



OUR VISION

WE WILL BECOME A UNIVERSITY WHERE SUSTAINABILITY IS TRULY EMBEDDED THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, ENGAGEMENT, COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY – IT WILL BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR OPERATIONS AND WILL BRING ABOUT POSITIVE, SUSTAINABLE CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE.



 [SUSTAINABILITY.LEEDS.AC.UK](https://sustainability.leeds.ac.uk)

 [/UOLSUSTAINABILITY](https://www.facebook.com/uolsustainability)

 [@UOL_SUS](https://www.instagram.com/uol_sus)

 [@UOL_SUS](https://twitter.com/uol_sus)

WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT

In our Sustainability Strategy, we were clear that we want to be a University with a reputation for outstanding performance on sustainability; one that challenges the status quo and is renowned for its open, welcoming environment. This remains at our core and we are taking great strides to make it a reality.

As a University, we welcome around 11,000 students every year. That's 11,000 people with new ideas and ambitions. It's exciting to think that we can spread the message of sustainability to successive generations of new students, and harness their ideas to become even more sustainable. We want to develop global graduates, equipped to address current and future global challenges, and sustainability is at the heart of this. They already do a great job in pushing us further and faster.

I am incredibly proud of the work that is taking place at the University of Leeds. From our hire bikes I spot on campus and across Leeds, to the outstanding research we are doing on climate change and social equality, it's great to see the whole remit of sustainability being covered. This is testament to the hard work and creativity of everyone

involved and the Priestley International Centre for Climate, launched in the last year, will be a new source of inspiration to us all.

So what next? First and foremost – and despite some disturbing political upheavals in the US and Europe – we guarantee that our commitment to sustainability will remain strong. It creates wonderful opportunities for our staff and students, makes us more efficient, and is the right thing to do. This Annual Report outlines some of the innovative and impactful projects we already deliver, but it also highlights the opportunities that exist to do even more.

Alan Langlands
Vice Chancellor, University of Leeds



WHAT'S IN THIS REPORT?

We understand that being sustainable creates value and that it's more than reducing our environmental impact; it's about resilience and intelligence – building the links between students, research and our operations, so that we can make a positive difference.

Our approach to sustainability means that we want to make sure that we focus on the things that have real impact. And this approach encompasses the essential features of being holistic, inclusive, challenging, proactive and embedded. We call it The Leeds Way – our attitude towards sustainability and the significance we place on it.

In the pages that follow, you will find out what we have been doing to embed sustainability right across the University. It covers the period from August 2015 to August 2016. This was a year when we took stock of our position and really concentrated on getting the policies and initiatives in place to truly embed sustainability, alongside completing some new and exciting projects.

We want to give a true picture of the breadth of work we have been doing in the areas that really matter. However, this report doesn't

include every single project or activity, there just isn't the space, but it does give an overview of our actions, along with a more detailed look at some of our key achievements.

Of course, there is still work to do and it is important to keep focused. In each section we outline our priorities for the next twelve months, as well as the goals we have set ourselves to further incorporate sustainability into our research, degree programmes and operations. As it is the first Sustainability Annual Report, we also set out the indicators and areas that we will continue to report on in future editions.

Your opinions and ideas are incredibly important to us and we would love to hear what you think about our progress and ambitions for the future. Let us know by emailing sustainability@leeds.ac.uk



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2014–2020

OUR FOUR THEMES

1

Embedding sustainability through collaboration



2

Building knowledge and capacity



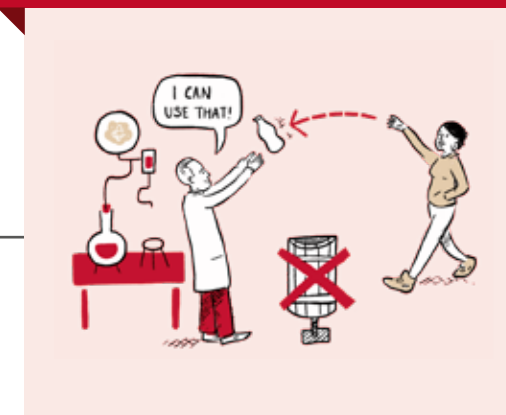
3

Being a positive partner in society



4

Making the most of resources

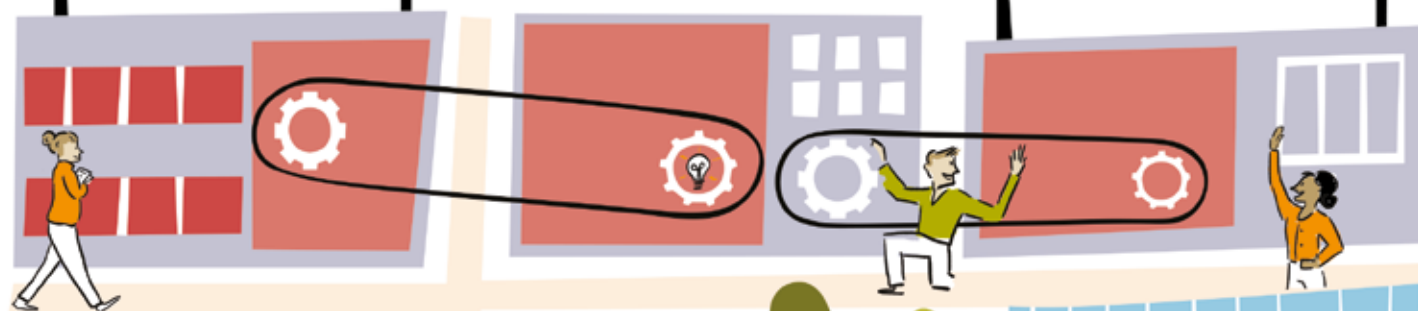


OUR PRINCIPLES

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY. EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY. SHARING OUR SKILLS, SPACES, KNOWLEDGE AND VALUES. CHALLENGING OURSELVES AND OTHERS.

THE LEEDS WAY TO SUSTAINABILITY

WE ARE THE PIONEERS OF IDEAS, THE CREATORS OF SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS, THE ARCHITECTS OF POSSIBILITY – IT'S ALL PART OF THE LEEDS WAY. WHAT IS THE LEEDS WAY? LET US EXPLAIN A LITTLE MORE...



CHALLENGING

WE'RE NEVER GOING TO SETTLE FOR THE STATUS QUO.

Sustainability at the University of Leeds is about challenging ourselves, as well as others, to be more aware, more considered and more sustainable. We have ambitious targets in place and, through collaboration and challenging the norms, we will create innovative ways to meet them.

PROACTIVE

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, WE DON'T SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR OTHERS TO COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS, WE GO OUT THERE AND GET THEM.

We trial new ways of working, develop new projects, ensure policy is put into practice, and encourage behaviour change. After all, and as we outlined in our Sustainability Strategy, we are the architects of possibility.

HOLISTIC

WE APPROACH SUSTAINABILITY AS A WHOLE. WE COLLABORATE INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY TO LOOK AT ISSUES AND IMPACTS BOTH ON OUR CAMPUS AND BEYOND.

Our economic, social, environmental and cultural responsibilities are a priority alongside our commitment to education and research excellence.

EMBEDDED

SUSTAINABILITY IS NOT SIMPLY AN ADD-ON; IT IS ABOUT MAKING IT A CORE PART OF EVERY DECISION, POLICY AND PROCEDURE. WE CONNECT SUSTAINABILITY AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

Not only do we develop projects that examine specific issues on and off campus; the research carried out across our Schools and Faculties helps us to monitor, address and adapt to changing economic, social, environmental and cultural conditions.

INCLUSIVE

OUR STAFF, STUDENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS CAN PLAY THEIR PART IN HELPING THE UNIVERSITY TO BECOME MORE SUSTAINABLE.

By working together, bringing in new ideas from different people and organisations, we can develop stronger, more sustainable solutions. We have knowledge to share, but we also want to learn from others.

EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH COLLABORATION

In this theme, we focus on putting sustainability at the heart of the University. We believe it should be something that influences our working practices – everything we do – each and every day.



There are four overarching commitments in this theme:

- ① We will embed sustainability across the whole University.
- ② We will create and support proactive collaborative networks.
- ③ We will develop robust management systems.
- ④ We will establish governance and accountability structures that drive sustainability and place it at the heart of our Institution.

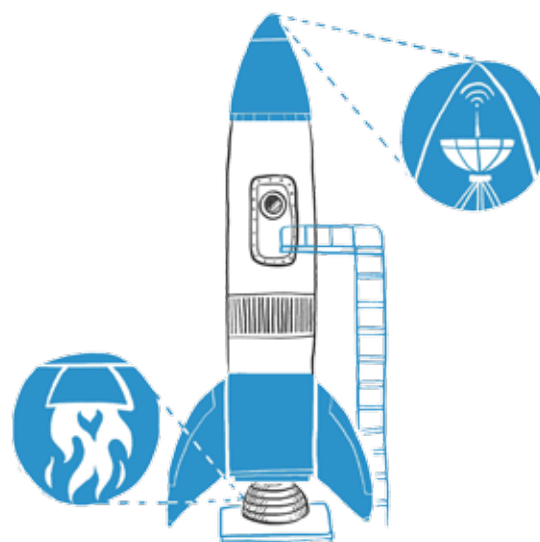


OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

Embedding sustainability through collaboration can be found in a whole number of guises. Since we published our Sustainability Strategy and first Action Plan, we have been busy putting in place, reviewing and progressing policies, management systems and reporting structures to make sure everyone can get involved in sustainability and that it can be easy, enjoyable and, most of all, has a positive impact.

By working together and making sustainable practices the norm, we have made real progress in making sustainability a reality right across the University.

In this section, we take a look at the actions we've been taking to embed sustainability through collaboration since we published our strategy...



OUR HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015-16

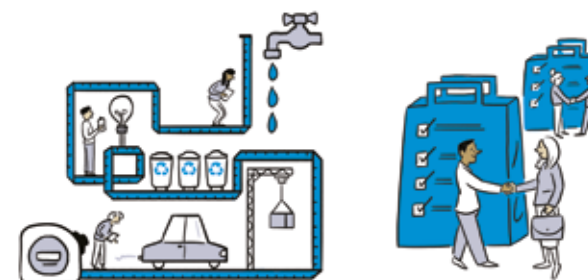


Tracking our impacts

Our Environmental Policy outlines what we do and how we operate in an environmentally responsible manner. Our Environmental Management System (EMS) supports this Policy. It covers all our research, teaching and operational activities within the University of Leeds campus alongside residential buildings and sports and conferencing facilities – from recycling, travel, water use and lighting to sustainable construction, energy, waste and biodiversity.

We achieved ISO14001 accreditation for our EMS in March 2016. It not only means we have a systematic approach to monitoring and managing our environmental impacts, it also provides assurances to our stakeholders that we were taking our environmental responsibilities seriously.

And to make sure that all our staff understand why the EMS matters and how it impacts on their day-to-day role, we developed a University-wide training programme and information management system that allows us to keep track of progress and share best practice.



Sharing through sustainable labs

As a research-intensive University, our laboratories, specifically the energy and equipment they use, continue to be an area of focus for the University. Our Sustainable Labs Group brings together researchers, technicians and services to discuss the environmental, economic and social impact of labs, develop and share best practice and find ways to be more sustainable. The subjects covered reflect the wide-reaching research and innovation that takes place here at Leeds. Recent initiatives include managing water use, substituting chemicals for less hazardous ones, sharing equipment and sustainable refurbishments. Key to this group is developing pilot projects that, if successful, can be rolled out across the University. This has included the use of LED lighting in the plant growth suite, saving 14 tonnes of carbon per year. It's a scheme that's now being extended to cover all the greenhouses and is estimated to save an additional 80 tonnes of carbon per year.

In addition to specific projects, and to make collaboration and knowledge sharing easier, there is now a dedicated Sustainable Labs section on our website with a wealth of information on a whole range of topics. There's also a new 'Lab Chat' page to ask questions or share initiatives. Lab equipment is listed for sharing on our Reuse@Leeds site, where specialist equipment, furniture, fixtures and fittings are redistributed to others who can use them.

Alongside all this, the Green Impact Labs workbook has been redesigned to ensure its relevance to the activities that take place in a laboratory environment. There's also an aim to increase the number of new Green Impact teams in 2016/17, to raise awareness and bring sustainability to the fore across all the University's labs.



Leading in sustainable procurement

With annual purchasing costs of around £140 million (not including the costs of larger construction projects), we can have a significant impact by making sustainable procurement decisions. We have been working hard to identify opportunities, manage impacts and ensure that sustainability is included in the assessment of all University contracts.

We are passionate about Fairtrade and have been supporting and selling Fairtrade products since 2003. In 2005, the University obtained Fairtrade status, and our continued support has helped Yorkshire to be named the first Fairtrade region in the country. We have also challenged ourselves to look beyond what we sell and are switching to Fair Wear accredited Fairtrade uniforms where we can.

To help us monitor our purchasing, we have a Sustainable Procurement Standard in place. In December 2015, we achieved Level 4 of the Government's Flexible Framework. It outlines our key requirements, objectives and an action plan for embedding sustainability into purchasing at the University.

The University of Leeds is also a founding member of Electronics Watch. It brings together buyers to set minimum standards for labour issues in the electronics industry. We see this as an important issue, and one where we can have a really positive influence on the working practices of our suppliers.

HEADLINE SUMMARY 2015/16

These are the key indicators for 2015-16 in this theme – **Embedding sustainability through collaboration** – along with our targets for the next academic year.


**ACCREDITATION
TO ISO 14001 ACHIEVED**
2016/17 Target: Maintain accreditation


**37 GREEN
IMPACT TEAMS**
2016/17 Target: 45 Green Impact Teams


**GOVERNANCE
REVIEW COMPLETED**
2016/17 Target: Monitor review


**FLEXIBLE FRAMEWORK
LEVEL 4 ACHIEVED**
2016/17 Target: Maintain framework


**3 IT SUPPLIERS
ENGAGED THROUGH
ELECTRONICS WATCH**
2016/17 Target: Increase to 5


**3,099 PEOPLE ATTENDED
SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS**
2016/17 Target: Increase by 10%

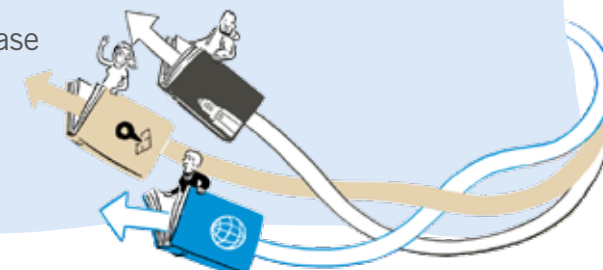
WORKING TOGETHER

“Assistance from the Sustainability Service has been a great help to us here at the School of Food and Nutrition – supporting us with significant improvements, such as new lower-impact equipment to successfully generate more resource efficiency and sustainable outcomes while at the same time improving student learning experience.”

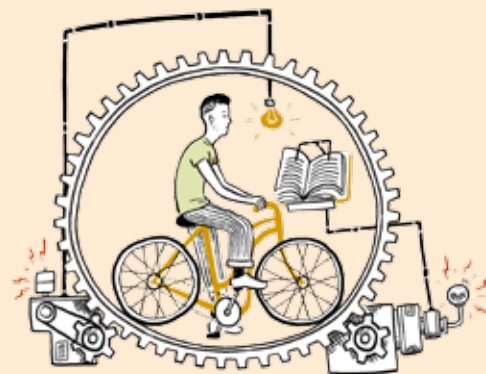
Miles Ratcliffe
Technical Manager at School of Food Science and Nutrition

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Fully develop and integrate the Campus Living Lab programme, enhancing our research and teaching capabilities and looking at ways of extending this approach city-wide.
- ▶ Enhance and extend the role of the Staff Sustainability Architects, with the aim to have representatives right across the University.
- ▶ Ensure that policy and practice are truly linked – and support everyone at the University of Leeds to have the confidence to make suggestions and changes.
- ▶ Further enhance and empower the Sustainable Labs network, making sure its work is action driven and shares best practice and ideas across the University.
- ▶ Improve our data collection processes and increase the confidence we have in the data we report.



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY



As a University, we have knowledge – both creating and sharing – at our heart. It is important that everyone, from staff to students, understands sustainability, how they can get involved and how together we can create positive change. Only by understanding the significance of sustainability can we hope to act sustainably.

There are five commitments under this theme:

- ① We will work across University departments to build capacity and share best practice on sustainable change.
- ② We will equip all our staff with sustainability skills.
- ③ We will develop external links to enhance knowledge and capacity.
- ④ We will support and promote research that examines the issues relating to sustainability.
- ⑤ We will integrate sustainability into learning programmes and ensure all our students understand the importance of sustainability.



OUR PROGRESS TO DATE



We have the opportunities, groups, training and learning programmes to ensure that ours is a vibrant campus, where ideas thrive and experience is shared. Sharing knowledge and capacity, both on and off campus, means we can both extend our influence and learn from others. And this directly impacts the success of the commitments set out in our strategy.

We have made a great start under this theme, but there's understandably some way still to go. As a large and complex organisation, with over 40,000 staff and students, increasing knowledge and capacity on sustainability isn't going to happen overnight. However, internal and external partnerships are flourishing and, in turn, the opportunities for our students to study sustainability are continually growing.

OUR HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015-16



Real world impact

Researching the grand challenges of sustainability is a key part of our activities at the University of Leeds, and is underpinned by the cross-cutting University research themes of Cities, Climate, Culture, Energy, Food, Health, High Value Engineering and Water.

Two high profile examples are the Sustainability Research Institute (SRI) and the Priestley International Centre for Climate. Both can be found on campus and are home to academics, research staff and students. They bring together unparalleled expertise and innovation to explore a whole range of sustainability and climate change topics from international development and sustainable business to mitigation and adaptation.

Through its work, the SRI has a real world impact. Its staff are advisors to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and it offers research and advice to the UK Government on the issue of imported carbon. The SRI also works with industry, including our project with Asda to help the retailer, and its customers, reduce food waste. Launched in June 2016, the Priestley International Centre for Climate focuses on improving predictions of future climate; understanding risks to develop a resilient world; enabling low carbon transitions; and addressing the social, political and economic dimensions of climate change to deliver research on robust and timely climate solutions.

Creating sustainable futures

Ensuring that sustainability is incorporated into our curriculum is key to building the knowledge and capacity of our students. Fundamental to our approach is the elective programme, 'Creating Sustainable Futures', one of the core Leeds Curriculum Discovery Modules. In 2015/16, we gave the four themes – Travel, Waste, Energy and Fairtrade – a bit of a refresh, focussing on areas that would directly benefit the University and allow students to apply their knowledge in a real life context.

Working together with the School of Earth and Environment, the Cleaning and Waste Management Service and the University conference and events team, students were able to access a wealth of information and data. Being able to study sustainability in practice is great experience for the students, and it also provides the University with a unique snapshot of the four key themes.

In the coming year, we want to increase take-up of the module by students from a wide range of disciplines, helping them to understand sustainability and allowing them to progress to other modules within the Creating Sustainable Futures theme.



Students shaping the future

Our Student Sustainability Architects are recruited to the Sustainability Service to help engage other students in events, campaigns and initiatives. As a paid role undertaken alongside the students' studies, it's a great way to build knowledge, skills and experience at the same time as studying for a degree. They play a key role in giving students a voice to challenge the University and, in 2015/16, worked on activities that ranged from sustainability themed dissertations and student representation in political activity, to increasing recycling in Halls of Residence. Another focus of our Architects was creating a network of student Sustainability Representatives within Schools across the University. These Representatives act as the face-to-face contact for students on sustainability relating to School activity. This has increased the number of opportunities for students to get involved and allows the Representatives to develop skills outside their usual discipline. Piloting this programme in the Faculty of Biological Science and School of Psychology has allowed us to build a framework that can be rolled out across the University.

Student Sustainability Architects develop core skills and knowledge of sustainability, from time management to leadership. They also gain valuable insight into how organisations can approach and implement sustainability. Student Sustainability Architects are a core part of the Sustainability Service, helping us to meet our responsibility to enhance the knowledge and capacity of our students.

Sharing knowledge, broadening understanding

A central part of building knowledge and capacity across the University has been the provision of training courses for our staff. This year, 'The Role of the Manager' programme has been a priority to make sure managers have the sustainability skills needed to develop their own knowledge and understanding and be able to pass this on to their teams.

The training is based on the Sustainability Strategy, and colleagues from across the University have been working together to develop valuable and relevant course content. Since its launch in 2015, 67 managers have attended over 200 hours of training. They have all developed individual action plans, carried out practical exercises and have access to an online training forum to share progress and best practice. Here's what one of the attendees had to say: "I thought I knew all about sustainability and what it meant. The course expanded the definition of what it really means in a very positive and effective way. The course also showed me how important sustainability is to the University as a whole."



HEADLINE SUMMARY 2015/16

These are the key indicators for 2015-16 in this theme – **Building knowledge and capacity** – along with our targets for the next academic year.



582 STAFF TRAINING HOURS COMPLETED

2016/17 Target: Increase by 50%



77,684 WEBSITE VIEWS

2016/17 Target: Maintain views



£49.7M RESEARCH INCOME ACROSS SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED RESEARCH THEMES

2016/17 Target: Increase to over £50M



163 MODULES RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY

2016/17 Target: Maintain number



1,019 STUDENT HOURS SPENT ON SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

2016/17 Target: Increase by 10%



5,600 STUDENTS COMPLETING SUSTAINABILITY MODULES

2016/17 Target: Increase by 3%



WORKING TOGETHER

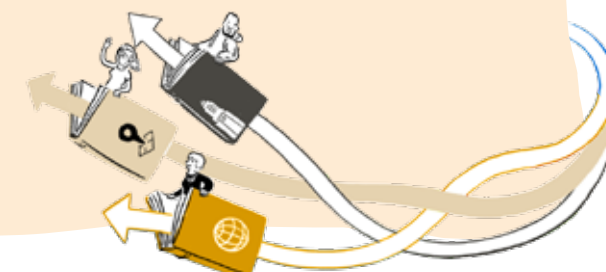
“Sustainability plays a vital part in guiding my research on corporate governance and working as a Sustainability Architect within Commercial Services has allowed me to gain practical new skills on how to contribute to the wider University community.”

Opemiposi Adegbulu
Sustainability Architect



WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Develop a full staff training programme to underpin our vision that all staff will understand what sustainability means and how it relates to the University. Through this, we will support staff to build their capacity to address sustainability as part of their role.
- ▶ Support students to undertake research and independent study that addresses the grand challenges of sustainability.
- ▶ Develop mechanisms to track knowledge and awareness levels at the University.
- ▶ Extend our programme of work integrating sustainability into the curriculum – both to widen access to sustainability modules and expand the breadth of topics covered to include community engagement with research.



BEING A POSITIVE PARTNER IN SOCIETY



At the University of Leeds, we understand that we can, and do, influence the world in and beyond Leeds and play our part in creating a more sustainable future for all. We collaborate with a wide range of civic, community and cultural partners to ensure our activities have a lasting positive impact on society, both in Leeds, the UK and internationally. We take an innovative approach to embedding social responsibility into operations, teaching and learning and research.

We outlined five commitments under this theme:

- ① **We will build external engagement to further develop internal and external capacity and knowledge, and influence wider policies.**
- ② **We will lead by example, share best practice, learn from others and ensure our research is accessible.**
- ③ **We will take our responsibility to society seriously, as an employer, good neighbour and in creating opportunities.**
- ④ **We will support our students to be responsible citizens and an active part of society, both locally and globally.**
- ⑤ **We will create a welcoming, culturally and environmentally vibrant campus.**



OUR PROGRESS TO DATE



Our students are supported in becoming actively involved in the communities they live in and having a positive impact in the city and beyond. Whether it's volunteering at local schools, sharing skills and knowledge with community groups, or simply acting more responsibly, we are developing ways for staff, students and local residents to come together and make a more positive local and global impact.



We are also a key partner in the city. In practice this means co-creating research that addresses community challenges, sharing our professional skills and resources with third sector partners and embedding social responsibility into our teaching and learning opportunities. It also means benefiting from the partnerships we develop; creating new opportunities for research and teaching throughout the city and beyond.



Here are some of the activities we have been busy with under this theme...

OUR HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015-16



Sharing our skills

One of the greatest assets we have at the University of Leeds is the knowledge and professional expertise of our staff. Through the University's Community Mentoring Scheme, we can share these skills beyond our campus, matching staff with local not-for-profit groups to build their capacity and operate in a more efficient and sustainable way. And our staff benefit from being mentors – learning new skills and approaches through working with the different organisations.

The support offered has ranged from writing a funding bid, to developing a marketing campaign and sustainable business modelling. And the groups we've worked with have included an educational centre for lifelong learning and community support, an educational charity supporting young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, a community arts venue supporting live local music and writers, and a community interest company promoting social inclusion through mixed ability sports.

Through the scheme, those involved benefit from having an outside perspective to realise both their business and personal potential and grow their capacity, skills and capabilities. In the words of Jen Dyer, International Mixed Ability Sport, "It is great to have someone to talk to who has a proven track record in obtaining grants and knows how we can best sell ourselves and our ideas."

Inspiring change

Working in partnership, the University and IntoUniversity provide local children and young people with opportunities to raise their future educational aspirations. With a focus on young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, the activities it runs are extensive, and this year we have worked to make sure this encompasses sustainability.

We have been working with IntoUniversity centres in Leeds to teach children the importance of sustainability and how they can incorporate it into their day-to-day lives. In one of our first activities, we welcomed children and their families onto campus. They visited the Sustainable Garden, built 'bug hotels', made smoothies using pedal power and helped us to fix bikes. On another occasion, we involved the children in landscape design, teaching them about biodiversity and then asking them to design flowerbeds for the campus using their new-found knowledge. Three winning designs were selected and are now brightening up the Parkinson steps and the Michael Sadler building. Involving others in helping us design our campus space is something we are committed to continuing.

As well as broadening the children's knowledge of sustainability, the activities are designed to build a connection with the University of Leeds, create a culturally and environmentally vibrant campus with strong and successful internal collaborations, and raise their future educational aspirations.



HEADLINE SUMMARY 2015/16

These are the key indicators for 2015-16 in this theme – **Positive partner in society** – along with our targets for the next academic year.



364 MENTORING HOURS

2016/17 Target: Increase to 500



61,299 ATTENDEES AT PUBLIC EVENTS ON CAMPUS

2016/17 Target: Maintain



119,785 HOURS OF BENEFICIARIES OF UNIVERSITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

2016/17 Target: Maintain



WORKED WITH 180 THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

2016/17 Target: Increase to 200



3,848 STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

2016/17 Target: Increase



1,800 HOUSEHOLD VISITS WITHIN STUDENT CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

2016/17 Target: Increase 5%



65% FOOD FROM WITHIN 40 MILES OF UNIVERSITY

2016/17 Target: Maintain



WORKING TOGETHER

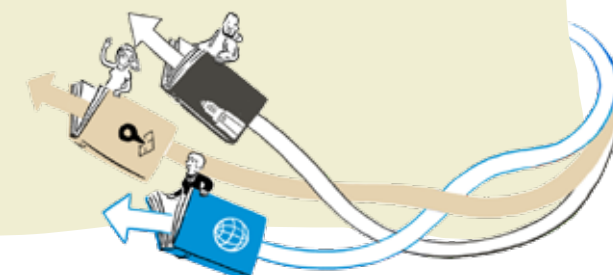
“I’ve been involved in outreach with local schools and colleges to inspire the next generation and get them involved in a whole range of activities. Sustainability is high on that agenda, it’s a key issue that affects everyone, on and off campus.”

Matt Dollery
Student Engagement Service Manager



WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Expand and enhance the mentoring programme to reach more third sector organisations, making sure we are supporting needs and building capacity.
- ▶ Increase and enhance our engagement with students to provide support and guidance on living in the local community – our aim is to support them as citizens of the city, who have a positive impact on society.
- ▶ Work with partners across the region to investigate ways to enhance our role as a responsible organisation with a positive cultural, social and economic impact.
- ▶ Continue our work with IntoUniversity, but also extend sustainability-based engagement to other organisations.
- ▶ Create local value through our operational activity and supply chain.



MAKING THE MOST OF RESOURCES



With a campus covering 90 acres, the University of Leeds uses a lot of resources. Using them more efficiently – to both increase positive impacts and reduce overall use – is key to sustainability.

There are seven commitments under this theme:

- ① We will reduce our consumption of goods and services.
- ② We will embed sustainability into the procurement process.
- ③ We will reduce the amount of waste we produce.
- ④ We will enhance biodiversity on campus.
- ⑤ We will use water efficiently and reduce, reuse and recycle where possible.
- ⑥ We will become a low carbon University, through energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions.
- ⑦ We will foster a staff and student body where sustainable travel is the norm.



OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

This is an area in which we have already made progress. Thanks to the hard work of the staff and students in our Schools, Services and Faculties, we reached our target to divert 100% of general waste from landfill by 2020 six years early. We are currently on track to meet our 35% carbon reduction target and we have maintained our student sustainable travel numbers, but we still have work to do to reduce our water consumption.

Since the Sustainability Strategy was published, we've turned our attention to wider University policies, achieving ISO14001 and defining our approaches to sustainable procurement and construction. These have underpinned our approach to making the most of resources. At the heart of the actions under this theme is the circular economy – closing the loop, doing more with the resources we have and considering wider social impacts.



OUR HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015-16



How we get around

As one of the largest of any UK University, our Bike Hub has been thinking up new and innovative ways to keep our staff and students pedalling. Following a successful six-year partnership with UTravelActive, The Bike Hub wanted to make sure that bike hire and maintenance numbers didn't fall. So, the team turned to social media, streamlined the payment process, and recruited more volunteers to cover the busy Freshers' Week. And it worked. The number of bike hires increased from 377 in 2014/15 to 419 in 2015/16, and the number of hub visits increased from 1075 to 1191.

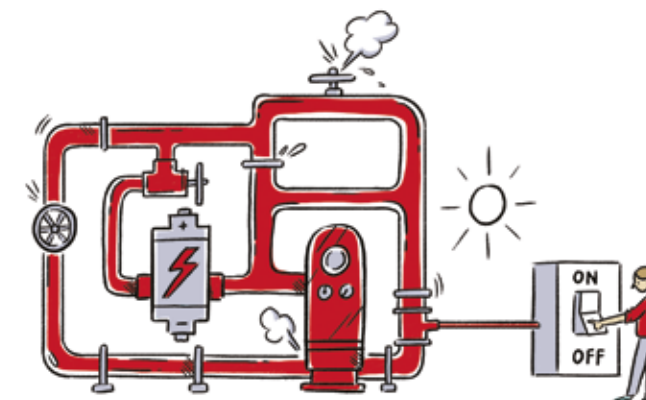
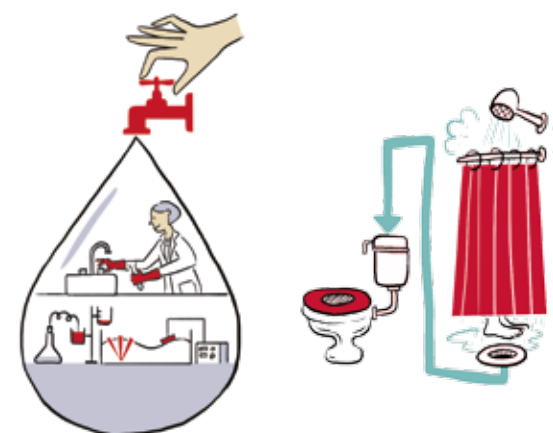
It's not just about cycling though. We have continued to work closely with local public transport providers to maintain and secure new public transport deals for our staff and students. This includes a new discounted bus route between York and Leeds, and continuing to provide annual discounted tickets within West Yorkshire.

For those who have made the switch to electric vehicles, the University of Leeds now has six charging points on campus. And the best news? We have also introduced electric vehicles to the University fleet, and have a plan in place to extend it as new vehicles are needed.



Water works

One of the schemes from the Sustainable Labs Group has been the replacement of rotary evaporators for process chilling with energy efficient re-circulating chillers. This has been hugely successful, saving 2,780 m³ of water per year – an idea that's now being tested in other labs across the University.



A scheme for steam

We are committed to reducing our carbon emissions by 35% by 2020/21. And to do this we have a number of projects and initiatives in place. One such project focuses on the University's high-pressure steam distribution network that provides heating and hot water to our on-campus academic and residential buildings. But a survey of the network found inefficiencies and heat losses across the system, especially during the summer months.

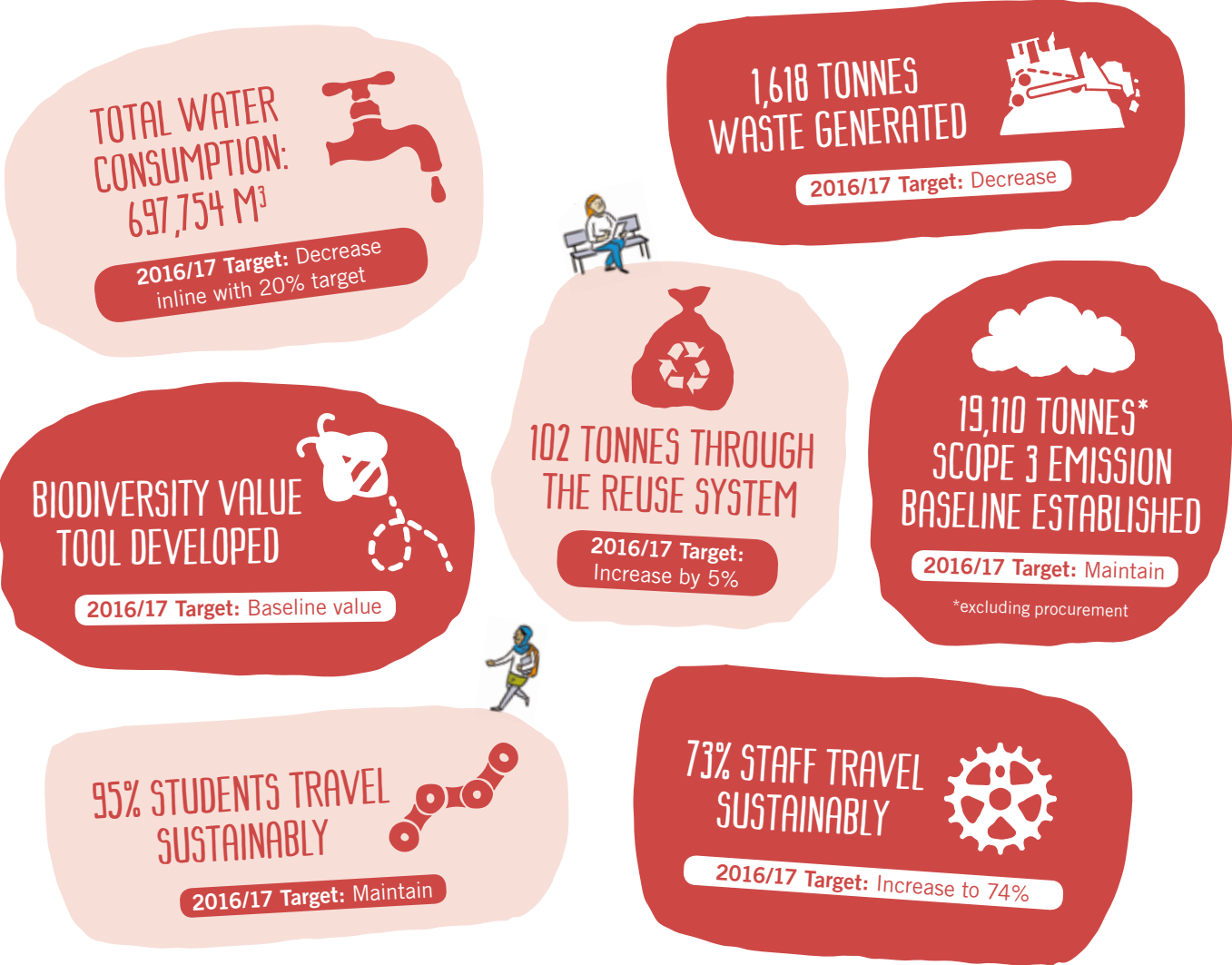
It was estimated that reducing operational steam over the summer months could result in significant savings and, thanks to a £170,000 funding from the Revolving Green Fund, work got underway to install a range of solutions including steam isolation valves, re-heat batteries, humidifiers and immersion heaters. We also upgraded the controls to enable remote switching and control of the whole system. All of this helped to isolate steam when demand was low, while still maintaining steam to essential services.

The project was completed in late 2015, and in June 2016 we recorded an impressive overall carbon saving figure of 244 tonnes and financial savings of £87,192 (compared to June 2015).

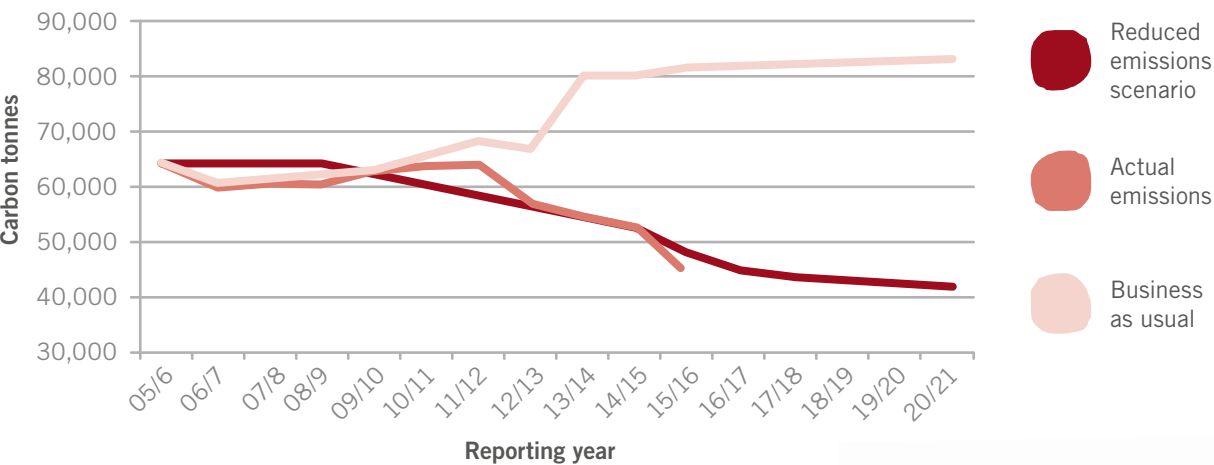


HEADLINE SUMMARY 2015/16

These are the key indicators for 2015-16 in this theme – **Making the most of resources** – along with our targets for the next academic year.



TOTAL CARBON: REDUCTION IN CARBON EMISSIONS 2016/17 Target: Decrease in line with 35% target



WORKING TOGETHER

“The Sustainability Team has been extremely welcoming and active regarding sustainability issues across the University. I’m really enjoying being a part of the Bee Network – it’s great to see this connection with nature and wildlife in the middle of a busy city.”

Marie-Christine O’Dwyer
Member of the Bee Network



WHAT’S NEXT?

- ▶ Continue working on making significant progress in carbon and water reduction, including a full review of our progress to date.
- ▶ Implement projects and programmes that underpin our campus as an exemplar of urban biodiversity – this will include updating and improving our Biodiversity Action Plan.
- ▶ Work together as a University community on ways to reduce our business travel, while at the same time becoming a truly international educational institution.
- ▶ Ensure that our Capital Works Programme is inline with our expectations set out in the Sustainable Construction Standard.
- ▶ Extend and improve our electric vehicle network.
- ▶ Work across the University Community and our waste providers to identify ways in which we can reduce our generation of waste.

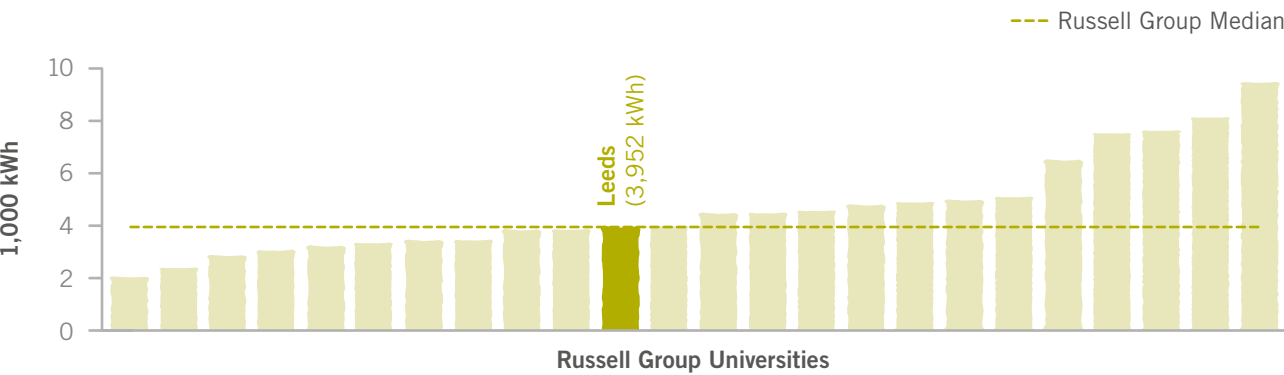


OUR PERFORMANCE IN THE SECTOR

The University of Leeds benchmarks sustainability performance against the 24 leading research-intensive UK universities in the Russell Group.* This is limited to our environmental performance, but provides important information in relation to our Making the most of resources theme.

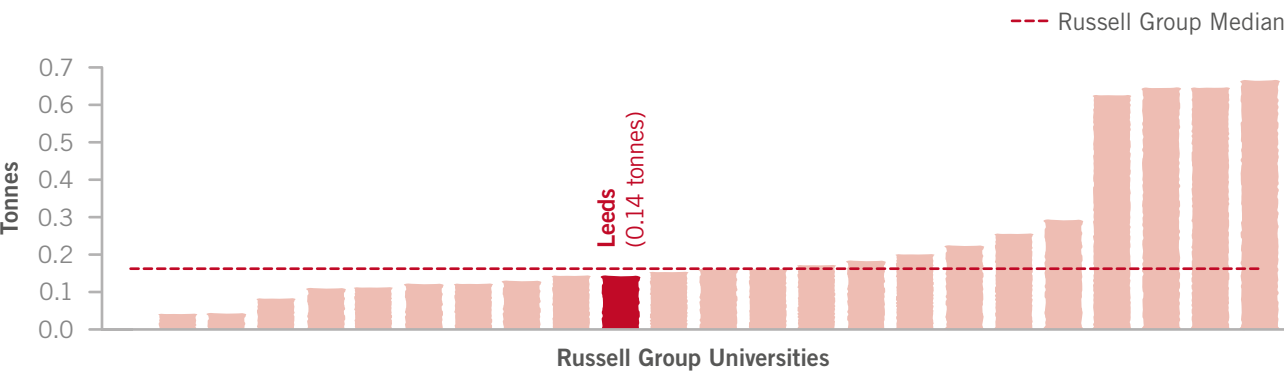
Campus energy consumption per staff and student (full-time equivalent) 2014/15

We are making good progress in addressing our energy consumption, and are currently sitting within the median of the Russell Group.



Waste mass per student and staff (full-time equivalent) 2014/15

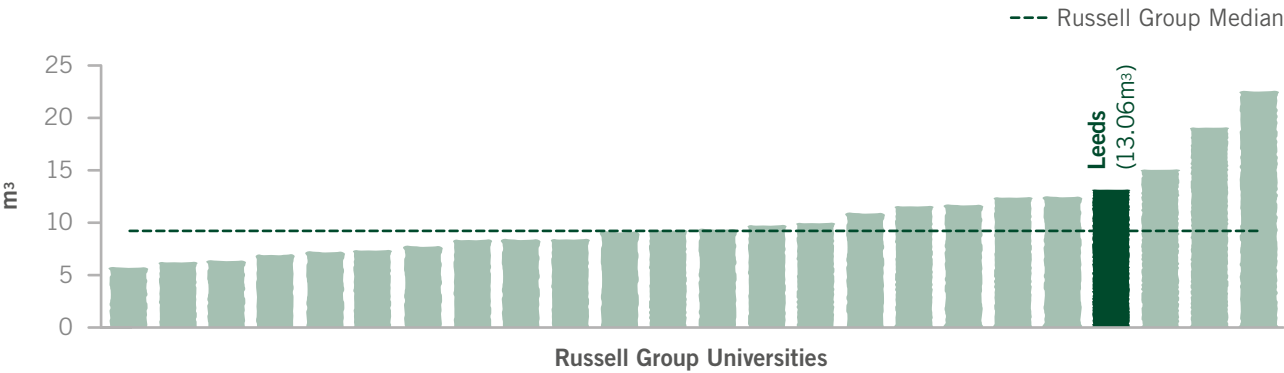
We are currently operating slightly below the Russell Group median and will continue to work in this area, looking to reduce both consumption and waste generation.



*Based on 2014/15 data due to publication cycle.

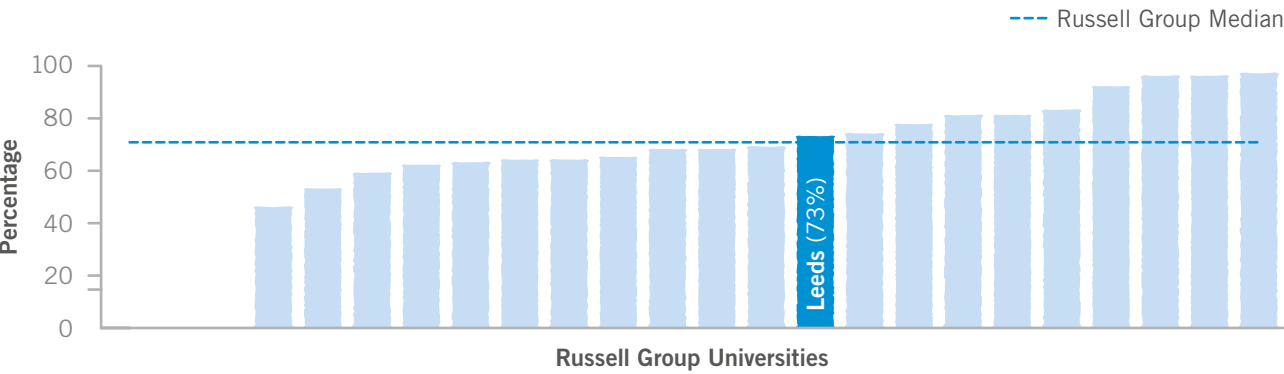
Campus water consumption per staff and student (full-time equivalent) 2014/15

We are performing poorly in this area compared to our peers. We are committed to reviewing our water use and developing a programme to improve our performance.



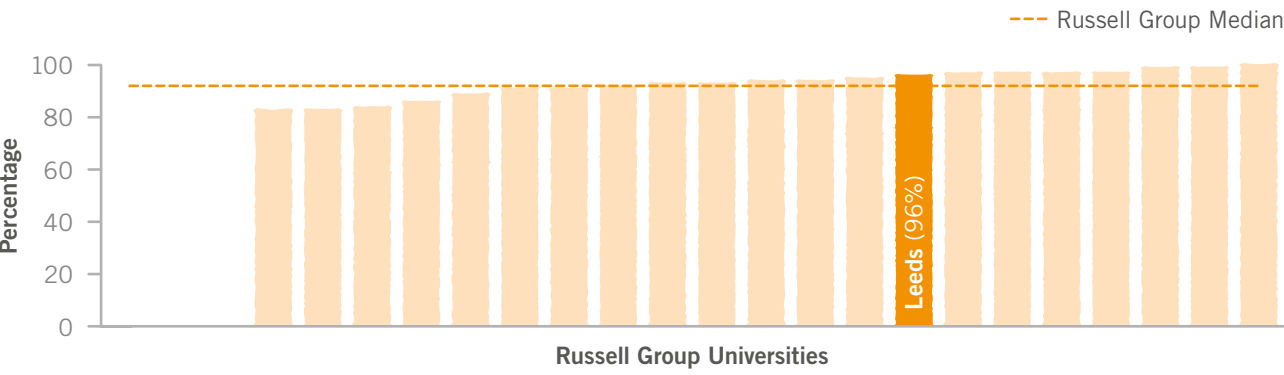
Modal split for sustainable commuting by staff 2014/15

This graph shows the number of our staff travelling to work by sustainable methods including public transport, walking and cycling. We are performing well against our peers but there is still room for improvement.



Modal split for sustainable commuting by students 2014/15

We are performing well in respect to the way our students travel to University and this is demonstrated in our performance compared to our peers. We will continue to support our students to make sustainable travel choices.

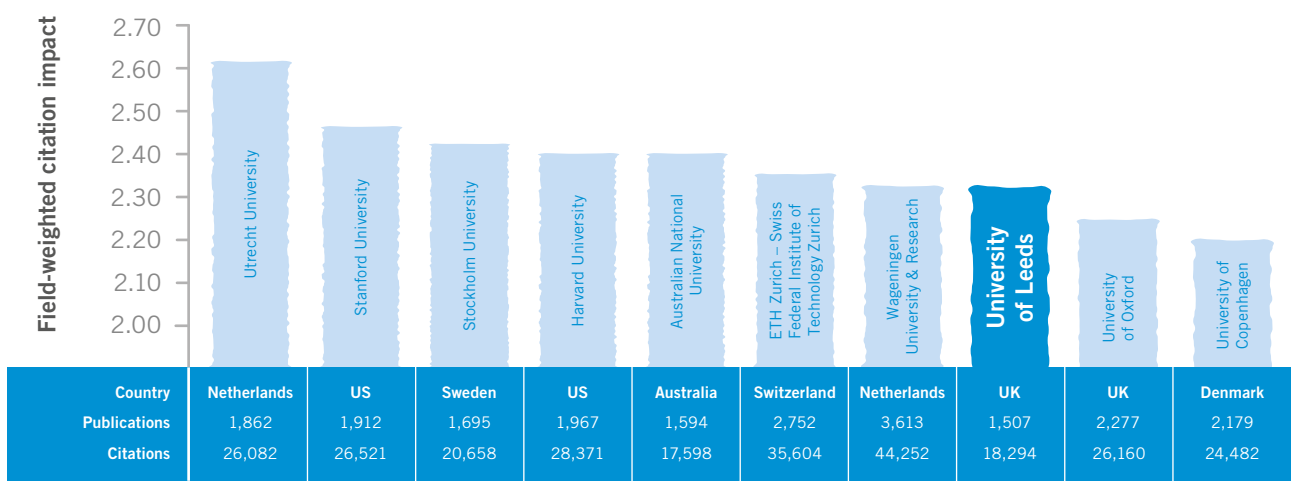


Source: HESA Estates Management Data 2014/15

RECOGNISING OUR COMMITMENT

LEADING RESEARCH

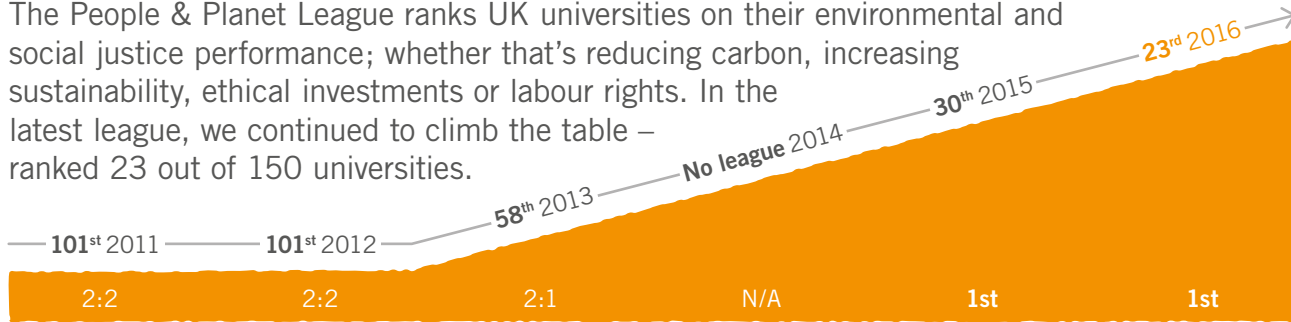
The Times Higher Education Supplement ranked the University of Leeds the top UK University for the environmental impact of our research, recognising work that has driven environmental awareness. We were eighth in the world (2011-2015) based on the number of citations in each publication, meaning that our research was being cited in thousands of other research papers.



Source: Elsevier, timeshighereducation.com

PEOPLE & PLANET GREEN LEAGUE TABLE

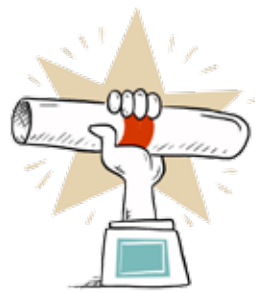
The People & Planet League ranks UK universities on their environmental and social justice performance; whether that's reducing carbon, increasing sustainability, ethical investments or labour rights. In the latest league, we continued to climb the table – ranked 23 out of 150 universities.



Source: peopleandplanet.org/university-league

AWARDS

- EAUC:** Green Gown for Learning and Skills
- CUBO Award:** Innovation Award for Excellence in Student Education
- Footprint Award (Food Services):** Sustainability in Education
- Green Tourism:** Gold Award for Accommodation and Catering



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PARTNERS...

Gordon Rogers Manager of Sustainability and Strategy, Yorkshire Water

Jamie Agombar Head of Sustainability, National Union of Students

Rosie Kenwood Centre Leader, IntoUniversity Leeds East

Nicholas Lawrence Business Manager – Waste Management Strategy and Infrastructure, Leeds City Council

Dawn Jones Hyde Park resident

GETTING INVOLVED

Your opinions and ideas are incredibly important to us and we'd love to hear what you think about our progress and ambitions for the future. There are lots of ways to get involved, find out more online or on social media.

 sustainability.leeds.ac.uk

 @UoL_Sus

 /UoLSustainability

 @UoL_Sus



Printed on 100%
recycled paper using
vegetable-based ink



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Credits

Illustration: Scriberia
Design and editorial: Creative Concern

University of Leeds
Leeds, United Kingdom
LS2 9JT

Tel. 0113 243 1751
www.leeds.ac.uk