



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Annual Sustainability Report 2018/19



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Key for targets

		
Completed	In progress/ongoing	Behind schedule



Foreword by the Director

As the world responds to a global pandemic, we cannot forget the climate crisis facing us. Both require urgent action and a truly global response. Now more than ever is the time to collectively shape a sustainable, inclusive and resilient pathway to recovery for the world. We are keen to play an active part in supporting this effort.

LSE was founded for the betterment of society, and our commitment to acting responsibly and sustainably is part of who we are. We actively promote the principles of sustainability through our leadership, education and research. At the same time, we act to reduce the environmental impacts of our own campus operations. Key to our success in all these areas is working in partnerships with others. This report provides an overview of our efforts for the academic year 2018/19.

2018/19 saw many of our staff and students participate in the School Climate Strikes, challenging the School to go further in its response to climate change. We also recognised the urgency of this issue and made “Ensuring a sustainable future” one of the guiding principles of our LSE 2030 Strategy, committing to *Creating a Sustainable LSE*.

Next year’s Annual Report will provide details of how we worked in close collaboration with the LSE community, through a participatory and inclusive consultation process, to develop a Sustainability Strategic Plan for the School as a framework for action. This plan is due to be launched in Michaelmas Term 2020. Do make sure to get involved, it is only by working together that we will be able to rise to the challenges of shaping a more sustainable world.

Minouche Shafik

Director, LSE



Highlights



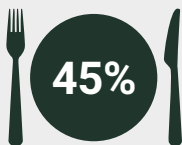
100%
electricity
sourced from
renewables



38%
carbon
reductions since
2005 scope 1/2



49%
waste reused,
recycled or
composted



of dishes sold
were plant-based
in 2019



Two
vegan cafés



drinks sales in
reusable cups

25

Green Impact
teams /
16 projects
#PlasticFreeLSE



135

Sustainability
Ambassadors
(Reduce the Juice)



One

public water
fountain
installed



Change Makers
projects

LSE100

Interdisciplinary
undergraduate module
where students analyse
and address pressing
social problems



Leadership and Governance

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Leadership and Governance

Targets:

- Embed sustainability effectively across LSE, delivering the Schools Sustainability Action Plan. ✓
- Deliver and maintain ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 standards. ✓ ↻
- Maintain compliance with relevant legal and stakeholder requirements. ✓ ↻
- Incorporate sustainability into Data and Technology Services business strategy. ↻

Future goals:

- Achieve ongoing recertification of ISO 50001 and ISO 14001, continuing to manage and monitor sustainability performance to ensure continual improvement.
- Consult and engage the LSE community on setting new targets to deliver the sustainability vision of the LSE 2030 Strategy.





Our approach

Sustainability is a theme embraced at every level of LSE; from the School's senior leadership team, down to the day-to-day working life of the institution.

Sustainability is a key commitment of **LSE's 2030 Strategy** and **Ethics Code**. The Sustainability Team is based in the Estates Division and coordinates efforts across the School to improve LSE's environmental performance with support from the whole LSE community.

The **Sustainability Policy** is delivered via our Environmental and Energy Management System (EMS and EnMS) which strategically manages, monitors, and improves our sustainability and energy impacts. Our EMS has been certified to the internationally recognised ISO 14001 standard since 2012 and our EnMS has been ISO 50001 certified since 2015. These management systems establish the Sustainability Action Plan, which sets an annual programme of work to continually improve sustainability performance and establishes SMART targets to measure success.





Reporting and benchmarking

This Annual Sustainability Report details performance against the targets set out in the annual Sustainability Action Plan.

In addition to this report, we also publicly report to statutory requirements including the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) “Estates Management Record”, which publishes the environmental performance of all UK Higher Education institutions. We use HESA’s data to benchmark our performance against that of our peers.

LSE were ranked 13th in People and Planet’s “Green” University League, an independent ranking of UK universities’ environmental and ethical performance, in 2018/19.





Collaborative decision-making

Our process for decision-making on sustainability issues provides opportunities for all to get involved including students, faculty, professional services staff, and the LSE leadership team. This structure enables collaborative project development and resourcing; oversight of delivery and reporting on progress; horizon scanning for new opportunities and risks; and supports the exchange and development of new ideas. In 2019/20 we will review this process as part of the development of our new sustainability strategic plan.

In addition to this formal decision-making process, we also use our informal networks to engage actively within and beyond the LSE community. We seek feedback and discuss ideas, share best practice, and use our influence to encourage and inspire our partners to adopt good environmental policies, practices and behaviours. This work is overseen by our **Sustainability Engagement Strategy**.





SUSTAINABILITY DECISION-MAKING IN 2018/19



GOVERNANCE

COUNCIL

Approve Sustainability Policy and Annual Sustainability Report.

FINANCE AND ESTATES COMMITTEE

Oversee strategic financial and estates issues.



STRATEGY



SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Approve major LSE-wide initiatives.



FINANCE, ESTATES AND RESIDENCES MANAGEMENT

Approve major Estates and Residences initiatives and receive termly sustainability briefings.



ELG

Advisory group to the Director to steer sustainability strategy.



MANAGEMENT



EMT

Manage delivery of Sustainability Policy objectives.



DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT TEAMS

Oversee delivery of major projects, eg, estates development.



DELIVERY



STAFF

Responsible for environmental impact of daily roles at LSE.
Ongoing input and feedback.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUPS

Deliver departmental Environmental Action Plans. Estates; IMT; Library; Residences and Catering; LSESU; Procurement; HR; Communications



STUDENTS

Initiatives to create positive sustainability impacts among LSE student community, ongoing input and feedback. Students' Union; student societies including Sustainable Futures.



SUSTAINABILITY TEAM AND CARBON REDUCTION MANAGER

Propose, deliver and support sustainability initiatives.

Consult our [website](#) for current decision-making arrangements.



The table below shows the network of stakeholders we engage with.

STAKEHOLDERS	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
Students (including societies)	●	
Student led committees' e.g. LSE Students' Union, Halls Committees	●	
Services e.g. LSE Careers, LSE Volunteers, LSE LIFE	●	
LSE staff	●	
Staff professional networks e.g. Spectrum, LSE Power, Embrace	●	
Partnership Initiatives, Green Impact (by SOS UK), Reduce the Juice (by University of London)	●	●
Visitors to campus e.g. public lectures	●	●
LSE Alumni		●
Higher Education institutions and other industry bodies including: EAUC, LUEG, AUDE, TUCO, LUPC, RICS IEMA		●
Funding bodies and donors		●
Campaign groups, NGOs, trades unions	●	●
Local community e.g. Northbank Business Improvement District		●
Regulatory and government bodies		●





Contributing to the sustainable development goals

In 2015, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established as a framework for global action on sustainability. The SDGs focus on 17 key areas of action.



LSE contributes towards these goals in numerous ways, in line with our mission “For the betterment of society” and ambition to shape the world’s future. Our research addresses a range of sustainable development themes and has global impact, whilst our students learn about a diverse array of these issues. Our campus operations also make contributions to specific SDGs. Throughout this report, we use the SDG icons to identify how our work at LSE connects with the Goals.



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Operations and Estate

The daily operations of LSE have a range of environmental impacts. We work to actively manage these and create positive environmental change. We proactively take measures to reduce our carbon emissions, water usage and waste production; ensure our buildings have the lowest possible environmental impact; and source products and services responsibly.

Carbon



LSE has set a commitment to become a net-zero carbon emissions organisation by 2050 at the latest.

Targets:

- Reduce Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 34 per cent by 2025 compared to baseline year 2005/06. 🔄
- Baseline Scope 3 emissions. 🔄 ➡

LSE has been measuring its Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions since 2005/06, using the internationally recognised GHG protocol methodology and official UK Government carbon conversion factors). Quantifying our indirect scope 3 emissions is an ongoing project, using a mixture of DEFRA conversion factors and proxy measures (i.e. spend).



LSE Carbon Footprint

SCOPE	EMISSION SOURCE	tCO2e (2018/19)	tCO2e (2018/19) CARBON REDUCTION ACHIEVED
SCOPE 1	Gas, biodiesel and backup fuel	3,704	38 per cent vs 2005/06 baseline
SCOPE 2	Electricity	4,418	
SCOPE 3	Water	207	92 per cent reduction vs 2008/09 baseline
	Waste - construction	568	
	Waste - Estate	36	
	Staff/student commuting	1,367	
	Business Travel (Diversity Travel calculation)	3,618	

Progress and initiatives

- We have reduced our scope 1 and 2 carbon footprint by 38 per cent since 2005. LSE's 2018/19 carbon footprint was 8,122 tonnes CO2e. Our carbon intensity – a measure of efficiency – was 46.3 kg CO2e/m², a 46 per cent reduction since 2005/06.
- We achieved this reduction by retrofitting energy-saving measures in our buildings, such as efficient boilers, solar PV panels, upgraded building controls, and low-energy LED lighting. Our reduction was also helped by our electricity from the national grid being less carbon intensive, due to coal-fired power stations being phased out.



- During 2018/19 staff and students actively campaigned for LSE to take further actions to tackle climate change, leading to the creation of LSE's Climate Emergency Collective. The Collective engaged LSE's senior leadership and other stakeholders. This was one of the catalysts for LSE to commit in September 2019 to becoming a net zero carbon emission School by 2050 and develop a new sustainability strategic plan.

Future goals

- Deliver workshops in the 2019/20 Consultation on the topic of achieving net zero carbon emissions.
- Conduct a feasibility study into constructing a local heat network, providing low-carbon heat and electricity to the campus.
- Enhance scope 3 data and assess opportunities for carbon reductions.





Energy



LSE is investing in its Estate, to cut energy consumption and associated carbon emissions through energy-efficiency projects.

Targets:

- Deliver £4.8 million RE:FIT energy efficiency improvement programme. ✓
- Deliver Monitoring and Verification savings report on RE:FIT Tranche 1 and 2. 🔄

Progress and initiatives:

- Our energy consumption for 2018/19 was 37,122 MWh, which represents a 2 per cent reduction from 2017/18 and a 6 per cent reduction against our 2005/06 baselines. Our energy usage per m² for 2018/19 is 169.6 kWh/m², which is a 29 per cent reduction since 2005/06.
- Our energy-saving programme was delivered through RE:FIT, the Mayor of London framework to help public sector buildings achieve guaranteed energy savings. LSE has invested £4.5m over five years, in three successive tranches of works.

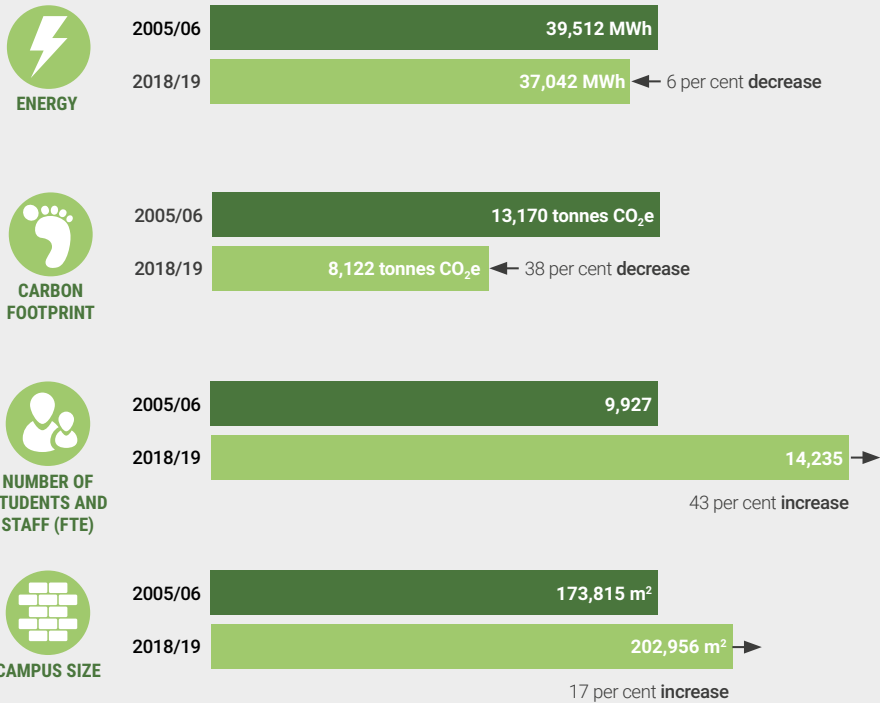




Future goals:

- Review our Carbon Management Plan in line with our commitment to become net-zero by 2050.
- Identify new energy saving projects.
- Develop a plan to decarbonise our heat.

ENERGY USAGE (AND ASSOCIATED CARBON EMISSIONS)
IN RELATION TO 2005-06 BASELINE YEAR





Built environment



LSE is investing in its estate to cut energy consumption and associated carbon emissions, creating sustainable spaces for everyone.

Targets:

- Centre Building Redevelopments to fulfil sustainability targets, including BREEAM Outstanding (Design) and Energy Performance Certificate A. ✓
- Marshall Building to deliver sustainability targets, including BREEAM Excellent (Design) and Energy Performance Certificate B. ✓
- Bankside and 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields developments to adopt strong sustainability vision and targets. 🔄

Progress and initiatives:

- The Centre Buildings opened in July 2019. Having already achieved BREEAM "Excellent" (Construction) certification, it has achieved "Outstanding" at Post-Construction. It is also projected to achieve a "B" rated Display Energy Certificate when in use. It will have very low carbon emissions, partly by being very efficient, and partly due to its biofuel boiler – the first to be installed at LSE. Its fuel source is produced locally and ethically from waste fish oil products in the UK.



- In 2017, LSE started demolition work for The Marshall Building at 44 Lincoln's Inn Fields. The project achieved BREEAM "Excellent" in Design and is on track to achieve "Excellent" in Construction and a Display Energy Certificate "B" rating. It has also been shortlisted for a 2019 BREEAM award.

Future goals:

- Centre Buildings and Marshall Building Achieve to BREEAM "Excellent" or higher in construction and a "B" rated Display Energy Certificate.
- LSE has developed a Wellbeing Framework to enhance wellbeing through our built environment. Drawing on the WELL Standard and London Healthy Workplace Charter, it will address practical issues (e.g. ensuring good light and air quality), as well as more complex themes like enabling community connections. The wellbeing design framework will launch in 2020.





Waste and Resources



LSE is supporting efforts to move to the circular economy. We apply the “Reduce, reuse, recycle, recover” hierarchy to avoid sending waste to landfill, decrease overall amount of waste and increase recycling rates.

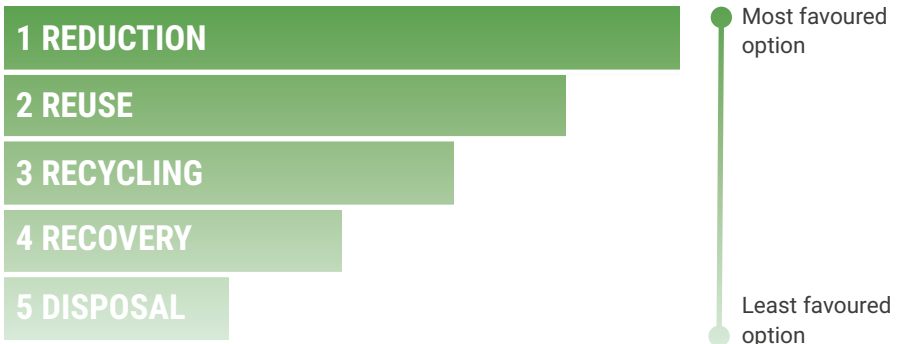
Targets:

- Reduce single use plastic. ✓
- Re-tender waste contract to procure improve service and value for money. ✓
- Set new strategic waste action plan. ↻ ↶

Progress and initiatives:

We employ the “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover” waste hierarchy in our waste and resource management, in line with international best practice. This section presents our initiatives in each of those four areas.

WASTE HIERACHY

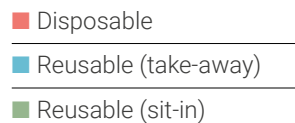
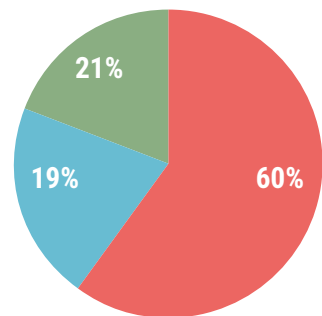




1. Reduce

- The Plastic Free LSE campaign was launched In July 2018 by LSE Director Minouche Shafik, with the aim to cut single-use plastics. We particularly targeted plastic bottles, coffee cups, water cups and plastic cutlery, which we identified as key priorities based on an audit of the contents of our waste. Our Plastic Impact Report is available online, showcasing the projects, including organising a plastic-fishing boat trip to clean up the River Thames with charity Hubbub; running events; making pledges and even making a giant sculpture of a tap out of discarded water bottles.
- Reusable cups use reached 40 per cent of all drinks sales in 2018/19, preventing the disposal of 108,589 disposable cups during that period.
- We achieved progress by introducing a 10p payment for disposable coffee cups at our catering outlets, whilst raising our discount for customers bringing their re-usable cups from 10p to 25p. LSE cafes also offered KeepCups at a 50 per cent discount from their retail price for the whole year (previously only at the start of term).

Hot drinks by serving method





2. Reuse:

- 9.6 tonnes of unwanted items, the equivalent of 97 tonnes of CO₂e, were donated to the British Heart Foundation by LSE students moving out of halls in LSE's annual "ReLove" re-use programme, raising £16,845.
- 6,600 books (weighing 4.4 tonnes) donated to charities Better World Books and Book Rescuers, who redistribute them internationally to underprivileged communities.
- The "LSE Skip" Facebook page enables LSE staff to swap unwanted items on campus to give them a new home.

3. Recycle:

- 49 per cent of our waste was recycled or composted in 2018/19. An increase of 20 percent in the overall volume from the previous year is due to the number of office moves resulting from the opening of the new Centre Building.

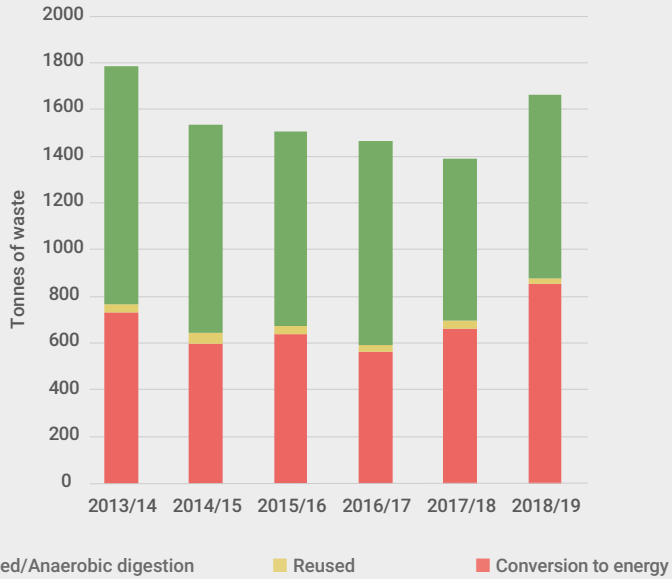
4. Recover:

- Zero waste to landfill was achieved again this year, excluding a small fraction of construction waste. Our non-recyclable waste is treated to recover energy. In 2018/19 this amounted to 855 tonnes.





LSE WASTE TONNAGE BY END DESTINATION (EXCL. CONSTRUCTION)



Future goals:

- Improve recycling facilities and signage in halls to increase recycling rates.
- Reduce disposable takeaway cups and packaging sold on campus by increasing reuse.
- Devise new waste training for Facilities Management teams.





Ethical and sustainable supply chains



Our responsible procurement approach aims to reduce environmental and social impacts throughout the lifecycle of the goods and services we buy, and ensure suppliers and contractors also work transparently towards our sustainability goals.

Targets:

- Embed sustainability considerations into major tenders and contracts. 🔄
- Procure LASER energy contract on green tariff. ✓
- Train key staff on sustainable procurement principles and practices as part of general procurement training. 🔄

Progress and initiatives:

- Sustainability considerations were incorporated into all major new contracts. This included the tender for PCs and laptops, which specifies that deliveries should be consolidated with neighbouring King's College London (minimising transport emissions and local air pollution), as well as requiring the computers to be Energy Star rated and contain robust, long-lasting materials so components can be re-used at the end of their life.





Future goals:

- Embed sustainability and circular economy principles into new contracts.
- Perform a gap analysis to assess our alignment with the ISO 20400 framework on sustainable procurement.
- Maintain and enhance catering outlets' certification to the Soil Association's Food For Life award or the Sustainable Restaurant Association.





Water



LSE delivers projects to reduce our water consumption, through reducing loss (leaks), improving efficiency of equipment and recovering rainwater and runoff where possible.

Targets:

- Reduce water consumption. ⬅
- Re-tender water contract and engage with the supplier to explore water-saving initiatives, including leak detection. ⬅

Progress and initiatives:

- In 2018/19 we consumed 199,070 m3 of water.
- In March 2019, a public water fountain was installed outside the SAW Student Centre, as part of a drive by the Mayor of London and ZSL's #OneLess campaign to increase public access to drinking water, cut down on plastic bottles, and reduce ocean plastic.





Future goals:

- Improve understanding of our water usage by installing “smart” meters on key buildings.
- Review water tank system to prevent further wasted water.





Travel



We support sustainable and affordable transport systems by encouraging active travel and public transport.

Targets:

- Promote and enhance cycling facilities and incentives. ✓ ↻
- Monitor emissions from business travel to establish carbon footprint. ✓ ↻





Progress and initiatives:

- Bankside Hall bike pump and maintenance station installed.
- In partnership with Westminster Council, Dr Bike stands offered free bike maintenance for students, staff and the public.
- LSE staff continued to benefit from the Cycle-to-Work scheme, which saves buyers up to 42 per cent on the purchase of a bike.

Future goals:

- Continue to promote and enhance cycling facilities and incentives.
- Promote the **Bicycle User Group**.
- Integrate maximum new cycle facilities into the Marshall Building project.
- Promote use of technology to reduce travel.





Pollution and Air Quality



We actively engage with our community, suppliers, contractors and other partners to ensure we minimise LSE's emissions whilst protecting our community.

Targets:

- Publish LSE Air Quality Position Statement. ✓
- Monitor local indoor and outdoor air quality on campus. ✓ ↻
- Promote local routes that minimise exposure to air pollution. ✓ ↻
- LSE to host and raise Strand Aldwych draft design consultation feedback in February 2019. ✓ ↻

Progress and initiatives:

- We published our Air Quality Position Statement, which demonstrates how LSE will approach the challenge of poor air quality in London amidst growing public concern on this issue. In order to support this, we also commissioned an independent study of air quality on campus.
- The data analysed over a 12-month period validates existing models developed by King's College London, which indicate that concentrations of NOx and



particulates (PM 2.5 and PM10) around LSE's campus are in line with local levels. NOx and PM 10 particulate levels exceed EU targets, whilst PM 2.5 particulate levels are within the limit.

- LSE hosted and encouraged Strand Aldwych draft design consultation feedback in February 2019 and is continuing to feed into the consultation phases to build partnerships for improved outcomes for all stakeholders.

Future goals:

- Collect and review data from air quality sensors.
- Work in collaboration with Westminster City Council and other stakeholders to tackle local air quality issues.
- Collaborate with academic and students working on air quality projects.





Biodiversity and Green spaces



We are committed to enhancing, conserving and maintaining green spaces on our campus, halls of residence and our 11-acre sports ground to enhance biodiversity and community wellbeing.

Targets:

- Rebuild bee capacity after severe winter losses. ✓
- Deliver more green spaces as part of the Centre Building Development. ✓

Progress and initiatives:

- The LSE bees, looked after by over 100 students and staff in the LSESU Beekeeping Society, produced **84 jars of honey** in 2018/19.
- The Beekeeping Society held several events during LSE Green Week to engage and educate the LSE community about bees.
- Nesting birds took up residence in Rosebery Hall's bird box, which proved a delight for students and staff at the hall of residence.
- Students and staff grew some tasty tomatoes and courgettes in roof garden planters outside the Shaw Library.





- New planters (made of recycled plastic) were purchased for the community vegetable garden outside the Shaw Library planters. This was funded using an award from the Sustainable Projects Fund.

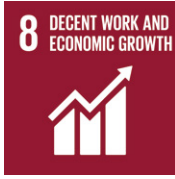
Future goals:

- Incorporate green spaces into the Centre Buildings and Marshall Building redevelopments.
- Transfer the temporary vertical green wall sections on the Centre Buildings construction site portacabin to a permanent site on campus.





Responsible Investment



Include environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations in investment decisions in line with UN Principles for Responsible Investment.

Targets:

- To make investment decisions which take into account environment, social and corporate governance (ESG) issues. 🔄
- To reduce the aggregate threshold of indirect active equity investments in tobacco, indiscriminate armaments or substantially in extraction of thermal coal or tar sands. 🔄
- To require indirect investment fund managers to comply with UNPRI. ✔️

Progress and initiatives:

- LSE became a signatory of the United Nations endorsed Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), which commits us to six guiding principles of responsible investment.
- LSE conducted its annual evaluation of its fund managers' quality and impact of engagement with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues. More specifically fund managers were evaluated on



themes such as UNPRI Stewardship Code ranking, ESG reporting, TCFD, Diversity and Inclusion and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

- We are committed to actively avoid investment exposure to tobacco manufacture, indiscriminate arms manufacture or companies which are significantly engaged in the extraction of thermal coal and tar sands, the most polluting of fossil fuels. Since the introduction of our Socially Responsible Investment Policy in 2015/16, the exposure of our investments in the areas we aim to minimise has reduced by over 80 per cent from 3.4 per cent of total assets to 0.6 per cent in 2018/19.

Future actions:

- Review what measures would be most effective to incentivise the transition to a low carbon economy in the management of LSE's endowment.





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Education and Research



We equip LSE graduates with the understanding and critical thinking skills needed to address the future challenges of our global society.

Targets:

- All undergraduates to complete LSE 100 which includes environmental sustainability themes. ✓ ↻
- Support “living labs” research by students and staff, enabling the use of LSE estate and data where requested. ✓
- Support Sustainable Futures to run Sustainable Projects Fund, ensuring availability of funds and support for student or staff-led sustainability projects. ✓ ↻

Future goals:

- LSE’s 2030 Strategy states that LSE will continue to undertake research in range of areas including climate change, sustainability and cities. Education will include an emphasis on students asking complex social questions to empower them to lead change for the betterment of society.





Progress and initiatives: Education

Work It Out: creating meaning in your career

LSE LIFE and LSE Careers

Organised by LSE LIFE and LSE Careers, “Work it Out” is a series of events and activities that help LSE students explore what “meaningful work” means to them. It also aims to inspire and inform them in their career choices after university. Workshops delivered as part of this series include: “Design your own paths to meaningful work”, “Explore what motivates and drives your career choices”, and “Meet inspiring alumni and discover their stories of fulfilling work”. In 2018/19, this series registered some 150 attendances from all parts of the School.

LSE Change Makers

Eden Centre

Change Makers is a new, collaborative programme between LSE and LSE Students’ Union that gives students the chance to make meaningful change at LSE through independent research. The first Change Makers Cohort (2018/19), delivered 23 projects addressing – amongst other issues – LSE’s Ethics Code Strategy (Georgios Syranidis), decolonising the curriculum





(Eman Shehata), inclusivity in teaching practices (Aathira Kottapurath and Eve Kraicer-Melamed) and the role of food in building a stronger sense of community at LSE (Sebastiano Caleffi). A second cohort will deliver a further 28 small research projects in 2019/20.

Circle of Intrapreneurs

LSE Careers, Dept of Geography, LSESU

The Circle of Intrapreneurs event in Feb 2019 was a collaboration between LSE Careers, The Department of Geography and Environment and the Students Union. Launched in January 2016, the Circle of Intrapreneurs is a community of change-makers with hubs across the world in cities such as Singapore, New Delhi, London and Los Angeles. The Circle provides networking and mentoring opportunities to channel social intrapreneurs in corporate settings to achieve big scale change.

Explore London Lunchtime Walk

LSE Human Resources

Organised in conjunction with the LSE HR wellbeing team, a lunchtime “cleaner air” walking route was undertaken with Katie Rees (Sustainability Engagement Officer) and members of staff and students. This introduced attendees to air quality facts and actions to reduce exposure and enhance personal wellbeing in an active way.





EMSOL: Emission Solutions Ltd and The Marshall Building

GY220 Geography

Students Ethan Stratford, the President of LSESU Sustainable Futures Society (SFS) and Isabelle Mascarenhas, Vice President of SFS teamed up with Emissions Solutions Limited (EMSOL), Dr Thomas Smith, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environment and the Estates Sustainability team to monitor and measure air and noise pollution impacts around The Marshall Building site. Vehicles have been tagged and the data collected will help inform best practice via a series of workshops in reducing and mitigating the impacts of this and future LSE developments. The outputs will be presented in an EMSOL “dashboard”, whilst the real-world data is being incorporated as part of the “Connected Curriculum” approach via Dr Smith’s GY220 Geography teaching with students. Students Ethan and Isabelle have gained valuable experience into working collaboratively between stakeholders involved in developing The Marshall Building.

Sustainable Projects Fund: Academic Stream pilot scheme

Students developing their dissertation proposals were invited to apply for funding to help boost their dissertation projects along suggested sustainability themes. Six applications were received and four were awarded funding. For example, Hannah Lindsell MSc Environmental



Policy and Regulation 2018/19 undertook research into how individuals understand and make decisions about their single-use plastic consumption. The study looked at students' perspectives, understanding, and norms surrounding single use plastics and produced a final report to inform and influence pro-environmental behaviour. This gives student research life outside the classroom and empowers students to create impact from their work.

LSE Public Lectures series

A number of sustainability-related public lectures took place at LSE, starting off with a panel discussion on *"how climate action needs to develop in the next ten years to successfully deliver the Paris Agreement"* with Prof Nick Stern; with a discussion by the Forum for European Philosophy discussing "artificial meat". Other events including: *"Communicating climate change – why so toxic?"*; *"Human rights and climate change; sustainable equality: well-being for everyone in Europe"*; and *"Upheaval: how nations cope with crisis and change"* by Prof Jared Diamond. Public lectures can be listened to [online](#).





Progress and initiatives: Research

Our research continues to be at the forefront of national and global thinking on a wide range of sustainability-related themes. In addition to contributing to academic debates, we also share this knowledge with the wider public through our Knowledge Exchange and Impact programmes, in line with our mission “For the betterment of society” and aim to shape the social, political and economic development of the world.

Research contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

Digital Scholarship and Innovation, LSE Library

Nathalie Cornee in the Library carried out a citations analysis to understand the impact of our research in terms of most cited and mapping which sustainable goals were being addressed. The research spans the 2006 to 2017 period.

NUMBER OF LSE PUBLICATIONS FOR OUR TOP MOST ADDRESSED SDGS



2062



699



535



452



1134



LSE Research Showcase

LSE's annual research showcase is a drop-in event featuring film and photography and hands-on activities and games, giving students and staff the opportunity to connect with emerging research within the School. Research highlights included what makes students and staff happy at LSE, the most pressing global health challenges of today, how faith shapes peace and conflict in South Sudan and how palm oil agriculture impacts carbon emissions and haze episodes in Southeast Asia.





Partnerships and Engagement

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Partnerships and Engagement



Engage in dialogue with students, staff, and the wider community on sustainability issues, and provide opportunities to develop knowledge and skills for sustainability.

Targets:

- Engage staff, students and members of the public in sustainability initiatives. ✓ ↻
- Deliver Green Impact and Reduce the Juice. ✓ ↻
- Actively support events including Green Week. ✓
- Establish and deliver LSE Sustainability Organisational Learning Programme in partnership with HR. ✓ ↻
- Promote sustainability through social media, website, and newsletters. ✓

Future goals:

- Provide engagement opportunities for LSE staff and students and support in projects.
- Develop volunteering opportunities for students and staff to support sustainability initiatives in the local community.
- Explore further avenues for working across the School in collaborative projects.



LSE's approach to community engagement is embodied by SDG 17, particularly 17.16 "enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries" and 17.17 "Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships".

We empower our students and staff to reduce their own environmental impacts, whilst starting debate on sustainability issues. LSE staff and students get involved in a range of initiatives and LSE reaches out to engage the public community too, inspiring them to take action.





Engagement within LSE

LSESU Green Week February 2019

Green Week is a week of sustainability events coordinated by the LSESU Ethics and Environment Officer. This year included a Dr Bike stand, visits to the LSE Beehives with a honey tasting stall, a Beekeeping 101 and film screening of *"Rotten: Lawyers, Guns and Honey"*. A series of events took place on green finance with industry professionals, Green Planet Ventures talking on Tropical Rainforests and International Development. And LSE Library ran a series of stalls including carbon footprint calculating, making herb planters, and a wellbeing walk.

Workplace engagement: Green Impact

"Green Impact" enables staff around the School to improve the environmental impacts of their workplace by implementing small actions and delivering creative projects. In 2018/19, 20 teams delivered 16 projects relating to single-use plastics. The impact of these projects:

- 800g of recyclable plastic were "fished" from the River Thames by 20 LSE staff and students
- 7560 plastic bin bags per year were avoided by Butler's Wharf hall of residence who reduced the frequency at which the bin bags were changed, a student-initiated idea.
- 440,000 sheets of paper plus 40,000 plastic wallets





each academic year have been saved due to switching from paper to digital graduate applications in the Graduate Admissions Office.

- Around 700 LSE Keep Cups were given to students age 16-18 on the LSE student shadowing programme, encouraging them to avoid using disposable coffee cups.
- 40 discounted orders of plastic-free alternative products were made by LSE students and staff from The Weekly Shop, a plastic free shop founded by LSE alum, Diana Szpotowicz.
- Over 750 LSE students and staff were directly engaged with as a result of the projects, and many more passively engaged through observation in person or digitally.





Student in halls engagement: Reduce the Juice

Eight LSE managed halls of residence ran “Reduce the Juice”, a competition for students to reduce energy use, save water and increase waste recycling. 71 Sustainability Ambassadors encouraged targeted actions using a structured social media campaign and direct student contact.



- **Energy** 53,237 kWh and 15t t CO₂e were saved during the month-long Energy Sprint, based on available data. Carr Saunders Hall won the Energy Sprint with a 30 per cent reduction on the previous year.
- **Water** Rosebery Hall and Butlers Wharf jointly won the Water Sprint based on points awarded for combined water reduction and number of students engaged.
- **Waste** The waste sprint in March 2019 focused on plastics, in support of the Plastic Free LSE campaign. During a week, over 249 students across eight LSE halls engaged in discussion and action to minimize single-use plastic in their daily lives. Carr Saunders hall won by sharing the most pictures on social media of individuals avoiding plastic waste. This raised awareness of single-use plastic and how to reduce its usage and impacts.





Living Labs: the Sustainable Projects Fund

This year the Sustainable Projects Fund provided funding and support for sustainability projects which included the LSESU Marine Society working with Sail Britain to investigate Plastic Pollution on the Scottish Coastline, with findings being presented via website blogs, photographs and an exhibition of plastic items recovered. MSc International Relations Student Harriet Freeman launched LS-Sea, an awareness and behaviour change campaign tackling disposal of plastics and “the unflushables” in toilets, to reduce ocean pollution. The project designed innovative and engaging posters and stickers and uses Estates Maintenance data and surveys to measure impacts. The Fund annually offers support and up to £20,000 for student and staff-led projects that enhance sustainability at LSE and is financed by a 10p levy on plastic bottles sold at LSE catering outlets.





Engagement in the community and beyond

LSE Generate Entrepreneurs

LSE Generate is the home for entrepreneurship at LSE with an aim to support and scale socially driven student and alumni ventures, both in the UK and internationally. Generate hosts a number of events throughout the year to support LSE entrepreneurs and offers funding, resources and coworking spaces too.

Now in its second year, LSE Zinc is an accelerator programme bringing together experts from the social sciences, design, technology and business, along with potential investors, to help budding entrepreneurs create technology-based companies and products to fulfil specific social missions. It's second mission "to unlock new opportunities for people in places that have been hard-hit by globalisation and automation" launched in October 2018 and has resulted in creating 18 new companies.

LSE Volunteer Centre

The School's dedicated volunteer centre helps students and staff find volunteering placements at charities and not-for-profit organisations. In 2019 environmental, conservation or animal related organisations were the 7th most popular type of organisation worked with.



The centre provides regular and one-off volunteering opportunities and worked with Greenwich Ecology Park and The Orchard Project amongst others to provide such opportunities. Students top three motivations for volunteering this year were: improving things, giving back to society and personal values.

London Northbank Business Improvement District (BID)

LSE continues to support and contribute to the work of the Northbank BID which is focusing on creating a cleaner, greener neighbourhood. LSE sits on the CSR Steering Group and inputs to diverse topics ranging from Homelessness, Apprenticeships, Staff Wellbeing and Air Quality aspects and impacts. We continued to contribute to these local business and community issues during 2018/19.

Consultations and Policy

LSE has participated in policy development, both through public consultations and giving expert evidence to local and national government. This includes contributing to the development of the Environment Bill, the government's voluntary public sector carbon targets in the Clean Growth Strategy, the consultation on Plastics, the London Plan and the London Environment Strategy among others.



Global Impact

Our hosting of the Carbon Majors global hearings/ Philippines human rights and climate change litigation

Grantham Research Institute, LSE Law

The Grantham Research Institute and the Department of Law played host to the final phase of hearings in a ground-breaking inquiry in November 2018 seeking to attribute the impacts of climate change to the world's largest fossil fuel and cement producers – the so-called “Carbon Majors”. The inquiry was initiated by Filipino citizens and civil society organisations, supported by the Philippines Human Rights Commission, and heard evidence from international experts; it will conclude in 2019. Acknowledgment of the responsibility of corporations in causing climate damages would set a precedent and could eventually contribute to momentum leading to the provision of compensation by courts.

Ten years of the Grantham Research Institute

The Grantham Research Institute at LSE celebrated its 10th anniversary by hosting events and releasing publications that looked back over the key impacts the Institute has made over the past ten years and its priorities for the coming years. Events included panel talks on “What Next for International Climate Action?”, “Human Rights and Climate Change” and a public lecture with Unilever CEO Paul Polman on “A New Era for Business”. These are available to watch online.

Awards achieved in 2018/19





lse.ac.uk/sustainableLSE



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