

Annual Sustainability Report

2016 - 2017



This 2016/17 Annual Report illustrates progress made in many areas underlining the University of Greenwich's commitment to delivering sustainability.



UNIVERSITY *of*
GREENWICH

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The University is fully committed to functioning as a socially responsible and sustainable institution. We aim to minimise the impact of our activities on the environment and to achieve significant cultural, economic, environmental and social contributions at local, national and international levels.

This report has been prepared by the Sustainable Development Unit to illustrate the University's performance against our most significant sustainability impacts for the academic year 2016/17 and includes examples of our achievements as well as tips that our students, staff and wider community can take to continue supporting our goals.

The data for this report represents our owned activities only and is sourced from the Estates Management Record 2016/17 that is publicly available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

It is important to us that we create materials that our students, staff and other interested parties want to engage with, therefore your feedback is welcomed and encouraged. If you have suggestions for future content or any questions regarding the data within this report and the work the University is doing then please contact us:

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) provide a platform of action to be delivered by 2030. This uses 17 broad goals that relate closely to our teaching, research and operations. They are designed to be integrated to deliver the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

The breadth of the goals enable our students and staff, who may have previously struggled with the concept of sustainable development, to connect their teaching, learning and research with particular elements - for example 'gender equality' or 'no poverty'.

That's why, throughout this report we'll be highlighting the relationship to the SDG's by displaying the particular goal(s) associated with the work we do here at the University, helping us connect our estates, teaching and research to some of these elements and enabling wider conversation and awareness.



INTRODUCTION

FOREWORD

Professor David Maguire
Vice-Chancellor, University of Greenwich

The University of Greenwich is proud of the progress we have made in meeting our sustainability responsibilities. This second Annual Sustainability Report showcases the excellent work of our staff and students in maintaining the University as a leader in the sector.

Having won many awards in earlier years, the University has continued to maintain, for the fifth year, a First Class Award in the People and Planet University (Green) League and retained a top 20 place in the League amongst all UK Universities. During the year there has been additional external recognition for the University's responsible food sourcing and provision and its student engagement. A particular achievement to highlight is that the University has reduced Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 44.5% from a 2005 baseline, 3 years ahead of a target set by the Higher Education Funding Council; you can read more about that on page 3 of this report.

You can't manage what you don't measure and our sustainability team are now working towards better data capture and utilisation to assist the Estates and Facilities Directorate and the Sustainability Management Board (SMB) in the planning and management of resources; helping the University systematically embed and report progress.

Programmes focused on waste reduction, education for sustainable development and incorporating sustainable building design within our estates has helped progress and engage others in sustainability outcomes. The University's staff, again, have proved their commitment to sustainable teaching and research, integrating sustainability into their day-to-day work which has been well received by the student body, who are keen to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver sustainable outcomes, increasingly expected by employers.

I hope this report illustrates the progress made so far, which has been achieved thanks to all our staff, students and stakeholders, and provides a benchmark from which to make further progress. There is still a lot more to do, but with your help we can achieve great things for our University, and the planet.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

At the University of Greenwich our mission is to transform lives through inspired teaching & research. We seek to enhance science and society and change the lives of all those who study with us for the better through the embodiment of our values of excellence, determination, inclusivity, creativity and ambition.

Based at three historically rich campuses, we combine rich heritage with significant high-tech learning and research facilities, providing an environment which stimulates enquiry, celebrates scientific endeavour, and promotes well-being.



OUR APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

The nature of our organisation is complex, and the social, economical and environmental impact of our activities and the extent of our academic influence are as far reaching as they are long lasting. However, so too are the influences on the University.

This is why we take a risk management approach. We seek to anticipate regulatory changes, student needs, resource demands and internal requirements, as well as, the longer term global mega trends that will ultimately affect all our futures. Understanding and recognising these influences in the context of the University allows us to plan for the future, helps us achieve our goals and create a resilient institution.

We are motivated by our ability to empower change, the difference we as individuals can make and the significance of our global contribution when we act together; from the smallest action to life-changing research.

Our Sustainability Policy is ambitious and wide-ranging, providing high level aims and objectives that help drive efficiencies and raise awareness amongst the next generation of leaders. How we are progressing on our policy is set out within this report.

GOVERNANCE

The Sustainability Management Board (SMB) exists to help provide direction and accountability for the delivery of sustainability at Greenwich.

The Board comprises professional services staff with responsibilities for key sustainability related impacts including Estates & Facilities), Finance, Procurement, Information and Library Services.

Importantly it also includes key representatives from our Faculties and the Students' Union to ensure the group can connect our students, academics (including teaching and research staff) to the potential that exist in the application of sustainability at Greenwich. It also helps us take advantage of the many opportunities that we can utilise coming from within and outside of the University relating to sustainability.

To view a copy of the SMB structure visit:

<https://blogs.gre.ac.uk/greengreenwich/sustainability-management-board/>

HIGHLIGHTS

Reduced Carbon Emissions By
44.5%



Based on a 2005 Baseline for Scope 1 and 2 emissions

That's a CO2 equivalent to taking approximately

1278 Cars off the Road!



Source: www.yousustain.com



Reduced Work Related Travel Emissions By

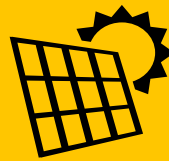
10.85% Since 2015/16

Saving enough CO2 to fill

1750
LONDON BUSES



37110
kWh



of electricity generated from Avery Hill's Solar Panels

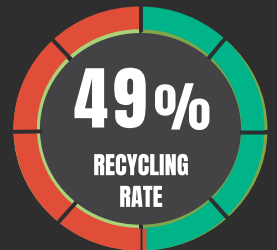
Reduced Waste By

250
Tonnes



49%

RECYCLING RATE



CARBON TARGET

ACHIEVED

3 years early



FAIRTRADE ACCREDITED

Since 2012



Water Consumption Increased

36%

Since 2015/16 due to a leak

2 Tonnes of items donated to Charity



VOTED AS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CAMPUSES

Greenwich Ranked **4th** In a Business Insider Poll



Environmental Management System

Awards & Recognition



ENERGY & CARBON

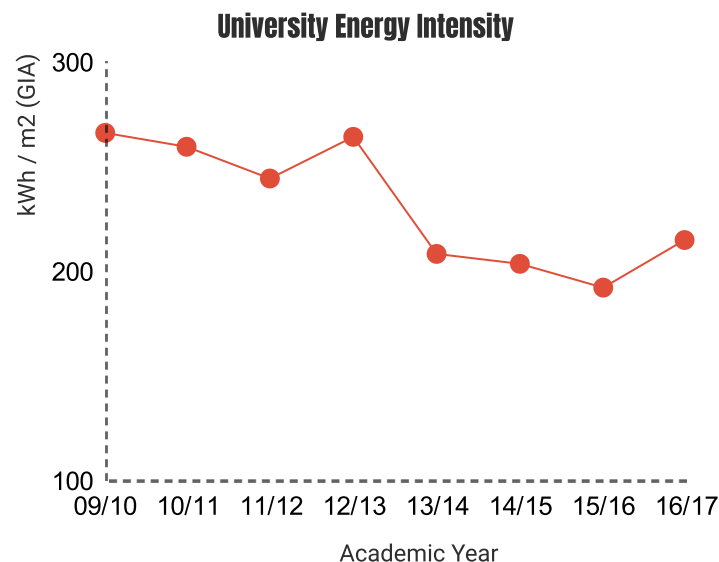
To reduce energy use and to further explore the possibilities of less carbon intensive energy sources

We spend close to £3 million on electricity and gas every year and are responsible for producing enough carbon dioxide to fill over 1600 hot air balloons.

It's important we as a University work hard to reduce our utility spend and minimise our impact on the environment, that's why we monitor our consumption and carbon emissions every year.

ENERGY

In 2016/17, our energy consumption per meter square of owned space (known as our energy intensity) increased by 11.8% from the previous year. However, as the graph below shows improvements in efficiencies over the years have been significant, through greening our IT, upgrading lighting systems to LED and optimising our Building Management Systems.



When looking at energy consumption throughout the University, our non-residential buildings have the most significant impact and are responsible for **94%** of our total energy consumption.

That's why, in order to ensure we stay focussed on reducing our environmental impact and minimising our costs we've now set ourselves a strategic KPI:

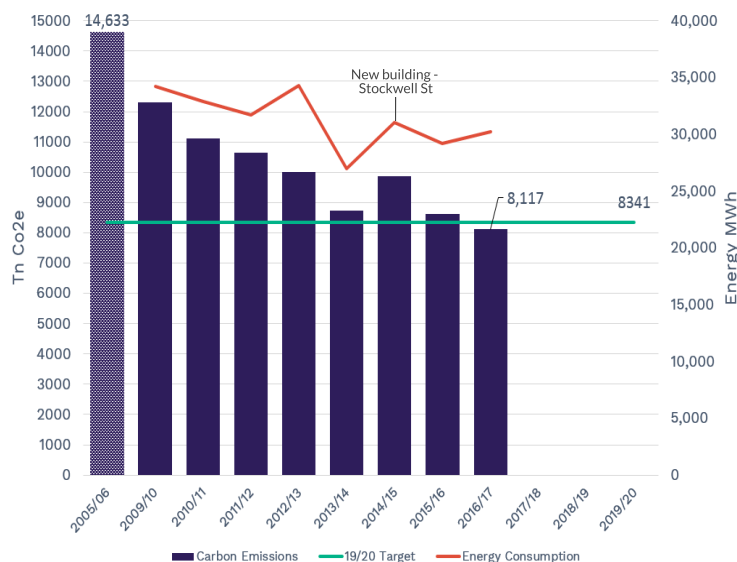


To Reduce Non Residential Energy Consumption by 14% by 2022 from a 2015/16 baseline

CARBON - DIRECT EMISSIONS

Our Scope 1 and 2 Carbon Emissions, that's the carbon produced directly from sources owned by the University (ie gas used for our boilers and fuels in our vehicles) and purchased electricity, have been reduced by **44.5%** from our 2005 baseline as shown in the graph below.

Carbon Performance against HEFCE Target & Energy Consumption



This means we've met the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) target **3 years early**.

However, we have set an additional target following a recent review of our Carbon Management Plan (CMP), changes to our estate and the fact that carbon conversion factors have fallen over recent years due to increases in renewable energy in the grid:



To Achieve a 40% Reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2020 against a 2009/10 baseline

This target takes into account a much broader scope including activities not wholly owned by the University.

CARBON - INDIRECT EMISSIONS

The University's carbon impact is far wider than the energy we use to heat, light and power the estate. It reaches across the whole organisation from sources not owned or directly controlled by us such as business travel, commuting, waste disposal and supplier emissions; these are known as Scope 3 carbon emissions.

Developing an accurate picture of our supply chain emissions is challenging and complex. The current methodology used by the University is based on the amount of money spent on goods and services and their associated carbon emissions. As the following graph shows, their contribution to our overall emissions is significant; clearly illustrating why it is so important we all utilise our purchasing power to drive change through supply chains.

2016/17 Carbon Emissions by Type



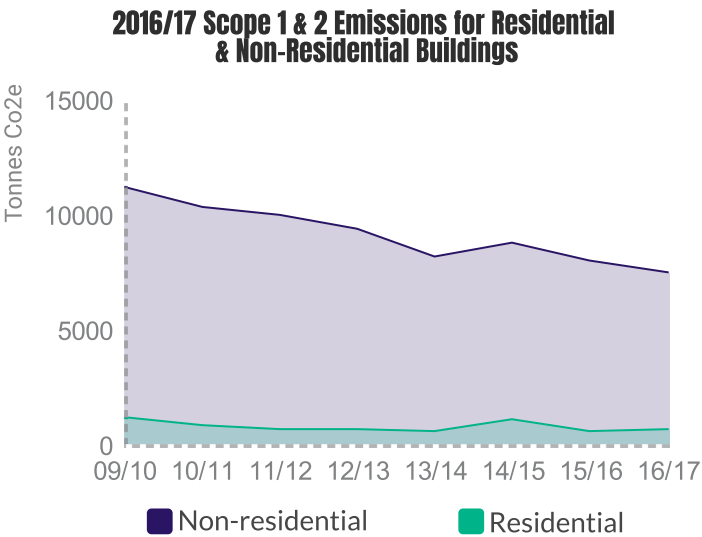
For further details on our Scope 3 travel emissions, please refer to the Travel and Transport section.

NEXT STEPS

In order to meet our targets over the coming years we'll be focussing more heavily on data collation, performance reporting and, identifying space optimisation and efficiency opportunities on any major refurbishment works.

Work will also begin on developing our communications to help drive behaviour change and, though our residential carbon emissions are considerably lower than our non-residential emissions (as shown below), we'll continue to work with our accommodation teams to run the NUS Student Switch Off campaign to engage residents in Halls and promote best practice; which will help students save on their own bills when they move out of halls.

We would also be interested to work with any academics and students that would like to get involved and have a chance to use their coursework to make a difference here at the University - which could be great for a CV.



GET INVOLVED

Switch off non-essential electrical items when not in use

Keep windows and external doors closed when the heating is on

Switch off lights when not needed

Turn off projectors in meeting rooms and lecture theatres when done

Fill kettles with only the amount of water that is needed

Students - look out for the Student Switch Off campaign, take part & get money saving tips

NUS

Don't leave the fridge door open while you're making your tea

Act on your ideas. If you have an idea for a poster, a campaign or an article, get in touch

Use our data for your coursework - let us know if you have any interesting findings

Contact the Sustainable Development Unit with your ideas sustainability@gre.ac.uk

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT



To minimise harmful emissions arising from business travel, commuting & deliveries

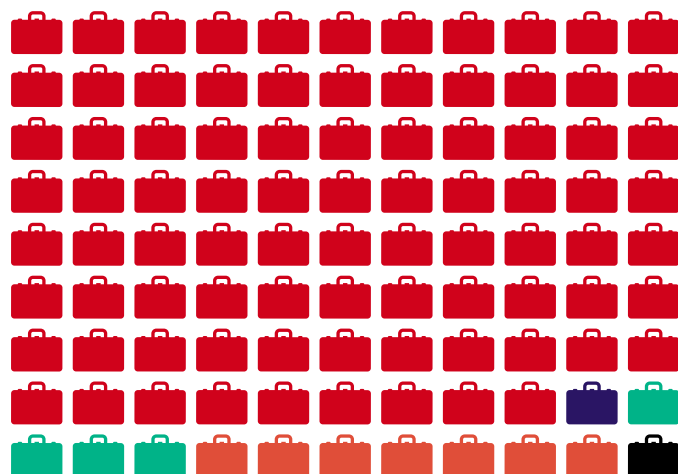
Situated in the heart of Greenwich, Avery Hill in Eltham and Medway in Kent, with 1715 FTE staff and over 19000 students on campus and with a global research reach, we have a significant impact in terms of travel emissions from commuting and business travel.

BUSINESS TRAVEL

Since 2012/13 the University has significantly reduced the amount of business travel undertaken which has resulted in the reduction of our business travel emissions by over **46%**; achieving our Green Travel Plan target of a 20% reduction by 2020, **3 years early**. This saving is the result of our student and staff travel choices and greater utilisation of video conferencing.

In 2016/17 our business travel resulted in over 2900 tonnes of carbon equivalent emissions and, as illustrated below, air travel remains the most significant contributor to this.

Proportion of Carbon Emissions by Business Travel Type (TnCO₂e)



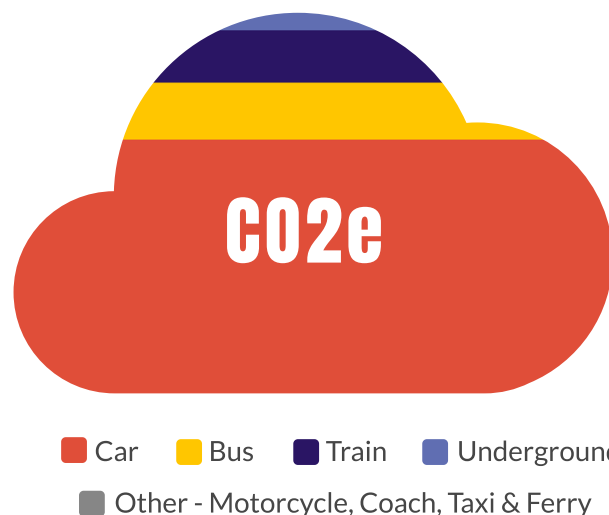
■ Air
 ■ Rail
 ■ Grey Fleet (eg hire vehicles)
■ Leased Vehicles
 ■ Taxi

COMMUTING

Fully understanding the extent of this impact is difficult. However the introduction of a travel question within the annual University Student Survey (USS), together with GIS (Geographic Information System) analysis of student postcodes, has resulted in greater confidence in our estimations of our Scope 3 carbon emissions from student commuting; we've also applied similar distance assumptions for staff commuting which should now also be more accurate.

Based on this information, we've calculated that the carbon emissions from staff and student commuting for 2016/17 was approximately 6983 tonnes; with the most significant contributor being travel by car as illustrated below.

Proportion of Carbon Emissions from Student & Staff Commuting by Travel Type (TnCO₂e)



Over the years, to minimise this impact, the University has introduced inter-campus bus services, a free bus shuttle service from Falconwood Station to Avery Hill, a car share scheme and provides over 450 bicycle spaces.

New to 2016/17 was the introduction of BetterPoints, an easy to use app that rewards people with money off vouchers for making positive behaviour changes such as cycling or walking to work.

NEXT STEPS

Our Green Travel Plan is due for review and our existing targets will be updated to reflect the most up-to-date data, re-adjusting the baseline accordingly and determining future goals.

GET INVOLVED

University students and staff can earn rewards with the **BetterPoints** app.



Download the **BetterPoints** app and use the referral code **GREENWICHNEW** to participate



Get active on your commute (or during your lunch breaks and on weekends)



Car share to earn more points



Earn rewards, prizes and vouchers - including vouchers that can be used in our cafes



WASTE & RECYCLING

To prevent pollution and to promote 'zero waste', encouraging Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to minimise our impact

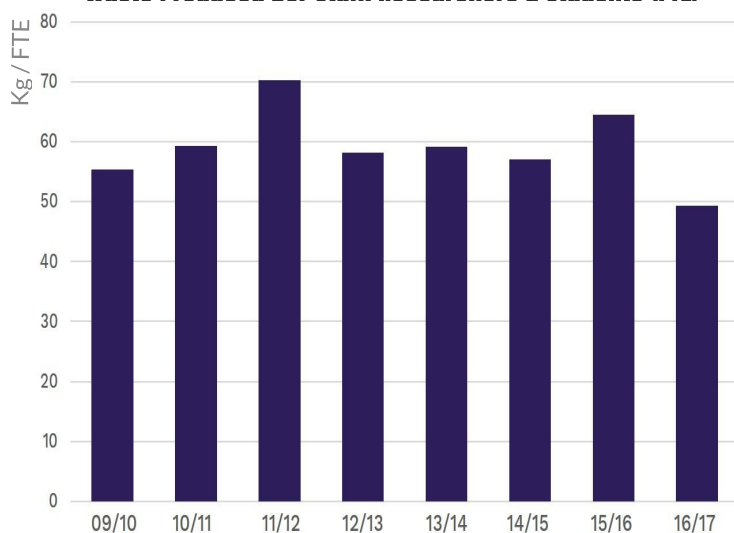
In 2016/17 the University produced waste equal to the weight of over 60 double-decker buses at a cost of over £215,000.

Promoting the waste hierarchy and encouraging a culture of waste prevention and reuse can provide significant environmental benefits. Not only through the diversion of waste from landfill but also through minimising the need for transport as well as reducing the demand for raw materials.

REDUCE

Since 2009/10 the University has reduced its overall waste production by **26%** and the waste produced per student and staff FTE (Full Time Equivalent) was 23% lower in 2016/17 than the previous year; though as the chart below illustrates, waste produced per head can be variable.

Waste Produced per Staff. Researchers & Students (FTE)



REUSE

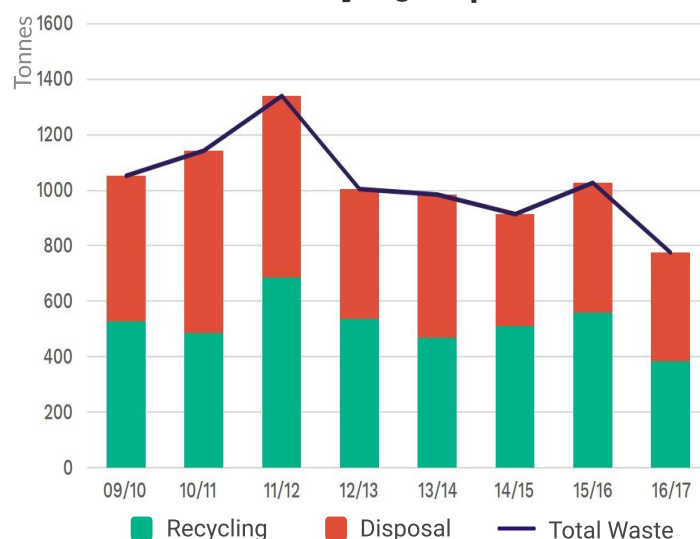
Approximately **2 tonnes** of household items, clothing and unwanted food were collected as part of the University's end of term Halls Reuse project where Student Ambassadors promoted and collected unwanted items from halls of residents **for donation**. These materials were donated to Emmaus, a homelessness charity within Greenwich. A large number of duvets were also donated to the NEWway project, which works with specialist support agencies to provide a winter night shelter and year round support services for rough sleepers in the London Borough of Newham.

RECYCLING

Of the 777 tonnes of waste produced during 2016/17, the vast majority of which was from non-residential areas, **49.6%** was recycled.

This recycling rate has been relatively consistent over the years as the graph below illustrates.

Waste Recycling & Disposal



NEXT STEPS

The Estates & Facilities Directorate believes that more can be done to improve the University's recycling rate through improved communication and awareness, facilitating reuse and in time, introducing food waste segregation in staff kitchen areas if it is practicable to do.



To Achieve a 70% Recycling Rate (by weight) of Non-Construction Wastes

GET INVOLVED



Ditch your disposable coffee cup and start using a reusable - our cups cost just £2.95



Refill your water bottle at our cafes or water fountains rather than wasting plastic



Don't litter, look for our waste and recycling bins located throughout our campuses



Look at the bin posters if you are unsure as to whether or not your waste is recyclable



Is printing necessary? If so, print double sided.

WATER

To reduce water use and establish a utilities monitoring and targeting system

Each year we consume enough water to fill almost 30 Olympic sized swimming pools at a cost of £380,000. Yet our estates are situated within some of the driest parts of the country.

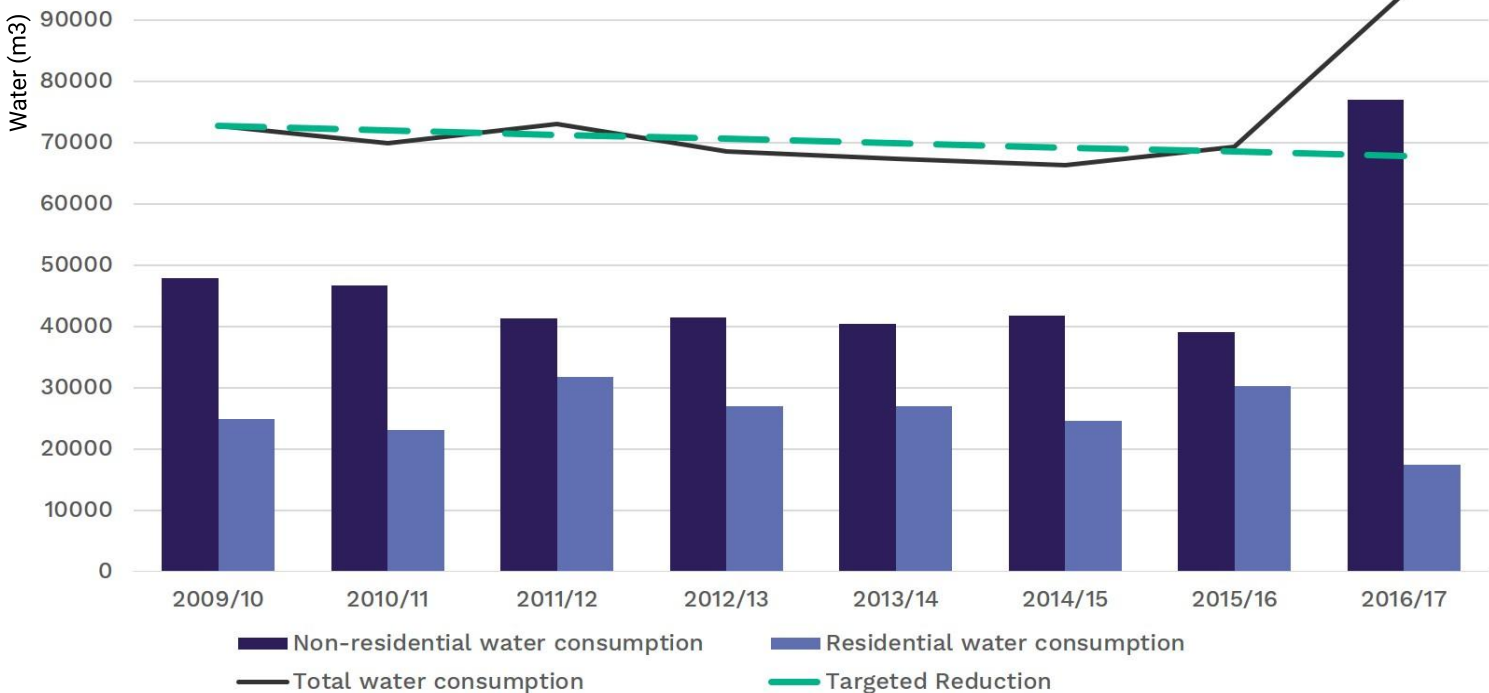
That's why the Estates and Facilities Directorate set a water target, to help ensure we use water wisely and deliver efficiencies within our buildings:

To Reduce our Total Water Consumption by 1% every year.

GET INVOLVED

- Don't leave taps running (like when brushing your teeth), ensure they are turned fully off
- Reduce your shower time by at least 2 mins - it will save 2 full buckets of water each time
- Report any leaks or faulty taps to the campus FM team
- If your toilet has a 'dual flush' use the small button for a smaller flush to save water

Progress toward Estates & Facilities Water Consumption Target



As illustrated in the chart above, the University had been making good progress in achieving this target prior to 2016/17. This was due to the introduction of water-less urinals, dual flush systems and push button taps.

Unfortunately, consumption in 2016/17 increased significantly due to an undetected leak at our Avery Hill campus which resulted in our annual water consumption increasing by over a third when compared to the previous year.

However, in contrast residential consumption was down

by **30%** from the previous year suggesting that our students are using water more wisely; which will help reduce their water bills in the future.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next year, we'll be looking to improve data capture and reporting in order to prevent wastage. The University is not in a position to install water meters though more manual readings will be taken to help identify leaks before they become significant.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD



To work with catering contractors to ensure our food policy is met and our Fairtrade accreditation maintained

The University prides itself for the leadership it takes in procuring and providing responsible, sustainable and delicious food.

When you eat and drink at one of our catering outlets you can rest assured its sourcing, preparation and sale has been done with sustainability at its heart.

Having clear goals and ambitions set out in our Sustainable Food and Fairtrade Food policies ensures that our caterers understand, support and deliver the high expectations we seek in providing tasty, wholesome and responsible food to customers in the outlets.

Our Students' Union catering provision and that provided at the Dome is also influenced by our policies and the collaborative, forward-thinking perspectives developed through the Sustainable Food Steering Group.

FAIRTRADE

We have been a Fairtrade University since 2012 and are committed to selling Fairtrade items and promoting the ethos of Fairtrade to our customers and wider communities.

In the 2016 calendar year we increased sales by 19% compared to 2015, increasing from £395,346 to £469,846. Customers of our outlets will be drinking 'Triple Certified' coffees (Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance and Organically certified by the Soil Association) and Fairtrade teas. Fairtrade also extends beyond these key items to ingredients that go into meals, snacks, fruit and juices.

As part of our commitment the University delivers Fairtrade Fortnight every year. In 2016/17 we again provided an excellent array of events and activities for staff and students. These were developed and delivered by our own Greenwich Graduates via our Greenwich Work Experience Scheme.

CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

All seafood is from fisheries that are certified by the Marine Stewardship Council. In 2014 the University was awarded 'University of the Year' for its work exclusively sourcing sustainable seafood and has continued to improve on this work by reviewing the sustainability of farmed fish, such as aquaculture certified suppliers.

FOOD FOR LIFE

The University's catering outlets maintained their Food For Life Gold award and in 2016/17 the Dome restaurant gained its Gold award too.

Food For Life recognises best practice in the provision of responsibly sourced ingredients such as organic, RSPCA Assured (a high animal welfare standard), Marine Stewardship Council certified fish, Fairtrade, Free Range, and LEAF certified foods (an assurance scheme recognising sustainably farmed products).

Further to this, the award recognises work being done to support healthy eating. Including reducing the amount of salt, cutting down on meat, providing wholegrain bread and fresh fruit as well as minimising food waste.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In November 2016 we were finalists in the prestigious 'Green Gown Awards' in the Food & Drink category. This recognised the partnership work the caterers, university suppliers, students and staff have developed, enabling us to have a very ambitious Sustainable Food Policy driving improvement across the board.


NEXT STEPS

We will ensure sustainability objectives are included in the new catering tender to drive forward further improvement, further develop and promote the good practice food certifications and reduce food and packaging waste. The University will build on previous programming during Ethical Food and Fairtrade Fortnight delivered by our graduates to raise the profile of high quality, tasty and responsibly sourced and produced food.

GET INVOLVED




Visit our catering outlets for your hot drinks and lunch in the knowledge that the University is thinking about the supply chain

Look out for Fairtrade / Local / Organic labeling on packaging and signage to help guide your purchasing choices 



Ask our friendly catering staff about the sustainability of your meal and / or drink

Consider eating a more plant-based diet and / or reduce the amount of red meat - it's healthier for you and the planet 



Try to avoid wasting food - request a box to take away your left-over lunch to eat later or be sure to dispose of it in a food waste bin

Become a student representative on the Sustainable Food Steering Group, get great experience and influence our food provision.

Email sustainability@gre.ac.uk for info.





ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

To protect and conserve the heritage buildings we occupy and to actively protect & enhance wildlife on campuses

The University is fortunate to have a very diverse estate that has many natural and wildlife friendly spaces. Although very different, the Avery Hill campuses and the landscaped roofs at Stockwell Street both provide valuable and varied habitats and illustrate the potential of an organisation committed to improving the natural environment.

The University is increasingly using the term 'Ecosystem Services' to cover the work it does in protecting and improving the natural space provision at its campuses. This way, we encompass more widely the role and importance of thinking about the benefits that natural systems can provide us whilst ensuring we protect the many habitats and species we can host.

Our Biodiversity Policy sets out our aims and objectives to maintain and improve the natural spaces and the value they provide.

GREENWICH

The Stockwell Street Building in Greenwich has one of the most extensive and diverse living roofs in London. Comprising of 14 distinct landscape areas including ponds, fruit trees, vegetable growing areas and nature friendly wildlife areas. The space is used as a living laboratory where a lot of applied research is undertaken.

The Old Royal Naval College is a UNESCO World Heritage site that features baroque buildings designed by Sir Christopher Wren and, was voted one of the most beautiful campuses in the country in a poll by Business Insider during 2016.

The campus is also fortunate to be on the doorstep of Greenwich Park and the foreshore of the River Thames, areas that are rich in natural and ecosystem value.

AVERY HILL

Located among a lot of green-space, including extensive and important hedgerows and mature trees rich in wildlife, we have significant opportunity to encourage and support wildlife. Hedgerows have been laid using traditional methods to help increase the density and diversity of species on the campus including insects, small mammals and birds.

Our meadows are managed to encourage species diversity too, and this year we found dormice, a protected species.

The campus also has a pond capable of retaining water throughout the year including severe droughts. Once dug and landscaped many species began colonising it within weeks of completion.

A green roof was also installed above the Dome to improve the visual amenity of the halls residents overlooking the roof. This also adds natural value to the building and helps reduce peak volumes of storm rain run off.

MEDWAY

The beautiful Medway Campus has a rich naval history and consists of red-brick buildings, woodland and lawns.

In 2016-17 planters were added to the forecourt at Drill Hall to improve the amenity of the space whilst adding valuable insect friendly plants.

NEXT STEPS

A long term plan for our Medway campus is to work with our students and staff, together with other academic communities, to review how an area of woodland (beside the tennis courts) could be designed to create space that helps encourage visitors to value nature.

GET INVOLVED



Volunteer at the Edible Garden in Avery Hill or at the Roof Gardens on Stockwell Street - contact sustainability@gre.ac.uk for info

Share photos of our campuses on social media - don't forget to tag the University 



Take part in events and during harvesting in the summer




Look out for University of Greenwich honey in our SU shops - produced by our own bees 



This is your campus, don't litter - it's unsightly and harms nature on land and in water




If you spot litter pick it up and throw it away - don't leave it 



Involve yourself in national initiatives such as the Big Butterfly Count or Big Garden Bird Watch - look them up to find out more



Climate change is one of the biggest threats to nature so save energy. 



When you can, simply take a walk around our beautiful campuses - it's good for your mental health and well-being

CONSTRUCTION & REFURBISHMENT



To incorporate the principles of sustainable development into all new build and refurbishment projects

The buildings we use, build and refurbish can have a significant influence on how we interact and impact upon an area, economically, socially and environmentally.

Ranging from Wren designed 17th century buildings, through to Edwardian red-bricks at Medway and our state of the art Stockwell Street Building in Greenwich, each is very unique and requires appropriate management to ensure that needs and expectations of our students, staff and other stakeholders are met.

From an environmental perspective, we recognise the importance of the materials used from build to fit out, the energy demand for heating and cooling, the water provision for building services, teaching and research and the appropriate segregation of waste; as well as the natural spaces our buildings occupy and those we can create and incorporate in design.

However, we also place an equal value from a social perspective, aiming to create engaging and inspiring environments for our students and staff to work, learn and excel.

Our estates team work hard to ensure the design and use of our spaces are engaging and adaptable whilst optimising resource use, saving costs and reducing our impacts.

MEDWAY

The University of Greenwich, with its educational partners in Medway, invested £5m in The Deep End. Providing a new Student Union space and a cafe, bar and entertainment area, as well as, flexible space for societies and teaching.

Once a swimming pool and retaining many of its original features it also is designed to BREEAM 'Very Good' standard helping the University meet many of its sustainability obligations.

AVERY HILL

When the opportunity arose to refurbish the roof of the Dome the estates team took the opportunity to consider how this large space could be more attractive to residents who overlook it. A green, sedum roof was installed which has benefits beyond aesthetic, providing a rich habitat for insects, that provide food for other species including birds.

The living roof also acts as a natural sponge, capable of absorbing and retaining water during downpours.

New 3G sports pitches were also developed at Avery Hill, adding significantly to the University's sporting offer. Measures to reduce its environmental impact such as carefully retaining trees and hedges were put in place as well as investing in low energy LED flood lighting; which costs less than £3 per hour in electricity to run.

GREENWICH

The Dreadnought Building continued its redevelopment, with much work being undertaken to enclose the courtyard, expand the basement and refurbish the existing Grade II listed building. During this time **94%** of the construction waste produced on this project was successfully diverted from landfill. Unfortunately, it's worth noting that a reporting error on our EMR submission to HESA does not reflect this achievement, as the recycling tonnage was entered into a different field in error.

This building once complete will become a hub for our students, providing the new home of the Students Union, a shop, a cafe as well as a bar and gym. Student Academic Services will also be based there providing a gateway to the many services they offer to support students.

NEXT STEPS

The Estates and Facilities Directorate will look to review and prepare a long-term strategy for the future of our campuses and services. Incorporating resilience and adaptability through the creation of flexible spaces that facilitate collaboration and optimise resources whilst allowing for changes in higher education and future proofing our estates for business continuity.

GET INVOLVED



Students and academic staff can apply their knowledge and research to help understand how we can improve sustainability within our estate - the concept is known as 'Living Lab' contact sustainability@gre.ac.uk for info

Provide feedback to the Estates team about any particular needs you think are important in our building provision



Consider and request sustainable design elements when planning any refurbishments with estates

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

To actively encourage and support the teaching of and research into sustainable development in the University

Our role as educators is vitally important in ensuring students have the knowledge and skills to contribute to the actions and solutions that bring about positive change and help deliver a sustainable society.

The University supports this goal through the Education for Sustainable Development Sub Group (part of the SMB) which has been working on a platform to help academics better understand and apply sustainability in their own disciplines.

EDUCATION

Our academic departments are carrying out important work covering an array of areas relating to sustainable development such as: food production, storage, transportation and trade; environmental conservation; sustainable events and tourism; and business management and social enterprise.

The numerous aspects of sustainability are so wide ranging they can relate to every programme we teach and the Sustainable Development Goals are one such way the University is working to achieve this.

The Sustainable Development Unit also continues to provide guest lectures on sustainability related principles and environmental management.

During the academic year it was great to see our staff and students use our natural spaces as teaching resources too, with over **50** students from Early Years and Primary Education taking part in lessons held at (and using) the Community Edible Garden. This demonstrates how nature can provide many of the teaching materials and experiences that engage and inspire.

RESEARCH

The potential of our research to deliver solutions to pressing social and environmental problems is huge. Our Faculties and their academics, working in many disciplines, are actively applying their research to sustainable outcomes.

The world renowned research and practical work being undertaken by the **Natural Resources Institute** illustrates powerfully how the University is tackling global problems by working in collaboration with organisations and universities in the developing world to solve challenges that can impact on the lives of millions.



Research focuses on poverty, food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, climate change, gender and social equality, responsible production and consumption, exploitation of natural resources and environmental management. The NRI's annual review provides many examples of their groundbreaking work which can be found on line at www.nri.org/publications/annual-review

Other specific examples of ground-breaking research include the commercialisation of academic work in the Faculty of Engineering & Science by Prof Colin Hills which focuses on how to create carbon negative construction materials. The 'Carbon8' process uses waste materials and through an innovative process fixes carbon to these which can be integrated as a material in the construction industry.

The Faculty of Business also has many examples of the application of sustainability in their work, including work done by Andres Coca-Stefaniak applying sustainability as a lens to understand how to improve the viability of tourism destinations.

NEXT STEPS

Work will be undertaken to see how greater awareness can be generated throughout the University about the UN's SDG's and how they can be introduced within our teaching.

GET INVOLVED



Look up information about the SDG's and sign up to the SDG accord

Introduce the SDG's to your students at the beginning of a lecture to raise awareness



Share information about your course and the SDG's it supports or how you've raised awareness on them with the Sustainable Development Unit - we'd love to promote it

Contact the Sustainable Development Unit and request a guest lecture that can be tailored to your course



Inform students about the Sustainable Development Unit - a resource they can utilise for support and information and even as an avenue to promote their work