



Edge Hill
University

Environmental Sustainability Report

Annual report 2021/22

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Foreword

Over the last year environmental sustainability has been increasingly at the front of international and national news stories. COP 27 was held in Egypt and saw key negotiations take place, while closer to home climate activists have been making headlines. All these activities highlight the need to work together to develop workable, practical solutions to address climate change.



At Edge Hill University we continuously strive to reduce our impact on the environment while also supporting our staff and students to improve their knowledge of key sustainability issues. During the last year we have sought to build on the work of previous years to further our sustainability agenda.

This report draws to a close the previous delivery strategy of annual actions and sees the launch of our new multi-year Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan. Our Delivery Plan puts a greater emphasis on Environmental Sustainability activities at Edge Hill University and empowers all members of the University community to work together towards delivering a greener future. Supporting the implementation of our new Delivery Plan will be the launch of our new Carbon Management Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan and redefines our commitment to investment for sustainability.

At an institutional level 2023 will see the launch of a new Institutional Environmental Sustainability Committee which will act as the forum for corporate-level decisions around sustainability and ratify relevant policies and strategies. The introduction of this committee is a significant step towards further embedding environmental sustainability across our operations, and will act as the launchpad of our new Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) reporting framework



Introduction

Edge Hill University (EHU) is committed to environmental sustainability across all of its sites and operations. The result of this is sustainability and/or environmental ambitions are referenced in a wide range of corporate policies and strategies. This includes the Edge Hill University Strategic Plan 2021-25 which commits:

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

To articulate this commitment in more detail, the University has an Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS). Currently Edge Hill University is working towards sustainability targets that sit under four themes: Leadership and Governance, Estates and Operations, Learning and Teaching, and Partnership and Engagement. Ultimately all these objectives are aimed at allowing EHU to reach carbon neutrality - more detail on this is in the upcoming Carbon Management Plan (CMP).

In 2022 it was recognised there was a need for a more ambitious plan to be implemented - this has led to the development of the Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan (ESDP). The ESDP aligns with the lifespan of the ESS, allowing for the inclusion of objectives that span multiple years. Through the inclusion of specific targets and budgetary requirements, the ESDP demonstrates the commitment of the University in terms of the investment to deliver the ESS.

The Sustainability Manager, based in Facilities Management (FM) is responsible for overseeing progress against the ESS and Delivery Plan and reports on this regularly at an Institutional level. Previously this has been done via the Institutional Health, Safety and Environment Committee (IHSEC), from 2023 onwards this reporting will switch to the new Institutional Environmental Sustainable Committee which has been established to further the sustainability agenda at EHU by providing a space to progress and develop environmental sustainability strategies, policies and initiatives.

This annual report serves to summarise and close out the 2021/22 SAP and launch the new Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan.

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

2021-25

The current ESS builds on the momentum created around sustainability at EHU over the last 5 years and looks towards a carbon neutral future at EHU.

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 four themes implemented in the ESS are: Leadership and Governance, Estates and Operations, Learning and Teaching and Partnership and Engagement.

Impact Highlights 2021/22

Our top environmental sustainability outputs for 2021/22 are shown below. These are drawn from all four themes in the ESS.



**100% renewable
energy purchased
for Ormskirk campus**



**Zero waste sent to
landfill**



**40+ Partnerships
developed through
SustainNET**



**11th consecutive
year of Green Flag
Award status for EHU
campus**



**Increased patronage
of Edge Link bus**



**Sustainable Leadership
programme launched**

Sustainability Action Plan 2021/22

This section provides an oversight of each theme and celebrates successes made in 2021/22.

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 the tools to support, create and develop environmental campaigns.

There were four objectives in the Leadership and Governance theme. Closing out the 2021/22 SAP all objectives were completed.

Successes:

- Sustainability Survey undertaken to understand areas of sustainability at EHU where we are doing well/require improvement.
- Introduction of the Sustainability Leadership programme to recognise and reward staff engagement.
- Staff corporate induction and student welcome week events now include sustainability information stalls
- University Sustainability Group (USG) created as a cross-university leadership group to engage the wider university in the sustainability framework.
- Three opportunities for engagement with outdoor spaces successfully run.



Strategic Theme 2: Estates and Operations

Theme 2 accounts for the need to be mindful in 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.

Successes:

- Waste Infrastructure Review undertaken to better understand the needs of the campus regarding the waste infrastructure needed in the future.
- EAUC Community of Practice visit conducted to site to showcase the waste sorting facilities on campus.
- Phase 1 survey of Ormskirk campus undertaken over summer 2022 as part of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and subsequent creation of new BAP.
- Involvement of masters students to create a Master Plan for the BAP to enhance functionality.
- Awarded Bronze Hedgehog Friendly Campus status 2022/23.
- Implementation of re-lamping works began to introduce LEDs across entire campus.
- 35% reduction of daily electricity consumption on campus during 2022/23 Winter Break (compared to rest of December 2022) as a result of Switch Off campaign.
- Full implementation of Heating and Cooling Policy across campus leading to reduced electricity and gas consumption.

Strategic Theme 3: Learning and Teaching (and Research)

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

Successes:

- Between August 2021 and July 2022, 2202 members of staff have completed the e-learning module Environmental Awareness
- Three campaigns linked to the UN SDGs were run, shaped by student feedback
- Two training sessions were provided for students to attend to enhance their understanding of sustainability and/or environmental issues outside of the curriculum.

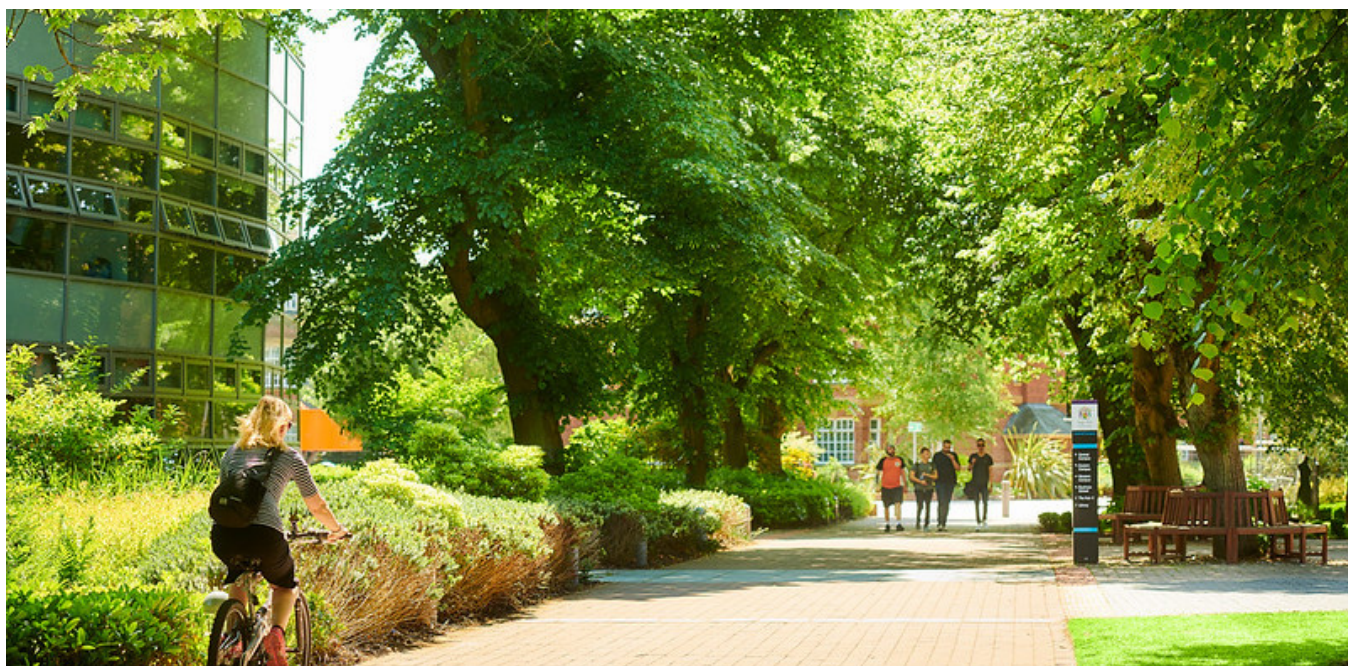
Strategic Theme 4: Partnership and Engagement

Theme 4 has creating and maintaining effective partnerships and engagement opportunities 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.

There were five objectives covering Partnership and Engagement in the last SAP. Closing out the 2021/22 SAP 60% of these objectives were completed, 20% (1 objective) were carried over and 20% (1 objective) were deemed not practical meaning it will not be taken forward.

Successes:

- Successful launch of Too Good To Go app - reducing food waste and carbon emissions.
- First ever Sustainability Festival run in November 2021.
- Increased numbers of members and partner organisations in SustainNET.





Delivering the 2025 Strategy 2022/23 to 2025

To support EHU's ambitious plans around sustainability it has become clear that there is a need to develop a Delivery Plan which allows for objectives to run over multiple years, thus allowing a more holistic approach to be taken to environmental sustainability. These objectives have been developed to align with the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) and/or the Carbon Management Plan (CMP). Alongside the objectives it is imperative that investment requirements are provided to support budget development.

The Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan will support the ESS and the CMP by providing more tangible and measurable objectives, setting out more specifically how the commitments set out in the ESS and CMP can be met. The Delivery Plan will run throughout the life of the two documents (until 2025), with progress being regularly reviewed at the Institutional Environmental Sustainability Committee meetings and reported on annually through the Environmental Sustainability Annual Report to the Board of Governors.

The provision of clear, measurable and costed objectives that span the University's operations will allow Edge Hill University to improve its environmental sustainability targets outlined in the ESS and CMP, as well as improving the experience it provides to staff, students and the wider community. This will be done under seven strategic themes: Leadership and Governance, Estates and Operations, Learning and Teaching (and Research), Partnerships and Engagement, Energy Reduction, Decarbonisation, and Renewables.

Objectives have been identified through a variety of means, based upon the themes of the ESS and CMP, in consultation with faculties and departments across the University, from research of best practice across the sector and through analysis of data available on current performance. These objectives vary in timescales with short, medium and long term objectives included, and the plan remains an agile and live document where further objectives can be added as the plan evolves.



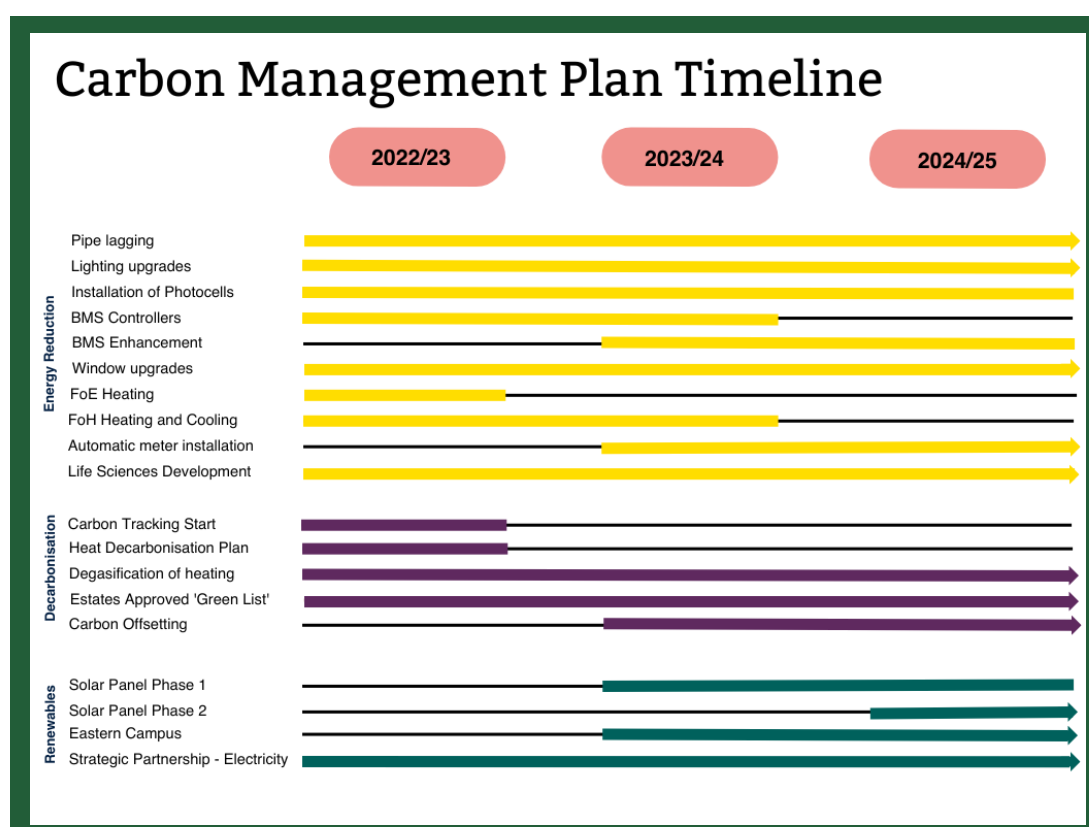
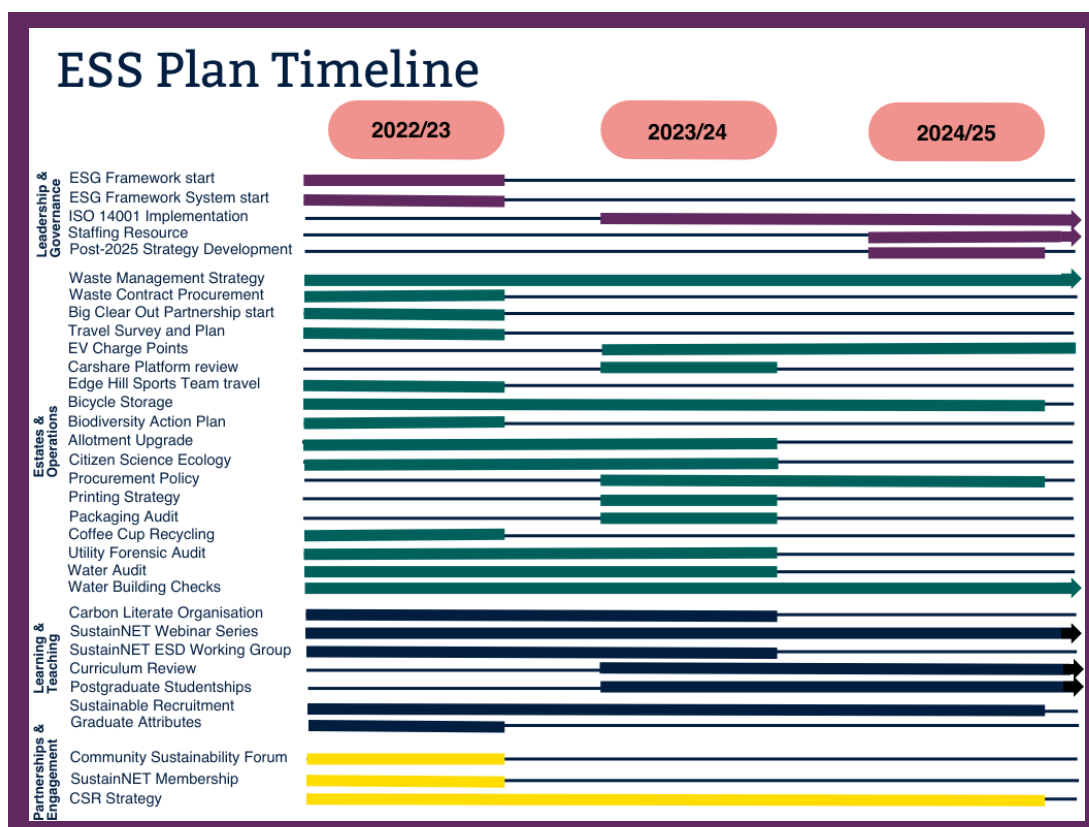
Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan: 2022/23

During the 2022/23 academic year several key measures have been identified for implementation:

- Move to the Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan to replace the SAP to support multi-year objectives, and development of a clear timeline for objective delivery;
- Introduction of the new Institutional Environmental Sustainability Committee to replace the Institutional Health, Safety and Environment Committee in recognition of the importance of Environmental Sustainability to EHU at a corporate level. This will also include a move towards reporting using an Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) approach;
- Implementation of Carbon Management Plan, including introduction of new objectives and publication of a budget to drive plans for EHU to become first Carbon Neutral then Net Zero;
- Introduction of new Biodiversity Action Plan and development of a Master Plan document to ensure biodiversity becomes an integrated part of estate activities;
- Launch of the new Travel Plan to support increased active travel and car sharing and reduction of carbon emissions surrounding staff/student commuting for study, work and business travel.

Delivery Plan Timelines

The timeline for delivering the objectives identified in this document is outlined here. These have been grouped depending on whether they are supporting the ESS or CMP, as well as by the theme they address.



Carbon Management Plan: 2022-25

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

Initially our CMP is focusing on Scope 1 and 2 emissions, however work is ongoing to start capturing our Scope 3 emissions.

The EHU CMP has been developed by taking a collaborative approach across the University through consultation of key stakeholders. This includes Facilities Management, Capital Projects, Directorate, the University Sustainability Group, SustainNET and the Sustainability Champions.

Performance will be monitored and reported to Directorate by the Operational Risk and Environment team on a regular basis via the Institutional Environmental Sustainability Committee meetings. An annual update will be provided to the Board of Governors and made available online as part of the Sustainability Annual Report. Internal reporting will also be undertaken via our Annual FM Report.



Future Developments

Planning for 2025 and beyond

2025 will see the launch of our next Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Carbon Management Plan with the aim that we will have reached Carbon Neutrality by the end of their lifecycle and be on our way towards Net Zero.

To make this possible the main focus of work undertaken between 2022 and 2025 as part of the Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan is improving the BMS and automatic metering infrastructure on campus. Undertaking these workstreams will provide a better understanding of our baseline for carbon emission and energy consumption.

These emission and energy consumption data will be used to develop science-based targets to allow EHU to reach its carbon reduction targets. Additionally this new information should allow for building-level energy reduction targets to be introduced that are tailored to the building needs.

As we progress towards 2025 our ambition is to move to recording more of our Scope 3 emissions to allow for a better understanding of how we can tackle and reduce these. Part of this will involve working with our suppliers to ensure carbon reductions are happening at every stage of our activities. It is also imperative that we engage with continuous evaluation of technology and undertake regular reviews of our performance.

Within the 2022-25 Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan EHU is committing to developing a clear strategy to ensure all future building works, including both new builds and renovation works, deliver the highest level of sustainable construction considerations possible. Initially this work will be implemented as part of the new Life Sciences building in the Central Campus redevelopment plans. This commitment is to sustainable practices in campus development which, along with our new Environmental Sustainability Delivery Plan clearly demonstrate EHU's commitment to putting sustainability at the forefront of our decision making processes.

Performance measures

Carbon Reporting

As part of EHU's commitment to reaching carbon neutrality by 2030 we have committed to improving our CO₂e emissions reporting in order to update all stakeholders on our progress.

Our 2022-25 Carbon Management Plan (CMP) has outlined a range of targets that we are committed to reaching and has established a new reporting baseline. The two baseline variables against which future reporting will occur are:

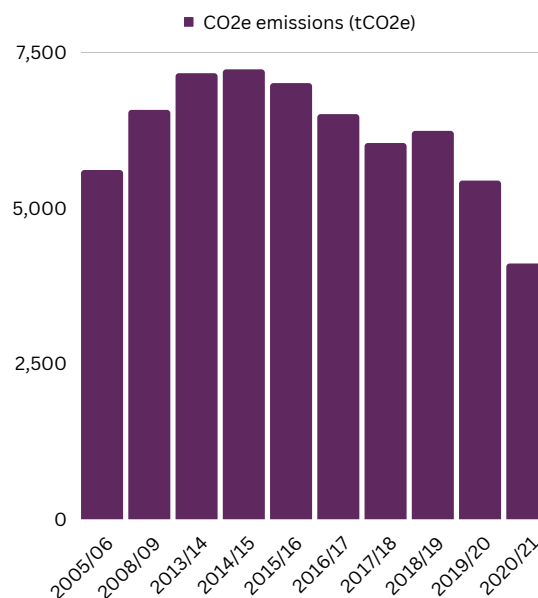
- 1) Total Scope 1 and Scope 2 CO₂e emissions: 6229 tCO₂e
- 2) Estate carbon intensity: 44.7 kgCO₂e/m²

Against these baselines we have set the following targets:

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

The graph below indicates the total Scope 1 and 2 CO₂e emissions in tonnes for EHU over the last 8 years (2013-2022) and includes data from 2005/06 (previous baseline year which was replaced by 2018/19), and 2008/09. There has been a clear reduction in CO₂e emissions from EHU over recent years, and the 2020/21 academic year saw the University go below the lowest level of emissions recorded.

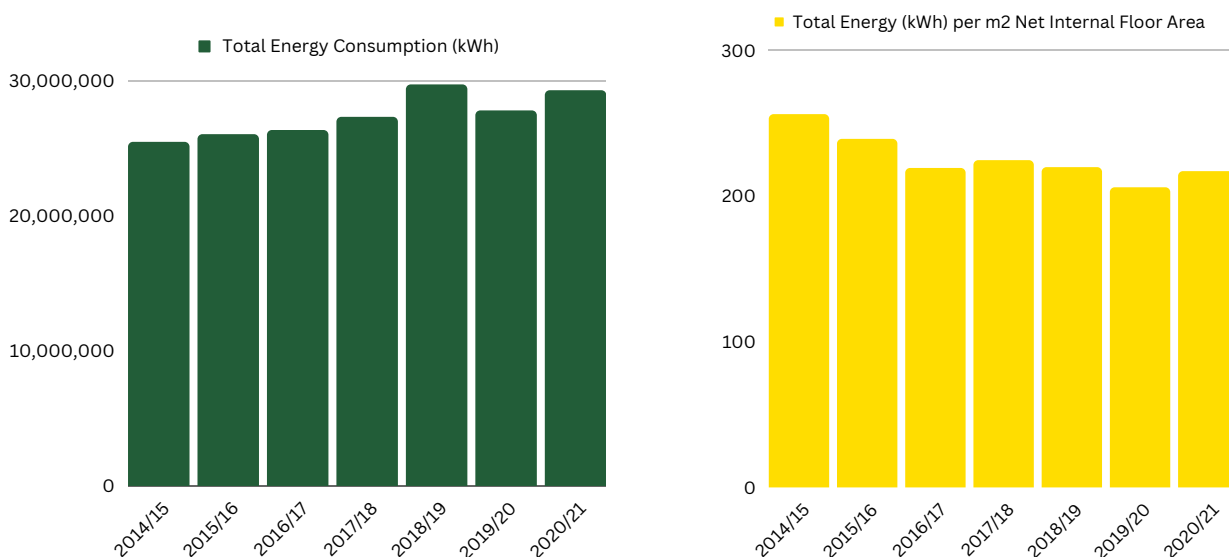
This reduction is a reflection of a range of measures that have been implemented across campus such as switching to LED bulbs in certain buildings, improvements to insulation and the installation of triple glazing in places. In 2020 EHU switched to REGO back electricity supply meaning that emissions related to electricity consumption have been reduced.



Energy Consumption

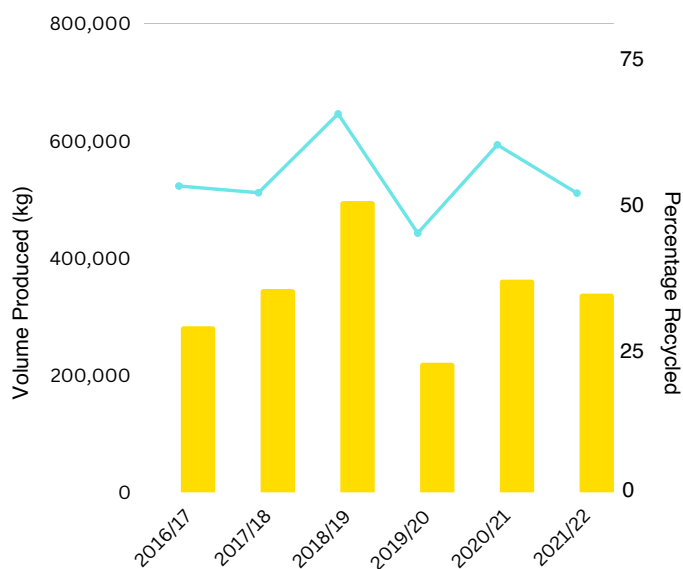
As part of EHUs annual reporting around carbon and energy annual electricity consumption and total energy (kWh) per m² net internal floor area (NIA) are also reported.

From the graphs below it is clear that total energy consumption has risen since 2014/15 while the total energy per m² Net Internal Floor Area (NIA) has decreased; while the campus has grown, the sustainability features embedded in the new builds is clearly keeping this rise in consumption in check.



Waste Management

EHU are also committed to maximising recycling and minimising waste going to landfill. Over the last 5 years 0% of waste has gone to landfill, the percentage of waste recycled has increased overall and our infrastructure for managing waste has been reviewed with an aim to further increasing recycling.

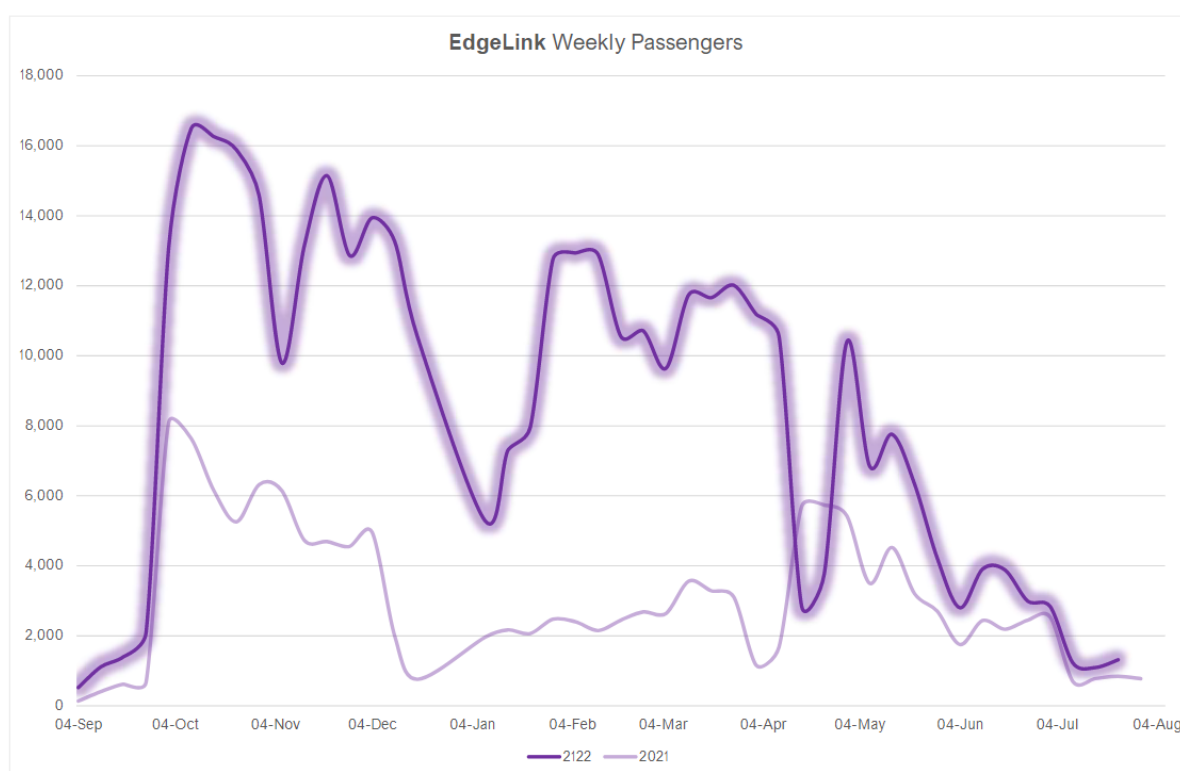


Red: Total waste produced. Yellow: Total waste recycled (including food)
Blue: Percentage waste recycled (including food)

EdgeLink Bus Service

As part of EHU's commitment to both the environment and its community a regular bus service is provided free of charge for all staff, students and Sports Centre users from Ormskirk to the campus.

The service consistently performs well when various criteria are examined including CO2 kg/passenger, idling time and the timing of the service. In 2021/22 the CO2 kg/passenger was 0.235.



Find out more

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 [@EHUSustain](https://twitter.com/EHUSustain)

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