“Our vision is to enhance our social, economic and physical environments by embedding sustainability into the University’s core business”
To enhance our social, economic & physical environments by embedding sustainability into the University’s core business”

Our vision

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About this report

This Sustainability Report has been prepared by the University's Environment Team (now Social Impact Team) for the academic year 2016/17 using data from the previous EMR reporting year (2015/16)

As sustainability goes across the University, the achievements presented herewith represent the combined efforts of staff and students across many departments. It is not an exhaustive report, rather a celebration of progress and an explanation of our current and future direction as steered by University strategy, student expectations and national and international policy and need.

Foreword by Professor Jon Scott

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Student Experience)

This year has seen the University reap the rewards of a number of long-standing sustainability-related initiatives that are now coming to fruition and allowing us to be recognised as a leading institution for sustainability by organisations such as People and Planet.

Our top 20 position reflects the hard work and innovation that we have done across the institution to embed sustainability within every aspect of University-life, from day to day Estates operations to revising our academic taught programmes. The launch of the Leicester Graduate concept reflects the commitment our organisation has to helping our students become socially responsible, global citizens.

To take this further, we are currently developing a Social Impact Strategy as one of the University’s enabling strategies, which will enable us to accomplish even more. We are proud of our achievements thus far and look forward to the opportunities the next chapter presents.
Our commitments

Our Vision
To enhance our social, economic & physical environments by embedding social awareness and sustainability into our DNA.

Our Values
The University of Leicester is a global university, founded with the aim of providing hope for the future. We are committed to making the world better for present and future generations through our teaching and research.

The University aspires to make a positive difference in the local and wider community, recognising that we are part of a global community spanning generations. The University wants to help our city meet its environmental, social, and educational challenges, preserving our heritage for the future, and contributing to a diverse and flourishing world.

Leadership
We will provide University-wide leadership to ensure social impact is embedded throughout the institution’s operations.

Environmental Management
We will continue to embed environmental sustainability within Estates operations, to reduce carbon emissions and to encourage and facilitate staff, students and visitors to do the same.

Education for Sustainable Development
We pledge to promote social impact and sustainability through the delivery of a curriculum which provides our students with the opportunity to learn more about social impact issues and involve themselves in projects for the benefit of communities or society as a whole.

Research
We are committed to realising and communicating the social and economic impact arising from our work. Applied and translational work is underpinned by fundamental and conceptual research – both are essential to delivering effective and sustainable impact.

Community
We will continue to make a difference to society through our research, our teaching, our outreach programme, our contribution to the environment, and by encouraging our students and graduates to make a positive impact.
2016/17 at a glance

Education for Sustainable Development and Research

- Sustainability MOC developed, due to launch in January 2018
- Sustainability included within Curriculum Transformation project using UN SD Goals
- 36 completed the Sustainable Development Programme workshop
- Team collaborated with students on 7 dissertations and research projects this year

Travel

- Increased staff benefits package including travel discounts
- Walking increases as 26% of staff and almost 65% of students commute on foot

Carbon, Energy and Water

- Gold standard reducing our carbon emissions, waste and water
- Total carbon emissions decreased by 12%
- Water use down by 200m³
- CRC carbon emissions saving of 8%
- 5 energy saving projects funded through SALUK

Leadership

- Achieved a 1st in People & Planet League
- Won Highly Commended Green Gown Award for Enterprise and Employability
- 1500 followers on Environment Team Twitter and over 650 likes on Facebook
- 80 Environmental Action Society members
- 1156 environmental volunteering hours
- Over 800 students took part in NUS sustainability survey
- Over 100 staff members engaged in Team activities

Student Success

- 13 student-led projects this year, a huge exponential increase with only 22 in the past 3 years
- Litter picking in local areas and rivers with community groups
- 2 hedgehog boxes and 4 bird boxes donated
- £134 Raised for The Real Junk Food Project

Waste

- £1100 of leftover food donated from city halls of residence
- 1201 bags of unwanted items donated to British Heart Foundation, valuing £16,814 and saving nearly 100 tonnes of CO₂
- Furniture scheme saved £146,757 and reduced our carbon footprint by 1,340 tonnes of CO₂

Biodiversity

- 2 hedgehog and 1 insect project researched by students
- First Biodiversity Action Plan created
- Over 1000 trees planted over 3 years in partnership with woodland trust
The University is based at several sites within Leicester; the Central Campus on University Road, South Campus at Freemens Common, North Campus along Princess Road, Regent Road and New Walk, Brookfield site just off London Road and sites at each of the three hospitals in the City. We also have a large amount of student accommodation at Oadby.

21,150 students were registered in 2016/17. Figures for March 2016 show that 2,889 full-time and 1,109 part-time staff were employed by the University (total 3,998) and 500 staff shared our Campus from other organisations such as the Medical Research Council, Students’ Union and Chaplaincy. A further 4,659 were registered as atypical although many of these are students and not all worked regularly.

The University has 305 acres of green space including Blackthorn Manor, Attenborough Arboretum and the Botanical Gardens. This includes almost 10,000 trees as well as a host of bird, mammal and plant life, some of which are legally protected - such as newts, bats and badgers.
The structure and governance of sustainability at Leicester has progressed significantly over the last year. The Environment Team has now moved to Campus Services and has broadened its remit (and membership) to become the Social Impact Team.

Under the two University Discovery-led strategies (Learning & Teaching Strategy and Research & Enterprise Strategy) are eight Discovery-enabling strategies, one of which is now the Social Impact Strategy. We now report to the Strategy Support Group, which feeds directly to the University Leadership Team and Council.

**Key stats:**

- Achieved a 1st in People & Planet League
- Won Highly Commended Green Gown Award for Enterprise and Employability

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**Focus on:**

**Re-defining Sustainability**

Sustainability at Leicester has historically officially focussed more on Environmental Management and has only recently widened its official remit to include the other pillars of sustainability, particularly social responsibility.

In reality we have developed a strong student engagement scheme that focuses on all areas of sustainability and have been involved with community engagement and education for sustainable development, however, this new formal remit allows the team to have an even greater reach.

We have based our Social Impact Strategy on the UN Sustainable Development Goals as the University has recognised these as a ‘to do list’, not just for individuals but for institutions such as our own. Our role is, not only to minimise our environmental impact, but to maximise our positive impact by producing research and graduates who will help to deliver these goals in whatever corner of the globe they inhabit and whatever career and life choices they make.
Leicester’s AUDE Green Scorecard is shown below and clearly shows how we are performing in each area. The target score is the goal we have set that we believe to be achievable within three years. Since last year we have improved our scores in biodiversity, waste, water and energy. The low adaptation score is because we do not yet have a University plan to deal with climate change.

Key stats:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Increased staff benefits package including travel discounts. Walking increases as 26% of staff and almost 65% of students commute on foot.</td>
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Focus on:

Labs project
This year the University has invested in two bright ideas to save energy by replacing fluorescent lights with LEDs. This was done on the 2nd floor office space of the David Wilson Library after students calculated a 93% saving from £2600 to £200 per annum. Thanks to the longevity of the technology, we are expected to save over £25,000 in energy costs and 550t in carbon emissions with an ROI of 5 years. Staff recommended the same in the Adrian Building Plant Growth rooms after explaining the maintenance challenge caused by fluorescent lights failing. Funded by SALIX, the cost saving is estimated at £20,530 per annum with an ROI of 6 years – that’s equal to 298,404KWhrs.

Focus on:

Supplier day
The University held its first Key Suppliers Day on 1st March.

Colleagues from the Sustainability Team and the Career Development Service, as well as the Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Equality and Diversity were able to enhance attendees’ awareness around sustainability and equality, in general and as regards the University’s values and initiatives.

Procurement
- The Director of Procurement explained the University’s approach to procurement at a Chamber of Commerce event entitled ‘How to secure public sector contracts’ in October 2016, as part of the Leicester Business Festival. His presentation outlined the Action Plan that the University had led on developing, alongside local authority colleagues, in response to suggested areas for improving public/HE sector procurement that came from delegates that attended a similar event as part of the previous year’s Leicester Business Festival.

- The University has signed up to NetPositive’s Supplier Engagement Tool that allows suppliers to access the portal, free of charge, and complete a brief industry-specific questionnaire to gain a bespoke sustainability action plan. The supplier can then maintain their action plan online, and the University can use the portal to run reports showing the progress that its supply base has made in terms of sustainability (including mitigating the risk of slavery/human trafficking in its supply chains).
As a direct result of our work over the past few years, we have developed the concept of ‘The Leicester Graduate’ which has been approved and publicised and now shapes strategy and curriculum development:

“The University’s values mean that it is committed to developing students who can think and act sustainably. We aspire to produce graduates with skills and knowledge that not only allow them to succeed, but also enrich and sustain the world.

The University’s teaching is aimed at fostering excellence in its students. We want our graduates to be creative, open, and resourceful, as well as respectful of the freedom, dignity, and wellbeing of others. The Leicester graduate should understand the importance of resource management in a finite world and recognise their global responsibilities. As a result of the education we provide, they should be equipped to live and work in ways that make a positive environmental and social difference.”

Key stats:

- Sustainability MOOC developed, due to launch in January 2018
- Sustainability included within Curriculum Transformation project using UN SD Goals
- 36 completed the Sustainable Development Programme workshop
- Sustainable Development Programme now available online
- Team collaborated with students on 7 dissertations and research projects this year
- Over 500 students have taken the extra-curricular online Sustainable Futures module
- 43 students achieved the HEAR Award in 2016

Focus on:

Curriculum Transformation

88% of students believe that Universities should actively incorporate and promote sustainable development (NUS survey, 2016). We’ve responded to this by setting a long-term aim to embed sustainability throughout the curriculum by communicating with numerous academic departments through the Curriculum Transformation process. By identifying sustainability-related activities already occurring, we could look at opportunities to develop them via a simple discussion and feedback process. ‘To be a Leicester Graduate means being a responsible global citizen’ and we are using the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a learning tool to promote interdisciplinary learning and develop unique partnerships.
We have been working with academic departments to offer students research projects with real-world impact. Out of the 17 projects we supervised this year, examples have included work on maximising the potential for insects and hedgehog populations on our sites, gender inequality in student engagement with sustainability and using lean techniques and tools to reduce the requirements for re-lamping.

This work has paved the way for establishing a Living Labs approach at Leicester. A Living Lab provides an opportunity for students, external stakeholders, academics and Professional Services to deploy and monitor new technologies and services in real world settings. This can also be extended to include local businesses and community settings. Watch this space for further developments…

Focus on:

Hedgehogs

One particular species has been hogging the limelight as students find new interest in the impact of changing weather conditions and food resources on Hedgehog numbers. Undergraduate Zoologist, Bethan Mason and intern Saadia Khan have worked on separate projects to use footprint tracking tunnels to monitor their activity on University of Leicester owned land. Saadia’s work has been funded by the People’s Trust for Endangered Species, but both have benefited from the assistance and enthusiasm of Estates and Academic staff. We look forward to more students taking this work further over the next 5 years and the valuable data this will result in.
We established a Student Sustainability Working Group in 2014, which is chaired by a Sabbatical Officer and has representatives from a large number of diverse student societies from Islamic to Chocaholics to Burlesque. The SSWG has been an active force in representing the student voice on issues of sustainability and has resulted in number of student-led outcomes including: recycling projects in the Students Union, library, and halls, sustainable sanitary products now available in the SU, increased water fountains, increased availability of vegan options, sustainable applications made to Union Council, Fairtrade Fortnight event and many more.

We run a HEAR-accredited extra-curricular programme where students learn about Sustainable Development and contribute 25 hours of volunteering. We also provide a SEED Fund that students can bid for to run their own sustainability projects. Over the last three years we’ve seen 25 volunteer student projects that have included working with Waste Management and Commercial Services to reduce food waste, educating students and staff on sustainable medical practices and use of natural medicines such as herbs, designing a rooftop garden for the Physics Building, working with Estates, planting an orchard of fruit-trees for a local organic fruit supply and building bug hotels.

Key stats:

| The Environment Team now has over 1500 followers on Twitter and over 700 on Facebook |
| Over 1100 Leicester students responded to the NUS Sustainability Survey this year showing how important this subject is to them |
| The Environmental Action Society now has 85 members |
| Hungry for Change has had over 60 growing sessions |
| Over 1470 society students were engaged in SSWG-related activities |
| Approximately half our volunteers are international students, particularly from China & Eastern Europe |
| 156 students were involved in voluntary activities with 2573 hours volunteered in 2016 |
| 13 student-led projects this year, a huge exponential increase with only 22 in the past 3 years |
| Litter picking in local areas and rivers with community groups |
| 2 hedgehog boxes and 4 bird boxes donated |
| £134 Raised for The Real Junk Food Project |
| Over 100 environmental champions in our Positive Impact Network |
| Over 300 staff members on our sustainability-related internal communications ‘Yammer’ groups |
Many of our competitors have invested in their sustainability strategies recognising it as both an efficient way to run the organisation and a draw to students, particularly the international market.

This year’s People and Planet University League score has brought us from the bottom half to the top five of our competitor group. However, whilst Leicester had a huge improvement this year, so too did Warwick, Birmingham and Belfast showing that our competitors are also investing heavily in sustainability.

The following table shows our P&P League position in each category within our competitor group last year and in 2015. The main areas we now need to work on are Carbon Management, which has been addressed by the publication of the revised Carbon Management Plan in August 2017, sustainable food and the introduction of an Environmental Management System, which is currently in preparation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2016 Competitor Group P&amp;P position</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education for Sustainable Development</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>12th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ Rights</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Staff</td>
<td>8th</td>
<td>23rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Policy</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>12th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethical investment</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditing and EMS</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Management</td>
<td>21st</td>
<td>28th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Food</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>12th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our AUDE Green Scorecard shows that we are performing fairly well in carbon management, waste and management. We are underperforming in procurement, biodiversity and water where we have set high but attainable targets. Areas we can improve in are travel (due to a lack of public transport availability and increases in parking spaces) and adaptation.

Four of our closest competitors submitted to the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking (Universitas Indonesia). Nottingham came second, we came 39th.

Six of our competitors have been awarded Green Flag status for one or more of their campuses. We believe that we can attain this for our Oadby and Blackthorn Manor sites.
What’s next?

2017/18 is shaping up well. As well as the huge governance and strategic changes that are well underway, the following initiatives are already proceeding:

- We have launched a campaign to raise awareness of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how they provide a blueprint for both our institutional activities and also our individual behaviours.

- A 5-year Behaviour Change programme will be launched in January 2018 (following the SDG campaign) to focus on energy use within buildings, starting with Science-based building. It will move on to focus on scope 3 as appropriate.

- Building on existing work, we are launching a Living Labs approach to research, particularly student projects.

- The Student Energy Project is running in Halls for the second year but with a lot more resource and innovation to support it this year.

- Following the recent success of our ESD work and the Curriculum Transformation Project, we are launching a formal ESD strategy and working group.

- The focus on health and wellbeing saw the launch of our formal staff volunteering programme in September 2017.

- Increased funding and an emphasis on community engagement means that we are able to expand the SEED Fund this year to include community-based projects.

- The Innovation Hub has now been launched and provides local SMEs many opportunities, including working with the University to increase their sustainability.
Our vision is to enhance our social, economic and physical environments by embedding sustainability into the University's core business.