## Environmental Sustainability Plan 2023 – 2025

Theme	Objective and Targets	How	Individual/s Responsible	Timeline	Statues
Theme         Energy	<ul> <li>Objective: Achieve net zero emissions across scope 1, 2 and 3.</li> <li>Targets: <ul> <li>Reduce emissions to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040 across scopes 1, 2 and 3.</li> <li>Interim target of 50% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 (market based) ~ Science Based target.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Interim target commitment aligned with the Northern Ireland target, reducing carbon emissions by 48% by 2030 across Scope 1 and 2</li> </ul>	Development of a bespoke net-zero carbon targets for QUB to cover scope 1, 2 and 3, carbon off-setting, climate change adaptation and associated costed action plan has taken place. They were created in partnership with appointed consultants (ARUP) in early 2023 following the completion of a Net Zero Engagement Campaign. Identification of schemes by Decarbonisation Working Group and Energy	Individual/s Responsible Head of Sustainability Estates Manager (Energy) Assistant Estates Manager (Energy)	Timeline         Ongoing	Queen's University Net Zero Plan         launched in October, following sign-off         by Senate in June.         Several energy efficient projects have         been approved and are due for         completion:         2023/24 Projects:         • Feasibility study on solar PV on         accommodation – BT9 site         • Core estate lighting replacement         • Whitla Hall solar PV         • Maths & physics teaching centre – solar PV
	-	0			
		fund hence enabling the fund to grow and finance future projects. The GRF now stands			

		at around £2 million and typically finances projects to the value of £175k each year.			
Sustainability Engagement Programmes	Objective – deliver phased lab sustainability programme across the university. 2021/22 (pilot phase) - 12 labs; 2022/23 33% of all labs, 2023/24 66% of all labs, 2024/25 100% of all labs.	Identification of existing labs, targeted recruitment from the bottom up and top down, recruitment of an Academic Lead. Investment in the structured, accredited programme LEAF (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework) providing staff and students with guidance and support in minimising emissions.	Head of Sustainability Environmental Manager Sustainability Officer Assistant Sustainability Officer	Ongoing – launched in October annually	In 2021/22 12 Labs received Bronze LEAF Accreditation. A review to determine eligible labs was completed in 2022. In November 2022, the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences committed to all their eligible labs becoming LEAF Accredited by 2025. A total of 31 labs received accreditation in 2022/23. A total of 68 labs were recognised in 2023/24. Lab Sustainability Training took place in January (30ppl).
	<ul> <li>Objective – development of a new staff programme that enables faculty's/schools/directorates to create their own Sustainability Action Plans.</li> <li>Targets: <ul> <li>Implement a pilot scheme in Sept 2024 to Faculty's as part of their Departmental Planning Process</li> <li>50% of schools and directorates participating in core Sustainability programs annually by 2025</li> <li>100% of schools and directorates participating in core Sustainability programs annually by 2030</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Review of existing programmes, investment in supporting software, branding of programme, recruitment from top down.		Launch in September 2024	Review of programmes was completed, and plans were signed off by the Sustainability Engagement and Communications Working group in June 2024. New 'Local Sustainability Action Plan' (LSAP) Programme was launched in September 2024. 2024/2025: 8 areas engaged out of a potential 15 (excludes Directorates).

<ul> <li>Objective - increase carbon literacy levels across the University.</li> <li>Phase One - 2021/22 - delivery to 200 students.</li> <li>Phase Two - 2022/23 - 400.</li> <li>Phase Three - 2023/24 - 800.</li> <li>Phase Four - 2024/25 - 1000</li> </ul>	Promotion of CLT to educational administrators, academics and SU. Roll out of free staff and student training sessions throughout the year to maximise opportunities.	l	Ongoing – launched in September annually	Ongoing discussions are taking place with relevant academic staff and dates will be agreed with facilitators (Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful). Academics from a range of disciplines are involved – School of Biological Sciences, School of Natural and Built Environment, School of Dentistry, School of Medicine, School of Management and School of Aerospace and Engineering. Figures: 2021/22: 305 students, 35 staff 2022/23: 423 students, 112 staff. 2023/24: 1002 students, 74 staff 2024/25: 627 students, 23 staff (ongoing) Dates for 2025/26 are currently being organised with school's and facilitators.
Objective – Provide funding source for students and staff to delivery their own sustainability projects on campus • Fund £20k of projects over 12 months within the academic year	Update Green Fund resources, organise communications and launch in September annually.	l S	Ongoing – launched in September annually	Relaunched every September, with money allocated by November. Figures: 2019: 22 projects 2020/21: 25 projects 2022/23: 18 projects 2023/24: 19 projects 2024/25: 11 projects 2024/25 projects include waste, biodiversity and engagement events. Green Fund will relaunch in September 2025.
Objective – Integrate sustainability activities within existing courses	Continue to engage with academics and course coordinators to ensure	(	Ongoing	<ul> <li>Engagement activities have taken place with the following courses over 2023/24:</li> <li>MSc Construction Management (100 Students)</li> </ul>

Engage with 200 students through existing courses	sustainability is embedded in key areas throughout campus.		<ul> <li>Future Ready Skills for Leaders Programme (50 students)</li> <li>Future Ready Skills for Leaders Programme – New York (25 Students)</li> <li>Welcome Sustainability Talks (400 students)</li> <li>Net Zero PGCert (12 Students)</li> <li>2024/25:</li> <li>MSc Construction Management (100 Students)</li> <li>Future Ready Skills for Leaders Programme – Amsterdam (25 Students)</li> <li>Welcome Sustainability Talks (500 students) – September and January</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Objective – Undertake a rolling calendar of events, campaigns and communication pieces.</li> <li>European Week for Waste Reduction</li> <li>Green Month</li> <li>Student Sustainability Summit</li> <li>COP Campaign</li> <li>Green Celebration Awards</li> </ul>	Creation and continual update of calendar of events that includes key campaigns, engagement programmes, events, communication pieces.	Ongoing	In 2023, European Week for Waste Reduction was promoted via three key events: Autumn Clean Up (50ppl), Panel Discussion: Circular Economy – Fantasy or Reality' (45ppl) and Positive Volunteering (30ppl). Our annual Student Sustainability Summit was held on 30 January, providing students with the opportunity to raise their concerns around 4 key topics – food, finance, travel and education (62ppl). Green Month of Community Action was held in May – it involved a litter pick (40ppl), bioblitz with a local community group (12ppl) and a range of planting sessions (53ppl).

				Ongoing	In 2024, European Week for Waste Reduction was promoted via 2 key events: Autumn Clean Up Repair Café Our annual Student Sustainability Summit was held in January, providing students with the opportunity to raise their concerns around to QUB, government representatives, council and academics.
	Objective – Continue to embed sustainability information into staff and student inductions.	Liaise with key groups to ensure sustainability is embedded in their communications – Student Affairs, People and Culture, Community Engagement and Accommodation.			<ul> <li>2023/24:</li> <li>Included in International Student Welcome Talk to 500 students.</li> <li>Embedded in 'Community Living Handbook' and the Accommodation handbook.</li> <li>Attendance at all New Staff Fairs</li> </ul>
Sustainable Design and Construction	Objective – Embed net-zero carbon strategies across the University estate and begin to track progress. Targets: • Target Passive House certification for all new buildings;	Recruit and appoint an Estates Manager Sustainable Construction to lead embedding of sustainable design and construction principles across University projects.	Estates Manager (Sustainable Construction) Head of Sustainability	Completed	Estates Manager (Sustainable Construction) has been appointed and commenced in December 2022 (Nathan Campbell).
	<ul> <li>Target EnerPHit certification for all refurbishment projects &gt; £1m;</li> <li>Begin to benchmark all projects against carbon metrics for best practice.</li> <li>Release Net-Zero Design Guide for use.</li> </ul>	Coordinate development of a net-zero design guide, collaborate with various Estates departments to understand challenges, and implement the new standard.	Head of Estates Planning	Completed.	The Net-Zero Design Guide was signed off in early 2024. Significant collaboration has taken place within the Estates Directorate, and beyond, in order to propose a workable document.

<ul> <li>Objective - Improve Sustainable Design and Construction of New Builds and Refurbishments. Targets:</li> <li>Achieve BREEAM Excellent for New Builds &gt;£1,000,000- ongoing</li> <li>Achieve BREEAM Very Good for Refurbishment -&gt;£1,000,000</li> </ul>	Review and update procurement documentation to ensure project teams fulfil requirements. Ensure Whole Life Carbon assessment & energy modelling is undertaken for all future projects.	Ongoing	Identification of 'pathway projects' has taken place and development is imminent – this includes PV Panels on the Main Site and Air Source Heating within the Maths & Physics Building. The first Passive House certified student accommodation block in NI has been tendered by the University, with building starting in 2024.
Objective - Embed net-zero carbon principles and requirements across all our design and construction specifications in line with net-zero strategy requirements Targets: • 100% of new buildings/refurbishments in compliance with Net Zero Design Guide minimum requirements	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 Brief and develop an alternative appropriate process. Review and update of all applicable specifications integrating appropriate sustainable design standards. Delivery of costed net -zero action plan - including development of sustainable design principles and standards.		8 BREEAM Excellent 6 BREEAM Very Good Sustainability design and construction standards have been reviewed as part of the development of the next stage of the University carbon reduction strategy – including exploration of other standards – Passivhaus / SKA etc. The first Sustainable Construction Conference was hosted on Wednesday 28 February. Further information on the event can be found here. (220 ppl) Second Sustainable Construction Conference was hosted on the 25 February (225ppl)

Waste Management	Objective - Increase percentage of waste recycled and reduce volumes of waste generated – ongoing.	Improve use of existing recycling facilities for staff and students:	Head of Sustainability	Ongoing	Current recycling and recovery rate is 93.79% (2022/23) for Municipal General Waste i.e. 93.79% diverted from landfill.
	<ul> <li>Maintain figure of over 90% of waste diverted from landfill from July 2021 onwards.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Extend waste streams which can be recycled. This will include extending the roll out of Food Waste, Ban the Bin.</li> <li>Review of waste labels</li> <li>Open Warpit to external charities</li> </ul> Focus on waste reduction initiatives and campaigns: <ul> <li>Roll out of the Queen's reusable '2 Go Cup'</li> <li>Latte Levy</li> <li>Lab equipment</li> </ul> Develop waste/resource strategy/circular economy strategy. To aid the completion of waste audit/reviews across the Estate focus on high impact areas will take place (integrate with student projects).	Assistant Estates Manager (Waste) Project Support Officer (Sustainability) Head of Campus Food and Drink		<ul> <li>Furniture donations to several Charities/Schools/Clubs –Oxfam, Habitat for Humanity and use of WARP IT is ongoing. The opening of Warpit to external charities in September 2024 will enhance this opportunity.</li> <li>Staff/ student working group established to review use of single-use plastics and identify opportunities to reduce single-use plastic across the University.</li> <li>Continue to roll out LEAF to ensure waste is being minimised where possible from labs.</li> <li>Queen's reusable '2 Go Cup' was rolled out in 2023, on offer within large-scale events and conferences, to minimise single use waste associated with coffee cups.</li> <li>A 'Latte Levy' has been in place since late 2023, offering individuals 20p when they bring their reusable.</li> <li>Waste Management Contract tendered and awarded - focus on landfill diversion and contributing to circular economy.</li> <li>In September 2024 the 'Repair Fund' was launched and has supported labs</li> </ul>

					to repair vital equipment rather than purchasing/disposing. 2024/25: 23 projects funded
Travel and Transport	<ul> <li>Objective – Increase uptake of Sustainable Travel across the University Targets:</li> <li>Travel to Work Survey took place in October 2022 with publication of 2023 – 2028 Travel Plan due to be published in 2024.</li> <li>Maintain Cycle Friendly Employer Accreditation Gold – on going – 2023/24</li> <li>Launch a new Travel to Work Survey in February/March 2025 and review findings by August 2025.</li> <li>25% reduction in carbon associated with staff and student commuting.</li> </ul>	Appointment of consultants to support development of a Travel to Work Survey and travel strategy.	Estates Manager Environmental Assistant Estates Manager (Transport)	Ongoing	<ul> <li>Previous Travel Survey:</li> <li>2018 demonstrated a reduction in staff dependence on single occupancy car travel from 33.7% (2015) to 30.6% and from 16.4% (2015) to 13.4% in student travel.</li> <li>2020 Travel Survey: 5% reduction in staff travel by single-occupancy car journey/21.5% reduction in students travelling by single- occupancy car journey</li> <li>Travel to Work Survey was completed in October 2022, with Travel Plan Strategy with plan launched in May 2024.</li> <li>Continue to be accredited with Cycle Friendly Employer Accreditation.</li> <li>Travel to Work Survey took place from the 24<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</li> <li>Baseline: 8400 tonnes CO2 (22/23) 2023/24: 7375 tonnes CO2 (12%</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Objective - Increase cycling provision across campus via education, engagement and enhanced infrastructure.</li> <li>Targets:</li> <li>Engage with external providers to host 8 events every academic year.</li> <li>Provide additional cycling parking for a further 100 bikes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Engage with key internal and external stakeholders to ensure:</li> <li>'Green travel' and its benefits are continually communicated to our community.</li> <li>Queen's continues to campaign and engage with Dofl/Translink for better</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>reduction)</li> <li>Engagement:</li> <li>Active travel hub on campus, in partnership with Big Loop Bikes, was established and launched in September of 2021 – 30 bikes leased, 45 recycled bikes sold, 400 bikes serviced. 2022/23 - 30 bikes</li> </ul>

across the campus by June 2023; 50 by 2024.

- A yearly 10% increase associated with: bikes leased to students via hub; second hand bikes sold, bikes serviced.
- Engage with Translink and external stakeholders including Belfast City Council, Ulster University and Belfast Metropolitan College, to make public transport a more attractive option for staff and students travelling to the University.

travel and infrastructure options.

leased, 73 recycled bikes sold, 166 bikes serviced.

- Range of events have taken place during Bike Week (June 2024) – 1xDr Bike Session, Social Cycle, , Cycle Security Marking, E-Bike Experience, talk with Cycling UK, Cycle + and local academic. Further events included Big Loop Bike Hub presenting at multiple Welcome events, including Fresher's Fair.
- Cycle Parking: In 2020/21 several cycle parking spaces were put in place - 60 in MBC, 30 in Ashby, 34 in the main site. 2021/22 - 20 spaces have been incorporated into the main site; 60 spaces in One Elmwood; 40 created in School of Management.
- Range of public transport incentives and promotions by Translink – monthly attendance on site – ongoing.

Open Botanic project – working with School of Natural Built Environment and Public Engagement - proposal for a cycle lane on Botanic Ave. developed. Meeting with Minister to raise profile of the project. Now included within Bolder Vision for Belfast. 'Open Botanic Day' took place in November 2022 and due to take place in November 2023. In December 2023, as part of COP28 Awareness Events, a 'Connecting Belfast: Transforming Travel' panel

	<ul> <li>Objective – Increase availability of EV Charging.</li> <li>Install 3 additional EV Charging points across the campus by December 2023</li> <li>4 additional EV Charging points by June 2024</li> </ul>	Continue to review the estate to identify areas for EV potential.			<ul> <li>event was hosted in a local community centre. Over 50 staff, students and members of the local community took part in the discussion.</li> <li>2023 EV Charging Points: Two EV charging points installed in School of Management; 1 EV charging point in MBC; 1 EV charging point in Ashby.</li> </ul>
	Objective – Increase number of EV vehicles in QUB fleet. Target: • 100% fleet to be converted to EV by 2030.	Invest in EV alternative once each vehicle comes to the end of their lifespan.			Baseline: 3% (18/19) 2023/24: 23% (6 out of 25)
	Objective – reduce emissions associated with business travel. Target: • 50% reduction in Business Travel by 2030 against 2018/19 baseline.	Publication of Sustainable Travel Guidance.			Baseline: 9450 tonnes CO2 (18/19) 2023/24: CO2 (42% reduction)
Biodiversity	<ul> <li>Objective - Increase awareness of biodiversity amongst staff, students and the local community. Target:</li> <li>A minimum of 4 biodiversity events for staff and students to participate in every academic year.</li> <li>Objective – Maintain Green Flag for the university main site. Renewal – February/Audit - June or November.</li> </ul>	Identify opportunities for enabling staff & students to participate in biodiversity enhancement projects – 4 new opportunities every academic year.	Head of Sustainability Estates Manager Environmental Head Gardener Project Support Officer (Sustainability)	Ongoing	A range of biodiversity hotspots have been created across the Estate as part of the wider Nurture and Grow programme - Lennoxvale Tree Nursery, Pharmacy Garden, Elms Village Allotment Garden, DKB Quad. Queen's university Belfast was a winner within the 2020 UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards. The formation of our next biodiversity hotspot includes the creation of a

Objective – Enhance t	he hiodivorsity	Renew Green Flag application	Assistant	wildlife meadow at the Ashby Hill. This
found within Queen's	-	in February (annual)	Sustainability	was completed in May 2023.
Target:	oumpuo.		Officer	
• Two new	biodiversity	Liaise with the Gardening		A range of yearly biodiversity events and
	entified and	Team and Students' Union to		new initiatives have/will take place
implemented ea	ch academic	establish key opportunities		during the academic year:
year.		and involvement.		2023/24 Events:
year. Objective – Enhance F native species across Targets: Maintain and commitment to Pollinator Plan - o Plant native trees plants (minimum trees each year, metres of wildlife f Increase number areas across the 2024/25	campus. d uphold All Ireland ngoing , hedging and of 20 native and 30 linear hedging). of 'No Mow'	and involvement. Identify tree planting and pollinator opportunities throughout the campus.		<ul> <li>Bulb planting in November (4760 bulbs planted) – 10ppl</li> <li>Tree planting in Malone – 146 saplings planted – 20ppl</li> <li>Three litter picks – 150ppl</li> <li>2024/25: <ul> <li>YMCA Community Allotment Building Event – 15ppl</li> <li>Herb Planter creation for Elms Accommodation – 5ppl</li> <li>TCV Learning Day – 17ppl</li> </ul> </li> <li>(Ongoing)</li> <li>Green Flag and Green Heritage Award retained for the Lanyon Site for 2023/25 (Benchmark National Standard for public green spaces). Application submitted for 2024/25 with our 6<sup>th</sup> Green Flag Award achieved in July.</li> <li>Hedgehog surveying commenced in</li> </ul>
				Summer 2023 and 2024. No Mow areas - set aside as part of
				commitment to Pollinator Plan - Ashby Hill (Chlorine Gardens), DKB Quad, Riddel Hall, MBC, Elms Village, PEC.
				• 7063.16m2 'no mow' areas on campus formed since 2021

	Objective – Creation of a biodiversity Plan for the Campus.				<ul> <li>Partners in the Million Trees for Belfast Initiative:</li> <li>884 trees planted since 2021</li> <li>Hedgerow Planting – 380 linear metres since 2021</li> <li>Discussions are ongoing with Biodiversity Action Plan.</li> </ul>
Water and discharges	<ul> <li>Objective - Increase efficiency of water use via the use of borewells, rainwater harvesting technologies, monitoring and other water efficient technologies.</li> <li>Target: 12.5% improvement in water consumption over baseline water consumption (BREEAM) for every new-build over £1 million.</li> <li>Objective – Fulfil legal requirements:</li> <li>Meet abstraction licence requirements for borewells at each location (as per licence).</li> <li>Meet water quality standards set at by drinking water inspectorate at each borewell location - ongoing</li> <li>Prevent pollution to local waterways – Compliance with Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010</li> <li>Comply with effluent consents as stipulated on licence requirements</li> </ul>	Ensure necessary controls and monitoring are in place to ensure compliance. Monthly monitoring - borewell usage at each location - ongoing Monthly monitoring of water quality to comply with DWI requirements – ongoing as stipulated in licence	Estates Manager Environmental Estates Manager Maintenance Estates Minor Works	Ongoing	Borewells at several sites across campus – David Kerr Building, Elms Accommodation, Malone Playing Fields and Medical Biology Centre – completed. Implementation of flow control devices, water metering and water efficient WCs and taps. Pilot meter scheme with NI Water to minimise water leaks from source – due for completion December 2023. Ongoing monitoring to comply with licencing requirements Ashby/DKB bund replacement – completed.
Community Involvement	Objective - Increase engagement and involvement of local residents with sustainability programmes,	Identify opportunities to engage with the local community with the Grounds	Estates Manager Environmental	Ongoing	Continuing to work with San Souci     Residential Association via the     Lennoxvale Tree Nursery.

	<ul> <li>initiatives and events within Queen's. Target:</li> <li>Complete 3 community events.</li> </ul>	and Garden Team, Community Engagement and Handy Helpers (SU).	Head Gardener Project Support Officer (Sustainability) Assistant Sustainability Officer		<ul> <li>Community clean-ups – November and March.</li> <li>Participants in the Belfast Million Trees program.</li> <li>In May 2024 QUB hosted 'Green Month of Community Action': Bioblitz with Friends of the Field; Litter pick with the Boat Club.</li> <li>In September 2024 QUB helped the local YMCA create a tree nursery in their garden.</li> </ul>
Sustainable Procurement	<ul> <li>Reduce emissions associated with Procurement Targets:</li> <li>Establishment of a baseline for procurement related emissions by July 2023.</li> <li>Review and analysis of 'carbon hot spot' areas.</li> <li>Review of purchasing protocols and Supply Chain Code of Conduct.</li> <li>Development of a training package for staff involved in purchasing, to raise awareness, drive motivation and build knowledge.</li> <li>Ensure Supply Chain Awareness of expected Sustainability standards Targets:</li> <li>Inclusion of Supply Chain Code of Conduct within all contract requirements - ongoing</li> </ul>	Appointment of consultants to support development of bespoke net-zero carbon targets for QUB to cover scope 1, 2 and 3, carbon off-setting, climate change adaptation and associated costed action plan. Review and report on data available to the University to baseline scope 3 inventory – October 2022. This will include staff/student travel data. Creation of a supply chain stakeholder map for scope 3 hotpots that will be included in Queen's Carbon Reduction Plan – November 2022. Complete a review of and report on the most impactful actions currently being undertaken on Scope 3 by other organisations in the UK – November 2022.	Head of Sustainability Estates Manager (Energy) Senior Procurement Manager (Sustainable) Head of Campus Food and Drink	Ongoing	Suppliers to the University are being directed to register with and utilise NETpositive (or equivalent), a free tool that will help suppliers to create a simple sustainability action plan for their business. Ongoing review of progress against action plans will be undertaken at contract management meetings. A Sustainable Food Policy and Sustainable Print Policy have been established - includes key sustainability procurement actions – report to senior management. Plastic Working Group has been established and a key theme which is being addressed within the working group is procurement. Procurement Department has drawn together various strands of responsible procurement into an overarching Supply Chain Code of Conduct which is applicable to all suppliers and links directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which

<ul> <li>Provision of support QUB S addressing emis</li> <li>Development of a</li> </ul>	sions. supply chain hots actions to support su	identifying pots and ipply chain	sets out a blueprint to achieve a bette and more sustainable future for all – published online and supplied to all significant suppliers.
<ul> <li>Supply Chain Manag Targets:</li> <li>Commission a re University's use NetPositive syste suppliers to find systems they are and their capabi</li> <li>Strategy, Action Implementation</li> <li>Onboarding proc of events to educ communicate</li> <li>Top suppliers pe (Labs, ICT etc.) in educate on our v decarbonisation Strategy.</li> <li>Targeted training education</li> <li>Carbon footprint reported on an a assess the impa 3 emissions Ong and measuring of basis</li> </ul>	gement System. 2023. Appoint consultant to with the creation of a Management System Summer 2024 Summer 2024 Plan and cess - campaign cate and or category n a room to vision for and Net Zero g/supplier t measured and nnual basis to ct on our Scope going monitoring	o assist	<ul> <li>Work by consultants (ARUP) and the university has been completed, with establishment of a baseline and actinplan for our Scope 3 data published i June 2023.</li> <li>Tender review was undertaken in earl 2024 for the Supply Chain Management System.</li> <li>Development of a Procurement Road Map and Implementation finalised in Spring 2025.</li> </ul>