



## Sustainability Strategic Plan – Lent term 2022/23 progress updates

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



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

- An external speaker (Sarah Gretton from the University of Leicester) was invited to last term's Atlas workshop to talk about framing the SDGs in the curriculum. Dr Abby Innes, Dr Jillian Terry, Dr Michael Lerner and Nick Rowley are presenting on 'how we can rethink our teaching to advance our education for sustainability' at this term's workshop.
- The new Education for Sustainability webpages have now been published to record progresses, provide information about future events and resources available to advance education for sustainability across the School.
- Students have now been selected for internships financed by EGI Funds to support integrating sustainability in the curriculum.
- Work is continuing to enable students to find LSE modules relating to sustainability more easily through a search tool. The option of having 'sustainability pathways' through degrees is also being explored.
- LSE Careers organised two weeks of events as part of the 'Discover Sustainability Careers' programme, including panel discussions and seminars, which were well received by students. A further panel discussion session event took place this term as part of Green Fortnight with over 70 event registrations.
- For LSE100 this year, 87 group projects focused on a sustainability-related topic (out of 400 total).



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

- Sustainability continues to be a key theme in research funding. Nine grants have been awarded to sustainability related projects across a range of departments, such as Grantham Research Institute, LSE Cities and Economics.
- A World Café on 'green growth or degrowth – how should we save our planet' was held, which connected students with academic research focussing on sustainability and economic development issues, engaging debate on the topic. This event took place during Green Fortnight 2023.
- LSE Research Showcase this term featured Dr Liam Beiser-McGrath on 'Does support for environmental action decrease in hard economic times?'. This event took place during Green Fortnight 2023.



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

- The Grantham Research Institute (GRI) continue to actively contribute to G7, G20 and COP28.
- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Challenge [report](#) 'Accelerating the UK Tertiary Education Sector towards Net Zero' was published that LSE was actively involved in producing.
- The Coalition of Finance Ministers on Climate Action that GRI helped set up is continuing to go well.
- Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) and GRI supported the creation of the 'Skidmore Report' in the UK on net zero, which includes recommendations on the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI).



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

- Following discussions at the Sustainability Leadership Board last term, the new ESG Policy has now been approved by Council and is live on LSE's website. Work is currently underway to screen all investment holdings to ensure they are in line with the new policy.
- LSE has joined the Institutional Investors group for Climate Change (IIGCC).
- The review and update of the website has started and is ongoing.

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

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

- Taking part in Higher Education best practice forums, including London Higher, 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.
- LSE continues to be a signatory of the London Higher Sustainability Pledge, involving sharing best-practice and data across the London HEI signatories.
- LSE is also now a participant in the Westminster City Council Sustainable City Charter.

LSESU's environmental societies opened a new pop-up charity shop on campus to sell second hand and vintage clothes, raising money for RAG charity partners.

LSE's Green Fortnight took place 27 February - 10 March, with several events taking place to educate and inspire sustainability among the LSE community, from online sessions on Greenwashing and Community Organising, to LSE academics showcasing their research related to climate through a World Cafe and informal 'fireside style' sharing session.

The Sustainability Team, in collaboration with King's College London's Sustainability team, organised several events to coincide with Repair Week (organised by ReLondon) for staff and students. This involved clothes mending, pallet upcycling and bike maintenance, and were well attended and received by the community.

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

The Sustainability Operations Group met on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and it's [updated action plan is available online](#). A short selection of updates:

- **Carbon** – Campus Electrification Group created to lead on Net Zero Carbon 2030 efforts continues to meet monthly. Two major electrification projects; NAB project is due to complete in Summer 2023 and the OLD project is due to start in April 2023. Energy saving measures have been implemented, including reducing set points on heating to 19.5c and closing down buildings completely during School breaks.
- **Catering** – over 1500 meals have been sold through the 'Too Good to Go' app, equating to 1.38 tonnes of carbon saved. The Winnow Food Waste management system is still in place at Bankside hall of residence and work is ongoing to implement ways to reduce food waste, based on the learnings from the system.
- **Biodiversity** – As part of Estates Green Impact platinum project, which is a drive on increasing biodiversity at LSE, a planting session has taken place at Passfield Hall, planting over 60 different plants, and a tree planting session at LSE Sportsground of 105 saplings. LSE received the Bronze **Hedgehog Friendly Campus** award for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running. LSE Bees ran a school wide label design competition with great interest and have sold all 200 jars harvested last year. The option of expanding the number of hives from 2 to 4 is being explored.
- **#SustainableLSE in halls** – Over 50 students conducted waste and recycling audits at the six managed halls. Resi Life is currently working on individualised feedback to share with the student flats at the start of next term.
- **Built environment** – 35LIF is at RIBA Stage 2 and ongoing collaboration is taking place across LSE with the architect teams and project managers.
- **Travel** – two Dr Bike sessions were organised this term, both very well attended, which continues to support LSE's commitment to active travel by ensuring that staff and students who cycle to campus are commuting on well-maintained bikes.