



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Annual Sustainability Report 2019/20

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In this report you will find coloured icons highlighting how our work connects with the different UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Key for targets

- ✓ Completed
- ⌚ In progress/ongoing
- ← Behind schedule

Foreword by LSE Director



Recognising the climate and ecological crisis the world is facing, LSE convened a Sustainability Advisory Group, under the leadership of Lord Nicholas Stern, to create a framework for action in the form of a Sustainability Strategic Plan for the School in 2019/20.

Central to creating this plan was the opportunity for the whole LSE community to engage and reflect on how they can contribute to this critical agenda.

Through the #SustainableLSE Consultation six themes emerged: Education, Research, Our School, Investment, Engagement and Leadership, Collaboration.



During this process the global COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated our capacity for adaptation at pace and scale whilst reminding us all of the importance of the natural environment for personal and collective health and wellbeing.

At LSE our commitment to acting responsibly and sustainably is part of who we are. We must continue to work together to preserve and shape a pathway to recovery that is sustainable, resilient, just and inclusive.

This report details the #SustainableLSE Consultation and the development of our Sustainability Strategic Plan, as well as providing an overview of our sustainability efforts across the School for the 2019/20 academic year.

Our next report will focus on our Plan's themes and how they have helped us accelerate our efforts to create a sustainable LSE for the betterment of society.

Join us on this critical journey: we all have a part to play in shaping a more sustainable world.

Minouche Shafik

Director, LSE

Highlights



100%
electricity
sourced from
renewables



46%
Carbon reductions
since 2005 scope 1/2



53%
waste reused,
recycled or
composted

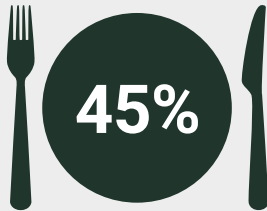


**EVENTS AND
WORKSHOPS**

**#SustainableLSE
Consultation
conducted**



**RESPONDENTS TO
ONLINE SURVEY**



of dishes sold were
plant-based in 2019



of items donated
to charity by students
in halls



disposable cup
charge introduced

22

Green Impact teams
and 400 actions
completed

green impact

56

jars of honey from LSE
bees in our three hives



+25%

bike parking spaces
on campus



Awards 2019/20

4



Contents

Approach and decision-making



A key commitment of the LSE 2030 Strategy and Ethics Code, sustainability is a theme embedded across LSE's activities.

Targets

- Achieve ongoing recertification of ISO 14001 and ISO 50001, 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. ✓

Approach

Based in the Estates Division, the Sustainability Team coordinate efforts across the School to improve LSE's environmental performance.

The School's **Sustainability Policy** is delivered via our Environmental Management System, which has been ISO 14001 certified since 2012. Our **Energy Policy** is delivered via our Energy Management System, which has been ISO 50001 certified since 2015.

These systems establish the Sustainability Action Plan which in turn sets an annual programme of work and SMART targets. This Annual Sustainability Report details our performance against these targets.

We publicly report our environmental performance annually via the UK Estates Management Record which is collated and available to download via the Higher Education Statistics Authority.

Decision-making

Our sustainability decision-making is supported by several committees and working groups. These include staff and student representatives, as part of a collaborative approach. In addition, we use our informal networks to engage actively within and beyond the LSE community to seek feedback and discuss ideas.

In 2019/20 a Task and Finish **Sustainability Advisory Group** (SustAG) was formed to





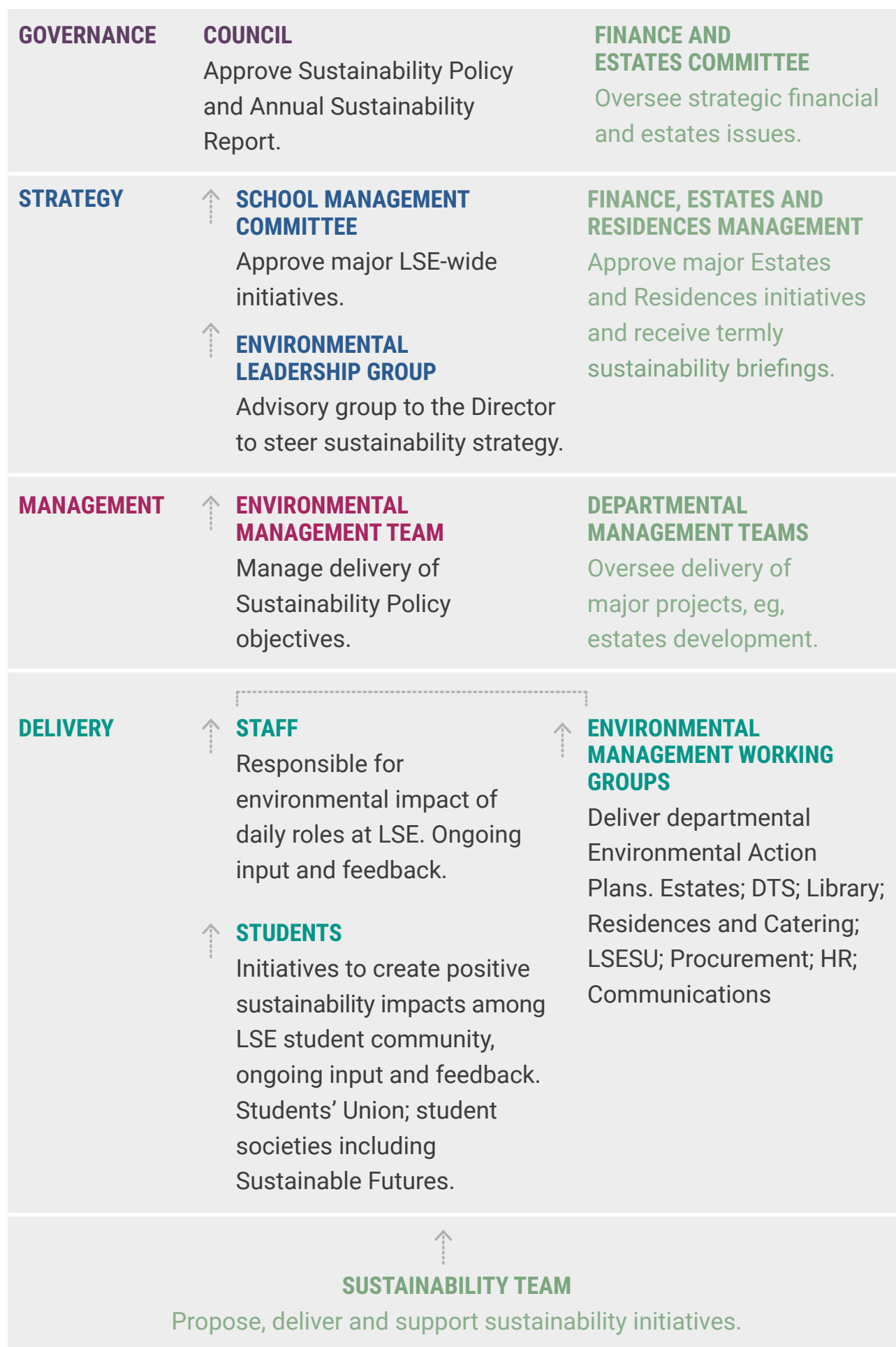
articulate the School's commitment to *creating a Sustainable LSE*. The group was chaired by Lord Nick Stern and met monthly between November 2019 and May 2020. Members represented a diverse section of the LSE community including senior representatives, academics, professional staff, and students. The Group acted as a facilitator, using the #SustainableLSE Consultation to hear diverse views from across the LSE community and to shape a new Sustainability Strategic Plan for the School, and bring recommendations to the School Management Committee.

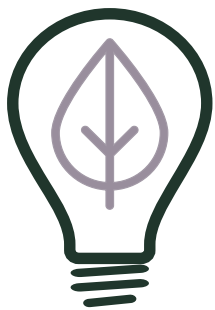
As part of the work of SustAG, our sustainability decision-making process was reviewed, and updates made to adopt a more integrated approach and reflect the scope of the new Sustainability Strategic Plan (see p7). Changes will take effect in 2020/21 including the establishment of a new permanent Sustainability Leadership Board to replace the Environmental Leadership Group (ELG). Our most up to date structure can be consulted on our [website](#).

As part of our Sustainability Engagement Strategy, 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.

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		●







Education



We recognise that a key area for LSE to contribute building a more sustainable world is the skills and knowledge we equip our graduates with through their teaching and learning experiences.

Targets

- In line with LSE 2030 Priority 1: Educate for impact, we will equip LSE graduates with the knowledge, understanding, critical thinking and skills needed to become citizens and leaders, empowering them to address the future challenges of society and make a positive impact in the world. 🌱

Progress

LSE provides students with a fuller understanding of the environmental and social dimensions of sustainability across its curriculum. Previous analysis of the curriculum showed about 20 per cent of LSE modules explicitly feature environmental or social sustainability themes. Some examples range from the various courses delivered by our **Department of Geography and Environment**, to the **LSE's Faith Centre Faith and Climate Action** leadership programme. Below are some specific initiatives that took place this year.

Teaching spotlight: embedding sustainability

Some examples of LSE courses outside of core environmental disciplines which use sustainability themes include:

- Political Economy Models of capitalism, Political economy of the neoliberal state (Dr Abby Innes)
- Behavioural Psychology Methods class (Dr Ganga Shreddhar)
- Accounting, Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (Dr Pik Kun Liew)

The LSE Offer 2020/21 will include a call for educators to embed sustainability in the LSE learning student experience, and we look forward to share more examples across disciplines at LSE.





LSE Change Makers

Change Makers gives students the chance to make meaningful change at LSE through **independent research**. 25 small research projects were delivered in 2019/20, including:

- To what extent is LSE's IR department marginalising climate and environment education? (Harriet Freeman)
- What are the main challenges faced by commuters, and how can LSE help to support this growing group of students? (Selena Swift)

Work It Out: creating meaning in your career

Organised by LSE LIFE and LSE Careers, Work It Out helps LSE students explore what "meaningful work" means to them. In 2019/20 the three-seminar series included sustainability themed events with opportunities for students to meet LSE Alumni working in the sustainability, environment and energy fields.

Sustainability awareness at LSE

Some initiatives to raise awareness of sustainability at LSE and the actions staff and students can take included:

- **Introduction to Sustainability at LSE e-module**

Available on the School's internal learning platform, our short e-module provides an engaging introduction to sustainability and LSE's approach. Following its release in Lent Term the e-module was completed by 135 students and staff.

- **Waste Training**

Delivered by the School's Waste and Resources Officer, some 100 staff members across three departments and divisions participated in these waste training sessions.

Next year

- Education has been identified as one of the six themes of our new Sustainability Strategic Plan, with a commitment to *embed sustainability* across our *teaching and learning experiences*.
- As part of a range of practical initiatives to support this commitment, in 2020/21 we will work to develop practical tools and resources to support LSE educators embed sustainability in our curriculum.





Research



LSE conducts world-leading research on sustainability issues that shapes public debate and policy, particularly through the work of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, the Department of Geography and Environment, the Environmental Economics and Policy Research Cluster, and the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy (CCCEP).

LSE's research contributes to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in multiple ways. In 2020, Nathalie Cornee from the LSE Library analysed LSE's citation output to identify our contribution to the SDGs. The results of the analysis are summarised [here](#).

In addition to LSE's research outputs, other practical initiatives included:

Sustainable Projects Fund: Academic Stream

Using the campus as a living lab, the Academic Stream of Sustainable Projects Fund invites Department of Geography and Environment students to develop campus-based dissertation proposals. Two applications were awarded funding in 2019/20:

- Michael Spencer produced a dissertation exploring the lifecycle of institutional electronics as well as an advice poster to disseminate his findings.
- Ellen McHarg researched consumer choices and influencers surrounding reduced methane beef, producing a summary report and a visual "Summary Dashboard" of findings.

LSE Research Showcase

Part of the LSE Festival, the LSE Research Showcase gives students and staff the opportunity to connect with LSE's emerging research. Competition winners included research with direct links to sustainability issues such as [Where Is Inside?](#), researching how business adapt to changing environmental and social pressures. You can explore more of the School's award-winning research [here](#).





Sustainability research highlights

As a social science institution LSE is in a unique position to advance the sustainability debate with contributions from LSE's varied perspectives and disciplines. While LSE's Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and our Department of Geography and Environment take a lead on this area of research, many other LSE Departments conduct research related to sustainability challenges. In 2019/20, a key area of research for LSE has been shaping a sustainable recovery from COVID-19.

Short selection of publications for 2019/20:

- A net-zero emissions economic recovery from COVID-19 [↗](#)
- Climate change and the insurance industry: managing risk in a risky time [↗](#)
- Integrating social protection and climate change adaptation: a review [↗](#)
- Turning the corner on US power sector CO2 emissions – a 1990-2015 state level analysis [↗](#)
- Financing inclusive climate action in the UK: An investor roadmap for the just transition [↗](#)
- Are financial markets aligned with climate action? New evidence from the Paris Agreement [↗](#)
- Nudge plus: incorporating reflection into behavioural public policy [↗](#)
- How do companies respond to environmental, social and governance (ESG) ratings? Evidence from Italy [↗](#)

Further explore LSE sustainability research:

- LSE Research Online, the institutional repository for the London School of Economics and Political Science [↗](#)
- Publications from LSE's Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment [↗](#)
- Research at LSE's Department of Geography and Environment [↗](#)
- LSE STICERD Economics of Environment and Energy (EEE) Programme [↗](#)





Our School



Carbon

Reducing the School's carbon footprint. [↗](#)



Travel

Reduce emissions associated with commuting and business travel. [↗](#)



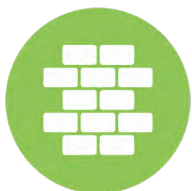
Energy

Operate a highly energy efficient estate and adopt renewable energy sources. [↗](#)



Responsible Procurement

Make sustainability a key consideration of our purchasing decisions and supplier relationships. [↗](#)



Buildings

Adopt the highest environmental standards in our construction and refurbishment projects. [↗](#)



Catering

Deliver a sustainable catering service which promotes low-carbon food choices. [↗](#)



Waste and Resources

Reduce waste and adopt circular economy principles of resource management. [↗](#)



Pollution and air-quality

Engage with partners to minimise pollution and improve air quality. [↗](#)



Water

Reduce our water consumption on campus and in Halls of Residence. [↗](#)



Biodiversity and green spaces

Enhance biodiversity on the LSE estate by protecting and connecting habitats. [↗](#)





Carbon

Measure, reduce and mitigate our carbon emissions

LSE has been measuring its Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions since 2005/06, using the internationally recognised Greenhouse Gas Protocol methodology and official UK Government carbon conversion factors. Quantifying our indirect scope 3 emissions is an ongoing project.

Targets

- 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. 🔄

Progress

- We have reduced our scope 1 and 2 carbon footprint by 46 per cent since 2005. LSE's 2019/20 carbon footprint for scope 1 and 2 emissions was 7,069 tonnes CO₂e. A measure of intensity, our carbon intensity was 35 kg CO₂e/m², a 56 per cent reduction since 2005/06.
- 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.
- In September 2019, LSE **announced its net-zero carbon ambitions**, with a commitment to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest, and by 2030 for our energy use (Scope 1 and 2).
- LSE's initial Carbon Management Plan (CMP) was adopted in 2011 and supported carbon reductions (scope 1 and 2) to 2020. In 2019/20 we appointed external consultants to support the development of a new Carbon Management Plan.

Next year

- We will develop a new Carbon Management Plan to establish new absolute carbon reduction targets and a pathway for our net-zero commitments.
- We will consider the use of carbon offsets to mitigate our current measured emissions.



Carbon Footprint 2019/20

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Our School










Type of emissions	Emissions sources	Carbon emissions
Scope 1 Direct emissions from our activities	 Gas and fuels used to heat and operate our buildings	3,519 tCO₂e
Scope 2 Indirect emissions from our electricity use	 Electricity used for lighting, IT equipment, ventilation,...	0 tCO₂e as 100% of our electricity is sourced from renewable sources 3,550 tCO₂e if using the UK electricity grid average carbon intensity factor
Scope 3 Indirect emissions associated with our activities and supply chain	 Water consumed  Waste generated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On campus • Construction  Business travel Air and rail booked through LSE central supplier	160 tCO₂e 22 tCO₂e 28 tCO₂e 2,453 tCO₂e
▲ Emissions measured		
▼ Emissions not yet measured	Other business travel: expenses, hotels, taxis  Staff/students travel Commuting to campus  Goods and services All things we purchase, including for construction projects	Not yet measured in the region of 50,000 tCO ₂ e current estimate based on LSE's total spend for goods and services



Photo: Netflix and Down to Earth with Zac Efron



Contents



Energy

Operate a highly energy efficient estate and adopt renewable energy sources

Targets



- Review our Carbon Management Plan to identify projects to reduce our use of energy. ➡
- Identify new energy saving projects. ➡
- Develop a plan to decarbonise our heat. ➡
- Improve estate efficiency to achieve 150kWh/m2 by 2025. ➡

Progress

- Our energy consumption for 2019/2020 was 33,955 MWh, which represents a 8 per cent reduction from 2018/19 and a 14 percent reduction against our 2005/06 baseline. Our energy usage per m2 for 2019/20 is 167 kWh/m2, which is a 30 per cent reduction since 2005/06.
- The partial closure of campus was used to review our buildings energy use to ensure our systems work as efficiently as possible. Issues resolved include updating the Building Management System control settings for 11 of 40 buildings.
- Our programme of energy-efficiency investments through the Mayor's Re:FIT programme was finalised with the installation of new boilers for NAB and 32 LIF. The total investment in our campus across three phases totalled £4.8 million. Monitoring and verification of the delivered projects' savings has now started.
- LSE's latest development the Centre Buildings has a hybrid approach to ventilation, with teaching spaces mechanically ventilated and all other spaces naturally ventilated, that made it well suited to new COVID-19 requirements.
- We tested an endothermic reagent in 2 buildings' hot water, but the combination of weather and use showed little impact on boiler efficiency.
- Driving high energy efficiency standards continues to be a key aspect of how we conduct buildings refurbishments and design new buildings (See Buildings section for details).

Next year

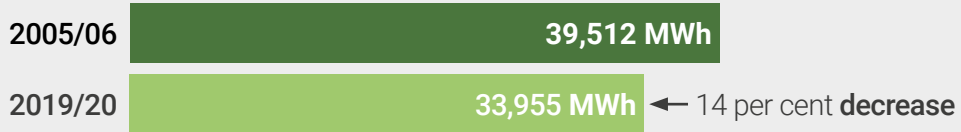
- Energy will be the key area of focus when developing our new Carbon Management Plan, including identifying further opportunities for energy-efficiency measures and low carbon solutions.



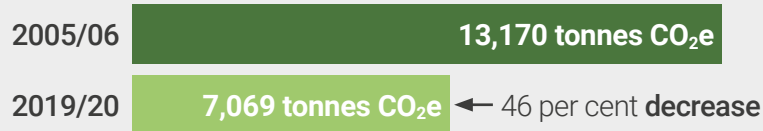
ENERGY USAGE (AND ASSOCIATED CARBON EMISSIONS) IN RELATION TO 2005/06 BASELINE YEAR



ENERGY



CARBON
FOOTPRINT



NUMBER OF
STUDENTS AND
STAFF (FTE)



CAMPUS SIZE





Buildings

Adopt the highest environmental standards in our construction and refurbishment projects

Targets:

- Centre Buildings and Marshall Building Achieve to BREEAM "Excellent" or higher in construction and a "B" rated Display Energy Certificate. ✓
- LSE to launch Wellbeing Design Framework to enhance wellbeing through our built environment. Drawing on the WELL Standard and London Healthy Workplace Charter, it will address practical issues

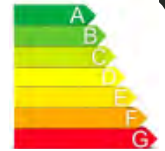


(e.g. ensuring good light and air quality), as well as more complex themes like enabling community connections. The wellbeing design framework will launch in 2020. ✓

CASE STUDY Centre Building

Rate target B

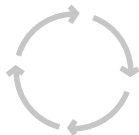
Highly energy efficient



Pollinator friendly planting



Natural ventilation



Biofuel CHP



- The Centre Buildings Redevelopment was completed in May 2019.
- Achieved BREEAM "Excellent" (Design and Construction).
- Projected to achieve a "B" Display Energy Certificate rating.
- Biofuel Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engine, using sustainably sourced fish oil as a fuel, which would otherwise be classed as waste, to generate heat and power for the building.





CASE STUDY Marshall Building

Excellent in design

BREEAM®

Responsible
sourcing of
materials



194 cycle
spaces



Reduce flooding
using roof
planters



- LSE has started construction work on the Marshall Building at 44 Lincoln's Inn Fields to be completed at end of 2021.
- Achieved BREEAM "Excellent" in Design. On track for BREEAM "Excellent" in Construction and a "B" energy efficiency rating.
- Shortlisted for the 2019 BREEAM award, "Best Public Sector (design-stage)" category. Low Carbon Design using passive features to maintain thermal comfort and reduce heating, cooling and mechanical ventilation and lighting loads.
- New cycle storage with provision of two-tiered racks where 194 cycle spaces are proposed. Also planned are six showers and 48 lockers for cyclists.
- Use of roof planters as a Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUD) scheme to minimise surface water runoff and reduce flooding.
- Designed to minimise the use of potable (drinking) water during construction and once building is completed.
- Responsible sourcing of materials using Chain of Custody evidence and schemes for timber, cladding, insulation, roof materials etc.

Waste and resources

Reduce waste and adopt circular economy principles of resource management

Targets

- Improve recycling facilities 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. ✓



Progress

- We apply the “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover” waste hierarchy in our waste and resource management. LSE’s total waste volume (excluding construction waste) in 2019/20 was 1,045 tonnes, of which 53 per cent was reused or recycled. Excluding a small fraction of construction waste, zero waste to landfill was achieved again this year. The temporary closure of campus reduced waste production, a trend expected to continue into 2020/21.
- 1.7 tonnes of unwanted items were donated to the British Heart Foundation by LSE halls annual “ReLove” re-use programme for students moving out of halls, with a value to the charity of £2,912.

LSE WASTE TONNAGE BY END DESTINATION (EXCL. CONSTRUCTION)





- As part of vacating Grosvenor House hall of residence, furniture and appliances were donated to the British Heart Foundation, with a value to the charity of £19,665.
- 6500 books (weighing 4.5 tonnes) donated to Book Rescuers, who redistribute them internationally to underprivileged communities.
- We continued to use social media to swap unwanted personal items: “LSE Skip” for staff, and Paperclip for LSE students buying/selling unwanted items.

Next year

- Printing reduced dramatically during campus closure, and work will take place to introduce measures to avoid a rebound effect, promoting digital first solutions where possible.

CASE STUDY

Single-use coffee cups recycling

As part of our drive to reduce single use plastics, we promote reusable coffee cups on campus. In Lent Term 2020, we also joined The Cup Fund initiative providing students and staff a way to recycle single-use cups. Working together with Bywaters and The Cup Fund enabled us to install eye-catching cup collection points and a reverse vending machine in our Student Centre, as well as engaging visuals and communications.





Water

Reduce our water consumption on campus and in Halls of Residence

Targets

- We continue to implement water efficiency measures, for example: “smart” metres on key buildings. ⬅️
- Review water tank system to prevent further wasted water. ✅



Progress

- In 2019/20 we consumed 153,593 m3 of water, a reduction of 23 per cent compared to 2018/19, mainly due to campus closure.
- We continue to implement water efficiency measures, for example:
 - This year Butlers' Wharf Residence's existing water tanks were replaced with smaller higher efficiency fast recovery tanks.
 - 50 water compression taps were replaced with sensor taps as a pilot project in Passfield Hall, these will reduce water wastage.

Next year

- Water consumption on campus reduced due to campus closure, however our lack of accurate water metering has proved a key barrier in analysing consumption and identifying savings. To address this, we will put renewed effort in 2020/21 to adopt smart meters to support our water efficiency efforts.





Travel

Reduce emissions associated with commuting and business travel

Targets

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



Progress

- As a result of COVID-19 and anticipated increase in cycle commuting, the Estates Division worked with the LSE Bicycle User Group to increase cycle parking on campus.
- Cycle spaces on campus were increased by 25 per cent from 538 in 2018/19 to 677 in 2019/20.
- In partnership with LSE Estates and local providers, Dr Bike stands offered free bike maintenance for students and staff.
- LSE staff continued to benefit from the Cycle-to-Work scheme, which saves buyers up to 30 per cent on the purchase of a bike.
- The LSE Sustainability Team collaborates with the Northbank Business Improvement District Corporate Social Responsibility Steering Group, which included work to increase cycle parking and facilities across the area using COVID-19 funding.
- We improved our understanding of LSE business travel, with full mileage and carbon data now analysed for air and rail booked through our central travel supplier.

Next year

- We will progress options to develop a new Sustainable Travel Plan for the School.
- We will review options to reduce business travel and mitigate the carbon emissions of necessary travel.

Responsible procurement

Make sustainability a key consideration of our purchasing decisions and supplier relationships

Targets

- 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. ✔️



Progress

- A spend analysis identified our areas of high spend and environmental impact as: construction, building maintenance, furniture, cleaning and janitorial supplies, IT equipment, utilities, catering, office supplies and travel.
- A self-evaluation was carried out against the ISO 20400 standard which identified several areas for improvement.
- On spend over £100,000, a cumulative spend of £12 million pounds on building works incorporated sustainability into tender processes and contracts.
- Internal auditing of indirectly contracted staff was piloted to assess that the London Living Wage is being paid on LSE contracts.
- Our Director of Procurement was elected Chair of the **LUPC Responsible Procurement Advisory Group**, which shares best practice in Higher Education.
- The full Procurement team completed training on modern slavery issues and modern Slavery risk awareness sessions were delivered to DTS and Estates.
- The School registered as an associate member of **Electronics Watch** to audit our supply chain for modern slavery issues when purchasing IT equipment.

Next year

- Further drive sustainability standards in the goods and services we procure using a new risk based approach to maximise our impact.
- Continue to work to reduce modern slavery risks in our supply chain through a newly established working group and Electronics Watch.
- Launch a new Responsible Procurement policy for a consistent and proportionate approach to embed sustainability in our procurement activity.





Catering

Deliver a sustainable catering service which promotes low-carbon food choices




Target

- Maintain and enhance catering certification to the Soil Association's Food for Life award or the Sustainable Restaurant Association. ✓



Progress

- 45 per cent of all dishes served at LSE Catering outlets are vegetarian or vegan.

		 Meat	 Fish	 Vegan/ Vegetarian	Total
Dishes sold	2018	80,438	49,628	16,916	123,706
	2019	49,628	24,887	61,147	135,662
	% change	-38%	-6%	+261%	+10%

Dishes ratio	2018	65%	21%	14%
	2019	37%	18%	45%

- To encourage higher uptake of plant-based dishes LSE Catering applies academic research findings on how to influence choice behaviour e.g. through nudges.
- In 2019 People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) named LSE as one of the **top 20 universities for vegan food provision**.
- Committed to continuing progress, LSE joined the Public Sector **20 per cent less meat pledge in early 2020**.
- In 2020 the LSE Student Union passed a motion in favour of removing beef from its catering outlets. LSE continue to work with the LSESU and societies on practical measures for LSE catering outlets to further encourage the uptake of plant-based options.



LSE Catering Environmental Action Plan addresses food waste on an ongoing basis. Initiatives include:

- Minimising supply chain food waste by working with local suppliers.
- Reducing food waste by reusing hot foods the next day e.g. in soups and offering wrapped foods at half price on Fridays after 3pm.
- Donating surplus wrapped food items from Café 54 to LSE Food Cycle for re-distribution to those in need.

Next year

- We established a target to increase the vegan and vegetarian dishes served in LSE Catering outlets to 60 per cent by the end of 2020/21.
- We will continue our work to reduce single-use plastics and in particular coffee cup waste by strengthening incentives in place.



Pollution and air-quality

Engage with partners to minimise pollution and improve air quality

Targets

- 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. ✓



Progress

- 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.
- The Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) was introduced in April 2019 encompassing LSE to improve London's Air Quality.
- LSE is continuing to feed into the Strand Aldwych consultation phases to build partnerships for improved outcomes for all stakeholders.
- LSE is also a signatory of the Northbank and Camden Air Quality Pledges.

CASE STUDY

LSE and EMSOL work to understand the impact of construction work on air quality

This project was a collaboration between the LSE Student's Union Sustainable Futures Society, air quality consultancy EMSOL, LSE Estates, and our construction contractor MACE. The project provided a better understanding of the impacts of construction activities on air quality, to learn where and how they can make a difference. Data from the project was also used by the Department of Geography and Environment within their curriculum.



Biodiversity and green spaces

Enhance biodiversity on the LSE estate by protecting and connecting habitats

Targets

- 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. ✓



Progress

- Managed to maintain and enhance biodiversity. The Sportsground is particularly popular with a range of birds and insects.
- Birds continue to nest in Rosebery Hall's bird box and bird feeders have been installed.
- Students and staff grew some tasty produce in roof garden planters outside the Shaw Library.
- LSE Bees produced over 56 jars of honey in 2019/20.
- The Beekeeping Society held several events during Green Week to engage and educate the LSE community about bees.
- The Netflix series "Down to Earth with Zac Efron" showcased the LSE Bees and highlighted the work of the Sustainability Team.

Next year

- Campus pedestrianisation scheme with flowering trees providing connectivity between LSE green spaces and Lincoln's Inn Fields.
- Explore ways to engage staff and students on reconnecting with nature.





Investment



Our investments of donations and endowments, as well as funds held for capital projects and strategic investment, are in externally managed funds. During the 2019/20 financial year, the School's endowment grew from £155.0 million to £198.4 million.

Investment decisions are made by our external fund managers and are guided by the School's Socially Responsible Investment Policy, Ethics Code and the United Nations endorsed Principles for Responsible Investment (of which we are a signatory).

Targets

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



Progress

Since the introduction of our Socially Responsible Investment Policy in 2015/16, our investment exposure to tobacco manufacture, controversial weapons or companies which are significantly engaged in the extraction of thermal coal and tar sands, the most polluting of fossil fuels, has reduced from 3.4 per cent of total assets to 0.4 per cent in 2019/20.

We have no direct investment in these areas and are committed to avoiding investment exposure as well as assessing and driving performance through active engagement with our fund managers and annual evaluation of the following:

- UNPRI Stewardship Code ranking
- Quality and impact of engagement with Environmental, Social and Governance issues and reporting
- Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures or equivalent standards (fund managers seeking increased from 25 per cent to over 85 per cent of the total)
- Diversity and Inclusion (grown to almost 75 per cent of our fund managers)
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (grown to over 65 per cent)

In 2019/20 the School agreed a hierarchy of positive screening for investments.

Next year

- Investment has been identified as one of the six themes of our new Sustainability Strategic Plan, with a commitment to *make sustainability a key part of our investment decisions*.





Collaboration



In advancing the sustainability agenda we work closely with the LSE community: be it students and the LSE Students' Union, alumni, professional services staff, and academics many of whom are themselves experts in sustainability topics. We also work with a range of external partners, including our suppliers, other universities, and a range of national and international organisations.

Within LSE

#SustainableLSE Consultation

Creating a sustainable LSE is one of the commitments of LSE 2030. To articulate this commitment, and in light of the complex climate and ecological crisis we face, in 2019/20 LSE began developing a new Sustainability Strategic Plan, with a focus on the environmental aspect of sustainability. Key to creating this plan was the opportunity for the whole LSE community to engage with our #SustainableLSE Consultation running from February to March.

The themed event series allowed for in-depth conversations and brainstorming whilst the survey provided a clearer understanding of views on topics such as the use of carbon offsets.

The consultation data was presented to the Sustainability Advisory Group who distilled and classified key ideas and actions under six themes with support from the sustainability team and various LSE departments and divisions. A set of strategic principles and a range of practical initiatives were developed to support, and kick start the Plan's delivery.

The key findings of the consultation can be found on our [website](#). Thank you to all that contributed.



PROCESS



EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

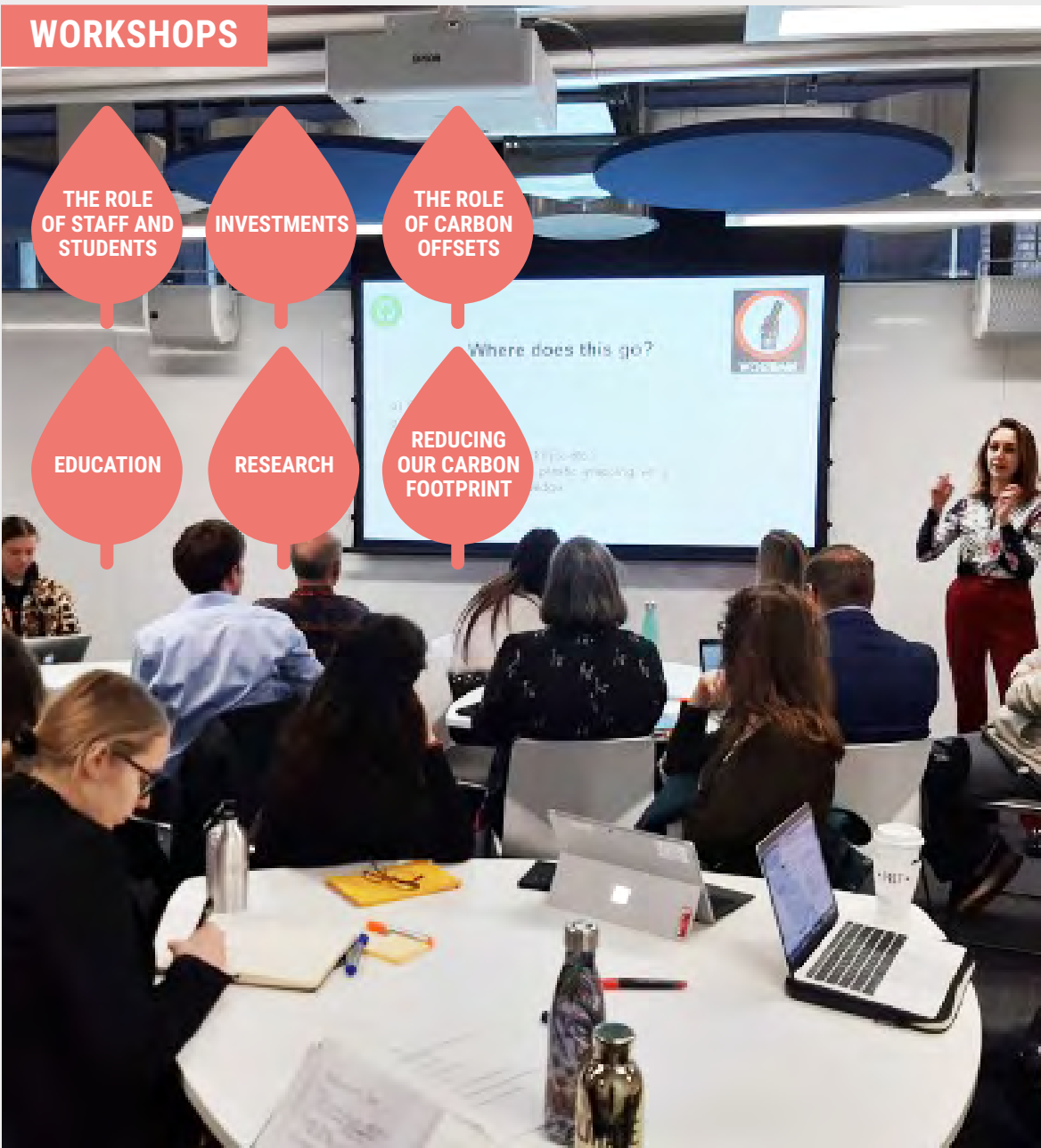
STAFF AND STUDENTS ATTENDING



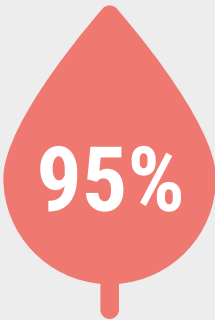
RESPONDENTS TO ONLINE SURVEY



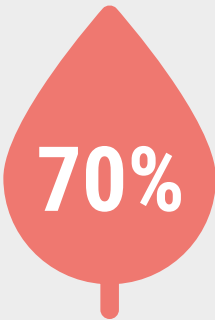
WORKSHOPS



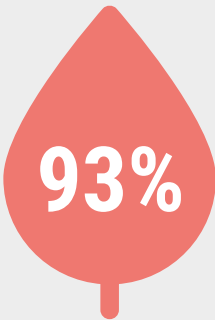
ONLINE SURVEY: YOU TOLD US:



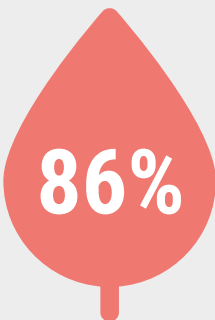
LSE's approach to environmental sustainability is important to me.



LSE's carbon footprint: most important aspect of our environmental performance.



I am willing to make or accept changes to my LSE life to support sustainability.



LSE should mitigate the impacts of it's carbon emissions using offsets.



HOW CAN LSE INITIATE DISCUSSIONS AROUND SUSTAINABILITY?

GETTING INVOLVED IN POLICY MAKING.

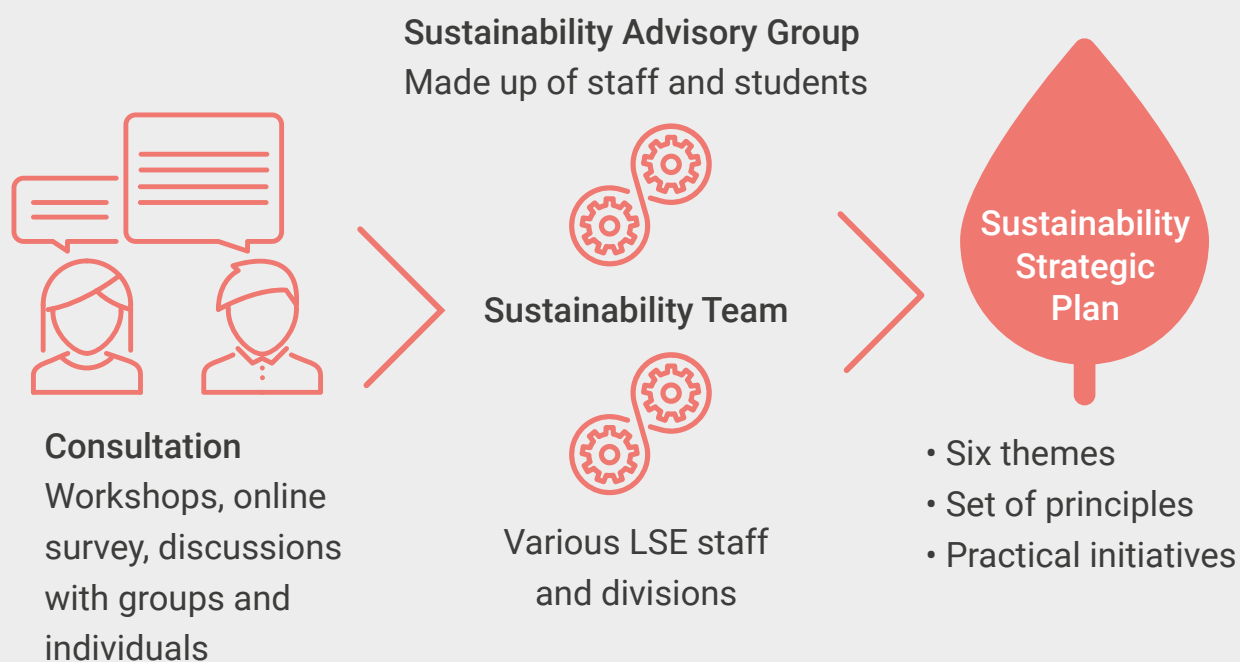


KEY PRIORITY AREA FOR LSE RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABILITY?

CHANGING ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOURS.



SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



THANK YOU TO ALL THE STUDENTS AND STAFF THAT CONTRIBUTED



and more...

Green Impact

The longest-running Green Impact programme in the world, the 2019/20 programme supported the #SustainableLSE Consultation. With 22 teams of over 130 Green Impact leaders completing over 350 actions and reaching over 700 staff members. Six students and one staff member also received IEMA recognised auditor training!

These Green Impact leaders played a key role in supporting the #SustainableLSE Consultation, thank you!

Students in Halls: Reduce the Juice

Delivering behaviour change initiatives and Sustainability Ambassador training to our halls of residences:

- Rosebery Hall won the Water Sprint, with a 16 per cent reduction in water consumption, or 214.06 m³ of water.
- Butlers Wharf won the Energy Sprint with a 44 per cent reduction in energy usage. Overall, the programme saved over 360,091 kWh.
- The waste initiatives were substituted with the Resilient Futures creative zine project due to COVID-19.



Living Labs: The Sustainable Projects Fund

Funded by a 10p tax on bottled water sales at LSE Catering outlets the Sustainable Projects Fund offers £20,000 annually for student and staff-led projects that enhance sustainability at LSE. Delayed in delivery due to COVID-19, this year the fund approved five projects including a Sustainability Research Podcasts Series with MSc candidate Felix Koninx and support for LSE Enactus Society with their Vita Nova Upcycled Tote Bag venture.



Green Week

Coordinated by the LSESU Environment and Ethics Officer this year's Green Week included campus events and explored London. Events included: Marine Society Expedition Exhibition, LSE Careers UN Event, Dr. Bike Drop-In, Thames River Clean, Greenwich Ecology Park Gardening and more!



LSE Volunteer Centre

The School's Volunteer Centre helps students and staff find volunteering placements as well as one-off opportunities e.g. The Orchard Project, Green Schools Project.



In 2020 environmental, conservation or animal related organisations remained the 7th most popular type of organisation worked with. Students top three motivations for volunteering this year also remained the same: improving things, giving back to society and personal values.



Celebration of Sustainability

Bringing together staff and students for its tenth year, the Celebration of Sustainability highlights sustainability achievements and projects and acted as the launch for the 2018/19 Sustainability Report.

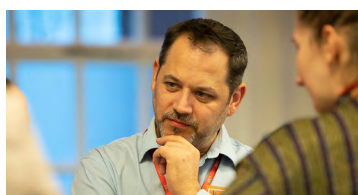
Community Contribution Awards:



Community Contributor: Caroline Linney and the LSESU Food Cycle Committee Nominated by the LSE Volunteer Centre, their Save Food Project has raised awareness of the environmental and political impacts of food waste through rescuing surplus food and distributing to people in need across the city.



One to Watch: Harriet Freeman A passionate, involved and entrepreneurial student, Harriet has worked on education and sustainability projects as part of the LSE Change Makers and Sustainable Projects Fund.



Environmental Hero: Dene Donkin, Deputy Head of Maintenance for Residences Dene's passion, optimism and creativity helps to drive energy efficiency measures on campus.

Green Impact Special Awards:



Student Award: Adrian Baeck, Department of Social Policy Team A collaborative and ambitious student, Adrian worked closely with his teammates and the sustainability team to deliver and increase student involvement in the #SustainableLSE Consultation.



Best Project: LSE100 with LSE Fun Hundred An inclusive and ambitious project with lasting impact.



Highest Scoring Team: Human Resources A committed team who participated and supported the #SustainableLSE Consultation in every way possible.





Engagement and Leadership



Deepening public discussion on sustainability across the world

We will play a leading role in shaping the global discussion of ideas on sustainability and the challenges it raises. We will engage with public, private and non-governmental organisation actors to promote understanding and informed decision-making about sustainability around the world.

LSE Generate: Dare to Care Packages

LSE Generate aim to inspire and develop entrepreneurial potential amongst students and alumni, helping them to create global impact through innovative ventures.



DARE TO CARE PACKAGES

This year the programme supported Dare to Care Packages. Set up by entrepreneurs Jon Lo and Jo Liang and launched in March 2020, Dare to Care Packages sent over 10,000 PPE items – worth over £100,000 – to NHS workers in just over three weeks. The team also delivered over 300 personalised care and essential items to isolated people in the community.

Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

In 2019/20 the Institute contributed to an analysis of possible COVID-19 economic recovery packages to assess the economic and climate impact of taking a green route out of the crisis. Finding that climate-friendly stimulus policies are often superior in overall economic impact – not just in slowing global warming.



Global Alliance of Universities on Climate

Launched in January 2019 at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum. The Global Alliance of Universities on Climate (GAUC) is intended to provide a mechanism for exchange and cooperation amongst its 13 member institutions. These institutions are committed to the initiation and support of actions required to respond to the global challenge of climate change. LSE's participation is led by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment.



LSE Public Lectures and Events

LSE held over 400 events in 2019/20 meving to digital events in Lent Term. Examples include, *Protest and Power: can climate activism save the planet?*, *The Case for the Green New Deal* and *Economics for Hard Times*.

The **public events podcast series** features more than 200 events every year. A platform for thought, ideas and lively debate you can hear from presidents, prime ministers, international business leaders, policy makers and leading academics from all over the world.



Continue the conversation...

lse.ac.uk/sustainableLSE

sustainability.team@lse.ac.uk



Help LSE maximise its impact in shaping a sustainable world by donating to the [Sustainable LSE Fund](#).

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This information can be made available in alternative formats, on request. Please contact, sustainability.team@lse.ac.uk

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