



# Annual Sustainability Report 2021/22

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# Sustainable Development Goals

LSE's work on sustainability aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Visit [sdgs.un.org/goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals) to find out more about the specifics of each goal.



The progress tracker for our next steps can be found on our [webpage](#).



## Foreword by LSE President and Vice Chancellor

This past year was a challenging one for sustainability, as the world returned to being physically present once more after the events set in motion by the COVID-19 pandemic. At LSE, 2021/22 saw a full and vibrant return to campus for the first time in two years, with sustainability remaining one of the key priorities for the School as we adapted to a post-pandemic world. Our **Future Ways of Working** strategy, coupled with our **Digital Smart** campaign, urges the LSE community to stay less reliant on printing and business travel, collaborating online where possible and embracing blended working principles so that we work together more effectively and reduce our environmental impacts.

There is much to celebrate about 2021/22, but my favourite accomplishment lies in how central sustainability is to our campus infrastructure: we opened our newest facility, the Marshall Building, with BREEAM excellent in design rating, and announced the winning design for our next construction project, 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields, which will be our first net zero building. We saw ever-growing engagement with sustainability from across the community, from funding 9 projects through our Sustainable Projects Fund, to the launch of a careers in sustainability programme, to continued high engagement with Green Impact amongst staff, with nine teams achieving gold and four achieving platinum!



Minouche Shafik gives speech at COP27 opening ceremony UNFCCC UN Climate Change CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

LSE continues to work on embedding its **Sustainability Strategic Plan** into everything we do. The plan, launched in October 2020 in close collaboration with the LSE community, sets a comprehensive package of measures to integrate environmental sustainability across our operations. It has six key areas of focus: Education, Research, Engagement and Leadership, Investment, Collaboration, and Our School (campus operations), proving itself to be a catalyst for action and accountability at LSE.

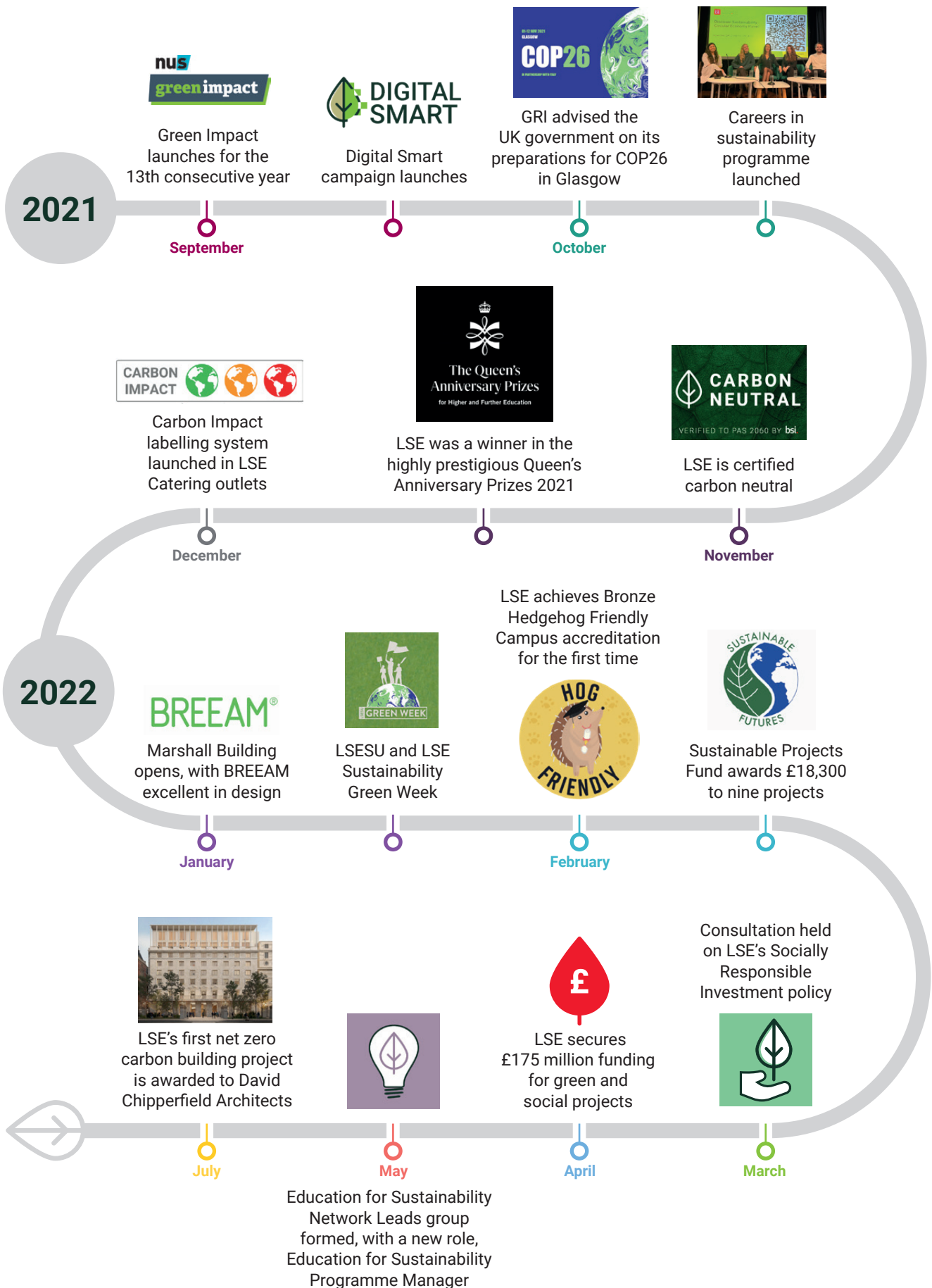
This report provides an overview of sustainability initiatives across the School for the academic year 2021/22, and the progress made across the six themes of the plan. Critical to our success is the entire LSE community playing their part: students, academics and professional staff, and alumni.

If you have not done so already, please join us on this important journey to create a sustainable LSE and ensure the School makes its contribution in shaping a more sustainable world.

**Minouche Shafik**

President and Vice Chancellor, LSE

# #SustainableLSE 2021/22 highlights



# Approach and decision-making



LSE's environmental performance is coordinated by the Estates Division's Sustainability Team, with delivery and decision-making supported by several committees and working groups including both student and staff representatives.



The **Sustainability Policy** is delivered via our Environmental Management System, which has been ISO 14001 certified since 2012.



The **Energy Policy** is delivered via our Energy Management System, which has been ISO 50001 certified since 2015.

In addition to our formal networks, we use informal networks to engage with our stakeholders in order to seek feedback and discuss ideas.

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.

Key stakeholders		
Internal	<b>Students</b>	Students LSESU and societies Students in halls of residence
	<b>Staff</b>	Professional Services Staff Academic Staff Senior Leadership
External	<b>Partners and networks</b>	Delivery partners Suppliers and contractors Collaboration networks e.g. EAUC, Ellen MacArthur Foundation Higher Education peers
	<b>Other interested parties</b>	LSE alumni LSE visitors Local community Regulatory and certification bodies Campaign groups, NGOs, trade unions General public

# Sustainability decision-making



## Governance



### Council

General oversight of sustainability progress

## Leadership




### School Management Committee

Provide oversight of sustainability progress

### Sustainability Leadership Board


Oversee and monitor the delivery of the Sustainability Strategic plan

## Delivery




**Education**

Education Committee




**Research**


Research Committee



**Engagement and Leadership**



**Collaboration**



**Investment**

Investment Sub Committee



**Our School**

Sustainability Operations Group  
Environmental working groups  
(Estates, Students, Residences, Catering)  
Local working groups  
(E.g. Green Impact)



## Consultation and Engagement



### Students and Staff

Input various means – working groups, Green Impact teams, events, engagement with the sustainability team.

# Education

Embedding sustainability across our teaching and learning experiences



## Education for Sustainability Initiative

The *Education for Sustainability* initiative is an opportunity for LSE to act on our commitments to ensure we make a critical contribution to sustainability education. For educators, this means developing students' critical and systems thinking, thus preparing them for the complex challenges they will face in a workplace where sustainability will play an ever-increasing role.

## Highlights

- The Eden Centre appointed a Programme Manager: Education for Sustainability, funded as part of the Education for Global Impact (EGI) agenda. The role has been created to explore ways to embed sustainability and sustainable development in the curriculum.
- The Programme Manager has mapped all LSE modules via LSE's Calendar, Moodle and Google Search to gain an overview of the sustainability-related modules taught throughout the school.
- The *Education for Sustainability Network* for educators had their first meeting in Summer Term. Discussions were held on ways to engage staff in embedding sustainability in the curriculum and the priorities for 2022/23.
- EGI funds have been secured by the Programme Manager for a student partnership project to support integrating sustainability in the curriculum. This will fund 10 students to work as research assistants supporting staff by identifying sustainability topics or case studies for a specific course.
- LSE Careers' **Energy and Environment** sector page has been fully updated to focus on sustainability, and a new **Sustainability sector page** is now live, as part of the new **Discover Sustainability** careers programme.
- Two new courses related to sustainability were approved ("The Practice of Effective Climate Policy", School of Public Policy, and "The Politics and Policy of Climate Change and Sustainability", Department of Government).



## Case Study | LSE100

LSE100 is our flagship interdisciplinary course taken by all first-year undergraduate students. In 2021/22, the course theme was “How can we control AI?” and explored AI for sustainability and the sustainability of AI.

Additionally, for the group project assessment students could choose to work on AI for sustainability as their project theme, answering the question: “Will AI be an asset or a liability in efforts to prevent climate change and ensure sustainable development?” A set of resources were provided, and 26 groups selected this theme.



### Next steps:

- In 2022/23, sustainability will be one of three topics that students can choose to study as part of the programme (“How can we avert climate catastrophe?”).

## Case Study | Embedding Sustainability, LSESU Sustainable Futures Society

Continuing with this collaboration which began in 2020/21, the Sustainable Futures Society is mapping the existing educational offering, with support from the Programme Manager, and will publish a report by the end of 2022 which details their findings on how LSE academic staff are embedding sustainability in the curriculum, and students’ expectations about LSE’s education for sustainability.



Preliminary results on students’ expectations and feedback on LSE’s commitment to education for sustainability are already available (contact [s.futures@llesu.org](mailto:s.futures@llesu.org)). Over 200 students were involved in the initiative.

### Next steps:

- Following the report publication, we will produce and implement a plan on how to summarise and engage stakeholders with the findings in order to bring about change – for example, departmental posters, and a podcast summarising and exploring the project.

## Next steps

- We will introduce a keyword search on *LSE Calendar* and *LSE Course Finder* to easily navigate and identify all sustainability-related modules taught across the School.
- We will enhance collaboration with LSE students to produce student-led research around education for sustainability.
- The Department of Geography will launch an online Sustainability Certificate Course this year (with the opportunity to bring this experience to other LSE Departments).
- We will continue to deliver sustainability-related workshops across the following academic year (e.g., Atlas series).
- Our new *Education for Sustainability* landing page to be made live by the end of Michaelmas Term, with updated resources and a best-practice section for academic staff. The Programme Manager will work with LSE academic staff to record videos in which they explain their approach to education for sustainability, as well as sharing some best practices with the rest of the academic staff to learn from.
- The *Education for Sustainability* team aim to hold engagement activities for the LSE community in Lent Term 2023, around the topic of education for sustainability.



# Research

Shaping the global sustainability debate through our research



## Highlights

- Sustainability continues to be a key theme in research funding (23 per cent of all applications). Four projects have been funded via LSE's Research and Impact Support Fund 2022. They explore environmental sustainability themes, such as: the long-term cost of air pollution, the geography of extractive industries, regional support for renewable energy, and perceptions of wildlife extinction.
- We saw an increase in sustainability-related research funding in 2021/22 across all PAGE teams. The new funding is supporting a range of environmental work carried out by the *Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment*, the International Growth Centre, and the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa. One highlight is the funding secured to support the scale-up of the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI).
- We have continued to share sustainability-themed content through our key research engagement initiatives including:
  - Our **Research for the World** magazine which makes a significant contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, on topics as diverse as state effectiveness and the climate crisis, how can we ensure green space is more accessible and the hidden costs of air pollution.
  - Our **research showcase events series**, our **public lecture programme**, **LSE Festival**, blogs, research films and podcasts all regularly feature sustainability-related content and topics.
  - To coincide with World Earth Day in April 2022, we launched an **externally facing landing page** to bring together content from across the School relating to environmental sustainability.



LSE THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

#SustainableLSE

Preparing you for the complex challenges you will face

LSE GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP 2021

lse.ac.uk/sustainability

## Case Study | LSE Festival event

The LSE Festival 2022 explored the practical steps we could be taking to shape a better world.

One of the events *Rethinking our Disposable Society: How to Build a Circular Economy* featured LSE academics, in partnership with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

The discussion explored how we can rethink how we design, make, and use the things we need to minimise waste, from the food we eat to the clothes we wear.

The event was well attended, with 70 attending in person and 145 online for the live event, and over 25,000 listens or views of the [recording since the event](#).

### Next steps

- We aim to have a further and increased focus on sustainability research happening at the LSE Festival 2023.

## Case Study | World Café on Sustainability, March 2022

LSE Life and the KEI Integrated Service ran a World Café style event on the theme of sustainability in March 2022 to bring LSE students and researchers together to discuss the key debates in this area.

Around 40 participants joined the session, listening to short presentations from six LSE researchers in between roundtable discussions. The event offered an engaging environment for sharing and learning, fostering collaborations and expanding networks.

### Next steps

- We plan to run a further World Café session on sustainability in Michaelmas Term 2022.

## Next steps

- We will explore the ways we can contribute to the research landscape by mapping our strengths and opportunities.
- We plan to host a workshop for researchers exploring how LSE's research can contribute to shaping a sustainable world.
- We will continue to fund applications and improve awareness of funding opportunities.
- We will aim to focus and strengthen our efforts and resources on impactful sustainability research.

# Engagement and leadership

Deepening public discussion on sustainability across the world



LSE has been at the forefront of engagement and action around sustainability in the UK and around the world.

In 2021/22, LSE continued to inform and engage around the world with decision-makers to promote dialogue and decisive action on sustainability and climate change, with leadership from the [Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment](#).

Please also see the [research section](#) of this report, which feeds into engagement and leadership.

## Highlights from the Grantham Research Institute

- LSE was awarded the [Queen's Anniversary Prize](#) for Higher and Further Education 2021/22 for its work through the Institute on providing a multi-disciplinary response to climate change. It has also been a participant in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Challenge to accelerate the transition to net zero emissions in the tertiary education sector.
- LSE has been engaged internationally, with Lord Stern and his team at the Institute commissioned by the UK Presidency of the G7 in 2021 to produce a report on "G7 leadership for sustainable, resilient and inclusive economic recovery and growth", and commissioned by the German Presidency of G7 in 2022 to prepare a report on "climate clubs".
- His team was also commissioned by the UK and Egyptian Presidencies of the COP26 and COP27 Presidencies to explore ways of increasing the flow of climate finance for emerging markets and developing countries.
- Other key contributions by the Grantham Research Institute have included engagements with:
  - Central banks about their role in promoting action on climate change and biodiversity.
  - Finance ministers on a sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Companies about their strategies for promoting the delivery of the Paris Agreement.
  - Decision Makers in China and India about sustainable economic development and growth.



## Case Study | “Just transition” to net zero

Professor Nick Robins, Professor in Practice for Sustainable Finance at the Grantham Research Institute, focuses on mobilising finance for climate action to support a **just transition to net zero**.

LSE’s Public Affairs Team arranged for Nick to present his work at Conservative Party Conference in 2021, and he was invited again in 2022. After being appointed to the Scottish Just Transition Commission, Nick took part in Evidence Week in Holyrood in April 2022 where he discussed his work, and potential collaborations, with Scottish Ministers, Members of the Scottish Parliament, councillors and think tanks working in finance, energy and the environment, covering Aberdeen to Edinburgh.

He has briefed the conveners of key committees in the Scottish Parliament working on net zero and discussed current and future pilot scheme options in Scotland, working with the Scottish Government. This influencing will be ongoing in 2023.



## Case Study | The Grantham Research Institute at COP26

COP26 in Glasgow was well represented by colleagues from the Grantham Research Institute, who led and spoke at events on a vast array of topics: climate change legislation, litigation, the rule of law, disaster risk finance and insurance, food insecurity, just transition and green bonds. The Institute’s

popular legislation and litigation day featured sessions on how these can help implement the Paris Agreement, themes and trends in domestic climate, and the effectiveness of court cases within climate action. Lord Stern and Amar Bhattacharya’s policy note “Beyond the \$100 billion” gave an update on the climate finance pledge to developing countries and actions required.

The Institute also ran events either side of COP26 with a public event featuring US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry, and an expert panel event on the next steps following COP26, including the UK’s lead negotiator, Archie Young and former EU lead negotiator on climate change, Pete Betts.



# Investment

Making sustainability a key part of our investment decisions



Our investments of donations and endowments, as well as funds held for capital projects and strategic investment, are in externally managed funds.

As of July 2022, the School's investment portfolios (including endowment reserves, long-term investment of retained surpluses and investment of surplus working capital) were valued in the region of £363 million.

The School is a signatory of the **United Nations endorsed Principles for Responsible Investment** and its investment decisions are guided by our Socially Responsible Investment Policy.

Details of our approach to responsible investment can be found in the Endowment Investment Performance section of [this report](#) (page 42) and on our [webpage](#).

## Highlights

- 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 by over 80 per cent. The total exposure of the portfolios was 0.6 per cent in 2021/22 (0.2 per cent tobacco, 0.3 per cent tar sands, 0.1 per cent thermal coal and no holdings in controversial weapons).
- Our negative screening filters were strengthened to limit our exposure to the most polluting fossil fuels, alongside the production of tobacco and indiscriminate weapons.
- All 15 of the portfolios Fund Managers are signatories of the Principles of Responsible Investment (previously UNPRI), with 13 of them being rated A or A+, one being rated B and one being unrated by PRI.
- This year a review of LSE's portfolio against Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI) datasets was conducted and its findings published. The Investment Sub-Committee considered a paper on the applications of LSE's Transition Pathway Initiative to the School's Portfolios and Endowment.
- Our Responsible Investment webpage was updated to share our responsible investment practices including our fund managers evaluation methodology and portfolio composition.
- We will set up a working group to review the School's Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Policy with input from experts, colleagues and School-wide consultation opportunities. On the back of this review, the School will be drafting a new Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy.

- We established a **Sustainable Finance Framework** that ties LSE's social purpose and Sustainability Action Plan with the School's funding and financial strategies. This in turn led to the School securing a £175m private placement for green and social projects.
- We continued to analyse the proportion of the investment portfolios which have been rated by the TPI and publish the findings.

### Next steps

- We will obtain Council and Committee approval for the School's new ESG policy, which we hope to adopt by the end of 2022.
- In line with the new ESG policy, we will update our negative screening filters to limit the School's exposure on the worst polluting fossil fuels performers as rated by the TPI's Carbon Performance metrics.
- We will seek to join the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change for information and to collaborate with other investors on best practice towards Net Zero 2030.
- We will restructure the LSE Finance website to bring together ESG issues that impact the School's investments, finances, buildings and partnerships.



# Collaboration

Working in partnerships  
within LSE and externally



## Highlights

### Green Impact

Green Impact is LSE's sustainability engagement programme for staff, that has been running for many years. The 2021/22 Green Impact programme continued with strength this year in a hybrid format.

Focusing on the newly launched **Digital Smart campaign** and the **Sustainability Strategic Plan**, the programme saw 19 teams sign up and 17 receive awards. Over 450 sustainable actions took place because of Green Impact. Teams were awarded at our **Annual Celebration of Sustainability**, which took place in person for the first time since 2019 with over 60 attendees.

### Sustainable Projects Fund

Funded by a 25p tax on bottled water sales at LSE Catering outlets, the Sustainable Projects Fund offers up to £20,000 annually for student and staff-led projects that enhance sustainability at LSE. This year the fund approved nine projects including:

- An LSESU Islamic Society led trip to Europe's first eco-mosque, Cambridge Central Mosque, to educate the LSE Muslim and non-Muslim community about religious responsibilities towards the environment as stewards of the Earth.
- Supplying reusable water bottles to LSESU athletics clubs to reduce single-use plastic bottles at sports events.
- The student-led creation of new digital resources (videos and podcasts) to inform and inspire students about Careers in Sustainability.
- Creating an international hub for Climate Change and Sustainability Syllabuses in the Phelan US Centre as an international resource for students and staff.
- Investigating and implementing Student Halls in room recycling bins, to make recycling easier; boosting long term recycling rates.
- Supporting the running of the Global Circular Challenge, the Department of Geography and Environment's eight-week international competition focused on sustainable packaging.



## #SustainableHalls Campaign

Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK), led by the Residences Sustainability Officer, developed a new strategy for promoting sustainable behaviours in LSE-managed halls of residence.

New and engaging cross-channel communications were disseminated across the halls to engage students. 338 students engaged in the campaign, with 116 participating in online competitions, masterclasses, and webinars.

Two recycling and waste audits were conducted for the first time across the year. The results were fed directly back into student flats, for improved direct impact on recycling. The overall winning hall was Butlers Wharf, who were rewarded with an ice cream van pop-up.

The Residences accommodation satisfaction survey 2022 reported very strong student satisfaction with sustainability in halls, with 84 per cent feeling a sense of sustainability in their residence.

### Next steps

- We aim to build on the numbers of engaged students in the Sustainable Halls Campaign (>400 by end of 2022/23).
- We will look to increase the number of students taking part in the two Recycling Audits, for maximum on-ground impact.
- We plan to launch a “LSE Halls Swap shop” with Residential Life at Bankside as part of #SustainableLSE Halls Campaign.
- We hope to maintain high levels of satisfaction with sustainability in the 2023 Residences Accommodation Survey.



### Green Week

Coordinated by the LSESU Environment and Ethics Officer, this year's Green Week involved the LSESU, LSE Sustainability team, LSE Volunteering Centre, clubs and societies and multiple charities.

Events this year included an informative visit to the LSE Bees, a visit to the “Our Broken Planet” exhibition at the Natural History Museum, a webinar introduction to LSE Sustainability, talks from Extinction Rebellion and Greenpeace, and a virtual Penguin Watch.

Green Week is a strategic chance to engage the LSE community with sustainability topics.

## LSE Volunteer Centre

The School's Volunteer Centre helps students and staff find volunteering placements as well as one-off opportunities e.g. The Felix Project, Greenwich Ecology Park.



In 2022 environmental, conservation or animal related organisations were the 5th most popular type worked with (up from eighth last year). Students top three motivations for volunteering this year remained the same: improving things, giving back to society and personal values.



### Case Study | London Student Sustainability Conference

LSE was one of six London Higher Education Institutions involved in organising the collaborative London Student Sustainability Conference. This year, it was held digitally again due to constraints of COVID-19 omicron outbreaks, on 24 February. Joined by speakers including Alyssa Gilbert from Grantham Institute – Climate Change and Environment, and with over 30 student presenters, it was a fantastic chance to engage with students who have completed work related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Next steps

- We will continue to be involved in the planning of the London Student Sustainability Conference 2023. The goal is for the 2023 conference to be held in-person. Additional planning will be put in place to increase both application numbers and conference delegates.



# Our School

Reaching net zero carbon and reducing our direct environmental impacts



## Carbon

Measure, reduce and mitigate our carbon emissions.



## Energy

Operate a highly energy efficient estate and adopt renewable energy sources.



## Waste and Resources

Reduce waste and adopt circular economy principles of resource management.



## Buildings

Adopt the highest environmental standards in our construction and refurbishment projects.



## Water

Reduce consumption on campus and residences.



## Catering

Providing sustainable and healthy food options at LSE Catering outlets.



## Responsible procurement

Embed sustainability in our supply chain.



## Pollution and air-quality

Minimise pollution and improve air quality.



## Travel

Reduce emissions associated with commuting and business travel.



## Biodiversity and green spaces

Enhance biodiversity on the LSE estate by protecting and connecting habitats.

Visit our [webpage](#) for further details.



## Carbon

Measure, reduce and mitigate our carbon emissions

### Highlights

- Our scope 1 and 2 carbon footprint has reduced by 40 per cent since 2005. Our 2021/22 carbon footprint for scope 1 and 2 emissions was 7,877 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. A measure of intensity, our carbon intensity was 36.5 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>, a 52 per cent reduction since 2005/06.
- We were the first verified carbon-neutral university in the UK for all emissions we currently measure (scope 1 and 2 for our energy use, and scope 3 for water, waste and business travel) for 2020/21 using carbon credits to mitigate the emissions we have not yet reduced or avoided. We remained carbon neutral in 2021/22 for the same emissions.
- Our carbon credits form a biodiversity focused portfolio consisting of conservation and reforestation programmes in Kenya, Uganda, Peru, Indonesia and Timor-Leste. These credits were selected by the LSE community by popular vote from three tailored portfolios and were explored in detail at a workshop with our carbon offsetting partner, **Compensate**.
- We have started to implement our Carbon Reduction Strategy, aiming to become net zero by 2030 for our direct energy use (scope 1 and 2) and by 2050 for all our indirect emissions (scope 3). To do so, we have been actively working on decarbonising our heating systems, with several projects already underway.

### Next steps

- We will continue to decarbonise the heat on our campus buildings in line with our Carbon Reduction Strategy.
- We will continue to use carbon credits to mitigate our current measured emissions.
- We will continue to work on our scope 3 emissions to better understand them.








# Carbon Footprint 2021/22

## Type of emissions

## Emissions sources

## Carbon emissions

Tonnes of carbon equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)

<p><b>Scope 1</b> Direct emissions from our activities</p>	 <p><b>Gas and fuels</b> used to heat and operate our buildings</p>	<p><b>4,302 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p>
<p><b>Scope 2</b> Indirect emissions from our electricity use</p>	 <p><b>Electricity</b> used for lighting, IT equipment, ventilation...</p>	<p><b>32 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b> as 99 per cent of our electricity is sourced from renewable sources</p> <p><b>3,575 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b> if using the UK electricity grid average carbon intensity factor</p>
<p><b>Scope 3</b> Indirect emissions associated with our activities and supply chain</p> <p>▲ Emissions measured</p>	 <p><b>Water consumed</b></p>  <p><b>Waste generated</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On campus</li> <li>• Construction</li> </ul>  <p><b>Business travel</b> Air and rail booked through LSE central supplier</p>	<p><b>Water: 74 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p><b>Waste: 23 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p> <p><b>Business travel: 1,097 tCO<sub>2</sub>e</b></p>
<p>▼ Emissions not yet measured</p>	<p>Other business travel: expenses, hotels, taxis</p>  <p><b>Staff/students travel</b> Commuting to campus</p>  <p><b>Goods and services</b> All things we purchase, including for construction projects</p>	





## Energy

Operate a highly energy efficient estate and adopt renewable energy sources

### Highlights

- Our energy consumption for 2021/2022 was 42,041 MWh, which represents a 12 per cent increase against 2020/21 and a six per cent reduction against our 2005/06 baseline. This increase against last year is due to the full reopening of our campus and residences as well as the covid measures put in place to allow our buildings to be operated safely (including an increase in fresh air intake).
- Our energy usage per m<sup>2</sup> was 195 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> in 2021/22, which is a 14 per cent reduction since 2005/06.
- In 2021/22, we produced over 130 MWh of electricity thanks to our photovoltaic panels. This is enough to power one of our buildings, 20 Kingsway, for a year. In addition, 99 per cent of the electricity we purchase is from renewable sources (e.g., solar and wind).
- Driving high energy efficiency standards continues to be a key aspect of how we conduct building refurbishments and design new buildings (**See Building section for details**).

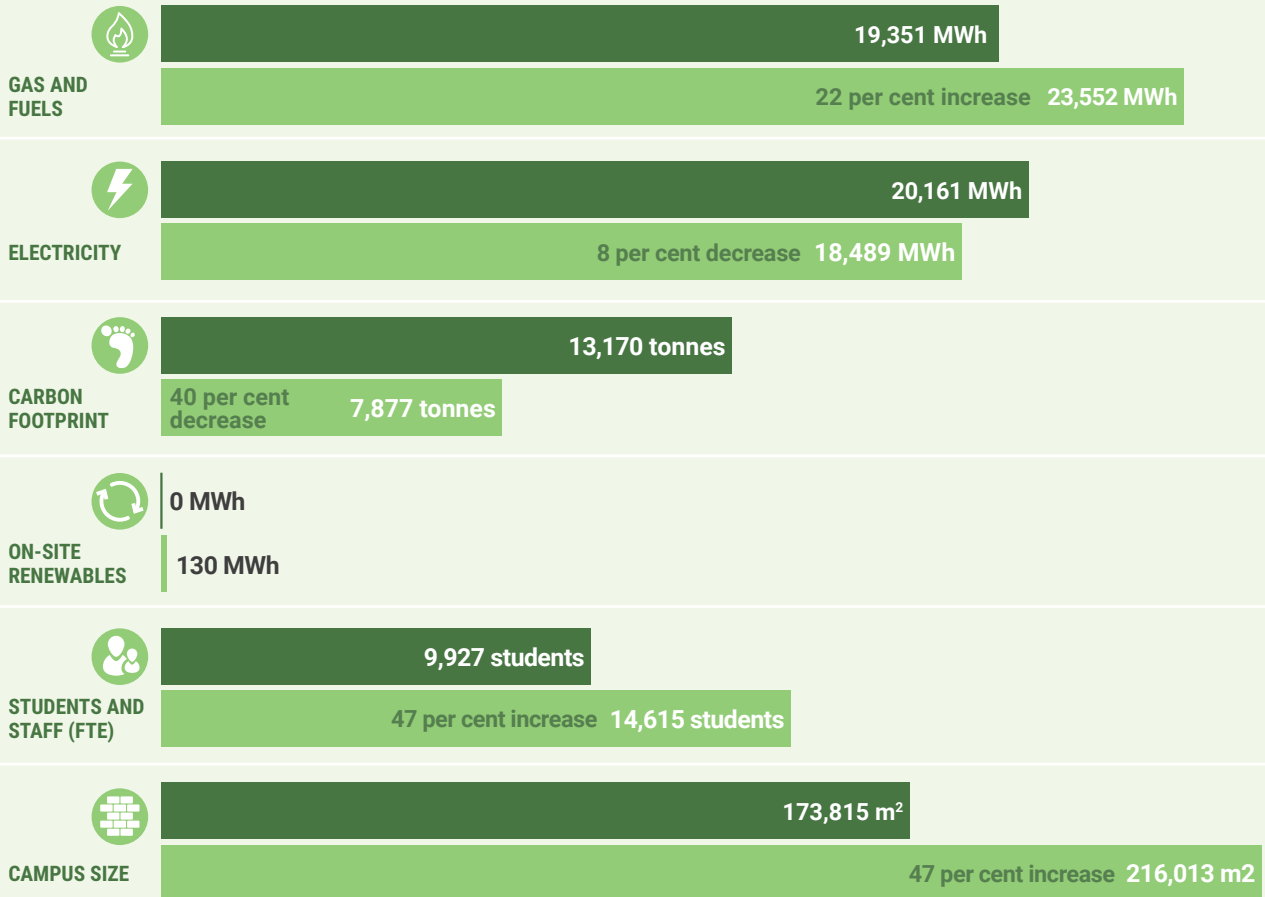
### Next steps

- We will identify further opportunities for energy-efficiency measures.
- We will develop a plan to decarbonise our heat.
- We hope to improve estate efficiency to achieve 150kWh/m<sup>2</sup> by 2025.

## Energy usage (and associated carbon emissions) in relation to 2005/06 baseline year

2005/06

2021/22





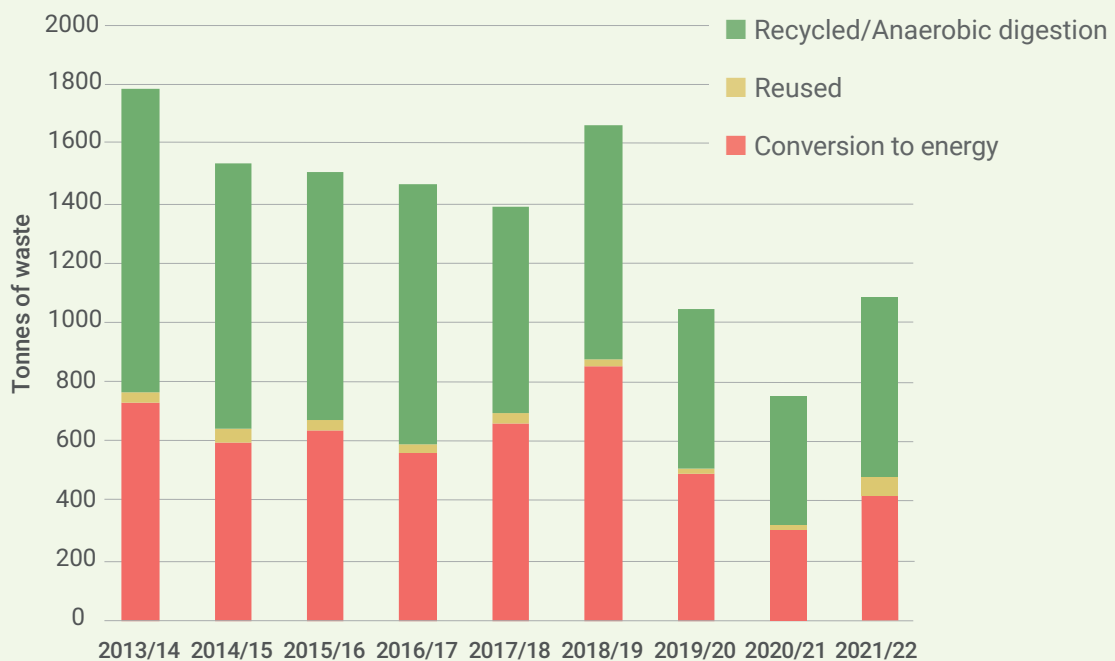


## Waste and resources

Reduce waste and adopt circular economy principles of resource management

We apply the “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover” waste hierarchy in our waste and resource management. LSE’s total waste volume (excluding construction waste) in 2021/22 was 1,077 tonnes, of which 62 per cent was reused or recycled. Excluding a small fraction of construction waste (0.33 per cent), zero waste to landfill was achieved again this year.

### LSE waste tonnage by end destination (excl. construction)



### Highlights

- To help reduce the number of single use plastic water bottles bought on campus, we increased the charge from 10p to 25p.
- We sent over 25 tonnes of furniture to charities, schools and other organisations instead of being recycled to extend their life.
- 4.4 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 £7,644.
- As part of our Digital Smart campaign, we asked departments to think ‘digital by default’ and not to print course packs. This led to a 96.8 per cent reduction in the number of document sheets printed by Reprographics.

## Case Study | Furniture Reuse

This year, LSE has been busy converting offices as part of the Future Ways of Working (FWOW) project. As the spaces were updated to be able to meet staff needs, there was a lot of furniture no longer needed by LSE. We partnered with many different organisations, such as **Collecteco**, to help us donate this furniture to others.

Here is one example of bookcases that were in FAW that have now been used to extend a second-hand bookshop on the Isle of Wight!

“The bookshelves that we received have been installed in our second-hand bookshop and they look great! We now have twice as many books on display, and we’ve seen sales increase significantly... Thanks again for everyone’s help, the furniture has really helped.”

**Steve Backhouse, General Manager, Isle of Wight Steam Railway**



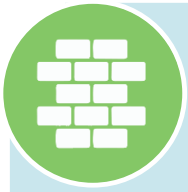
The bookcases in FAW



Now, the bookcases on the Isle of Wight!

## Next steps

- Through the #SustainableLSE Halls campaign, we aim to increase the recycling rates (and quality of recycling) in LSE-managed halls of residence in 2022/23 through behavioural science nudges, audit findings, improved signage and education.
- In 2022/23, we will be setting a scope 3 emissions 2030 target for our waste and recycling.



## Buildings

Adopt the highest environmental standards in our construction and refurbishment projects

### Case Study | 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields

In July 2022, LSE announced that London-based practice David Chipperfield Architects had been selected as the winner of the international architectural competition to design the Firoz Lalji Global Hub (FLGH) at 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields, the next major building project for the School.

- We created a multi-faceted brief that included reuse of the current building, allows for future adaptation and Passivhaus principles, among other sustainability requirements.
- **David Chipperfield Architect's winning design** submission can be seen here. It will be LSE's first net zero building project.



### Case Study | Future Ways of Working

*Future Ways of Working* was created to bring together people, technology and space to help Professional Services Staff at LSE thrive within their roles in a post-Covid world.

The aim of the programme was to introduce an inclusive blended working framework for staff across 2021/22, with increased ability to work collaboratively on LSE's campus and remotely. It follows the principles of **LSE's Digital Smart campaign**, encouraging online collaboration and keeping documents on screen, therefore reducing reliance on printing.

The *Future Ways of Working* programme has saved 154 tonnes of carbon per annum equivalent of three per cent total emissions from LSE non-residential buildings, and all refurbishments had sustainability in mind. Furniture no longer needed was donated to local schools and offices or reused in other areas of the campus.



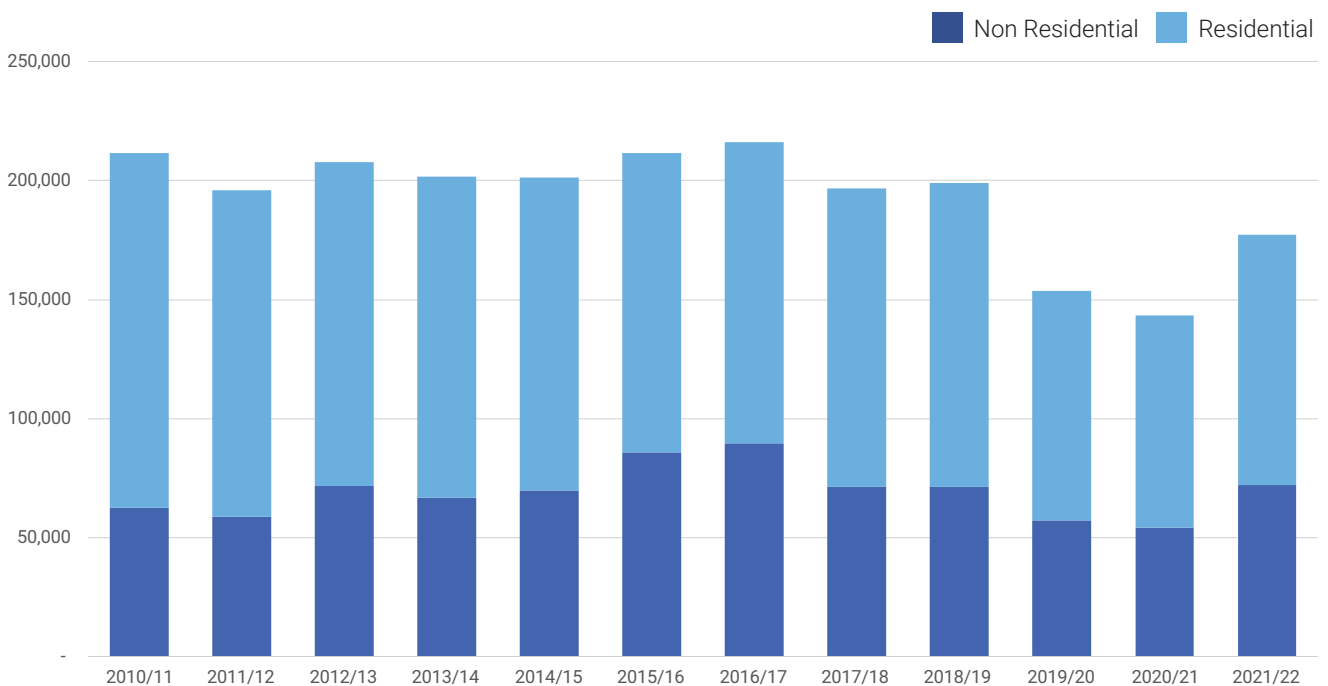
## Water

Reduce our water consumption on campus and in Halls of Residence

### Highlights

- In 2021/22 we consumed 177,184 m<sup>3</sup> of water, an increase of 23 per cent compared to 2020/21 due to campus reopening after COVID-19 lockdowns.
- We continued to implement water efficiency measures with a particular focus on leak detection systems and we continued to replace taps with water efficient ones.
- We have continued to improve our water monitoring.

### LSE's water usage 2010-2022 m<sup>3</sup>



### Next steps

- We will further improve our water monitoring and install smart meters where possible.
- We will continue to develop a water management strategy and identify measures to significantly reduce our water usage by 2030.



## LSE Catering

Providing sustainable and healthy food options at LSE Catering outlets

### Catering Awards and Certifications

- We achieved the Sustainable Restaurant Association's three star rating in our four catered halls and three main restaurants for 2022.
- Our four catered halls of residence achieved Silver Food for Life award and the LSE Garrick and Shaw Café achieved re-accreditation for Bronze in 2022.

### Highlights

- LSE Catering participated in the Ellen MacArthur "Food Sprint" in June 2022 to share and collaborate on sustainable catering practices across London Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- Winnow, an AI food waste monitoring and measurement system, is now operational at Bankside Hall and a data baseline has been determined. This should help to see reductions in both consumed and purchased food across the next year.
- We introduced our carbon labelling scheme across all our outlets and have given advice to other Universities to help them implement the same.
- We rolled out a new suite of sustainability posters – promoting plant-based options and reusable water bottles. These are used in outlets and on social media channels.
- The Catering Environmental Working Group continued to build collaboration between LSESU, Student Societies, LSE Catering, Academic Researchers and the LSE Sustainability Team.
- We increased the water bottle levy to 25p to try to further deter usage, bringing it in line with the charge for single use coffee cups.



## Next steps

- We will use the monthly reports from Winnow to help us reduce student plate waste (e.g., giving reduced portions of certain high-waste items) and kitchen waste (e.g. by improving ordering efficiency). We also aim to create targeted campaigns across 2022/23 using this data.
- LSE Garrick and Café 54 will trial **Too Good to Go** App to redistribute any excess food for social, economic, and environmental benefits.
- We will work with LSE Foodcycle (who are being amalgamated into Sustainable Futures Society) to recruit student volunteers to reuse any leftover food.
- We will explore end of the day discounting options to further reduce the amount of food that would otherwise be wasted.
- We aim to minimise disposable cup usage by investigating the viability of returnable packaging schemes and continuing to promote our reusable LSE-branded “Keep Cups”.
- We will add additional ranges of sustainable items to the LSE Shop.



## Responsible procurement

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

### Highlights

- Our new Supplier Code of Practice was signed off in May 2022, which abides by nine key principles – number four being “protect the environment by reducing the carbon emissions and environmental impacts of products and services”. **Pages 9 and 10** of the new Supplier Code of Practice lists out what we expect from all suppliers regarding their approach to sustainability.
- Our Procurement Strategy has been changed and now all category plans will have responsible and sustainable procurement contents as mandatory. Before each tender request, a procurement initiation document (PRID) will be completed which now includes elements of the LSE Supplier Code of Practice, in each case answering the question “Have you considered how to mitigate any potential sustainability risks or opportunities through this procurement?”.
- We created a dashboard which takes into consideration “risks”, including Environmental/Sustainable (originally set up for Modern Slavery, but which encompasses sustainability). In the coming year, the procurement team will be monitoring our main suppliers against these risks and ensure they are being assessed against their independent risk assessment system, as well as using Construstonline and our Supplier Code of Practice.

### Next steps

- We will investigate our supply chains for construction, maintenance and information technology, and where high risk and high value, we will assess the carbon costs and how these can be improved.



## Pollution and air quality

Minimise pollution and improve air quality and supplier relationships

### Highlights

- We continue to engage in the working group formed by Westminster City Council, focusing on sustainability aspects of the Strand Aldwych redevelopment which is now in the build phase.
- We have fully reviewed and updated our [Pollution and Air Quality webpage](#) with support from our community.
- We still host King's College London air and noise pollution sensors for their academic-led and European-funded Horizon 2020 RESET project.
- We upgraded and maintained our Plaza Café green wall, which will enhance localised air quality.

### Next steps

- We will continue to collaborate with academic and innovative solutions to monitor and mitigate air pollution where possible; and integrate this with academic research outputs.
- As part of the Westminster City Council Aldwych Sustainability Working Group, we will wait to receive the analysed sensor data and feedback from the King's College London RESET project, and take action where required.







## Travel

Reduce emissions associated with commuting and business travel

### Highlights

#### Commute to campus

- Following collaboration between the Estates Division and the LSE Bicycle User Group, we have increased the number of cycle parking spaces on campus from 538 in 2018/19 to 999 in 2021/22, an 85 per cent increase over the last three years.
- 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 and 33 per cent per cent on the rental of a Santander bike.
- The LSE Sustainability Team continued to collaborate with the Northbank Business Improvement District Corporate Social Responsibility Steering Group, which included work to increase cycle parking and facilities in our local area.
- Over 60 members of the LSE community benefitted from free bike checks and repairs through our termly Dr Bike pop-ups on campus.

#### Business travel

- This year, a key area of focus was our Digital Smart campaign, which aims to continue making the most of digital solutions and skills learnt during the lockdowns to reduce our reliance on business travel (among other things, e.g., printing) as part of delivering our net zero carbon targets. The campaign provides tools and resources to encourage staff to attend and organise meetings and events online rather than travelling.
- All air and rail travel booked by departments through our travel management company now include the purchase of high quality carbon credits to mitigate carbon emissions for those journeys that are necessary.
- In 2021/22 LSE staff took just over 2,000 air and rail journeys, covering 5.8 million kilometres and emitting 865 tonnes of carbon. Over 96 per cent of these emissions were linked to air travel. This is an almost 56 per cent reduction in carbon emissions compared to our baseline year of 2018/19, but we are aware that travel might still be reduced as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns.

## Next steps

- We plan to develop a new travel plan in 2022/23 for the campus, based on the changes to travel presented by a post-pandemic world.
- We will work with departments to increase the number of journeys booked through our travel management company rather than claimed through expenses to improve the quality of data we capture.
- We will explore becoming an accredited Cycle Friendly Employer, which will enable even more support for those cycling to campus.





## Biodiversity and green spaces

Enhance biodiversity on the LSE estate by protecting and connecting habitats

### Highlights

- LSE's Marshall Building opened in early 2022, which has several new roof terraces that greatly enhance our biodiversity corridor across campus towards Lincoln's Inn Fields.
- LSE Bees: we have two active hives that have had their best summer yet; producing more than 200 jars of honey.
- We added extensive new perimeter planters to the roof surrounding the LSE bees, fully planted with pollinator-friendly plants for bees, hoverflies and butterflies to forage on.
- We gained our first Hedgehog Friendly Campus Bronze Level award for our efforts in raising awareness of hedgehogs/UK biodiversity, conducting litter picks, and ensuring our sportsground is as conducive as possible to hedgehog populations.

### Next steps

- We aim to maintain the Bronze Level award for the Hedgehog Friendly Campus campaign and look at the possibility of introducing hedgehogs to the Sportsground.
- We will install automatic irrigation system for the new LSE Bees perimeter planters.
- We will explore the possibility of tree planting at the LSE Sportsground to add to the biodiversity there.

# Sustainability Awards



Our annual celebration of sustainability highlights achievements and projects across the year that bring about positive environmental impact.



Our 2022 event was held in-person at Shaw Library, Old Building on Monday 30 May with approximately 60 attendees. It was the first in-person event for two years.

## Green Impact Results

### Platinum

LSE Library, LSE Careers, Estates Division, Fourth Floor Restaurant (OLD)

### Gold

Passfield Halls of Residence, The Marshall Institute, Human Resources, High Holborn Halls of Residence, Carr Saunders Halls of Residence, Bankside Halls of Residence, Finance Division, Department of Government, Department of Methodology

### Silver

Rosebery Halls of Residence, Butlers Wharf Halls of Residence, LSE Events

### Bronze

Department of Geography and Environment

## Green Impact Sustainability Heroes

Dafina Rama, LSE Library  
Dene Donkin, Estates Division  
Karen Agate-Hilton, LSE Catering  
Vjosana Kurti, Bankside Halls of Residence  
Social Policy Green Team Student Reps

## Sustainable Halls 2021/22 Winner

Butlers Wharf Halls of Residence

## Sustainability Award Winners



### Education

Dr Ellis Saxey  
Jillian Terry and Chris Blunt



### Research

Seneshaw Tamru  
Giovanni Fabris



### Engagement and Leadership

Lewis Humphreys and  
Kathryn Goodfellow  
Terri Arnold



### Investment

Jorge Stevensen  
Mike Ferguson and Jenny Febry



### Collaboration

Jorge Stevensen and  
Alice Rigo-Saitta



### Our School

Rosa Gil  
Annette Haas

# Continue the conversation...

**[lse.ac.uk/sustainableLSE](https://lse.ac.uk/sustainableLSE)**

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

This information can be made available in alternative formats,  
on request. Please contact, [sustainability.team@lse.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability.team@lse.ac.uk)

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