



Sustainability Report 24/25

De Montfort University

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Sustainability Report 2024/2025

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Glossary of Terms

Within the field of sustainability and within this document there are a number of technical terms and expressions which require definition. This glossary of terms aims to define these expressions within the context of the university's Sustainability Report.

BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) is a standard for sustainable construction Webpage for more information: https://www.breeam.com/
British Standard BS8555	BS 8555 is the British Standard for EMS and helps organizations improve their environmental performance by providing a standard process to build an EMS in five phased stages.
Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)	The most significant long lived greenhouse gas in Earth's atmosphere. Webpage for further information: https://climate.nasa.gov/causes/
Carbon Equivalent (CO₂e)	CO ₂ equivalent (CO ₂ e) is the concentration of CO ₂ that would cause the same level of radiative forcing or warming as a given type and concentration of greenhouse gas. When carbon is discussed in this document it relates to carbon dioxide equivalents
Carbon Literacy Training	Carbon Literacy: "An awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis." https://carbonliteracy.com/
Carbon Management	The process of managing activities and the delivery of services to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide Webpage for more information: https://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/sustainability/sustainable-campus/carbon-management.aspx
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	An initiative to enable and inspire students, staff and DMU's wider community to collectively learn about and act on sustainable development and the SDGs, inspiring action now and in the future, professionally and through active citizenship. Webpage for further information https://esdg.our.dmu.ac.uk/
Environmental Management System (EMS)	An EMS is a structured process to enable an organisation to reduce its environmental impacts, meet its legal requirements and demonstrate continual environmental improvement.
Greenhouse Gases	Certain gases in the atmosphere block heat from escaping. These are known as greenhouse gases. Webpage for more information: https://climate.nasa.gov/causes/
Methane	A greenhouse gas with a warming potential 21 times greater than carbon dioxide but is much less abundant in the Earth's atmosphere. Webpage for more information: https://climate.nasa.gov/causes/
Responsible Futures	The Responsible Futures programme, run by the NUS, is an externally-assessed accreditation mark to assist all institutions in helping students to gain the skills and experience they need to thrive as global citizens. Webpage for further information: https://www.responsiblefutures.org.uk/
SKA	An environmental assessment method, benchmark and standard for non-domestic fit-outs, led and owned by RICS. Webpage for further information https://skarating.org/
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	The SDGs are a global agenda, adopted by countries in 2015, with a vision of ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Webpage for further information: https://www.globalgoals.org/
SDG Teach In	The 'SDG Teach In' is a campaign to put the SDGs at the heart of education. The Teach In calls upon educators to pledge to include the SDGs within their teaching, learning, and assessments. Webpage for further information: https://sos-uk.org/programme/sdg-teach-in/
Students Organising for	SOS-UK is an education charity created by the student movement in 2019 in response to the climate emergency and ecological crisis. The organisation is a student led charity which focuses on

Sustainability (SOS-UK)	sustainability. SOS run a number of engagement programmes which DMU participates in https://www.sos-uk.org/
Sustainable Construction	A way of building which aims to reduce negative health and environmental impacts caused by the construction process or by buildings or by the built-up environment.
Sustainability Skills Survey	Annual survey of student attitudes towards learning for sustainable development by the NUS Webpage for further information: https://sos-uk.org/research/sustainability-skills-survey/
The University	De Montfort University, including senior management, staff and students. Webpage for further information: www.dmu.ac.uk/sustainability
Times Higher Impact Rankings	The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' SDGs. Webpage for further information: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/impactrankings
University League	People & Planet's University League is an independent league table of UK universities ranked by environmental and ethical performance. It is compiled annually by the UK's largest student campaigning network, People & Planet. Webpage for further information: https://peopleandplanet.org/university-league

Introduction

Sustainability and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are highly important to De Montfort University (DMU) because they shape how the university educates students, operates its campus, and contributes to wider society.

As a modern public university in Leicester, DMU has a responsibility to address global challenges such as climate change, inequality, and resource scarcity. Embedding sustainability into teaching ensures that graduates are prepared with the knowledge and skills needed for a rapidly changing world. By aligning courses and research with the SDGs—such as climate action (SDG 13), quality education (SDG 4), and reduced inequalities (SDG 10)—DMU equips students to become responsible professionals and leaders.

Sustainability also supports DMU's operational efficiency and long-term resilience. Universities are large consumers of energy, water, and materials. By adopting sustainable practices—such as reducing carbon emissions, improving waste management, and promoting sustainable transport—DMU can lower costs, comply with environmental policies, and contribute to the UK's net-zero targets. This also enhances the university's reputation and attractiveness to environmentally conscious students, staff, and partners.

The SDGs provide a globally recognised framework that strengthens DMU's research and partnerships. Using the SDGs helps the university connect its research to real-world impact, enabling collaboration with governments, businesses, and communities. It also supports funding opportunities, as many research grants and international partnerships are now aligned with sustainable development priorities.

DMU's commitment to sustainability reflects its role as a civic institution. The university has strong links with Leicester and the wider region, meaning it can directly influence local sustainability outcomes—such as improving health and wellbeing (SDG 3), supporting inclusive economic growth (SDG 8), and fostering sustainable cities (SDG 11).

Sustainability and the SDGs are central to DMU's mission: they enhance education, improve operational performance, strengthen research impact, and reinforce the university's responsibility to both local and global communities.

The Sustainable Development Goals

De Montfort University is committed to supporting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or Global Goals, to ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity while protecting our planet from global threats such as climate change. The 17 SDGs aim to improve a broad range of ecological and humanitarian issues including poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change and social justice by 2030.

The SDGs were agreed by all nations of the UN, both developing and developed, as an urgent call for action to address many of the global issues that we face. DMU has been identified as having a special global role in this work as the Academic Hub for SDG11, which focuses on sustainable cities and communities – the only one of its kind in the UK.

To emphasise our commitment to the SDGs we will highlight where our work contributes to the Global Goals throughout this report.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Making an impact – staff and student engagement

The university has continued to deliver its Carbon Literacy training for staff and students in 2024/25, as part of its approach to engaging staff and student on sustainability and climate issues.

Carbon Literacy is an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis. Carbon Literacy is an assessed course comprising of eight hours of learning with a submission of an evidence form to demonstrate participants learning about climate change and the inclusion of two significant pledges to reduce their individual and community carbon footprints.

Carbon Literacy was also delivered through our Trans National Educational partners including DMU Dubai and Niels Brock Copenhagen Business College. The training also delivers as part of the Principles of Sustainable Building module and the Fashion Buying with Marketing course. Throughout 2024/25 the Carbon Literacy training was delivered to 208 people.

We also have dedicated social media channels focusing on the sustainability work at DMU. These channels are on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Tik Tok. The sustainability team also provided placement opportunities within the team for students through the DMU Frontrunners scheme and through an internship to obtain first-hand experience of delivering sustainability in a large organisation. In 2024/25 there were three Frontrunner placements in the Sustainability Team and one student completing their placement year.

Our targets

- **Deliver at least one project per year to change students' environmental behaviour until 2028/29**
- **Deliver at least one project per year to change staff environmental behaviour until 2028/29**

Our progress

- **The DMU Sustainability Team gave guest lectures to students on environmental management, corporate social responsibility and the work of the team in addressing sustainability at DMU**
- **Students and staff receive information about the university's sustainability work as part of their induction**
- **DMU delivered the Carbon Literacy training to student, student and the local community. During 2024/25 there were 208 staff and students who attended the training**



Environmental management

DMU has an Environmental Management System (EMS) to identify and manage its significant environmental activities and their impacts. An EMS is a set of processes and practices that enable an organisation to identify, manage and reduce its environmental impacts, and ensure it meets its legal obligations. The university's EMS is assessed annually by external auditors against the requirements of the British Standard (BS8555) for environmental management systems.

This annual sustainability report is a key part of the EMS in terms of publicly reporting progress in meetings our sustainability objectives and targets

British Standard BS 8555 Phases

- One: Commitment and establishing the baseline – Achieved
- Two: Identifying and ensuring compliance with legal and other requirements – Achieved
- Three: Developing objectives, targets and programmes – Achieved
- Four: Operation and implementation of the EMS – Achieved
- Five: Checking, environmental audits and reviews – In progress
- Six: Transition to international EMS standard ISO14001:2015 – Not started

Our targets

- **Implement an environmental management system (EMS) for the whole campus and gain external certification for the system**
- **Complete environmental legislative audits on air emissions, waste storage, disposal and discharges annually**

Our progress

- **External audit completed and retained BS 8555 Standard Phases 1 – 4 for DMU**
- **Complied with environmental legislation**
- **Legislative audits completed for EMS**



Teaching and research

DMU has committed to embed education for sustainable development (ESD) into all courses and modules so that all students will leave the institution having learnt about sustainability.

UNESCO states that Education for Sustainable Development empowers people with the knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and behaviours to live in a way that is good for the environment, economy, and society. It encourages people to make smart, responsible choices that help create a better future for everyone.

Our goal is to embed ESD across all courses and modules and progress against this commitment is measured by an assessment of module, course and programme descriptors to identify if certain sustainability keywords have been included within the descriptors.

Programme description documents were analysed for all DMU courses with data available (554 unique courses) in sections “Description”, “Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies” and “Assessment”. The analysis searched for lists of keywords in 3 categories:

A: CORE CONCEPTS: Keywords **indicative** of **explicit** addressing of the holistic sustainability / sustainable development agenda (i.e., in **more than one** of economic/social/environmental dimensions). *Examples: Sustainable, Responsible, Sustainability, SDGs, Regenerative. 10 terms used.*

B: RELATED CONCEPTS: Keywords indicating **some aspects** of sustainability/sustainable development (e.g., one of social/economic/ecological dimensions) being addressed as concepts/principles. *Examples: Environmental, Ethical, Justice, Circularity. 81 terms used*

C: TOPICS, PEDAGOGY and COMPETENCIES: Keywords suggesting engagement with **topics** related to sustainability and the SDGs (e.g., Poverty, Carbon), **pedagogic approaches** (e.g., enquiry-based, experiential, scenario-based) and/or sustainability competencies (e.g., reflective, collaborative, futures). *100+terms used*

Results were as follows for DMU programmes running in 2024/25:

- Explicitly addressing Core Concepts: 48% (266 programmes)
- Addressing Core or Related Concepts: 68% (377 programmes)
- Addressing Sustainability or Sustainable Development in some way (Concepts, Pedagogy, Topic and/or Competencies): 76% (421 programmes)

DMU took part in the SDG Teach In which is a campaign to put the SDGs, and therefore sustainability, at the heart of all stages of education, and across all disciplines. The annual campaign, run by SOS-UK, encourages educators to include the SDGs within their teaching, learning, activities and assessment during the campaign which takes place throughout March. DMU was the highest ranked university in the SDG Teach In for the

number of educators taking part in the campaign and the highest ranked university for the percentage of students engaged.

Our progress

- The highest performing university in SDG Teach In 2025 for number of educators participating and the percentage of students engaged
- Enhanced our approach to measuring the number of modules and programmes including sustainability through a keyword search of module and programme descriptors



Travel

The impact of staff and student commuting to DMU is addressed through the institution Travel Plan. The Travel Plan, now in its fourth phase, sets out the measures and initiatives to be implemented to reduce single occupancy journeys by staff and the overall carbon emissions from commuting.

The initiatives in the Travel Plan support more sustainable travel through more provision for cyclists, walkers and users of public transport. As part of this strategic approach DMU is a member of SmartGo Leicester who negotiate discounts on public transport and other sustainable travel programme on behalf of major employers in the city.

DMU continues to run the Daria Project in conjunction with Leicester City Council. Through the Daria Project free cycle training is offered to DMU staff and students. The project is named after DMU student Daria who was the first student to learn to ride through the project.

Travel behaviours of DMU staff and students is assessed through the annual travel survey. In 2024/25 the results of the survey identified that 41% of staff travel in a single occupied vehicle, 15% of staff travel by public transport and 55% of staff choose a sustainable form of travel for part or all of their journey to DMU. The results of the survey are also used to calculate the carbon impact of staff and student commuting. This showed that staff and student commuting contributed 3,937 tCO₂e to the university's carbon footprint.

Distanced travelled on business travel for the university decreased in 2024/25. Total air travel was 6,237,197 kms and rail was 320,113 kms contributing 839 tCO₂e and 11 tCO₂e respectively to the institutions carbon footprint.

Business Travel

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Domestic Rail (kms)	42,201	134,050	224,474	340,500	318,809
International Rail (kms)	1,375	5,383	8,748	7,919	1,304
Total Rail (kms)	43,576	139,433	233,222	348,419	320,113
Total Air Travel (kms)	703,898	245,776	4,445,962	6,739,476	6,237,197

Our targets

- Total carbon emissions from commuting to be a three-year average of <2,500 tCO₂e by end of 2025
- The percentage of staff commuting by sustainable alternatives to be a three-year average of 65% by the end of 2023 and 67% by the end of 2025.
- Three-year average for staff commuting by single occupancy vehicle to be 33% by the end of 2025

Our progress

- Commuting emissions three-year average for the period 2022-2024 were 3,352 tCO₂e
- Staff commuting by sustainable alternatives was a three-year average of 52% for the period 2022-2024
- Staff commute by single occupancy vehicle was a three-year average of 46% for the period 2022 – 2024



Energy and water

Our energy use has an impact through the means to generate the energy we need as well as through the carbon emissions which are released when these fuels are used.

Total energy use for 2024/25 was 25,534 MWh. Energy use has decreased this reporting year when compared to the previous year. Electricity use accounted for 12,198 MWh and gas was 13,336 MWh.

The university has also committed to purchasing electricity from low carbon sources. Approximately 99% of the electricity supplied to campus comes from renewable sources. Targets in relation to energy use are reported through the university's carbon reduction targets which are detailed later in this report.

Water use on campus fluctuates from year to year. The consumption for 2024/25 was 60,225 m³ which is lower than the previous year of 66,818 m³

Our target

- Three per cent reduction in water consumption against the three-year average from 2012 to 2014 (The three-year average is 74,153m³ therefore a 3% reduction is 2,224m³ per year).

Our progress

- Water consumption in 2024/25 was 60,225 m³ which is a 10% reduction compared to the previous year.
- Our grid electricity supply comes from 100 per cent renewable sources.



Waste and Recycling

The university collects and recycles a wide variety of waste materials from campus. The university receives information from our waste contractors on the waste collected from campus and the disposal route of that

waste. This data forms the basis of calculations to determine the overall recycling rate of waste and the carbon emissions associated with the different disposal or recycling routes for the waste.

The Post and Porterage team based in Estates and Facilities have introduced a furniture reuse scheme whereby redundant furniture is stored until needed by other parts of the university or is donated to local community groups or sold to external groups. Over 422 items of furniture were reused with 183 items sold in 2024/25.

The furniture reuse scheme helps to reduce waste at the university and reduce the carbon impact of the university supply chain through avoiding the embedded carbon in new items through reusing existing furniture stock.

The total amount of waste generated in 2024/25 decreased from 610 tonnes to 359 tonnes for non-residential waste. As the amount of waste produced decreased so did the amount recycled. The amount of waste that was recycled decreased from 573 tonnes to 318 tonnes with over 90% of non-residential waste was recycled or composted.

The figures for residential waste are based on national data sets for waste produced. Using these figures and the disposal routes published by Leicester City Council it can be calculated that 167 tonnes of waste were produced, of which 33 tonnes were recycled and 61 tonnes were sent for disposal to landfill.

Our targets

- **Recycling 94% of non-residential waste - 2022/23**
- **Recycling 94% of non-residential waste - 2025/26**

Our progress

- **Recycled over 90% of our non-residential waste in 2024/25**



Carbon emissions

DMU takes a comprehensive approach to measuring and reporting its greenhouse gas (carbon) emissions. Carbon emissions from energy use and emissions from DMU owned vehicles in 2024/25 were 4,604 tCO₂e which is a reduction of 65% based on the baseline year of 2005/06.

Our Carbon Plan contains a range of different projects to improve light and heating controls as well as improving the insulation of buildings. The Carbon Plan will be reviewed in 2024/25 to identify further projects to implement to continue to reduce our carbon emissions.

Carbon emissions are classified according to scopes as shown in the diagram below. Scope 1 and 2 emissions have reduced by 65% compared to the baseline year of 2005/06. Emissions from scope 3 sources for the reporting year of 2024/25 have reduced with scope 3 emissions being 48,062 tCO₂e.

In the scope 3 category, emissions have decreased from UK and international students travelling to study at DMU, business travel and supply chains activities.

Our targets

- **Achieve net zero emissions by 2032 for scope 1 and 2 emissions**
- **Achieve net zero emission by 2045 for scope 3 emissions**

Our progress

- **Emissions from energy use and our own vehicles are 65% below our 2005 baseline year**
- **Scope 3 emissions were 10% higher than the 2005 baseline year.**

Scope 1 emissions sources	Scope 2 emission sources	Scope 3 emission sources
Use of gas	Purchased electricity	Waste
DMU owned vehicles		Water
		Staff commuting
		Student commuting
		Business travel
		Visitor travel
		International student travel
		UK-based student travel
		Supply chain (procurement) activities
		Private halls



International and UK student Travel Emissions

The university aims to take a comprehensive approach to measuring and reporting its carbon emissions. This includes the impact of students travelling to DMU to study including both UK students and international students.

Emissions from international students in 2024/25 were considerably lower than the previous year, having decreased significantly from 20,233 tCO₂e to 11,063 tCO₂e. Emissions from these sources represent 21% of the total carbon footprint for the university. Assumptions have been made on the number of times that international students travel home during the academic year. These assumptions will be checked for accuracy in the annual travel survey.

Emissions from UK based students travelling to DMU were 560 tCO₂e which is a slight increase on the previous year of 554 tCO₂e.





Sustainable food

The university works in partnership with its catering provider, Chartwells, to ensure that sustainability is an essential part of the food provision at DMU. This includes working to reduce food waste and providing awareness raising of the environmental impact and carbon intensity of different foods.

In 2024/25 DMU and Chartwells joined the Fairtrade University programme, run by SOS-UK and the Fairtrade Foundation, with the aim of achieving the Fairtrade University status. The work includes raising awareness of Fairtrade, increasing the Fairtrade products available on campus and working with the DSU on promotions. In 2025 DMU and Chartwells were awarded Fairtrade University status.

In partnership with Chartwells, the university has used the Food Made Good certification by the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA) as a measure of progress on sustainability in this area.

The Food Made Good Standard is a comprehensive sustainability assessment designed for food and beverage businesses, providing a roadmap towards improvement and sharing sustainability efforts with stakeholders. It is rooted in practical actions and offers a credible way to demonstrate sustainability work. The standard is valid for two years, encouraging continuous improvement and a journey towards a better food system for all.

The Food Made Good standard evaluates action across three pillars: Sourcing, Society and Environment including looking at food waste, recycling, supporting farmers, sustainable fish sourcing and reducing carbon footprint. The rating is across 3 stars and in 2025, DMU and Chartwells achieved 3 stars out of 3 stars for its catering provision.

DMU has also identified a space on campus for a staff and student allotment. The location of the allotment is to the rear of the Queens Building. The allotment is open to staff and student to grow their own produce.

Our progress

- **DMU and Chartwells achieved three stars in the Food Made Good sustainability assessment**
- **Operation of a 'latte levy' which adds an additional cost for the use of a disposable cup across campus outlets**
- **Achieved Fairtrade University status**



Ethical investment

DMU has adopted an ethical investment policy which is reviewed on a regular basis. The ethical investment policy is part of the institutions Investment Policy. DMU works with its ethical fund managers to manage its investments in a socially responsible and sustainable manner.

The university has made specific commitments about what it will and will not invest in. As stated in the Investment Policy the university has stated that it will not invest directly or indirectly in producers of high impact fossil fuels (thermal coal, oil sands, shale oil and shale gas) and manufacturers of civilian firearms, controversial and nuclear weapons and will not invest directly and reasonably minimise indirect investments in;

- tobacco manufacturers;
- adult entertainment;
- alcohol; and
- gambling

DMU has also committed to publish details of the companies that it invests in and these investments can be found on the sustainability pages of the university website.



Sustainable Construction

Ensuring that new buildings and refurbishments embrace sustainability principles can reduce the energy demand of buildings thereby reducing energy related carbon emissions. Sustainable construction at DMU is guided by the university's energy policy, which includes the use of various assessment protocols depending on the size and budget of the refurbishment or new build project. The Energy Policy states that: -

'DMU aspires to create sustainable buildings and during any new build, refurbishment, modification, infrastructure renewal or fit-out project, will consider industry recognised sustainability standards such as BREEAM and SKA HE.

The relevant standard(s) to be applied will be defined by the Director of Estates and Facilities on a case-by-case basis. Alternative assessment methodologies / standards such as PassivHaus, LEED or the WELL Building standard may be adopted by Estates and Facilities for a project subject to the prior agreement of the Director of Estates and Facilities.

The policy is reviewed on a regular basis.'



Our role in the community

Engagement at DMU provides support through a range of initiatives that make a positive impact. Our projects are delivered through student learning and experience, through research and engagement and through supporting projects collaboratively within DMU, the local community and beyond.

Through the SDG Hub team, a number of projects have been run to engage staff, students and the local community.

These projects have included Project Atefa, which is an initiative dedicated to sharing the stories of refugees and asylum seekers, with the aim of reshaping narratives surrounding displaced communities. Through collaboration between DMU students, staff, and local organisations in Leicester, the project seeks to foster greater understanding and awareness of the challenges faced by asylum seekers.

Projects have also included Net Zero Football. Net Zero Football is a project based on the UN Football for the Goals framework, designed to help amateur football clubs understand sustainability and empower them to take meaningful climate action.

In 2024/25, the initiative rooted itself in Citizen Science, equipping coaches with the skills to use their own knowledge, experiences and data to drive positive change within their clubs, members, and communities for the SDGs. Local football clubs play a vital role in communities, offering young people a space to develop essential life skills, and bond with peers.



Biodiversity

The DMU campus is a city centre campus which presents many challenges for biodiversity, however there are still many opportunities to enhance biodiversity on the site.

Through the work of the Estates and Facilities Grounds Maintenance Team an area of campus has been converted into a wildflower meadow. Through careful management by the Grounds Maintenance team the area has flowered and provided a haven for biodiversity on campus.

The University has participating in the Hedgehog Friendly Campus (HFC) initiative and is working with staff and students to undertake a series of initiatives on campus to support declining hedgehog populations. In 2024/25 DMU was awarded the Gold standard in the HFC initiative.

The activities as part of the HFC initiative have included hedgehog surveys on campus, staff and student litter picks and promoting hedgehog conservation through the sustainableDMU social media channels.

Our progress

- **Achieved Gold Award in the Hedgehog Friendly Campus initiative**
- **Planted a wildflower area on campus to support biodiversity**



Sustainability Data 2024/25

General

Indicators/metrics	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Student numbers	23,320	25,145	21,555	21,701	19,718
Staff numbers	2,640	2,773	3,378	3,664	3,391
Gross Internal Area (GIA) (m ²)	180,246	180,246	177,295	178,359	178,360

Energy and Water

Indicators/metrics	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Energy use (*MWh)	34,294	32,622	27,363	25,736	25,534
Electricity use (MWh)	13,737	14,640	12,576	12,413	12,198
Gas use (MWh)	20,557	17,951	14,787	13,323	13,336
Water use (m ³)	30,687	60,891	68,766	66,818	60,225
Energy generated from renewables (MWh)	183	205	225	213	231
Fuel used in DMU vehicles (litres)	4,890	6,552	5,893	3,677	1,954
Residential & non-residential Gross Internal Area (GIA) with Display Energy Certificate (DEC) rating of A–C (m ²)	177,850	145,550	164,157	177,499	175,725
% residential & non-residential GIA with DEC and EPC rating A–C	98%	81%	93%	99%	99%
Energy and water costs (£'000)	£2,901	£4,048	£4,264	£5,657	£4,740

*MWh = 1000kWh

Transport

Indicators/metrics	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
% Single occupancy car use (staff)	39%	50%	45%	44%	41%
% Single occupancy car use (students)	6%	8%	4%	8%	13%
% Staff travel by public transport	28%	20%	18%	19%	15%
% Staff travel by cycling	9%	9%	11%	12%	15%
% Staff travel by walking/running	15%	13%	17%	18%	19%

Education for Sustainable Development

Indicators/metrics	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
No. of module descriptions with sustainability key words	132	126	197	-	
No / % of programmes explicitly addressing core concepts				207 (35%)	266 (48%)
No / % of programmes addressing core or related concepts				512 (86%)	421 (68%)

*Keywords approach changed in 2023/24 to provide more granular results.

Waste and recycling

Indicators/metrics	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total waste produced – non-residential (tonnes)	485	549	500	610	359
Waste recycled – non-residential (tonnes)	277	462	427	573	318
Waste to landfill – non-residential (tonnes)	0	0	0	0	0
Waste to Energy from Waste (tonnes)	0	0	0	10	9
Total waste produced – residential (tonnes)*	177	177	183	167	167
Waste recycled – residential (tonnes)**	37	37	36	33	33
Waste to landfill – residential (tonnes)**	56	56	74	61	61

*Produced from national dataset

**Produced from Leicester City Council Waste Disposal Statistics

Reuse of equipment

Indicators/metrics	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Surplus furniture items reused (no. of items)	-	-	425	431	422
Surplus furniture items sold (no. of items)	-	-	25	126	183
IT equipment repurposed and sold (no. of items)	-	-	1317	-	1683
IT equipment recycled (no. of items)	-	-	742	-	240

Business travel emissions

Indicators/metrics	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Air travel (tCO ₂ e)	116	415	857	1,320	839
Rail travel (tCO ₂ e)	2	5	8	12	11
Maritime (tCO ₂ e)	0	0	0	0	0
Road travel (tCO ₂ e)	27	116	90	246	589
Total emissions (tCO ₂ e)	145	536	955	1,579	1,440

Business travel distances*

Indicators/metrics	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Domestic Rail (kms)	42,201	134,050	224,474	340,500	318,809
International Rail (kms)	1,375	5,383	8,748	7,919	1,304
Total Rail (kms)	43,576	139,433	233,222	348,419	320,113
Domestic Air Travel (kms)	718	1,564	767	1,847	7,394
Air Travel Short Haul (kms)	47,430	231,700	413,880	425,247	342,086
Air Travel Long Haul (kms)	534,265	1,794,170	2,605,560	3,919,173	4,319,273
Air Travel Long Haul International (kms)		414,342	1,425,754	2,393,208	1,568,444
Total Air Travel (kms)	703,898	245,776	4,445,962	6,739,476	6,237,197

*

As booked through corporate travel provider does not include flights booked outside of corporate travel provider

Greenhouse gas emissions

Indicators/metrics	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Emissions from energy and DMU owned vehicles (scope 1 & 2) (tCO ₂ e)	6,694	6,130	5,280*	5,016	4,604
Emissions from staff and student commute (scope 3) (tCO ₂ e)	442	2,431	2,127	3,991	3,937
Emissions from business travel (scope 3) (tCO ₂ e)	145	536	955	1,579	1,440
Emissions from waste and water (scope 3) (tCO ₂ e)	470	615	611	769	524
Emissions from international & UK student travel (scope 3) (tCO ₂ e)	10,579	14,256	17,037	20,233	11,063
Emissions from private halls of residences (scope 3) (tCO ₂ e)*	2,791	2,739	1,979	1,877	1,871
Emissions from procurement activities (tCO ₂ e)	22,884	27,154	26,243	29,496*	29,158
Emissions from all scope 3 sources (tCO ₂ e)	37,331	47,815	49,086	57,084	48,062
Total emissions - scope 1, 2 & 3 sources (tCO ₂ e)**	44,026	53,945	54,403	62,100	52,666

*amended due to updated emission factors

Accommodation

Indicators/metrics	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Emissions from DMU owned halls of residences – reported in scope 1 & 2 emission (scope 1 & 2) (tCO ₂ e)	266	260	272	286	246
Emissions from DMU owned halls as percentage of total scope 1 and 2 emissions	4%	4%	5%	6%	5%
Emissions from all halls of residences – DMU and private halls (tCO ₂ e) scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions	3,057	2,999	2,251	2,163	2,117
Emissions from all halls of residences as percentage of total emission	7%	5%	5%	3%	4%

Greenhouse gas emissions targets

Indicators/metrics	2005/06	2024/25	2023/24 interim target reduction	Achieved % change	Net zero target
Emissions from energy and DMU owned vehicles - scope 1 and 2 (tCO ₂ e)	13,217	4,604	-60%	-65%	2032
Emissions from all scope 3 sources (tCO ₂ e)	43,832	48,062	-14%	+10%	2045

Trends and future areas of focus

Overall, the picture in relation to our sustainability performance is good. Successes in 2024/25 includes the continued reduction of our scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions achieving a reduction of 65% compared to the baseline year of 2005/06.

We have successfully completed a sustainability assessment for our sustainable food provision achieving a three-star standard through the Food Made Good standard. There were also improvements in our reporting of waste through our furniture reuse scheme and through our IT disposal.

DMU has continued to offer small scale sustainability grants through the SeeD Grant supporting a number of sustainability projects on and off campus and the university continues to work with Leicester City Council to deliver the Daria Project to provide free training sessions to staff and students to teach them how to ride a bicycle.

There has been considerable progress in the area of ESD which reflects the interest and demand from students as shown in the findings of the NUS sustainability skills survey for 2024/25. DMU was ranked as the highest performing university in the SDG Teach In for 2025 having the greatest number of educators taking part and the highest proportion of students participating in the programme.

Our focus for the next year will be on expanding our Carbon Literacy training to offer this to more staff and students and to expand that offer to our TNE partners in various parts of the world.

Following the success of the university's activities in reducing its carbon emissions the existing carbon management plan will be reviewed in 2025/26 with the assistance of an external consultant. The plan will identify additional projects and initiatives that can be implemented to maintain the University's trajectory to the net zero target of 2032 for emissions from energy use and its own vehicles.

This report details great progress in many areas of sustainability but we will not remain complacent. There are still many areas where more work is needed and we will continue to work towards our targets and objectives and we will engage our staff and students in this process. We will continue to report our progress through report such as this annual sustainability report.

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