



Green Gown
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LSE Sustainability Reporting Annual Report

About the project

Summary

LSE's Environmental Sustainability Report 2014/15 presents LSE's sustainability performance from the last academic year.

The report covers four key areas: leadership and governance, campus operations, teaching and research, and community engagement . Highlights include LSE research to help European cities become more energy efficient and liveable; the 'Global Apollo Programme' to drive climate

change up the global policy agenda; and closer to home, a £2m investment in energy-efficiency retrofits that will cut LSE's carbon footprint by 8%.

Project partners

No external partners

The results

The problem

- A need to communicate work to all stakeholders; students, staff, alumni, prospective students and the wider community.
- A need to articulate university sustainability work in a holistic way – teaching and research, leadership and governance, estates and operations, engagement and community.
- A need to articulate how sustainability is a key part of the LSE mission to shape a better world.

The approach

The report provides an overview of sustainability performance over the 2014-15 academic year. It is primarily designed to be highly accessible to a range of stakeholders, especially students. For that reason it is concise, informally worded with attractive graphics, and focuses on outcomes rather than process. However it also highlights how our Environmental Management System and sustainability leadership structure help embed environmental performance throughout LSE. It also shows how sustainability is a key part of LSE's strategic mission to help shape a better world. One of the report's key aims is to present sustainability as a fundamental strand running through all of LSE's teaching, research, operations, and public engagement. To this end, the report features a large number of case studies of initiatives from right across the School. In addition to the benefits of building a vision of a unified and sustainable institution, this exercise created buy-in by showcasing colleagues' work, and the engagement process of gathering these stories was also valuable in itself.



Profile

- Higher Education
- 11,0111 students (includes full and part time students)
- 3300+ staff
- Urban

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Our goals

- Communicate sustainability performance to all stakeholders
- Articulate university sustainability work in a holistic way – teaching and research, leadership and governance, estates and operations, engagement and community.
- Articulate how sustainability is a key part of the LSE mission to shape a better world.

Obstacles and solutions

Obstacles

Much of the 'behind-the-scenes' work to ensure that LSE continually improves its sustainability is not immediately accessible to a lay audience. For example, internal audits to check compliance with our Environmental Management System; Data assurance on key metrics such as carbon emissions; action plans with specific timeframes, ownership, KPIs, etc. However, this information can be helpful to build transparency and trust with stakeholders, and is of interest to many people.

Solutions

We compromised by leaving out most of the 'background' detail from the report, and presented an accessible summary of outcomes, whilst highlighting the environmental leadership structure and forward-looking targets.

Performance and results

The annual report received great feedback from a range of groups across LSE including students, academics and professional services staff and management. It was also received well by alumni and visitors; engaging successfully with all our stakeholders. The report became the main face of our achievements when communicating with the LSE community and the wider public. It had good buy-in from those featured in the report, including departments and colleagues, academic departments and research centres.

The future

Lessons learned

- The report became the main face of our achievements when communicating with the LSE community and the wider public
- It articulates a unified vision of LSE's sustainability work across teaching, research, public impact and operations
- Good governance is key to good reporting

Sharing your project

The report was launched by LSE's Chief Operating Officer at our Annual Celebration of Sustainability, an awards event showcasing student and staff sustainability initiatives. The event had 70 people attending and paper copies were distributed at the awards as well as at other LSE events. Internally the report was promoted via staff and student newsletters, by the Students' Union and within departments. It was also shared externally online, via social media and promoted through other external networks.



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What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

It is a real honour to be a finalist for the Green Gown Sustainability Reporting Award for our Annual Environmental Sustainability Report. The report is a crucial part of how we communicate our sustainability achievements and ambitions to our students, staff, and the other key stakeholders. This achievement gives us further motivation to continuously improve our environmental impacts, and to continue to report on these developments!

Further information

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