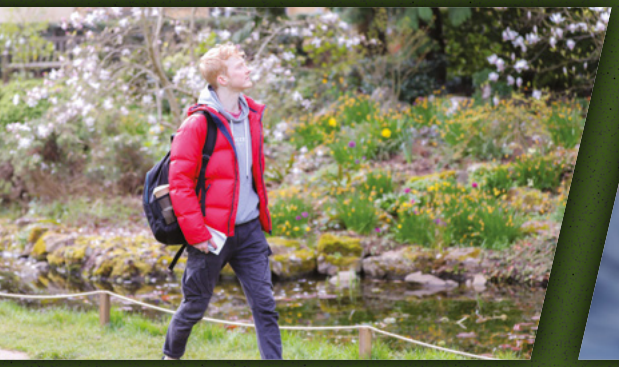
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT

August 2023 - July 2024



University of BRISTOL

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INTRODUCTION

The University's mission is to make a positive impact locally, nationally and globally by addressing society's greatest challenges. As a university we support citizens and future citizens through research, education, engagement and management relating to sustainability. Our work in this space spans every area of the University, with key teams including the Cabot Institute, Bristol Futures, Procurement, Bristol SU, Bristol Student Hub, External Estates, Public Engagement, Library Services and Sustainability, based in the Campus Division.

This report focuses on the operational and environmental elements of the University's Sustainability Strategy.

Foreword

The Sustainability Team is responsible for the overall sustainability of operations across the campus, including transport, circular economy, science impacts, water and energy, and delivers this by 'Making a sustainable university, by managing our precious resources, maintaining our sustainable standards and minding our impact on our communities'. Alongside developing and maintaining infrastructure and services, the Team also focuses on behaviour change to support the rollout and uptake of its initiatives.

The biggest focus across the Team is to reduce our Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions to net-zero. In essence this means we aim to reduce our emissions to as low as possible, offsetting the rest.

The aim of our annual report is to be transparent about our performance in relation to key objectives set out in our sustainability operations sub-strategies. These include biodiversity, carbon, transport, the circular economy and food. It's only by monitoring our performance that we can ensure we are always striving to improve.

Naomi Gornall,
Head of Net Zero Carbon and Sustainability

FROM CRISIS TO ACTION

5 YEARS OF IMPACT SINCE OUR CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

LEAF
The Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework

990
labs - all at least a bronze certification

Carbon emissions down by **47%** from baseline 2005/06

Total waste down by **26%**

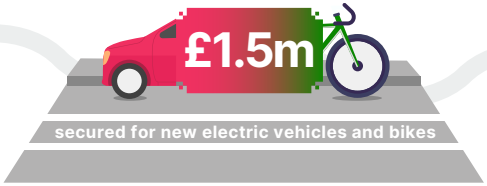
35%
reduction in water use since 2007/08

New Building Energy Management System (BEMS)

British Heart Foundation

£1.6m
raised for BHF via Bristol Big Give Campaign

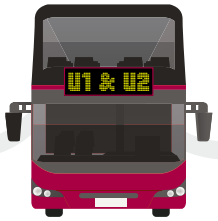
550+
Cycle to Work scheme bikes purchased



96.4
Tonnes of furniture rehomed

500kW
solar available across multiple sites

100%
low carbon electricity



U1 & U2 bus services thriving

38
groups implementing climate action plans

3,900+
job log tasks complete by waste operatives

25+
student internships with the Sustainability Team

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The University of Bristol has adopted a Circular Economy approach to managing its resources. This offers potential cost savings as well as sustainability improvements and redefines how our institution manages its resources, away from a linear model of 'make, purchase, consume and dispose'.

Sustainable consumption, waste prevention & reduction

Sustainable consumption best practice is key to our circular economy targets, as well as waste prevention and reduction. 'Whole Life Costing' models were developed in 2018-2019 and our key focus is working with teams across the University to embed sustainability into the tendering process to ensure waste costs are considered in the process, along with other broader sustainability criteria.

In April 2022 we introduced a new Furniture, Fixings and Equipment Policy and are now working on embedding circular economy principles in our furniture and other equipment purchase tenders, as well as other contracts such as removals.

Reuse, recycle, compost and anaerobic digestion

The University currently reviewing its waste management targets following the appointment of several new contractors to manage some of our most significant waste streams.

In 2023/24, the total waste produced was 8% down on the previous year. The proportions of total waste sent for re-use and recycling increased slightly on last year, to a combined total of around 45%. The rate of composting (including anaerobic digestion) fell from 14% of total waste to 9% - mainly due to alternative procedures used by our new food waste contractor.

Around 4% of total waste was reused through our in-house furniture reuse platform, Re-Store, and by working with charities such as the British Heart Foundation, Bristol Wood Recycling Project and Better World Books. Re-Store alone enabled a redistribution of nearly 14 tonnes of furniture across our campus. Working with our new contractor Blackmore, around 19 tonnes of electronic waste (mainly IT equipment) was also diverted to reuse.

Incineration, Energy from Waste and landfill

In 2023/24 the University sent just 0.2% of its waste to landfill, recovering energy from waste (EFW) wherever possible. We continually review waste disposal routes with our contractors and this year maintained the proportion of waste incinerated without energy recovery at around 4%.

Recycling facilities at Wills Memorial Building

Collecting furniture for the Re-Store scheme

PROCUREMENT

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a framework for managing an organisation's environmental impacts. ISO 14001 is an international standard providing guidelines for establishing and operating an EMS. The Sustainability Team uses ISO 14001 to enhance environmental performance, reduce risks, and demonstrate commitment to sustainable practices and output.

The Team maintains and annually reviews an environmental legislation register, available on our website, which covers all emissions and discharges, providing assurance for pollution prevention and compliance with legislation.

Sustainable procurement best practice is key to our circular economy targets and supports the University's progress towards our targets in waste prevention and reduction.

The University's Responsible Procurement Plan 2024-2030 sets strategic objectives for sustainable procurement, social value and ethical sourcing and guides plans to the end of the University's Strategy period. This provides strategic guidance that will inform the University's approach to responsible procurement both now and following the implementation of the Procurement Act in February 2025

The policy and subsequent processes that followed work towards embedding into all tenders a balanced consideration of social, ethical, environmental and economic impacts as well as value for money, evaluating the whole-life costs of major goods, services and works.

The University is an Associate Member of Electronics Watch, which provides industry intelligence and risk assessment information about key products and contributes to the security of the University's supply chain and the elimination of poor labour and environmental practices, forced labour or modern slavery from our supply chain.

Scope 3 emissions reporting

During 2023-24, the University participated for the third time in national reporting of Scope 3 emissions conducted by the Southern Universities Procurement Consortium (SUPC) (i.e. those from our supply chain). Continued participation will improve our understanding of this area, as well as working closely with our trusted suppliers. This is an important contribution to measuring and managing our wider Scope 3 carbon footprint.

This complements the (historically more developed) reporting that the University has been able to do for Scope 1 and 2 emissions, which already allow us to identify our highest-emission processes and building locations (e.g. low-temperate storage freezers).

Replacement of high Scope 1 & 2 equipment

One of our key priorities continues to be supporting the purchase of less carbon-intensive equipment. This is difficult to achieve without considerable resources in energy efficiency and alternative energy consumption (e.g. replacing gas boilers with heat-pumps). The Procurement Team is working with the Sustainability Team to facilitate a relatively small number of initial changes (e.g. known changes in pilot buildings), to review and influence current investment and maintenance programmers, and to scope the further changes required. This project is dependent on the wider strategic appetite for physical change within the plan period.

Local supply

The University's spend on products from suppliers based within the West of England city-region exceeds £45m, due partly to an extension of procurement of locally based construction companies for medium-level refurbishment and construction projects. This reduces the number of miles travelled by contractors and supplies in transit, and contributes to the economic resilience of the city-region.

The University works with other higher education institutions and public bodies in the local region to maximise the ability of local suppliers to tender successfully and to deliver social, environmental and economic benefits in the South West.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

Transport is essential to delivering the University's mission yet responsible for some of its most significant negative impacts on the environment. Managing these impacts is a key focus for the Sustainability Team through its Travel and Transport Delivery Plan.

The Plan aims to reduce transport-related emissions by applying the sustainable transport hierarchy, in summary:

- reduce demand for travel and transport and reliance on motorised modes through smart working practices and campus development;
- make sustainable travel (such as cycling, walking, public transport and car-sharing) the first choice for all essential commuting and business journeys;
- improve the efficiency of operational and supply chain transport by reducing journeys and shifting to zero-emission technologies.

Among the key activities undertaken by the Team on a day-to-day basis to achieve these aims are:

- managing and developing the contract for Bristol Unibus, a high-quality bus network linking University campuses at Clifton, Stoke Bishop and Langford;
- enhancing trip-end facilities for staff and student cyclists (secure cycle parking, showers etc) across the University estate;
- managing and developing University parking policy in a way that balances essential vehicle access across the estate with the environmental impacts of private car use;
- working with capital development colleagues to ensure that all new campus developments meet the highest industry standards for sustainable transport provision;
- offering advice, practical support and incentives to staff and students to encourage use of sustainable travel all types of journeys (e.g. Cycle to Work scheme, discounted bus tickets;
- modernising University fleet transport operations through investment in electric vehicles and e-cargo bikes and introduction of a fleet management system; and supporting faculties and professional services divisions to measure and manage their wider transport footprint, e.g. from air travel, through the Climate Action Plan process.

Staff travel

According to the Travelwest Travel to Work Survey (March 2023), 82% of staff commuting journeys were made by walking, cycling, car sharing and public transport, and 19% by single occupancy car (78% and 22% respectively in March 2022). Although the target of 85% has still not been achieved, progress has been made. Participation in the University's Cycle to Work scheme stands at around 200 participants annually, which supports the increase in cycling from 20% (2022) to 26% (2023) as a mode of commuting.

Student travel

The percentage of student journeys to study by a sustainable mode remains at a reported 86%, as no further data is currently available.

Usage on the Unibus services increased by 35.44% on 2022-23. The U1 bus service carried 1,055,198 passengers and the U2 carried 123,299 for the period of August 2023 to July 2024.

University fleet

We made further progress in 2023/24 towards our target of a 100% electric road vehicle fleet by 2026.

The University now has a total of 44 all-electric vans and eight hybrid electric vehicles, out of a total road fleet of more than 90 vehicles. Twenty-nine charge points have been installed across the estate, providing 57 connectors -sufficient capacity for the entire EV fleet with room for future growth.

A fleet of ten e-bikes including six Urban Arrow cargo bikes was also brought into operation in 2022/23 further supports the drive towards a Net Zero campus by 2030.

Unibus U2 service to Langford

ENERGY, CARBON AND WATER

Our target is to become net-zero in our Scope 1 & 2 emissions from buildings over which we have operational control. Beyond that we are focused on lowering our Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions with our Sustainability Strategy,

Increasing the efficiency of our asset base

Improving the efficiency and decarbonising energy use in buildings is key to reaching our net-zero target. A number of things must be considered including asset status, use and age, as well as whether the demands on the asset are the same as they were at the time of build. Boiler upgrade works have been completed in two of our key buildings, significantly reducing the energy required to provide heat to these sites. We have now permanently shut down our final CHP engines, using more energy efficient existing boilers, when heat is required.

Energy controls

The table below outlines our Scope 1 & 2 carbon emissions from our buildings in tonnes:

	Co2 emissions	Total % decrease (from baseline year 2005/06)
2005/06	46,701	
2018/19	31,389	32.78%
2019/20	27,514	41.08%
2020/21	27,253	41.63%
2021/22	25,008	46.34%
2022/23	24,931	46.61%
2023/24	23,037	50.65%

Overall, Scope 1 & 2 carbon emissions from our buildings are down by 51% from baseline year 2005/06.

Building energy controls

Over the past 12 months, the increase in preventative maintenance within our Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS) has contributed significantly to utility savings. While we acknowledge that the absence of granular metering presents challenges in precisely quantifying these savings, the improvements in energy efficiency are evident. Through regular upkeep, equipment is running optimally, reducing energy waste and improving system reliability. Much of the savings can be attributed to good housekeeping practices, such as more efficient scheduling, fine-tuning system settings, and addressing small issues before they escalate. Although this cannot account for the full utility reduction this year, a portion of these savings can be confidently linked to these proactive measures.

Renewable energy

With the addition of a small new solar array at Bristol Digital Futures Institute (BDFI) we now have just over 500kW of solar power available across our estate. We are reviewing opportunities to use more solar power and heat pumps, but this is not without its challenges – particularly as the electricity grid is undergoing momentous change.

We're also looking at ways to recycle heat that might otherwise have been wasted, particularly from computer servers – promising sites have been identified and will be further investigated in 2024/25.

Key areas to address Scope 1 & 2 emissions:

1. Optimise our use of space.
2. Conserve energy.
3. Use energy more efficiently.
4. Build and refurbish to the highest cost-effective energy standards.
5. Use self-generated heat and electricity from zero/lower-carbon sources.
6. Use local externally generated heat and electricity from zero/lower-carbon networks.
7. Buy gas and electricity from zero/lower carbon sources.
8. Offset of the remaining carbon emissions.

Key areas to address Scope 3 emissions:

- Use scientifically sound carbon targets identify a time scale for delivering net-zero carbon.
- Develop Circular Economy and Transport plans which will enable a transition to net-zero.
- In May 2024 the University recruited a new specialist role focused on refining our measurement of Scope 3 carbon emissions, including those from purchased goods and services, construction and travel, and proactively reducing impacts across the University.

ENERGY, CARBON AND WATER

Meter reading at Stoke Bishop Halls of Residences

Contracts

By working with other Universities, we can reduce financial risks from escalating energy prices and encourage new renewable energy installations. We currently buy 10-20% of our electricity directly from windfarms using contracts called Power Purchase Agreements and are working on investigating further opportunities to increase this.

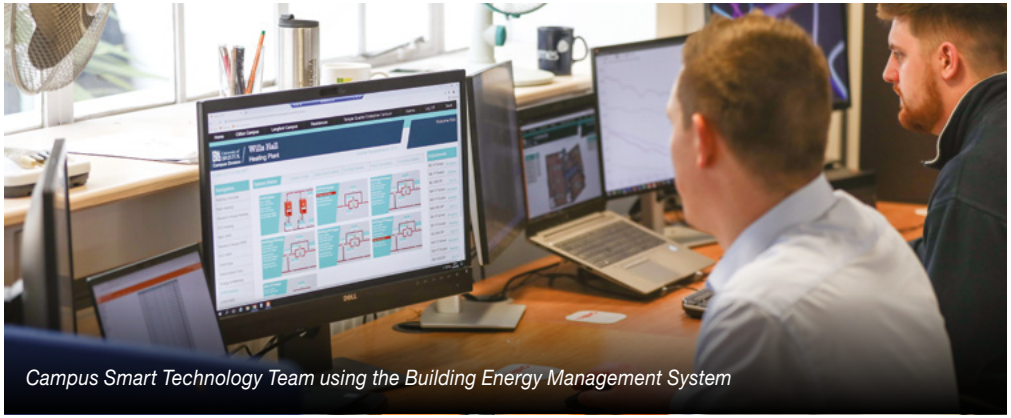
Water

Water consumption is back to the pre-pandemic level. However, consumption is still down by 35% in comparison to the baseline year of 2007/08.

Achilles
Carbon Reduce Certified
Powered by Toitū Envirocare

Certifications

We measure our carbon to an international standard called ISO 14064, so that we can transparently demonstrate that the carbon reductions we make are real. Achilles recently renewed our certification, confirming that the organisation is actively working to measure and manage its carbon footprint.


Campus Smart Technology Team using the Building Energy Management System

SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE

STEM laboratories at the University of Bristol account for 40% of our energy and waste budget as well as 32% of our annual water bill, but only occupy 6% of our space.

In order to reduce our Scope 1 & 2 carbon emissions we are prioritising improvements to our STEM buildings in terms of infrastructure, equipment, and controls. The equipment, consumables and chemicals we purchase and consume though our scientific activities account for the majority of our scope 3 emissions across the University. By considering life cycle costs and purchasing efficient equipment we can significantly reduce our environmental impact whilst improving research. Considering how we operate our labs also helps us achieve vast energy and carbon savings and we engage with our scientific community, through schemes such as Green Lab Certification, to achieve this.

We aim to reduce the energy consumption within our STEM buildings by 40-50% in line with our carbon reduction plans.

100% Green Lab Certification

The University of Bristol was the first to achieve 100% Bronze Green Lab Certification in 2021. The team set a new target of 100% Silver Certification by 2024 and Gold Certification by 2030. Hundreds of STEM staff are involved, and the initiative is mainly driven by technicians, with increased engagement from the academic community required as work progresses towards the 2024 target. By August 2024, one third of STEM Schools have achieved at least 100% Silver status, with two Schools achieving 100% Gold status.

Embedding circular economy principles

We aim to embed circular economy principles within our scientific operations and activities. This includes purchasing in a sustainable manner and increasing our reuse and recycling rates by implementing a lab plastic recycling scheme, switching to glassware in our fly food labs, centralising stores and purchasing, and reusing general lab consumables alongside life cycle carbon analysis.

Education and awareness of sustainable science

Four, or one quarter, of STEM Schools have invested in dedicated sustainability roles with the aim of embedding sustainability in their School and delivering LEAF and the Climate Action Plans. Schools are now developing their own sustainability strategies or improving the sustainability element of their existing strategies. Several STEM Schools have now also developed and signed off sustainability strategies over the past year.

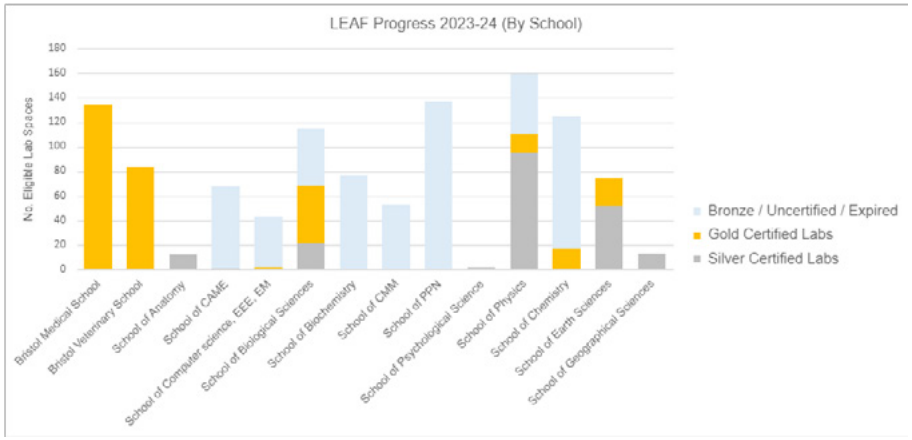
Carbon literacy has been introduced in Bristol Medical School, achieving a Bronze Carbon Literacy Educator Award in 2024, with many staff and students achieving Carbon Literacy certification, with the ambition of reaching Silver over the next two years.

The School of Biological Sciences conducted a Living Lab in September 2023, whereby 17 undergraduate student courses assessed the carbon impact of their projects, across all three emissions scopes.

STEM Climate Action Plans (CAP)

The target is for 100% of schools to have written a Climate Action Plan (CAP) with the ambition of carbon reduction. This involves the baselining of school carbon footprints (including scope 3 emissions) with internal and central annual reporting.

At present, 90% of STEM schools have written their CAP and we are on target for 100% coverage by the end of the calendar year 2024. To support this work, we have analysed carbon data within different spend and emission categories at School, Faculty and University level.




Recycling in laboratories

THE LIVING ESTATE, BIODIVERSITY AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

We proactively manage land and resources to benefit wildlife and conserve biodiversity. We do this by implementing Habitat Action Plans, minimising chemical use, and conducting regular monitoring surveys. The University of Bristol's Biodiversity strategy comprises of six steps which we report against:

1. Identify and record

Wessex Ecological Consultants once again carried out key species monitoring during 2022. This results in species lists and numbers which contributes to understanding species population (see 3. Monitor) and informs adjustments needed to maintenance plans.

The Botanic Gardens has been undertaking a project to add country of origin names to plant labels as part of a University ethnobotany and global engagement program.

2. Evaluate

External Estates employs qualified ecologists including an assessor for Building with Nature and a 'Suitably Qualified Ecologist' for BREEAM. Fenswood Farm has been working with Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK) and several other university farms to research 'Farming for Carbon' as part of an initial five-year program.

3. Monitor

All sites are monitored for key habitats, key species, relationships to external sites which helps to identify opportunities to engage and form partnerships with local industry and action groups (part of civic engagement). Recent interactions include Bristol's Green Squares and Secret Gardens and Birdcage Walk.

4. Conserve

The Botanic Gardens displays native species of local and national importance and continue to develop and maintain unique plant collections of national and international importance. For example, it maintains a living gene bank of threatened species from the South West of England.

5. Enhance

Fenswood Farm has contributed to a community led initiative for the production of a bespoke local wildflower seed which will have a positive impact for Long Ashton. External Estates are actively engaging in Biodiversity Net Gain; whilst Wyndhurst Farm (Langford) is pursuing Countryside Stewardship and Fenswood Farm (Long Ashton) the newly launched Sustainable farming Incentive.

6. Inform

External Estates continues to work in partnership with schools and faculties to use our natural environment. In 2022 Gardens and Grounds released **an app** which can be used to identify trees within the University campus. It contains over 4900 individual specimens and interesting facts about key species.

Pollinators at the Botanic Gardens

One of many bird boxes at Royal Fort Gardens

ETHICAL AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Since 2019, we have undertaken an innovative catering strategy: aimed at fostering sustainable food practices. Throughout this period, we have significantly influenced our campus and the environment positively. The achievements underscore the collaborative contributions of Source Catering and the broader campus community, emphasizing sustainability as the cornerstone of our operations.

Key milestones attained include:

- **Elimination of Single-Use Plastics:** We successfully reached our objective of eliminating all single-use plastics from our in-house dining areas, achieving this three years ahead of the government deadline.

- **Plastic Reduction:** Setting an ambitious target to reduce plastic packaging for “Grab and Go” items by 50% across all sites by 2022, Source Catering surpassed expectations by transitioning 90% of products to reduced plastic alternatives. Our commitment extends to making 95% of our “Grab and Go” offerings plastic-free by 2025.

- **Ruminant Meat (Beef & Lamb):** We have taken additional steps to reduce our ruminant meat procurement to just 0.9% of our overall food purchases. Our ongoing objective is to further decrease this percentage by incorporating compound meat and vegetable proteins into our offerings.We are currently investigating the supply of regenerative beef and venison. This will have a positive impact on our sustainability and have a huge impact on our animal welfare goals.

- **Carbon Footprint Mapping:** Investment in the Klimato app, enabled us to map the carbon footprint of all food and drink offerings. Since the introduction of the klimato app we have reduced the carbon footprint of our homemade food by 27%.

- **Supporting Local:** We proudly support local businesses by increasing the percentage of local suppliers within a 30-mile radius, exemplified by our partnership with Clifton, a local coffee supplier.

- **Eco-Friendly Transportation:** Our shift to fully electric vans resulted in a significant reduction in carbon emissions from 50+ metric tonnes to 14 metric tonnes.

- **Eco-Certified Cleaning:** Transitioning to eco-certified cleaning chemicals not only reduced plastic waste but also led to a remarkable 72% reduction in carbon emissions.

- **Elimination of Single-Use Coffee Cups:** The removal of single-use coffee cups from select locations, coupled with the introduction of a levy, reinforces our commitment to eco-friendly choices.

- **Plastic Bottle Elimination:** Our café range now exclusively features more sustainable options, including cans, glass bottles, and reusable aluminum water bottles.

- **Menus of Change Membership:** Embracing the principles of Menus of Change, we are proud members of the Menus of Change University Research Collaborative (MCURC), collaborating with researchers and students worldwide to encourage plant-based choices.

- **Repurposing and Reusing:** Actively exploring methods to repurpose and reuse supplier packaging underscores our dedication to innovative waste reduction.

- **Food Waste Reduction:** Our commitment to reducing food waste has led to significant improvements, with a 23% reduction in student meal-generated waste across catered halls in 2024 compared to 2021.

In line with our ethical and sustainable sourcing, animal welfare, and diverse dietary options, our Food Charter reflects a dedication to community welfare and a brighter, healthier future. We offer a diverse range of plant-based options, Halal food, and meat-free days, with a focus on creating lifelong eating practices that promote wellbeing. Our collective journey towards sustainability invites everyone to join us in cultivating long-term well-being for all, one student and one meal at a time.

EDUCATION

As a signatory of the Sustainable Development Goals Accord and member of the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges, we're committed to Supporting our students to engage in the challenges humanity faces.

Education for Sustainable Development Staff Network

Launched in 2021, our ESD Network brings together staff to share information and understanding around this growing area. The network now has 150 members and ran 7 events throughout the year on a variety of topics:

- Working with Students (October 2023)
- Sustainable Careers (December 2023)
- Embedding sustainability in the curriculum through community engaged learning pedagogy (February 2024)
- Climate Fresk - Climate Education Kick-Off (April 2024)
- Nature Connection Field Trip at Embercombe (April 2024)
- Bill Sharpe Three Horizons Workshop (May 2024)
- Biodiversity Collage Workshop (July 2024)

The ESD Network also promotes relevant internal events to its members such as the business school's sustainability seminar series. They continue to build a bottom-up community of staff to share expertise and best practice.

Bristol Futures Units

Bristol Futures enables learners to study global challenges and fulfil their academic and personal potential. Designed for our students and keen external learners, Bristol Futures provides an opportunity to tackle the key challenges in Global Citizenship, Sustainable Futures and Innovation and Enterprise.

In 2023/24 the Sustainable Development unit provided 270 students with an interdisciplinary, activity-based experience of sustainability challenges and potential ways forward. Sustainability is also incorporated into other Bristol Futures unit content as appropriate.

Sustainable Futures Online Course

The four-week Sustainable Futures course, available through FutureLearn, ran three times throughout 2023/24 academic year, providing both University of Bristol students and learners from elsewhere the opportunity to explore sustainability and ways in which they can contribute. It has now been taken by over 17,499 learners around the world, including over 4500 University of Bristol students.

Climate Fresk workshop with the ESD Network

STAFF AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Our Staff and Student Engagement and Behaviour Change Strategy sets out our aims and objectives for engage and collaborating with our University community. Read on to find out more about our key campaigns and initiatives.

Departmental Climate Action Plans

At the University of Bristol, Climate Action Plans (CAP) set out the specific carbon reduction activities that will be implemented to reduce carbon emissions within each School or Department. Issues and actions are established by the School or Division CAP committee and logged and monitored via the Climate Action Planning Tool.

Throughout the year, the Sustainability Team supports CAP committees to develop and implement CAPs through communications and engagement activities. Each December, committees are asked to share their updated CAPs with their Head of School/ Department for approval.

In January 2024, 35 of the 42 (83%) Academic Schools and Professional Services Divisions submitted the CAPs for the first annual review by the Sustainability Team. Across these CAPs, a total of 1270 actions were selected.

During the 2023/24 academic year, approximately 600 individuals contributed to their School or Divisional CAP as voluntary committee members. Three part-time Sustainability Officer roles have are now employed to support CAP projects within their schools.

The most selected impact areas were:

1. "We are keen our approach to departmental sustainability is inclusive"
2. "We host visitors for meetings, conferences and other external-facing events"
3. "Our staff travel as part of their work e.g. for meetings, events, site visits, deliveries"

The Sustainability Team is working on providing carbon analysis data for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions to help monitor impact. In 2023/24, some Scope 1 and 2 data was made available for STEM schools to support with the implementation and monitoring of actions set out in those plans.

Sustainability Champions

Building on the success of the Sustainability Champions pilot of 2021/22, in 2023-24 18 student sustainability champions were appointed across 16 academic departments. These student-staff are managed by the Students' Union and are employed six hours per week. They work within their academic department, as well as collaboratively across Faculties, in partnership with academics and staff, on embedding sustainability into the curriculum and academic experience.

Sustainability Champions also work with societies to co-host events and extra-curricular activities, supporting the Climate Action Plan (CAP) initiative through advocacy and feeding into the 'Teaching and Learning' aspect of CAPs.

In 2023-24, the cohort worked on student feedback and engagement activities such as surveys, feedback sessions and design challenges, as well as curriculum reviews and proposals for unit content and new units, field work and lab content and induction, student-led business proposals and consulting, careers events and student research presentations. Find out more on **the Bristol SU website**.

Climate Action Bristol with Bristol Hub

Bristol Hub works with students and our local community to mainstream student social action. Through our partnership with the Hub, we support students to gain skills in climate action planning and partner with local businesses to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP). This year 33 students worked with seven clients, with 100% of city partners agreeing that students added energy, enthusiasm, capacity and a new perspective to their organisation.

Sustainability 'Recommended Training' for staff

The Sustainability Team developed a course that is recommended through the University's e-learning platform to all staff. The course explores what it means to be a sustainable university and how we integrate sustainability into all our activities through our Environmental Management System. The course launched in January 2023 and has so far been completed by several hundred members of staff.

Sustainability Champions at Bristol SU

STAFF AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Bristol Big Give

We continue to work with our partners across the City on our annual student reuse campaign, Bristol Big Give. In 2023/24, students in our halls of residence donated more than 22 tonnes of quality goods, raising nearly £42,000 for British Heart Foundation (BHF). The city-wide campaign, in partnership with UWE, saved in excess of 140 tonnes of textiles and reusable items and generated an income for the charity of over £260,000.

British Heart Foundation Park Street Store stocked with student donations

Fairtrade

As a "Fairtrade University" our Fairtrade steering group meet quarterly to discuss progress against actions to ensure our supply chain upholds Fairtrade principles and that we're educating staff and students in the relevance of Fairtrade. Each year, the University supports "Fairtrade Fortnight".

IEMA Corporate partnership

Since 2021 the University is an IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) Corporate Partner. This partnership programme aims to develop staff and student skills in environment and sustainability, by offering training and networking opportunities, ultimately helping the University address the significant sustainability challenges it faces.

Social Media

The Sustainability Team manages Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts to help share key messages and campaigns with staff and students. There is a combined following of c.4k followers across the three channels.

Sustainability Newsletter

The Team writes and distributes a monthly newsletter to staff, student and public subscribers. In 2023-24 the newsletter had c.600 active subscribers, with an average open rate of 40%.

Be the Change campaign

'Be the Change' is our sustainability behaviour change programme that aims to educate and engage staff and students as individuals while bringing together the four pillars of the Sustainability Strategy (Education, Research, Civic Engagement and Operations).

The campaign, launched in October 2022, focuses on six key themes; food, fashion, travel, electricals, water & energy and action. Through in-person events, activities and communications, staff and students are invited to challenge themselves to make positive changes.

In January 2023, Bristol SU joined forces with the Sustainability Team and adopted the 'Be the Change' campaign, increasing awareness and impact amongst the student population. Student societies are now encouraged to run events in line with the Be the Change monthly themes.

Barriers to Cycling in Bristol Panel Discussion

University of BRISTOL

bristol.ac.uk/sustainability

/UoBSustainability

/uobsustainability