

# Annual sustainability report *2013–14*







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# Introduction from the Director of Estates and Facilities, Mark Swales

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The higher education sector is in a unique position in terms of influencing a new generation and their attitude to sustainability. At Sheffield Hallam, sustainability is a key part of our aim to transform the lives of the students, staff and communities we are part of. Through the creation and application of knowledge from our research and sustainable practice we can have a substantial impact in this area, both inspiring and challenging behaviours and cultures.

Sustainability is not only high on our own agenda, by working with partners in the city and wider we can make a significant contribution to the overall sustainable standing of the Sheffield City region and beyond.

We set high standards for our students, staff and partners and that extends to our sustainable performance. I am delighted to see us ahead of key competitors with top 20 and top ten positions in recognised league tables. The report will I hope surprise and impress you with our current performance and present a promising picture for our future.

In the Facilities Directorate we have been embedding this into our practices and systems to ensure our Future Spaces are as sustainable as possible. Whether designing new builds, looking at procurement, processes or introducing new ways of working, sustainability is at the heart of our decision making. Alongside this we are actively supporting cultural change with procurement and processes campaigns to change the behaviours of individuals, teams and departments.

Over the coming year, you will see a move from sustainability to the more rounded approach of Healthy Universities. In the meantime, we have revised and extended our Sustainability Framework to carry us on the journey. I am looking forward to seeing us widen our impact and influence in this area.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Swales". The signature is stylized with a large 'M' and 'S'.

**Mark O Swales**

# The Sustainability Framework

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The University recognises the impacts of its operations on the surrounding community and environment and has policies and action plans in place to minimise negative impacts and enhance surroundings.

These were consolidated by the University Sustainability Framework 2010 to 2013.

This Framework has been revised to stretch our targets and has been extended to take us to 2015 with a view to improve how we approach sustainability to widen and deepen our ambitions across our community encompassing social responsibility.

The framework leads our activities in environmental management and social responsibility by setting targets to minimise our negative impacts through such elements as energy, water and transport use, procurement and waste and pollution generation and monitoring our impacts on a wider society through engagement, research and teaching.

The environmental management is quality assured by operating to ISO 14001 Environmental Management System, eliminating pollution or non-compliance with legislation and striving for continual improvements through engagement and operational initiatives. Our energy management operates to a similar specific quality assured ISO 50001.

The successful delivery of the framework is collaborative with staff, students, community and has been very successful in delivering our objectives and providing a solid foundation to build upon as we move into a new era through the Healthy Universities accreditation. This will provide a more systematic approach to wellbeing and social responsibility in all aspects of our organisation including curriculum and research.





# A snapshot of highlights 2013-14

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## Accolades and awards

We remain consistently awarded with a 'First Class Honours Degree' from People and Planet Green League comparing all UK universities. In addition, the Business in the Community Environmental Index awarded us a 'Gold' standard benchmarked against public and private sector organisations. These benchmarks assess our operational influence as well as our offering to students, businesses and impact on the community.

The Vice-Chancellor has publicly supported the People and Planet's Green Education Declaration, becoming one of 38 vice-chancellors to have signed up. This declaration commits us to take decisive and strategic action – in the University and with partners – to bring about a world-leading, sustainable higher education sector.

The University and Students' Union have retained Fair Trade status and are launching plans to increase awareness and uptake of Fair Trade products in our services such as participating in World Fair Trade day.

The Students' Union have been awarded National Union for Students Green Impact "Large Trader" for 2014 and achieved a Gold Green Impact Award for the fourth consecutive year.

In February the the University supported the Students' Union to take part in Student Week, a joint initiative with the University of Sheffield which aims to engage with the local community through student-led activities. This year there were over 40 events including healthy eating, growing and living.

In Spring 2014 Sheffield Hallam University worked with Sheffield City Council to achieve the Sheffield Breastfeeding Award. The University is now actively committed to providing a supportive and safe environment for breastfeeding mums in any publically available place across the university. This initiative was supported by the Chancellor, Professor Lord Winston, and resulted in training for frontline staff and communications across the University and the Student Union community.

## ISO 14001 and 50001 Environmental & Energy Management Systems

We remain one of very few organisations worldwide to be externally certified in international standards in both environmental and energy management systems across all our UK operations. At the last external audit we were cited as a 'shining star' by our assessor with particular praise for our engagement programme, being forward thinking and innovative.



ISO 14001:571573  
Environmental Management System



registration number EnMS 574503

## Turning the Tour Green

You may think of the Tour de France and think yellow, but when we heard that the tour was coming to town we made it our mission to turn it as green as possible. The University's sponsorship of the Grand Départ was the ideal platform for our Pass it On initiatives centred around embedding sustainable transport into behaviours, in particular our aim of decreasing emissions from commuter and business travel. We embarked on a number of initiatives aimed at regular staff or students to entice them to take up cycling. Key to the success of these initiatives was a group of committed cycling enthusiasts who were willing to act as ambassadors for cycling at SHU, our Green Champions and our partners at Cycleboost.

All the initiatives looked at breaking down the barriers to cycling identified by our green champions, making cycling accessible and extolling the benefits of cycling;

- improved physical wellbeing.
- relieves stress and improves mental health.
- a great hobby to enjoy alone or with friends and family.
- money saving (it saves on petrol, parking and bus charges)

## Cycling Proficiency

Many individuals reach adulthood without learning how to ride a bike. The sessions, which we ran with our partners Pedalready, brought in experts to teach beginners to more experienced riders the very basics in a safe, supportive environment from. A Cycle Proficiency participant said:

*'I was always frightened I would never be able to do it, but I was able to grow in confidence and get a lot better at it. I thought I was too old, but my son teased me into it. You've got to take that plunge, and it comes easier than you think.'*

## Dr Bike

We discovered that many people don't take up cycling because they are unsure about how to maintain their bike in a safe working order, so we called in the Bike Doctor. Bike doctor offers a full bike safety check, will fix any minor repairs on the spot for free or for anything more serious will give you a prescription to take along to your local bike shop. Sessions ran at both campuses throughout the year and will continue to support our cycling initiatives.

## CycleBoost

In April 2014 we launched the Cycleboost scheme. This encouraged staff across the university to borrow a loan bike for free for 3 weeks to try out the idea of cycling to work at no cost. 82 people participated in the scheme with 50 borrowing a bike. At the end of the scheme all participants are offered the opportunity to buy the bike for just £100 (RRP £360). This is the most successful scheme CycleBoost have ever run in terms of numbers and we cycled more miles than any other organisation during the scheme, cycling further than Sheffield to New York!

The Bike to Work Salary Sacrifice scheme has also seen record uptake this year, some following the cycleboost loan scheme.

## Student Employability

As part of cycleboost students were asked to design exclusive cycling shirts for those who rode the most number of miles during the cycleboost scheme and the winning design was produced – a great addition to our students' CVs.









Yorkshire  
Grand Depart  
2014  
© JULY 2014  
Sheffield

Accommodation Services

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## Cross Campus Commute

In June more than 50 staff (including our Vice Chancellor), turned out to support the Cross Campus Commute which aimed to highlight just how easy it is to cycle from one campus to another and showing the safest route by which to do this. Green Champions helped run and marshal the event and the embryonic SHU Cycling User Group acted as Cycle buddies to lead groups safely across the city. The event also raised money for the Vice Chancellor's Charity Bike Ride Fund.

For the safe route supplied by CycleSheffield go to:  
<https://staff.shu.ac.uk/fdr/sustainability/Documents/Inter%20Campus%20Travel%20Map%20FINAL.pdf>

## Vice Chancellor's Charity Bike Ride

Many staff and a number of suppliers used by Estates Development and Sustainability contributed to this great cause to raise over £13,000 for the Care Leavers' Fund and Marie Curie.

## Cycling Facilities

We worked hard to promote the facilities we already had this year producing new online maps of all facilities related to cycling and other active travel choices from showers to secure cycle parking.

<https://staff.shu.ac.uk/fdr/sustainability/Documents/2764.3%20Campus%20bike%20maps%20Hi%20res.pdf>

During the Summer we received the great news that we had been given the go ahead to build a brand new Cycle Hub at City Campus to house 110 secure, covered cycle parking spaces. Additional Spaces are planned for Heart of the Campus and other areas at Collegiate.

For more details about everything cycling related go to :  
<https://staff.shu.ac.uk/fdr/sustainability/cycling.asp>



# Pass It On - Engaging our Stakeholders

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This year has seen us make real progress with our Pass it On programme which focuses on engaging a wide range of stakeholders and aims;

***'To create a culture and environment which encourages sustainable behaviour across the University by supporting stakeholders to challenge existing practice, initiate changes and practise what we teach'.***

Our network of green champions, which was embryonic in 2012/13, has now been instrumental in a plethora of initiatives to promote sustainable behaviour change. This network has become vital to delivering our targets on engagement as outlined in the sustainability framework enabling a wider reach for messages and providing resource to ensure awareness events can take place.

The campaigns have widened engagement across all aspects of the university community to inspire operational and behaviour change at all levels.

The Pass it On facebook page and Twitter account were set up and social media has become a popular way for stakeholders to engage not just with Hallam's sustainable activities, but those around the region and globally.

Links between the University and the Students' Union strengthened over the last year working together on projects such as the Breastfeeding Friendly Award, Sheffield on a Plate and Cycleboost.

## **Our buildings - Future Spaces**

The estate continues to grow in size. Several new buildings and refurbishments are in progress with the aim to achieve BREEAM 'Excellent' or equivalent through environmentally sound design and logistics decisions and operational management plans taking a collaborative approach. New buildings also have to have 10% of the energy required to come from renewable sources. A dedicated fund is used to implement energy saving measures in the existing estate. These initiatives support minimising the increasing impacts on the environment and our community as our estate expands.

Our buildings are all in "categorised as A or B" condition, demonstrating that they run efficiently and effectively in financial and environmental terms, enhancing the student experience.

Our future spaces strategy focuses on providing an innovative, flexible and sustainable estate to create a better environment and experience for staff and students. Students and other stakeholders are fully engaged with the design and delivery process.

Arundel House was purchased by the University in 2013 and is currently being refurbished to be the home of some elements of Facilities Directorate and the Directorate of International Development. To support the sustainability aspirations of the University, we chose to use the innovative SKA rating system to maximise the green credentials of the project. The SKA rating system is similar to BREEAM but better suited to refurbishments. We are using this project to assess the value of SKA with the potential to be used in all future office refurbishments.





Key features include Photovoltaic panels to generate electricity and a connection to the district heating system which means the carbon footprint will be small for this building, resulting in operational energy cost saving.

2014 saw the completion of the £27 million Heart of the Campus project which has presented many challenges. The site sits within the Broomhill conservation area which has many restrictions and conditions attached to any development or building work. The University has worked with the contractor and architects to consult with and inform the local community regarding the development. As a consequence no objections were received against the planning application for this building. Throughout the build regular community newsletters have been delivered to update neighbours.

In line with the University's on-going sustainability strategy, the building has been built to BREEAM standards and has received a rating of "Very Good". The sustainable features at Heart of the Campus that have helped to achieve this rating are:

- a ground source heat pump for underfloor heating and cooling
- a smart building management system which controls thermal comfort and lighting as well as minimising energy usage
- occupancy and daylight sensors for light and ventilation
- low energy cooling and some natural ventilation
- renewable energies including photovoltaic panels
- a detailed sustainable travel plan which includes secure cycle parking
- rainwater harvesting that feeds the toilets and irrigation for
- green roof technologies

We continue to dedicate a pot of capital to energy saving projects such as controls, insulation and low energy lighting and we have improved our understanding of energy and water use patterns by implementing a bespoke monitoring system across all of our buildings. These projects enable us to reduce energy use, improve efficiencies and minimise the risk of energy cost increases outside our control.

## Greener Journeys

The Owen Building lift refurbishment has provided greener journeys through improving the environmental efficiency of the lifts, reducing our carbon emissions by 8 tonnes each year whilst improving journey times.

## Switch it Off - again!

Following the success of the 2013 campaign, Switch it Off was re-launched with refreshed messages to coincide with the Summer period when many staff take leave and energy can be saved by ensuring devices are switched off during this period. We have been monitoring the impact of the switch it off campaign on PCs being left on overnight and at weekends and have saved almost £12,000 and 100 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2013/14.

In addition, we are working with security and SLS to support a programme of switching off Audio Visual equipment at night time in a controlled manner.

## Busboost

At the end of 2013 we persuaded 255 staff to start travelling to work by public transport through the Busboost programme. This joint initiative with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport offered a free monthly travel pass to staff who travelled to work by vehicle before the scheme. Follow up work will be undertaken a year on to discover how many staff kept up the habit.

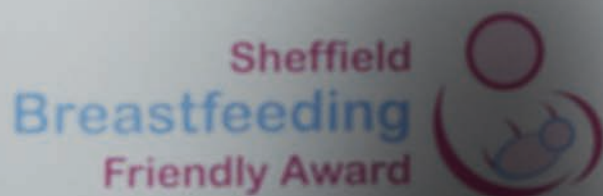




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recognised by the  
*Sheffield Breastfeeding  
Friendly Award*

We are a truly inclusive university,  
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## Woolly Pulley

In December 2013, the team worked with the Students' Union and Green Champions to promote energy saving through a World Record Attempt for the largest number of people wearing Christmas jumpers in one place. The response was phenomenal and over 350 staff and students took part. We beat the original target, but unfortunately, unbeknown to the team, a new world record had been set and not yet registered in the interim period, so we just missed out. However, we used the event to launch our dedicated Pass it On social media starting with Facebook encouraging participants to post photos of themselves. The beginnings of a sustainable online (and offline) community could be seen.

## ICT

The use of Windows 7 on PCs allows us to actively save power – the stand-by and remote switch off functions greatly reduce the energy used.

We are continuing to decrease the electricity consumption in teaching rooms by updating equipment. We have mostly phased out outdated and rarely-used VHS players and replaced overhead projectors with visualisers and more energy efficient lamps. As plasma screens are being replaced with energy-efficient LCD screens and monitors are renewed, the new equipment has improved standby functionality with occupancy sensors.

We have highlighted the environmental costs of printing by installing, on every staff member's desktop, a balance showing the amount of printing they have individually generated. This is called Papercut. We are also piloting LeanPrint software with groups of staff around the University to test whether it will help us to reduce the amount of paper and ink we use in printing. We are continuing our rolling programme to replace single desktop printers with more energy-efficient, shared multifunction devices and have phased out energy intensive large format colour printers.

'Follow me' printing is now set up for all students and is being rolled out to staff reduce the need to carry piles of papers between campuses and to encourage active travel between sites. In addition, print jobs not collected in a given time will delete from the system, saving in wasted paper.

Our procurement framework for PC equipment specified the maximum wattage we would accept for the various PC modes such as standby etc and the tender winner scored collectively the highest across all the sustainability criteria.

Work on a new data centre is underway as part of the Charles Street project. The new centre will use a fraction of the floor area and power of the previous one. A heat recovery function will ensure as little energy as possible is wasted.



## Catering

The catering service in the University has a comprehensive Corporate Social Responsibility promise, incorporating a wide-ranging suite of initiatives and processes to

- improve health and wellbeing
- invest in the community
- source locally and responsibly
- minimise waste and packaging
- replace catering equipment with energy and water efficient models.

Catering are also a key delivery partner in the University's continued Fair Trade status. A significant amount of work has been done to research local and ethical suppliers for the new, Heart of the Campus 'Granary' branded outlet.

## Do the Right Thing - Reduce, Re-use and Recycle

The University domestic staff and our green champions were concerned that current recycling provision was inadequate and could be improved with just a small amount of investment and a large amount of communications. Workshops were held to develop the best messages to encourage higher recycling rates and to work out the best way to label bins to give clearer messages and overcome barriers. Recycling Geek Guides and Handbooks for Domestic staff were produced and made available on-line.

Over 1000 bins across the University were re-labelled by our domestic teams with the global recycling icons to mirror the symbols people see in their everyday lives.

Engagement activities including recycling challenges and quizzes were held with teams across the university with our domestic team scoring full marks in their challenge.



We have developed better procedures to support office moves and appropriate reuse and disposal of redundant equipment including stationery amnesties to be used by other departments or charities and sending unwanted books to our partner charity, Better World Books.

We have had a long running partnership with Better World books to reuse the redundant books from our library by selling them on to raise funds for literacy charities nationally and internationally.

In 2014 alone, we have sent over 15,000 redundant books to Better World Books to be resold or recycled. In environmental terms, this has helped to save 177 trees and over £350 has been donated to charity.

The scheme has now grown to include other unwanted books. The move to Heart of the Campus alone resulted in 76 boxes of books being recycled helping overcome staff reluctance to just throw away the books that were no longer needed by them, but were still perfectly usable.

Although there is no longer a requirement to use Site Waste Management Plans in our estates developments, we have made the strategic decision to maintain this as good practice and have achieved over 90% diversion of waste from landfill on all recent projects.

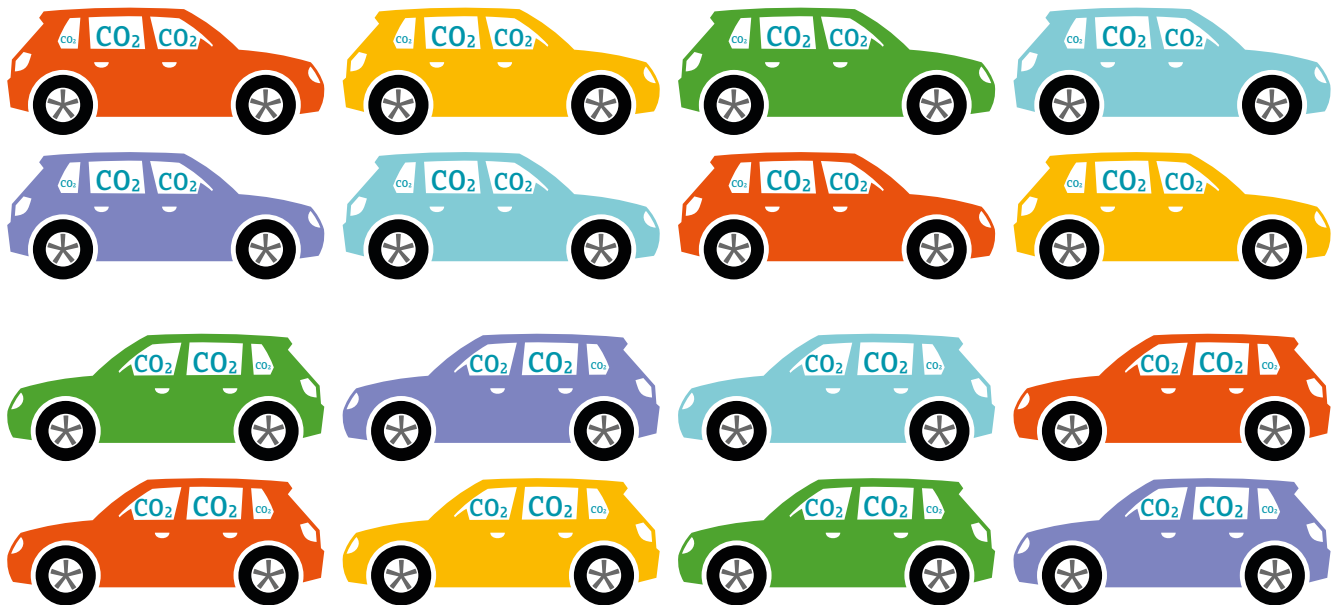
All of our major purchases look at circular economy principles, considering what happens to products when we no longer need them and how and where they can be reused or recycled.





# Recycle and *do the right thing.*

In 2008 the UK avoided 11 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by recycling paper and board – the equivalent of taking around 3½ million cars off the road.









## Community Engagement

The University sits on high level strategic boards across the city such as the Local Enterprise Partnership and Sheffield First. We have a variety of relationships with city partners and stakeholders such as the council, services and local community groups and residence associations.

The Student Strategy Steering group is led by Sheffield City Council and is a multi-agency meeting discussing all areas of the city which affect and are affected by students living in Sheffield. This includes planning and responding to events such as Freshers' Week.

Our unique, 'SNUG' Landlord accreditation scheme quality assures the landlords that our accommodation office recommend to students. This ensures that student accommodation is of an acceptable standard and issues can be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

We continue to liaise closely and regularly with SHU academic faculty staff, Police, PCSO teams and Environmental Services through the Sheffield 101 non-emergency line to log and respond accordingly with community issues and problems involving students.

We are active members of the South Yorkshire Police Multi Agency Burglary Group which identifies areas of concern, agrees appropriate responses to community crime issues, allocates resources and share information to ensure community safety outside the University boundaries.

We re-use furniture where possible and often donate to third sector organisations. Areas of the university undertake voluntary work in the community. For example Sheffield Business School volunteered to refurbish a local Scout Hut this year and some of our Finance Directorate volunteered at Heeley City farm as their away day, helping to build infrastructure to support the good work of the farm. They may have used some of the compost generated from the green waste we donate to Heeley Farm from our own estate grounds.

In line with our focus on biodiversity and acting as a responsible landlord we regularly survey our land as well as our buildings. During the Summer of 2014 we removed three trees from a piece of land owned by the University at Akley Bank in Totley in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the site. The job was complex, as the piece of land is surrounded by residential housing and trees had to be lifted up the bank and over the properties of our neighbours. The build up therefore involved extensive community engagement to ensure the work was carried out with minimum disruption and least risk possible. Due to this engagement and the close working partnership with specialist tree contractors the removal went smoothly and resulted in a better environment for local residents including reassurance about the long term safety of the area and less likelihood of blocking the stream through falling sections of trees.

## Wellbeing

The wellbeing of our staff and students is of key importance and we have a dedicated team offering a variety of services to support healthy lifestyles and mental health.

Sheffield Business School and Arts, Computing, Engineering and Sciences took part in the Global Corporate Challenge, where they added up all their activity walking, cycling or swimming over a month. This was very popular and created quite a lot of competition.

Sport Hallam Active set up the Park Run over four years ago and now has over 10 thousand members of all ages from 4 to 80. Over 500 participants who now take part in this free 5K run every Saturday morning.

# Switch it off *and do your bit*

Leaving your phone charger plugged in during a two week holiday wastes enough energy to produce 14 ice-cream cones.





# Performance in 2013–14

## Carbon emissions from building energy use

The carbon targets for the University’s buildings are set out in the 2011 Review of the Carbon Management Plan (Figure 1). These targets are absolute and do not account for the increasing size of the estate or student numbers.

	Actual 2005–06	Target 2014–15	Target 2020–21
Emissions, tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	14,845	12,618	10,392
Compared to 2005–06 baseline		-15%	-30%

Figure 1. Targets from Carbon Management Plan Review 2011

In 2013/14, we surpassed our 2020 target of 15% carbon dioxide reduction. However, mild weather did contribute to this. Overall our energy consumption trend is on target to meet our shorter term targets. This is despite the estate increasing by 13% in support of the University Strategy (Figure 2) since our baseline year.

As the estate continues to change, the ability to impact further on carbon targets will add to the business case for generating our own energy from fossil-free, clean technologies.

Our Energy Management System performs to ISO 50001 standards and demonstrates quality assured best practice. As far as we can ascertain, we remain the largest University internationally to hold this certification across all of our operations.



Figure 2. Carbon emissions compared to total gross internal floor area of estate

Through the Energy Capital Investment Plan, the dedicated energy management team and collaboration with the design and operations team, IT and Green Champions, we tackle energy efficiency through technical, operational and behavioural solutions.

We have increased the granularity of our energy data through dynamic, sophisticated metering to better understand where and when energy is used, for instance we can now break down energy use by building. This supports targeting wasted energy further and also better monitors the impacts of the energy saving projects we have implemented.

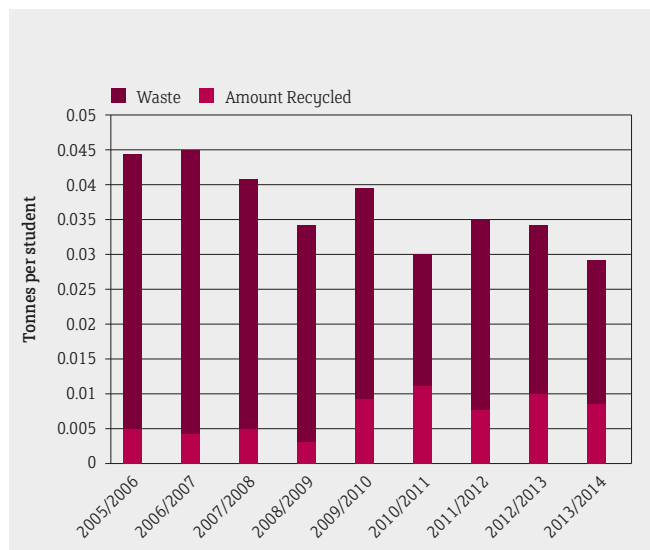


Figure 3 Waste and recycling totals by student numbers

## Domestic waste

The target in the Sustainability Framework is to reduce the total amount of waste created by the university by 15% by 2014–15.

However, the overall amount of waste generated has increased by 4%. Taking into account an increase in student numbers of around 30% in this time, the waste generated compared to student numbers has improved by 33%. Figure 3 shows our waste by student number split into the proportion recycled, which has increased significantly from our baseline.

We have made improvements to recycling rates through campaigns and green champions and aim to improve this more through our emerging waste contracts and improved student engagement.



Figure 4 Water consumption compared to target

## Water

The target to reduce water consumption was originally set to 10% reduction compared to floor area by 2014–15. This target was met several years ago.

We have reconfigured these targets to a more realistic metric of student numbers as an improved and more realistic performance indicator (see Figure 3).

## Travel

The Sustainability Framework sets business travel targets to reduce emissions by 5%. As there is no real data to measure or monitor against this, some initiatives have been put in place to start to capture our travel emissions.

A new Sustainable Travel Plan is in development with improved data collection methodologies.



## Business Travel

The Vehicle Group has successfully decreased the emissions from our vehicles, using a range of tactics, such as more fuel efficient vehicles, driver training and harmonising the protocols around vehicle management across all our operations. This has improved our performance by 4 miles per gallon since 12/13.

We have also begun swapping our diesel vehicles to support the Air Quality Action Plan for Sheffield in reducing Nitrogen Oxides.

We have started to collate other business travel information to improve our reporting of operational carbon emissions. Our Travel Management Company collates all our international travel information and we can report that we flew almost 6 million business air miles in 2013/14. This will extend to most UK travel in 2014/15.

The new expenses system has been introduced which will help ascertain grey fleet emissions where staff use their car for business purposes.

## Commuting

The Sustainable Travel Plan will scope out our targeted objectives for commuting to encourage more active forms of travel where possible and to minimise sole vehicle occupancy. Provision of car parking is based on needs only in either work or mobility terms.

## Sustainable Procurement

Sustainability is now considered in most higher-value purchases of goods, services and works and in the establishing of long-term framework agreements. Sustainability is also featuring more prominently in sector collaborative procurement agreements that the University may use.

The Sustainable Procurement Policy is not yet officially sanctioned; however it is widely used and tested for appropriateness across a range of diverse requirements. These exercises aim to determine how direct and indirect ethical and environmental considerations such as resources efficiency, provenance, energy and recycled content can be assessed as part of the procurement process.

Contracts and services procured through Estates score sustainability credentials as part of the assessment of an appointment. This includes major capital investments such as Charles Street and Heart of the Campus and operational contracts such as mechanical engineering frameworks.

## Education for Sustainable Development

There are many courses which incorporate sustainability in the curriculum. A few examples are detailed below to demonstrate the breadth of subjects covered. Our full, detailed prospectus is available on our website..

**Sheffield Business School** students in their final year complete a module entitled 'Sustainable development in the business environment'. The business school incorporates Corporate Social Responsibility into many of its courses and runs a Masters in social enterprise and one in charity resource management.

**Development and Society** has sustainability as a key element in modules related to the built environment, communities and planning, including ecology and environmental management.

**Arts, Computing, Engineering and Sciences** have various courses which incorporate sustainability. Food engineering masters courses explore manufacturing food in the most energy-efficient, environmental and economical way. Product design courses work on a range of technical products including aircraft, computers and cars to include life cycle analysis. Technical architecture courses have core modules in technical and environmental design and conservation.

**Health and Wellbeing** have courses which explore positive wellbeing through nutrition and lifestyle choices.

## Research for Sustainability

Research related to a wide range of sustainability topics is carried out at the University. This is overseen by the Research and Innovation Office with several diverse centres of research.

All research is scrutinised for ethics and is assessed for impact on the wider community. The focus is to positively impact on quality of life transferring research from academia to real world applications.

Several research projects are underway, with businesses and organisations to minimise waste and maximise resource efficiencies. From energy and carbon management, generating energy from waste and reusing waste products to policy development in communities.

A sample of the vast range of research projects we have undertaken can be found at [www.shu.ac.uk/business/case-studies](http://www.shu.ac.uk/business/case-studies)

## Partnership working and community engagement

We continue to work with and forge new relationships with communities and partners to integrate and improve our community be that elements of safety and wellbeing, or influencing the supply chain to provide ethical and environmentally sound, quality products.

Our continued dialogue with our directly affected community has helped us to develop our estate through on-going consultation and openness. Our Future Spaces blog enables anyone to see what we are planning and how it might impact on them with opportunities to feedback, allowing us to address any concerns.

We also work closely with local groups to understand their concerns and discuss our plans for the future. For instance, at the new Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park we worked hard to liaise with the local community sports groups to ensure they gained maximum benefit from the finished development.

Our community focus follows through to our partners and all of our contractors are part of the considerate constructors' scheme. While on site, our contractors provide updates to the community on their progress, fundraise for local charities and also provide opportunities for student placements and graduates. At our Heart of the Campus project, the contractor worked with the nursery children on campus to enter the national hoarding competition.





# What's next?

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## Social Responsibility - Healthy University

The Sustainability Framework is coming to the end of its life. Although it has served its purpose and has led us to a prominent position, we want to raise the sustainability agenda further, to

- incorporate environmental and community engagement and wellbeing into our core business performance
- make sustainability an integral element of our culture
- continually improve and enhance our credibility, research, teaching and operative efficiency
- enhance our students' experience and employability skills.

The University has recently established a Healthy Universities Steering Group to lead the University activity associated with health, wellbeing and sustainability. The group targets staff and students and the wider community, bringing together various strands of existing work by the University and Students' Union. These include

- staff wellness
- Fair Trade
- sustainability
- waste and pollution management
- travel
- energy management
- carbon reduction
- social responsibility.

This development responds to the national Healthy Universities network initiative, which is focused on supporting and promoting health and wellbeing. The University's approach will help to underpin the 'Sustainable University' element of the University Strategy, as well as the Student Support Framework, Estates Strategy, along with wellness and sustainability agendas.

This will include an assessment of the impact of the university on the community locally and in global terms from our operations to our teaching and research impacts and influences.

## Student Engagement

The Students' Union are recruiting a dedicated two year sustainability graduate intern to support engagement with students and integrate the University campaigns to align with student experience. This takes the good work they have done on Green Impact to a new level and in 2015 they will be embarking on the Green Impact excellence project to build on this further..

This includes such initiatives as enlisting student Green Champions across our estate and in student accommodation to promote best practice, working with Sheffield on a Plate to promote locally sourced foods and reducing waste, supporting travel options for healthy travel and generally raising awareness.

We have commissioned a short film and are developing packs for students in private accommodation to help reduce household bills and learn sustainable behaviours.

We have enlisted students to carry out consultation projects assess our operations and attitudes to sustainability and suggest improvements to support their course work and enhance the learning experience.

## Biodiversity

A new biodiversity policy has been drafted and is to be signed off and implemented to enhance and protect our environment. This aligns with the local Biodiversity Action Plan and we are working with local interest groups as consultees.

Our new development at Heart of the Campus includes a meadow style green roof which is irrigated with rain water. There are also proposals to include a green roof on the Charles Street development.

We are working with the city council to redevelop some external public realm and are making consideration to biodiversity and wellbeing as part of the design process. Our Green Champions have also identified that they would like to reinstate the gardening club so we are working with key partners to set this up using the existing green houses and recycling waste timbers from our building projects to build raised beds. We have also commissioned some student projects to assess where we could grow food across the estate in 'eat your campus'.

Improvements will support the Air Quality Action Plan for the city and the Healthy University agenda to include areas to support staff and students wellbeing.

## Energy and Renewable Strategy

We have continually performed well to reduce our energy use, however, factors such as the estate continuing to grow along with energy costs increases and supply insecurities means that energy use remains a financial and operational risk.

To minimise the risk, we are setting out a strategy to assess our ability to generate renewable energy on site in the first instance. Our new buildings and major refurbishments all have renewable feasibilities carried out as part of the project process. Heart of the Campus, Arundel House and Charles Street all have a significant proportion of their energy supplied from renewable sources.

## Sustainable Travel Plan

The University has had a staff travel plan for some years, however, the breadth and scope of this is being extended to include student, visitor and services transport and travel. The Sustainable Travel Plan is in development and will become interactive on-line tools to support travel choices, encouraging, where possible and practical, active travel for business and commuting.

This will support our Healthy Universities aspirations, the Carbon Management Plan and the city's Air Quality Action Plan.

Following the success of the pilot last year, we are looking to introduce the opportunity for anyone who drives on behalf of the university to take up 'ecodriving' courses to reduce emissions and improve wellbeing whilst driving.

We are improving our data collection capability by streamlining the process of collecting grey fleet mileage through the new on-line expenses claims system. In addition the new University policy will be to book most UK and international travel through our dedicated Travel Management Portal. Improved data will enable us to form a baseline and support initiative to improve our carbon emissions through travel. The digital strategy and improved technology will support increased capability and access to conference and video calls where a face to face meeting is not necessary to reduce travel costs and emissions delivered via the unified communications project.

## Heritage Trails

We worked with English Heritage in 2014 to participate in Open Days allowing the public to view Sheffield from our rooftops, engaging the community in our Estate and the City. More opportunities of this nature will be made in 2015 to coincide with the opening of a Heritage trail at Collegiate Campus..

## Contact information

We welcome any suggestions or comments to improve sustainability across the University, city and with our partners. We also welcome any feedback on the format of the annual sustainability report. Any suggestions, comments or feedback can be sent through many means such as

- Facilities Directorate's Ask a Question online tool
- Compliments, Comments or Complaints cards available online and in outlets
- your Green Champion
- contacting the Energy and Sustainability team direct

A list of Green Champions in your area is available on request.

If you are interested in becoming a Green Champion, please contact us.

We work across the University with all staff in all activities, delivering a variety of projects and initiatives. If you have an idea, let us know!

Opposite is a list of the Energy and Sustainability Team who will answer any queries or sign post you to the right person to help.



# The team

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