

University of Lincoln Sustainability Report

2019/20

Welcome to our Annual Sustainability Report 2019/20, which shares progress we've made in the past academic year to reduce negative environmental impacts of our operations, as well as the positive sustainability impact we're making through teaching, learning and partnerships.

In a turbulent year, sustainability remains a priority for our staff and our students, who we are supporting to embed environmental knowledge and awareness of key climate issues and the wider UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Key Sustainability achievements

- Reduction in carbon emissions by 34% from 2009/10 to 2019/20.
- Achievement of ISO14001 certification and EcoCampus Platinum accreditation for environmental management.
- Collaboration with course leads on 'live sustainability briefs' for students; used as living lab examples of environmental management on the Estate.
- Sustainability integrated within governance and decision-making by included a section on 'impact on environmental sustainability' within decision making papers for SLT and the University's Board of Governors.
- Integration of sustainability within tendering of major contracts including business travel, stationery and water.
- The Staff Sustainability Advocate network was expanded to include a total of 54 staff members, who have access to engagement resources, a regular newsletter, quarterly meetings and ongoing support.
- Medical School Building on track to be the most sustainable and energy efficient building on the University Estate, on track to achieve BREEAM Excellent and EPC 'A' rating.
- Joined the national Hedgehog Friendly Campus Campaign and achieved Bronze award.
- Carbon Management Fund capital project delivered to achieve energy savings; including:
 - Upgrade of flood lighting in Engine Shed venue.
 - Upgrade of the transformer at Riseholme.
 - Replacement and upgrade of the Library Chiller to an energy efficient model.
 - Installation of solar film to offices in Janet Lane Claypon Building, to reduce solar gain.
 - Upgrade to heating system in Riseholme Old Hall.

Environment Management System (EMS)

We manage the environment impact of our operations by maintaining an Environmental Management System, certified to the ISO14001 standard.



We also achieved the EcoCampus Platinum award in 2019. This demonstrates our commitment to environmental protection and enhancement; reducing risk of environmental harm and identifying opportunities for position sustainability engagement.

In each section of this report, we review the targets set and what progress has been made in 2019/20.

Progress Key



Target met – we need to keep up the good work



Target in sight – we're getting there, but more work to be done



Target not met – we need to improve

Energy and Carbon



EMS Target

Reduce carbon emissions by 30% by 2020/21, against a 2009/10 baseline.

2019/20 Update - Target met

34% reduction in carbon emissions against a 2009/10 baseline.

EMS Target

Identify most significant energy uses and invest in energy efficiency measures to reduce total energy consumption.

2019/20 Update - Target met

- Our energy management system is certified to ISO 50001.
- Energy management data was used to inform the closure of some buildings during the Covid-19 pandemic, to reduce consumption and consolidate building availability.
- Work continues to monitor energy consumption and identify energy saving opportunities, such as investing in an energy efficient chiller for the library, replacing lighting with LED fittings and improving building management systems controls.

This year our carbon emissions from energy use continued to fall to 5753 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent – that's a 9% reduction from the previous year and a 34% reduction from our baseline year of 2009/10.

This reduction is largely due to the significant reduction in energy use during the period of lockdown and the powering down of buildings during periods of limited use.

Energy use is expected to increase, due to the increased levels of ventilation required in all buildings as Covid-19 precautions and that carbon emissions will increase for 2020/21.

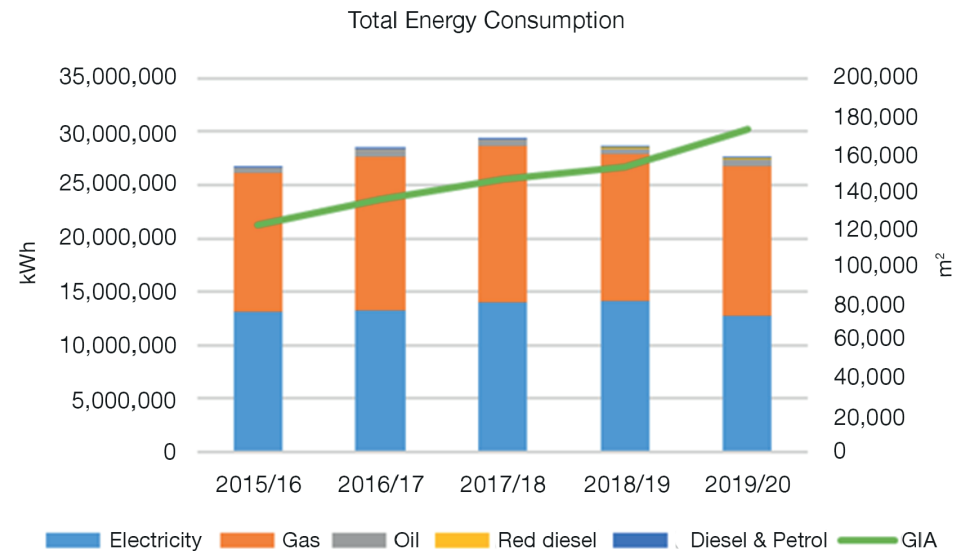
This year, the University joined The Energy Consortium (TEC) as the contracting authority to deliver our energy procurement. The University continues to procure 100% renewable electricity for our estate.

Following the University's declaration of Climate Emergency in May 2019, the Sustainability team have developed a draft carbon management plan, with carbon reduction targets for 2030. A pathway for achieving this target was developed, relying on capital investment in energy efficiency of the Estate. Financial pressure due to Covid-19 has put this investment on hold but the carbon management plan will be revisited in 2021.

Scope 3 Emissions

Our current carbon reduction target applies only to our energy-related (scope 1 and 2) carbon emissions. We are aiming to include a Scope 3 emissions reduction target within our new carbon management plan.

We are currently working to improve the quality of data gathered in relation to indirect emissions, including business travel and supply chain emissions.



Waste Management



EMS Target

Reduce amount (tonnage) of waste in general waste stream (compared with 2018/19) and increase the percentage of waste recycled.

2019/20 Update - Target in sight

- The amount of waste produced in 2019/20 increased by 50 tonnes, compared with 2018/19.
- In 2019/20 34% of all waste generated was recycled, a 9% improvement from the previous academic year.
- In Summer 2020, bin signage was improved, to inform staff and students of what items can and cannot be recycled.

EMS Target

Implement and embed a central procedure for hazardous waste management and disposal; Manage and store hazardous substances in line with all legal obligations. Ensure any spills / leaks are dealt timely and effectively.

2019/20 Update - Target met

- Waste (including hazardous substances) procedure has been established and is being used by new departments when managing new waste streams or disposing of hazardous waste.
- Following the initial waste training programme in 2019, online training has been offered to new starters in 2020. An online refresher training pack is currently being developed.
- The Sustainability team has supported technical teams in colleges to set up new clinical and hazardous waste contracts.

The Sustainability Team have continued to engage with staff and students to improve recycling rates. In 2019/20 34% of all waste generated was recycled, a 9% improvement from the previous academic year.

In Summer 2020, over 300 stickers have been placed on general waste, recycling and large dual bins around campus to inform staff and students of what items can and cannot be recycled.

Recycling

- ♻️ Drinking cans
- ♻️ Empty FoodLine coffee cups
- ♻️ Paper/Card
- ♻️ Clean food tins
- ♻️ Plastic bottles – no lids
- ♻️ Clean plastic containers (not black)



“If in doubt, leave it out!”

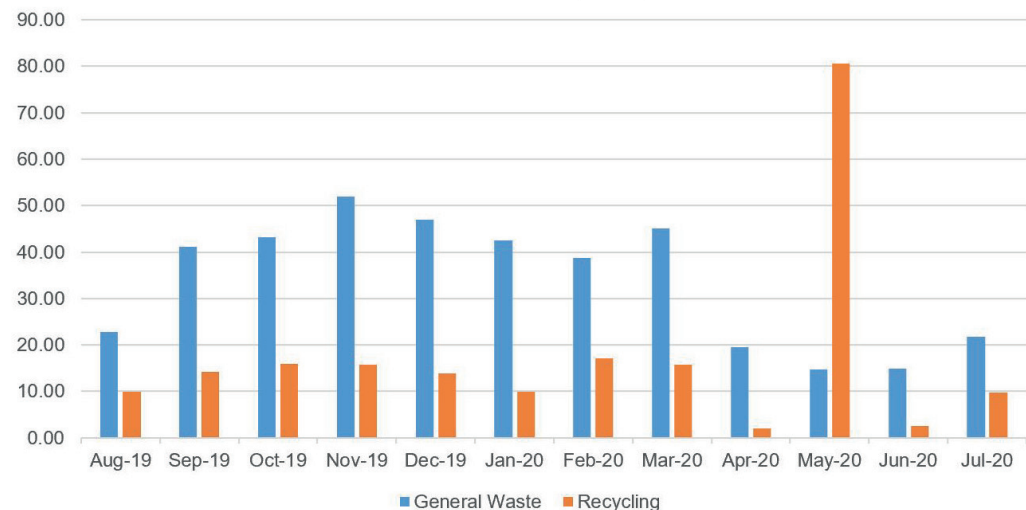
General Waste

- 🗑️ Paper towels
- 🗑️ Empty coffee cups (not FoodLine)
- 🗑️ Food or dirty containers
- 🗑️ Compostable containers
- 🗑️ Bottle lids
- 🗑️ Crisp packets
- 🗑️ Sweet/chocolate wrappers
- 🗑️ Tetra Paks



It is thought that the proportion of recycling waste will fall in 2020/21, due to the high number of non-recyclable single-use items used to make the Estate Covid-secure. The Sustainability team will engage staff and students to dispose of these items via General Waste bins, so that recycling bins are not contaminated.

General Waste and Recycling 2019/20



Construction

EMS Target

Improve sustainability of future construction projects; ensure contractor management and integration of environmental considerations within induction.

2019/20 Update - Target met

- There have been no environmental incidents as part of construction projects in 2019/20.
- Due to unregulated energy use, energy models suggest that the Medical School building will not be a carbon neutral building in operation, as originally specified. It will be the most energy efficient building on the University's estate and will achieve an EPC A and BREEAM Excellent rating.

Procurement tenders with sustainability questions

EMS Target

Sustainability considered as part of relevant procurement events; number of tender events that include sustainability question will be monitored.

2019/20 Update - Target met

- The University, directly, asked questions relating to sustainability for three tenders and five Requests for Quotations.

Travel and Transport

Our 2019 travel survey found that 66% of students walk to University, but that 65% of staff travel here by car. A travel and parking consultation was also undertaken in Winter 2019 to inform a new sustainable travel plan. This was put on hold due to Covid-19, but will be picked up in 2020/21 as staff and students return to campus.

Sustainable Culture

We continue to promote and embed a culture of environmental responsibility and sustainability stewardship across the University. In 2019/20, the Staff Sustainability Advocate network was expanded to include a total of 54 staff members, who have access to engagement resources, a regular newsletter, quarterly meetings and ongoing support.

In 2019/2020 The Lincoln Performing Arts Centre launched "Blooming LPAC". With the help of volunteers, from both the University and in the local area, planted over 500 bulbs and 1000 wildflower seeds on the grass area outside the front of their building.

"This is a huge achievement in its own right and a massive first step in our goal to turn our outdoor space into a biodiverse haven for bees." reports Julie Ellerby, Marketing Manager for The Lincoln Performing Centre.



Furthermore, Staff Sustainability Advocates based in the library have taken ownership of nurturing the newly developed planters located at the front of the building. The planters contain a mixture of Lincolnshire plants and herbs, which will expand the biodiversity on campus and provide an excellent spot for pollinators in the area. This new garden was part of the 2019/2020 Year of the Garden project, which saw biodiversity expanded across the Brayford Campus.

The student-led 'E.C.O. Society' continued to positively engage with students on sustainability during 2019/20. The Sustainability team supported their Sustainability Lecture Series by giving three guest lectures. The 2019/20 president of the E.C.O. Society has also worked with the Sustainability Team to develop a series of online blogs and content to engage with students on living sustainably.

Campus Grounds

– Biodiversity enhancement



EMS Target

Enhance biodiversity on Brayford Campus.

2019/20 Update - Target in sight

- Vegetation in areas of the Brayford campus was left to grow wild for the majority of 2020. This contributed to a significant increase in wildlife sightings, including hedgehogs, deer and kingfishers. These areas will not be mown more than twice a year and new 'Wildflowers for wildlife' signage has been erected to identify these areas.

EMS Target

Consult with stakeholders to develop a landscaping plan.

2019/20 Update - Target in sight

- The University is working in collaboration with the Brayford Trust and Lincolnshire Rivers Trust to make improvements to the South banks of the Brayford Pool to enhance biodiversity. In Summer 2020, Bio-beds were installed as the first phase of works.

The Student Union recognised that environmental sustainability was a hot topic for their students and actively looked for ways to adapt their business model. As part of this they re-shuffling their Student Leadership structure and opted to remove the Student President Role and split another role into two roles "Wellbeing and Community" and "Campaigns and Environment".

Volunteering

Environmentally-focused volunteer roles are offered to students, including participation at the Kitchen Garden, used to produce vegetables that have been donated to local charitable organisations and to staff helpers. Students can also register as a Hedgehog Friendly Campus Student Ambassador.

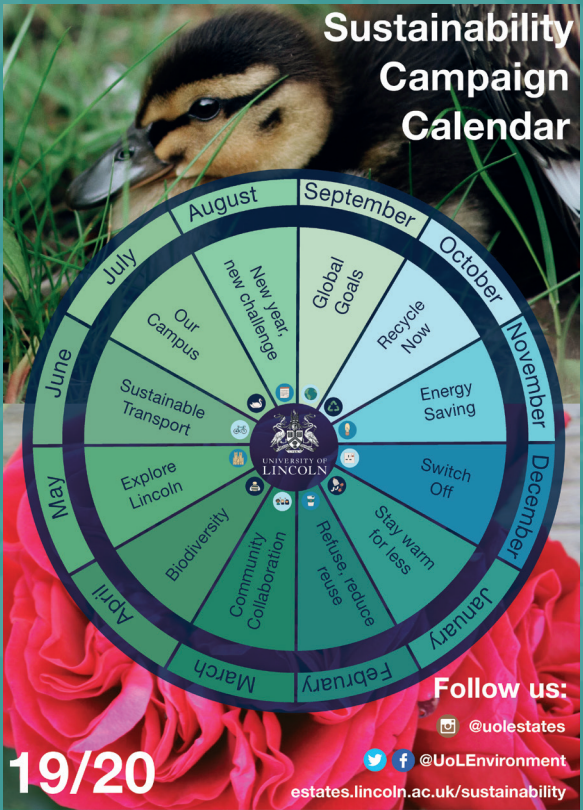
The Sustainability team is continuing to provide opportunities for students to work with them and develop employability skills relating to environmental management. In 2019/20, the Sustainability team trained over fifty Business School students to develop skills in Environmental Auditing, then supported them to conduct an environmental audit of the Brayford Campus. This facilitated a 'living lab' experience of implementing and continuously improvement an Environmental Management System.

Communications and Engagement

A sustainability calendar guides our annual sustainability communications plan, with each month dedicated to a key sustainability theme for staff and students to engage with via activities on campus and social media campaigns.

Education for Sustainable Development

As well as delivering guest lectures to other modules across the four Colleges, further examples of 'living lab' research projects included the BA Product Design course in the College of Arts. This involved students working on one of two sustainability briefs, including one on how the campus could be adapted to enhance biodiversity and engage students in the natural world through the utilisation of their buildings and campus infrastructure.



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)



EMS Target

Support the integration of sustainability within course content; provide opportunities for students to volunteer in sustainability-related role, increasing number of volunteers each year.

2019/20 Update - *Target met*

- The Sustainability Research Briefs have continued to be worked on by academic courses including BA Product Design, the LIBS Industry 4.0 Challenge and BA Operations Management. A total of 5 modules included these briefs within teaching.
- College Directors of Education have been engaged with to coordinate Education for Sustainability and gather examples of good practise from across the four Colleges. University's Sustainability web pages are being developed, to include a site on ESD that includes case studies of sustainability being embedded within both teaching and research.
- Unfortunately, the 'Year of the Garden' projects, where students could volunteer to create and maintain gardens on campus, was cancelled due to Covid-19. We hope to restart volunteer projects, including Kitchen Garden and litter picks in Spring 2021.

A Sustainable Civic Impact The Lincoln Climate Commission

The University has played a key role in establishing the Lincoln Climate Commission, in collaboration with Lincoln City Council and other local partners. The Commission has now been formally established, with representation from the University Estates department to contribute strategic direction, sustainability expertise and communications support.

Wildflower Propagation at Riseholme

Our partnership with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWLT) continued to support the propagation of rare wildflower species at our Riseholme Campus. During 2019/20. Over 5000 plants of rare wildflower species were propagated by the Grounds Management Team and distributed to LWLT receptor sites around Lincolnshire, in order to support regional conservation. In particular, the University's successful propagation of the Tall Thrift has contributed to the doubling of the existing population and forms a valuable contribution to its species recovery plan.

Keeping our environment clean

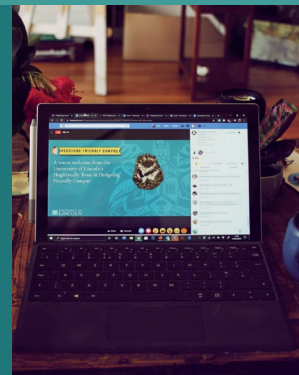
In Spring 2020, the Sustainability Team has formed a partnership with Lincoln Clean Hub, by purchasing litter picking equipment to form a hub at the Brayford Campus. Although on hold due to Covid-19, a community litter picking hub will be established, to enable students, staff and Lincoln residents to take part in litter picks and contribute to a clean local environment.

Supporting Fairtrade

The University continues to support the City of Lincoln to maintain its Fairtrade City status in via steering group participation and by hosting events on campus to raise awareness of Fairtrade products. In 2019/2020 the Lincolnshire Co-op supported our events by providing a Fairtrade Hamper, Divine Chocolate sent us free mini chocolates to give out during our Study Happy campaign; and St Swithins Church provided staff and students complimentary pancakes with Fairtrade toppings available!



Sustainability events - a snapshot



A look at some of the events our sustainability team has organised or participated in during 2019 - 2020. We adapted to a series of online events when in person events were unable to take place. Webinars included representatives from Clean Lincoln Everywhere And Now, Hedgehog Friendly Campus and the Sustainability Team.



Student engagement events -

Freshers Fayre, Postgraduate Fayre and ReFreshers Fayre – we hosted a stall and spoke to many students on recycling, green spaces, sustainable transport (cycle hire), and wildlife.

Enviro-Fayre – a new event created by one of our SU Leaders to promote environmental sustainability to students, we were a key stall holder at this event.



Hedgehog Friendly Campus

– held a full day event including an information stall, bake sale to raise money for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, talk by Jo Wilkinson (founder of HFC), litter pick and planting of wildflowers at Lincoln Performing Arts Centre. We also ran Hedgehog Surveys, and a Facebook Live event on Hedgehog First Aid, which reached over 300 active participants.



Meet the Bees - we held 4 small events where staff and students booked to meet our honeybees at the Observation Hive on the Brayford Campus, and could ask lecturers any questions they would like on the behaviour of bees.



Fairtrade Fortnight – collaborated with the University Library to provide free Fairtrade tea and coffee to students who brought their own mug in a "Bring Your Own Mug" event as well as running information stalls.



A Clean Campus - we launched a partnership with Clean Lincoln Everywhere And Now to bring a CLEAN Hub to campus, and ran Refuse, Reuse, Reduce Pop Ups – stalls with a focus on reducing environmental impact. As well as running stalls to educate the university community about recycling.



Gardening events - gardens on Campus tours organised for new students and for the Big Climate Fightback, we invited members of the public, staff and students to plant 5 trees on the Brayford Campus.



EMS Target

Reduce single-occupancy car use by staff and students by 10% by 2019 travel survey (compared with 2017 results).

2019/20 Update - Target in sight

- Our 2019 travel survey found that 66% of students walk to University, but that 65% of staff travel here by car. This percentage has remained the same as 2017, therefore we have not achieved our 10% reduction target.
- A travel and parking consultation was therefore undertaken in Winter 2019 to inform a new sustainable travel plan. This was put on hold due to Covid-19 but will be picked up in 2020/21 as staff and students return to campus.



Looking ahead

- Working with the Lincolnshire Institute for Agri-food Technology to carry out a carbon footprint of our Riseholme agricultural campus.
- Improving the measurement and reporting of our scope 3 carbon emissions.
- Delivering sustainable transport infrastructure improvements.
- Supporting the Students' Union to deliver the Eco-Award scheme to University of Lincoln students and host the ECO Fayre.
- Improving effective recycling in student accommodation.