, Sustainable Procurement and Water is provided below:

## 2.1 Construction and 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/<br>Auditor  | Certification<br>Number | NSO        | Other Information                                                                                        | Client/<br>Developer     | Project Type | Rating (%)         |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Education | Tetra Tech<br>Limited | BREEAM-0079-<br>8736    | BRE Global | 2014: Further Ed<br>Stage: Final<br>Score(%): 59.3<br>Cert. date: 12/11/2019<br>Stage/Valid until: Final | Leeds Arts<br>University | Education    | 59.3%<br>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 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 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Blenheim Walk</b>                                                                      |               |       |       |       |       |       |
| 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                                                          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Vernon Street</b>                                                                      |               |       |       |       |       |       |
| 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 |               |       |       |       |       |       |
| <b>Rossington Street</b>                                                                  |               |       |       |       |       |       |
| 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 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.

## 2.2 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.

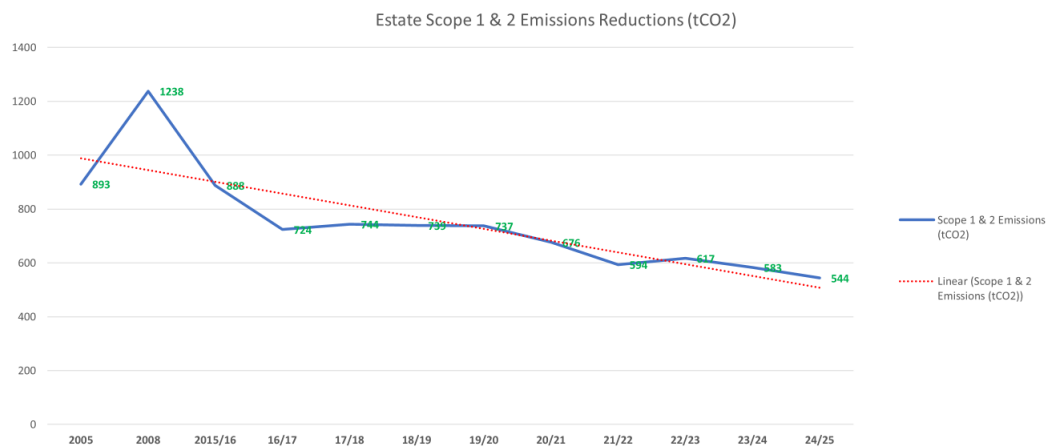
The plan was approved by the University's Senior Management Team, and resources to deliver the plan have been budgeted for. Significant long-term planning and collaboration with our partners and suppliers will also be required to meet the 2035 target.

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 (tCO<sub>2</sub>) 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.

# Estate Annual Carbon Reduction



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.

## 2.3 Community involvement

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.

## 2.4 Biodiversity

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

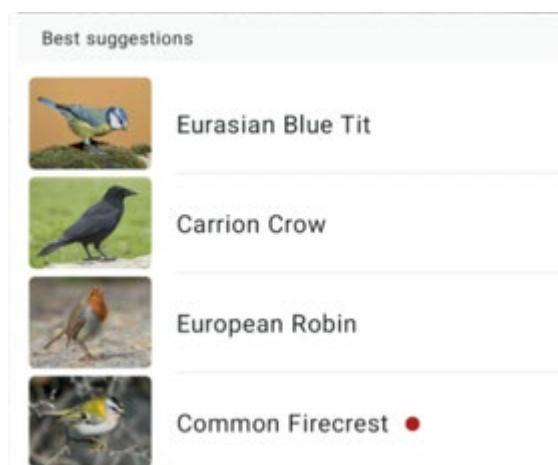
Nonetheless, at Blenheim Walk there are bat and bird boxes, bee bricks and a green roof, recently enhanced further with a green wall, additional tree and wildflower planting, and new cycle storage with a sedum roof.

In January 2025, a preliminary Biodiversity Audit was undertaken by staff of the 5590m<sup>2</sup> of urban green space land owned by the University. This green space had been continually maintained with the grass cut on a monthly basis.

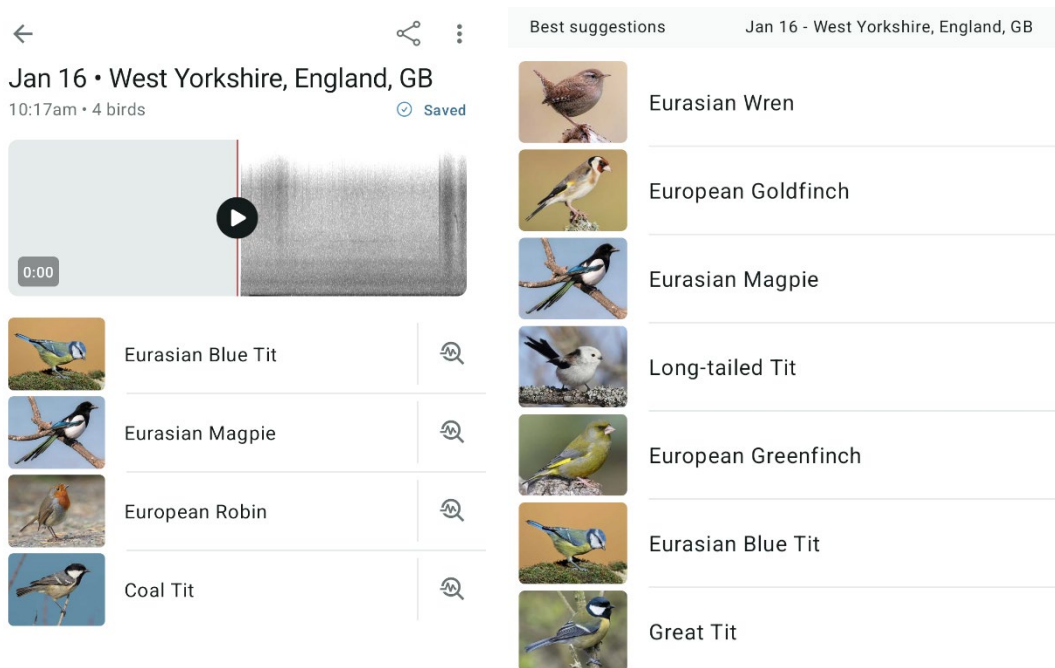
To support and improve the bio-diversity in this urban environment, a decision was made to let the grass land rewild to increase the diversity of plant species and encourage more habitation from wild life.



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](#):



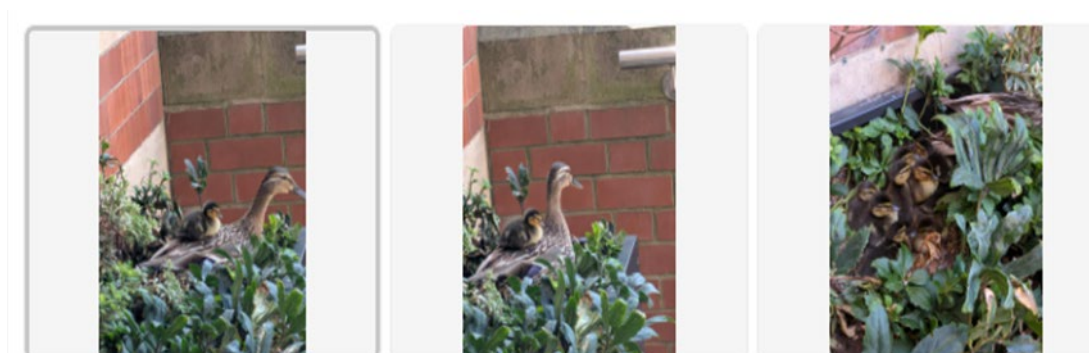
The site survey and bird audit were repeated in January 2026 and the following birds were observed:



The opportunity was taken to retain wood chip and 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.



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.



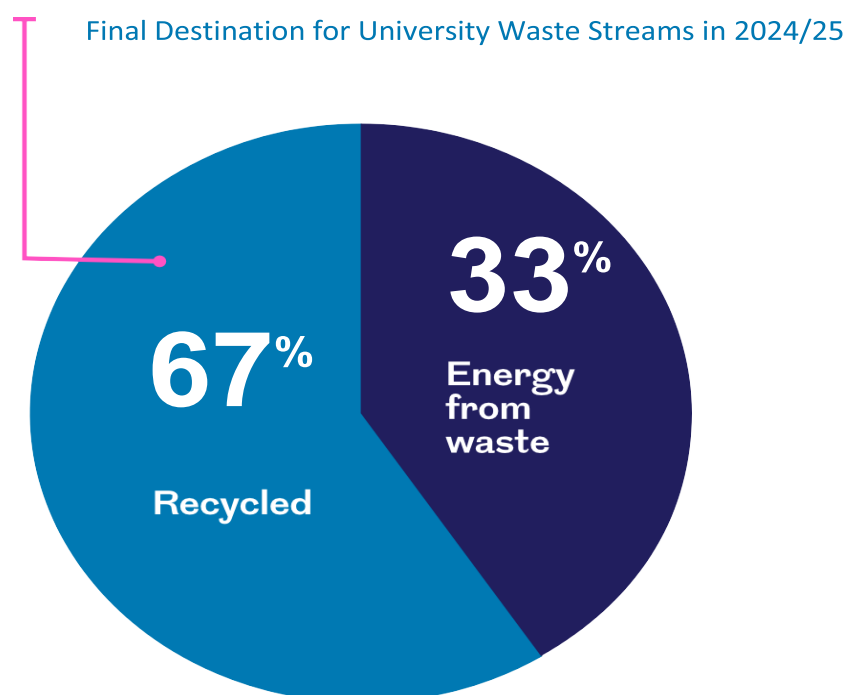
Future annual auditing is planned to be undertaken to inform proposals and the development of opportunities for future Biodiversity objectives as part of the new Sustainability Framework.

## 2.5 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.

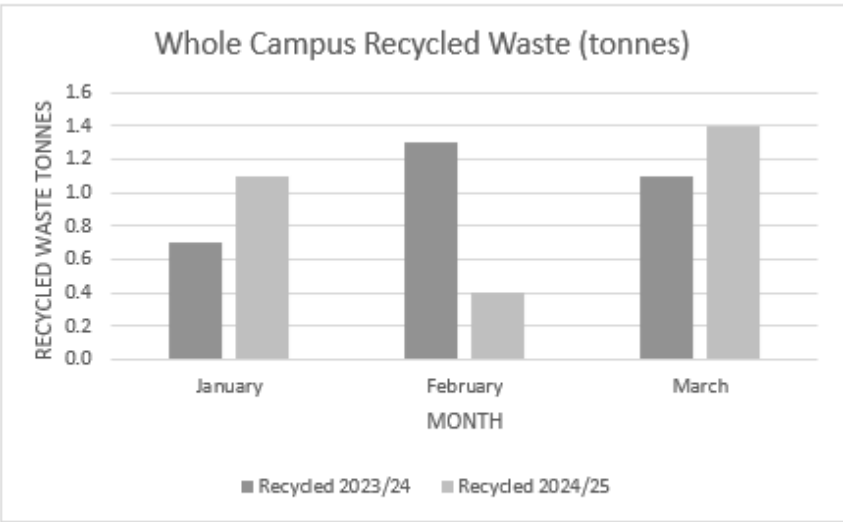
During 2024-25, 67% of the University's waste was recycled (+8% increase compared to 2022-23) with the residual 33% of general waste (-8 % decrease compared to 2023-24) going to the local energy waste plant as fuel for Leeds City Council's sustainable district heating network.



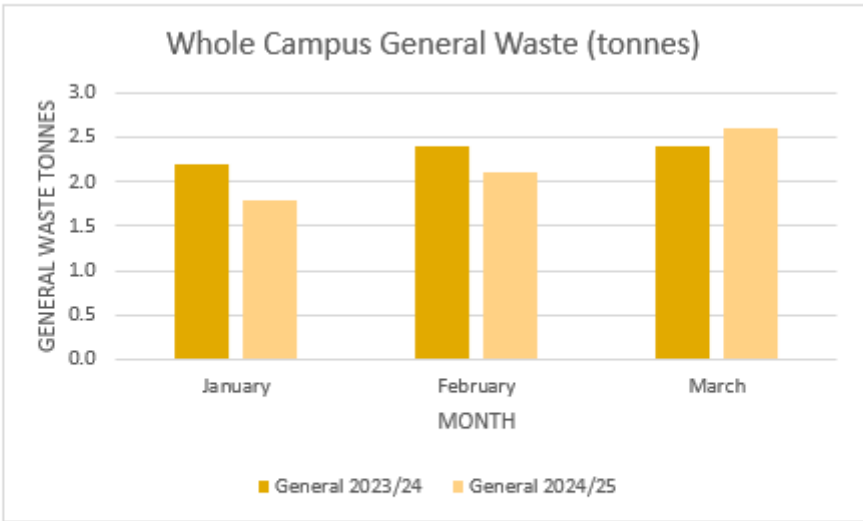
General waste and skip waste are captured monthly and reported as a standing agenda item to the Sustainability Committee which meets three times a year.

An extract of waste data reported to the Sustainability Committee is provided below:

**WASTE**

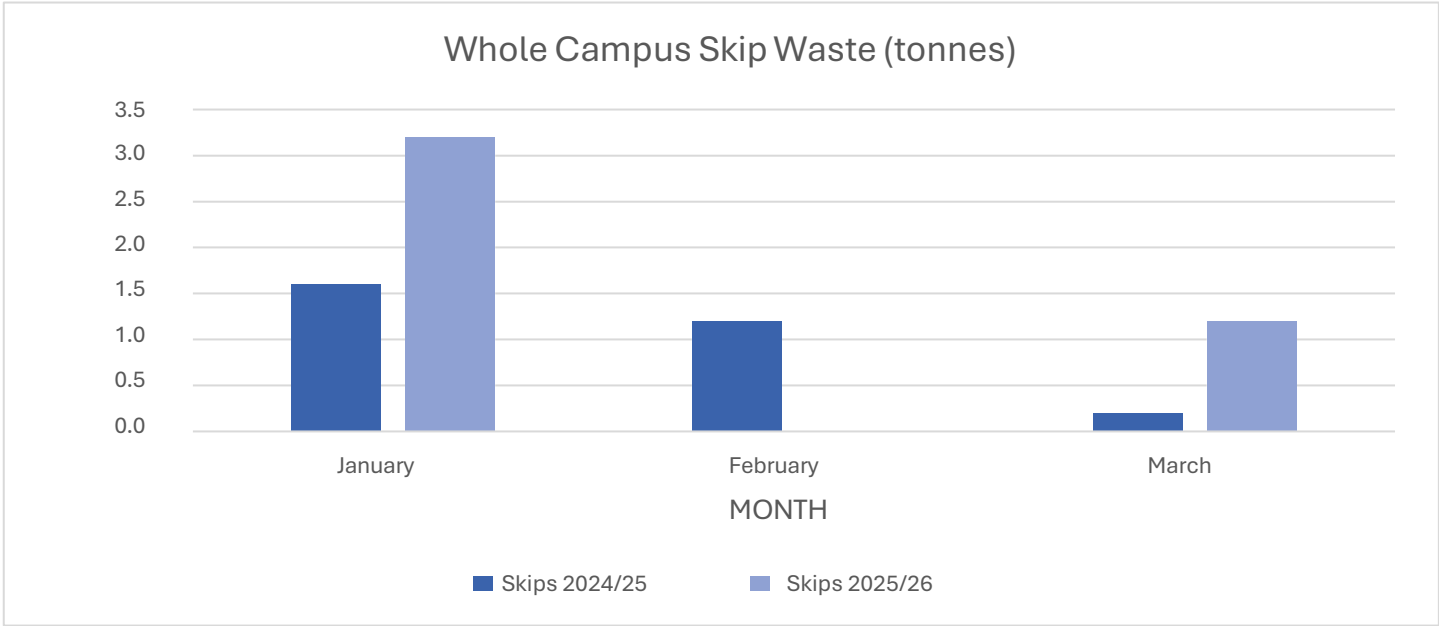


ABOVE – In total we produced less recycled waste during these 3 months in 2025 compared to the same months in the previous year.



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 19<sup>th</sup> 2026.*



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

From Monday 31st 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.

**2.6 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 and increasing level of commuting by sustainable mode:

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

Of those who completed the 2026 Travel Survey run in March 2026, sustainable travel to the University by students was 96% (comparable to 2025) and by staff was 68% (-6% compared to 2025).

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.

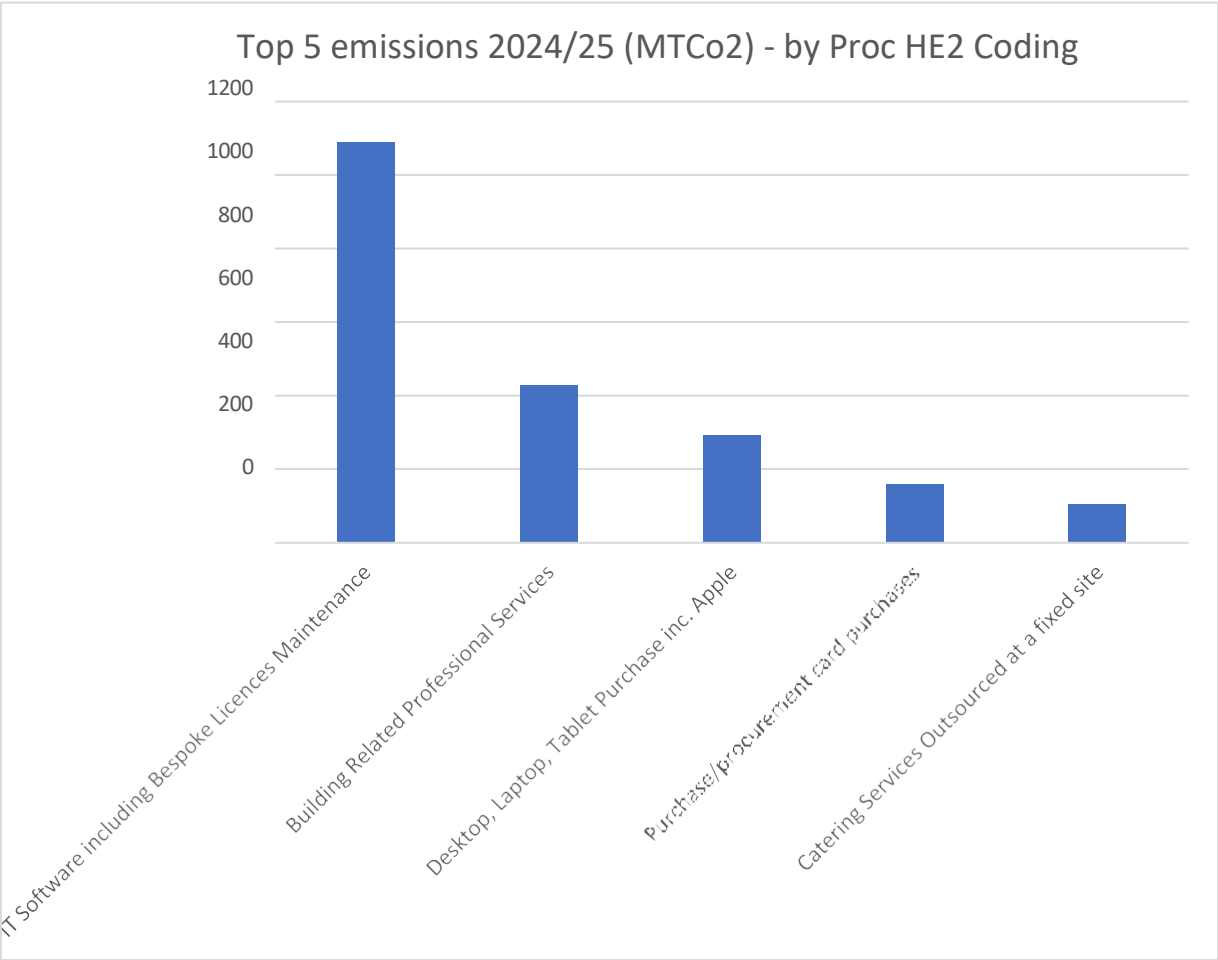
## 2.7 Sustainable procurement

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

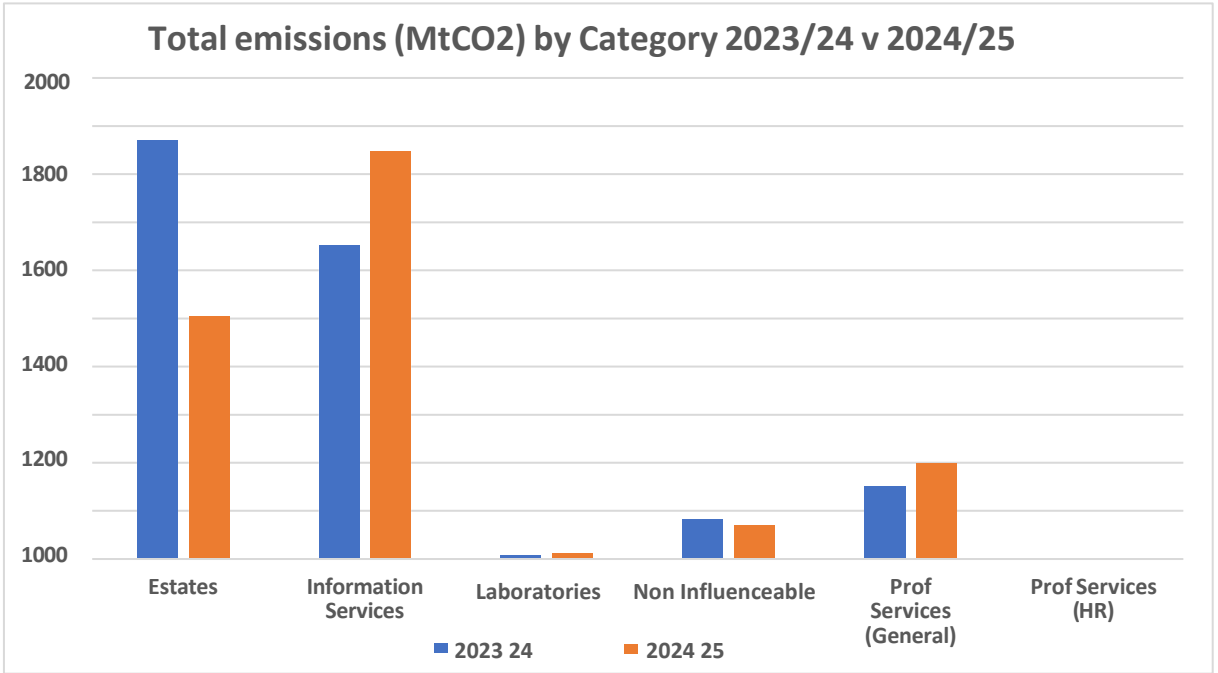
- Leeds Arts University is part of the **North-East Universities Purchasing Consortium (NEUPC)**, through which we are able to access Framework suppliers whose sustainability has been assessed. Updates on this are provided via the Procurement Consultant's updates on tender activity to Sustainability 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')



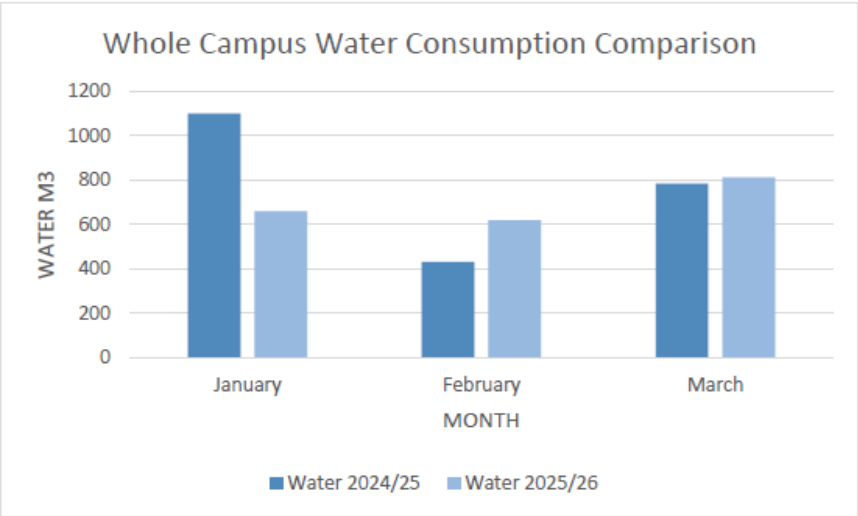
Total Emissions by over-arching Category



2.8 Water

Water consumption is continually monitored, and reported to every Sustainability Committee meeting.

An extract of water data reported to the Sustainability Committee is provided below:



ABOVE: Following the hosepipe ban which ended in December 2025, the Estates department we continued to prioritise water efficiency by adopting some of the methods we put in place during the hosepipe ban, as reported in the last committee meeting.

This saw a reduction in usage in January 2026 compared to the same period last year. The increase in February may be attributable to caching up with external works requiring water following the ban.

(source: Sustainability Committee meeting papers, May 2026)

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