



Sustainability Strategic Plan - Autumn term 2023/24 progress updates

As gathered by the Head of Sustainability.

Previous updates can be found linked on the [Delivery and Decision-Making](#) webpage.



Education - *Embedding sustainability across our teaching and learning experiences*

- The Eden Centre has recently concluded the first edition of the Education for Sustainability Internships and are in the planning stages for the next edition. The programme provides students with the opportunity to collaborate with academic staff to enhance their course curriculum in the field of education for sustainability.
- The next Education for Sustainability (EfS) meeting has been scheduled for November. During this meeting, the students' experiences from the internship programme will be followed up on. The EfS network brings together LSE staff and students interested in advancing education for sustainability throughout the school.
- A project proposal, submitted to Change Makers, has been accepted. The Eden Centre is currently in the process of reviewing students' applications. This project aims have students researching the strategies related to education for sustainability within other UK universities to then develop recommendations for LSE.
- A paper to the LSE education committee has been submitted, which was presented by Dr. Erica Pani, the Academic Lead for Education for Sustainability. This paper emphasizes the need to prioritise LSE's commitments towards Education for Sustainability, and it has been positively received by the committee.
- An event for Green Week is being planned. Education will be collaborating with students from the LSESU and Sustainability Team to showcase their work on Education for Sustainability.



Research - *Shaping the global sustainability debate through our research*

- Sustainability continues to be a key theme in research funding applications - making up 29% of all requested funding for grants and fellowships and 21% of the number of submitted proposals during 2022/23. Thematic areas include just transitions, green finance, 15-minute cities, and community and societal resilience.
- During the 2022/23 financial year, significant levels of funding (over £5.5 million) continued to be secured from new and existing supporters of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment across all income-generating teams within PAGE: Foundation Partnerships, Corporate Engagement, Regular Giving, Philanthropy and Leadership Philanthropy.



Engagement and Leadership - *Deepening public discussion on sustainability across the world*

- Under India's G20 presidency, the report 'Strengthening Multilateral Development Banks, The Triple Agenda: Report of the Independent Experts Group' has been well-received by G20 members.
- Nick Stern attended the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact, held in Paris in June 2023.
- Nick Stern will also be attending COP 28.
- China has announced its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2060; it's particularly important that China's 5-year plan aligns with this commitment.
- Nick Stern is undertaking discussions to develop India's transition plans.
- The second National Infrastructure Assessment by the National Infrastructure Committee has been published. The assessment sets out how the UK can have a low carbon and resilient economy with infrastructure that supports economic growth and protects the natural environment.

- Environment Week (September 11th-14th 2023) by the Economics Department has been noted as an important week and should highlight the work of the department. An Economics Department representative will be invited to an SLB meeting.



Investment - Making sustainability a key part of our investment decisions

- After discussions with the Grantham Institute, the Finance Division completed the School's annual submission to Principles of Responsible Investment over the summer. Their analysis reports for our scoring have not yet been released but will be reported to the Board when completed.
- LSE are currently undergoing the assurance exercise with DNV, regarding the £125 million green bond issued under the Sustainable Finance Framework. An impact and assurance report is currently under development, within the eligible categories of green buildings (with Estates Capital Development Team) and providing access to students from low, socioeconomic backgrounds (with FSO and Widening Participation).
- At the June 2023 meeting, the Investment Sub-Committee approved an additional 3.5% allocation to funds aligned with reducing climate change. The fund selected is Ninety-One Global Environment fund. This takes the overall allocation to 8.5% of its main portfolios.
- The continued review of our investment exposure, in line with the ESG policy, identified a breach in one of our portfolios, that is currently underway to being replaced with a compliant alternative holding.



Collaboration - Working in partnerships within LSE and externally

- The Sustainable Futures Society presented the update.
- A 'Careers in Sustainability' event was organized and held - 5 speakers, 400 sign-ups and 200 attendees.
- Looking to meet with University of Greenwich regarding how LSE sustainability in education has been embedded.
- Recycling bins were purchased last year for the Zero Waste Project. A contact is needed to help distribute these across LSE halls.
- The Sustainable Futures Society will be put in contact with the relevant staff to assist in the rollout.



Our School - Reaching Net Zero Carbon and reducing our environmental impacts

- The electrification/decarbonisation of Cheng Kin Ku Building have been completed.
- Old Building will be approached and managed similarly to Cheng Kin Ku.
- Net Zero scopes 1 and 2 by 2030 unlikely due to having to decant users from buildings before major upgrades can take place.
- Plans to strip Pankhurst House and Fawcett House to frames, then reclad. PassivHaus, 3 year development for both towers) but there is a spacing issue for current occupants. Feasibility study is currently underway of staggered approach and will be complete in December 2023.
- Two investment grade bids have been made for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme - the Lionel Robbins Building and Connaught House, where boilers are currently at the end of life. Rollout will be similar to that of CKK and OLD, however bid submission is currently being delayed (bid for £2.8 million estimated).
- The Project Board convened for the Public Realm Proposal - proposed pedestrians and landscaping for Portugal Street - phased approach to be taken.