

Interim Carbon Management Plan

2026-2027

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Glossary of Terms

CO₂e (Carbon Dioxide Equivalent)

Carbon dioxide equivalent: ‘total climate change impact of all the greenhouse gases caused by an item or activity expressed in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide that would have the same impact over a 100 year period’¹

Carbon Intensity

Is the CO₂e per m² of the campus Gross Internal Area (GIA).

Market-based (Method)

An approach to calculating Scope 2 electricity emissions that reflects emissions from electricity suppliers chosen by an organisation, such as renewable energy contracts, green tariffs, or energy attribute certificates.

Gross Internal Area (GIA)

GIA is the total area of buildings owned, occupied or maintained by the HE provider. GIA is measured to the internal face of the perimeter walls at each floor level (i.e. the footprint of the building excluding the width of the outside walls). It includes areas occupied by internal walls and partitions²

Location-based (Method)

An approach to calculating Scope 2 electricity emissions based on the average emissions intensity of the local or national electricity grid where energy is consumed, regardless of supplier contracts.

Scope 1 Emissions

Direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by an organisation, such as fuel combustion in boilers, company vehicles, or on-site generators.

Scope 2 Emissions

Indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the generation of purchased energy consumed by an organisation, primarily electricity, heating, cooling, or steam.

Scope 3 Emissions

All other indirect greenhouse gas emissions that occur across an organisation’s value chain, including supply chain activities, business travel, waste, water use, and the use of sold products.

¹ Berners-Lee, M. (2020). *How Bad Are Bananas? The Carbon Footprint of Everything*. Profile Books.

² HESA webpages. (2026) Last accessed 16/06/2026. Estates management record 2020/21 – Gross Internal Area and Net Internal Area.

Executive Summary

This Interim Carbon Management Plan (CMP) sets out how Edge Hill University will continue to reduce its carbon emissions and improve energy performance across the estate during 2026–2027.

The University has committed to becoming:

- Carbon Neutral by 2030
- Net Zero by 2035

Strong progress has already been made, exceeding previous carbon reduction targets. This interim plan focuses on building the systems, data, and infrastructure required to deliver the next phase of decarbonisation.

Key priorities for 2026–2027 include:

- Developing a long-term decarbonisation roadmap (IDMP)
- Improving energy data, metering, and reporting
- Delivering targeted energy and infrastructure projects
- Embedding smarter, data-led estate operations
- Expanding Scope 3 emissions measurement and action

This plan provides the foundation for a full Carbon Management Plan covering 2027–2031.

Introduction

Edge Hill University continues to recognise the urgent need to address the global climate crisis and is committed to playing a leading role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all areas of its operations. As a forward-thinking institution rooted in sustainability and social responsibility, the University has set ambitious targets to become:

- 1) Carbon Neutral by 2030 – focusing on reducing emissions and addressing residual emissions, and
- 2) Net Zero by 2035 – focusing on eliminating emissions as far as possible across Scopes 1, 2 and 3.

This interim plan supports progress towards these targets during a period of significant strategic development, including:

- Development of an Infrastructure and Decarbonisation Masterplan (IDMP)
- Improvements in metering and energy data systems
- Expansion of smart building and occupancy analytics
- Reviews of estate infrastructure, utilisation, and governance.

This document sets out:

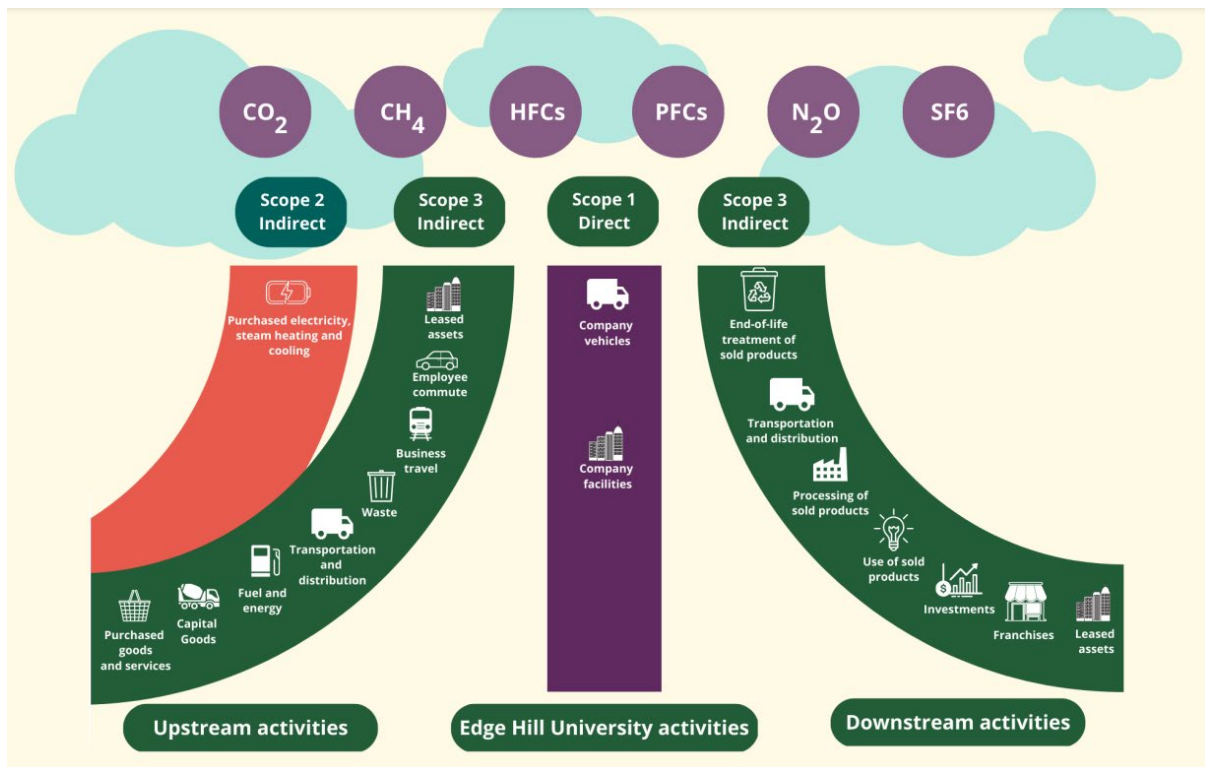
- Progress to date
- Current baselines and targets
- Strategic priorities
- Key objectives for 2026–2027
- Governance and reporting arrangements.

A full CMP covering the period 2027–2031 will be produced following completion of the IDMP and associated strategic reviews.

Scope of Plan

Edge Hill University aims to monitor and reduce emissions associated with all operational activities. Carbon CO₂e emissions (which includes CO₂, PFCs, HFCs, CH₄, N₂O and SF₆) are separated into three Scopes:

- Scope 1 – Direct emissions
- Scope 2 – Indirect emissions
- Scope 3 – Other indirect emissions



Carbon Neutral vs Net Zero

While achieving Carbon Neutral and Net Zero status are both ultimately about the reduction of CO₂e emissions, there are differences in the journey to both including their scope and objectives. These are briefly summarised below.

	Carbon Neutral	Net Zero
Scope 1 Emissions must be accounted for	✓	✓
Scope 2 Emissions must be accounted for	✓	✓
Scope 3 Emissions must be accounted for	✗	✓
Carbon Offsetting Allowed	✓	✗
Offsetting through Carbon Capture Required	✗	✓

Targets and Baselines

Carbon Targets

The previous iteration of the University's CMP covered the period to 2023-2025. It included the four primary targets summarised in the table below. Of these targets the first two will remain live, with the other two being closed out in this CMP.

Target	Description	Year
Carbon Neutral status	Minimise emissions and offset remaining emissions.	2030
Net Zero status	Eliminate emissions across Scope 1, 2 and 3 where feasible.	2035
Reduce total carbon emissions by 10%	Milestone to meeting targets 1 and 2 in this table.	2025
Reduce carbon intensity by 30%	Milestone to meeting targets 1 and 2 in this table.	2025

The Carbon Neutral and Net Zero targets guide all activities within this Plan and future decision-making across the estate.

Scope 1 and 2 Baselines

In the 2023-25 CMP, EHU established the following baselines with the baseline year of 2018/19. These remain in place in line with the baseline methodology outlined in Appendix 1 of this document.

- 1) Total emissions: 6,229 tCO₂e
- 2) Carbon intensity: 44 kgCO₂e/m²

Scope 3 Baselines

The University is developing a more comprehensive Scope 3 dataset to support its Net Zero target. Key categories include:

- Purchased goods and services
- Capital projects
- Waste and wastewater
- Business travel
- Staff and student commuting

Established baseline values and dates, along with any identified targets are summarised in the table below.

Category	Baseline year	Value (tCO ₂ e)	Target (if established)
Purchased goods and services	2022/23 (first year data available)	4693.3	
Capital goods and services	2022/23 (first year data available)	414.8	
Waste	2018/19 (in line with Scope 1 and 2)	16.21	30% reduction by 2030
Wastewater	2018/19 (in line with Scope 1 and 2)	90.809	
Business travel	2018/19 (in line with Scope 1 and 2)	384.1	
Staff commuting	2023/24 (first year data available)	1839.39	15% reduction by 2027 (as outlined in EHU Travel Plan)
UK Student Travel and International Travel	2023/24 (first year data available)	11448.99	10% reduction by 2027 (as outlined in EHU Travel Plan)
Student accommodation	2018/19 (in line with Scope 1 and 2)	155.79	

NB 1: Emissions relating to student accommodation are reported annually within the annual Environmental Sustainability Report. It should be noted that only campus-based student accommodation comes under scope of this CMP as the University does not have relationship agreements, outsource contracts or a student community living provisions of accommodation that are purpose built and run for students that may accommodate students from several universities.

NB2: Due to the methodology used to calculate purchased good and capital goods and services, these incorporate transportation of goods to the Institution.

The above baselines and targets will be reviewed in conjunction with the development of the IDMP and, if required, updated in the 2027-2031 CMP, in accordance with the baseline policy set out in Appendix 1.

Progress to date (2023-25 CMP)

The University has made strong progress towards its carbon targets as follows:

Carbon Reduction

- 17% reduction in location-based emissions against 2018/19 baseline.
- 41% reduction in market-based emissions against 2018/19 baseline.

Carbon Intensity

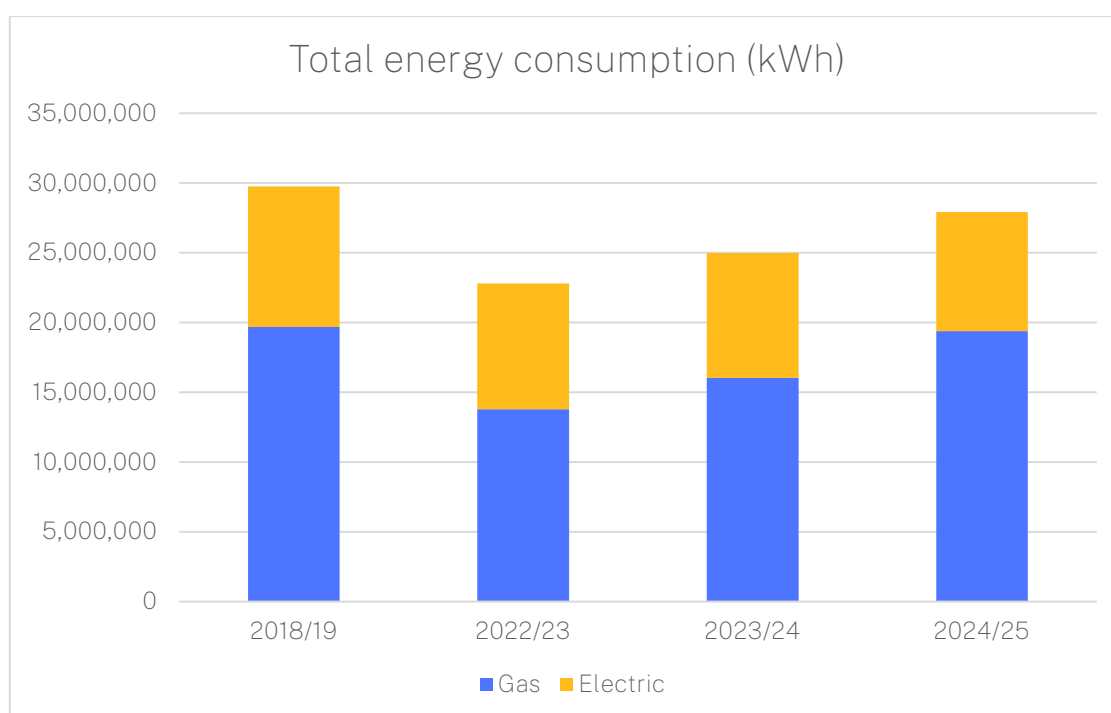
- 23% reduction in location-based emissions against 2018/19 baseline.
- 45% reduction in market-based emissions against 2018/19 baseline.

Key Achievements

This section summarises the key achievements EHU has made against the three themes outlined in the 2023-25 CMP.

Energy Use: Energy Reduction

The below graph illustrates our progress against our target to reduce energy consumption:



The increased energy consumption in 2024/25 reflects:

- an increase of 10.4% in the size of the estate between 23/24 and 24/25
- an increased use of Gas Combined Heat and Power (CHP) infrastructure.

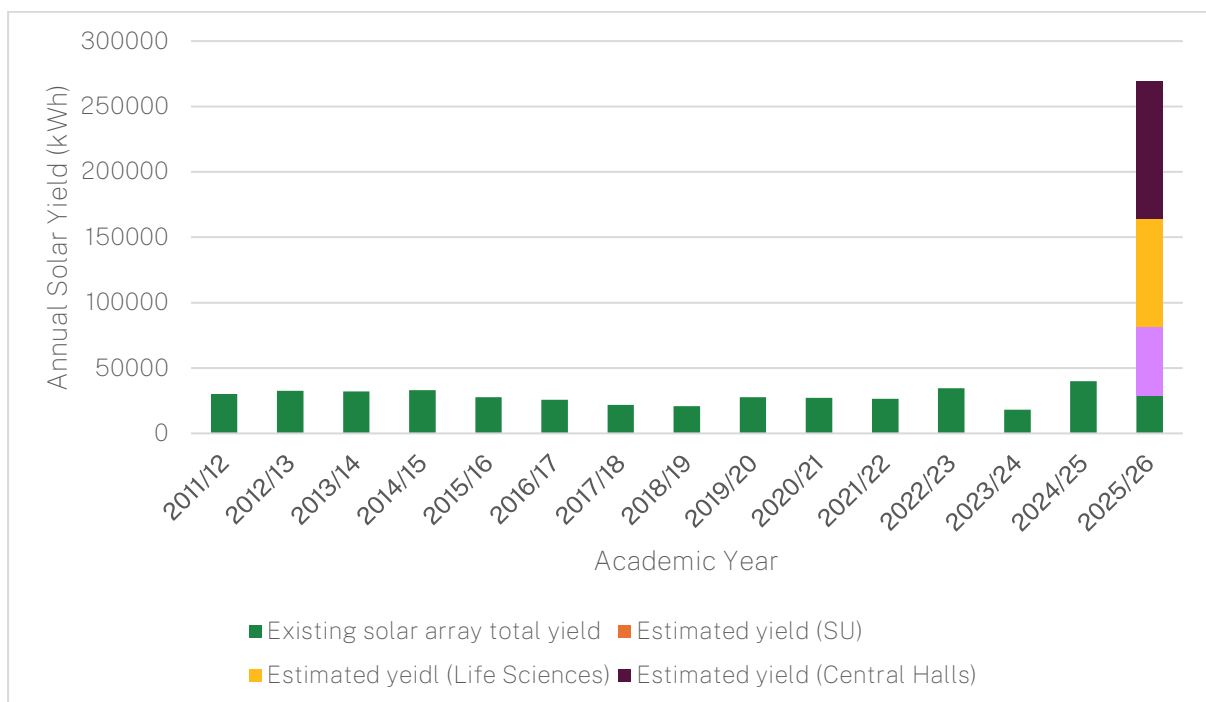
Decarbonisation: Degasification of campus

The following works have been completed or progressed during the previous CMP period:

- Removal of gas appliances from Hub commercial kitchen areas. Typically removing circa 135 kWh of gas consumption per workday. Equating to approx. 4.9 (t CO2e) of carbon emissions.
- RIBA Stage 4 design work for Faculty of Health and Wilson Centre decarbonisation projects. Which has supported gaining Salix funding amounting to £1.6M, for the degasification of the FHSCM building, referred to below.
- Implementation of the Faculty of Health Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) project. Reducing gas consumption by approx. 512,605 kWh per annum. Equating to approx. 93.8 (t CO2e) of carbon emissions.
- Initial strategic metering reviews.
- Development of strategic occupancy and utilisation monitoring capability.

Renewables: Increase behind the meter energy

As a result of the Central Campus development several new solar PV installations have come online. This has resulted in an increase in the total annual solar yield that the University has the capacity to generate as illustrated below. It should be noted that the estimated 2025/26 value for the existing solar array is an average of the yield from 2011/12 to 2024/25 apart from 2023/24 where issues with the system meant no data was captured for yield generated between November 2023 and July 2024.



Strategic Approach

To achieve its 2030 and 2035 targets, the University is focusing on six key priorities:

1. Develop a clear roadmap to Carbon Neutrality and Net Zero
2. Improve energy data and operational visibility
3. Deliver infrastructure and energy reduction projects
4. Expand Scope 3 measurement and reduction
5. Integrate occupancy, infrastructure and operations
6. Establish a proactive, data-led energy management model.

These priorities underpin all objectives within this Plan.

Objectives for 2026-27

The objectives presented in this section translate EHUs six strategic priorities around carbon into deliverable actions that support progress towards Carbon Neutrality (2030) and Net Zero (2035) and ensure that momentum continues while the IDMP and 2027-31 CMP are developed.

Net Zero Roadmap (IDMP)

Deliver a Clear Roadmap to Carbon Neutral and Net Zero Objective		Benefit
<p>Establish a fully costed, time-bound roadmap for achieving Net Zero across the estate, integrating infrastructure, energy systems, and estate strategy.</p> <p>Key outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed IDMP aligned with Estates Strategy (by Oct 2026) Defined pathway for Scope 1, 2 and priority Scope 3 emissions. 		<p>Developing a fully costed and time-bound Infrastructure and Decarbonisation Masterplan provides a clear, strategic pathway to achieving Net Zero across the estate. By aligning infrastructure, energy systems, and estate planning, it enables coordinated decision-making, prioritises investment, and ensures that carbon reduction activities across Scope 1, 2, and key Scope 3 emissions are planned, measurable, and deliverable over time.</p>
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
Head of Estates Management	Ongoing	Funding established for initial phase

Energy Data, Metering and Reporting

Improve Operational Visibility and Energy Performance Intelligence		Benefit
<p>This objective is split into two sub-objectives as below:</p> <p>1. Deliver a Smart Metering and Data Infrastructure Programme Expand and integrate metering, sub-metering, and BMS data to enable real-time energy visibility and performance optimisation.</p> <p>2. Implement Integrated Energy Data and Reporting Systems Develop centralised dashboards and reporting tools to support energy management, investment planning, and governance.</p> <p>Key Outputs: Smart metering coverage across priority buildings Centralised energy and carbon dashboard Monthly energy and carbon reporting framework</p>		<p>Expanding smart metering and integrating energy data systems will significantly improve visibility of energy consumption across the estate, enabling real-time monitoring and more effective performance management. The development of centralised dashboards and reporting frameworks supports evidence-based decision-making, helping to identify inefficiencies, reduce avoidable energy use, and deliver measurable reductions in both costs and carbon emissions.</p>
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
Head of Estates Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Initial expansion of 10 high priority buildings - Surveys completed, Year 1 to complete initial works, then on-going subject to available funding. Year 2 - Subject to approved funding. 	To be established by approved business case

Delivery activities will include:

- Install Automated Meter Reading (AMR) systems in 10 non-residential buildings.
- Integrate AMR systems with BMS across utilities.

Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency Projects

Deliver Targeted Scope 1 and 2 Carbon Reduction Projects		Benefit
<p>This objective is split into two sub-objectives as below:</p> <p>1. Deliver Strategic Infrastructure Decarbonisation Projects Implement planned infrastructure upgrades (e.g. LED, ASHPs, heating systems, BMS optimisation) to reduce fossil fuel use and electricity demand.</p> <p>2. Embed Energy Efficiency within Maintenance and Lifecycle Investment Align maintenance and capital programmes with energy and carbon reduction priorities.</p> <p>Key Outputs: Annual programme of capital energy projects Integration of carbon criteria into lifecycle planning</p>		<p>Delivering targeted infrastructure upgrades and embedding energy efficiency within maintenance and lifecycle planning will directly reduce energy demand and reliance on fossil fuels. This coordinated approach ensures that capital investment is aligned with carbon reduction objectives, enabling the University to achieve sustained reductions in Scope 1 and 2 emissions while improving asset performance, operational efficiency, and long-term affordability.</p> <p>All business cases will include anticipated outcomes related to energy usage / savings and carbon emissions.</p>
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
Head of Estates Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> On-going commencing Year 1, utilising proposed invest to save funding stream subject to approval. Year 3 	To be established by approved business case, that will include full life cycle cost analysis.

Under this objective the University will deliver a programme of infrastructure and energy efficiency improvements, including:

- Replacement of fluorescent lighting with LED systems.
- Upgrades to external lighting infrastructure.
- Phased replacement of BMS controllers (including sub-metering improvements).
- Review and delivery of boiler and district heating replacement schemes.
- Replacement of heating mains and water infrastructure where inefficiencies are identified.

Occupancy and Operational Integration

Integrate Occupancy, Infrastructure and Operations		Benefit
<p>This objective is split into two sub-objectives as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deploy Occupancy Analytics to Optimise Estate Performance Roll out of Wi-Fi based building occupancy monitoring 2. Optimise Building Operation Through Data Integration Review building usage data alongside other building metrics such as capital investment requirements and building condition, to effectively utilise the estate. Resulting in reduced running costs and carbon emissions. <p>Use Wi-Fi and sensor data to align building operation with actual usage patterns.</p> <p>Integrate occupancy, BMS, and metering data to dynamically optimise heating, cooling, and ventilation.</p> <p>Key Outputs: Occupancy analytics deployed across estate Use-based heating and ventilation optimisation.</p>		<p>Using occupancy data alongside building systems and energy infrastructure allows for more responsive and efficient operation of the estate. By aligning heating, cooling, and ventilation with actual building use, the University can significantly reduce unnecessary energy consumption, improve space utilisation, and deliver ongoing carbon savings, while also supporting more informed decisions around estate optimisation.</p>
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
Head of Estates Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot scheme completed, Year 1 for whole campus to be covered. Year 3 onwards – subject to approved business cases. 	To be established by approved business case

Energy Management and Invest-to-Save Model

Establish an Integrated Energy and Operational Management Model		Benefit
<p>This objective is split into two sub-objectives as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start transition to a proactive energy optimisation model Move from reactive energy management to a data-led, continuous optimisation approach. 2. Develop Invest-to-Save and Continuous Improvement Mechanisms Implement governance, funding, and operational models that reinvest savings into further carbon reduction. <p>Key Outputs: Integrated operating model for energy and carbon management Defined governance and reporting structure Invest-to-save funding mechanism</p>		<p>Transitioning to a proactive, data-led energy management approach will reduce avoidable energy consumption and embed continuous performance improvement across operations. Establishing governance structures and invest-to-save mechanisms ensures that savings generated from efficiency improvements can be reinvested into further carbon reduction initiatives, supporting long-term financial sustainability and consistent progress towards Net Zero.</p>
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
Head of Estates Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 Year 1 	To be established by approved business case

Scope 3 and Circular Economy

Enhance Scope 3 Data and Targets and Reduction Initiatives		Benefit
<p>Expand measurement and reporting of Scope 3 emissions beyond waste to include procurement, supply chain, and operational activities.</p> <p>Key Output: Expanded Scope 3 inventory (aligned with GHG Protocol categories).</p>		<p>Enhancing the quality and coverage of Scope 3 emissions data, alongside delivering waste reduction and circular economy initiatives (outlined in below objectives), enables a more comprehensive approach to carbon management. This supports better understanding of indirect emissions, drives more sustainable procurement and consumption practices, and contributes to meaningful reductions in waste-related and supply chain emissions, strengthening progress towards whole-organisation Net Zero goals.</p>
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
Head of Sustainability	Year 1 onwards	N/A

Site Services Water Reduction Training (Objective 2.3.3 in Delivery Plan)	Benefit
<p>Develop and deliver targeted training for the Site Services Supervisor team to build awareness of practical ways housekeeping staff and porters can contribute to reducing water use across the campus.</p> <p>Supervisors will then cascade this training to their teams, enabling frontline staff to act as informed advocates for water efficiency. Through this approach, housekeeping staff and porters will be equipped to share knowledge and encourage water-saving behaviours among students and colleagues.</p> <p>This initiative will achieve a 100% training completion rate by the</p>	<p>Benefits from this objective can be spilt into the three sub-categories below.</p> <p><u>Environmental:</u></p> <p>The initiative will help reduce water consumption across campus by embedding water-saving behaviours into daily operations, supporting institutional sustainability targets.</p> <p><u>Staff empowerment and engagement:</u></p> <p>By equipping supervisors and frontline staff with knowledge, it creates a sense of ownership and involvement in sustainability,</p>

Site Services Water Reduction Training (Objective 2.3.3 in Delivery Plan)		Benefit
<p>end of Year 1, increasing from a current baseline of 0%.</p> <p>This objective will be reviewed at the end of Year 1 and impacts measured regarding the number of faults for leaks etc logged.</p>		<p>improving engagement and morale.</p> <p><u>Enhanced student and staff awareness:</u> Frontline teams become visible ambassadors for sustainability, helping influence behaviours beyond operational staff and into the wider university community.</p>
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
<p>Head of Sustainability</p> <p>Customer Experience Manager (FM)</p>	<p>Year 1</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Reducing waste per capita (staff and student) (Delivery Plan Objective 2.4.2)		Benefit
<p>This objective looks to reduce the total waste generated per capita (FTE staff and students) to 30% of the 2022/23 levels by 2030 against the 2018/19 baseline of 16.21 tCO₂e.</p>		<p>Reduction of waste will help bring down emissions associated with waste, both in terms of the disposal of the waste, but also the emissions associated with transporting waste.</p>
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
<p>Customer Experience Manager (FM)</p>	<p>Ongoing to 2030</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Circular economy embedded in procurement/related practices		Benefit
This objective looks to embed circular economy approaches into procurement and related practices by 2030.		Taking a circular economy approach will help reduce carbon emissions through reducing the amount of waste that is being generated and thus the associated emissions with its disposal.
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
Customer Experience Manager (FM) and Head of Procurement	Ongoing to 2030	N/A

Behaviour and Engagement Initiatives

Waste reduction training (Delivery Play Objective 2.4.1)		Benefit
Waste specific training developed and rolled out for staff and students to drive reduction in total waste per capita generated per annum. This objective will be measured against the 2018/19 baseline value of 16.21 tCO ₂ e.		Reduction in waste generated will ultimately reduce associated carbon emissions, costs related to waste management and improve league table rankings where this metric is measured. This objective will support the University meet its target to reduce carbon emissions related to waste by 30% by 2030.
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
Head of Customer Services and Customer Experience Manager	Years 1 and 2.	Funding established

Behaviour Change Events (Utilities Reduction) (Delivery Plan Objective 2.6.1)		Benefit
<p>Run a minimum of two events per academic year to support behaviour change around reducing consumption of utilities (gas, electricity and water).</p> <p>These can be any events run on campus with the above focus, including those run by Sustainability, the SU/student societies and Student Life.</p> <p>This will be measured against the baseline from 2021/22 when 1 event of this nature was run.</p>		<p>Delivering regular behaviour change events will help reduce energy and water consumption across the University by encouraging staff and students to adopt more efficient practices, such as switching off equipment and reducing unnecessary heating and water use. These actions translate directly into reductions in Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions, providing a low-cost and immediately impactful contribution to carbon reduction targets.</p> <p>In addition, these events strengthen the effectiveness of technical interventions (e.g. energy efficiency upgrades and smart systems) and help embed a long-term culture of sustainability. This creates sustained, scalable reductions in energy demand over time, while also supporting wider Scope 3 behaviours and improving the University's ability to evidence progress in carbon reporting and sustainability performance.</p>
Owner(s)	Timescales	Investment Required
Head of Sustainability	Years 1 onwards	N/A

Delivery, Governance and Reporting

Governance

Oversight: Institutional Sustainability Committee

Strategic oversight: Board of Governors

Delivery: Facilities Management – Estates

Responsible Person(s): Director of Facilities Management, and Head of Estate Management

Reporting

Progress towards 2030 and 2035 targets will be monitored through:

- Annual carbon reporting (Scope 1, 2 and selected Scope 3)
- Energy consumption and intensity metrics, including gas, electricity and transport,
- Progress against CMP objectives
- Reporting of at least one carbon intensity indicator
- Updates on the progress of objectives related to the CMP, and details of any other further objectives identified (including operational objectives and infrastructure projects), and
- Updates relating to energy optimisation and operational efficiency initiatives.

Future Carbon Management Plan (2027-31)

Following completion of the IDMP, a full CMP will be developed to define how the University will achieve:

- Carbon Neutrality
- Net Zero

This will include:

- Detailed carbon reduction pathways
- Defined investment programme
- Expanded Scope 3 coverage
- Enhanced governance and reporting

Conclusion

Edge Hill University has made strong progress in reducing carbon emissions and is well positioned to meet its long-term targets.

This interim plan focuses on establishing the foundations required to accelerate progress towards:

- Carbon Neutrality by 2030
- Net Zero emissions by 2035

Through improved data, targeted investment, and a more integrated operational approach, the University will continue to reduce emissions while enhancing efficiency and long-term sustainability.

Key to Relevant Documents

- Infrastructure and Decarbonisation Masterplan (IDMP)
- Institutional Sustainability Strategy
- Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan
- Strategic Review of Space
- Heat Decarbonisation Plan
- Climate Action Plan
- Waste and Resource Strategy
- Sustainable Procurement Policy
- EHU Travel Plan

Annexes

Document Control

Version	Date	Change Author	Summary of Changes
ISC 3.0	April 2026	Head of Sustainability	Creation of new document

Endmatter

Title	Interim Carbon Management Plan
Policy Owner	Head of Estate Management
Approved by	Institutional Sustainability Committee
Date of Approval	June 2026
Date for Review	June 2027

Appendices

Appendix 1: Baseline Policy

The baseline year should only be changed under certain circumstances to ensure a consistent approach is taken to measuring our progress in carbon management. The baseline year should only be recalculated under the following circumstances and a clear statement about the change made as part of the Carbon Management Plan:

- Changes in methodologies, improvements in the accuracy, or discovery of previous errors
- Significant changes to the building stock (as measured by GIA)
- Acquisition of a facility which existed in the base year, then the baseline year should be recalculated if the emissions were not included in the baseline year figures and will be included in the current year's figures
- Outsourcing and insourcing of relevant activities

Environmental Reporting Guidelines: Including streamlines energy and carbon reporting guidance (Pages 17-19)