



## Sustainability Strategic Plan – Lent term 2021/22 progress updates

Previous updates can be found online - [2021/22 MT progress updates](#) and [2020/21 progress tracker](#)



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

- Following the launch of LSE's [Education for Sustainability initiative](#) in June, work is progressing to ramp up activity under the leadership of Erica Pani as academic lead, supported by the Eden Centre for Education Enhancement, academics, LSESU Sustainable Futures Society, and sustainability.
- Education for Sustainability was the theme of the 23<sup>rd</sup> February Lent Term LSE Education Forum - *Bringing the World into Our Classrooms*, with perspectives from a diverse range of LSE Departments:
  - Paul Apostilidis, Government – LSE Public Research Partners project
  - Tom Smith, Geography and Environment – Connecting students to Kerala, and virtual fieldwork in South-East Asia
  - Jillian Terry and Chris Blunt, LSE100 – Embedding sustainability into an existing module, and designing a new sustainability stream for LSE100
  - Ganga Shreedhar, Psychology and Behavioural Science – Integrating sustainability into quantitative methods teaching, and designing a dedicated course
- The Eden Centre is due to appoint a new *Programme Manager: Education for Sustainability* 0.6 FTE post to ramp up activities, funded as part of the Education for Global Impact agenda.
- LSE Careers launched its new 'Careers in Sustainability' programme mid-November. This included a range of events to connect students with alumni working in this field. This proved an extremely popular initiative and LSE Careers is developing further projects. LSE Careers' *Energy and Environment sector* page is being fully updated, and a new *Sustainability sector* page was developed, both to go live soon.
- Dpt Geography and Environment and Grantham Research Institute are developing a new online sustainability course for a business audience, as part of expanding LSE's online educational offer.



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

- Sustainability continues to be a key theme in research communications. It was a key theme of the LSE Research and Impact Support Fund 2021/22, receiving about 20% of applications.
- Research and Innovation Division and Sustainability are in discussion with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation to secure a high-profile speaker to participate in a circular economy themed event as part of the LSE Festival 2021/22 in June.
- Research and Innovation Division, Grantham Research Institute and Sustainability are collaborating on a sustainability themed LSE researchers networking event on 22 March. This follows strong demand a follow-up at our sustainability research event which took place in November.
- The [map of LSE sustainability research opportunities](#) was published on our website, as a tool to inspire contributions from colleagues who may be less familiar with sustainability. The Library and Research and Innovation Division are conducting a citations analysis against the map's themes and topics.



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

- LSE was a winner in the highly prestigious **Queen's Anniversary Prizes 2021**, recognising the Grantham Research Institute and LSE's leading international role in the economics, investment policy and legislation essential for the implementation of practical measure addressing climate change.
- Times Higher Education published an [interview of LSE Director Minouche Shafik](#) (Nov 2021) on the theme of embedding sustainability in Higher Education and LSE's commitment and approach.

- LSE's Annual Sustainability Report 2020/21 was published in February 2022, supported by an LSE News story entitled [LSE's commitment to sustainability 'stronger than ever'](#) .
- The Grantham Research Institute (GRI) actively contributed to COP26 Glasgow including media engagement (eg Bob Ward, GRI Director of Coms interview on BBC Breakfast), and has already formed a working group in preparation for COP27 in Egypt.
- 15 Years on from the Stern Review event attracted an international audience in the ramp-up to COP26.



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

- The Finance division with support from Sustainability developed LSE's Sustainable Finance Framework to support the raising of financing to fund a range of environmentally and socially sustainable projects led by LSE. The Framework was approved by LSE's Senior Management Committee in February and external communications will take place later in March.
- Following discussions at the Sustainability Leadership Board, the process for developing a revised Socially Responsible Investment policy is progressing, with a working group made of members of the Investment Sub-Committee having met on several occasions.
- Finance division, Sustainability and Internal communications have developed and engagement and consultation plan with a series of workshops due to take place in March 2022.



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

We continue to collaborate with a varied range of external partners including:

- A meeting took place between the CEO of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation for circular economy and the School's Director and Pro-Director for Research. Upgrade from member to partner discussed and awaiting details from the Foundation. Working with Research and Innovation Division for a circular economy event to take place as part of the LSE Festival 2021/22 in June.
- Taking part in Higher Education best practice forums, including Higher London, the Russell Group and the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), and participating in a working group led by Westminster City Council on sustainability for the Strand Aldwych area.

The LSE Student Union 2021 Green Week took place w/c 24 January on the theme of COP 26.

The LSESU Sustainable Futures Society continues to support a range of projects including investigating sustainable food packaging options for LSE Catering and increasing recycling in halls.

The Society manages the Sustainable Projects Fund, which received application for 9 projects and the committee awarded a combined total of £18,300 to LSE staff and students led projects.

<b>Sustainable Project Fund 2021/22</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
LSE Athletics Union reusable water bottles	£2,200
Careers in Sustainability: creating new digital resources to inform and inspire students	£1,000
Global Circular Challenge 2022 (Dpt Geography and Environment)	£5,000
Cambridge Eco-Mosque project trip	£2,000
LSE Fashion Show 2021/22 - 'Fashion with a Conscience'	£1,000
Sustainable Periods Project - education and awareness on the use of menstrual cups	£1,600
Student Halls Recycling Bins	£ 500
Passfield Hall Garden Redevelopment	£2,000
Phelan US Centre Syllabus Hub on Sustainability and Climate Change	£3,000
<b>Approved funding (up to)</b>	<b>£18,300</b>

The Sustainability Operations Group met 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 and it's [updated action plan is available online](#).

A short selection of updates:

- **Carbon** – Campus Electrification Group was created September 2021 to lead on Net Zero Carbon 2030 efforts and has met monthly since. See Board paper 1b for details.
- **Waste & Resources** – Our new cardboard recycling baler is now operational which has made manual handling easier and quicker for cleaning operatives. Separately new signage is being put in place in external waste areas, and campus internal bins signage is being updated with the help of students.
- **Water** – Work is progressing to switch water supplier, moving from Castle Water who have consistently performed poorly, to Wave under the higher education TEC framework. To enable the switch Sustainability team is working with Finance Division and TEC to resolve historic contested billing.
- **Catering** – LSE Catering successfully obtained a top 3-star rating in the Sustainable Restaurant Association scheme, rating above 70% on environmental, societal, and sourcing criteria.
- **Biodiversity** – LSE obtained its first Bronze award in the Hedgehog Friendly Campus scheme, recognising our efforts to raise awareness on hedgehogs conversation as well as practical steps to create welcoming habitat for hedgehogs at our sports grounds in Surrey.
- **#SustainableLSE in halls** – Waste audits were conducted in halls kitchens, and the results are being communicated to students to encourage recycling. A second round of audits will take place this term.
- **Built environment** – Specialised sustainability consultants BDP have been appointed to support the development of a detailed sustainability design brief for 35 LIF.
- **Procurement** – Sustainability considerations are being embedded into the upcoming office removals and multi-function devices printers tenders.