

2021-22 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This information sheet shows University of Leeds emissions data reported to the Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA), with the addition of estimates for agricultural emissions from the University farm and fugitive emissions from air-conditioning units. All figures are in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions.

Emissions source	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Scope 1 and 2 emissions (includes vehicles)	43,661	43,565	43,502
Scope 1 – agricultural emissions (estimated)	-	1,429	1,429
Scope 1 – fugitive emissions (estimated)	-	728	174
Total scope 1 and 2 emissions	43,661	45,722	45,105
Scope 3 – business travel	6,398	410	3,278
Scope 3 – staff commuting	3,572	3,875	3,004
Scope 3 – student commuting	1,055	1,701	2,550
Scope 3 – waste, water and wastewater	696	286	346
Scope 3 – supply chain	109,421	102,128	122,684
Total scope 3 emissions excl supply chain	121,142	108,400	131,862
Total scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions	164,803	154,122	176,967
Offsetting of emissions	-	- 1,000	-
Net emissions	164,803	155,122	176,967

Energy based scope 1 and 2 emissions showed a slight drop year on year. This was largely driven by energy management measures and a switch to electric vehicles across the University fleet. The reduction in scope 1 agricultural emissions reported both for 2020-21 and 2021-22 is based on a revised methodology for estimating these emissions.

Business travel emissions increased following the removal of Covid-19 travel restrictions, but remained below pre-Covid levels. Overall commuting emissions remained level year on year, however the figures showed a decrease in staff commuting emissions, with a contrasting increase in student commuting emissions. It should be noted that no travel survey took place in 2020-21, and the 2021-22 survey had a low student response rate, so these figures should be viewed with caution. Steps have been taken to increase the response rate for future surveys.

Supply chain emissions have shown an increase, reflective of staff and students returning to on campus work and study following the impact of Covid-19 throughout 2020-21. There have also been changes in the categorisation of the spend data used to calculate emissions. Business services, medical & precision instruments and information & communication technologies were the most significant contributors to scope 3 emissions.

For any queries on these figures please contact sustainability@leeds.ac.uk.