

## Environmental Sustainability Plan 2018-21

Theme	Objective Description	Where (and who will this apply)	How (Actions required)	Who/Lead (responsible person)	When (Target Date)	Status
Energy	Identify Energy Saving Initiatives as required by the Carbon Management Plan – Overall 21% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020.	Estates Directorate	Identify of range of Energy programmes as required by the Carbon Management Plan Technical Group. e.g. Voltage Optimisation Programme, Sub-metering, PIR Installation, Insulation projects, CHP, Low Carbon Technologies. – Energy M&T	Energy Manager	Ongoing	<p>Progress ongoing – overall target achievement on track</p> <p>Achieved 104.9% of the corporate carbon emissions target for the year - institutional KPI assessment.</p> <p>New Carbon Strategy currently being developed to align with new government target to achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2050 – this will cover scope 1,2 and 3 emissions; Carbon off setting; Carbon Adaptability; This is being taken forward by the Carbon Management Developmentn Group.</p> <p>CHP units continue to operate efficiently at the Queen's Elms Site, DKB/Ashby Site, Main Site and Health Sciences Campus;</p> <p>Recurrent annual savings yielded from these initiatives is in the region of £950k.</p> <p>Additional minor works projects to the value of identified £160k identified and implemented.</p>
Sustainability Engagement Programmes	Implementation of Change Management Initiatives identified in the Carbon Management Plan- Contribution to overall 21% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020	Estates Directorate	Implement Change Management initiatives e.g. website, sustainability champion network, staff sustainability program, program of staff awareness events etc.and establish network of student environmental volunteers; Delivery of Queen's Green fund;	Enviornmental Manager	Ongoing	<p>New pilot Sustainability Award programme in progress. Roll out put on hold due to COVID. Pilot progressing in DASA.</p> <p>A new sustainability program for labs has commenced for laboratories – LEAF – this will be piloted within CCRCB.</p> <p>Environmental Leadership Program progressed online due to COVID. 26 students participated and will qualify for Degree Plus. MYEL was launched in collaboration with Graduate School. 12 students participated and will qualify for Degree Plus.</p> <p>Other engagement activities include 3 design challenges with students in the Master Your Leadership program, MSc Construction Management.</p> <p>Awareness weeks put on hold due to COVID. Website updated to include guidance on 'Climate Conscious Living and Working From Home'.</p> <p>New communications and engagement strategy will be developed as part of the next phase of the University carbon reduction strategy.</p> <p>Web pages and ezine format updated and improved to increase engagement including alignment with the SDG's.</p> <p>University Green Fund on hold. 42 projects funded to date.</p>

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Sustainable Design and Construction	Improve Sustainable Design and Construction of New Builds and Refurbishments – Achieve BREEAM Excellent for New Builds Achieve BREEAM Very Good for Refurbishment	Estates Directorate	Use applicable BREEAM criteria for new builds and refurbishment projects from early design stage and integrate within design criteria, reporting progress at each RIBA stage.  Review the Sustainable Design Development Design Brief and develop an alternative appropriate process.	Head of Estates Planning	Ongoing	7 BREEAM Excellent 6 BREEAM Very Good  Sustainability design and construction standards will be reviewed as part of the development of the next stage of the University carbon reduction strategy – including exploration of other standards – Passivhaus / SKA etc.
Waste Management	Increase percentage of waste recycled and reduce volumes of waste generated –  Maintain % of waste recycled/recovered at 80% by April 2020  100% landfill diversion target – July 2019 onward	Estates Directorate	Improve use of existing recycling facilities for staff and students  Extend waste streams which can be recycled  Work with contractor to review waste processes Identify opportunities for minimising waste  Extend roll out of Food Waste and Ban the Bin  Review and develop an action plan to reduce use of single use plastic – via Single Use Plastic Working Group (Sept 2021)  Specification of Waste Management contract and procurement – include 100% landfill diversion and circular economy requirements. (Jan 2021)  Improve bin stores - Clinical A, Whitla Medical, University Square (July 2021)  Review external recycling provision – maximise cardboard recycling (July 2021)  Improve recycling signage of internal bins (September 2021)	Estates Manager (Environmental)  Assistant Estates Manager (Environmental)	Ongoing	Current recycling and recovery rate 100% for Municipal General Waste i.e. 100% diverted from landfill.  Volume of waste has decreased by estimated 40% due to change in University activity during lockdown.  Review of current internal waste arrangements undertaken to introduce improvements.  Furniture donations to number of Charities/Schools/Clubs –Oxfam, Habitat for Humanity and use of WARP IT restricted due to COVID.  Staff/ student working group established to review use of single-use plastics and identify opportunities for reduce single-use plastic across the University – work on hold due to COVID.  Waste Management Contract tendered and awarded - focus on landfill diversion and contributing to circular economy.
Travel and Transport	Implement University Travel Plan – Reduce single occupancy car journeys by staff and students in accordance with Travel plan targets. 5% reduction in staff travelling to the University by single-occupancy car journey by 2020. 5% reduction in students travelling to the University by single-occupancy car journey by 2020	Estates Directorate	Implement the continual implement plan attached to the University Travel Plan  Maintain Cycle Friendly Employer Accreditation – Gold	Estates Manager (Environmental)  Assistant Estates Manager (Transport)	2020/21	2018 demonstrated a reduction in staff dependence on single occupancy car travel from 33.7% (2015) to 30.6% and a reduction from 16.4% (2015) to 13.4% in student travel.  2020 Travel Survey undertaken to inform next stage of the Travel Plan. Development of current Plan under review in light of COVID and significant change of working / travel patterns.  New plan to align with Net Zero aspirations.  Accreditation to Cycle Friendly Employer Accreditation – Gold standard - first employer in the UK to achieve the standard Cycle + (Cycle to Work Scheme) Cycling promotions throughout the year - accreditation maintained  Developing proposal with partners with Big Loop Bikes, UU and Belfast Met to establish a cycle lease scheme for students, with a view to establishing an active travel hub on campus.

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						<p>Range of public transport incentives and promotions by Translink – monthly attendance on site. Limited over the period due to COVID.</p> <p>Key awareness events e.g. Bike to Work week, Bus and Train Week Promotion of the pedometer challenge</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Increase awareness of biodiversity amongst staff and students – student events</p> <p>Achivement of Green Flag for on site at the Unviersity - annual renewal</p> <p>Identify 2 opportunities for enhancing biodiversity across the University each academic year.</p> <p>Sign up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan – May 2021</p>	Estates Directorate	<p>Work with Grounds and Gardens department/ School of Biological Sciences and external stakeholders to develop a plans for improving biodiversity at the University;</p> <p>Identify oppourtunities for enabling staff &amp; students to participate in biodiversity enhancement projects;</p> <p>Renew Green Flag application;</p> <p>Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan;</p>	<p>Estates Manager (Environmental)</p> <p>Head Gardener</p>	Ongoing	<p>Community clean-ups on hold due to COVID.</p> <p>A range of biodiversity hotspots across the Estate as part of the wider Nurture and Grow programs some of which have been supported by the Green Fund– new intiatives include the Lennoxvale Tree Nursery, Pharmacy Garden, Elms Village Allotment garden, DKB Quad – winner within the 2020 UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards.</p> <p>Ongoing work with students at Elms Village and Lennoxvale Tree Nursery during March 2020 – 21 – within COVID guidelines.</p> <p>Green Flag and Green Heritage Award retained for the Lanyon Site. (benchmark national standard for public green spaces);</p> <p>21 trees planted across the campus during 2020/21 – Riddel Hall; &gt;80 Linear metres hedge; &gt;320 plants;</p> <p>Participants in the Belfast Million Trees program</p> <p>Range of communications to staff and students on the steps they can take to enhance biodiversity at home and in the workplace.</p> <p>Biodiversity Action Plan drafted due to progress to EMG May 2021.</p>
Emission Targets – Net Zero	Determine a suitable carbon reduction target for the University aligning with Net Zero 2050 UK target	University (led by Estates Directorate)	Appoint consultant to determine current carbon emissions baseline (scope 1, 2, and 3); Determine feasible Net Zero target; Develop Net Zero strategy with in put from consultancy expertise;	Estates	Dec 2021	ITT Tender documentation drafted for appointment of consultancy support; Capital Project paper drafted requesting funding.
Water	<p>Increase efficiency of water use via the use of borewells, rainwater harvesting technologies and other water efficient technologies.</p> <p>Prevent pollution to local waterways – Compliance with Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010</p>	Estates Directorate	Ensure necessary controls and monitoring are in place to ensure compliance.	<p>Estates Manager (Environmental)</p> <p>Estates Manager Maintenance</p>	Ongoing	<p>Borewells at a number of sites across campus – David Kerr Building, Elms Accommodation, Malone Playing Fields and Medical Biology Centre.</p> <p>Implementation of flow control devices, water metering and water efficient WCs and taps.</p> <p>Program ongoing in place to update tanks and replace with gas where appropriate.</p>
Sustainable Procurement	Ensure procurement practices create an awareness within suppliers of the social, ethical, economic and environmental issues and ensure they understand the University's position in relation to them.	Finance Directorate	The Procurement Team will work collaboratively with suppliers on the implementation of the standards of the 'Supply Chain Code of Conduct'. Further, suppliers are expected to register and utilise NETpositive, which helps suppliers create a sustainability action plan for their business.	Head of Procurement	Ongoing	The Supply Chain Code of Conduct was endorsed by the Register and Chief Officer alongside the University Operating Board in February 2021.
Community Involvement	Increase engagement and involvement of local residents with sustainability programmes, initiatives and events within Queen's.	Estates Directorate	Identify opportunities to engage with the local community with the Grounds and Garden Team, and Community Engagement.	Estates Manager (Environmental)	Ongoing	<p>Continuing to work with San Souci Residential Association via the Lennoxvale Tree Nursery and the by assisting them with their Malone Road Trees Project.</p> <p>Community clean-ups on hold due to COVID.</p> <p>Particpants in the Belfast Million Trees program</p>

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	Continue to maintain links with the local community via existing projects and partners – Lennoxvale Tree Nursery, VolunteerSU, Litter Picks, Community Engagement.					The role out of the Nurture and Grow Programme has allowed the creation of multiple projects, all of which provide an opportunity for local staff, student and local resident involvement. Please see the 'Biodiversity' section for the full list.
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