



## Sustainability Strategic Plan – Summer term 2022/23 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, in collaboration with TQARO, are working on an updated list of courses focused on sustainability for the next academic term. This is due to be finalised by the end of summer.
- The Eden Centre is also working on providing a reliable audit of the curriculum ready for a program review
- A new Education for Sustainability internship initiative was launched, allowing students to work as Research Assistants alongside academic staff to further integrate sustainability into the curriculum. There are plans to replicate this project next year.
- The feasibility of an online certificate course on sustainability available for free to all students is currently being explored, which could lead to the development of an equivalent course for staff.
- Students from LSESU Sustainable Futures Society presented findings from research project on embedding sustainability in all LSE courses at an Eden Centre network meeting
- The Eden Centre organised a couple of Atlas workshops for academic staff.
- The Eden Centre is in the process of planning an Atlas workshop for next year which will feature LSE academics who have successfully embedded sustainability in the curriculum leading a workshop on the best practices they have learned.
- Surveys conducted by the TQARO team included 2/3 questions related to education for sustainability. For the sustainability questions in the UG Programme Survey, overall results increased from 61% agreement in 2021 to 82% in 2023.



### Research – Shaping the global sustainability debate through our research

- Impact news:
  - Research by Dr Siva Thambisetty (LSE Law School), has had an impact on negotiations for the UN High Seas Treaty (or Treaty on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction). There is an article and a film about her work in this month's Research for the World magazine <https://www.lse.ac.uk/research/research-for-the-world/sustainability/protecting-the-high-seas>.
- Project news:
  - This year's Research & Income Support Fund awarded 6 out of 21 grants on projects with a sustainability area of focus - including food insecurity, the energy crisis, heat risk, wildlife co-existence, degrowth and green product innovation.
  - LSE submitted a research centre bid to the outline call from ESRC on sustainable and low carbon living: <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/centre-in-sustainable-and-equitable-low-carbon-living/>: "Centre for Sustainable, Resilient and Equitable Low-Carbon Living (CESRELL)". The bid led by Candice Howarth from GRI combines researchers from LSE (GRI), Oxford, Edinburgh, Leeds, IFS, and Royal Society of Arts and builds on the work of CCCEP and PCAN (at GRI).
  - An LSE Cities team is supporting GIZ (the German Development Agency) in a programme designed to help a number of German cities learn how to create sustainable change in the transport sector of their respective cities. The project (managed by LSE Consulting) helps participant cities to design a vision for their cities based on measurable environmental, social, economic and behavioural outcomes.

- Events news:
  - The 2023 LSE Festival (12-17 June) includes a number of sustainability-related activities:
  - Panel discussions as part of the main programme on the road to net zero (with speakers including Chris Skidmore) and on financing climate change in Africa, as well as an in conversation with Sadiq Khan about his new book on the problem of air pollution.
  - A short film on the Sixth Mass Extinction.
  - An interactive display in the main Festival exhibition 'Mapping People and Change' that maps the audience's views about planetary health and climate change solutions.
  - A workshop for children, run by LSE Generate entrepreneurs, on sustainable fashion.
- Entrepreneurship news:
  - LSE Generate has started working with its selected 11 teams for its annual acceleration programme (GAP). All businesses are addressing at least 1 of the UN SDGs within their business canvas and the theme of sustainability runs through the programme, separating it from standard acceleration models.
  - During the Research Festival, LSE Generate will be hosting a Makers Market which will be comprised of alumni and local sustainable food products and catering.
  - LSE Generate travelled to Paris in May as part of their annual social innovation trek – the focus for the first day was on sustainable food and fashion – the students met with alumni start-ups and organisations based in Paris who are working on sustainable solutions from fast fashion to ESG reporting.
  - LSE Generate is working with Carbon Jacked to look at how the team can reduce its carbon footprint across its entire programming activity. The alumni start-up will also offer clinics for current Founders as they create their own sustainability strategies. In June, the Generate and Carbon Jacked team will be visiting Kigali, Rwanda as part of the international chapter programme and will be working on a carbon offsetting project together amongst other sustainable projects.



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

- The Grantham Research Institute (GRI) were involved with the Songwe-Stern-Bhattacharya report for the COP26/27 presidencies and a second round with the COP27/COP28 presidencies on climate finance.
- Nick Stern was involved with India's G20 presidency, including the G20 MDB expert group, direct interactions with Jeremy Hunt, the UK Chancellor (which led to Anna Valero of CEP being asked to join the Economic Advisory Council), helped take forward the Coalition of Finance Ministers on Climate Action, and involved in the Macron Summit of 2023.
- The 2023 LSE Festival (12-17 June) includes a number of sustainability-related activities:
- Panel discussions as part of the main programme on the road to net zero (with speakers including Chris Skidmore) and on financing climate change in Africa, as well as an in conversation with Sadiq Khan about his new book on the problem of air pollution.
- A short film on the Sixth Mass Extinction.
- An interactive display in the main Festival exhibition 'Mapping People and Change' that maps the audience's views about planetary health and climate change solutions.
- A workshop for children, run by LSE Generate entrepreneurs, on sustainable fashion.



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

- The School's investment portfolios (including capital project portfolios) have been screened in line with the new ESG policy.
- ISC has agreed to invest in Climate Change funds (currently a 5% allocation). Aim to publish details around this on the Responsible Investment webpage.
- Approved and published the School's new ESG policy (approved at Council in Nov 22) which is linked to the Grantham Research Institute's TPI tool.

- Finance Division has begun analysis and reporting on the usage of funds from the School's latest private placement (£125m) which were issued under the Sustainable Finance Framework and will be subject to an assurance review.

### **Collaboration** - Working in partnerships within LSE and externally

- No update available from student representatives at the time of publishing.
- The LSESU Charity Shop continues to run on campus, until the end of Summer Term. The shop is run by environmental societies at LSE, and LSESU RAG (Raising and Giving). We hope it will help nudge behaviour towards buying pre-loved, and LSE Sustainability have also utilised the space to run two clothing repair cafes.
- LSE Changemakers programme had two sustainability-themed presentations this year by students (waste signage and embedding sustainability in the curriculum)
- Green Impact, LSE's staff sustainability engagement programme, ended for 2022-23. 18 teams received awards, of which 9 were for platinum.
- Our Annual Celebration of Sustainability was embedded with LSE's Values in Practice Awards this year, to give the sustainability work a bigger platform. In addition to the Green Impact awards, 7 more sustainability awards were distributed to the LSE Community.
- To coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week, two webinar sessions of Climate Anxiety were arranged in May. Climate Anxiety is gaining prominence, especially amongst younger people, and the sessions were very well received.
- Staff visits to the LSE Bees and the Rooftops were extremely popular. The latter was organised in collaboration with LSE Library.
- LSE Phelan US Centre ran a climate change arts competition, to coincide with the launch of their new podcast series, Climate Change: America and the World. Some impressive creativity was shown through various artist mediums.
- Bankside Halls of Residence won this year's Sustainable LSE Halls Campaign. The campaign engaged close to 400 students, and saved 62 tonnes of CO2.

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

The Sustainability Operations Group met 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and it's [updated action plan is available online](#).

- Review of environmental and energy management system for the ISO recertification in July 2023.
- Waste and energy tenders being undertaken, also need to undertake Compensate retender (offset provider), due to scale-down of operations.
- Estate travel plan - survey scheduled to be undertaken September
- Communications plan for 2023/2024 in development - across various stakeholders; key touch points; means of engagement.
- People and Planet categories being reviewed to propose near and long-term recommendations of initiatives.