

University of Southampton Sustainability Report

2023-24



FOREWORD

The University of Southampton's (UoS) vision is that by 2030, sustainability will be a part of everything the University does. This will encompass our individual behaviours, our work, and how we make decisions to achieve our key mission of changing the world for the better. The Sustainability Strategic Plan (SSP) [3] is one of ten Strategic Plans [1] created to underpin and drive forward the overall University Strategy. SSP was developed to deliver on the University's sustainability targets as sets out in its agreed six Goals. These Goals do not only address reducing our emissions, but also cover embedding sustainability in our teaching, research and investment.

This is the first annual report by the Sustainability Implementation Group (SIG) on the development of the Sustainability Strategic Plan and progress against its 6 Goals for the years 2023-24. The report provides a summary of the planned work across the Goals, whereby the first three relate to our institutional emissions reporting (see Section 2) under the various scopes of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reporting Protocol [5]. The latter 3 Goals cover education, research and investment (see Sections 4-6). For further details, University staff and students are referred to the SIG SharePoint report repository which includes our overall Greenhouse Gas Emissions [2] and the Annual Environmental Management Review [6].

In terms of carbon emissions, our overall goal is to achieve net zero emissions for Scopes 1 and 2 by 2030 and for Scope 3 by 2045. In this report we summarises trends in the University's Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions up to and including the academic year 2022-23 including estimates of "other" emissions that the University chooses to report, but which are not formally included in other emissions scopes. The University's Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions for 2022-23 were estimated to be around 135.6 kTCO_{2e}, less than the 140.3 kTCO_{2e} in 2021-22 due to a reduction in Scope 3 emissions. In addition, a further 38.2 kTCO_{2e} of "other" emissions were also reported during this period. Total emissions under Scopes 1-3 increased by 8% from the base year of 2018-19 (pre-COVID period), largely due to increases in Scope 1: *Stationary Combustion* and Scope 3: *Purchased Goods and Services* as post-COVID activity levels increased. Scope 2 emissions have fallen by 92% since 2018-19, due to switching the University's national grid electricity supply to low-carbon sources at the end of 2020-21. Nevertheless, Scope 1 emissions remain a significant challenge.

The University will be closely monitoring its targets delivery through the SIG established milestones for all the Goals within the SSP. These milestones are developed to transition the University in achieving net zero emissions for Scopes 1 and 2 and include endeavours to eliminate the use of gas and embarking on refurbishing our buildings to reduce our energy demand. Milestones are also in place to reduce Scope 3 emissions by managing our service usage and procurement as well as working with our suppliers to reduce their emissions. In relation to Goals 4 to 6, these are on track with major achievement on mapping our modules to UN Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 4), creating a new research institute dedicated to resilience and sustainability under Goal 5 and putting the underpinning processes to reduce our investment to zero of the current residual one percent of exposure to fossil fuels.

As in 2021-22, thanks to the combined work of the SIG, staff and students, the University understands the challenges and, through its current planning and processes, remains in a strong position to deliver on the Goals embedded in the SSP despite increases in some of our emissions. The University is also working with Southampton stakeholders to link ambitions and knowledge sharing to address wider city net-zero aspirations. We are confident that the SSP will continue to help us to address the considerable challenge to implement the University's wider strategic ambitions while progressing towards our 2030 and 2045 net zero emissions objectives.

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INTRODUCTION

The University of Southampton's (UoS) vision is that by 2030, sustainability will be a part of everything the University does; our individual behaviours, how we work together, and how we make decisions for the future. This is key to achieving our mission of changing the world for the better. The Sustainability Strategic Plan (SSP) [3] is one of ten Strategic Plans created to underpin and drive forward the overall University Strategy. The SSP was developed to deliver on its sustainability targets and sets out six Goals to achieve these targets as highlighted in Figure 1. The six Goals do not only address reducing our emissions, but also cover embedding sustainability in our teaching, research and investment (Figure 1).

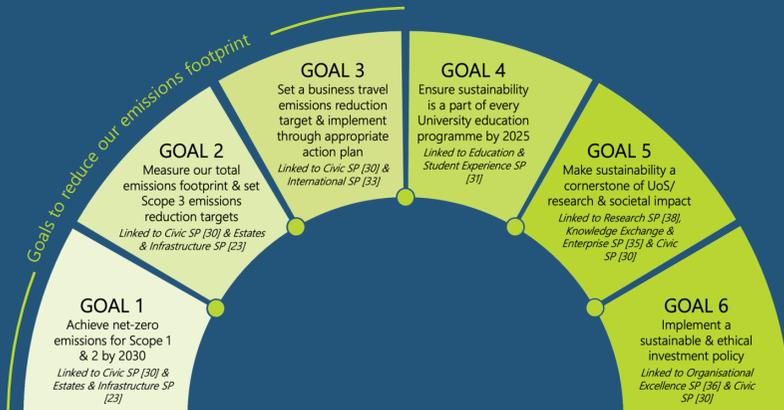


Figure 1: University of Southampton Sustainability Goals with linked Strategic Plans (SP).

The delivery of the Plan is assigned to the Sustainability Implementation Group (SIG) under an appropriate governance structure where quarterly reports on the status of the targets are submitted to the University's Sustainability Strategy Board (SSB) [4] which reports directly to the University Executive Board (UEB).

The SIG oversees the day-to-day implementation of the Plan and its membership include Goal Leads, Student Union (SUSU), Faculty, and Professional Services representatives as well as the SIG core team. SIG meets monthly and reports quarterly to the SSB. See the Appendix for an overview of the SIG Governance Structure.

Report content

This is the first annual report on the development of the Sustainability Strategic Plan and progress against its 6 Goals for the years 2023-24. The report provides a summary of the planned work across the 6 Goals, whereby the first three relate to our institutional emissions reporting (see pages 5-7) under the various scopes of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reporting Protocol [5]. The latter 3 Goals of the Plan cover education, research, and investment (see pages 8-10). For further details, readers are referred to the University of Southampton sustainability webpages which include the overall report on our Greenhouse Gas Emissions [2], and the Annual Environmental Management Review [6].



STATUS OF EMISSIONS

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are the leading cause of the planet’s rapidly changing climate. The University of Southampton (UoS) recognises the need to reduce its emissions to support the global effort to address the climate crisis. At a local level, reducing our emissions will contribute to improving our environment and hence health and wellbeing in our region. The Sustainability Strategic Plan was devised to meet the key challenges as highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1: Key challenges for each Sustainability Goal.

Sustainability Goal	Key challenge
Goal 1	Reduce current Scopes 1 & 2 emissions of 19.1 ktCO ₂ e to net zero by 2030. Address heat, power & retrofit at different scales.
Goal 2	Robustly quantify Scope 3 emissions of 121.2 ktCO ₂ e and identify a progressive reduction path to net zero by 2045.
Goal 3	Set targets and implement action plan to balance travel benefits with environmental impact, targeting net zero by 2045.
Goal 4	Embed sustainability in 100% of taught programmes by 2025, maintaining periodic renewals.
Goal 5	Support structures to enhance innovations and impact at institutional, city, regional, national and international levels.
Goal 6	Sustainably address our exposure to fossil fuel investments and through this influence fund managers and the market.

GHG scope definitions

Scope 1 direct emissions owned or controlled by the UoS, such as using gas for the CHP and boilers.

Scope 2 indirect emissions from the purchase of heat and power, e.g. purchased electricity from the grid.

Scope 3 emissions from activities that the UoS is indirectly responsible for, up and down its value chain, e.g. goods/services purchased, waste and business travel.

Goals 1 to 3 (Figure 1 and Table 1) represent the targets related to the University’s Scopes 1, 2 and 3 emissions. The Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education Students and Leaders – of which the University is a member – has advised that all higher education institutions should aim for net zero GHG emissions for Scope 1 and 2 by 2030 as a minimum, as per the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommendations. This therefore is the basis of Goal 1, which sets the key target to achieve net zero emissions for Scope 1 and 2 by 2030.

Scope 3 emissions the University has limited control over and represent the highest share of the emissions footprint. Scope 3 covers emissions associated with business travel, employee commuting, procurement (i.e., supply chain), leased assets, waste and water. Consideration of these emissions allows the University to expand its inventory boundary, identifying all relevant GHG emissions associated with its activities. This consideration also provides a broad overview of the University’s business linkages and possible opportunities for GHG emission reductions that may exist upstream (or downstream) of the University’s immediate operations. As it is vital to work towards achieving net zero for Scope 3, Goal 2 aims to robustly quantify Scope 3 emissions and identify a progressive reduction pathway to net zero by 2045.

Disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic led higher education institutions around the world to reappraise the value of business travel. Goal 3 aims to seize the opportunity presented by this unique moment in time for the University of Southampton to become a leader in the sector on more sustainable approaches to business travel, targeting net zero business travel by 2045.

Total emissions under Scope 1, 2 and 3 were estimated to be around 135.6 ktCO₂e (Figure 2) with an additional 38.2 ktCO₂e under GHG “other” reporting. The total emissions under Scopes 1 to 3 have increased by around 8% from those in 2018-19 (pre-COVID period) largely due to increases in Scope 1: Stationary

Combustion (gas use) and Scope 3: Purchased Goods and Services. These increases were partly balanced by decreases in Scope 2: Purchased Electricity, and those arising from Scope 3 under the headings - Business Travel, Waste from Operations and Staff Commuting.

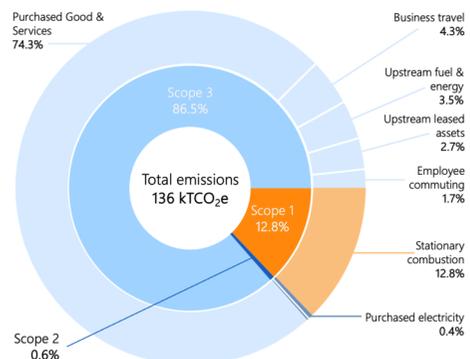


Figure 2: Scope 1-3 emissions for the period 2022-23.

The following section provides summaries of historical and current status of the University emissions for all scopes. Further details can be found in the SIG 2024 report on our Greenhouse Gas Emissions for the University [2].

Note that emissions are reported as CO₂e – carbon dioxide equivalent units. This enables the reporting of emissions from non-CO₂ sources which have different warming potentials than CO₂ to be quantified and compared.

Scope 1

Figure 3 shows the overall Scope 1 emissions over the period 2018 – 2023. In 2022-23 Scope 1 emissions were of the order of 17.42 kTCO_{2e} representing 13% of the University's total emissions (Scope 1, 2 and 3), having increased by approximately 30% since 2018 - 19. Scope 1 emissions were dominated by those arising from the University's gas-fuelled combined heat and power (CHP) plant and other gas boilers. The role of the CHP is crucial for the energy supply of the University, providing the heating for the district heating network and Highfield Campus, crucially generating up to 50% of the University's electricity needs where national grid power supply is limited or curtailed. Note, emissions in the 2018-19 baseline were notably lower due to the CHP being only partially operational, which lead to an increase in purchased electricity to compensate (see Figure 4).

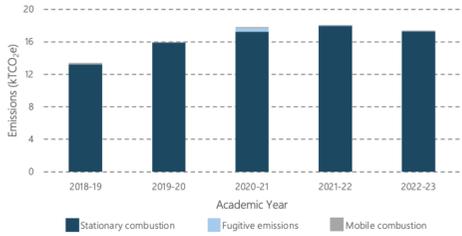


Figure 3: Scope 1 emissions for 2018-23.

Scope 2

Figure 4 shows Scope 2 emissions over the period 2018 – 2023. In 2022-23 Scope 2 emissions are around 1 kTCO_{2e} or less than 1% of total emissions (Scope 1, 2 and 3), having declined by 92% since 2018-19 due to switching the University's national grid supply to low carbon sources at the end of 2020-21 [39]. Additional reductions arose from demand reduction due to energy efficiency projects undertaken by Estates and Facilities.

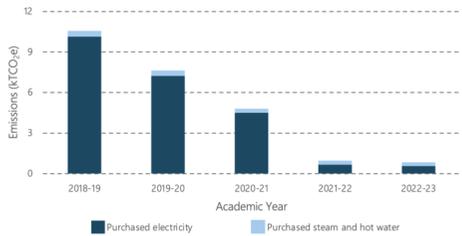


Figure 4: Scope 2 emissions for 2018-23.

Scope 3

Figure 5 shows Scope 3 emissions over the period 2018 – 2023. In 2022-23 Scope 3 emissions were around 117.4 kTCO_{2e} or 87% of total emissions, having increased by 16% since 2018-19.

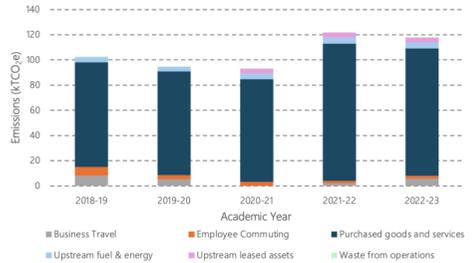


Figure 5: Scope 3 emissions for 2018-23.

Scope 3 emissions were dominated by approximately 101 kTCO_{2e} arising from the University's supply chain under the Scope 3 categories: Purchased Goods and Services which showed an increase of 23% from those in 2018-19 due to growth and post-COVID rebound. Emissions in 2022-23 arising from other Scope 3 categories: (i) Staff Commuting emissions were estimated to be around 2.3 kTCO_{2e} and have fallen by 66% since 2018-19 due to 'new normal' post-COVID working practices and (ii) Business Travel emissions, estimated at 5.8 kTCO_{2e}, were around 31% below those of 2018-19 (pre-COVID) levels. It should be noted that Figures 3-5 provide the overall historical and current emissions of the University excluding those covered under 'other' emission reporting. Combining Figures 3 to 5 results in Figure 6 which shows the emission under all scopes.

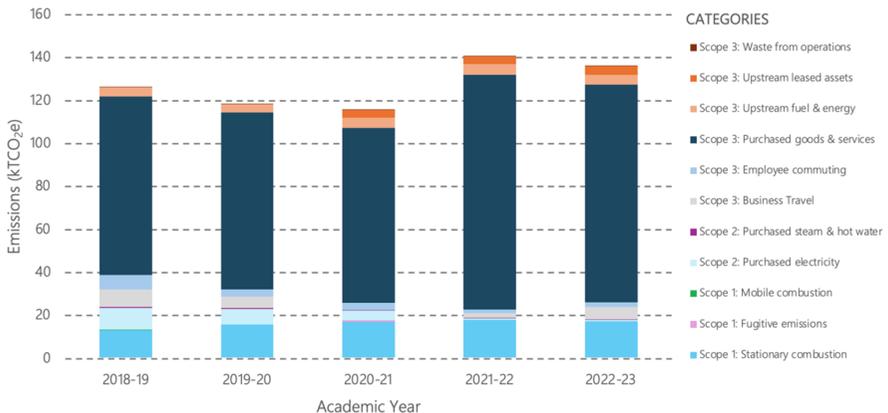


Figure 6: Scope 1-3 emissions under the various sub-categories for the period 2018 to 2023.

GOALS 1-3: HIGHLIGHTS & PROGRESS

Table 2 provides a high-level depiction of the work programme, what has been achieved and future planned development. The table also summarises the key milestones achieved and the progress against these.

Table 2: *Milestones achieved and in progress for Goals 1-3.*

Sustainability Goal	Milestones achieved	Milestones in progress
Goal 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop 2030 net zero roadmap for Scope 1-2. Embed in Estates and infrastructure strategic plan. Deliver 2021/22 of Scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction projects: moved to low carbon emissions electricity supply. Deliver 2022/23 of Scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction studies to support net zero projects: Reports on CHP, Heat Pumps, Space Utilisation. Tools: Sustainable Building Design Standard (SBDS) [7], Sustainable Impact Assessment Template [8]. Deliver 2023-28 of Scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction projects: introduced SBDS for all future Estates Projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on CHP phased replacement, labs audits, smart buildings, refurbishments and other emerging projects, ensuring new construction projects don't add to emissions. Engaging on city-wide dependencies. Submitted bid for Public Sector Funding for heat decarbonisation projects at Glen Eyre Hall of Residence and Boldrewood Campus.
Goal 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop methodology to measure Scope 3 as per GHG Protocol. Measure Scope 3 emissions and set reduction target - net zero by 2045. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver 2023-24 year of Scope 3 emissions reduction projects: Analyse Scope 3 data and develop a reduction plan, review new Net Zero Carbon Supplier tool methodology and compare to the Higher Education Supply Chain Emissions tool (HESCET). Develop approaches to capture responsible procurement activity. Review reporting on transportation & waste and establish plans for emission reduction targets.
Goal 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate emissions calculator into University Travel Planning System (Clarity). Set business travel emissions reduction targets in kTCO₂e. Conduct a feasibility study on methods for offsetting any remaining 'essential business travel' emissions from 2030 and reports on carbon markets/offsetting options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct 'behaviour change' campaign and assess its success in keeping business travel emissions below agreed target (2023-25). Design future interventions / policies / systems & embed in University Travel Plan (2023/25); focus on planning and projects for road, rail and aviation pathways, develop implementation proposal, benchmarking, and report on progress. Consider appropriate high quality offsetting schemes.



GOAL 4: HIGHLIGHTS & PROGRESS

In its role in educating and training thousands of students and researchers annually, the University has an opportunity to help shape our impact on the planet and provide a response to the climate crisis. During the annual survey and the sustainability strategy consultations process, the University consistently heard from its students and staff that they wanted sustainability to form an integral part of what the University does.

One of the aims of Goal 4 is that by 2025, every student studying at the University will have an opportunity to learn about sustainability. All efforts in this area will align with our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) Accord [9], which requires us to incorporate the SDGs into our education, research and operations. Furthermore, this also aligns well with many of the accreditation requirements for the numerous educational programmes offered by the University.

Progress under Goal 4 is reported below:

- Developed the Southampton Sustainability Solutions e-learning module with the aim of continually refreshing the content which is made available to students and staff on-line [10]. The other aim is that the e-learning module will particularly be prominent during staff and student inductions.
- Launched the university-wide module Global Sustainability Challenges (UOSM2043) [11] focusing on sustainability.
- Mapped the UN SDGs across all University programmes (Figure 7) in 2023, and the creation and publication of the sustainability toolkit [13].
- Piloted integrating sustainability into a selected group of programmes.

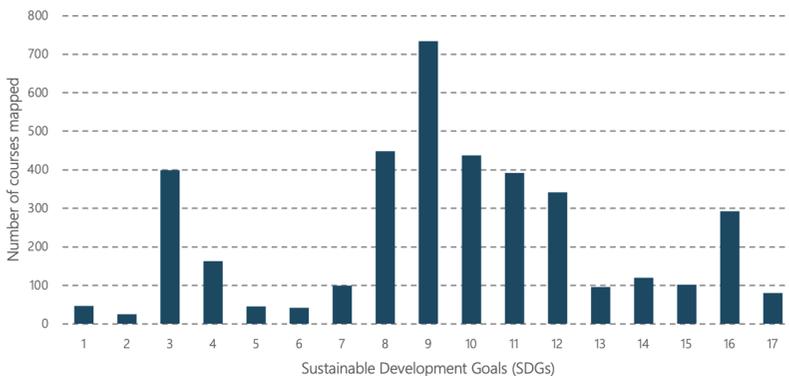


Figure 7: University-level count of modules mapped to each SDG.

These activities are enabling staff and students to better understand the challenges our planet is facing, including addressing finite resources, environmental, social and economic impacts and how our individual behaviour can be channelled to protect the planet for future generations.

Mapping all UN SDGs across the entire University education portfolio (on average each taught module was mapped to 2-3 SDGs) found that SDG9: Industry Innovation and Infrastructure was the most frequent. This process provided a comprehensive baseline with tailored sustainability components being integrated across all UoS education programme, with the aim that sustainability content and outcomes to become a requirement for approval and reapproval of all degree programmes. A Toolkit [13] has been put in place to support this embedding of UN SDGs in the Programme Approval and Review process. This will ensure that, over time, all programmes, regardless of discipline, will maximise programme-relevant teaching on SDGs as appropriate with teaching content.

Going forward Goal 4 will address the following key milestones:

- Train programme teams in integrating sustainability into the curriculum.
- Embed sustainability across all taught University compulsory modules by 2025.

To date:

- 1582 total compulsory modules were mapped.
- The average number of Goals mapped to each module across the University was 2.6.

GOAL 5: HIGHLIGHTS & PROGRESS

Research and impact sit at the core of Goal 5 and the work and outcomes can be a major contributor to addressing the climate crisis, identifying solutions, innovations and increasing the world's knowledge. The UN SDGs [14] as the guiding pathway offer a clear, coherent and readily comparable framework to work with. Hence, the thrust of this Goal is to make sustainability a cornerstone of our research and societal impact. This distinction also serves to make the University attractive to researchers and academics globally. Progress under Goal 5 is reported below:

- Conducted an audit of sustainability research including research articles and the submitted Research Excellence Framework (REF) impact studies.
- Consulted on a conceptual focus for sustainability and resilience across the University and created and launched the Sustainability and Resilience Institute (SRI) [15].
- Published first annual report on research projects arising from the SRI [16] of relevance to University's Sustainability Strategic Plan.

SRI brings together a range of disciplines across the University to facilitate the expansion of interdisciplinary research on 3 main areas (i) renewable energy, decarbonisation and waste management, (ii) climate change and health, and (iii) nature-based solutions¹. SRI conducted a review of research, education engagement and operations to present case studies and indications of the UN SDGs work the University does [17]².

The Field Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI)³ for SDGs 1-16 is shown in Figure 8 while Figure 9 illustrates the total percentage of our publications related to each SDG. These results illustrate the scale of our activities and overall impact across all SDGs. Currently, the most notable output and impact relate to SDG Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing with a FWCI 200% higher than the global average.

Automatic flagging of UN SDGs against research outputs has also been introduced in the University depository PURE. Also, work is underway on increasing accreditation of the University's laboratories under the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF). Going forward Goal 5 will address the following key milestones:

- Delivery of sustainability audits and rankings and provide guidance to flag SDGs in research.
- Conduct audits of sustainable research, provide guidance for REF2029 impact case studies.
- Ensure that our sustainability research has societal impact: audit projects to evidence societal impacts, develop engagement programmes with local/regional/international communities, and implement actions to instantiate these requirements (2023-30).
- Ensure that our laboratories are audited and accredited as required and train staff to procure sustainable equipment (2023-30).
- Ensure our outcomes are coherent with our strategic plans [1]: increase sustainable related research and its reporting, increase societal impact evidenced by research, develop policies related to sustainable practice and procurement, and increase in key sustainability rankings (2023-30).
- Report annually on research projects arising from the SRI of relevance to University's Sustainability Strategic Plan (2024-30).
- Develop the Sustainability Academy covering 4-year curriculum activities for participating post graduate students, run the academy for 8-year programme of CDT and provide MSc scholarships (2023-30).

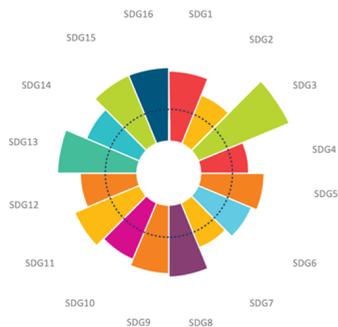


Figure 8: Radial plot of UoS Field Weighted Citation Indexes for SDGs 1-16 for 2020-22. [17]



Figure 9: Publications by the University of Southampton for the period 2020-22 by SDG. [17]

¹The SRI's vision is a sustainable and resilient world where synergies and trade-offs are well-managed between social, economic, environmental, and cultural needs across society.

²See <https://soton.ac.sharepoint.com/teams/Sustainabilityandresilienceinstitute/SitePages/Sustainable-Development-Goals.aspx> for the 2020-22 SDG audit report.

³The FWCI metric normalises citations of publications against publications of the same type in the same field to demonstrate performance against the average. For full methodology see the Sustainable Development Goals Report [17].

GOAL 6: HIGHLIGHTS & PROGRESS

The University has significant buying power and ability to exert influence through the way it uses its assets and how it engages with other organisations. The primary objective of the University's treasury management activities is to ensure the security of the sum it invests, maintain adequate liquidity to meet operational needs and gain an appropriate level of investment return. With this in mind, we want to use our institution's power to support a more sustainable and ethical future through three main objectives for Goal 6: (i) develop and implement a sustainable and ethical investment policy, (ii) migrate our fund portfolio to align with this policy and (iii) monitor our direct and indirect fossil fuel investments on an annual basis.

Progress under Goal 6 is reported below:

- Conducted audits of UoS investments - the fossil fuel exposure audit was completed following which a sustainable ethical investment policy was put in place [18].
- Listed current investment funds as part of the annual fossil fuel exposure reporting and explained why such funds were selected and how they align with sustainable and ethical investment policy.

The established UoS Investment Committee tasked with developing our sustainable and ethical investment policy²⁵ through advising on policy and sanctioning the annual fossil fuel exposure audits (Table 4). The audit of UoS fossil fuel exposure (Table 4) highlights how 1% of the University's total investments were in direct fossil fuel companies with lower levels of exposure (0.4%) in indirect fossil fuel companies [22]. The relative increase in our fossil fuel holdings (1% compared to 0.5% in 2022) was due to a combination of more of University cash being placed with investment funds rather than in bank accounts and also a reduction in total cash and investments, the denominator. The University continues to monitor funds to make decisions aligned to sustainability, migrate any remaining funds where appropriate, and continue to publish data on direct and indirect fossil fuel investments.

Table 3: Fossil fuel exposure as a percentage of UoS investment portfolio for the period 2020-23.

% of portfolio in	31 Dec 2020 [19]	31 Dec 2021 [20]	31 Dec 2022 [21]	31 Dec 2023 [22]
Direct fossil fuel companies	0.8%	0.9%	0.5%	1.0%
Indirect fossil fuel companies	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%

It must be noted that the revised University Treasury policy focuses on positive change through engagement, preferring companies that are moving towards responsible investment such as in renewable energy and low carbon technologies. In addition, new fund managers have recently been appointed who have been able to migrate the majority of our investments to align with the sustainable and ethical investment policy. Furthermore, the University is committed to investing in line with the Paris Aligned Investment initiative (PAII) and where possible ensuring our funds align with Article 8 or 9 of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR).

Going forward Goal 6 will address the following key milestones:

- Report fossil fuel exposure by fund, this will only be conducted where appropriate and if allowed under the contract terms we have with the fund manager.
- Establish initial emissions reporting for investment portfolio (2024/25) - ensure fund managers can provide information to advisors that can be collated, published in Feb 2025, and by 2025 the portfolio should be fully compliant with sustainable and ethical investment policy.
- Establish and publish external annual emissions reporting for 100% of investment portfolio by 2027.



⁴Work to migrate the portfolio to align with this policy is ongoing and planned for completion by 2027 or earlier if practicable.

⁵The PAII was established in 2019 as a collaborative investor-led forum to support investors to align their portfolios and activities to the goals of the Paris Agreement.

⁶Article 8 products are those which promote environmental or social characteristics, and which integrate sustainability into the investment process in a binding manner.

⁷Article 9 products are those which have a sustainable investment objective, and which integrate sustainability into the investment process in a binding manner.

BIODIVERSITY: HIGHLIGHTS & PROGRESS

Biodiversity is part of the University's Estate and Facilities Strategy and hence reporting is addressed within the Estates Strategic Plan [23]. The SIG recognises the need for addressing the overarching sustainability requirement and has instigated a line of reporting on biodiversity within its activities covered in the same fashion as other Goals with a Champion and a Lead. For the purpose of this report, we highlight the following:

- University's Biodiversity strategy sits within the Estates Strategic Plan.
- SIG will provide regular updates on biodiversity within its activities.
- The Biodiversity Policy is currently being updated and will go through the appropriate approval governance route before being implemented by the Estates Team.
- Biodiversity is also being handled at the University, via several research activities being conducted through the Sustainability and Resilience Institute and others, relating to UN SDG14 Life Below Water and SDG15 Life on Land.



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

The University adopted the Sustainability Strategic Plan in 2020 to cover the assessment and reporting on our emissions, research, education and investments all of which are encompassed under the six Goals highlighted above. This has facilitated and enabled a more interconnected implementation of sustainability in the University. Since then, it has adopted the gold standard GHG Protocol approach to quantifying and monitoring our emissions covered under Goals 1 to 3.

The targets set for **Goals 1 to 3** were ambitious and included ensuring the University achieves net zero emissions for Scopes 1 and 2 by 2030 through approaches that reduce reliance on gas for heating, establishing a refurbishment building programme to reduce energy demand and switching to renewable electricity supply. The latter was completed in June 2021, reducing our emissions by around 4 kTCO₂e (Figure 4); while programmes to address the other interventions are underway. The University's Sustainability Strategic Plan also has actions in place to reduce our Scope 3 emissions by carefully managing our service usage and procurement as well as working with our suppliers to reduce their own emissions.

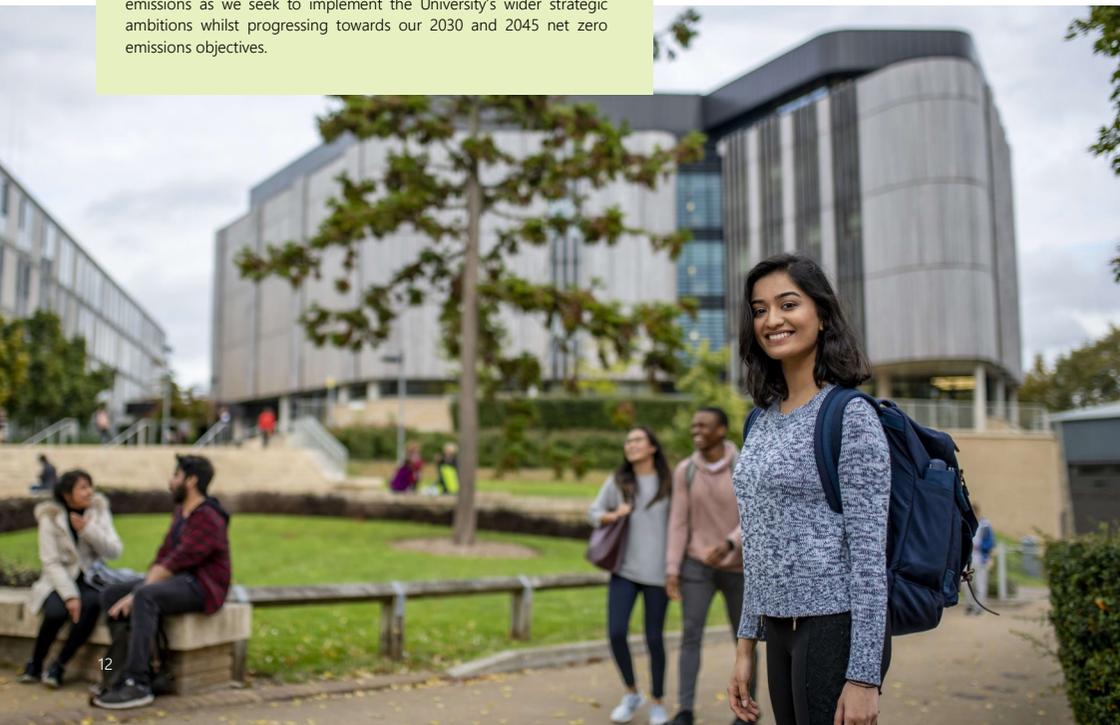
Goal 4 dealing with education has delivered e-modules and instructional modules for both staff and students and mapped all compulsory modules to the UN SDGs.

Goal 5 which addresses research and societal impacts has conducted an audit of our sustainability research (articles and REF impact studies) and delivered a new institute dealing with sustainability and resilience. The role of the institute is to further enhance our sustainability research and societal impacts as well as addressing our various rankings.

Goal 6 which deals with investments, conducted audits of our investments and implemented a sustainable ethical investment policy. This has resulted in the listing of current investment funds as part of the annual fossil fuel exposure reporting and provided an explanation why such funds were selected and how they align with sustainable and ethical investment policy.

The University has now endorsed embedding sustainability in everything we do through the adoption of the Sustainability Impact Assessment Tool [8] and the Sustainable Building Design Standard [7] setting out the minimum standards required for decision making and projects. Over the year the Sustainability Implementation Group has conducted a number of University engagements [24-28] with faculties, schools, departments and the wider university community. SIG has also reported on its activities to the University Council.

We are confident that the Sustainability Strategic Plan will continue to help us to address the considerable challenges in reducing our emissions as we seek to implement the University's wider strategic ambitions whilst progressing towards our 2030 and 2045 net zero emissions objectives.



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APPENDIX: SIG GOVERNANCE

The Sustainability Strategic Plan is one of the University's 10 strategic plans. The Sustainability Strategic Plan is supported by an agreed governance structure which ensures accountability across the university (Figure 10).

The University Executive Board (UEB), chaired by the Vice Chancellor, has overall accountability for achieving Strategic Plans including that encompassed within our sustainability vision and the Plan.

The Sustainability Strategy Board (SSB), chaired by Senior Vice President Prof. Phillip Wright, includes members of UEB as Goal Champions (Table 4) and the President of the Student Union. SSB provides strategic advice to the SIG and report to UEB on progress towards delivering the Sustainability Strategy Plan Goals (Figure 11).

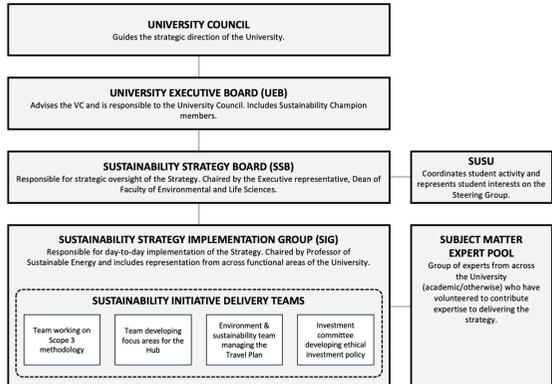


Figure 10: Governance structure for the Sustainability Strategy.



Figure 11: SSB responsibilities and membership.

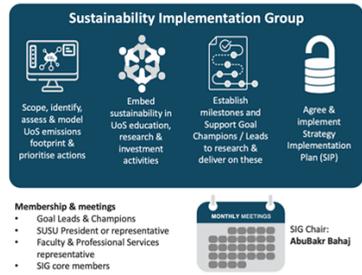


Figure 12: SIG responsibilities and membership.

The Sustainability Implementation Group (SIG) oversees the day-to-day implementation of the Plan and is chaired by Prof. AbuBak Bahaj, head of the Energy & Climate Change Division in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences (FEPS). SIG features Goal Leads, SUSU, faculty and professional services representatives (Table 5). SIG meets monthly and reports quarterly to the SSB (Figure 12).

Table 4: Sustainability Strategy Goal champions & leads.

Goal 1	Kevin Argent Exec. Dir. Estates & Facilities	Adam Tewkesbury Assoc. Dir. Environment & Sustainability
Goal 2	Wendy Appleby VP (Operations)	Eychelle Heywood & Prof. John Preston Head of Procurement Prof. in Rail Transport
Goal 3	Prof. Jane Falkingham VP (Engagement & International)	Adam Tewkesbury Assoc. Dir. Environment & Sustainability
Goal 4	Prof. Deborah Gill VP (Education)	Prof. Simon Kemp Professional Fellow- Education
Goal 5	Prof. Mark Spearing VP (Research & Enterprise)	Prof. John Holloway Assoc. VP (Interdisciplinary Research)
Goal 6	Alison Jarvis Exec. Dir. Finance	Tamsin Dickinson Finance Dir. (Planning)
Biodiversity	Kevin Argent Exec. Dir. Estates & Facilities	Sarah Puckett Environment & Sustainability Manager

Table 5: Current faculty & professional services representatives.

Southampton University Student Union (SUSU)	Lawrence Coomber SUSU President
Faculty of Arts & Humanities (FAH)	Dr Anna Collar Assoc. Prof.
Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences (FEPS)	Prof. Andrew Cruden Assoc. Dean Infrastructure
Faculty of Environmental & Life Sciences (FELS)	Prof. Felix Eigenbrod Prof. of Applied Spatial Ecology
Faculty of Medicine (FMed)	Prof. Edd James Assoc. Dean Infrastructure
Faculty of Social Science (FSS)	Prof. Denise Baden Personal Chair
iSolutions	To be appointed
Public Policy Southampton (PPS)	Gareth Giles Head of Public Policy
Sustainability and Resilience Institute (SRI)	Prof. Craig Hutton Dir. SRI
Technicians/Labs	Peter Morgan Laboratory Manager

FEEDBACK

If you have any comments or feedback on this report, please contact us in confidence via sig24@soton.ac.uk.

If you are a member of our staff and student community you are welcome to start a discussion via the Viva Engage (previously called Yammer) group.



Find out more:
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This cycle of reporting will be repeated on an annual basis.



Sustainability Implementation Group

The Sustainability Implementation Group was formulated as part of the Sustainability Strategic Plan. Its task is to oversee and co-ordinate the delivery of the University's six Sustainability Goals.

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Find out more:

Scan the QR code

Or visit: www.southampton.ac.uk/susdev/our-approach/sustainability-strategy.page

