



Edge Hill
University

Environmental Sustainability Report

Annual report 2023/24

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Foreword

2024 was yet another record-breaking year for global temperatures. It not only marked the warmest year on record but also became the first year where average global temperatures exceeded pre-industrial levels by 1.5°C.

Alongside this alarming statistic, we witnessed an increase in storms, wildfires, droughts, and other extreme

weather events worldwide. The global call for action to both adapt to climate-driven changes and reduce human-induced climate change has never been more urgent.



At Edge Hill University, we remain committed to addressing sustainability-related issues through a strategic approach. In 2025, our current Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan, Environmental Sustainability Strategy, and Carbon Management Plan—all fundamental to our approach to sustainability—will be refreshed. As we look to develop our strategies to guide us to 2030, it is crucial that we use the insights from this report to reflect on our progress and chart our future course.

The 2023/24 academic year brought a change in leadership concerning sustainability at Edge Hill University. With this change, and the development of our new strategic ambitions for 2025-2030, comes the opportunity to refocus our efforts and ensure that the University leaves a lasting legacy in sustainability.



Introduction

Sustainability is at the core of Edge Hill University's mission and is a fundamental aspect of our Strategic Plan 2021-25, which outlines:

'Support for and progress towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals within our own context'

This essential document identifies environmental protection as one of our core values, commits us to integrating sustainability into both teaching and research, and sets a clear goal of achieving carbon neutrality.

Our comprehensive strategic approach to sustainability is detailed in our three key documents: the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, the Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan, and the Carbon Management Plan. By adopting this strategic approach, we provide clear guidance to staff and students on how to make their work more sustainable, moving from policy declarations to meaningful action plans that produce visible, tangible results.

Edge Hill University is currently working towards sustainability targets within seven key themes: Leadership and Governance, Estates and Operations, Learning and Teaching, Partnership and Engagement, Energy Reduction, Decarbonisation, and Renewables. All of Edge Hill University's sustainability-related objectives ultimately aim to achieve carbon neutrality.

This annual report serves to summarise and close out progress made against our three key sustainability documents as the next steps to take us to 2030.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Delivery Plan

Edge Hill's current Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) is supported by the Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan (ESDP) which outlines key objectives to continue the momentum created around sustainability in recent years. The 2021-25 ESS supports the EHU Strategic Plan (2021-25) which is committed to:

“Recognise and act on our responsibilities as a leading University to enhance environmentally-sustainable practice, with the aim of being carbon neutral within the life of this plan”

There are seven core themes which underpin the ESS and ESDP, and are therefore at the heart of sustainability at EHU, these are:

- Leadership and Governance.
- Estates and Operations.
- Learning and Teaching (and Research).
- Partnership and Engagement.
- Energy Use – Carbon Management Plan focused.
- Decarbonisation – Carbon Management Plan focused.
- Renewables – Carbon Management Plan focused.

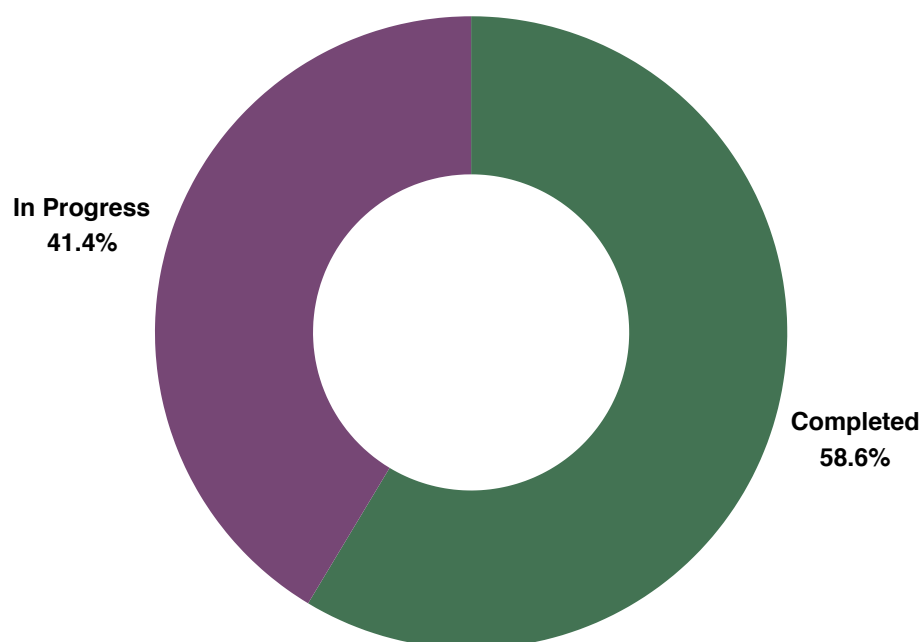
There are Strategic Targets, which have been developed as part of the ESDP which are monitored internally and reported on in the table below.



Strategic Theme	Strategic Target	Progress
Carbon Management	Reduce our carbon emissions by 10% by 2025	2023/24: Carbon emissions have decreased by 39% (market based)
	Become Carbon Neutral by 2030	Due to emissions target progress, currently on track to meet
	Reduce our carbon intensity by 30% by 2025	2023/24: Carbon intensity has reduced by 33% (market based)
	Reach Net Zero by 2035	Due to emissions target progress, currently on track to meet
Leadership and Governance	To establish a governance structure aligned to the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) framework	Establishing the Institutional Sustainability Committee in 2023 puts us firmly on track to deliver a clear ESG framework
Estates and Operations	0% waste to landfill and 70% recycling rates by 2025	EHU continues to send 0% waste to landfill and will be working with our waste contractors (Biffa) to reduce our waste per capita
	10 EV charge points on campus by 2024	Feasibility study undertaken but the scheme did not provide value for money, nor associated environmental or user benefits
	Maintain high numbers of journeys on the EdgeLink bus per academic year	2023/24 saw patronage numbers increase by 103,451 compared to 2022/23

Strategic Theme	Strategic Target	Progress
Learning and Teaching (and Research)	Deliver carbon literacy training to 100 individuals (staff and students) per academic year	This target is being reviewed as part of the next iteration of the ESDP
	Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) embedded across all teaching and research by 2025	Working group being established as part of Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC) to progress this target
Partnerships and Engagement	Increase SustainNET partner organisation number to 60	This target is being reviewed as part of the next iteration of the ESDP
	Deliver Community Sustainability Forum in 2023	Event held in May 2023 leading to development of LancsCAN Network

Within the ESDP there are over 50 objectives which are supporting EHU in ensuring sustainability remains an integral part of our narrative. The progress of these is summarised below.



Impact Highlights 2023/24

Our top environmental sustainability outputs for 2023/24 are shown below. These are drawn from all seven themes in the ESDP.



New car share platform launched



Zero waste sent to landfill



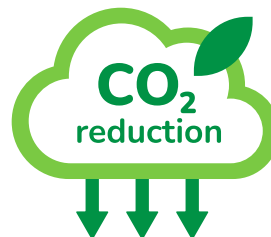
Shortlisted for three Green Gown Awards



13th consecutive year of Green Flag Award status for EHU campus



Increased patronage of EdgeLink bus



Carbon footprint verification undertaken



Removal of gas from cooking areas in the Hub



Introduction of new Waste and Resource Strategy

Impact Case Studies 2023/24

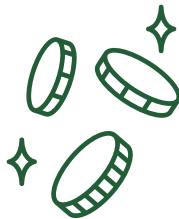
This year we are featuring several case studies that highlight positive sustainability action over the last academic year and the start of the current academic year.



Green Gown Awards: Edge Hill University were shortlisted as finalists for three Green Gown Awards.



People and Planet: The 2024 results for People and Planet were published in December 2024 and saw Edge Hill University rise 20 places demonstrating our continued improvement.

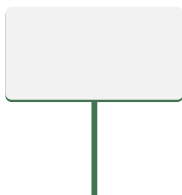


Funding: Over the last 18 months Edge Hill University has been awarded a range of sustainability-related funding including:

- From WLBC to support with Conferences going paperless. This will reduce costs, complement our Waste and Resource Strategy and reduce our carbon footprint.
- From Salix to develop a Heat Decarbonisation Plan and subsequently to progress the HDP with detailed designs.



Website update: Over the last 18 months the EHU Sustainability webpages have been updated to better reflect the work being undertaken at EHU around sustainability, and act as a one stop shop for information for staff, students and the wider community.



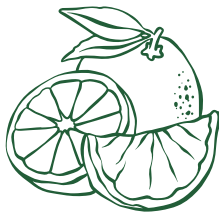
Biodiversity awareness on campus: New signs were added at both lakes to complement the Biodiversity Hot Spot signs across campus. Each lake now has two biodiversity signs to inform visitors to campus about either plants or animals they are likely to see at each lake. Information for the signs was gathered from the EHU Biodiversity Action Plan and developed in house by Corporate Sustainability and Creative.



Waste Contract: To support our new Waste and Resource Strategy, 2025 sees Edge Hill University move to a partnership with Biffa for managing our waste on campus. Biffa will continue to run operations in our on campus waste compound which takes a novel approach to managing waste by providing a place to increase recycling rates by removing recyclables from the general waste. Biffa and EHU are committed to continue our pledge of zero waste to landfill and using an electric vehicle on campus to move waste.



Policies and Strategies: Over the last 18 months the following policies and strategies have been ratified:
-Sustainable Food Policy 2024/25.
-Waste and Resource Strategy 2024-2029.



Wellbeing: Catering gives away free fruit across campus as part of a wellbeing initiative – this project is in alignment with SDG Goal 2 Zero Hunger and 3 Good Health and Well-Being. In 2023/24 we distributed over 2500 kg of fruit.



Green Gown
Awards

Awarding Sustainability Excellence
Since 2004

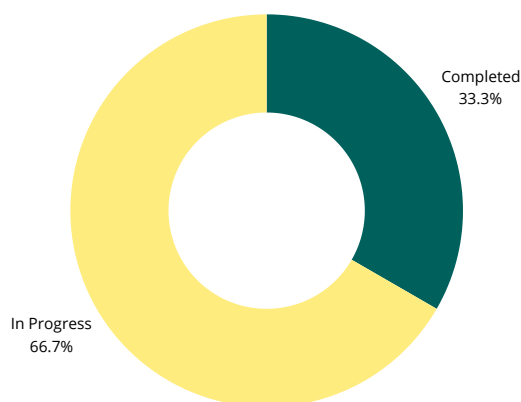
Delivery Plan Update 2023/24

This section provides an oversight of each theme and celebrates successes made in 2023/24.

Strategic Theme 1: Leadership and Governance

Theme 1 focuses on empowering each member of the EHU community to help promote the sustainability agenda through providing staff with the tools to support, create and develop environmental campaigns.

In 2023/24 there were five objectives in Leadership and Governance, some of which are from previous years of the ESDP. Progress on these is reported in the graph below.



Impact Highlights:

Environmental Management System: Progress towards the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) for EHU continues with a draft EMS being developed and consultation underway regarding its implementation.

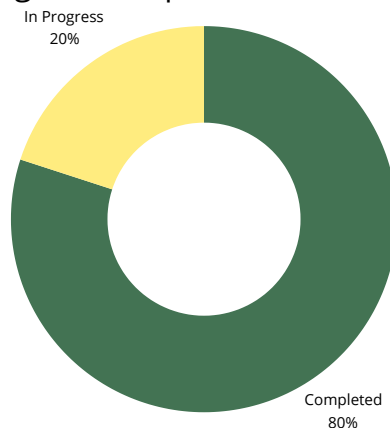
People and Planet: In the 2024/25 People and Planet League EHU scored 90% in the Policy and Strategy section and 100% for Staff and HR. These scores indicate the strong position that the University is in regarding leadership and governance.

Interns: Two interns have been working with Corporate Sustainability, as part of this they have attended several strategic meetings to better understand governance of sustainability at EHU.

Strategic Theme 2: Estates and Operations

Theme 2 accounts for the need to be mindful of the way EHU undertakes maintenance, future construction and renovation works, as well as ensuring the EHU community is aware of sustainable travel options and implements them where possible.

There were 25 'live' objectives in theme 2, some of which were closed off in earlier reporting years. Their progress is reported on in the graph below.



Impact Highlights:

Waste: EHU has continued to send zero waste to landfill in line with our commitments in our Waste and Resource Strategy.

Green Flag Award: 2024 saw the 13th consecutive year of being a Green Flag campus.



Focus on Estates and Operations Projects at EHU

Across the University there is a diverse range of projects that are undertaken that fall under the Estates and Operations theme which support sustainability. Here we highlight work from 5 such projects.

The Gardens Project

This student-led project looks to introduce growing areas on campus again. This is focusing on the allotment and Business School rooftop garden area.

Library and Learning Services

The Library and Learning Services team have developed their own Sustainability Team which consists of five members of staff and aims to build awareness of University wide sustainability activities. To date they have run Learning at Work Week and litter picking sessions.

International Student Support Recycle and Reuse Scheme

This scheme sees items collected from departing international students and the Big Campus Clear Out, supporting a circular economy approach. In September 2024 they helped 72 students with items including plates, cups, bowls and stationery. The scheme runs for both the September and January intakes.



Conferences and Events

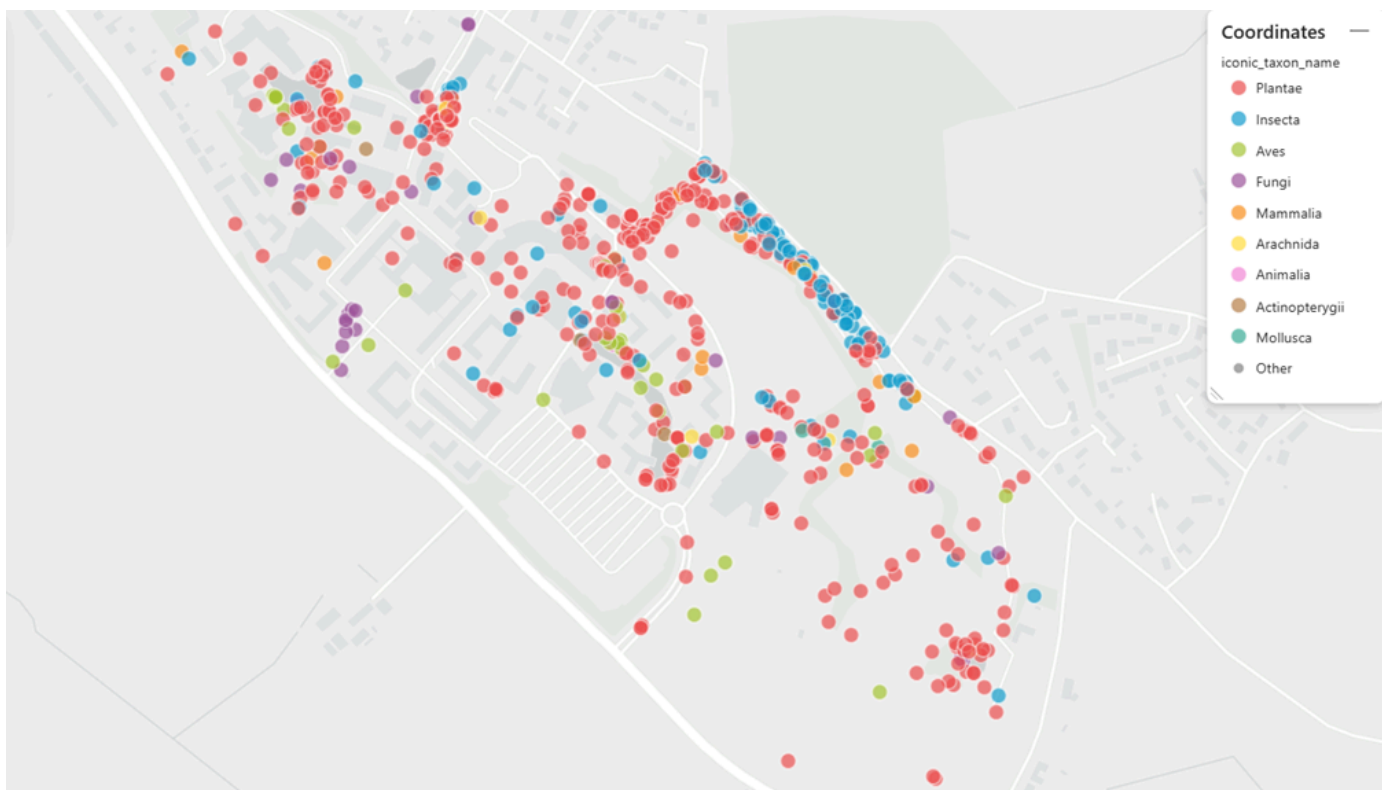
The Conferences and Events team are making the move towards becoming paperless due to the introduction of iPads meaning less need to print conference/event plans.



Biodiversity – Signage and Citizen Science Approach

The signage project across campus to inform people about the biodiversity on site, which includes the new signs at East and West Lakes and the Biodiversity Hotspot signage won an award for the Grounds Team at the 2024 FM Celebration for Best Innovation.

Since introducing our Citizen Science biodiversity project a number of events have been run to engage staff and students with the iNaturalist platform which allows users to upload images of plants and animals for identification purposes and provides the exact location at which they were seen. Using this we have been able to start building up a map of species locations across campus.



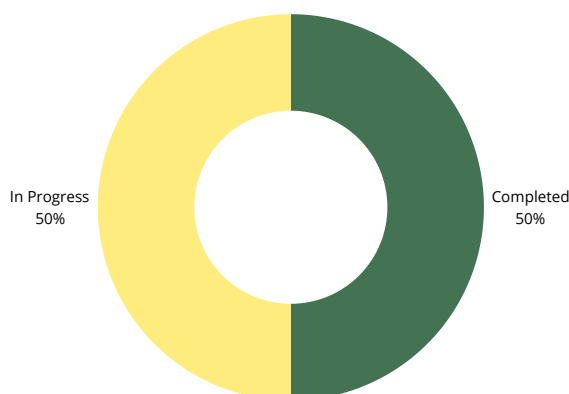
This map illustrates contributions made to mapping the location of flora and fauna across campus as part of the Citizen Science biodiversity project, the taxonomic names for each colour are listed in the table on the right.

Strategic Theme 3: Learning and Teaching

At the core of Theme 3 is embedding the UN SDGs in teaching and research across all subjects at EHU, alongside this Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is an important area of focus.

The underlying objective of this theme is to empower our students to become environmental change-makers both during their studies and beyond.

In 2023/24 there were six objectives in this theme, progress on them is reflected in the graph below.



Impact Highlights:

SustainNET Webinars: Continued high engagement with sustainability webinars.

Sustainability publications: In 2023 and 2024 296 journal articles linked to at least one of the UNs SDGs were published by EHU academics.



Focus on Sustainability Research at EHU

Across the University a range of academics are working towards supporting sustainable research, much of which is embedded in their teaching to support the development of sustainability within the curriculum. Here we highlight work from six of these academics.

Psychologist Professor Geoff Beattie – Understanding Climate Anxiety.

Geoff Beattie's book 'Understanding Climate Anxiety' out next June as part of the British Psychological Society Ask the Experts series. The book has already received positive pre-publication reviews and looks to help readers understand feelings around climate anxiety in an accessible way.

Reader in Plant Science Dr Sven Batke - The Greenhouse Innovation Consortium

The Greenhouse Innovation Consortium (GIC), established in partnership with companies like Pilkington (NSG Group), Flavour Fresh, Glass Futures, Signify (Philips), and Cambridge HOK, collaborates closely with the British Grower Association and the British Tomato Grower Association. We are running several innovative technology trials and have secured industry funded studentships (incl. PhD and summer interns).

Led by Dr Batke, the GIC has applied for over £5.5 million in funding from BBSRC and Innovate UK over the past two years. This includes EHU's first PhD studentship application to BBSRC in April 2025. Additionally, a new R&D facility - developed with the local council - is featured in the 2025 Lancashire Growth Plan as a priority infrastructure project (£5 million requested).

Senior lecturers in Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine Claire Blennerhassett and Imo-Obong Emah – Education for Sustainable Healthcare (ESH).

As EHU representatives for the Medical School Council Education for Sustainable Healthcare Alliance, Claire and Imo have been supporting the Medical School to embed Education for Sustainable Healthcare into the Medical curriculum, through the teaching and learning committee. As ESH is essential to the broader health and social care setting, they have developed a communication plan to deliver evidence based ESH, which can be used to incorporate ESH into clinical and non-clinical programmes. This is delivered to staff via the faculty and medical school bimonthly newsletters.

Reader in Sociology Dr Richard Twine – The sociology of climate change

Richard is the author of *The Climate Crisis and Other Animals* (2024) and as a sociologist is interested in the classes, gendered and post-colonial dimensions of the climate crisis. Richard is also the Co-Director of Edge Hill's Centre for Human-Animal Studies (CfHAS) and this reflects his research on the impact of human-animal reflection on the emergence of the climate crisis as well as the political, social and ethical dimensions.

Reader in Film and Television Dr Elke Weissman – Sustainable Television

The Television Studies Research Group and the Department of English and Creative Arts organised the Critical Awards in Television with a focus on sustainability. The main award was won by Chris Packham who expressed his belief that television should do more to inspire change. They also organised the Critical Studies in Television Conference which focused on sustainability.

Elke has published a number of articles and chapters on her project on the role of local television in helping to support communities transition to net zero.

Professor Christopher Dent – Just Talking in Circles? Circular Economy Concepts in Trade Policymaking

The circular economy concept is arguable the most powerful and widely adopted idea of business sustainability practice. It has also been applied by governments in their economy policymaking, including on trade. This research study examines the adoption of circular economy narratives in trade policymaking worldwide, and critically evaluates what actual difference this makes in terms of sustainable trade policy actions. His research is a continuation of previous work on the trade and climate action.



Strategic Theme 4: Partnership and Engagement

Theme 4 has creating and maintaining effective partnerships and engagement across the University and beyond at its heart. Work done as part of theme 4 looks to allow for the effective dissemination of sustainability messaging to a wider audience.

All objectives under this theme were completed and therefore closed out in the 2022/23 annual report.

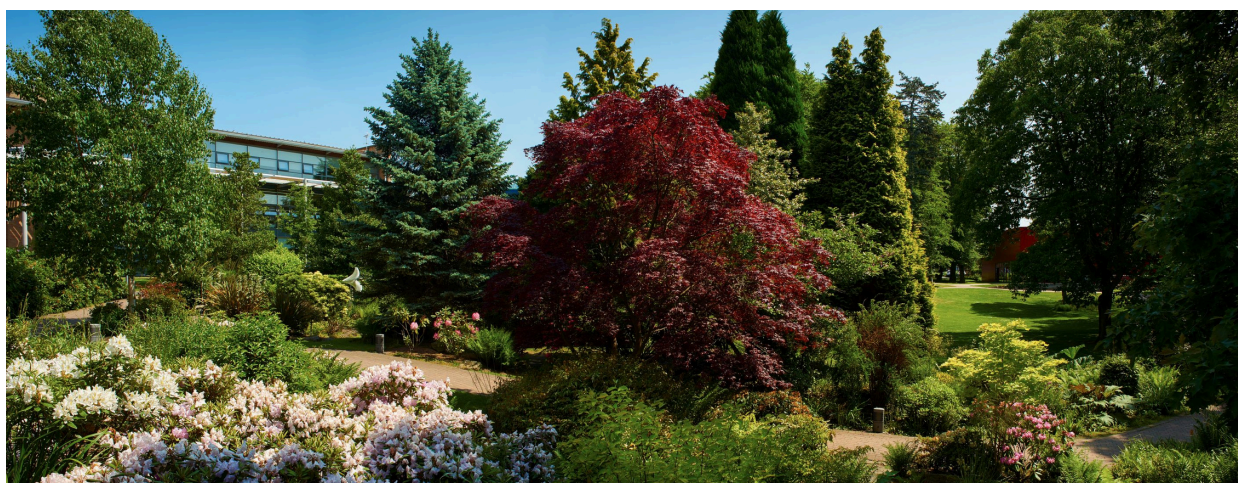
Impact Highlights:

Sustainability Fair 2024: This week-long event was held in November 2024 which was organised by one of our Sustainability Interns and engaged over 500 people over the course of five days.

Learning at Work Week: As part of Learning at Work Week 2024 a number of events were held for Facilities Management staff to attend focused on learning more about biodiversity on campus.

Student Engagement: During the academic year 2023/24 Corporate Sustainability undertook a number of student engagement projects including:

- Two Student Opportunity Fund placements for students to research the feasibility of developing an in house car share scheme using GIS skills.
- One student placement related to a 60 hour placement requirement as part of their degree programme. As a result of this placement the student is currently undertaking an internship with the team.
- One student internship placement to provide research-based support.



Carbon Management Plan 2022-25

Carbon Scope Recap

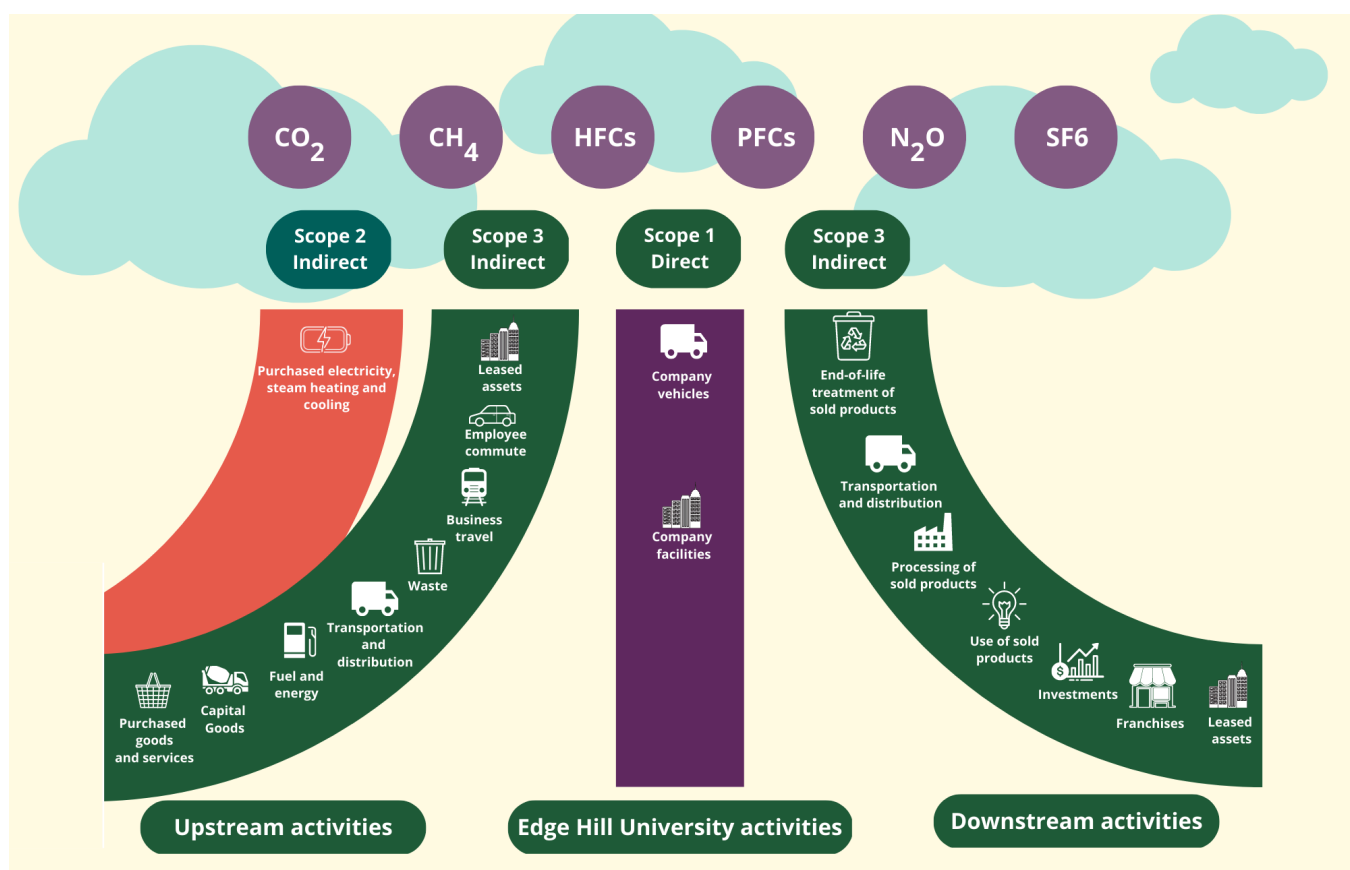
To fully understand the scope of our Carbon Management Plan (CMP) it is important to clearly establish the emissions being included in our reporting.

Edge Hill University aims to monitor and reduce all emissions related to our operations. 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 and

Scope 3 – Other Indirect Emissions



Upstream activities are those resulting from activities that occur during the production of materials or services used by EHU. Downstream activities covers activities that occur after EHU has finished using materials or services.

Carbon Management Plan 2022-25

Progress Update

Scope 1 and 2 Emissions

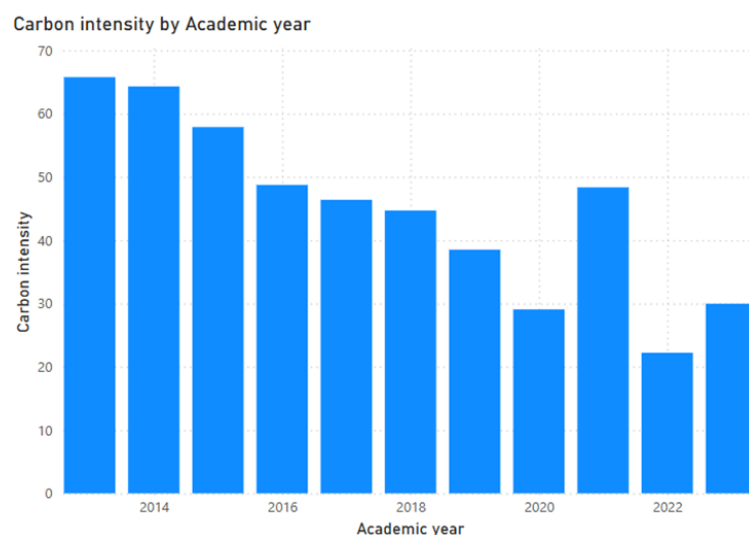
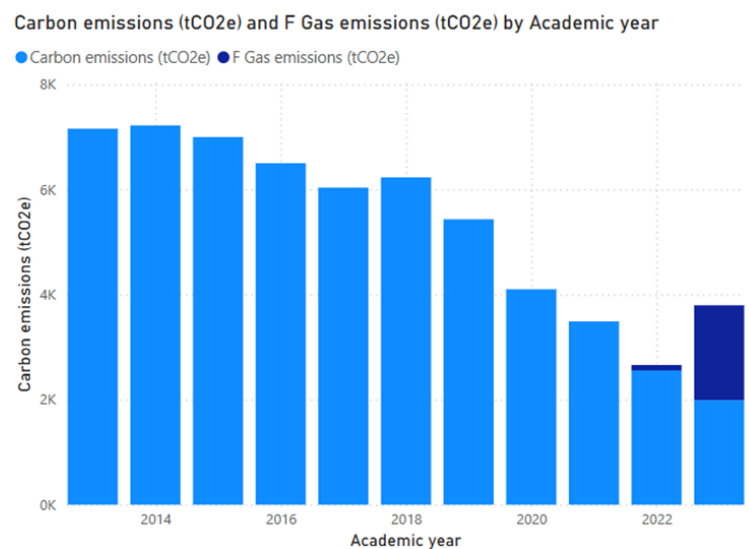
EHUs 2022-25 CMP has established new baselines against which we are measuring our carbon emissions using the academic year 2018/19. These baselines are:

- 1) Total scope 1 and 2 CO₂e emissions: 6229 tCO₂e
- 2) Estate carbon intensity: 44.7 kgCO₂e/m²

Against these baselines we have set the following targets:

- 1) Reduce our carbon emissions by 10% by 2025
- 2) Become Carbon Neutral by 2030
- 3) Reduce our carbon intensity by 30% by 2025
- 4) Reach Net Zero by 2035

Carbon emissions (tCO₂e) and carbon intensity (kgCO₂e/m²) have both shown a marked decrease as seen in the graphs below.



Against the baseline the following progress has been made:

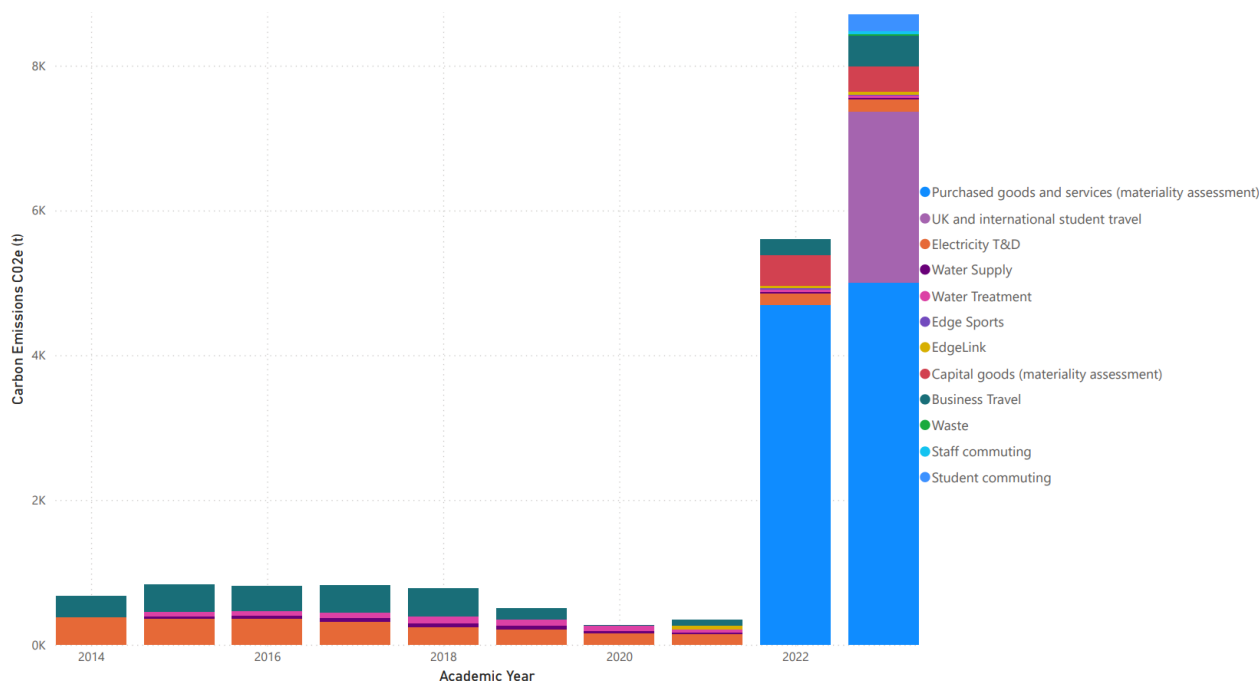
- Total emissions have reduced by 39%
- Carbon intensity has reduced by 33%

These are slightly lower reductions than reported in last year's annual report; this is due to increased f-gas emissions in the 2023/24 academic year as a result of a failure of an existing system which required essential maintenance. This system has subsequently decommissioned with a more modern and efficient system. It should be noted that EHU only started capturing f-gas based CO₂e emissions in 2022/23.

Scope 3 Emissions

In addition to measuring and reporting on our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, EHU are in the process of increasing our understanding of our Scope 3 emissions. While this is an ongoing process which still has more work to do on, it should be recognised that the breadth of our Scope 3 emissions data has increased since the previous annual report.

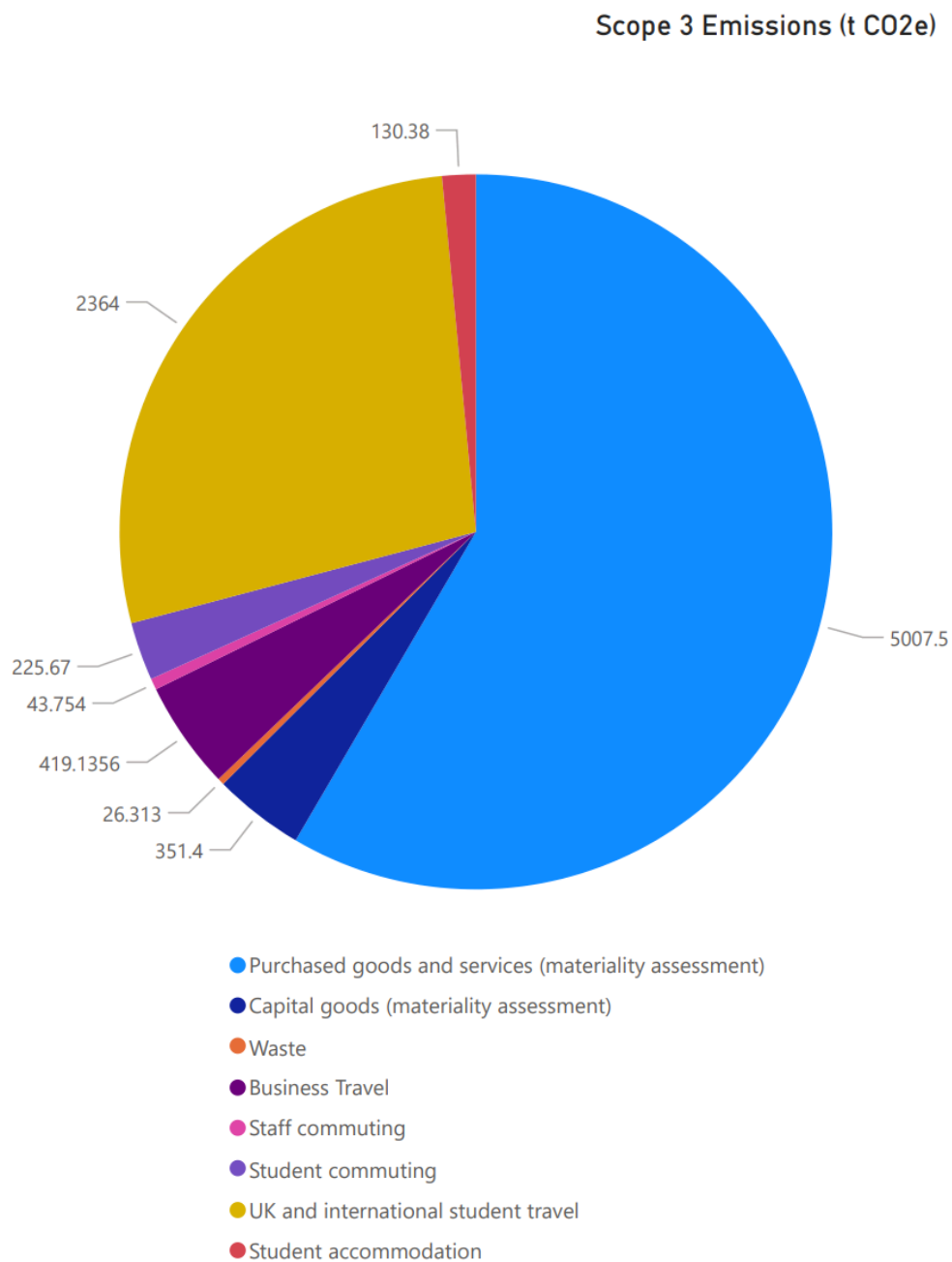
For the first time we are working towards establishing a baseline for staff and student commuting, including students travelling to and from University from their home address; alongside this work is currently being undertaken by our external carbon analysis partners to analyse our procurement-related emissions.



Over time the number of metrics EHU has access to regarding Scope 3 emissions has increased; between 2014/15 and 2019/20 data comes from different business travel modes, in 2020/21 we see the introduction of waste water treatment, and more recently EdgeLink and Edge Sports travel start to be introduced into the datasets. As a result, we see that Scope 3 emissions appear to be highest in 2023/24 however this is down to the scale of data available increasing last year.

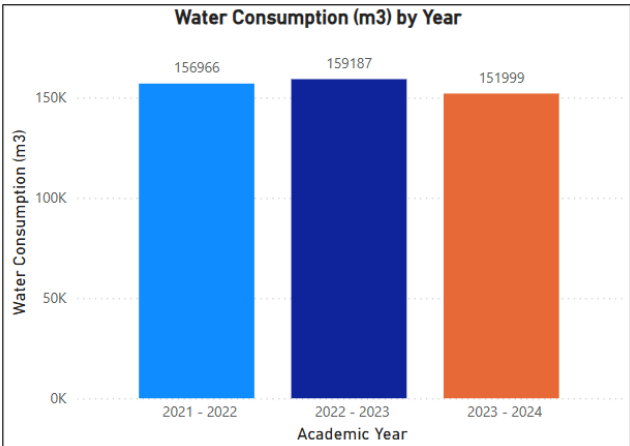
Until the sources of data start to stabilise and be truly representative of the real measure of our Scope 3 emissions we will not establish a baseline. Historically grey business travel (dark green) has dominated Scope 3 emissions, with Electricity T &D (orange) also being notable. In 2022/23 additional data around purchased goods and services and capital goods began to be reported on.

Further detail surrounding the 2023/24 academic year Scope 3 emissions is included below, to provide further insight into the data. This includes student travel data which has been broken down into commuting and UK and international student travel to Edge Hill University from home.



Water Consumption

Water consumption data (for our Ormskirk campus, including 57 St Helens Road and Milton House) has previously been reported on as a total consumption value per year and will continue to do so as illustrated below. However, it is important that as is being done with waste generation, that we move towards reporting on water consumption per capita.

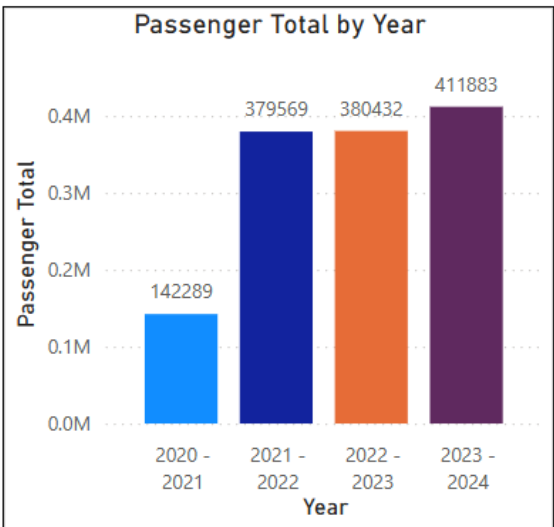


Water consumption per capita is illustrated and shows that for the last three years it has been between 9 m³ and 10 m³ per person. This metric will continue to be monitored and reported on as we look at ways to reduce water use across campus.

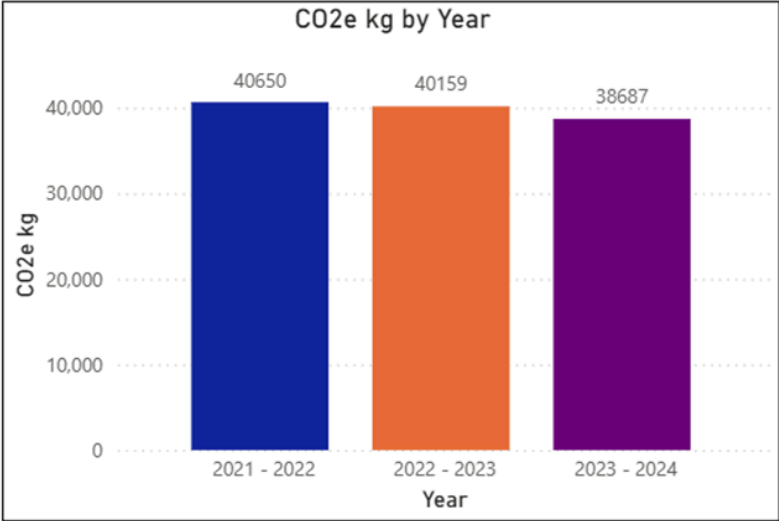
EdgeLink Bus Service

The EdgeLink bus service which promotes sustainable travel to campus through offering a regular bus service between Ormskirk bus station and campus continues to perform well and offer a high level of service to users. CO2e emissions from the EdgeLink contribute towards EHUs Scope 3 data and therefore is captured and monitored as part of our annual carbon emission reporting.

The graph below reports passenger numbers over the last three academic years and demonstrates numbers are remaining fairly consistent across the years, with the 2023/24 value generally being higher than previous years.

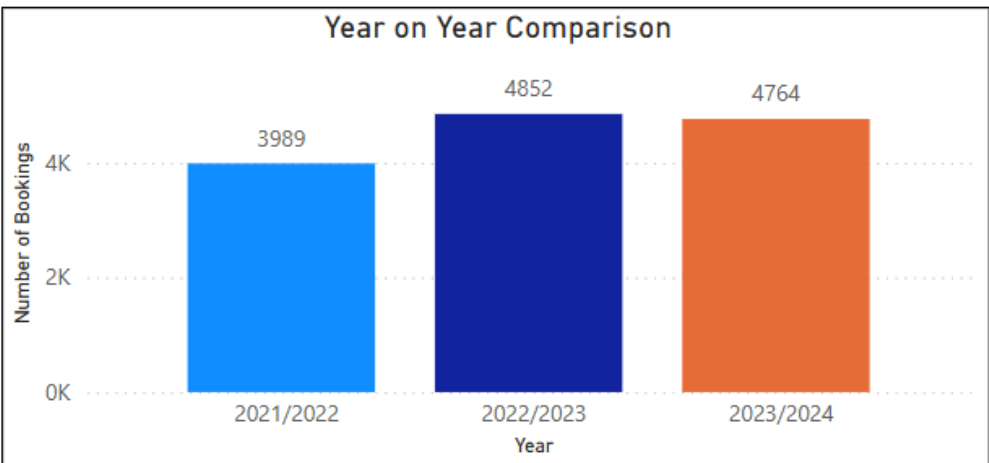


We can see from the below graph that CO2e emissions from EdgeLink is fairly static on an annual basis. This value is reported in our annual carbon emission report to establish a clear Scope 3 baseline.



Car Share

Car share numbers have a clear pattern with increased uptake at the start of the academic year, before starting to decline in February/March each year. There is still clearly more that can be done to support staff and students in using car share more throughout the year in order to reduce the number of single user car journeys, which will in turn reduce our Scope 3 emissions from commuting.



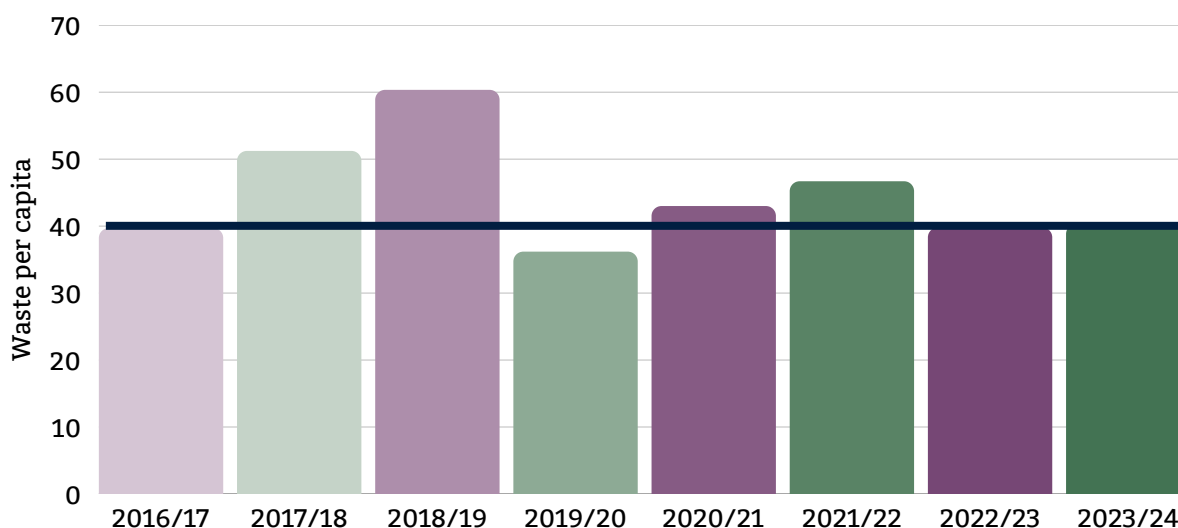
Waste

In August 2024 EHU ratified its first ever Waste and Resource Strategy. This strategy has introduced new KPIs as follows:

- Reduce the total waste generated per capita (FTE staff and students) to 30% of the 2022/23 levels by 2030.
- Reduce the CO2e emissions from waste by 30% by 2030.
- Commit to continuing to send 0% waste generated on campus to landfill.
- Embedding circular economy approaches within procurement and related practices by 2030.

As a result of the change to monitoring waste per capita, our reporting here, as well as elsewhere will be notably different from that seen in previous years.

After seven successful years partnering with B&M Waste for our campus waste management, 2024/25 sees EHU transition to a new partnership with Biffa.



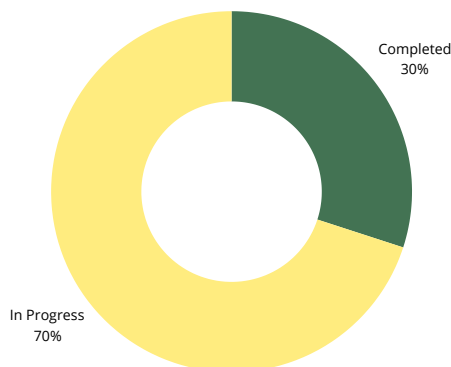
The above graph, which includes the 2022/23 baseline illustrates the waste per capita data for EHU from 2016/17 to 2023/23.

The Big Campus Clear Out ran again over Summer 2024 and took in a wide range of clothing, household items and food left behind by students leaving halls of residence. Items were either donated to Tawd Vale Lions, the International Office for their reuse project, Student Life for the interview clothing project or the local foodbank. In total 14 boxes of food were donated and stopped 382 kg CO2e from being generated should the items have been disposed of.

The Big Campus Clear Out was shortlisted as a finalist in the 2025 Educate North Awards in 'The Sustainable Green Initiative' category.

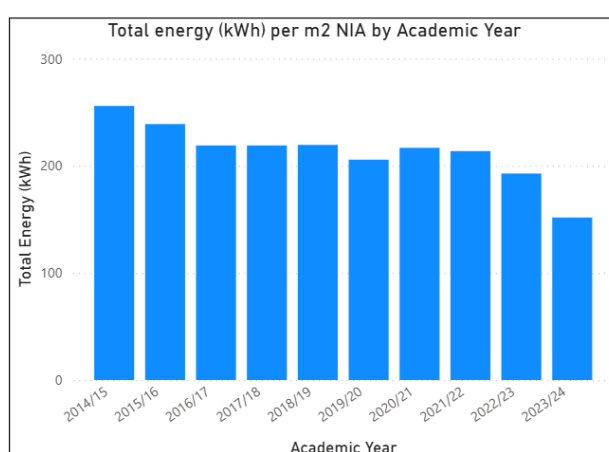
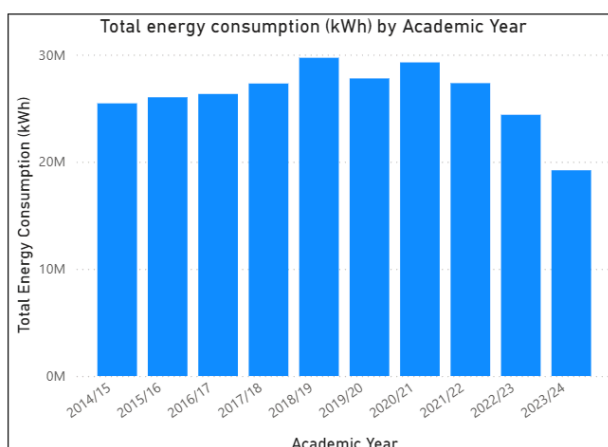
Strategic Theme 5: Energy Use

This theme focuses on working towards reducing the overall energy consumption across EHU. There are 10 objectives under this theme that were either due to be completed or initiated in 2023/24. Progress against these is reported in the graph below.



Over the last 12 months progress has been made against the ongoing objectives including ensuring that all contractors are aware of the processes in place for pipe lagging, resulting in an increase in the number of pipes across the campus that are now lagged. Following on from the onboarding of a new supplier to undertake upgrades to the Building Management System (BMS), the last 12 months have seen an increase in understanding building temperatures and meter readings as a result.

From the graphs below we can see that total energy consumption has fallen overall between 2014/15 and 2023/24 and that the same is also the case for total energy consumption per m². These results highlight that the changes being made across the estate are helping reduce energy consumption, and that sustainability features included in new builds and renovations are clearly working to keep energy consumption down.



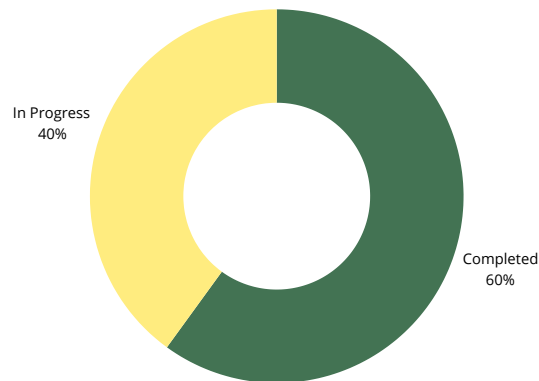
Impact Highlights:

The introduction of a new sustainability tracker for new capital projects and building renovations is an exciting chance for EHU to ensure that sustainability is considered at all stages of such projects. This is not just limited to considerations around building materials but also includes wellbeing factors.

Strategic Theme 6: Decarbonisation

The decarbonisation theme focuses on reducing the carbon footprint of EHU's campus, initially through reducing gas consumption, and eventually through moving to more behind the meter energy creation (as outlined in theme 7 later in the report).

There are five objectives under decarbonisation that were due to either be delivered or started in 2023/24. The progress of these is summarised below.



To date three of the objectives have been completed and two are in progress, these are as follows:

- Carbon Offsetting: This is a longer-term strategy which will only be implemented should the need arise, however we have determined that should we need to undertake carbon offsetting this will most likely be undertaken through the eauc (Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges) Carbon Coalition initiative.
- Degasification of Heating: As part of the current Salix funding a contractor has been appointed to undertake RIBA Stage 4 Low Carbon Scheme programme development for two of our least carbon efficient buildings.

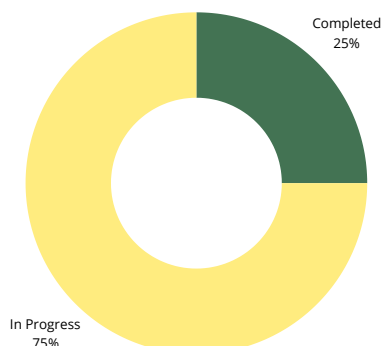
Impact Highlights:

2024 saw EHU gaining Salix funding to have a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for the campus written, this was signed off by Directorate in Summer 2024 and is currently being implemented.



Strategic Theme 7: Renewables

This theme focuses on increasing the amount of behind the meter energy created for consumption on campus via renewable energy sources. There are a total of four objectives in this theme and progress against these is report below.



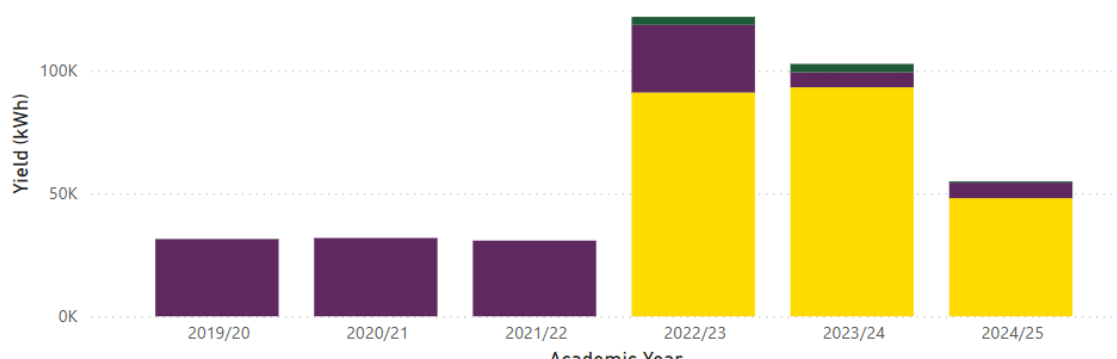
Solar Power

Across campus there are currently three locations with Solar PV installed, Durning Centre, Tech Hub and Woodlands (residence blocks). Data from 2011/12 to the current academic year is summarised below and clearly indicates the positive impact of installing more panels across site in generating additional behind the meter electricity for consumption on campus. It should be noted that the decrease seen in 2023/24 for the Durning Centre was down to metering issues and not a true reflection of power yield.

As part of the Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan the aim is to increase the total amount of solar panels across campus to increase solar power yield, but also as a percentage of power consumed.

Solar Power Yield - Ormkirk Campus Total

Woodlands Durning Centre Tech Hub



Impact Highlights:

As part of the Central Campus development, solar panels have been installed on several of the buildings and their yield will be recorded and reported on in the future.

Future Developments

Planning for 2025 and beyond

2025 will see the launch of the next iteration 'of several key policies and strategies that underpin sustainability at EHU. The Environmental Sustainability Strategy, Carbon Management Plan and Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan are all due to be refined to building upon the work already undertaken and reflect the evolving position of EHU regarding sustainability, with the aim that by the end of their lifecycle we will have reached Carbon Neutrality and be on our way to Net Zero. Over the next 12 months we will also be working to launch EHU's Environmental Management System (EMS) to take a holistic approach to sustainability across the University.

Continued stakeholder engagement across the University is critical over the next 12 months as we develop the next iteration of our strategies, policies and plans. The development of our strategy and associated documents are key for EHU's progress towards being a truly sustainable institution.

Progress against the current Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan (ESDP) as outlined in this report, indicates positive movement towards meeting our overarching targets under the seven themes. As the ESDP was developed as a live document it has evolved over time, and as a result the number of objectives has varied and deadlines have also been reviewed. The intention is that the next iteration of the ESDP will take the same approach, with a clear process in place for the sign off of changes to objectives to ensure that these are considered in a holistic manner.

This year we have taken additional steps to increase the breadth of our carbon reporting, including improving the granularity of our business travel Scope 3 emissions, and we have engaged our partner consultants at S E First to further analyse our procurement-related Scope 3 emissions. We are also beginning to capture data around emissions from staff and students commuting to work/study and students travelling to University from their home address. This work to better understand our Scope 3 emissions is allowing us to fully understand how to tackle and reduce them. EHU are looking to use our materiality assessment results to better engage suppliers to ensure carbon reductions are happening at every stage of our activities, and where needed provide best practice examples to them around the reduction of their carbon footprint.

EHU is committed to continuous evaluation of technology with sustainability in mind and will continue undertaking regular reviews of our performance and outputs in relation to sustainability and the environment. We fully recognise that without innovation and persistence we will not meet our commitment to increasing the sustainability of our operations. Our 2025 strategy will continue with our commitment to ensuring all refurbishments/renovations deliver the highest level of sustainable construction considerations possible.

Engagement Activities

During 2023/24 and the start of the 2024/25 academic year, Corporate Sustainability ran a range of outreach events aimed at engaging students, staff and the wider community in sustainability. Some of these are highlighted here.

Green and Serene Sessions ran over summer 2024 to engage staff with sustainability. Sessions included litter picks and biodiversity walks around campus and surrounds area.




SustainabilitTEA was held on 22 April and gave away teapots, mugs and saw Corporate Sustainability giving away reusable teabags/pouches of tea to promote Earth Day and get people thinking about the places where you find plastics.

Student Life Energy Event was held on 12 March 2024 and saw students being given advice on water and energy reduction and getting the chance to take away a shower timer to support them in reducing water use.

2024 Sustainability Fair was held in November and engaged with staff and students on a wide range of topics including waste and resource management thanks to B&M Waste, the importance of shopping second hand thanks to Queenscourt Hospice, and reducing food waste.

Find out more

 sustainability@edgehill.ac.uk

 ehu.ac.uk/sustainability

