



University of Lincoln Sustainability Report

2020/21

Welcome to our Annual Sustainability Report 2020/21, 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.

Key Sustainability Achievements

- Development of, and SLT sign-off for, a new carbon reduction target; to achieve a 60% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030/31, against a 2009/10 baseline.
- Collaboration with academic programme leads on 'live sustainability briefs' for students; including two used as part of BA Product Design
- Smart management of the Estate, via Building Management Systems (BMS), to facilitate maximum energy savings during lockdown periods.
- Delivery of BMS upgrade projects in the Sports Centre and the Engine Shed.
- Inclusion of sustainability questions focused on driving waste minimisation and carbon reduction within the re-tender of the University's waste management contract.
- The development and delivery of a new online sustainability newsletter during lockdown periods, entitled; Lockdown in Nature. This aimed to encourage and support sustainability and wellbeing activities for staff, students and members of the public, creating connections with nature and wildlife.
- The completion of Lincoln Medical School confirmed its status as the University's most sustainable and energy efficient building on our Estate. It has since won three awards for 'Sustainable Development of the year'.
- The University gained the 'Hedgehog Friendly Campus' Silver Award as a result of creating habitats for hedgehogs and other small mammals on our campus.
- The delivery of 'rewilded' spaces around our Brayford Campus, by allowing grass and vegetation to grow long and establishing wildflower meadows to provide food sources for insects and birds.
- The delivery of a 'Climate Change Lecture Series' in Spring 2021, to increase engagement with staff, students and external stakeholders.

Environment and Energy Management System (EEMS)



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 2020/21.

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

Energy Consumption (kWh) per m² of gross internal area (GIA)

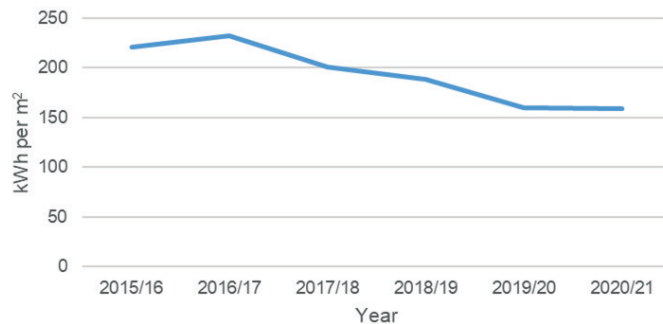


Figure 1: Kilowatt hours consumed per m²

Direct carbon emissions (Scopes 1 and 2) since target baseline.

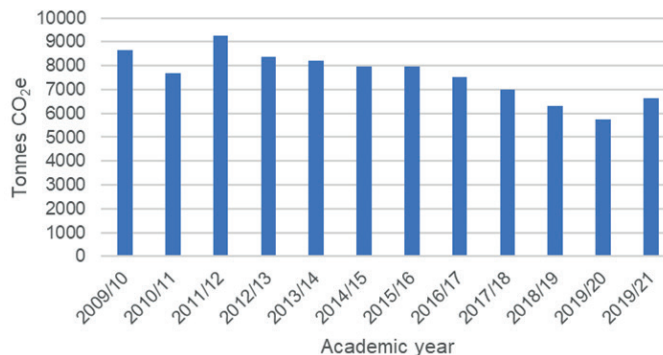


Figure 2. Carbon Emissions on the Estate

EEMS Target

To develop a post-2020 carbon management strategy and achieve sign-off by SLT for a carbon neutral target.

2020/21 Update - Target in sight

A 2030 carbon reduction target was approved by SLT in August 2021. The carbon management strategy is being developed and is due to be published in Summer 2022.

EEMS Target

Reduce total kWh consumption of energy consumed in 2020/21 per m² of the estate (from 2018/19, due to lockdown period)

2020/21 Update - Target met

In 2020/21, the University consumed 15,138,607 kWh electricity (a 19% increase from 19/20) and 17,568,461 kWh of gas in 2020/21 (a 25% increase from the 19/20).

However, when considering total kilowatt hour energy consumption (including gas, electricity, fuel oil, LPG and vehicle fuel) and the context of an increase in gross internal area (GIA), a minor reduction in kWh per m² was achieved, as demonstrated by the below figure 1.

Energy use continues to be managed in accordance with ISO50001. Work continues to monitor energy consumption and identify energy saving opportunities, such as upgrading building management systems (BMS) and improving building fabric. BMS upgrades were delivered in the Sports Centre and the Engine Shed.

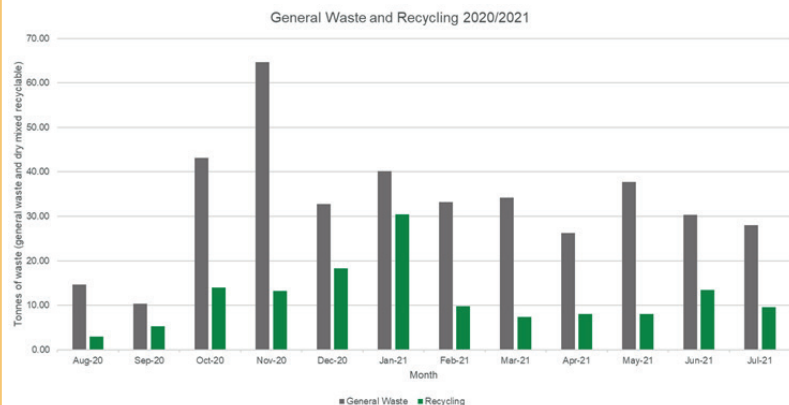
EEMS Target

To reduce carbon emissions in line with the 60% reduction by 2030 target trajectory.

2020/21 Update - Target in sight

Carbon emissions increased slightly from 2019/20 to 2020/21, due to an increase in Gross Internal Area and a shorter period of building closures experienced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic than 2019/20. The University has reduced carbon emissions by 23% against a baseline of 2009/10, compared with a 33% reduction made in 2020/21, as shown by figure 2.

Waste Management



EEMS Target

Reduce amount (tonnage) of waste in general waste stream (compared with 2019/20) and increase the percentage of waste recycled.

2020/21 Update - Target in sight

The amount of waste produced in 2020/21 increased by 6 tonnes compared to 2019/20. This is likely to be as a result of higher levels of building (including accommodation) occupation levels, following the lockdown period in 2019/20.

In 2020/21, 26.2% of all waste generated was recycled, a 2% improvement from the previous academic year. Excluding waste generated from accommodation, over 30% of waste was recycled.

The impact of Covid-19 on waste streams has meant the increased use of single-use PPE. Efforts are being made by the Sustainability team to reduce contamination of recycling waste streams. In April 2021, the Sustainability Team sourced PPE recycling bins that will allow staff and students to recycle single use masks, plastic gloves, visors and lateral flow tests.

EEMS Target

Reduce single-occupancy car use by staff and students by 10% by 2021 travel survey (compared with 2019 results).

2020/21 Update - Target in sight

The target relating to single-occupancy car use has been put on hold due to Covid-19 guidance and working from home practices, skewing travel data.

A parking management review has recommenced in Summer 2021, to update the parking policy and introduce ANPR management. Parking income will be invested in sustainable travel infrastructure. Target for completion is September 2022.

Salto locks were installed on the cycle compounds at Brayford, improving security and access for staff and students.

The next travel survey will be conducted in Autumn 2021.

Transport

Campus Grounds - Biodiversity Enhancement

EEMS Target

Develop a landscape management plan for Brayford Campus that includes initiatives to improve biodiversity, including the enhancement of green spaces on campus.

2020/21 Update - Target in sight

'Rewilded' spaces on campus have been developed to identify them as intentional. Signage has been deployed and grass mowing regimes have been agreed with the landscape management contractors.

The University gained the 'Silver' Award for hedgehog friendly campus, as a result of implementing processes to support wildlife on campus and creating habitats.

In 2021/22, this work will be formalised and documented in a landscape management plan, jointly working with the landscape management contractors.

The University has been working in collaboration with the Brayford Trust and Lincolnshire Rivers Trust to make improvements to the south banks of the Brayford to enhance biodiversity. Phase 2 of bio-bed installation was delivered in Spring 2021.

EEMS Target

Calculate the carbon footprint of Riseholme Farm, including carbon sequestration value and opportunities to increase this ecosystem service through altered land management practices.

2020/21 Update - Target in sight

Unfortunately, staff changes have meant the measurement of the carbon footprint of Riseholme Farm were put on hold. We hope to be able to continue this work in the coming years. Work is being done by the Riseholme Farm and Estate Manager to implement low carbon farming practices despite this delay.



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

EEMS Target

Deliver Sustainability Project Briefs in collaboration with module leaders in 20/21.

2020/21 Update - Target met

Two living lab sustainability briefs have been delivered in the College of Arts. This is below the original target. However, the concept of the 'Student-led Action Climate Action Living Laboratory' (StAR Lab) is being developed as a way to increase engagement in sustainability research for 2021/22.

The University's sustainability web pages have been developed, to include a site on ESD, which includes case studies of sustainability being embedded within both teaching and research.

EEMS Target

Establish a structured process for measuring that relevant tenders have included sustainability as part of the evaluation process. Assign risk rating to contracts, ensuring that those with high impact have included Sustainability within evaluation.

2020/21 Update - Target met

An environmental risk rating has now been assigned to procurement categories, to priorities the integration of sustainability within new contracts and tender exercises.

An environmental Impact Tracking exercise has been conducted by the Procurement team, to review the consideration of Sustainability within contract tenders on an annual basis.

In 20/21, Sustainability questions were included in a total of 7 high-value tenders.

Procurement tenders with sustainability questions

Construction

EEMS Target

Achieve an Energy Performance Certificate rating of A and DEC rating of A for the new Medical School Building post-completion.

2020/21 Update - Target met

The Medical School has achieved an EPC 'A' as targeted. It has not yet had a DEC assessment, but it is on track to achieve its designed ambition.

The Medical School has received three 'sustainable building' awards and is currently undergoing post-occupancy evaluation to determine how the building is performing against the building physics energy modelling.

EEMS Target

Integrate sustainability into specifications for major projects, including SKA Rating for major refurbishments.

2020/21 Update - Target met

The Sustainability Manager has undergone training in 'SKA rating' with the intention of using the SKA Rating tool for a future major refurbishment project.

Ross Lucas Medical Sciences Building

Sustainability events - a snapshot



A look at some of the events our sustainability team has organised or participated in during 2020 - 2021. We adapted to a series of online events when in person events were unable to take place. Webinars included an Online Hedgehog Tracking Workshop, Wildflower Identification and the Secret Life of Fungi, the Secret Life of Hedgehogs and more.

Gardening events - gardens on Campus tours organised for new students, regular gardening sessions including wildlife friendly ones were run.

Meet the bees - we continued working with the College of Science to bring staff and students to our Meet the Bees event at the Observation Hive. We also supported the creation of a Brayford Bees website:
bringingoutthebees.lincoln.ac.uk

Hedgehog Friendly Campus
– 11 volunteers helped us achieve the ‘silver’ award. This included installing dedicated habitats such as log piles and rewilded areas.

We supported the national campaign; our lead spoke as a guest speaker at an Advice Session and also presented at a Biodiversity online EAUC webinar. We ran regular CLEAN up for hedgehogs litterpicks and conducted a site wide mammal survey with student ambassadors.



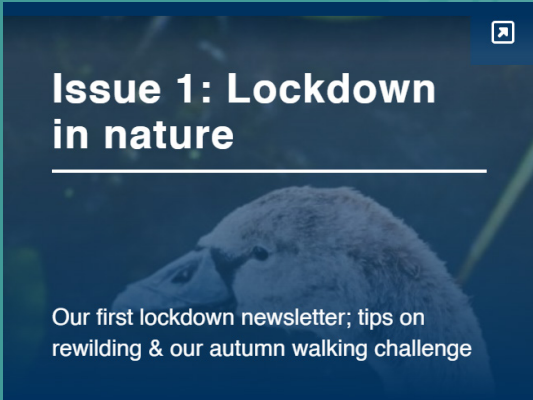
Summer Watch with Chris Packham - The University of Lincoln ran day long event in August 2021 with Chris Packham as guest speaker. Activities included, mammal surveying workshops, where members of the public were able to learn how to conduct a scientific survey, minibeast activity, identification of bugs from local water sources, owl pellet dissection and a talk by Chris Packham. The event was well attended and live streamed on Youtube: [Incn.ac/cpsw](https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/cpsw)



Festival of Learning
We got involved with the university wide Festival of Learning event, running activities such as CLEAN up for hedgehogs, Wildlife on Campus Tour, Wildlife Safari Bike Ride, and an online Hogfriendly Student Ambassador Open Event. Student led events included a Flora and Fauna identification workshop, Plastic pollution in Lincoln and its effect on wildlife, Insect Identification and Meeting Lincoln’s carbon net zero 2030 target.



Lockdown in Nature - We launched a newsletter based on positive sustainability news during lockdowns, sometimes posting weekly. There were 4,500 total readers of the ‘Lockdown in Nature’ digital sustainability newsletter series. Check out our archive:
[Incn.ac/susnews](https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/susnews)



Climate Convention - We supported the Lincoln SU’s Climate Convention; our Sustainability Projects and Communications Officers were guest speakers at the “How to be sustainable at Home” webinar.

Student engagement campaigns - Most of our engagement campaigns at the start of the term were online due to government restrictions, including Freshers Fayre, Postgraduate Fayre and ReFreshers Fayre, where we hosted an online stall.

We ran a significant campaign for #FoodWasteActionWeek and an online campaign for #FairtradeFortnight.



Get involved with
[#SustainabilityAtLincoln](#)

