



Sustainability Strategic Plan - Winter 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

- Eden Centre have launched the second edition of the Education for Sustainability internships and selected successful academic staff applications. The chosen applicants will now proceed to recruit students within their departments, and students will be able to start their internship, concluding by the end of July 2024. This internship program, sponsored by the Eden Centre, provides students with the opportunity to collaborate with academic staff to enhance their course curriculum in the field of education for sustainability.
- The Education for Sustainability project proposal to Change Makers (student partnership project led by the Eden Centre) has been successful, and students have been selected and are currently working on a research project aimed at examining strategies related to education for sustainability developed by other UK universities. The goal is to produce recommendations for LSE to advance Education for Sustainability across the School.
- Education for Sustainability is now one of the key themes considered by the Eden Catalyst Fund for innovative education projects. The Eden Catalyst Fund supports evidence-based education enhancement and innovation projects, providing grants of up to £10,000. The fund supports initiatives that contribute to the development and delivery of education enhancement activities at the School. Learn more here: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Eden-Centre/Education-research-and-funding>.
- Education for Sustainability are planning an event for Green Week or later in the Spring term and are in touch with students from LSESU and LSE Sustainability Team to use the event as an occasion to showcase our collaborative work on Education for Sustainability.
- Discussions are being undertaken regarding the possibility, and feasibility, of employing Martina Rotolo's work, which involved mapping LSE courses to determine the extent to which sustainability topics are embedded in the School curriculum, to potentially trial and design cross-departmental sustainability pathways in the incoming years.
- LSE LIFE, LSE Sustainability and the LSESU on 30 November 2023 organised a climate change workshop for students to explore and debate in groups the interrelated causes and consequences of climate change, using a specially designed illustrated card game.
- The LSE Eden Centre has also launched the second edition of the LSE Congress which is a simulation activity where students are invited to explore how LSE's research can contribute to the progress towards the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Each Departmental team selected for the Congress will produce an 'advance submission' for the LSE Congress summit, which will be held on Friday 22 March 2024. These advance submissions will explain the rationale for choosing the particular SDGs and the contribution their department can make to their progress.



Research - Shaping the global sustainability debate through our research

a. Research

i. Research Applications and Awards:

1. LSE submitted three research grant applications linked to sustainability in Autumn 2023:

- a. Professor David Luke (Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa) submitted an application to the ESRC on the global transition to net zero. Value: £548,787
- b. Dr Nisar Majid (LSE IDEAS) applied to the ESRC with a project focused on anti-famine politics. Value: £315,268
- c. Dr Akash Koppa (Grantham Research Institute) applied to the EU with a project exploring sustainable hydropower. Value: £172,585
2. LSE received three research awards connected to sustainability in Autumn 2023:
 - a. Professor Oriana Bandiera (STICERD) was awarded £19,999 from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to explore climate adaptation and disaster relief in Pakistan.
 - b. Dr Gharad Bryan (STICERD) received two awards from the FCDO. The first explores spatial vulnerabilities in Punjab (£19,836) and the second examines chronic flooding and waste management in Accra (£19,918).
3. Dr Rebecca Elliott (Sociology) won the prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize for her work on climate change. The prize recognises the achievement of outstanding researchers whose future career is exceptionally promising.
4. The Research Impact Support Fund (RISF) funded 5 projects in 2023 connected to sustainability. The scheme supported Dr Katarzyna Mikolajczak's (GRI) project on behavioural service design and conservation, Dr Maron Dumas's (GRI) research on green product innovation, Dr Liam Beiser-Mcgrath's (Social Policy) examination of the impact of the energy crisis on voter preferences, Dr Candice Howarth's (GRI) work on heat risks in the UK, and Francesca Panero's (statistics) study on forecasting food insecurity.
- ii. Research Impact: An authoritative analysis of REF2021 impact case studies, commissioned by Research England, has highlighted the Grantham Research Institute (GRI) for its work informing the development of international net zero policy agreements. Citing support for the Paris Agreement and the usefulness of the Climate Change Laws of the World database specifically, the GRI was featured among those case studies which were found to have been 'instrumental in informing, directing and reinventing the entire spectrum of decarbonisation and emission reduction initiatives towards net zero'.
- iii. LSE Consulting: There has been a wide range of consulting projects which feature sustainability, a summary of each is provided below:
 1. Training for JP Morgan senior managers on sustainability delivered by the Grantham and Marshall Institutes
 2. Lei Bian (GRI), Professor Elizabeth JRobinson (GRI) and Professor Susana Mourato are undertaking a scoping project for UKRI on areas for collaboration with China on net zero and climate goals.
 3. Dr Brendan Curran (GRI) produced a synthesis review on just transitions for Agulhas Applied Knowledge Ltd
 4. Dr Alina Averchenkova (GRI) worked with the European Climate Foundation as an expert advisor.
 5. Dr Philipp Rode (LSE Cities) worked with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to deliver sustainable mobility training.
 6. Lea Reitmeier (GRI) is the researcher on a literature review exercise for Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment (GRASFI) exploring the robustness of net zero commitments within the financial sector.
 7. Kate Higham (GRI) is working with the United Nations Environment Programme to develop a standard operating procedure for the periodic review of the overarching climate change module, including any recommendations regarding improvements to the overall toolkit.
 8. Joshua Burke (GRI) is working with the World Bank Group on a report which seeks to understand the political economy of carbon pricing.
- iv. LSE Generate:
 1. LSE Generate organised a range of sustainability related activities, including:
 2. Skills workshop on Creating Your Vision and Strategy for 2024 with Paola Millet, consultant on sustainability-focused social enterprises.

3. Skills workshop on Value Proposition and Purpose with Peter Ptashko, sustainability and impact consultant.
 4. Level Up session on Sustainability and Impact with Josh Eyre, sustainability consultant
 5. Continued working with Carbon Jacked to work on recommendations made in the sustainability report they created for Generate.
 6. Tasked Girls' Day School Trust Students undertaking the LEAD programme as part of Mentorpreneurship to come up with business initiatives which link closely to sustainability.
- v. Research Engagement:
1. The Vice President (Research) Professor Susana Mourato gave a public lecture on the impact of exposure to chemicals on IQ during an official visit to Fudan University, one of our principal partner universities in China (November 2023).
 2. In Autumn 2023 the following events and content included sustainability related topics:
 - a. World Café - Can global climate action save the world? 6 LSE researchers from 5 academic units, over 40 attendees from 20 departments.
 - b. Public Lecture, 'An Industrial Strategy for the Green Economy' with Heather Boushey, Ed Miliband MP, Dr Arkebe Oqubay and Dr Anna Valero. 625 attendees, 12,587 podcast downloads.
 - c. Book launch PLP and Instagram video for David Stainforth "Predicting our climate future: what we know, what we don't know, what we can't know". Event attendance: 506. Podcast: 8,649 downloads LSE Thinks: 28,000 views.
 - d. Other Instagram videos: Green belts: what are they for? Paul Cheshire, 51,900 views. The world's first carbon removed gig, Leo Mercer, 51,700 views.
 - e. Research for the World online magazine articles: "Prioritising climate change: why international organisations are reinventing policy from the bottom up" Noah Zucker, IR. "What's at stake at COP28? Recommended reads for understanding the response to the climate crisis".
 - f. LSE also published six sustainability themed blog posts across the LSE Blogs platform.



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

a. Engagement & Leadership - PAGE

- vi. Ongoing support from across PAGE teams to support sustainability related areas of work across the LSE: research, policy impact, students support and buildings.



Investment - *Making sustainability a key part of our investment decisions*

• Investment

- Undertaken since last Sustainability Leadership Board
 - Underwent an assurance engagement undertaken by DNV on the usage of the School's private placement funds (£125m) and that these were used in line with the School's Sustainable Finance Framework- final report to be published.
 - Joined the University of Cambridge and other HEI's in a request for proposal initiative for the banking sector to develop more sustainable deposits and money market funds for the sector to utilise. This has been published on Cambridge's [webpage](#) as well as the FT- link [here](#).
- Currently Underway

- Updating the School's ESG screens on its portfolios for the TPI's latest ratings on the Oil & Gas sector.
- Undertaking an overall TPI rating analysis of the School's portfolios for all TPI rated holdings.

Collaboration - Working in partnerships within LSE and externally

No Update Available

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

b. Our School

i. CKK

1. Decarbonisation/electrification - complete and in operation/monitoring phase.
2. SKA Rating - being assessed now but GOLD standard expected.

ii. OLD Building

1. Decarbonisation/electrification - project on site completion due Dec 2024
2. SKA Rating - project on site completion due Dec 2024 GOLD standard targeted.

iii. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme bid for a £2.7m grant, has been successful and a formal offer letter has been received and accepted.

iv. Firoz Lalji Global Hub:

1. Passivhaus Certification
2. Net Zero carbon in construction and operation
3. BREEAM 'Outstanding' targeted
4. WELL standard 'Platinum' targeted.

v. Bankside Redevelopment:

1. Passivhaus Certification
2. Net Zero carbon in construction and operation
3. BREEAM 'Outstanding' targeted
4. WELL standard 'Platinum' targeted.

vi. Butlers Wharf Refurbishment:

1. BREEAM 'Excellent' targeted.
2. ENERFIT (EnerPHit - the Passive House Certificate for retrofits not achievable LETI (London Energy Transformation Initiative) being considered by design team.

vii. Myddleton Wing Refurbishment:

1. BREEAM 'Excellent' targeted.
2. ENERFIT not achievable, LETI being considered by design team.

c. Residential and Catering Services:

- i. Catering is still actively working on their objective 'to deliver a sustainable catering service which promotes low-carbon choices.
- ii. Since 2018, the number of meat dishes served by LSE has reduced by 38% with high carbon items reduced to just 3.5% of total sales.