

Environmental Sustainability Report



Annual report 2024/25

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Foreword

2025 has been recognised by the World Meteorological Organization as one of the three warmest years on record, confirming that the past 11 years have each been the hottest ever recorded. It is for this reason that the University now has both a Climate Action Plan and a Climate Resilience Framework to guide our response. Alongside these



concerning temperature records, we have continued to witness an escalation in climate-related events, including storms, wildfires, droughts, and flooding across many regions of the world. The global call for urgent, coordinated action - both to adapt to the consequences of climate change and to reduce the human activities driving it - has never been clearer.

At Edge Hill University, we remain firmly committed to addressing sustainability challenges through a strategic and evidence-based approach. In 2026, our Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan, Institutional Sustainability Plan (formerly the Environmental Sustainability Strategy), and Carbon Management Plan - all central to our ambitions - will be refreshed. As we develop our strategies for 2026–2031, it is vital that we use the insights from this report to reflect honestly on our progress, learn from our experience, and set an ambitious course for the years ahead.

The 2024/25 academic year marked a transition in sustainability leadership at Edge Hill University, with sustainability becoming part of my remit as Chief Governance Officer (CGO). With this shift, and the development of our new institutional priorities for 2026–2031 as outlined in the upcoming University Strategy, we have an important opportunity to refocus our efforts, strengthen our impact, and ensure that the University leaves a lasting legacy in sustainability.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr Jo Wright'.

Dr Jo Wright

Chief Student and Governance Officer



Introduction

Sustainability is embedded at the heart of Edge Hill University's mission, and our strategic approach is guided by three core documents: the Environmental Sustainability Strategy, the Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan, and the Carbon Management Plan. Together, these documents provide a robust and coherent framework for embedding sustainability across the institution. By setting out well-defined priorities and actions, we support staff and students to integrate sustainable practice into their work, helping ensure that our commitments translate into meaningful, visible progress.

Our sustainability work is also aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that our institutional priorities contribute to wider global efforts to advance climate action, responsible resource use, and sustainable development.

The University is currently working towards sustainability objectives across seven key themes: Leadership and Governance, Estates and Operations, Learning and Teaching, Partnership and Engagement, Energy Reduction, Decarbonisation, and Renewables. All of these objectives are geared toward our overarching goal of achieving carbon neutrality.

In 2026, we will introduce the next iteration of our sustainability strategy, which will be renamed the Institutional Sustainability Plan. This updated plan will continue to guide our sustainability ambitions and will retain the existing seven thematic areas. The primary change will be the reallocation of themes 5 to 7 - Energy Reduction, Decarbonisation, and Renewables - into the Carbon Management Plan, while themes 1 to 4 will remain within an updated Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan.

This annual report provides a summary of progress made against our three key sustainability documents and marks the conclusion of the current cycle, setting the foundation for our next steps as we move towards 2031.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Delivery Plan

Edge Hill University's 2021–25 Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) is underpinned by the Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan (ESDP), which sets out the key objectives needed to maintain and build upon the momentum achieved in sustainability over recent years. The ESS directly supports the University's Strategic Plan (2021–25), which commits the Institution 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.

Within this report carbon emissions are presented using both location-based and market-based methodologies. Location-based reporting reflects the emissions produced where energy is consumed, while the market-based approach accounts for contractual mechanisms- such as Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGOs), to which the University is committed until 2027 - that reduce or offset emissions.

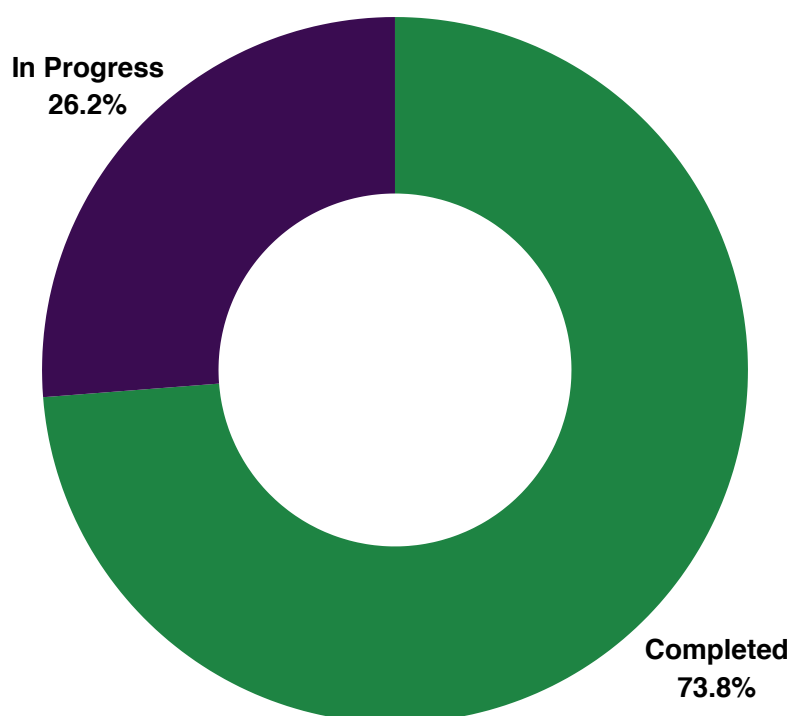
Strategic targets associated with the above themes have been developed through the ESDP. Progress against these targets is monitored internally and summarised in the table below.



Strategic Theme	Strategic Target	Progress
Carbon Management	Reduce our carbon emissions by 10% by 2025	Target met for both location and market based emissions
	Become Carbon Neutral by 2030	Progress towards target is positive - target being reviewed as part of the next iteration of the CMP
	Reduce our carbon intensity by 30% by 2025	Target met for market based emissions
	Reach Net Zero by 2035	Progress towards target is positive - target being reviewed as part of the next iteration of the CMP
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	EHU continues to send 0% waste to landfill and will be working with our waste contractors to reduce waste per capita - replacing previous recycling target
	10 EV charge points on campus by 2024	To be reviewed - feasibility study deemed to not provide value for money, nor associated environmental/user benefits.
	Maintain high numbers of journeys on the EdgeLink bus per academic year	2024/25 saw passenger numbers of the EdgeLink increase for the fourth consecutive year to 412,608

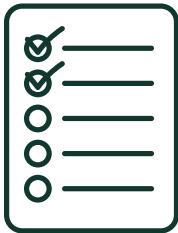
Strategic Theme	Strategic Target	Progress
Learning and Teaching (and Research)	Deliver carbon literacy training to 100 individuals (staff and students) per academic year	This target is being reviewed as part of the next iteration of the ESDP
	Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) embedded across all teaching and research by 2025	This target is being addressed as part of the 2026-31 Institutional Sustainability plan
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 2024/25

Our top environmental sustainability outputs for 2024/25 are shown below. These are drawn from all seven themes in the ESDP.



Introduction of new Sustainable Procurement Policy



Zero waste sent to landfill



Shortlisted for one Green Gown Award



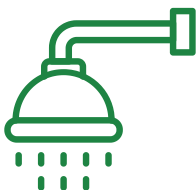
14th consecutive year of Green Flag Award status for EHU campus



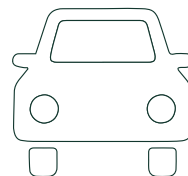
Introduction of new Ethical Investment Policy



Increased patronage of EdgeLink bus



Reducing Sports Centre water use with new pre-swim showers



Move to hybrid fleet cars to reduce CO2e emissions

Impact Case Studies 2024/25

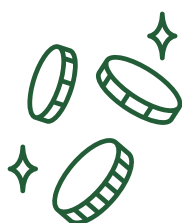
This year we are featuring several case studies that highlight positive sustainability action over the last academic year and the start of the current academic year.



Green Gown Awards: Edge Hill University were shortlisted as finalists for one Green Gown Award for our 2023/24 annual report.



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.



Funding: Over the last three years 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.
- From Salix to install an Air Source Heat Pump in our Faculty of Health building to reduce gas use on campus and therefore our carbon footprint.



Policies and Strategies: Over the last 18 months the following policies and strategies have been ratified:

- Ethical Investment Policy.
- Sustainable Procurement Policy.
- Climate Action Plan.
- Climate Resilience Framework.



AUDE Awards: Edge Hill University have been shortlisted as finalists for The AUDE University Sustainability Impact Initiative Award 2026.

People & Planet 2025

People & Planet is the UK's only comprehensive and independent league table ranking universities by their environmental and ethical performance. It is compiled annually by the UK's largest student campaigning network, People & Planet.

This year Edge Hill University has been ranked 64th and therefore awarded a 2:1 Class University status in the People & Planet University League. Out of 74 other Post-1992 institutions, we have placed 35th. These results mark a significant improvement from last year, when we were a Third Class University ranked 112th in the league.

EHU saw the third highest improvement in ranking, which even landed us on the BBC News online!

This year's biggest climbers included Edge Hill University in Liverpool, which jumped 56 places from number 120 to 64, moving from a 3rd to a 2:1 classification.

This was partly due to its decision to stop investing in fossil fuel companies.

This improvement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and innovative approaches being taken to embed sustainability across Edge Hill University. Over the past 12 months, Corporate Sustainability, in partnership with both internal and external stakeholders, has delivered a wide range of initiatives, including:

- Development and implementation of an Ethical Investment Policy.

- Development and implementation of a Sustainable Procurement Policy.

- Embedding circular economy into our new Waste and Resource Strategy.

- Hosting our annual Sustainability Fair.

- Supporting student-led projects such as the Gardens Project, and securing funding for a new Student Sustainability Initiative Fund.

- Creating an in-house toolkit for students to audit modules for sustainability-related content, supporting the rollout of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) across the University.

- Using PowerBI to improve data presentation and engagement.

- Developing new toolkits for staff to understand and record their carbon footprint using a standardised methodology.

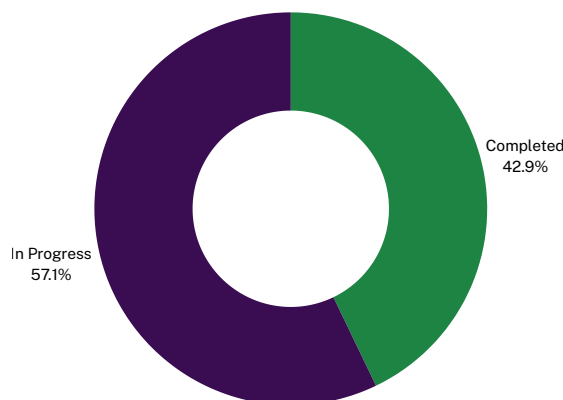
Delivery Plan Update 2024/25

This section provides an oversight of each theme and celebrates successes made in 2024/25.

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 2024/25 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 2025 People and Planet League EHU scored 70% 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.

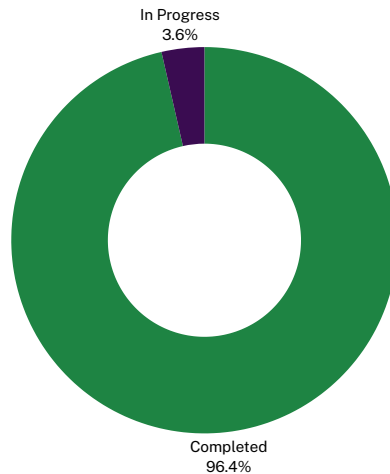
Interns: One student intern has been working with Corporate Sustainability, as part of this they have attended several strategic meetings to better understand governance of sustainability at EHU.

Institutional Sustainability Committee membership: now includes student and union (Unison and UCU) representation, ensuring that more voices are heard around 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 28 '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: 2025 saw the 14th consecutive year of being a Green Flag campus.

Big Campus Clear Out: 2025 saw Big Campus Clear Out once again run and support with diverting items left by students to charity rather than the recycling bin.



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.

Sports Centre Showers

The pre-swim showers in the Sports Centre have seen a recent upgrade, moving to individually sensed showers. This move not only supports reductions in water, and energy use, and it will also reduce associated carbon emissions, while not compromising on the quality of the showering experience!

The Gardens Project

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

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. The scheme runs for both the September and January intakes.



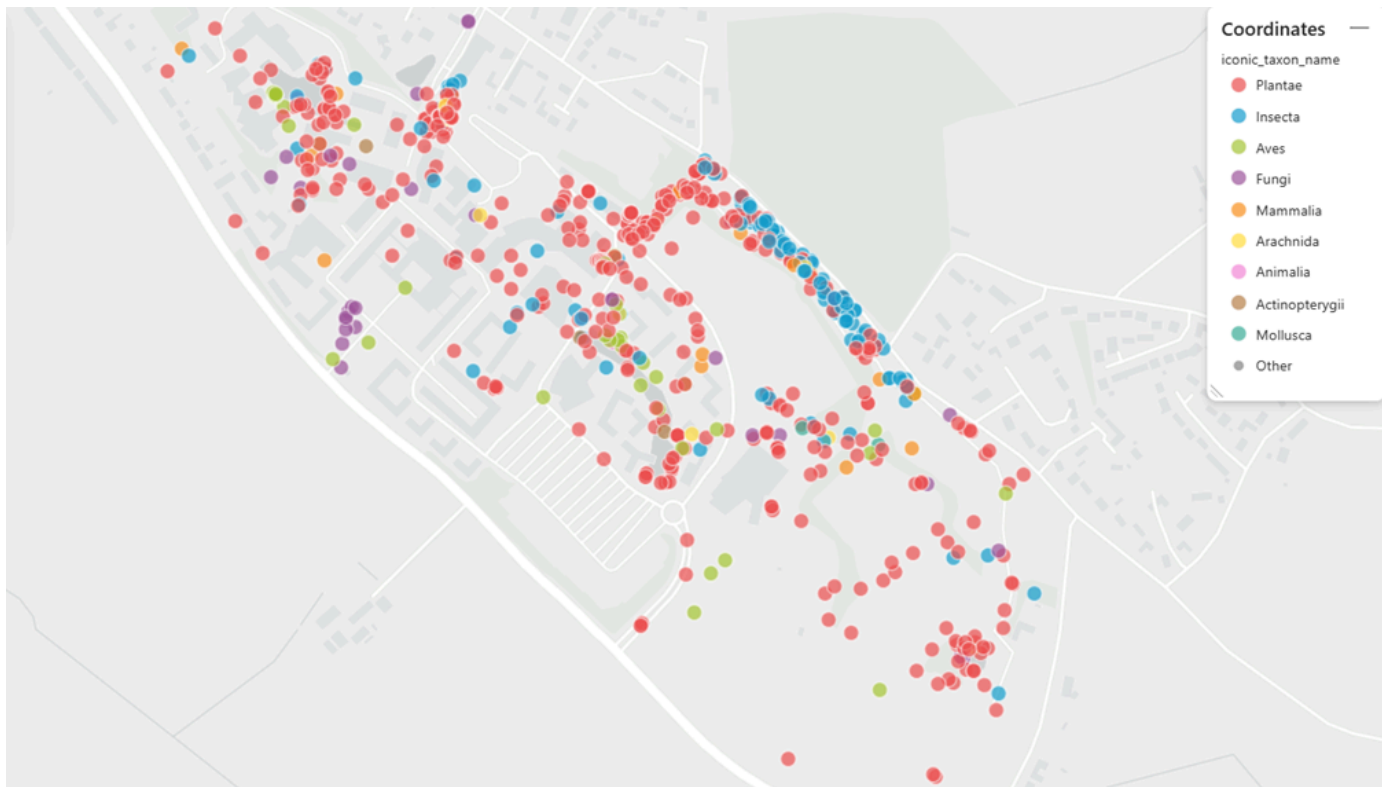
Conferences and Events

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 – Citizen Science Approach

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.



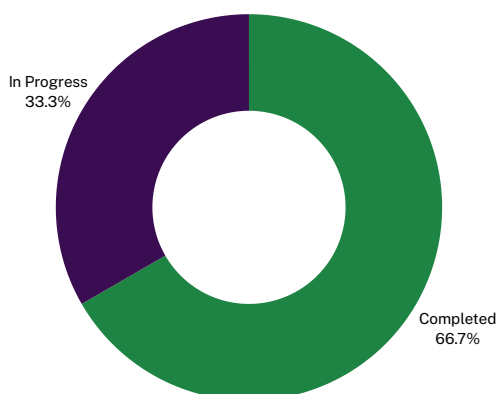
This map illustrates contributions made to mapping the location of flora and fauna across campus as part of the Citizen Science biodiversity project, the taxonomic names for each colour are listed in the table on the right.

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 2024/25 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 research: Research with a sustainability focus has continued to grow across the University - the next section highlights some of these projects.



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 and also work undertaken as part of LEAF - Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework at the University.

Nick Catahan: Transformative Service and Sustainability

Nick Catahan's (EHU Business School) ongoing efforts come under the banner of "Transformative Service and Sustainability" - this project explores how individuals and communities proactively engage with transformative service and sustainability. It supports the development of a research portfolio for longitudinal studies and a PhD by publication, addressing priorities such as the SDGs and contributing to collaborative projects, knowledge exchange and impacts case studies across EHU.

The research applies transformative service principles in diverse contexts including botanic garden tourism, volunteering, waste management, litter reduction, outdoor recreation, inclusive transport, creative enterprise, heritage, poverty, homelessness, and support for marginalised groups such as people with disabilities, communities such as LGBTIQ+, asylum seekers and refugees, and other disadvantaged or vulnerable populations.

These studies aim to generate insights and innovation that enhance and improve individual, societal and planetary health and well-being. The focus is on addressing gaps in the existing literature by examining how proactive, ecosystemic responses to rapidly changing environments can improve health and well-being outcomes and inform the design of sustainable service ecosystems for the future. A growing portfolio of peer-reviewed publications provide opportunities for academics, practitioners, and the wider public to engage, learn, be inspired and contribute to a collective movement for positive change.

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 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).

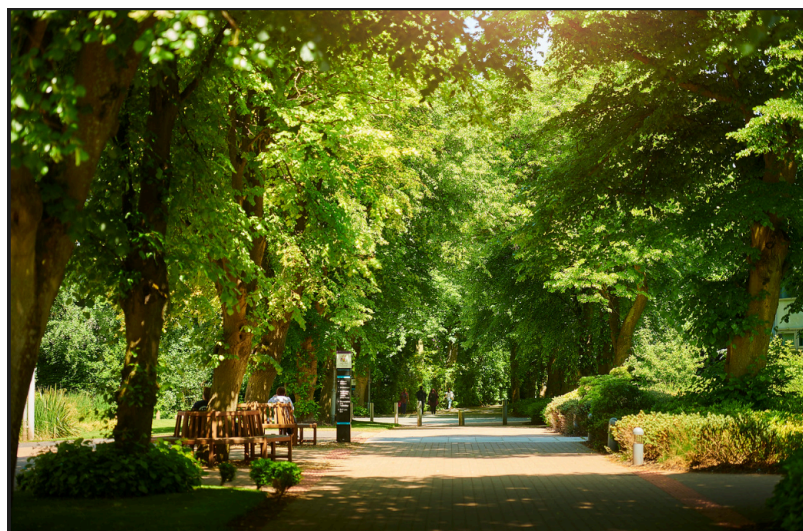
Lecturer in Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine Claire Blennerhassett – University Commitments to a Sustainable Food System

In 2025 Claire authored a paper titled University Commitments to a Sustainable Food System with three co-authors, two of whom are alumni from the nutrition programme and the third of which was a student funded by the RIMES programme. This research looked to critically review HEIs food policy documents.

LEAF - Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework

LEAF is a standard devised by UCL to improve the sustainability and efficiency of laboratories. EHU has been using LEAF for the last three years to improve the sustainability of laboratories across the Institution.

Currently seven laboratories have gained Bronze status and two have reached Gold status.



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.

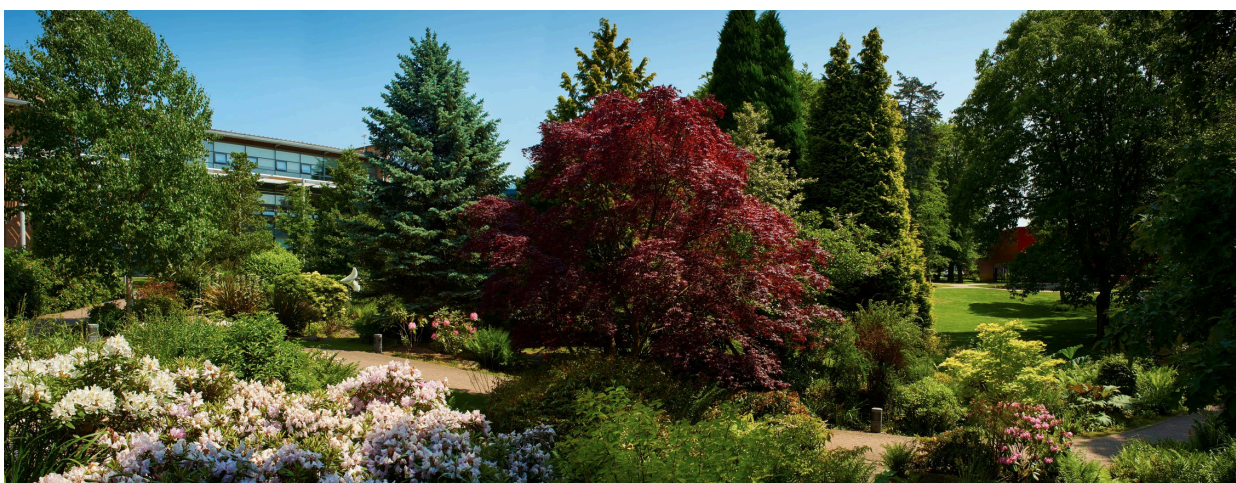
All objectives under this theme were completed and therefore closed out in the 2022/23 annual report.

Impact Highlights:

The week long 2025 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 Biffa, the importance of shopping second hand thanks to Queenscourt Hospice, reducing food waste thanks to our Nutrition students and several of our contractors who support with energy reduction also attended.

Student Engagement: During the academic year 2024/45 Corporate Sustainability undertook a number of student engagement projects including:

- One paid student placement to support with the running of the in-house car share matching platform
- 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

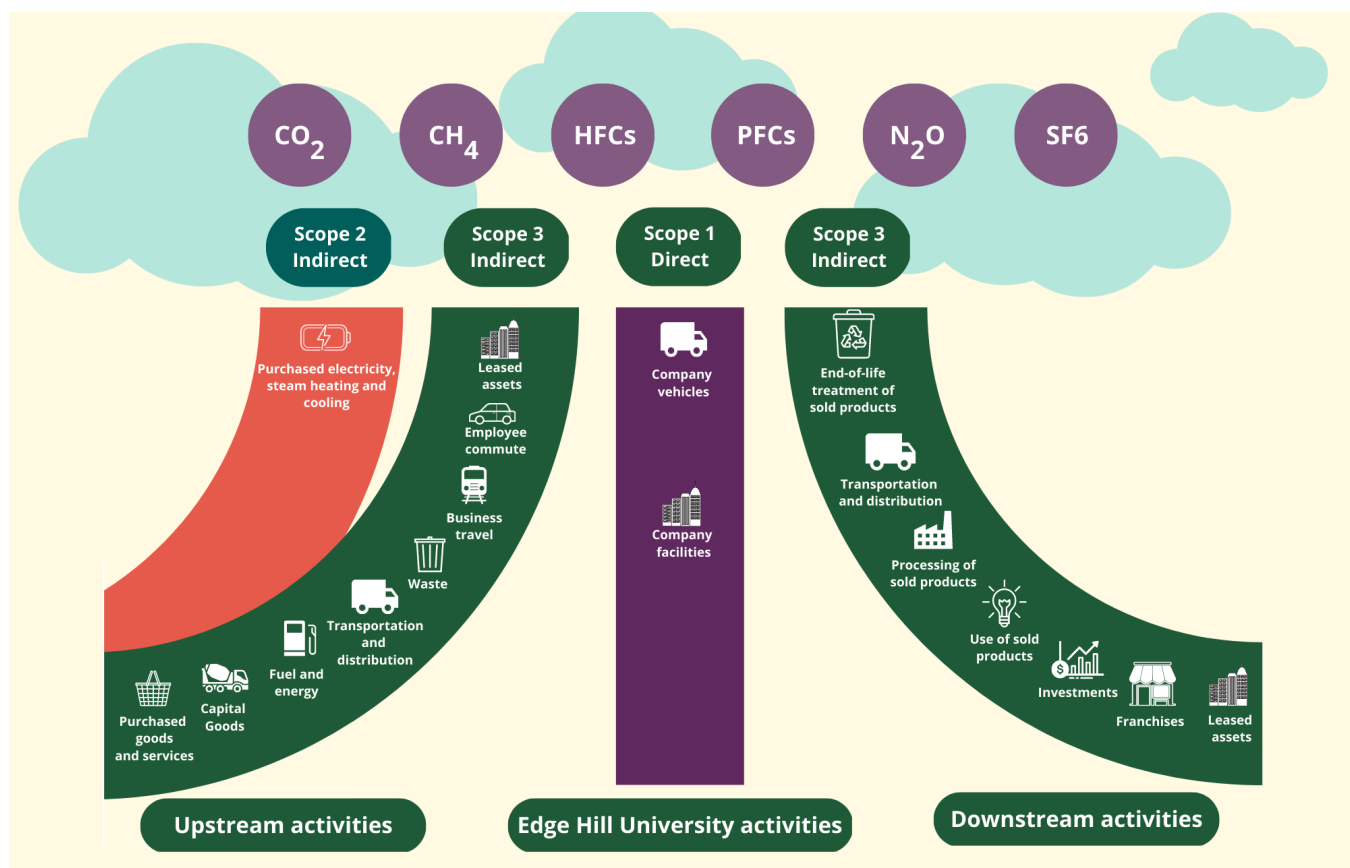
To fully understand the scope of our Carbon Management Plan (CMP) it is important to clearly establish the emissions being included in our reporting¹:

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.

1. Emissions figures in this report reflect updated calculation methodologies and improved underlying data for fuel use, electricity, water and selected Scope 3 categories. Historic emissions from 2022/23 onwards have been restated, resulting in some values differing from earlier publications.

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:

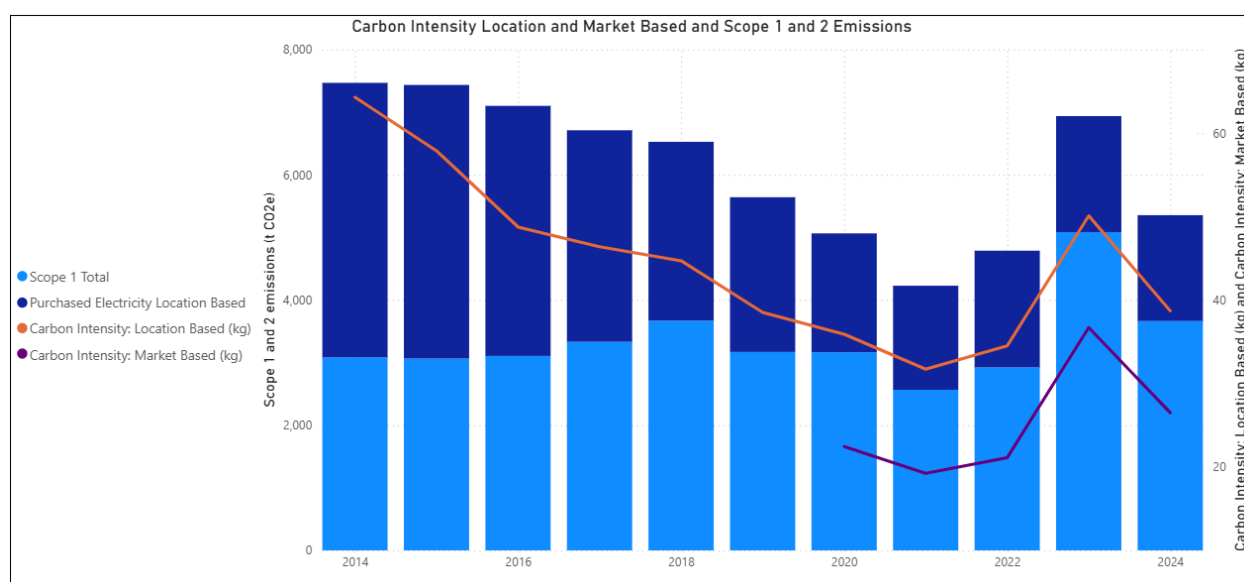
- 1) Total scope 1 and 2 CO₂e emissions: 6229 tCO₂e
- 2) Estate carbon intensity: 44.7 kgCO₂e/m²

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 against the 2018/19 baselines as seen in the graph below. As a result the milestones set for both variables in the Carbon Management Plan for 2025 have been met regarding market-based emissions, the following progress against the targets:

- Total emissions have reduced by 14% (location-based) 41% (market-based)
- Carbon intensity has reduced by 22% (location-based) 44% (market-based)

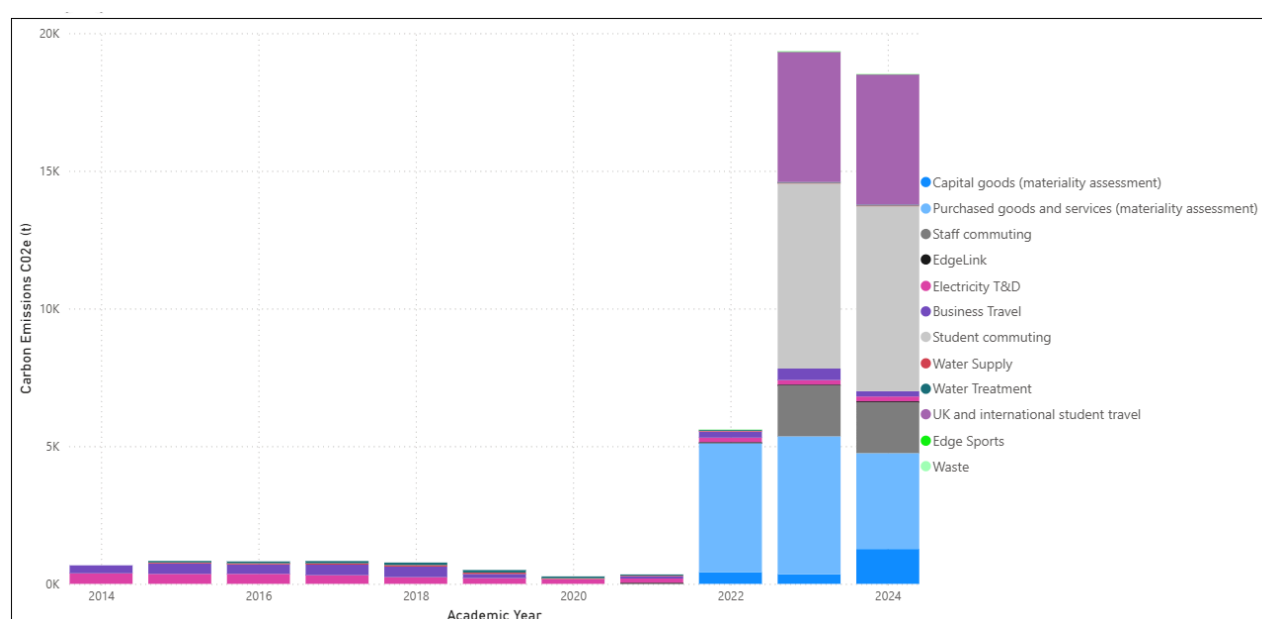


As part of our reporting we have started to breakdown our carbon emissions attributed to student accommodation (this is done for on-site only as EHU does not own/manage offsite accommodation). Due to meter availability this is currently done based on the ratio of residential/non-residential space based on GIA. For 2024/25 this was 2248.9 t CO₂e, compared to 2775 t CO₂e for 2023/24 (for location-based emissions).

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.

Last year for the first time the University reported on work towards establishing a baseline for staff and student commuting, including students travelling to and from University from their home address; as this work progresses we look forward to including these baselines in our reporting.³



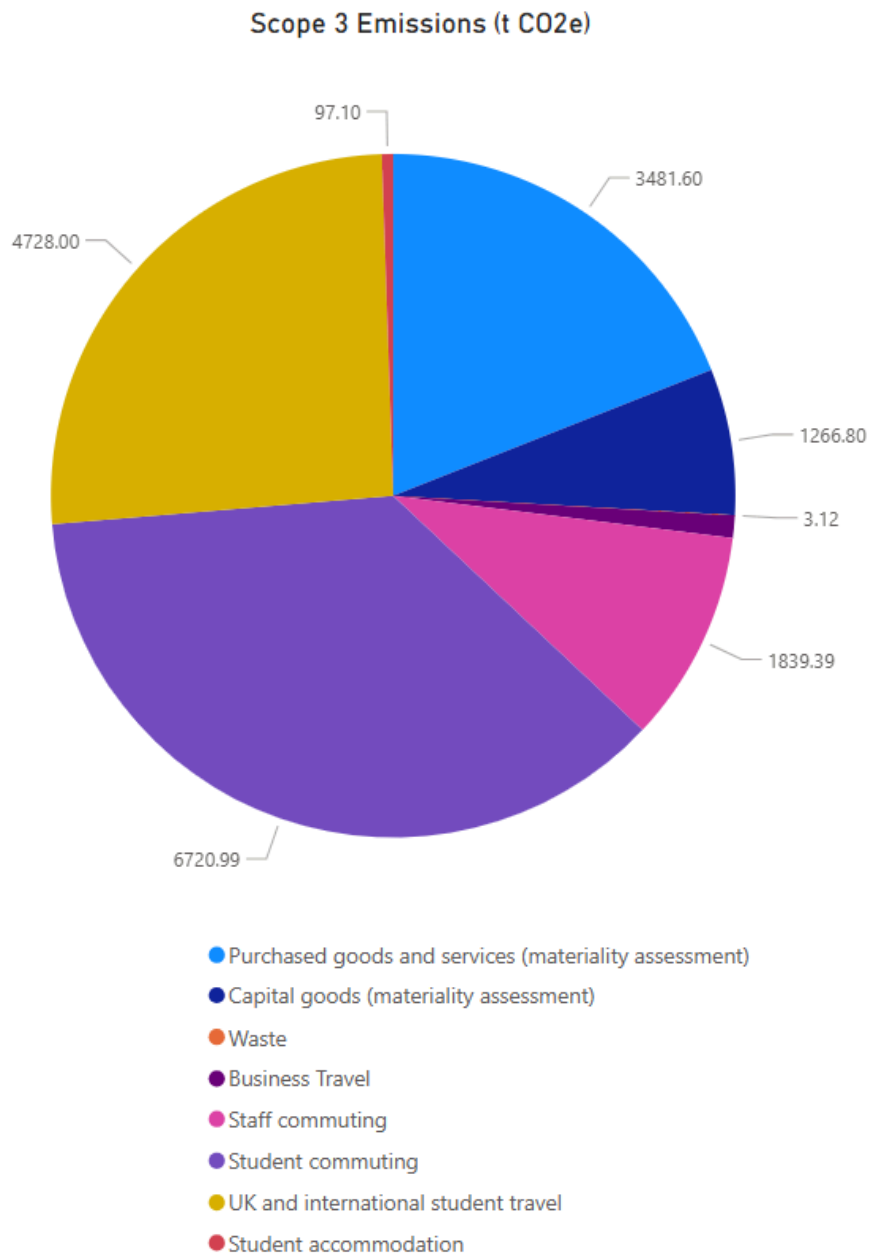
Over time the number of metrics EHU has access to regarding Scope 3 emissions has increased; between 2014/15 and 2019/20 data comes from different business travel modes, in 2020/21 we see the introduction of waste water treatment, and more recently EdgeLink and Edge Sports travel start to be introduced into the datasets. As a result, we see that Scope 3 emissions appear to be highest in 2024/25 however this is down to the scale of data available increasing over time.

3. The 2023/24 annual report including a reporting error for commuting emissions including staff, and students to EHU and the UK and International student travel which captures emissions associated with travel to and from University from student's home address (where this differs from term-time address)

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 2024/25 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.

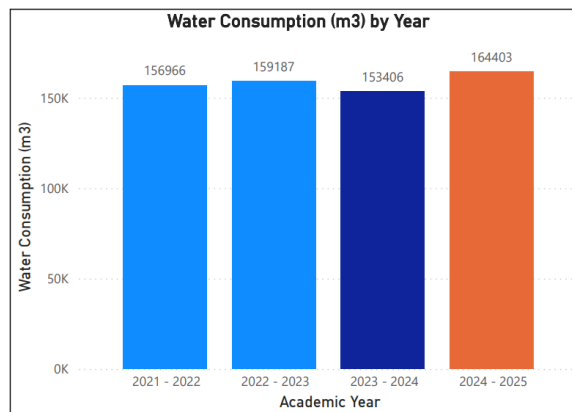
The below graph refers to in house residential student accommodation emissions, EHU does not have any external accommodation to report on.



Water Consumption

Water consumption data (for our Ormskirk campus, including 57 St Helens Road and Milton House) increased in the 2024/25 academic year compared to the previous two years as illustrated below. While water consumption per capita has risen from 10.98m³ in 2022/23 to 13.25m³ in 2024/25.

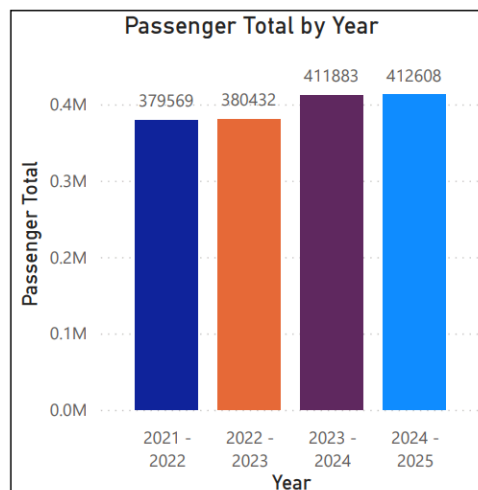
A range of measures have been investigated to address water consumption reduction including behaviour change campaigns, and in December 2025 new individually controlled pre-swim showers were installed in the Sports Centre to reduce water consumption.



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.

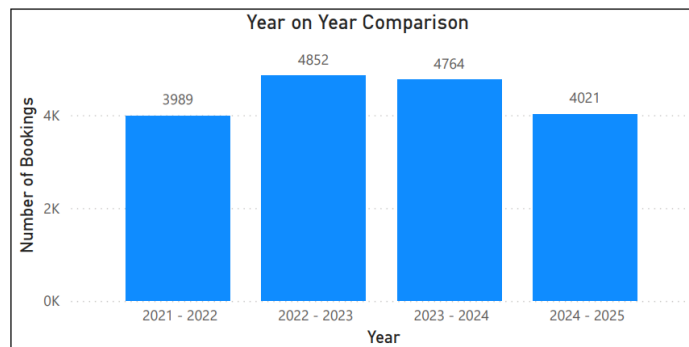
Passenger numbers over the last four academic years continue to perform well, with the 2024/25 value being higher than the previous three years. CO₂e emissions from EdgeLink remains fairly static on an annual basis. This value is reported in our annual carbon emission report to establish a clear Scope 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.

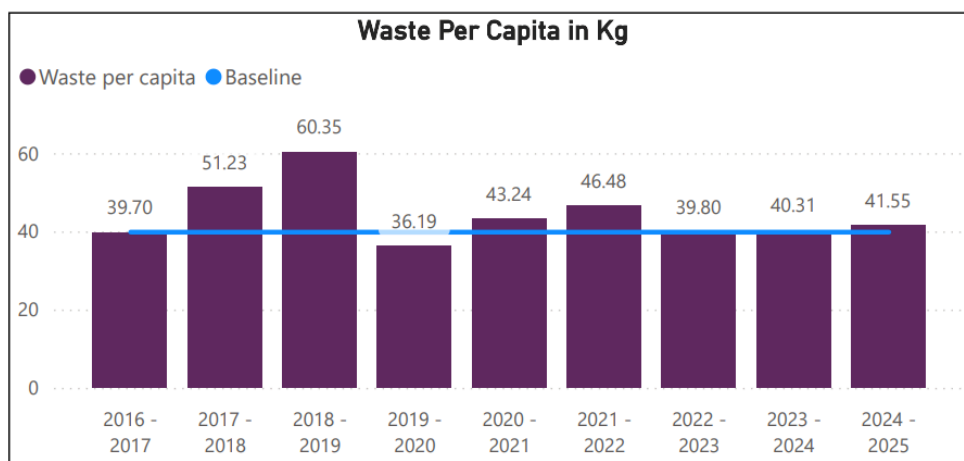
The introduction of the agile working trial during the 2025/26 academic year is expected to result in changes to car share values next year.



Waste

EHUs waste-related KPIs as outlined in our Waste and Resource Strategy are:

- 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.

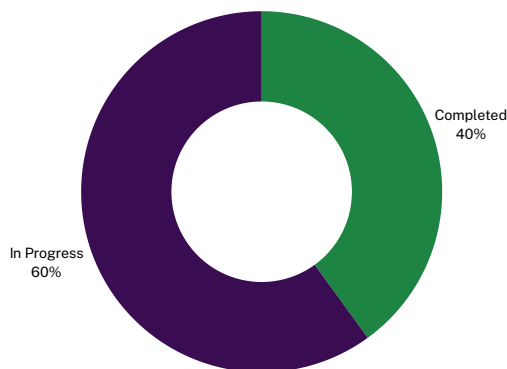


The above graph, which includes the 2022/23 baseline illustrates the waste per capita data for EHU from 2016/17 to 2024/25.

Big Campus Clear Out ran over Summer 2025 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, or Student Life for the interview clothing project.

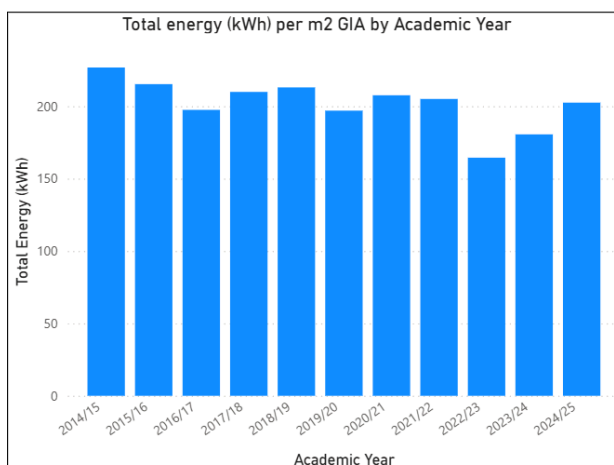
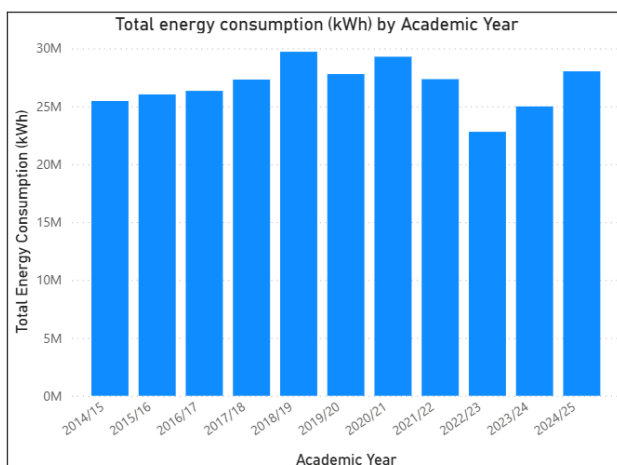
Strategic Theme 5: Energy Use

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 2024/25. Progress against these is reported in the graph below⁴.



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. Work has continued to ensure improved understanding of our energy use across campus to support targeted work to reduce consumption.

From the graphs below we can see that total energy consumption fell between 2014/15 and 2022/23 before increasing in 2023/24 and again in 2024/25.



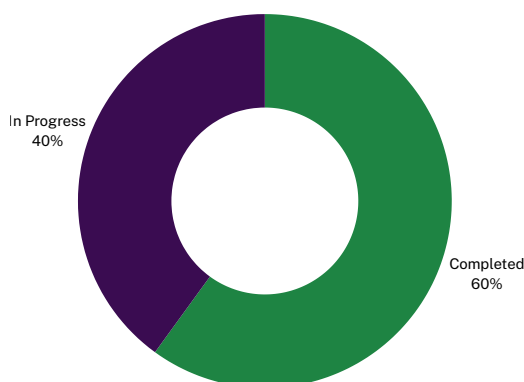
Between 2023/24 and 2024/25, the University recorded an overall increase in energy consumption, driven primarily by higher gas usage. During this period, the University estate expanded with the addition of the Life Sciences Building, the new Students' Union facility, and 248 new student bedrooms delivered as part of the Central Campus development. This Central Campus expansion is considered a significant contributing factor to the rise in gas consumption observed between these academic years.

⁴ From 2025/26, utilities reporting is based on meter readings rather than billing data, improving accuracy for consumption and carbon calculations. Historic data (2022/23–2024/25) has been restated, and some figures differ from those in previous reports. Energy intensity is now being calculated using GIA, rather than NIA to bring it in line with other intensity datasets, resulting in some changes to data in the above graph compared to previous reports.

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 2024/25. 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:

Salix funding has allowed work to begin on the installation of Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) technology on the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine building. This work will support our Heat Decarbonisation Plan through the degasification of heating in this building.



Strategic Theme 7: Renewables

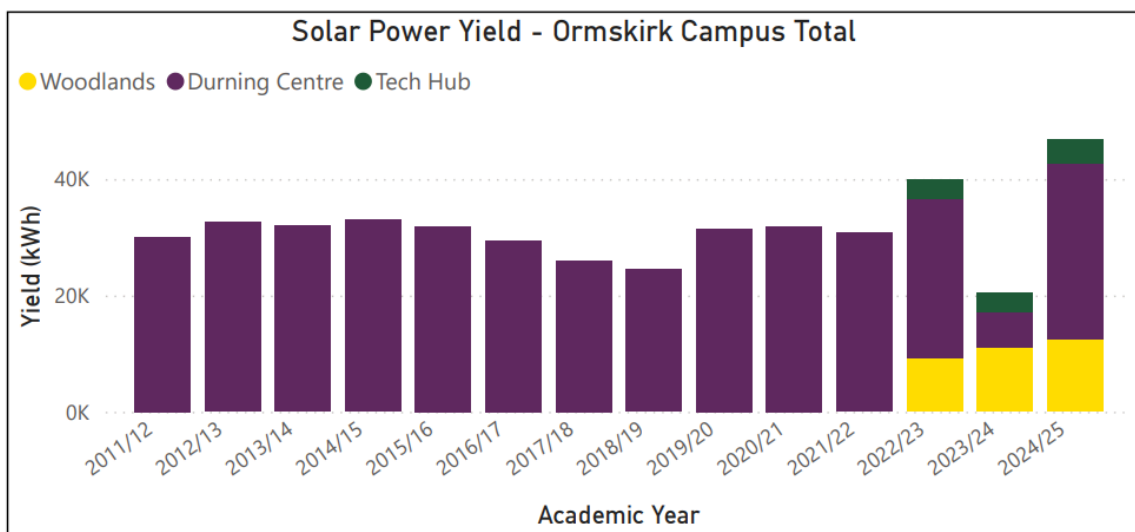
This theme focuses on increasing the amount of behind the meter energy created for consumption on campus via renewable energy sources. There are a total of four objectives in this theme and progress against these is report below.



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.



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 2026 and beyond

2026 marks a significant next chapter for sustainability at Edge Hill, with the publication of the new Institutional Sustainability Plan (2026–31) and its accompanying Delivery Plan. This next iteration of our strategic direction represents a step change in how sustainability is governed, delivered and embedded across the University. The refreshed governance structure reflects this shift: for the first time, the Institutional Sustainability Committee now includes student members, UNISON and UCU representatives, and senior colleagues from across faculties and key departments, ensuring a broader and more inclusive voice in shaping sustainability-related decisions.

Aligned with the forthcoming University Strategy - where ESG has been established as a critical success factor - the new Institutional Sustainability Plan (2026-31) will place ESG principles and KPIs at its core, in alignment with ESG being identified as a critical success factor in the new University Strategy. The Institutional Sustainability Plan (2026-31) will translate the University's sustainability-related strategic ambition into targeted, Institution-wide action. This includes building on recent progress, such as Edge Hill's improvement to a 2:1 classification in the People & Planet League, and strengthening leadership capacity through refreshed governance arrangements and new ESD training resources. Together, these developments create a clear framework for embedding ESG across the University and driving continuous improvement in sustainability performance.

The new Institutional Sustainability Plan (2026-31) builds on a substantial foundation created over the past five years, during which the University has developed key frameworks including the Ethical Investment Policy, Sustainable Procurement Policy, Institutional Sustainability Policy, Climate Action Plan, Waste and Resource Strategy, and Carbon Management Plan. Collectively, these documents have strengthened governance, shaped operational practice, and clarified long-term commitments. The next phase will focus on embedding these frameworks more deeply across core operations, academic activity and Institutional culture.

A key milestone in 2026 will be the renewal of the Carbon Management Plan, a process which is being embraced as an important opportunity to reassess and refresh our approach to achieving carbon neutrality and, ultimately, Net Zero. This work will inform the development of a new Decarbonisation Plan, produced alongside the Estates and Infrastructure Master Plan. Together, these will set out a clear and evidence-based pathway for reducing Scopes 1, 2 and 3 emissions through to 2031 and beyond, enabling informed decision-making around energy use, infrastructure and operational emissions.

From 2026, sustainability governance will be further strengthened through the centralisation of Corporate Sustainability under the new Chief Governance Officer. This enhanced alignment will support more coherent decision-making, streamlined reporting and the full integration of ESG into institutional performance, risk management and strategic planning.

Enhancing our reputation and external performance remains an important driver for future work. In 2025, EHU achieved 2:1 status in the People & Planet University League, reflecting the progress made through our previous strategies and delivery plans. The new Institutional Sustainability Plan will seek to build on this success by embedding measures specifically designed to strengthen areas of weaker performance, driving continuous improvement that aligns with sector benchmarks and student expectations. This includes further work on supply chain engagement, ethical investment transparency, carbon reduction, waste and resource management, and student engagement in sustainability initiatives.

As we implement the Institutional Sustainability Plan (2026–31), the University will continue to take an iterative and evidence-led approach. Our Delivery Plan will remain a live document, adapted in response to emerging technologies, global sustainability challenges, legislative updates and stakeholder priorities. Continued collaboration with staff, students, suppliers and wider partners will be essential to ensuring that the University not only maintains but accelerates progress in becoming a resilient, responsible and future-focused Institution.

Collectively, these developments demonstrate a deepening of EHU's commitment to embedding sustainability across all aspects of institutional planning, operations and culture. The next five years will be marked by enhanced governance, strengthened accountability, more ambitious decarbonisation planning, and a renewed focus on student partnership. With these foundations in place, Edge Hill University is well positioned to deliver meaningful, measurable and lasting progress towards its long-term sustainability goals.

Find out more

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 ehu.ac.uk/sustainability

