



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

Annual Climate Change and Social Responsibility Performance Report

An update on headline climate change
performance for the financial year
2021/22

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Executive Summary

This report summarises the University of Strathclyde's headline climate change and social responsibility (CCSR) performance for the financial year 2021/22. It measures performance against the University's strategic plan, net zero targets and operational sustainability action.

The University aims to achieve Net-Zero carbon emissions by 2040 or sooner. Our first interim target is to reach a 70% reduction against the 2018/19 baseline of 37,500 TCO₂e by the end of 2024/25. At the end of the financial year 2021/22, the University reduced its carbon emissions by 27,080 Tonnes CO₂e (equivalent to a 28% reduction from the baseline year, missing the 2021/22 milestone of 35% by 7%). Now, the University must reduce its total emissions by 26% (from 2021/22 levels) to meet the 2022/23 milestone target and stay on track to net zero.

Performance

Increases in emissions this year are mostly due to increased business travel (inc. commuting) post-Covid-19 restrictions. However, most sources of emissions rose compared to last year except home working emissions and gas consumption. Steep increases in utility costs (65% rise from 2020/21) accelerate the University's need for energy and water efficiency. It is expected that growth in UK renewables; the University's estate GIA and fabric upgrades and electrical demand will all impact future performance. New high-service and intensity developments will increase overall emissions. City and Region-wide partnerships and joint solutions like district heating development will be vital to secure further step changes in emissions reductions.

Governance

There were important developments in sustainability governance in 2021-22. The University established a Sustainability Strategic Steering Group, as well as six task groups to deliver meaningful action on the CCSR Plan. The groups focus on the following sustainability aspects: Energy and Adaptation; Sustainable Resource Use and Supply Chain; Climate Finance; Transport and Travel; Performance, Review and Reporting; and Community and Social Responsibility Engagement and Communication.

Climate Neutral Districts Vision

A flagship series of collaborative projects built upon in 2021-22 is the [Climate Neutral Districts \(CND\) Vision](#). It aims to deliver 100% renewable heat, power, transport, adaptation and wellbeing solutions through a 'whole systems' approach. The core ethos and aim is 'climate neutrality', meaning operationally energy carbon neutral and climate resilient. Ten projects span across university assets in Glasgow and the central belt of Scotland. Each project is based on external public and private sector partnerships and collaborations and aims to create a 'CND' by using future-proofed infrastructure, systems and process solutions; and making use of natural and physical resources available. Solutions are being costed and prioritised so they can be attractive to potential investors, scaled up and replicated.

Adaptation

Over 2021-22, the PBCCRD increased reporting requirements around adaptation. A Climate Resilience and Vulnerability Assessment of the university estate was published in July 2022. The University is represented on the Board of Climate Ready Clyde. Adaptation solutions are being integrated into new building designs, in line with the University's climate change adaptation policy.

Waste

Despite overall waste increases of 58% from 2020/21 to 2021/22 (attributed to increased operations and return to campus post Covid-19); the University continues to achieve 100% diversion from landfill. The Reuse, Recycling and Resource Centre (RREC) continues to be a valuable university asset; and work is being done to explore further potential uses and/or refits of and improvements to the facility. Plastic waste reduction is a key success story for this year, where the university successfully replaced all single use plastic items in catering outlets with compostable alternatives. Continued improvements upon and further alternatives to single use items are being explored, due to industry-wide issues and limitations in composting (availability, decomposition times, etc.).

Staff, Student and wider stakeholder engagement

Over 2021/22, engagement continued to increase and broaden. Key campaigns centered around Fairtrade Fortnight and the Glasgow Goes Green Festival, in collaboration with local universities. Student and staff engagement in the 'Jump' programme and Carbon Literacy Training continued to grow. Extensive stakeholder engagement on the CND Vision continued. Supported by collaboration with professional services colleagues, the Centre for Sustainable Development, and our students (including the Management Development Programme). The University's Living Lab Initiative facilitates student and academic input into campus-based sustainability projects. To date, over 138 students have partnered with the Sustainable Strathclyde Team in this way.

S-labs

The University continues to engage in the national accreditation programme Sustainable Labs (S-Labs). Over 2021/22, this scheme funded two initiatives to replace university lab equipment which helped to reduce energy use, remove hot oil use, and save around 6,720 litres of water per week on average. The Labs team is investigating opportunities to replace single use nitrile gloves with a more sustainable alternative. This year, a baseline (lab specific) GHGI was also developed and will enable the implementation of a carbon reduction plan. The launch of the new Strathclyde LEAF programme in 2022/23 will identify further carbon reduction measures to be taken.

Travel

The university is progressing work on a new Sustainable Travel Strategy and Policy. Over the 2021-22 period, travel emissions increased significantly from 2020-21 levels due to increases in air travel post-Covid. Despite this, they remain lower than pre-pandemic levels (around 50% of an average baseline month). The University is working towards being a 'pedestrian first campus', centered around our 'Heart of the Campus' project which will pedestrianise and re-landscape the centre of Strathclyde. We collaborate with the Glasgow Active Travel forum, and on the 'Places for Everyone' project focused on building an active, safe and walkable learning quarter. Sustainable commuting is supported through cycle parking and a cycle to work scheme. Our transition to electric vehicles has led to investments in the university fleet, staff electric pool car scheme and charging infrastructure.

Ecology and biodiversity

Nature-based solutions such as rain gardens, green roofs and walls continue to be integrated into University campus planning as part of the University Sustainable Design Quality Standards. A new interactive green space was also created on campus this year in collaboration with the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences (SIPBS). Enhancing local biodiversity and staff wellbeing.

Fairtrade and sustainable procurement

Strathclyde achieved Fairtrade University 'Working Towards' status in 2021-22, downgraded from accredited status due to incomplete evidence of regular task group meetings. Many of which were suspended over the Covid period. A new Sustainable Procurement Strategy was published in January 2022 which commits to utilising the Scottish Government's Sustainability Test for all activities and rolls out the EcoVadis platform to monitor efforts.

Awards and Achievements

Finally, the University achieved several awards and achievements for its sustainability activities in 2021-22. Including, from the: Green Business Tourism Scheme, Scottish Funding Council University Carbon Reduction Fund, Cycling Scotland, CeeD Industry Awards and the International Sustainable Campus Network Excellence Awards for leading collaborations and partnerships for net zero and resilience.

1 Introduction

This note reports on initiatives and actions being taken to tackle climate change mitigation and adaptation across the University estate for the financial year 2021/2022. It also outlines performance against the University's Strategic Plan, our net zero emissions target and operational sustainability action. The University continues to make progress in tackling a range of climate change mitigation and adaptation aspects.

2 University Strategic Plan Carbon Reduction Target

The University has set a target to achieve Net-Zero carbon emissions by 2040 or sooner - KPI 16 within the [Vision 2025 Strategic Plan](#). The first interim target towards this goal is to achieve a 70% reduction against the updated 2018/19 baseline of 37,500 TCO₂e by the end of 2024/25.

Strategic Aim 5.2 in this plan states that it will deliver high quality, sustainable infrastructure by:

- delivering a step-change in our response to climate change: as a community; as an institution; and as a thought leader and creator of 21st century solutions to global issues
- delivering planned infrastructure developments with a focus on net zero
- capitalising on our investment in information systems and tools to allow us to take a digital-first approach, with a focus on simplification and automation of business processes

2.1 Carbon Emission Performance Summary

At the end of the financial year 2021/22, the University's carbon emissions were 27,080¹ Tonnes CO₂e, a 28% reduction from the baseline year. The 2021/22 milestone of 24,370 Tonnes (35% reduction), was therefore missed by 2710 Tonnes (7%).

This increase on the previous year was mainly due to an [increase in business travel](#) as Covid-19 related travel restrictions begun to relax. Scope 2 emissions from grid electricity emissions rose by 700 tonnes but were offset by a reduction in gas consumption of 1040 tonnes.

The University's Capital Investment Programme has been more closely aligned to KPI 16 by prioritising refurbishment over new-build. In addition, any new-build projects are being designed using a fabric-first, low carbon and climate resilient approach.

¹ Figures for emissions are rounded to the nearest 10 for ease of reading.

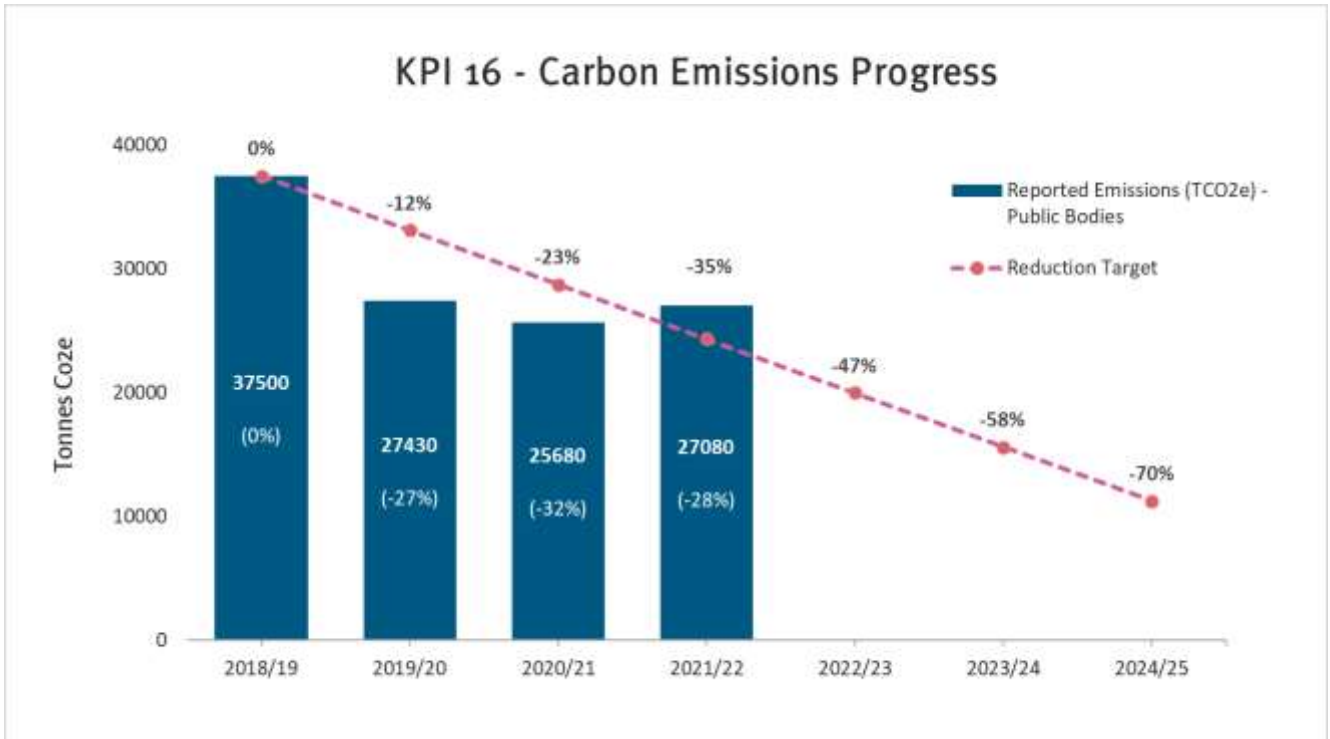


Figure 1 - Strategic Carbon Reduction Target

2.2 Implications on Next Milestone

The total emissions reduction required next year to meet the 2022/23 milestone now stands at approximately 6870 Tonnes CO2e – a 26% reduction on 2021/22 emissions. Significant action on reducing gas consumption and work to limit business travel will be required to achieve this.

2.3 Change in Emissions by Source

Most sources of emissions have risen compared to last year, apart from home working emissions and gas consumption. The most significant rise was in business travel emissions, which were previously less than 5% of baseline.

2.3.1 Cost of Utilities and Water reduction

During 2021/22 utility prices rose to exceptional levels as a result of Russia invading the Ukraine. This resulted in a 65% rise in the cost of utilities compared to 2020/21. These price rises continue to adversely affect future financial years and accelerate the need for energy and water efficiency to reduce operational cost and carbon.

2.3.2 Natural Gas

Emissions from gas use fell by 1037 Tonnes over the year, despite being higher for most months of the year. This early year increase was due to the new Learning and Teaching building opening and Wolfson building being re-opened in the past year. However, from April to June the CHP system was largely offline for maintenance, resulting in a large drop in gas emissions but increase in mains electricity consumption.

Over these 3 months, gas consumption fell considerably, somewhat offsetting the higher consumption earlier in the year.

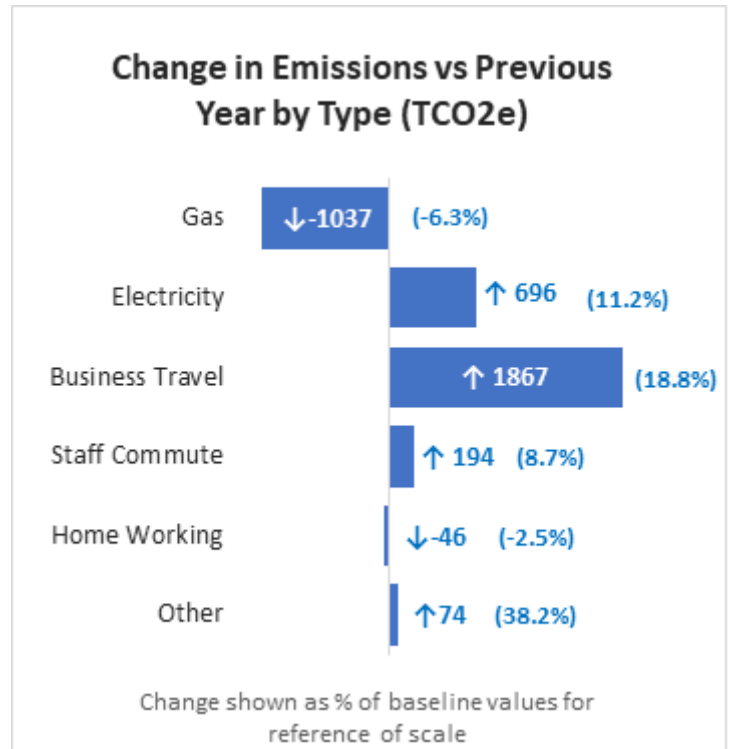


Figure 3: Change against previous year. "Other" Includes emissions from waste, water consumption

2.3.3 Electricity Consumption

Electricity consumption increased this year due to a number of factors. Like gas use, electricity demand on campus increased as more buildings opened. For much of the period April – June 2022, the CHP was offline for servicing and maintenance, meaning an increased reliance on grid electricity rather than electricity generated from the CHP which is reported as gas emissions due to the way it is generated.

Utility Emissions April - June Comparison	
2020/21 Tonnes CO2e	5231
2021/22 Tonnes CO2e	4644
Net Change (Tonnes CO2e)	-588
% Change over period	-11.2%
Net change as % of annual total	-2.6%

Looking at the combined utility emissions over this period shows a net reduction of 12% on the same period the previous year, with a particularly high reduction of 32% in June while the CHP was only active 20% of the time. Due to low summer heating demand, this may be a strategy that the University can use to reduce overall gas consumption, relying on Grid Electricity in summer when the CHP is not needed for heating.

2.3.4 Commuting & Home Working

Levels of commuting have been assumed to increase to 10% of pre-covid level for the first half of the year (previously 5%) and to 20% from May onwards to estimate increased presence of staff on campus. Assumptions around home working energy use have remained static while most teaching is still being done online.

Zoom meeting minutes are still being used to calculate emissions associated with virtual meetings. As we move towards more permanent agile working, more regular data on commuting patterns and numbers of staff on campus will be required to increase the accuracy of these estimates.

2.4 Factors Affecting Current and Future Performance

2.4.1 Current Performance

- There has been a continued downward trend in grid electricity emissions factors in 2021/22 as more UK renewables come on line, and this has reduced campus emissions associated with electricity purchases.
- As we expand our estate, the Gross Internal Area (GIA) rises. This GIA figure has a major impact on the emissions KPI. How much depends on the scale and pace of investment and divestment.
- Construction: Changes in our building stock e.g. new buildings, divestment of buildings, refurbishment, all have a large impact on our emissions KPI.
- Demand Growth: This year we have seen a growth in electrical demand due to increased campus working hours for staff.

2.4.2 Future Performance

- Further emissions reductions are anticipated in 2021/2022 from the continued operation of university solar PV arrays but these reductions may be offset by increases in other emission sources.
- An increase in emissions will result from new developments that are more highly serviced and used more intensively, for example, the new NMIS Digital Factory. Operating more buildings and space heating and power demands will add to this challenge and increase our emissions.
- Future step changes in carbon emissions reduction will be dependent on city-wide solutions and collaboration with others which we are actively working on as part of our [Climate Neutral Districts Vision](#).

2.5 Community Benefits – The Strathclyde Commitment

As part of the University's Climate Change and Social Responsibility Policy, the University is committed to ensuring the delivery of socially progressive outcomes through its procurement processes.

[Climate Change and Social Responsibility Policy](#)

[Strathclyde's CCSR Plan and the SDGs](#)

This commitment includes taking the opportunity to include a range of community-based benefits as a result of procurement activity. This is achieved through the inclusion of specific clauses within procured contracts known as, the 'Strathclyde Commitment' clauses. Two major capital projects completed their Community benefits work during the period. The Socio Economic Impact Assessments for the Learning and Teaching Building and the Wolfson Building are attached below. Each of the reports was prepared using data from the main contractor and compiled by the Fraser of Allander Institute:

[FAI - The Economic Impact of the Learning and Teaching Building](#)

[FAI - The Economic Impact of the Wolfson Building](#)

3 Sustainability Governance

A paper proposing a new Sustainability Governance structure at the University was approved by the Executive Team in October 2021. This led to the formation of a series of new governance groups at the University. The groups began meeting in early 2022.

The Strategic Sustainability Steering Group considers all strategic aspects affecting the delivery of the University's climate targets and makes recommendations to the Executive Team for approval and endorsement.

Six Task Groups develop and deliver a series of work packages that inform and assist the delivery of the CCSR Plan. These Task Groups already existed in an informal capacity and were already delivering meaningful action. This governance review formalises their work and links it directly to the Strategic Steering Group.

The Task Groups were formed around the following sustainability aspects:

- Energy and Adaptation
- Sustainable Resource Use and Supply Chain
- Climate Finance
- Transport and travel
- Performance, Review and Reporting
- Community and Social Responsibility Engagement and Communication

More information on the new governance structure, including an organogram can be found in Appendix B.

4 Climate Neutral Districts Vision

The Sustainable Strathclyde Team has developed a new 'whole systems' approach to climate projects that will deliver 100% renewable heat, power, transport, adaptation and wellbeing solutions that are socially inclusive and community-focused. The work aims to directly engage with and solve the challenges to reaching climate neutrality at scale and at speed and is outlined in full within our [Climate Neutral Districts Vision Paper](#).

The projects are multi stakeholder and collaborative and span across all operational University assets in the central belt of Scotland. The projects (ten in the current vision) will enable us to deliver our University Climate Change and Social Responsibility Policy and Plan. Our work on Glasgow's [Climate Neutral Innovation District](#) is a great example of this scale and collaboration in a city centre context.

4.1 Project Scope

The project's starting point and core ethos is 'climate neutral', meaning operationally energy carbon neutral and climate resilient. The Sustainable Strathclyde team is leading and investing in a series of technical and commercial studies. All focused on creating climate neutral 'districts' by making use of natural and physical resources under our control and through partnerships. The solutions aim to be scalable and replicable to all University and Local Authority districts as appropriate. Half are infrastructure related. Half focus on systems and process. All directly enable climate action and will be designed to be future proofed.

Infrastructure solutions will bring together and integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation elements into the fabric of projects, making them accessible for all and seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at scale. Seeking to be as socially inclusive as possible: we will collaborate with community groups and organisations to agree on progress. The work will build on emerging climate policy and planning (e.g. the Heat Networks Act), and seek to integrate with existing and planned city and region infrastructure projects.

Each project ensures that a link between research, innovation and education is provided as a shared learning outcome for all participants and the community. The location of the projects is shown in the attached link (all city or across west central Scotland). Solutions identified are being costed and prioritised so that they can be funded, scaled up and replicated across the region and the HE sector. The technical outputs of this vision are shared with the University community and with wider city and region stakeholder groups such as Sustainable Glasgow, Climate Ready Clyde and Clyde Mission.

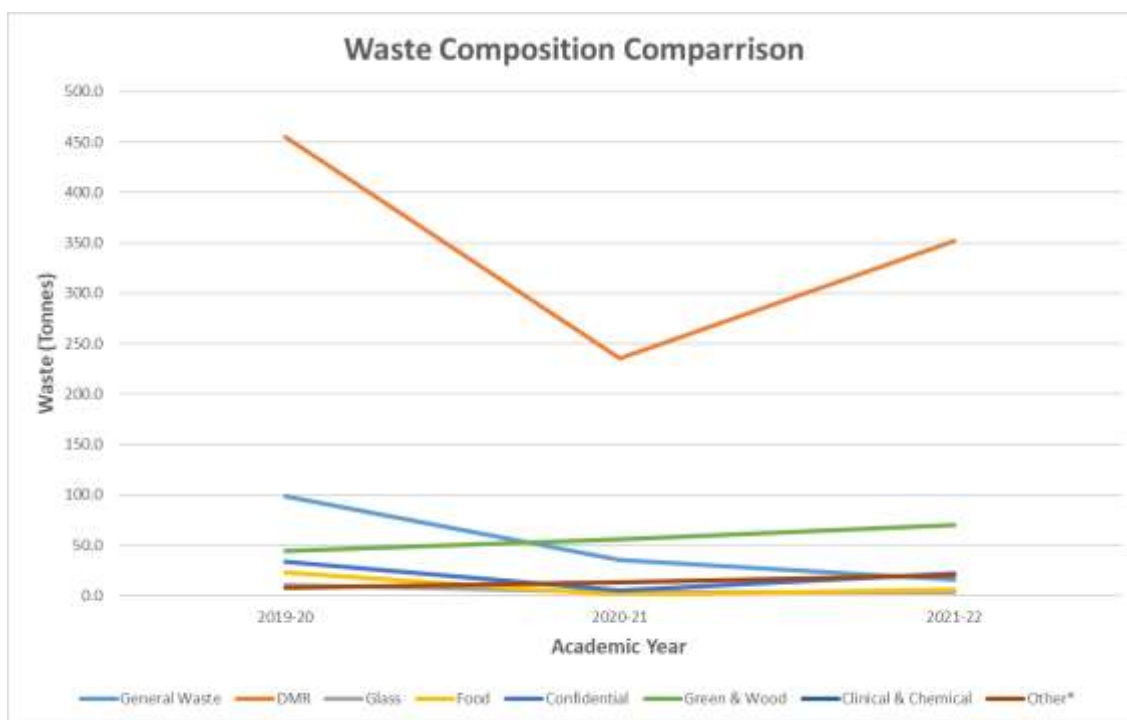
5 Climate Change Adaptation

The Public Bodies Climate Change Reporting Duties require institutions to bring forward plans to cope with the impacts of climate change adaptation, increased rainfall, extreme weather events and installation of more robust infrastructure. A number of ongoing initiatives are now underway to adapt to climate change issues and these are noted below:

- WSP were commissioned in August 2021 to conduct a Climate Resilience and Vulnerability Assessment of the University Estate. The results of this work were published [here](#) in July 2022 and presented to the Climate Neutral Estate Feasibility Steering Group and Energy and Adaptation Task Group.

- The University is represented on the Board of Climate Ready Clyde, a collaboration between a range of organisations in the River Clyde catchment including Local Authorities, NHS, Universities and Scottish Government.
- Climate Change Adaptation solutions are being integrated into new building designs, e.g. a green roof on the new Learning and Teaching Building and rain gardens are being designed into the Heart of the Campus Project which will pedestrianise and relandscape the central part of the city University campus.
- A Climate Change Adaptation Policy has been developed and can be found on our [policies and reports page](#)
- The University continues to be represented on Adaptation Scotland's (Sniffer) Adaptation Benchmarking Working Group to participate in knowledge exchange and consultation activities alongside other private sector organisations in Scotland working in connection with adaptation.

6 Waste Resource Management



The University continues to achieve 100% diversion from landfill. In 2021-22, clinical and chemical waste tonnage was included in reporting for the first time due to improvements in reporting from the contractor. Overall, waste arisings across the university have increased from 350 tonnes in 2020/21 to 555 tonnes in 2021/22, an increase of 58%. This can be attributed to increased operations following recovery and

return to campus after the Covid-19 outbreak, and improved reporting capturing additional waste streams.

6.1 Resource Reuse – The Reuse, Recycling and Resource Centre (RRREC) at Corn Street

The RRREC at Corn Street continues to be a valuable asset in terms of reuse, waste and material management. Several service providers are currently being investigated to allow an internal inventory of furniture and materials to be made available. Work on specification and design for the refit of the facility was undertaken through the reporting period, however, due to the extreme increase in costs following the pandemic, additional work is required to rationalise the works and ensure the space will be fit for purpose. A feasibility study has been commissioned through Stantec to examine additional requirements to allow the implementation of an inventory management system for furniture and last-mile delivery hub. It is anticipated this report and next steps will be available in 2022/23.

6.2 Plastic Waste Reduction

The university successfully replaced single use plastic items in all catering outlets with compostable items. However, there is a waste industry-wide issue with a limited number of In Vessel Composting (IVC) sites in Scotland able to accept compostable catering disposables, as it can require an extended composting period to ensure complete breakdown of the material and can result in uncomposted material present in the end product, limiting utility and value and utility of the compost. The university Waste contractor has been tasked with investigating options for this and a report is expected in 22/23. In the meantime, compostable materials are extracted from the waste stream and sent to Energy From Waste plants, maintaining our diversion from landfill commitment.

7 Staff, Student and Wider Stakeholder Engagement

During the 2021/22 academic session, engagement activities continued to see staff and students getting involved on wider levels. The main engagement campaigns centred around Fairtrade Fortnight which involved social media engagement raffles and deals on ethically sourced food, and continuing the university's support for the Glasgow Goes Green Festival alongside the University of Glasgow, Glasgow School of Art, and Glasgow Caledonian University.

Work on our Climate Neutral Districts continued at pace. This work has been helpfully supported by Professional Services colleagues from Procurement, Finance, Estates, Human Resources and Strategy and Planning. Academic Support continues to be gratefully received from colleagues across all faculties,

the Centre for Sustainable Development and our students. Further metrics in connection with engagement can be found in appendix 1.

7.1 Glasgow Goes Green Festival

Each year the University of Strathclyde teams up with the University of Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian University and The Glasgow School of Art to collaboratively organise and run the Glasgow Goes Green Festival. The 2022 instalment of the festival was focused on the theme of 'Creating Our Planet' and it aimed to highlight the importance of creative and interdisciplinary climate action. Sustainable Strathclyde co-ordinated the University of Strathclyde's support of this through contributing financial support as well as engaging with students and staff members via social media to encourage them to get involved. The festival included a series of creative workshops and ended with an art exhibition at the Alchemy Experiment that focused on the festival's theme.

7.2 Jump

The "Jump" engagement and behavioural reward programme has continued to grow, and now has 437 staff and 86 students utilising the platform. Last year Strathclyde users logged 16,728 actions, made 1,592 active journeys, saved 4,054 reusable cups and avoided an impressive 28,912kg of CO₂ - the equivalent of 22 flights from London to New York.

7.3 Carbon Literacy Training

During 2021/22, we continued to offer Carbon Literacy Training for both staff and students. The training consists of 8 hours of training focused on climate change awareness, climate justice and the actions we can all take. This is spread out over three 2-hour Zoom workshops and 2 hours of self-led learning. 70 staff members from a wide range of departments have taken part in this training.

Sustainable Strathclyde began working with the Centre for Sustainable Development and the Education for Sustainable Development working group to redesign the course. The aim of this new partnership is to ensure that the training is streamlined and holistic while also better communication the important role the university plays in climate action. This redesign aims to be delivered in the next year.

7.4 Management Development Programme (MDP) Students

Following on from Sustainable Strathclyde's ongoing partnership with the Widening Access team, a series of students were interviewed and 8 chosen to take part in the Sustainable Strathclyde team as part of their MDP course where Sustainable Strathclyde acts as a client of business advice and communications support. The students managed the Sustainable Strathclyde Students Society, supported communications surrounding the Jump programme, and completed three data analysis projects looking at Jump engagement, Public Body Reporting carbon emissions and sustainability in the curriculum.

8 Sustainable Labs (S-Labs)

S-Labs is a national environmental accreditation programme that aims to make labs safer, successful and sustainable.

The S-Labs 50% Incentive Fund continues to provide new energy and water-efficient equipment in exchange of old ones. In 2021/22 the following initiatives were funded:

- 70 water condensers replaced by waterless condensers, each saving ~ 480 litres of water per week on average.
- 4 oil baths replaced by DrySyn units, reducing energy use and removing hot oil from our labs.
- 4 recirculating water chillers were attached to rotary evaporators saving water.
- 8 energy inefficient drying ovens were replaced with less energy consuming ones.

A consultant's study into how to reduce single use plastics in Strathclyde labs has been conducted with actions to be undertaken in the new year. The top priority will be replacing the single use nitrile gloves with a more sustainable alternative.

A baseline greenhouse gas inventory for labs was also developed by consultants and will enable a programme of carbon reduction measures to be planned and implemented in labs. The launch of the new Strathclyde LEAF programme in 2022/23 will identify and monitor what measures can and are being implemented to improve lab operations.

Finally, the Centre for Continuous Manufacturing and Crystallisation (CMAC) in TIC were awarded £2.5M from the UKRPIF Net Zero fund for 'Towards Net Zero Medicines Development & Manufacturing'. The bid was heavily supported by the Sustainable Strathclyde team and an advisory group has been setup with the Head of Climate Action advising on emissions monitoring and measurement.

8.1 Living Lab Initiatives

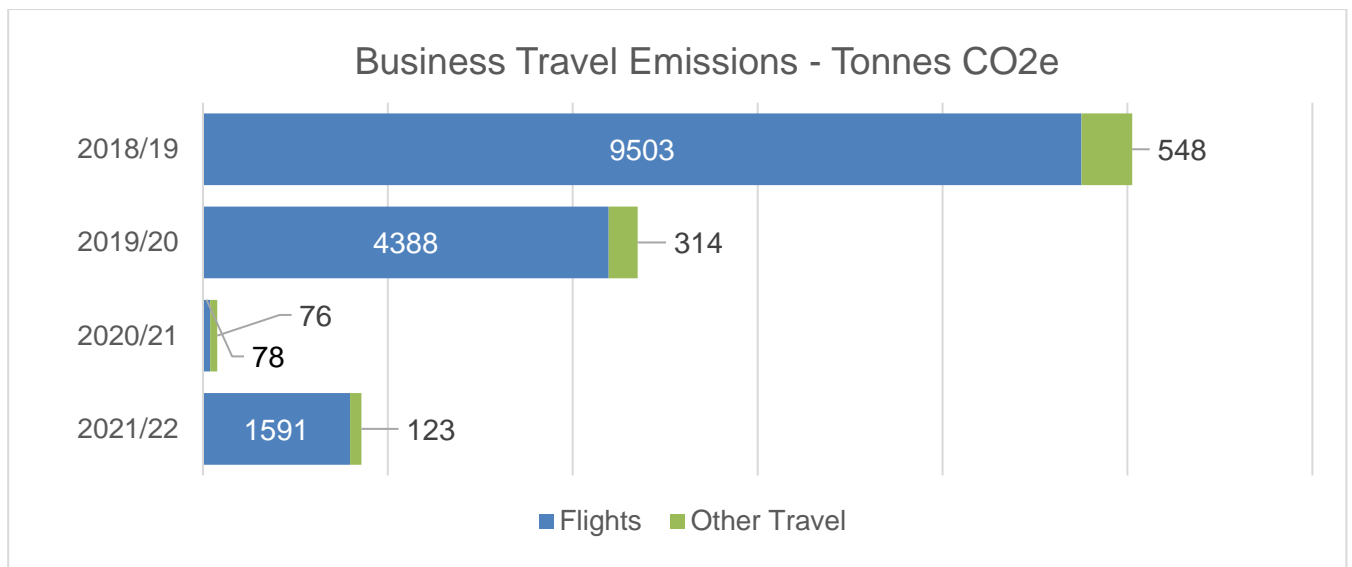
The Sustainable Strathclyde team also works with academic colleagues to enable students to undertake campus-based sustainability projects integrated with course curriculum, research activity, or as a volunteer opportunity. To date, more than 138 students across a number of faculties have worked on projects in partnership with the Sustainable Strathclyde Team across several faculties covering a wide range of social, environmental, technical and commercial practice areas.

9 Sustainable Travel

The sustainability team have continued to work on reducing the environmental impact of University travel, as outlined in our [Sustainable Travel Plan](#). Work is underway to update this plan and develop a new Active and Sustainable Travel Strategy for the next five-year period.

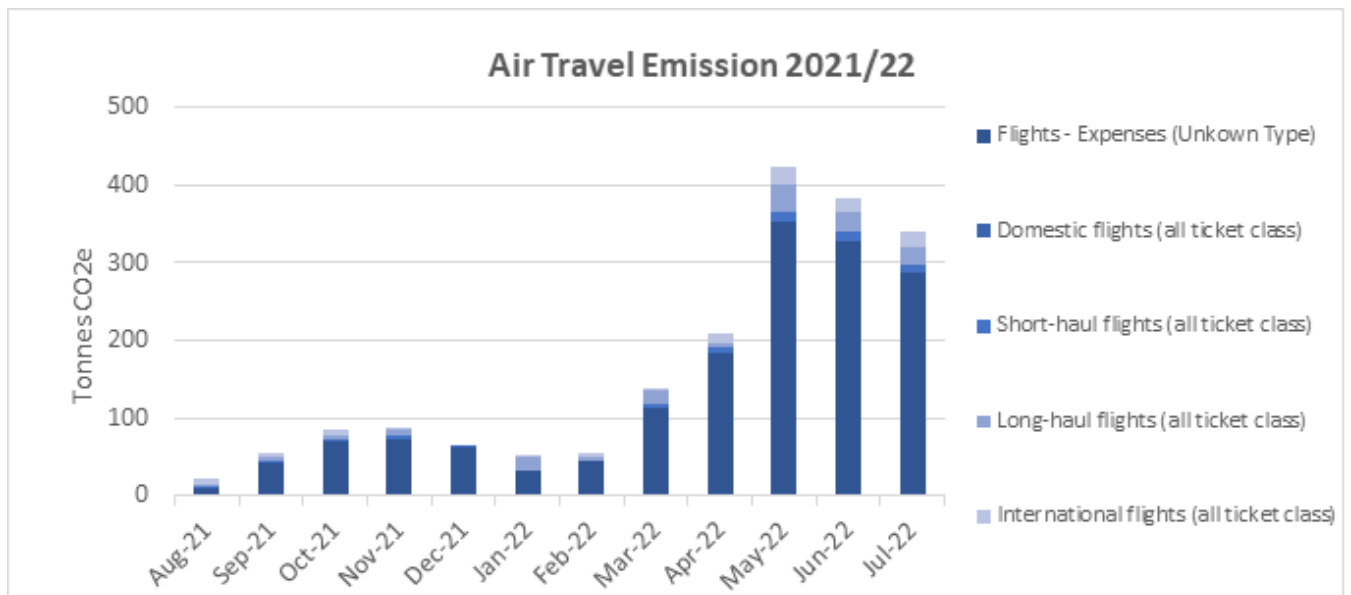
9.1 Business Travel

The University has been progressing work on a new Sustainable Travel Policy, covering all business travel and student travel relating to coursework. This is being taken forward in close collaboration with the University finance directorate and procurement team via the Transport and Travel Task Group. Significant progress was made in 2021-22 on the policy document, potential implementations of new approvals to travel, and market research for the procurement of a Travel Management Company.



9.1.1 Monitoring Emissions

While business travel emissions remained very low compared to baseline values for the first 8 months of the year, there was a sharp increase in the volume of air travel from March to May, which remained high throughout the rest of the financial year. While this was a significant increase on the previous year - due to abnormally low travel during Covid-19 restrictions - emissions remained lower than pre-pandemic levels, at around 50% of an average baseline month.



Travel expenses claims are still the most common method of flight booking by a large margin. Staff are being encouraged to use Key Travel (the contracted University travel provider company) which provides additional benefits and more accurate data.

The Sustainability team are working with Strategy and Policy colleagues to improve business travel monitoring and reporting and Finance to ensure that all business travel trips are accurately recorded to aid future monitoring efforts.

9.2 Pedestrian First Campuses

A key strand of our work on developing climate neutral districts is to look at place making in a holistic sense – incorporating biodiversity, accessibility, nature-based solutions, and improved connectivity. Two large scale collaborative projects are currently underway with neighbouring City of Glasgow College, and Glasgow City Council to make these changes and improve connections to local communities.

Re-designing our places with a focus on pedestrians will make it easier and safer to walk, wheel, or cycle around and through the campus. Building in sustainable drainage, will help our campus adapt to a changing climate, and re-configuring the spaces to be more sociable will improve the student experience on campus.

9.2.1 Heart of the Campus

We are developing a plan to create a stunning centrepiece for Strathclyde, by pedestrianising and re-landscaping Rottenrow Gardens, North Portland Street and Richmond Street. Vehicle access in this busy part of campus will be restricted to make spaces safer for staff and students to move around. A new green-roof covered walkway will provide a sheltered connection from East to West and a habitat for local wildlife. Planning approval has been secured and the detailed designs are being finalised.



9.2.2 Places for Everyone

Led by the University of Strathclyde, the Places for Everyone Project is a £2M collaboration between the University, Glasgow City Council, City of Glasgow College and Sustrans. The aim and vision of the project is to form an active, safe and walkable Learning Quarter in the north-east of the city centre through the creation of an innovative urban realm, which improves the physical environment and allows the student population to move freely between the University of Strathclyde, City of Glasgow College and nearby Glasgow Caledonian University and the rest of the city centre.

This year the project progressed through stage 2 with extensive stakeholder and public consultation on the project aims, key deliverables early concept designs. This involved EDI workshops, technical workshops, and meetings with community councils. Consultation gravitated around type of infrastructure needed on identified routes to abate barriers to mobility and outputs will be collated into a stage 2 report early in 2022-23

9.2.3 Active Travel Safe Zone for FHEI in Glasgow

To build on collaborations established through the Glasgow Active Travel Forum and push for improved active travel connectivity between the Universities and colleges in Glasgow, the University commissioned a study of Active Travel routes and barriers around the Strathclyde campus. This included a review of proposed and ongoing walking and cycling route upgrades across Glasgow to identify gaps in the

network that limit travel between institutions. Outputs of this were communicated with the council to help develop the Active Travel Network and prioritise routes connecting to the Learning Quarter.

9.3 Active Travel Support

9.3.1 Cycle to Work Scheme

The University continued to operate its successful cycle to work scheme throughout 2021/22. Over this year, 50 certificates were issued with an average value of £1740. This was a drop on the previous year when transport restrictions and promotion of Active Travel as a Covid-safe means of transport saw a large spike in applications.

9.3.2 Cycle Parking

Small upgrades were made to cycle parking across campus this year, with 4 new racks installed outside the Learning and Teaching building, and an additional 10 racks installed in the McCance secure cycle hub. Bike storage across the John Anderson campus is under review.

The University's new NMIS facility under construction within the AMIDs district has a large cycle shelter within its specification that will provide approximately 80 bike parking spaces in a secure and sheltered facility.

9.4 Transition to Electric Vehicles

9.4.1 University fleet

The University grounds team took delivery of an electric sweeper for grounds and street cleaning across the John Anderson Campus, aiding air quality, emissions, and noise levels in busy student areas of the campus. Charger network issues have caused data quality to be poor, but based on the two months of data available, it is estimated that this change saved 625kg CO₂e².

² Comparison based on grid electricity emissions vs equivalent energy output of typical diesel engine.

9.4.2 Staff pool vehicles

The all staff electric pool car scheme remained at a reduced size over 2021/22 due to the limited level of on campus working. Staff required to be on campus were still able to access the scheme and 1164 miles were done, avoiding an estimated 320kg CO₂e over the year³.

A scope for a new contract is being put together for the next academic year, anticipating a greater return to in person working, and to enable expansion of the scheme in collaboration with various academic departments consider consolidation of vehicles or down-sizing of fleet to more easily align with the incoming Low Emission Zone.

9.4.3 Charging Infrastructure

In February 2022, 4 existing charge points at the John Anderson Campus were replaced as part of a research project with PNDC. This project partnered with the company Connected Kerb, who offer an online dashboard with greater monitoring capability than is currently available to the University through Charge Place Scotland. The team at PNDC were given access to charging session and fault data to investigate remote fault detection and early diagnosis to improve charger utilisation time.

³ Compared to the same mileage done in an average sized of unknown fuel.

10 Ecology and Biodiversity

During the year, planning for the integration of rain gardens, green roofs, green walls have continued. These climate adaptation and biodiversity solutions are being integrated within new and emerging capital projects as part of the University Sustainable Design Quality Standards. These interventions include the Strathclyde Business School, the Learning and Teaching Building and the Heart of the Campus design.

In collaboration with the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy & Biomedical Sciences (SIPBS), Sustainable Strathclyde assisted in the addition of two raised growing beds to be operated by staff from the SIPBS department. This has been further complimented with new benches and outdoor tables in the area, creating an interactive greenspace that the staff of SIPBS have planted with native plants and some vegetables, enhancing staff wellbeing and improving the biodiversity of the area.

11 Fairtrade and Sustainable Procurement

The University was assessed at the end of the current Fairtrade award period and achieved Fairtrade University “Working Towards” status. The report highlighted that this downgrade from accredited status was primarily due to incomplete evidence of regular Fairtrade task group meetings in 21/22 and an updated SMART plan for the delivery and expansion of Fairtrade products. It was noted that many of these meetings were suspended over the Covid period. The Sustainability Steering Group has initiated a number of task groups including task group 2: Sustainable Resources and Supply Chain, in which Fairtrade status and planning will be made a regular agenda item to ensure work continues and remains active going forward.

In January 2022, the Procurement team and Sustainable Strathclyde worked collaboratively on the development of a new [Sustainable Procurement Strategy](#) for 2022/23. This includes a commitment to meeting the requirements of the Sustainable Procurement Duty and to improve the social, environmental and economic wellbeing within the University and surrounding area, facilitating the involvement of SMEs, third sector bodies and supported businesses. The strategy also commits to utilising the Scottish Government’s Sustainability Test for all procurement activities above a set threshold, and rolling out the use of the [EcoVadis](#) platform to identify and monitor the sustainability efforts of suppliers within the university’s supply chain.

12 Awards and Achievements

The following environment and sustainability awards and accreditations were secured by the University during the year.

- Green Business Tourism Scheme Gold Award for the Conference and Events Team at TIC
- Scottish Funding Council University Carbon Reduction Fund awarded £852,528 for CHP enhancement works.
- Cycling Scotland also awarded the university grant funding to improve facilities on the John Anderson campus.
- CeeD Industry Award Winners 2022 in the category of Collaboration in Net Zero in February 2022.
- In March the Climate Neutral Glasgow City Innovation District was selected as a winner of the 2022 International Sustainable Campus Network Excellence Awards in the Partnerships for Progress Category

Appendices

Appendix A

Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Events and Engagement

Name	Date	No. People engaged
Dr Bike – 4 Sessions	September and March	70
Jump Engagement	Ongoing	500+ students and staff
Strathclyde Fresher’s Week 2021	September 2021	1000+ students
EAUC Participation	ongoing	30+
Climate Ready Clyde Participation	ongoing	50+
Carbon Literacy	ongoing	70+
Glasgow Goes Green Festival	February 2022	100+

Strategic Engagement Activities

Considerable effort has been made to engage with stakeholders that can help to positively influence the University’s ability to tackle climate change.

A note of the stakeholders and aspects discussed is noted below:

- GCC City Deal Team – to engage with and comment on the opportunity for collaboration on the investment in urban realm works at John Street, Cathedral Street and George Street.
- Climate Ready Clyde – the University is represented on the Climate Ready Clyde Board
- Scottish Government – the University continues to engage with the Scottish Government through both strategic and ad-hoc forums, particularly on the development of the Government’s Heat Network Fund, that aims to allocate funding to organisations and groups that can bring forward low carbon energy projects.
- Sustainable Scotland Network – the University is represented on the Steering Group
- Sustainable Glasgow – the University is represented on the partnership Board and in a number of the topic-specific “Hubs”

Appendix B

Membership of Governance Groups

A number of ET members are included on the SSSG reflecting experience and relevance of their portfolios. Other members have key relevant portfolios or act as representatives of distinct parts of the university community.

Sustainability Strategic Steering Group	Membership (suitable substitutes can be made with approval of the Chair)
	CFO
	Associate Principal (R&I)
	Chief Digital and Information Officer
	Associate Principal(Social Inclusion)
	Executive Lead Sustainability (Co-ordinator)
	Director of Strategy and Policy
	Director of Estates
	X2 Faculty Representatives, nominated by the Deans (can include Faculty Managers or academic experts)
	Student President
	Director of Centre for Sustainable Development
	Director of Corporate Communications
	<i>Other members and suitable substitutes as appropriate</i>
Supporting Task Groups	Membership (each group will have a lead person and will be assisted by a number of colleagues as appropriate, flexible as required)
1. Energy and Adaptation	Lead – Head of Climate Action Assisted by 5 other members – Estates Services; Academic; Residences; I.T.; HR

2. Sustainable Resources and Supply Chain	Lead – Head of Sustainable Resources (post at ATA stage) Assisted by 5 other members – Procurement; Laboratories; Catering; Student Body; Sustainable Strathclyde
3. Climate Finance	Lead – Director of Finance Assisted by 3 other members – Estates; Finance; Executive Lead Sustainability
4. Transport and Travel	Lead – Sustainable Travel and Transport Planner Assisted by 4 other members – Finance; Health and Safety; Academic; Student Body
5. Performance Review and Reporting	Lead – Strategy and Planning Team Assisted by 2 other members – Communications; Finance;
6. Community and Engagement	Lead – Executive Lead Sustainability/Head of Communications and Marketing Assisted by 4 other members – Estates Services; TIC Zone/GCID; Academic; Student Body

Proposed Sustainability Governance Structure (Net Zero KPI 16 and CCSR Targets)

