



Sustainability Strategic Plan – Summer term 2021/22 progress updates

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



Education - Embedding sustainability across our teaching and learning experiences

- The Eden Centre appointed a **Programme Manager: Education for Sustainability** in May, funded as part of the Education for Global Impact agenda. The role has been created to explore ways to embed sustainability and sustainable development in the curriculum.
- A mapping exercise of LSE modules is being undertaken to see if sustainable development is addressed; and to find opportunities for collaboration across departments.
- The first Education for Sustainability network meeting was very successful. Discussions were held on ways to engage staff in embedding sustainability in the curriculum and the priorities for the upcoming months.
- Sustainability was introduced as an integrated topic in LSE100 this academic year. From next academic year, sustainability will be one of three topics that students can choose to study as part of the programme.
- LSE Careers' *Energy and Environment* sector page has been fully updated, and a new *Sustainability* sector page was developed, both are now live, as part of the new 'Careers in Sustainability' programme.



Research – Shaping the global sustainability debate through our research

- An online sustainability course, as part of Extended Education, is currently in development.
- Sustainability continues to be a key theme in research funding. Three projects have been funded (£50-60K overall) across a range of departments.
- Research and Innovation Division and Sustainability secured a high-profile speaker from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation for a panel event - *'Rethinking our disposable society'* – how to build a circular economy' during the LSE Festival 2021/22, which took place in June. The session was well attended.



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

- The Grantham Research Institute (GRI) continue to actively contribute to G7, COP26 and COP27.
- LSE was a winner in the highly prestigious **Queen's Anniversary Prizes 2021** and has now been invited to be part of a new innovative 12-month long programme – **the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Challenge** - to create a roadmap for tertiary education to reach net zero.



Investment - Making sustainability a key part of our investment decisions

- LSE secured a £175 million **Sustainable Private Placement** for green and social projects at the School, including the development of a new building, the **Firoz Lalji Global Hub** at 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields. This was [externally communicated](#) in April 2022.
- 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 developed an engagement and consultation plan with a series of workshops which took place in March 2022 for the whole LSE community. Evaluation of the consultation is taking place and being discussed at the Investment Sub-Committee in July.

Collaboration - Working in partnerships within LSE and externally

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

- Upgrade from member to partner of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation currently in discussion, awaiting final details from the Foundation.
- 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 LSESU Sustainable Futures Society continues to support a range of projects including embedding sustainability in the curriculum 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.

Sustainable Project Fund 2021/22	Awarded
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
Approved funding (up to)	£18,300

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

The Sustainability Operations Group met 16th May 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. Two major projects are in design NAB and OLD being some of our largest buildings, electrifying them is an essential part of the plan and will contribute to 15% of the reduction on target (saving circa 600tCO₂e out of the 4,000 required)
- **Water** – LSE has now managed to switch water supplier, moving from Castle Water who have consistently performed poorly, to Wave under the higher education TEC framework. This will hopefully result in a reduction in water use due to leaks being able to be identified quicker.
- **Catering** – LSE Catering have noted a positive impact since the carbon labelling on all hot food has been rolled out, the number of 'red' dishes (beef/lamb) has dropped to just 3% of all meals sold.
- **Biodiversity** – Marshall Building terraces completed with planting to support (LSE) bees. The pedestrianisation of Portsmouth Street has delivered additional biodiversity habitats and aids greening of our urban campus with the new trees and plants in the area.
- **#SustainableLSE in halls** – a 67% increase in sustainable behaviours has been seen in halls this year. Butlers Wharf achieved the award for Most Sustainable Hall 2021/22 and the celebration event was well attended.
- **Built environment** – Sustainability is a key theme of the design brief for 35LIF with net zero and Passivhaus being targeted. The competition has closed, and the final designs have been shortlisted.
- **Procurement** – A 'Supplier code of practice' has now been created and sustainability considerations are prominently included.