

# Annual Sustainability Report

2017 - 2018





**Stephen Marston**  
**Vice-Chancellor,**  
**University of Gloucestershire**

The University of Gloucestershire is dedicated to learning as a force for positive transformation in society. Our mission is to expand the horizons of our students and our entire university community, whilst maintaining our contribution to the global effort to move towards equitable and sustainable futures.

I am delighted to share our Annual Sustainability Report 2017-2018, which demonstrates improvements and innovations across all five goals of our sustainability programme. This year we have seen significant performance results, having risen to 2nd place overall in the higher education sustainability league and achieved carbon emissions reductions of 46% since 2005.

We continue to extend our curriculum innovations, deliver new research and support students to develop professionally in sustainability, with increasing activity across our subject communities.

The report shows how we deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we are proud to be in the growing vanguard of organisations committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The criticality of sustainability to the core mission of higher education is clearer than ever.

Our Annual Sustainability Report contains the evidence of our ongoing commitment to education and research that is relevant, practical and inspirational, guided by our shared focus on responding to the critical challenges our societies face for the future.

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**Dr Alex Ryan**  
**Director of Sustainability,**  
**University of Gloucestershire**

The challenge of sustainability is one of shared endeavour, to improve long term prospects for our societies and protect the planetary resources we depend on. Our Annual Sustainability Report 2017-2018 shows the collaborative will and dedicated action that is unfolding across our student community, staff teams and with key partners. It is always a source of great pride when we see how much we have achieved and the significant positive impact we are creating, despite the relatively small size of our organisation.

This year we have seen excellent examples of joint action by our students and staff, which has ensured that we achieved fossil fuel divestment, created a range of innovative new learning experiences and kick-started the removal of disposable cups from our refectories. It has been an inspiring year with great results, fuelled by an ethos of co-creation that is continually bringing new ideas forwards.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone involved in the activities that feature in this report. This always includes many people whose work is not centre stage but whose contributions were critical to our overall performance. Thanks too to those who help to create the report, improve its quality and also use it in teaching and engagement activities, as this live learning loop is helping us all to keep innovating for sustainability.

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# 2017-2018 highlights at a glance



Piloted our new Live Smart student experience project



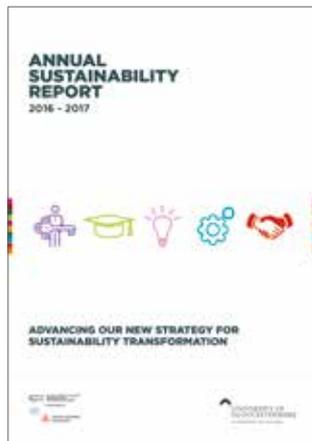
2nd place in the UK universities' sustainability league



New progress indicators on Education for Sustainability



Complete divestment from fossil fuel 2018 onwards



Release of our new Annual Sustainability Report



Accredited to new ISO 14001: 2015 environmental management system



New RCE Severn strategy and communications



New Pittville Student Village with sustainability features



SPacE active environments designated EU Special Interest project



13 students delivered professional sustainability projects



Successful trial removed 4610 disposable cups from refectories

# Introduction

Welcome to our second report on the delivery of our Sustainability Strategy 2017-2022. This report charts our progress for academic year 2017-2018 and how this maps against our long term targets.

In this report we share our positive impact for sustainability through learning, research and public engagement, plus the actions we are taking to reduce the negative impacts of running our University. It includes our improvement challenges and risks, annual performance measures and how we seek to benefit our students, communities and environment.

The report is organised around the five core goals of our Sustainability Strategy, which spans our academic and corporate activities. We report on varied activities and targets for each goal:



## 1. Leadership and Governance

This section (pages 6 to 7) shows our core performance ranking in the UK universities' sustainability league, as well as policy developments, culture change initiatives and awards we have received.



## 2. Student Experience

This section (pages 8 to 10) shows the experiences we provide to our students and changes they are leading for sustainability, in their courses, local communities and through our Students' Union.



## 3. Academic Innovation

This section (pages 11 to 15) shows new teaching and research developments across our 8 Academic Schools, and summarises how we are building our overall academic capacity for sustainability.



## 4. Business Operations

This section (pages 16 to 21) shows our performance and activities in sustainability across our core operations, which includes our Estates Management Record data from August 2017 to July 2018.



## 5. Engagement and Partnerships

This section (pages 22 to 23) shows how we work with our partners and communities, as well as staff and students, to create benefits for all and to support sustainability in the wider world.

Our Annual Sustainability Report is produced by our Sustainability Team and reviewed by our Sustainability Committee and the University Executive, who validate this report and inform annual priorities. External assurance of this progress monitoring and reporting process is aligned to our Environmental Management System (EMS) and ISO 14001: 2015 accreditation. This report shows our performance on the objectives identified as our main material impacts within our EMS. These high level targets are set out on page 24.

The report also underlines the importance we place on our students' development as another material aspect of our sustainability impact, which requires the integration of sustainability into our academic activities. This is specified in our EMS, recognising that the most important impact we can have is to ensure that our graduates understand sustainability and are equipped to take it forward in their professions.

### Reporting on the UN Global Goals

The University is a designated Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) in sustainability education, acknowledged by the United Nations University. RCE Severn is our platform for collaboration with partners towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On page 25 we outline how the results and actions in this report contribute to six SDGs where we deliver the greatest impact. This meets our annual reporting commitments on the SDGs as an institutional signatory to the tertiary sector SDG Accord.





### People & Planet University League 2017

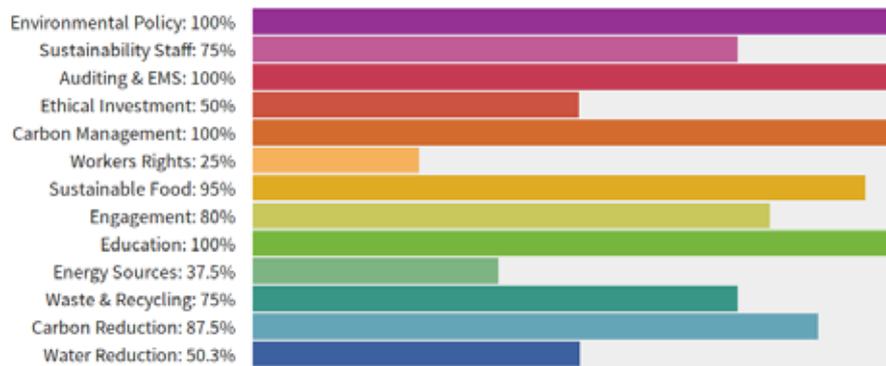
Our core Key Performance Indicator, reported annually to Council, is the UK sustainability ranking for universities. In 2017 we advanced 6 places in the league table from 8th to 2nd position.



#### Our 2017 performance:

- 2nd place - of 154 higher education institutions
- First class award status

We were delighted with this rise which was largely due to a significant increase in our score for carbon reduction, from 25% in 2016 to 87.5% in 2017, reflecting the dedicated collaborative work between our Estates and Sustainability departments.



### New Environmental Management Accreditation

In November 2017 we gained accreditation to the new 2015 standard for our ISO 14001 Environmental Management System. We were the first English university to achieve this accreditation in 2005 and this new quality mark confirms the top management support for sustainability across our organisation.



### Divestment from Fossil Fuel

Having listened to the concerns of students and staff, the University has now fully divested from fossil fuel extraction companies with immediate effect, and is reinvesting the proceeds in companies with a track record in clean energy, scoring highly on the Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) assessment.

### Policy changes supporting sustainability

- Development of new **Carbon Management Plan** to stay on track with our targets
- Release of new **Internationalisation Strategy** aligned with our sustainability commitments
- Revised **Catering Policy** with sharper targets on sustainable food and wellbeing
- New **Waste Management Contract** to improve performance and reduce costs
- Published our **Gender Pay Gap** report and action plan and provided recruitment bias training
- Achieved the **Workplace Wellbeing Charter** core standards with excellence in two areas.



## Annual Sustainability Report

In line with our new Sustainability Strategy 2017-2022 and ISO 14001: 2015 accreditation, we released our new Annual Sustainability Report, which shares our sustainability performance and achievements with our students, staff and partners:



## External Successes

### National Teaching Fellowships 2017

Dr Alex Ryan, Director of Sustainability, was awarded a UK National Teaching Fellowship for her work to advance sustainability education in higher education



### UK Green Gown Awards 2017

Highly Commended (runner up), for our Power of the Purse sustainable procurement project – in the Facilities and Services category

Highly Commended (runner up), for Dr Michelle Williams, Course Lead in Product Design – in the Sustainability Champion category



### United Nations University 2017

Thread Counts sustainable fashion initiative, led by Margaret McDonough and Jamilla Ives from our Fashion Design team, was awarded Outstanding Flagship Project in sustainability education.

Changing Communities, Changing Perceptions, led by Dr Julia Peck, Academic Subject Lead in Photography, was recognised as an Acknowledged Flagship Project in sustainability education.



## University Awards

Sustainability Service Awards were made to three members of staff:

- **Bill Burford**, Academic Subject Lead - Design
- **Robin Hare**, Contracts and Procurement Manager
- **Professor Frank Chambers**, Professor of Physical Geography

Our sustainability team won Outstanding Team at the 2018 staff awards ceremony for their collaborative leadership on sustainability and securing our rise in the People & Planet league table.





Student Interest in Sustainability

National Union of Students Survey 2017-18	 Responses	"universities should actively promote sustainability"	"sustainability should be integrated into all courses"	"my university takes action to limit negative impacts"
University of Gloucestershire results	246	84%	78%	69%
National results across universities	12,000	87%	79%	73%

Students' Union

Sustainability motions at the SU AGM

At the Students Union AGM, our students voted to:

- Reduce plastic wastage
- Increase renewable energy on campus
- Introduce 30 minute auto log-off for inactive PCs

National Union of Students – Green Impact

Awarded 'Good' Green Impact status for sustainability practice by the Students' Union.



Sustainability Part Time Officer

Our students elected Andi Ward, 1st year psychology student to represent their views on sustainability to the Students' Union and University.

Andi's work focused on the SU divestment campaign and supporting the Live Smart pilot. He was awarded the 'Green Gnome' for sustainability excellence at the Student Awards 2018.

Student Societies

Global Athletes

Global Athletes encourages sports teams to make a positive impact both on and off the pitch, competing to complete actions that improve their sustainability practice.



Number of teams: **3**



Actions taken: **50**



Winners: **Boardriders**



New Student Society

Students decided to form a new student sustainability society, the 'UniGlos Green Team'. They are campaigning to reduce single use plastics on campus, promote re-usables, and minimise food waste in the refectories.



We developed and piloted Live Smart – our new student-led engagement initiative to deliver transformative experiences and practical opportunities in sustainability.

Live Smart aims to help our students to live in smarter ways that support wellbeing, save money and build community as well as benefiting the wider planet.

**Key Themes**

-  Value for money
-  Employability
-  Wellbeing
-  Community



**Pilot Team**

Key to Live Smart is its paid student team, who shaped and delivered the pilot. 6 students took specialist roles and gained professional experience developing and implementing core activities.

“I benefited from working as part of a professional team with a specific role. I want to go on to work with communities, so communication and event planning is crucial.”

**Sophie, 3rd Year Landscape Architect - Design and Brand Lead**

**Pilot process**

Activities	Process
<p><b>Communications</b> – practical online and offline tips to help students live smarter</p> <p><b>Student events</b> – bike maintenance and chilli growing to promote wellbeing and local produce</p> <p><b>Challenges</b> – group cooking to reduce energy, boost wellbeing and build community</p> <p><b>Payback model</b> – we tested ways to return savings directly back to students for their action on energy</p>	<p> <b>6</b> halls of residence</p> <p> <b>3</b> campuses</p> <p> <b>13</b> weeks</p>

**Pilot results**

Operational	Engagement
<p>The energy saving aspect of the pilot resulted in:</p> <p><b>9%</b> average energy reduction</p> <p><b>2.2</b> tonnes carbon saving</p> <p><b>£690</b> financial saving</p>	<p>Evaluating the student engagement methods showed:</p> <p><b>50%</b> of students surveyed said Live Smart changed their view of sustainability</p> <p><b>100+</b> students attended events</p>



Your Future Plan

Our Future Professionals activities are aligned to our Your Future Plan employability programme and offer annual opportunities for students to develop professional sustainability skills.

In Future You Week, we offered workshops linking sustainability to students' career ambitions:

- Future Professionals "sustainability skills" 19 students attended
- Working in the Third Sector - UN Refugee Agency 86 students attended
- Working in the Third Sector - Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust 44 students attended
- Communication for Ethical Leadership 14 students attended

Professional Projects

Our students carried out a range of action projects within the University and Students' Union:

- Target** **10** professional sustainability projects delivered by students
- Result** **13** professional sustainability projects delivered by students



**Sustainability Communications Officer**  
**Lauren, 3rd year English Language and Linguistics**

**Project:** Communicating sustainability via social media and freshers' activities.

**Result:** Lauren increased sustainability social media following and won Intern of the Year at the Student Awards 2018.

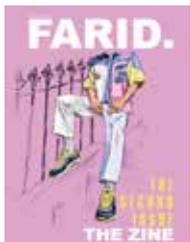


**Sustainability Film Intern**  
**Joe, 1st year Film Production**

**Project:** Creating a short film to celebrate the 10th birthday of the Edible Garden at our FCH campus.

**Result:** Joe's film was shared on social media by the University and by St Paul's Area Residents Association.

Learning Experiences



**Journalism students** developed an issue of their interactive magazine "FARID THE ZINE" focused on fashion and its impacts on society and the environment.



**Accounting and Finance students** reviewed the University's new Annual Sustainability Report as part of their Social and Environmental Accounting module.

Student Awards

**New Designer - New Designers Awards 2018 - Highly Commended**  
**Luke Lutman, School of Art and Design**



**Project:** Project: 3D printer filament extruder that turns waste produced by 3D printers and household packaging into new 3D printer filament.

**Royal Society of Arts Student Design Awards 2018 - Highly Commended**  
**Kieran Scott, School of Art and Design**



**Project:** "Alleviate" - a wearable device to improve wellbeing by reducing stress and aiding sleep.

**New Designers Awards 2018 - Allermuir Associate Prize**  
**Tom Jaggs, School of Art and Design**



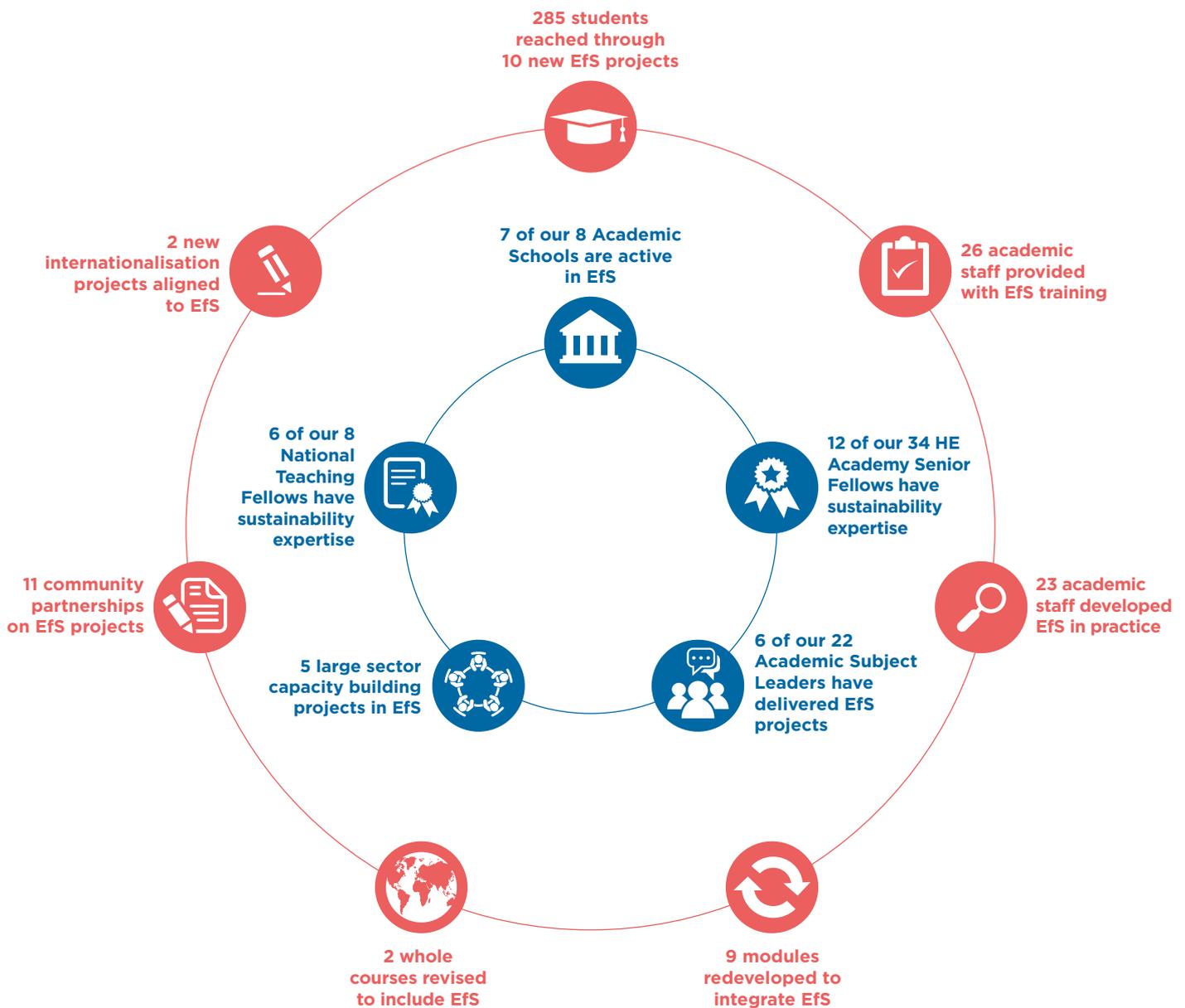
**Project:** "Hydro Hub" - a mains fed water cooler design that avoids the need for plastic water containers and supports the wellbeing of workers.



Our sustainability strategy focuses on education and learning as the key to advancing sustainability in our professions, industries and communities. We seek to develop transformative learning across the curriculum – an approach that helps people not only to develop specialist knowledge, but to understand how to apply that knowledge and work with others to achieve positive change towards sustainability goals. This is **Education for Sustainability (EFS)**.

**Learning Innovation for Tomorrow (LIFT)** is our capacity development programme that supports our academic teams to integrate Efs into core course experiences and bring sustainability into mainstream academic practice. The outer circle below shows the key achievements from our 2017-2018 LIFT projects.

Our growing academic impact in sustainability, including curriculum innovations, new publications and research projects completed, is seen in the highlights from our 8 Academic Schools on pages 12 to 15. This is part of the overall story of how we are developing our own capacity and influencing the wider higher education sector. The inner circle below provides indicators of our progress in this important aspect of sustainability impact.





## School of Liberal and Performing Arts

### Arran Stibbe becomes Professor of Ecological Linguistics

Dr Arran Stibbe, one of our National Teaching Fellows in Education for Sustainability, became Professor of Ecological Linguistics in 2018. Arran's research is on the stories that underpin our unsustainable industrialisation and how literature can provide new stories to live by. His free online course *The Stories We Live By* ([storiesweliveby.org.uk](http://storiesweliveby.org.uk)) explores how language and visual images encourage people to protect or destroy the environment and has attracted more than 1300 participants from across the globe since its launch in 2017.



### Cotswold Centre for History and Heritage - Sustainability in Applied Projects (LIFT Project)

- History students designed and ran digital and public exhibitions on local history topics
- Students were assessed on sustainability in archival work and engagement with local communities
- Student research explored sustainability in relation to issues such as female suffrage and slum clearance



## School of Natural and Social Sciences

### Clear up the Streets of St Paul's (LIFT Project)

- Students tested systems thinking in action as they researched the application of criminological theory in practice
- Students worked with local communities to monitor and take positive action to prevent crime in urban environments
- Positive student-community relations promoted through litter pick events and flower potting with local partners



### BioBlitz Event at Pittville Park

- Over 24 hours 30 students worked with local organisations and the public to record the wildlife of Pittville Park in June 2018
- Student team planned and delivered the event and 12 students attended training on identification and recording skills
- Results included 274 different taxa recorded, including 33 bird species, 4 species and bat and numerous plant species



### Student and Community Co-learners for Liveable Communities (LIFT Project)

- Developed Public Sociology module to involve 'co-learners' from the local community with our students
- Field trips to scope and plan a proposed street festival to support community integration and local regeneration
- Global insights and participatory methods developed with input from a community education network in Uganda



### Professor publishes novel for children

Professor Di Catherwood from our Psychology department published her first novel for children, *The Very Last Sunrise*, based on scientific models on the effects of global warming, which placed third in Amazon's Children's Environmental book category on its release.



## School of Health and Social Care

### SPAcE - Supporting Policy and Action for Active Environments

- 5 UActiveE evidence-based action plans designed with local communities in Greece, Italy, Latvia, Romania and Spain
- 3 practice guides in 9 languages and website reached over 1,195,556 people: [www.activeenvironments.eu](http://www.activeenvironments.eu)
- Identified as a 'Project of Special Interest' by the European Commission



## Countryside and Community Research Institute

### Headline Achievements

- **£684k** income generated for sustainability research projects
- **Dr John Powell** became president of the International Association for the Study of the Commons

### Growing the Future Conference

This major conference involved 125 participants to explore current and future policy changes on sustainable farming and land management. CCRI researchers contributed research and 5 workshops to connect knowledge on policy, practice and governance across the UK.

### PEGASUS Project Completed

Conclusion of the 3 year PEGASUS collaboration project on public ecosystem goods and services, funded through EU Horizon 2020:

- 14 European partners in 10 member states in the PEGASUS consortium exploring provision in agriculture and forestry
- 34 case studies using new approaches to unlock the synergies between economic and environmental benefits for society

### MiLarder food app developed

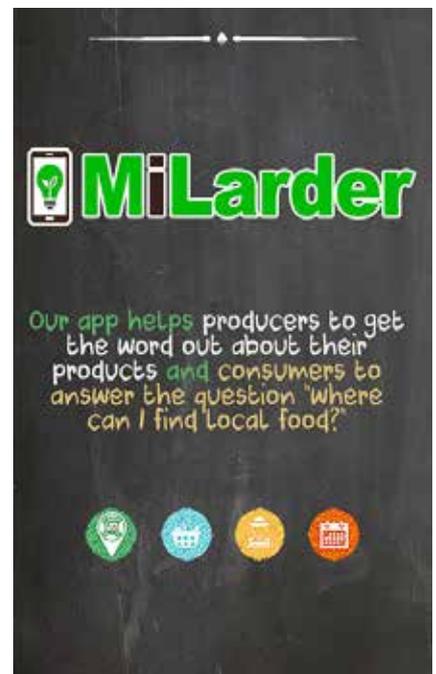
CCRI worked in collaboration with the University of Calabria to develop and launch the new MiLarder smartphone app:

- Free to download app that helps consumers research information on local products and how to find them
- Local producers can promote events and offers, as well as uploading data on their production methods and activities

### Social Return on Investment research

Delivery of commissioned research on SROI (Social Return on Investment) for the Local Food Programme:

- 3 case study food growing projects evaluated with SROI methodology, finding an average 700% return on investment
- Project outputs contained guidance for policy-makers, project managers, community organisations and project beneficiaries





### School of Media

#### Blockchains for Future Music Ecosystems (LIFT Project)

- Critical dialogue group set up with staff, students and professionals on blockchain for sustainability
- Plans developed for blockchain-based label run by student via Steemit in the BA Music Business course
- MA Creative Music Practice redesigned with new learning materials to explore sustainability in the industry



### School of Sport and Exercise

#### Sport and Sustainability – Creating and Capturing New Learning (LIFT Project)

- Module developed to explore how power and privilege connects with sustainability in sport
- Sports students were assessed on their creative responses to tackle social equity issues
- Academics developed a new website to share transformative teaching practices around sustainability



### School of Education

#### Developing the global lens for Early Years professionals (LIFT Project)

- Research into alumni experiences of kindergarten work in China and intercultural issues in the profession
- Staff-student co-creation workshops led to curriculum changes linking sustainability with internationalisation
- Priorities implemented as changes to the curriculum to better equip graduates for international working



#### A Rounder Sense of Purpose – collaborative project

This three-year EU-funded project on teacher competences in Education for Sustainable Development was delivered by Dr Paul Vare and Rick Millican.

- Partners from Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Italy and The Netherlands created the approach based on the UNECE ESD framework
- Over 500 teachers and student teachers developed and tested the model and training materials for any educational setting
- Legacy and results included publications and second stage project funded to align with the UN Global Goals



#### New book published on sustainability challenges

Dr Paul Vare from our School of Education and Professor William Scott of Bath University published the new co-authored book *The World We'll Leave Behind: Grasping the Sustainability Challenge*. It identifies current global issues and challenges, the ideas and interconnections that underpin them and strategies to address them.



## School of Liberal and Performing Arts & School of Media

### Stories for Survival (LIFT Project)

- Performing Arts and Media students created new multimedia storytelling on 'survival' themes
- 6 immersive short performances and 2 workshops held with local schools and youth theatre group
- Creation of an educational web resource and local exhibition plus local performances



## School of Business and Technology

### Festival Experiences for the Global Goals (LIFT Project)

- Events management students created an interactive pop-up family event at Cheltenham Jazz Festival
- Module development, assessment and event focus on the global Sustainable Development Goals
- Winner of 'Student Event of the Year' at the National Outdoor Events Association awards and cited in report to the UN



### Student Enterprise for Sustainability in Vietnam (LIFT Project)

- Cross-professional student team from Accountancy and Finance and Law supported local enterprise in Vietnam
- Students developed ways to support small-scale companies towards self-reliance and sustainability aims
- International experience and the business development challenge provided new intercultural learning



## School of Art and Design

### Digital Thread

- 3 university-community 'makerspace' workshops for sustainability learning in partnership with Gloucester Library
- Teaching students and local people to upcycle and create, including wearable tech and digital wristbands
- Created at the Makerspace shack in Cheltenham Science Festival to develop regional makerspace activities



### Design Education for Citizenship in Practice (LIFT Project)

- Research study of frameworks for integrating sustainability and citizenship into professional practice in Design
- Principles developed for revised assessment practices in Design supporting sustainability
- 46 undergraduate and 5 postgraduate students tested the frameworks in practice





Our new £38 million student village was developed in partnership with ULiving and welcomed its first students in September 2017. The existing campus was refurbished and repurposed with sustainability in mind to provide nearly 800 high quality bedrooms, plus study and recreational facilities.

We also ensured that our sustainable travel plan included specific actions for Pittville Student Village, to mitigate the potential impact due to the increase in student travel to and from the site.



**Community and wellbeing**

- Soil Association ‘Food for Life’ Gold for catering
- New, secure, covered shelters for nearly 300 bikes
- Regular cycle training and maintenance sessions
- Well-equipped free gym for students on site
- Dedicated faith space and pastoral care support
- Landscaped grounds with outdoor games/sports areas
- Parking restricted to key staff and disabled users
- New free-to-use night bus service



**Site operations**

- All 10 new student halls rated B for energy efficiency
- Intelligent building management systems
- BREEAM Excellent standard achieved
- Maximum re-use of demolition materials
- 1.3MW high efficiency boiler plus CHP unit
- Energy efficient district network delivers all heat
- Existing office furniture re-used to save resources
- Surplus equipment donated to local charities



**Public sculpture from reused materials**

- Public art competition commissioned to celebrate the site’s history as Pittville School of Art and Design
- Winning sculpture in steel and concrete by alumnus entirely crafted from reclaimed materials

📷 “The Nest” by Rich White (2017)



**Book swap stand at Pittville**

- ULiving operates an informal book swap facility in the reception area of the Laurie Lee building
- Consistent high turnover of books shows its popularity with students



Our headlines for use and recycling of waste, technology and water for 2017-18 are shown below.

This year we increased the number of books and PCs we re-used and recycled and trialled the elimination of single use cups. This is all part of our work to improve our waste management so less waste is produced and more is recycled rather than going to landfill. We have identified waste, technology and water as three critical material impacts in our Environmental Management System and will continue to drive reductions and efficiencies through our Carbon Management Plan, Procurement Strategy and new waste management contract.



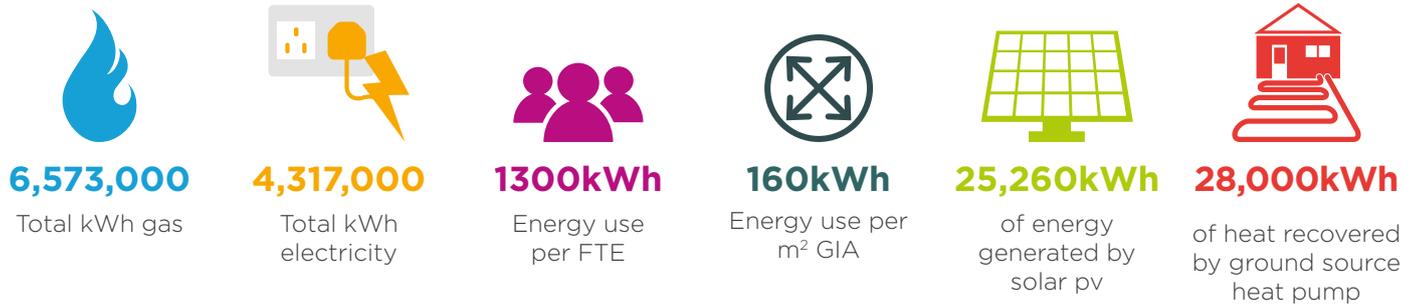
\*Total water use figures increased due to different measures now used for utility bills plus water used in halls for summer schools



Energy consumption

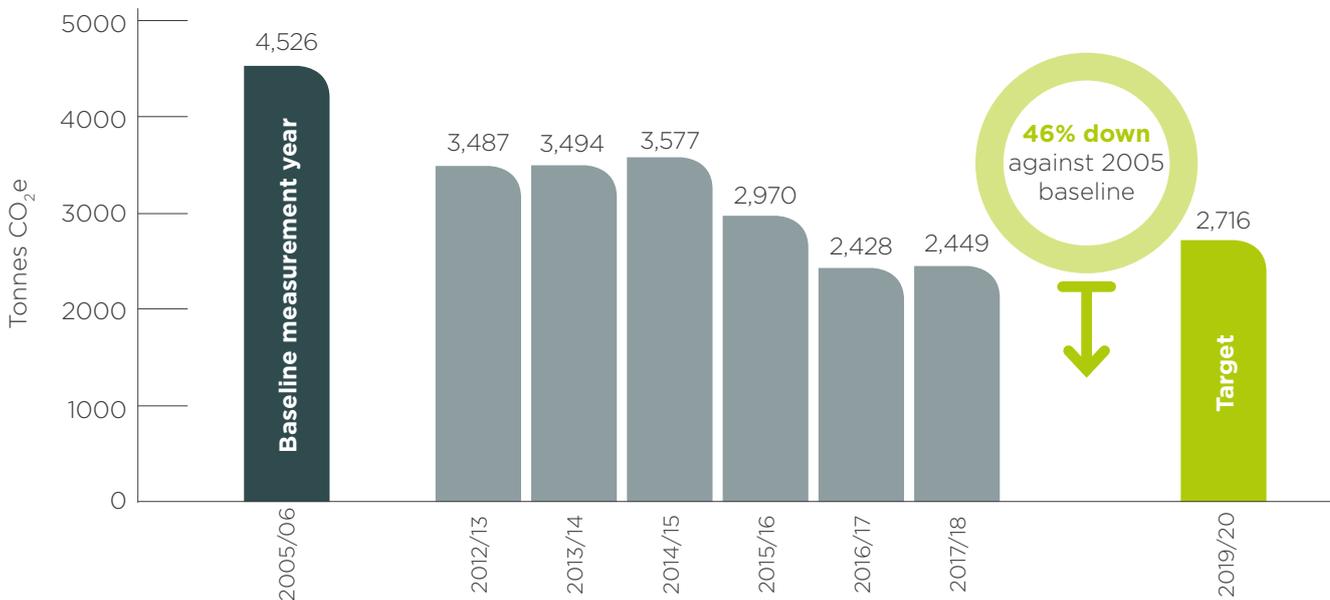


These 6 figures show how energy is used and generated across our estate:



Carbon emissions

Our carbon emissions for 2017-18 are now down by 46% keeping us on track to achieve our original 40% reduction target against our 2005-06 baseline. Our new Carbon Management Plan is geared to meeting this challenge of optimising existing buildings whilst also offsetting the impact of our new School of Business and Technology at Oxstalls.



We are committed to reducing scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 40% by 2019-20 against our 2005-06 baseline.

**Scope 1 emissions** = produced by directly burning fuels such as gas and road fuels  
**Scope 2 emissions** = arise from the off-site generation of electricity

These four figures relate carbon emissions to our activities and complement our absolute emissions data:





**Power of the Purse ongoing results**

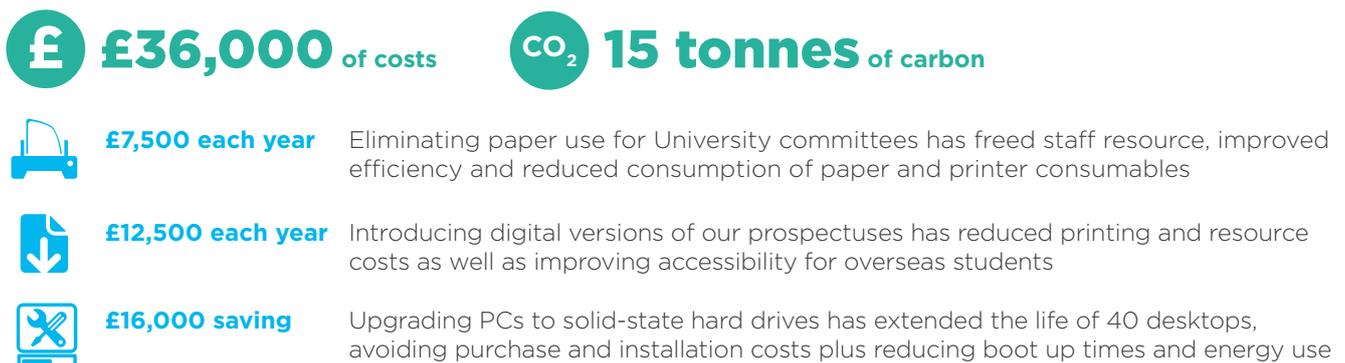
Responsible procurement is one of the most effective ways that we can achieve positive impact, by supporting local economies and driving sustainability through our supply chain. In 2017-18 we continued to use the tools developed through our Power of the Purse project to ensure sustainability is integrated into purchasing decisions:

- All 24 competitive tendering opportunities issued included detailed, scored sustainability evaluation criteria
- We fully divested from fossil fuel extraction companies, reinvesting proceeds into companies scoring highly for sustainability and ethical impact
- Consistent implementation of our sustainable procurement guidance helped us increase our overall spend with local suppliers by nearly one third compared to last year
- Our SHARE (Search Here and Re-use Equipment) scheme has been refreshed to make it easier for staff to re-use equipment and avoid buying new
- We reached Level 3 of the UK government Sustainable Procurement Task Force's Flexible Framework
- We scored 36% above sector average in an external procurement maturity assessment by the Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium



**Identifying savings**

Continuing to review how we work to improve our sustainability and where we can realise savings has allowed a number of improvement projects to be implemented; we recorded efficiency savings of:

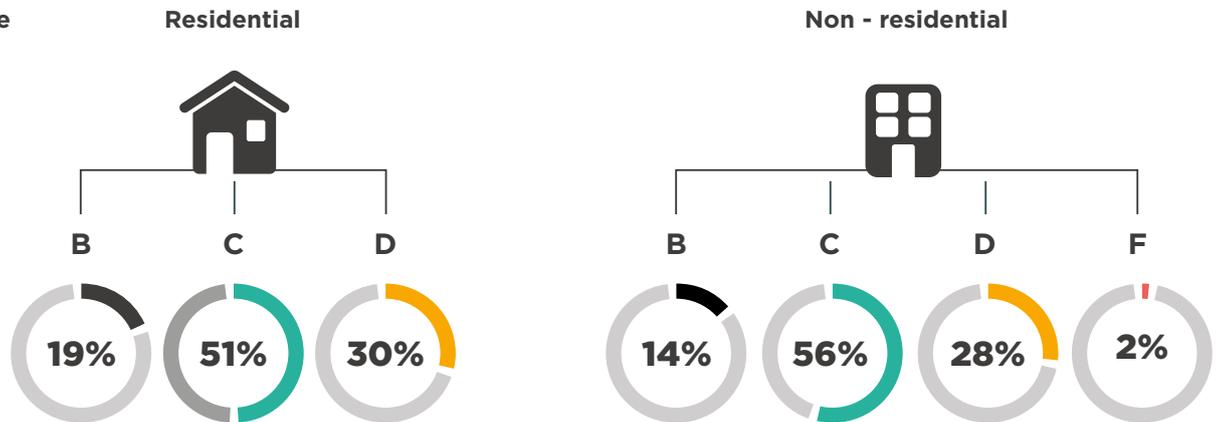




### Buildings and space use

As a multi-campus institution with a wide variety of building types, we face unique challenges in reducing energy use and carbon emissions. The energy efficiency of our buildings is assessed and improved by looking at actual energy consumption on Display Energy Certificates (DECs). DECs use a scale of A to G, where A is the most efficient.

#### DEC performance



We monitor how efficiently we use our space by checking Gross Internal Area (GIA) per staff and student full time equivalent. This is an important aspect of carbon management, ensuring that we track and optimise space use, as shown in our activity-based carbon emissions data on p18.



2017-18 space efficiency: was **6.4m<sup>2</sup>** per FTE.

### Travel patterns

### Smart Travel



As a multi-site and growing university, we need to help staff and students find sustainable and low cost ways of travelling to and around our campuses, to mitigate negative impacts on air quality, reduce congestion and boost wellbeing.

Our Sustainable Travel Plan helps us to increase 'smart' travel modes, reduce carbon emissions and comply with local planning requirements. We revised the plan in June 2018 based on the findings of our first travel survey, which we now carry out each year to help us monitor progress with our travel targets. The latest survey took place in October 2018, with over 3000 students and staff responding.

Results of the 2018 travel survey are shown below for the main travel modes, in comparison with 2017 results.

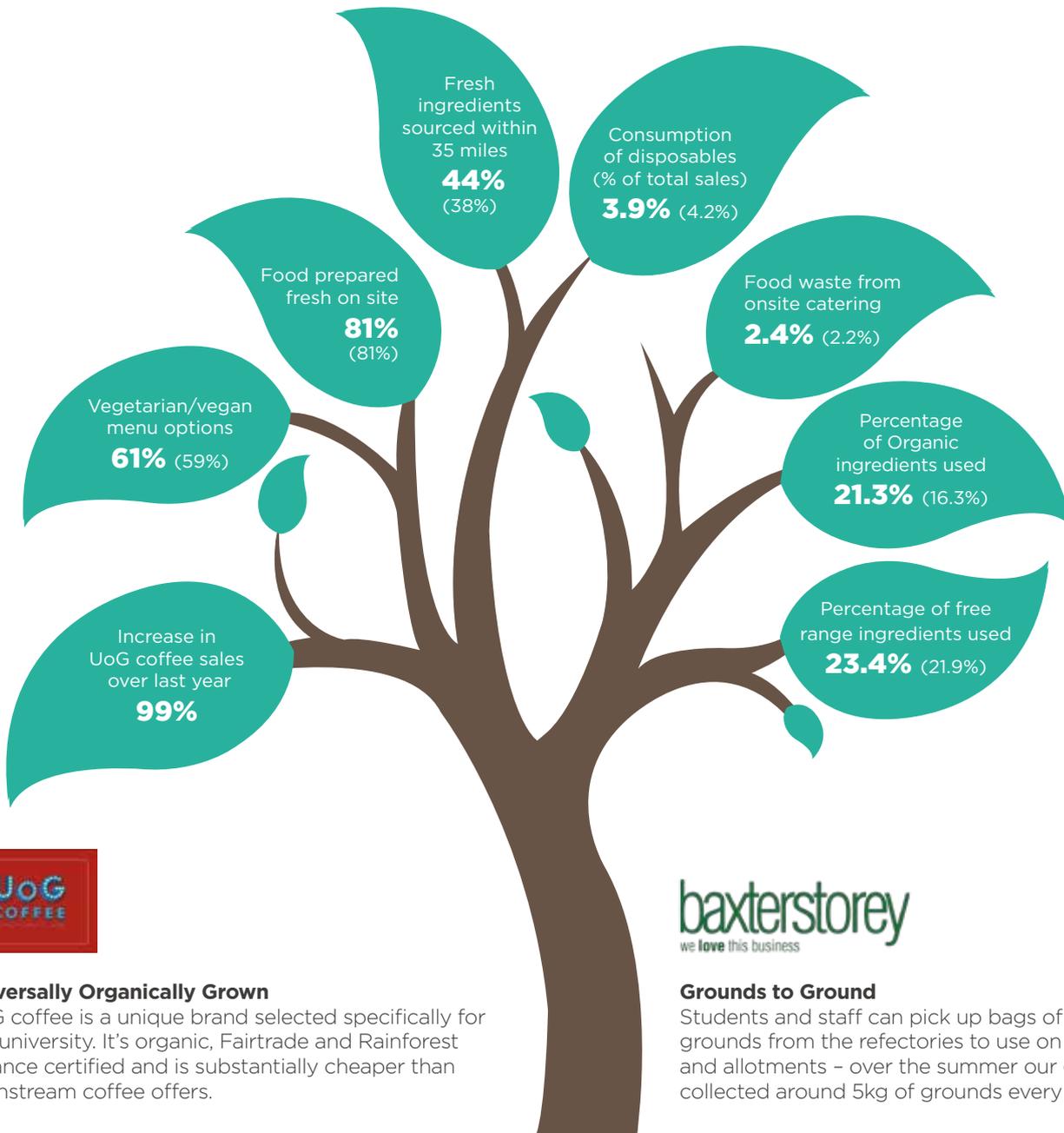
2018 Travel Survey Results (2017 results in brackets)	Solo car use	Car Share	Bus	Bicycle	Walk
<b>Students</b> (response rate 31%)	<b>25%</b> (23%)	<b>9%</b> (8%)	<b>16%</b> (14%)	<b>4%</b> (5%)	<b>41%</b> (46%)
<b>Staff</b> (response rate 51%)	<b>56%</b> (54%)	<b>6%</b> (6%)	<b>9%</b> (6%)	<b>11%</b> (11%)	<b>13%</b> (17%)

Note: Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding and other travel methods such as train and mixed modes



We set high standards for buying locally and providing healthy, seasonal and Fairtrade food, as well as best sustainability practices in how our refectories and kitchens operate.

Our caterers, BaxterStorey, work with our policy requirements to maintain essential sustainability standards and meet annual performance targets. Their annual performance measures are shown below (last year's in brackets - including a new formula to assess locally sourced ingredients):



**Universally Organically Grown**

UoG coffee is a unique brand selected specifically for the university. It's organic, Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance certified and is substantially cheaper than mainstream coffee offers.



**Grounds to Ground**

Students and staff can pick up bags of coffee grounds from the refectories to use on gardens and allotments – over the summer our gardeners collected around 5kg of grounds every day.

BaxterStorey ensure that we have achieved and continue to maintain these 4 industry standards:



Soil Association Food for Life Gold catering for all outlets



FAIRTRADE

University has held Fairtrade status since 2006



100% of meat is Red Tractor scheme approved



100% of fish is Marine Stewardship Council approved



**RCE Severn** is our public engagement platform for sustainability learning across our region, once of the recognised United Nations University Centres of Expertise in sustainability education.

This year we reviewed the strategy for our partnership working through RCE Severn and appointed new advisory group members. We created this new leaflet to communicate about the RCE and how it connects our students and staff with our local and global sustainability networks.



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## Open events

### RCE Workshop March 2018 'Resilience and Strategy for Sustainability'

This workshop, led by new RCE partners Caplor Horizons, aimed to support charities and NGOs to increase resilience and develop change skills.



### LIFT Lab Event June 2018 'Educational Experiments in Sustainability'

This event featured sessions and workshops with the University's LIFT projects and involved educators from across the UK higher education sector.



### RCE Forum July 2018 'Local Action for the Global Goals'

This seminar used headline input from local RCE partners to debate the sustainability issues in the Glos 2050 project and an input to the local consultation.



## Social Media Activity



**215** Facebook followers August 2018  
**Increase: 117%**



**624** Twitter followers August 2018  
**Increase: 42.5%**



**126** Instagram followers August 2018  
Set up in January 2018



**Edible Garden 10th Birthday**

The community garden at the University’s Francis Close Hall Campus celebrated its 10th birthday in July 2018.

The anniversary celebration involved the installation of a pizza oven and solar lights, plus a Sustainability Service award to our partners, St Paul’s Residents Association.



**Staff and Student Volunteering**

The University ‘Bank It’ scheme captures the time our students and staff spend volunteering in local activities to support the resilience and sustainability of our communities.



**Staff = 16,116 hours**



**Students = 4,195**



**Total = 20,311**

**Sustainability Learning with Local Communities**

Our Learning Innovation for Tomorrow (LIFT) programme funds new projects each year that connect students with local communities. See pages 12 to 15 of this report for more about our LIFT projects. Highlights included:

**Festival Experiences for the Global Goals**

The University’s Events Management students delivered an interactive family pop-up event themed on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at Cheltenham Jazz Festival in May 2018.

- 50 students created 7 events with over 1000 interactions including 258 children
- 100% of participants said it improved their understanding of the Global Goals

“We were delighted with the high calibre events our students produced. Tackling the Global Goals took them into new intellectual and ethical territory and out of their comfort zone. It was brilliant to see them rise to the challenge and the evaluation showed how understanding of the Global Goals developed for the students and local families.”

**Clair Greenaway, Course Lead**



**Clear up the Streets of St Paul’s**

Our Criminology students worked with local residents in the St Paul’s area of Cheltenham to research and take action on crime in the neighbourhood and increase its sense of positive community.

- 30 students organised 2 collaborative activities tackling litter and planting flowers
- Participants included academics and residents as well as local councillors and MP

“It was inspirational to be involved in a community project and to witness people trying to make a difference to their neighbourhood. It showed me how important sustaining community relationships is in terms of creating a safer, more welcoming place to live... We planted perennial flowers that should last for years to come.”

**Student Participant**



## Performance indicators

This table shows the activity areas and performance indicators where we map annual progress against specific targets for our 5 strategy goals:

**Key:**  **Target met** – we need to keep it up  **Target in sight** – we are nearly there  **Target not met** – we need to do better

GOAL	INDICATORS	EVIDENCE POINT	TARGET	2016-17 RESULT	2017-18 RESULT	STATUS
<b>Leadership and governance</b> 	UK HE sustainability league ranking	People and Planet	1st class: Top 30	8th place (of 150) 1st class award	<b>2nd place (of 154) 1st class award</b>	
	ISO 14001: 2015 accreditation	British Standards Institute	November 2017	On schedule	<b>Achieved</b>	
	Student rating for institutional commitment	NUS annual survey	70%	66%	<b>69%</b>	
<b>Student Experience</b> 	Students delivering professional sustainability projects	Annual Sustainability Report	10	14	<b>13</b>	
	Training opportunities offered to all students	Annual Sustainability Report	1	1	<b>4</b>	
	Academic Schools involved in Learning Innovation for Tomorrow programme	Annual Sustainability Report	8	5	<b>7</b>	
<b>Academic Innovation†</b> 	New internationalisation projects aligned to sustainability	Annual Sustainability Report	2	2	<b>2</b>	
	Total carbon emitted (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	Estates Management Record	40% reduction	46%	<b>46%</b>	
	Total water consumption (m <sup>3</sup> )	Estates Management Record	30% reduction	33%	<b>N/A*</b>	
<b>Business Operations*</b> 	Total waste produced (tonnes)	Estates Management Record	25% reduction	33%	<b>35%</b>	
	Total waste to landfill (%)	Estates Management Record	81% reduction	97%	<b>98%</b>	
	Total recycling rate (%)	Estates Management Record	75% reduction	70%	<b>71%</b>	
	Biodiversity/ecology plans for all campuses	Estates Management Record	All 5 sites by 2022	3	<b>3</b>	
	New LIFT projects with community partners	Annual Sustainability Report	1	4	<b>4</b>	
<b>Engagement and Partnerships</b> 	Public trainings/seminars on sustainability	Annual Sustainability Report	2	3	<b>3</b>	

\* Operations reduction targets are for 2020 and measured against our 2010 baseline, except total carbon emissions which uses the 2005 baseline specified by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Changes to this section include additional target for biodiversity/ecology plans and an adjustment needed to the water consumption baseline (see below).

† Water consumption measure was reset in 2018 due to changes in water supply billing process. Status indicator will be reapplied in 2019 against the new 2018 baseline.

‡ Academic innovation indicators were reviewed in 2018 to set new targets for engagement with Schools and our curriculum internationalisation priorities.



## Global Goals reporting

The University demonstrates its support for the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a signatory to the tertiary sector SDG Accord and host of RCE Severn, our UN Regional Centre of Expertise in sustainability education. The table below shows our key activities and results against the 6 global goals where we have the strongest impact and underlines the critical role that education providers can play in delivering the goals.



- Completed 3 year research project with 9 European partners to create Urban Active Environment plans
- Achieved Workplace Wellbeing Charter and offered lifestyle programmes for staff on mindfulness & resilience
- Smart Travel initiative launched to monitor current patterns and encourage healthier travel choices
- New Catering Policy and targets plus increase this year of 30% in our use of organic ingredients
- Development of our Park Campus allotment to support local food growing for students and staff
- Live Smart student engagement pilot supported our new Student Wellbeing Strategy



- 10 new Learning Innovation for Tomorrow projects to develop sustainability in the curriculum
- 13 students delivered professional projects linked to our university sustainability programme
- New Live Smart student engagement project developed and piloted by our multi-professional student team
- 3 students won national prizes for their sustainability projects and design innovations
- 15 academics took part in projects to develop their Education for Sustainability practice
- 7 of our 8 Academic Schools are now active on Education for Sustainability



- Power of the Pulse procurement project ensured 24 new tenders required sustainability criteria
- Attained level 3 on the Government Flexible Framework for sustainable procurement
- CCRI research project developed the MiLarder app to help local people find sustainable produce
- Increase of one third in our overall supply chain spend with local suppliers
- University equipment swap scheme refreshed to encourage re-use of equipment and furniture
- Makerspace initiatives continued with 3 new Digital Thread workshops with local communities



- Cumulative 46% reduction in carbon emissions since 2005
- Full divestment from fossil fuel industry approved in 2018 with immediate effect
- Installed 8 new electric vehicle charging points and added to our electric vehicle fleet
- Opening of new Pittville Student Village with sustainable drainage features incorporated into design
- New Carbon Management Plan with targets for further carbon reduction and renewable energy generation
- Continued commitment to use only grid supplied electricity sourced from renewable providers



- Accreditation to ISO 14001: 2015 environmental management system across all our activities
- Transparent sustainability reporting through the release of our new Annual Sustainability Report
- Anti-slavery support through affiliate membership of Electronics Watch via the Southern Universities Procurement Consortium
- Publication of our Gender Pay Gap report and action plan plus provision of training to tackle recruitment bias
- Implementation of our new Ethical Partnerships Framework to support our academic partnership decision making



- 4 community learning projects via our UN Regional Centre of Expertise for sustainability education
- Growing the Future conference on sustainable farming and land management with 125 participants
- RCE Severn workshop to develop input on regional sustainability policy through the Gloucestershire 2050 initiative
- Founding partner of Gloucestershire Moves regional multi-stakeholder project to support active lifestyles
- Joint working with our student accommodation provider ULiving to help deliver our Smart Travel action

## Stakeholder feedback

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We aim to create benefits for our students, staff and partners through our sustainability activities, and we seek regular feedback to help us improve. The response of our students to the NUS annual sustainability survey is shown on page 8. Two key initiatives in 2017-18 were the release of our new Annual Sustainability Report and our Learning Innovation for Tomorrow programme which entered its second year. Selected feedback on these activities is shown below:

### Annual Sustainability Report

“What a terrific report. It’s a fantastic review, great carbon savings, some brilliant initiatives I wasn’t aware of... Have you got any data on outcomes for graduates, and evidence of how they make use of these after graduation, showcasing how your graduates have gone on to change society for the better? Might you be able to get some students to lead on the report or aspects of it?”

**Jamie Agombar, Head of Sustainability,  
National Union of Students**

“I thought this was great - engaging, informative, speaking to students, staff, public. It is so much better than many other reports I’ve seen from the sector. I like the prominence given to academic endeavour - often this is overlooked. It would be useful to make explicit how some of the academic work can be seen as contributing to sustainability - that’s not always obvious to the non-converts.”

**Professor Sarah Speight, Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor,  
University of Nottingham**

“The report looks fab and shows some wonderful achievements! It would be good to describe benefits as impacts in order to relate them to the stakeholder groups. The measure that some groups of stakeholders really relate to is the measurable improvement in their lived experience more than the facts and figures - in other words, what impact on their lives and experiences did they feel as a result?”

**Vicky Jenkins, Process Improvement Manager, University  
of Gloucestershire**

“This looks terrific! Excellent designs, graphics and great that you only developed a relatively short report. There’s only praise for the content and design. The big question with sustainability reports is always the communication. Great reports are written and then they sit around on desks. I think the future lies in interactivity: interactive pdfs and websites.”

**Felix Spira, Chief Executive and Founder, rootAbility**

### LIFT: Learning Innovation for Tomorrow

‘Stories for Survival’ is an excellent example of cross university working and how bringing groups of students together enhances their learning. Working with Theatre Stars gives students another perspective of working with young children. This project develops knowledge which can be transferred and also provides a range of transferable skills that will be valuable for future employability.’

**Jane Cantwell - Head of School of Liberal  
and Performing Arts**

“We were delighted with the outcomes, particularly the high calibre events our students produced. Tackling the Global Goals took them into new intellectual and ethical territory and out of their comfort zone. It was brilliant to see them rise to the challenge and the evaluation showed how understanding of the global goals developed for the students and local families.”

**Clair Greenaway, LIFT Project Leader and Course Lead  
for Events Management**

“The successes were beyond our expectations with students developing thought provoking, high quality work that embraced Education for Sustainability and the assessment tasks. Unexpected developments have seen a potential website idea develop into an exciting and innovative learning, teaching and assessment tool that has the potential to positively impact the sport and exercise sector and beyond.”

**Ben Moreland, LIFT Project Leader and Senior Lecturer  
in Sports Development**

“Thank you for running such an engaging sustainability project that is so current and new... It has given me access to interesting speakers in the industry and exclusive insights... This project has given me the confidence to not shy away from topics I think will be ‘too’ challenging, and that I should push my thinking further than I first believe I may be able to.”

**Student participant, LIFT Project on Blockchain  
for Future Music Ecosystems**

## Profile and governance

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### University Profile

**Our People:** Our people: 9,000 students and 1,050 staff

**Our Locations:** 4 sites in Cheltenham and 1 in Gloucester

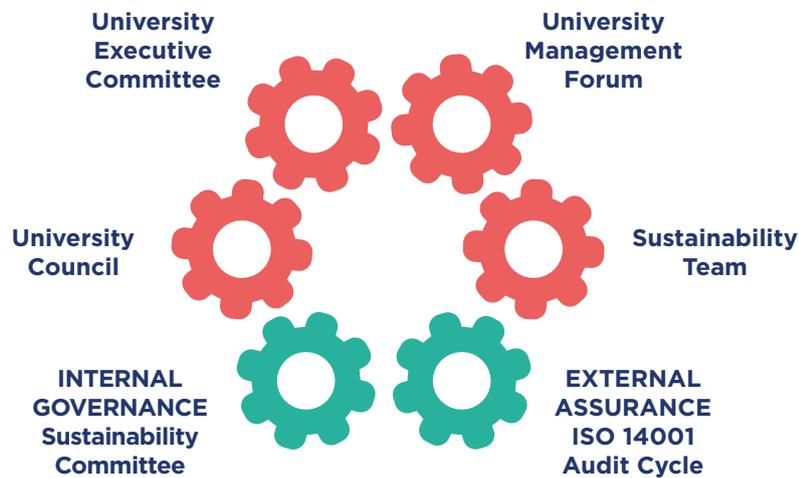
**Our Footprint:** Our footprint: 94,400m<sup>2</sup> Gross Internal Area (GIA)

**Our Activity:** 8 Academic Schools, 11 Professional Services Departments

### Sustainability Governance

Delivery of the University's sustainability programme is co-ordinated by the Sustainability Team, who work collaboratively with staff and students across the institution as well as external partners.

Our governance systems include both internal oversight and external validation, to ensure we meet quality standards, maintain compliance obligations and monitor continual improvement.



Our annual Environmental Management System review and sustainability reporting process ensures that we take account of our material impacts, manage key risks and set priorities accordingly.

This provides a robust process to understand our operating context and identify the sustainability issues most important to our business and our stakeholders. Key stakeholder groups for sustainability include our executive, students, academic and professional staff, regional RCE network partners and Council as our governing body.

Sustainability Committee is key to our sustainability governance and incorporates the validation of our academic progress from representatives in each Academic School and Professional Services area.

### Sustainability Programme

**Sustainability Staff:** We have 4 permanent core staff in our Sustainability Team plus 8 staff in other departments who have formal responsibilities in sustainability.

**Sustainability Policy:** Sustainability has been one of our core values since 2010 and it is one of the key enablers in our Strategic Plan 2017-2022.

**RCE Severn:** Our Regional Centre of Expertise in sustainability education, acknowledged by the United Nations University, which supports our public outreach and learning partnerships in sustainability.

Find out more: [www.sustainability.glos.ac.uk](http://www.sustainability.glos.ac.uk)

Our Sustainability Strategy [www.sustainability.glos.ac.uk/about/strategy-performance/](http://www.sustainability.glos.ac.uk/about/strategy-performance/)

Further Information

[www.sustainability.glos.ac.uk](http://www.sustainability.glos.ac.uk)

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