

Sustainability Highlights Report 2014-15

Think **green**,
act **green**.



sustainability@hud.ac.uk

University of
HUDDERSFIELD

Environmental and Social Sustainability

The University is committed to the principles of environmental protection and sustainable development. Our ambition to green our campus, curriculum and University community has seen us become a recognised sector leader in environmental management and best practice. We are proud to be acknowledged among the UK's greenest Universities, nominated for two Green Gown Awards in 2014.

Strategic Activity on Sustainability

There has been an increase in University-wide strategic level activity on sustainability during the last year, which will shape how sustainability issues are addressed going forward.

Sustainability has been introduced into the University Strategy Map 2013-18 and the University Teaching and Learning Strategy 2013-18.

A University-wide Thematic Review of Sustainability was undertaken in May 2014, the first ever review, to assess the University's current activities and performance on sustainability issues. This has resulted in a series of recommendations for the future.

Environmental Management

The University has a comprehensive environmental policy, established in 2008 and updated regularly, linking our key environmental impact areas to specific time-bound targets. The Environmental policy primarily implemented through key strategies and plans, such as our Carbon Management Plan, Sustainable Travel Plan and newly developed Waste Management Strategy.

A dedicated Carbon and Energy Manager supported by an Environmental Co-ordinator oversee environmental, carbon and energy management in conjunction with specialist teams, within a wide governance framework that includes reporting to the Estates Development Committee and the University's Senior Management Team.

Further specialist expertise is offered by a Sustainable Procurement Officer and an Active Travel Project Officer (via working partner Sustrans).

Carbon emissions being one of our most significant environmental impacts, our Carbon Management Plan, established and driven forward by our Carbon Management Committee, includes a series of SMART targets specifically addressing carbon reduction, which is subject to annual progress reporting. A mid-term review of our Carbon Management Plan will be undertaken to reflect all the changes to the University since its implementation.

Environmental Performance

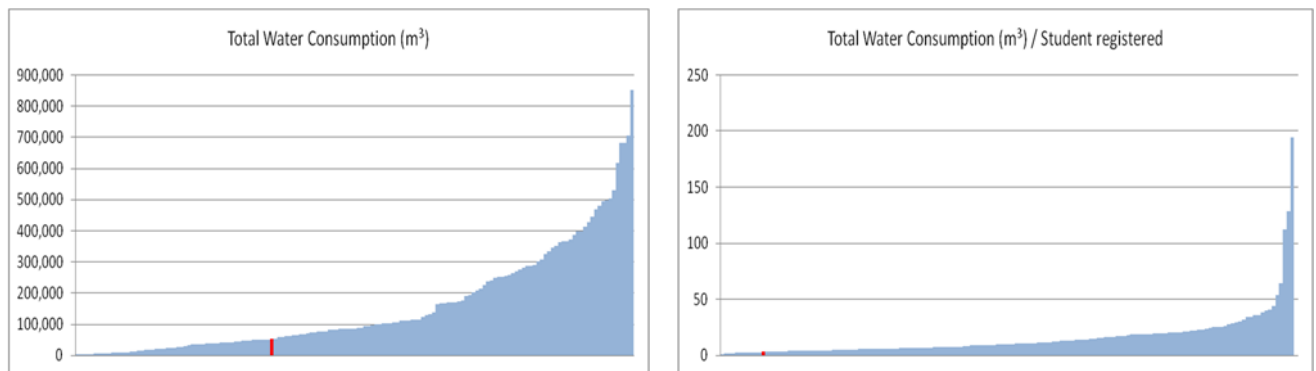
The University continues its commitment to achieve high environmental standards on new buildings and major redevelopments.

The new Oastler building has achieved the BREEAM Excellent standard and EPC A rating at design stage and will be expected to be certificated as such at handover in 2017. This follows BREEAM Excellent for our 3M Buckley Innovation Centre and several 'Very good' ratings on new builds since 2007.

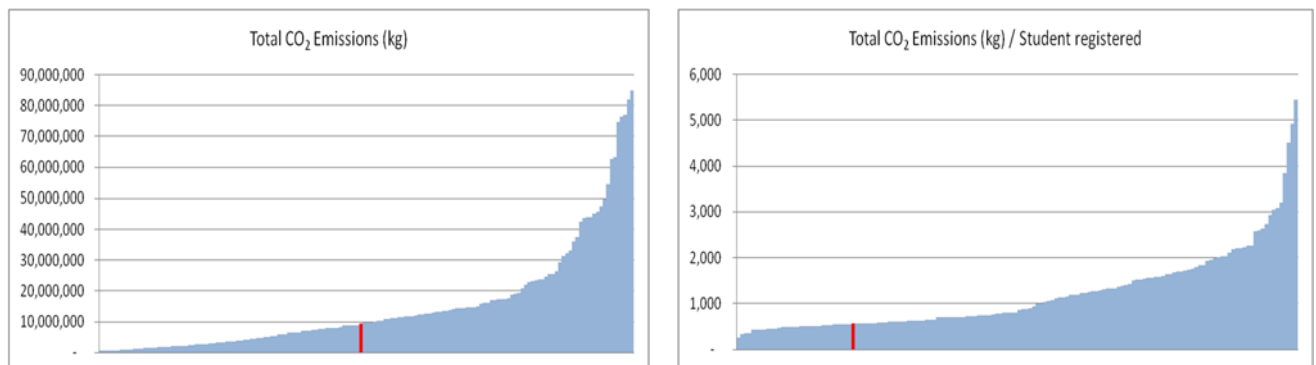
We are committed to a minimum of 'Excellent', plus Energy Performance Certificate 'B' ratings, for all future construction projects.

The Estates Carbon capital budget allows the University to invest in projects and products that will help improve its Sustainability performance. Investment has already been undertaken on improvements in LED lighting. This is an area that has been identified as a very good return on investment both environmentally and financially whilst providing improved conditions for teaching and working. The budget has also enabled the part-funding of the Active Travel Project Officer to extend this successful project to the end of the 2015-16 academic year.

The University has continued its good performance in water consumption, being within the top 35% of HEI's for Total Water Consumption and within the top 10% for water consumption per number of registered students.



We also continue to perform well with our Scope 1 & 2 Carbon Dioxide emissions, falling within the top 50% of HEI's for Total Emissions and within the top 20% for emissions per number of registered students.



We have continued our 'zero to landfill' waste policy and recycled over 90% of our waste, maintaining our consistently high recovery rate. We have implemented waste reuse schemes, such as SPURS, the 'Sustainable Procurement: University Recycling Scheme' for furniture and equipment, launched in 2012.

The University is currently in the process of tendering for a new waste management contract and has built in a high level of environmental performance as one of the key requirements for the company appointed.

We were one of the first and largest businesses in Huddersfield to adopt a Sustainable Travel Plan and have seen a 23% reduction in 'car alone' journeys to campus since its initial

implementation in 2007. Additionally, we are working in with our partners Sustrans, Kirklees Council and Kirklees College to deliver the Huddersfield Active Travel Project on campus for an additional year in the project.

We have begun the process of reviewing our Sustainable Travel Plan, reviewing and improving our travel schemes including customer surveys.

An exercise was recently undertaken to identify, map and where necessary improve all the cycling facilities on our campus.

Cementing our strong stance on Corporate Social Responsibility, our achievement of Fairtrade University status in 2009 was described as 'trailblazing for Huddersfield' by the Fairtrade Foundation, and we were central in achieving 'Fairtrade Borough' status for Kirklees in partnership with Kirklees Council. We successfully renewed our Fairtrade University status in September 2014 until 2016.

We have become a respected and acknowledged local leader on environmental and social responsibility issues, engaging in dialogue and partnerships with organisations from the Canal & River Trust to Kirklees Council and hosting events such as the 'Solutions for the Planet 2012' regional heat for school children to develop innovative sustainability projects.

We received a highly commended status from the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC).

Sustainability Education

Our involvement in educating our students about sustainability has increased, with our Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Forum launched in 2012, a new resource for teaching and academic staff.

As a result of Forum activities, a commitment to ESD has now been incorporated into our Teaching and Learning strategy. The Teaching and Learning Strategy refers to themes of sustainability, responsibility, global citizenship, interdependence of society, economic prosperity and ethical issues and it sets an objective for all students to reflect on these themes within their studies.

A strategic project is underway to implement the framework for a University-wide 'sustainability module', to enable sustainability issues to be incorporated into the curriculum for all subject disciplines.

In 2015 two special interest sub-groups of the ESD forum were established to share and develop both Learning and Activities for staff and students across the University related to sustainability.

Sustainability Research

The University's Research Centres undertake award-winning research into sustainability issues, from research into 'Thorium power', a safer nuclear power to address energy security issues, to the 'NOx factor', a system to cut polluting emissions from growing biodiesel use, to collaborative international development projects to improve the lives of people and communities in developing countries via the Centre for Sustainable and Resilient Communities.

A project is underway to map the full extent of sustainability research at the University.