



UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF  
ENGLAND, BRISTOL

ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY  
REPORT  
2016/2017



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## INTRODUCTION

This document reports progress towards meeting the objectives and targets set out in UWE Bristol's award-winning Sustainability Plan 2013-2020 'Positive footprint: phase 2'. Each section documents progress as well as drawing out areas where progress has been more difficult and detailing priorities for the forthcoming year.

There is a strong student voice calling for action on sustainability and student demand for institutions to manage themselves more sustainably has consistently been reported by annual NUS surveys. At UWE, the Students' Union "Green Team" has some 1500 members making it the largest society in the Students' Union.

The objectives within the Sustainability Plan respond to this student expectation while supporting the UWE 2020 Strategy core objectives in a number of ways:

- Advancing the health and sustainability of our locality and region
- Contributing to the delivery of ready and able sustainability literate graduates
- Guiding the development of sustainable estate infrastructure.

With a vision to make UWE Bristol valued as a leader, innovator and trusted partner for sustainability, the Sustainability Plan outlines the University's sustainability aims for the period 2013 – 2020 and defines the mechanisms by which sustainability is embedded within the University's day-to-day operation and effective decision making. These actions are underpinned by the university's Environmental Management System (EMS) originally certified to ISO 14001 – 2004 and successfully transitioned to ISO14001 -2015 standard in the summer of 2017. The EMS covers a wide range of university activity including the wide range of education for sustainable development activities in the formal and informal curriculum. The University and The SU @UWE are jointly accredited to the NUS Responsible Future mark and the requirements of this certification underpin, shape, support and govern reporting of ESD and related activities.

During 2016/17 the university undertook a comprehensive refresh of the Sustainability Plan. The revised and updated document reaffirmed the university's ambition and commitment and was approved for implementation by the Directorate, Academic Board and the Board of Governors. The Refreshed Plan now identifies the contribution each thematic area makes to one or more of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The logo of the SDGs which the sustainability work of the university makes a contribution is used to illustrate this report and a concluding table provides an overview of the contributions.

The university's teaching, research and community engagement activities continue to make a substantial contribution to the sustainability of the Bristol city region. The university continues to play a major role in the Bristol Green Capital Partnership which provides substantial opportunities for curriculum enhancement, staff research enquiry and knowledge exchange and student volunteering.

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The University's actions in promoting a culture of sustainability engagement were recognised internationally, nationally and locally during 2016/2017, some of which are listed below:

UWE and the SU @ UWE achieved great success in the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC) UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards in November 2016 with seven submissions being shortlisted for an award.

- Winner of Continuous Improvement – Institutional Change Award for our Sustainability Plan 2013-2020 'Positive Footprint: phase 2'.
- Winner of the Learning and Skills Award
- Winner of the Student Engagement Award in partnership with Bristol University,
- Winner of the Leadership Award – Professor James Longhurst
- Highly Commended in the Built Environment Award
- Highly Commended in the Student Engagement Award
- Finalist in the Community Award

In the spring of 2017 UWE Bristol won two of the three International Green Gowns awarded by a consortium including EAUC and its sister organisations around the world. UWE was awarded the prestigious International Green Gown Award for Student Engagement, in partnership with Bristol University whilst the Sustainability Plan received the award in the Continuous Improvement category.



## Campus Development

### CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW



#### Constructing Excellence South West Awards

UWE collected four awards at the 2017 Constructing Excellence Regional Awards including Client of the Year. This award is given to organisations that have shown exemplary excellence and best practice in their approach with building contractors and the positive impact their work has had on their organisation.



#### T Block

Since the acquisition of T Block from Hewlett Packard, the 10,000m<sup>2</sup> facility has remained largely redundant, with the only occupant being the Bristol Robotics Laboratory (BRL). Though only 30% occupied, the building then accounted for nearly 20% of the University's energy consumption, so urgent action was needed.

With investment from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and UWE, the country's first University Enterprise Zone (UEZ) was delivered. This prestigious, highly flexible research environment now acts as the catalyst for research collaboration in the field of biotechnology.

T Block has been comprehensively remodelled internally and unites BRL with the new Bristol Health Technology Laboratory. The project demonstrates true sustainability, as not only is energy consumption being dramatically reduced, but the project has transformed a redundant process building into a world-class research facility.

It was a key project driver to reduce energy consumption. The walls were outside the project scope but the roof was completely renovated, significantly improving thermal performance. The design strategy for the internal space has also played a key role in reducing energy consumption. The rooms (labs/offices/workshops) are formed of new lightweight, pods "rooms within the room". So even though the external walls have not been upgraded the thermal performance of the internal spaces has been significantly improved. High efficiency M&E plant has been used and there are plans for the building to integrate with a new 1.2MW Combined Heat and Power unit (saving 1,100 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> p/a) further reducing carbon load and energy consumption. EPC rating of AB has been achieved.

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## Campus Development

Within the 2016-17 Academic Year there has been an increase in collaboration between the Masterplanning and Sustainability and Energy Team's. This has included ad-hoc meetings and more recently the establishment of Sustainability Operations Group which acts as an implementation working group for environmental sustainability across the university's estate and operations.

The Masterplanning Team have also undertaken a review of alternative environmental assessment measures in period. As a consequence, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) SKA tool was identified as an appropriate method for refurbishment projects and is currently being trialled for the Frenchay Health Tech project, with consideration also being given to using it for the Glenside Laundry refurbishment project.

There has also been a greater use of Soft Landings principles and as a minimum these are now being adopted for all major schemes, incorporating a soft landings champion, an independent commissioning agent and 18 months post-occupancy support.



### PV

During the course of the development of T Block, it was identified that the 10,000m<sup>2</sup> flat roof offered significant opportunity for the University to increase its solar generating capacity. Following an appraisal and investment decision the University approved a project to place a solar array comprising 1,700 modules (450 kWp) which will generate over 400MWh/year of electricity to be used 100% within the Frenchay Campus. The installation is expected to provide energy for up to half of the Bristol Robotics Laboratory and University Enterprise Zone electricity consumption.

From its conception, there was close liaison with the roofing system for T Block, to ensure that additional strengthening fixings which penetrate the roof membrane would not be necessary. The selected system involves panel frames welded into place, reducing load, and reducing the need for roof penetrations and thereby risk of leaks.

A superior power harvesting and module management system has been installed along with a cloud based Solar Edge monitoring platform which provides enhanced PV performance monitoring and yield assurance through immediate fault detection which alerts at module level, string level and system level.

The £650,000 investment is providing annual savings of £55,000 and 200 tonnes of carbon per year and is a key contributor the Universities Carbon Management Plan.

## Campus Development



### Challenges

The Campus 2020 Strategic Programme remains over committed, which will require prioritisation of resources towards projects which have greater impact on the Universities main Strategic Outcomes. It remains a challenge to ensure that sustainability and environmental performance measures are not compromised in light of budgetary constraints.

Specifically, for the 2017-18 Academic Year, some of the new Campus Development Thematic Targets are dependent upon when the projects are initiated. For example the District Heat Network (DHN) Connection and Public Realm Targets will only be achieved if those projects are initiated in period.

With considerable investment over recent years in the creation of new assets, future projects are more likely to focus on the refurbishment of the residual estate as well as improving the external public realm. The benefits of these projects can be perceived as being more subjective and are therefore likely to receive greater challenge during the business case appraisal stages. Nevertheless, it is felt these types of project are important to knit the estate together, as well as creating a comparative offer with some of the new build developments.

### Focus 2017/2018

During the 2016-17 Academic Year a review was undertaken of the adequacy of the existing Campus Developments Thematic targets. As a consequence of this review a number of metrics were not considered to be appropriate, particularly space utilisation. It was felt campus development should not be driven by a space utilisation figure and that instead student experience of the space must be the priority, which makes a higher space utilisation metric more difficult to achieve.

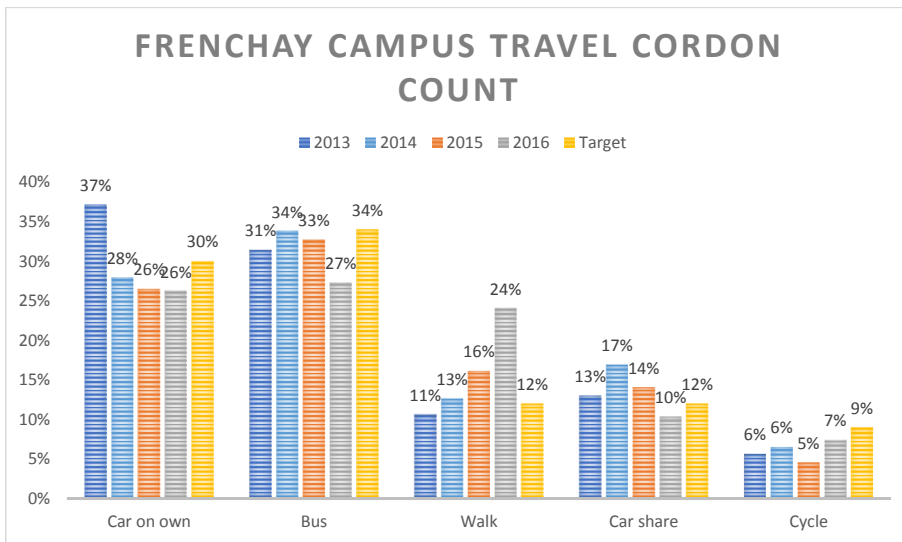


## Sustainable Travel



Targets and monitoring as part of the 2012-2016 travel plan are based on the annual Frenchay Campus cordon count.

All targets have been met or are on track except for cycling, which is slightly below target. As the cordon count is conducted on a single day at the end of November (largely to give an understanding of our peak car park demand), results for walking and cycling in particular can be quite weather dependent.



The annual staff survey (an online survey rather than cordon count) shows similar results, albeit with an increase in the cycle rate from 15% to 23%. Ongoing cycle counts also appear to indicate a steadily increasing amount of cycling to campus year on year.

The stand-out result over this period is the significant reduction in the number of single occupancy car trips to campus. This equates to a reduction of around 1000 cars per day, helping to remove around 13 miles of traffic from the roads. This reduction was also instrumental in enabling the sale of car park 20, supporting further campus development.

Year on year the biggest change appears to be a steep rise in walking and a drop-off in bus use. Trends in housing may have had an impact, as new developments around Frenchay campus come on line, and new accommodation on campus will reduce the need to arrive by bus.



### Electric transport

UWE Bristol has launched several forms of electric transport around our campuses, including: innovative hybrid buses, e-bikes, electric pool cars and vans, and even some buggies for our grounds' team.

Through various initiatives, we have encouraged and incentivised the use of electric modes of transport over more conventional polluting methods. This has resulted in a major reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions & cost and has helped drive innovation and research. Perhaps most importantly, it is helping change attitudes and behaviours towards electric powered vehicles contributing to the vision of a clean air city.

- In a joint venture with the Department of Transport, Bristol City Council and FirstGroup, UWE's bus station now has a wireless induction charger for the bus to recharge between routes. The bus also uses geo-tagging technology, switching to electric mode in areas of poor air quality.
- UWE currently provide a station for three Co-wheels car on our Frenchay campus, a Toyota Yaris Hybrid and two Mitsubishi i-MiEVs. Along with a further hybrid Outlander we now provide 4 low emission pool cars for general staff use.

UWE now has eight electric bikes designed for the use of inter-campus travel or daily business trips. We have bikes spread across our various campuses, providing opportunity for all our staff members.

The popularity of this initiative has gradually increased as word of mouth has diminished the stigma sometimes associated with electric bikes.

- The university is one of six universities to have been awarded 'Go Ultra Low Company' status - a new green standard for business motoring. The university has 13 electric and hybrid vehicles in total, representing almost 30 per cent of its fleet. So far, this equates to an investment approaching £150,000.



### Challenges

Roadworks and dissatisfaction with bus services continue. This is likely to be alleviated as the Metrobus roadworks come to an end and the new bus services begin to operate.

By restricting the number of car parking spaces and restricting who can apply for permits we have successfully reduced the amount of driving to campus. However this can lead to dissatisfaction in terms of staff and students finding parking spaces in a timely fashion and for students that have been excluded from applying for a permit. To help mitigate this we are introducing real-time parking demand signage and we are trying to improve communication to students before they arrive regarding parking available

#### Focus 2017/2018

- Continuing the student and staff travel survey, ongoing monitoring and evaluation
- Progressing campus improvements such as cycling greenways and improvements to cycle and motorcycle facilities.
- Improving the layout and safety of key junctions and entrance points on campus
- Progressing the project for expansion of the bus station and installation of an electric charging hub
- Launch of a new staff focused sustainable travel engagement campaign and ongoing student engagement.
- Refresh of UWE Travel Plan
- Enhancements to customer service and service levels

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# Sustainable Procurement

## SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW



Sustainability continues to be embedded throughout the procurement process. Our strategy is to work towards sustainable, green procurement and where appropriate, tender evaluation criteria shall include sustainability and ethical procurement.

As in previous years, we continue to look for opportunities to switch to more sustainable products where cost effective and practicable. Sustainability continues to be a standard agenda item at contract review meetings, offering regular opportunities to review existing contracts with views for improvement.

The University's Sustainability Strategy covers the period from 2013 to 2020 and contains the following objectives in relation to sustainable procurement:

- Year on year reduction in the Carbon footprint of goods & services purchased
- Target high sustainability risk suppliers to obtain a CIPS Sustainability Index score
- An increase by percentage value of local, SME and Fairtrade goods & services
- Supplier engagement in collaborative performance improvement
- Completion of lifecycle analysis for all significant tenders

University has undertaken the following activities in order to develop performance in line with these aims:

- Working with other contracting authorities to assist local SMEs, encouraging local economic development and growth.
- Ensuring that suppliers are treating their workforce in a socially sustainable manner, by requesting relevant information as part of the tender process.
- Mandating, via a Fair Payment Charter, that all tenderers adopt the University's policy of prompt payment within their own supply chain.
- Procurement staff have successfully completed the Ethical procurement training courses provided by CIPS.
- Participation in the SUPC Sustainability working group in collaboration with other institutions.

In July 2017, the university successfully transitioned to the new ISO14001:2015 standard. A number of areas around sustainable procurement practices were audited in order to gain this accreditation. This revised standard builds on previous iterations and provides a comprehensive framework for UWE to focus upon sustainable procurement; with an increased focus on the environmental impact of production and sourcing, product use and methods of disposal.





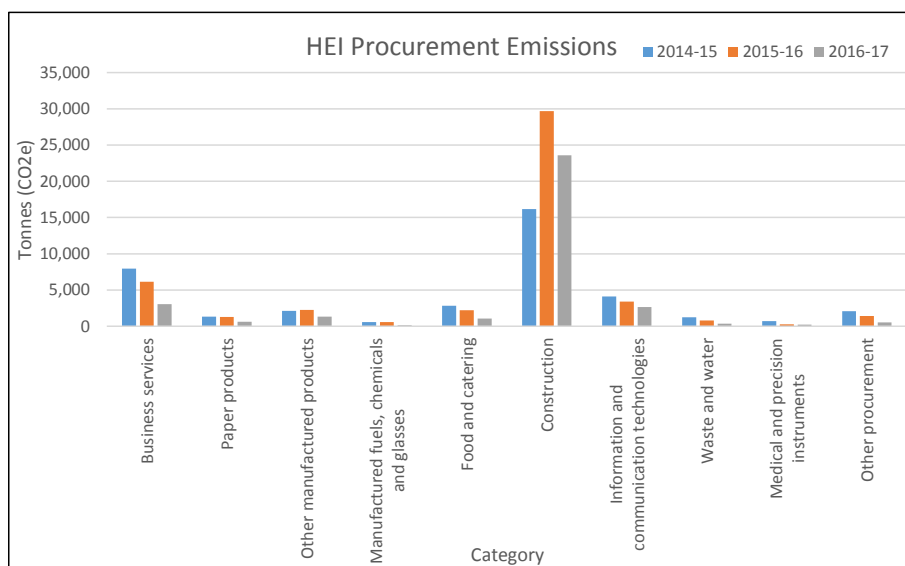
**Ethical Procurement**

Since 2014, the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) have encouraged their members to undertake additional training and certification in Ethical Procurement and Supply in light of recent supply chain issues that have had exposure in the media in recent months. Members of the Procurement team have completed this training over the past year.

**Procurement Carbon Emissions**

Using the HEFCE Scope 3 Emissions model, we are able to measure our wider procurement carbon emissions using an economic model of carbon foot printing. The spend data for 2016-17 shows UWE’s Scope 3 emissions as 33,577 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e compared to 56,131 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e for

2015-16. This significant decrease can mainly be attributed to a reduction in construction spend.





**Focus 2017-2018**

Over the next 12 months, the University will be working with NETpositive Futures in its implementation of the Flexible Framework assessment mechanism. This will involve an initial assessment to determine our current position on the framework, followed by a series of initiatives aimed at ultimately achieving Level 5.

The framework measures and develops performance in five key areas – People, Strategy, Process, Supplier Engagement and Impact Measurement – in order to demonstrate social value in the supply chain. Once improvement opportunities have been identified and put into practice, the University will be recognised as a Sustainability leader in the public sector and will be able to share good practice with other organisations.

In terms of local economic sustainable impact, we can now identify that 56% of our non-pay spend is spent within a 50-mile radius of the University. This equates to over £41m being spent in the local economy. This is instrumental in supporting the 2020 strategy.

# Green IT

## GREEN IT OVERVIEW



IT Services develop, maintain, support and secure the infrastructure and systems that are essential to UWE Bristol's day-to-day operations and play a crucial role in the 2020 strategy. From student registration to online marking, communications to building management, information technology is omnipresent and like other modern HE organisations, UWE Bristol is increasingly dependent on it.

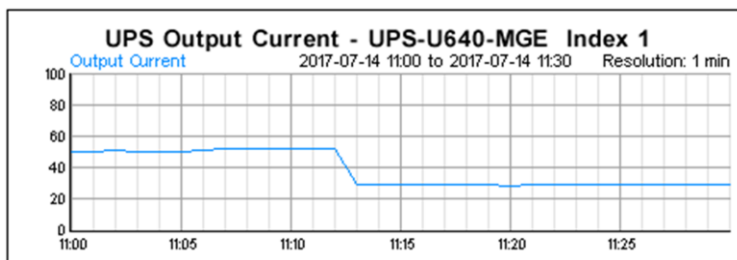
'Green IT' contributes to UWE's sustainability plan 2013-2020, by seeking to reduce the environmental impact of the systems used, as well as encouraging the use of technology as an enabler for greener ways of working. This is being achieved through the following: -

### Reducing travel

- The rollout of Skype for Business, with easily accessible audio and video conferencing, provides a viable alternative to face to face meetings. Through use of the technology, meetings with colleagues, students and partners can be conducted without the need for any participants to travel. Skype for Business is also a key enabler in supporting work from home, hot-desking and other flexible working arrangements.

### Reducing power consumption

- Verdiem power management software was implemented to monitor PC activity and proactively shutdown/sleep the device after periods of inactivity or a defined schedule. The information gathered by the software enables policies to be adjusted to balance energy efficiency with the needs of those who use the devices.
- IT Services has turned off a number of legacy systems, which have been decommissioned or replaced by more energy efficient technology. For example, power consumption was reduced by 20 AMPS, when a legacy storage system was turned off.





#### **Reducing printing**

- The increased use of Blackboard for online submissions, sharing of course materials, combined with greater access to online library resources, has significantly reduced the need for staff and students to use printing facilities.
- Improved online tools for collaboration, such as Office 365, are enabling new ways of sharing documents such as meeting agenda's and minutes, which leads to a reduction in printing.

#### **Recycling**

- All relevant IT equipment, disposed of via the IT service asset and configuration management process, is formally recycled through an agreement with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party specialist recycling company. The agreement also ensures the secure wiping of all data. Smaller items, such as telephones, keyboards and mice are recycled via the 'Scrapstore'.

#### **Green procurement**

- The University continues to procure desktop PCs, notebook PCs, displays and other IT infrastructure products, which meet the latest ENERGY STAR® standards. ENERGY STAR® considers both power consumption efficiency and the equipment's embedded emissions. The new devices replace less efficient legacy equipment.



#### **Challenges**

- Some key strategic projects have been delayed due to other priorities. An example is the new website and Content Management System (CMS) which was delayed due to a restructure in Strategic Communications, and further development of the business case. When projects are delayed, this creates a similar delay in the achievement of our Green IT agenda.





### **Building 'Green IT' into IT strategies**

1. Sustainability is embedded in our technology decision-making processes, endorsed by UWE Bristol's Board of Governors, through the Architecture Principal - *Sustainable, efficient and cost effective: We aim to make a positive contribution to UWE's sustainability ("green IT") policy, deliver value for money and improve UWE efficiency/effectiveness.*
2. IT services are formulating a three year 'Collaboration Roadmap' to plan the integration of Office 365, Blackboard Collaborate, SharePoint and other tools as appropriate, with the overall objective of providing an environment that allows staff, students and partners to effectively work together across platforms. It is anticipated that implementation of the roadmap will lead to a further reduction in the need to travel and print documents, due to enhanced sharing and online communication capabilities.
3. Delivery of the IT Strategy is measured through a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including 'Reduction in the number of systems maintained'. Achieving this KPI has financial, architectural as well as sustainability benefits.
4. A cloud strategy is being developed, which transitions the University to a 'cloud first' approach. This will lead to a reduced on premise datacentre footprint and associated carbon footprint, and provide the potential to utilise more energy efficient 3<sup>rd</sup> party data centres.
5. In 2017, IT Services moved to a software as a service IT Service Management system (IT Online), replacing the legacy on premise system. Projects and initiatives are underway to replace a number of systems.
6. Progressed projects relating to other legacy systems for which there are software as a service alternatives, including the HR system, Student CRM and Student Information System.

IT Services are working with other departments to identify where technology can be used to improve the management and utilisation of the physical estate. This includes exploring smart campus technologies, which will provide options for improving the energy efficiency of buildings and inform dialogue around more efficient use of the University's estate.

UWE Bristol are continuing to follow industry best practice for green IT and are positioned well to meet/exceed the targets set.

#### **Focus 2017/2018**

- Complete the cloud strategy and datacentre roadmap, both aligned to the IT Strategy, with a view to reducing the on premise datacentre provision and improving energy efficiency
- Actively progress the removal of old equipment and infrastructure as part of maintenance plans and system replacement projects (e.g. CMS, HR Online phase II and Student CRM)
- Review and, where appropriate, improve IT processes (such as Service Asset and Configuration Management) to ensure Green IT practices are fully embedded.
- Through the ITS Sustainability team, seek to raise awareness of the recycling of IT equipment

## Education for Sustainable Development

### EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW



During 2016, UWE, Bristol refreshed its KPIs and targets for education for sustainable development (ESD) as part of a wider Sustainability Plan refresh. In order to do this, we assessed progress to date against existing targets and realised that, owing to the successful achievement of a number of these goals, we had the opportunity to set ourselves more ambitious goals for 2017 and beyond.

Key to our success is the support given to sustainability education representatives in each academic department. Curriculum and behavioural change has been reinforced by the inclusion of sustainability into core institutional policies, strategies and practice.

To promote engagement across all functions, presentations and other staff development activities on sustainability and more recently on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are delivered at key times, such as staff induction, but also throughout the year and to key groups, such as new staff, trainee academics, programme leaders, heads of department and associate deans with responsibility for teaching and learning. A dedicated sustainability team support sustainable practice across the university but responsibility is also distributed across all roles and responsibilities.

To further support engagement by academics, templates for annual monitoring and reporting and for curriculum review all now include a requirement to consider education for sustainable development (ESD) and dedicated staff and resources support staff in meeting this requirement. Programme teams must ensure that their graduates demonstrate the UWE graduate attributes, and this further encourages engagement with issues aligned to the SDGs and is core to the significant impact which the university can have in helping to achieve the SDGs, via its graduates.

Working with others for sustainability is facilitated via, for example, a knowledge exchange for sustainability education (KESE) which comprises academics from all departments as well as professional service staff. The university's work with its students' union helps to ensure that students are offered a wide variety of formal and extra curricular opportunities to engage with sustainable development. The university is also actively engaged with external partners to support sustainability, not least of all via the Bristol Green Capital Partnership, a community interest company which exists to bring organisations in Bristol together to promote sustainability in the city.

We are actively engaged in mapping our curriculum against the SDGs to enable our ESD offer to be enhanced and made more comprehensive in terms of the scope and level of visibility of sustainability issues embedded in programme design and delivery.



University of the West of England, Bristol  
**Education for Sustainable Development**



**Sustainable Development Goal mapping examples**

**BSc(Hons) Information Technology Management for Business (ITMB)**

Issues of relevance  
 Place in the ITMB Programme

<b>1 NO POVERTY</b>	<b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b>	<b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b>	<b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b>
<b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b>	<b>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b>		
<b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b>	<b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b>	<b>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b>
<b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b>	<b>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</b>	<b>15 LIFE ON LAND</b>	<b>16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b>
<b>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b>			

**Midwifery at UWE Bristol and the Sustainable Development Goals**

Issues to be tackled  
 - Tought in the Midwifery Programme

<b>1 NO POVERTY</b>	<b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b>	<b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b>	<b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b>
<b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b>	<b>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b>		
<b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b>	<b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b>	<b>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b>
<b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b>	<b>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</b>	<b>15 LIFE ON LAND</b>	<b>16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b>
<b>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b>			



## Challenges

- Identifying a way to capture and present the range and diversity of ESD activity at UWE, Bristol is a challenge.
- Staff behaviour (including in relation to teaching and learning activity) is a commonly reported concern and barrier to achievement of whole institution ESD. Engagement of staff across all campuses requires particular consideration due to their relatively remote and dispersed location. Engagement with staff on teaching-intensive programmes also requires a thoughtful approach.
- Concerns have been raised about resource efficiency and materials use and disposal in disciplines which create physical models and products. Productive discussions between academics and the sustainability team are helping to resolve this issue.

## Focus 2017/2018

- Engagement with UWE Enhancement Framework including preparation of new guidance notes to support ESD inclusion in curriculum development and review.
- Continued working with the Students' Union on ESD, Responsible Futures and Green Impact.
- Preparation for Responsible Futures interim visit (November 2017).
- Implementation of ESD recommendations arising from ISO 14001 2015 certification in July 2017.
- Continued mapping of programmes against the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Enhanced visibility of opportunities for students to develop skills and gain experience of ESD in practice.
- Provision of staff development and activities for students to raise awareness of the SDGs including use of the Sustainability Literacy Test V2.
- Engagement with EAUC, professional bodies, HEA, Hefce/ OfS, QAA and other agencies to raise national profile and promote renewed policy commitments to ESD in HE.



For more information regarding education for sustainable development the 'ESD annual report 2017' is available on the sustainability webpages

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/about/corporateinformation/sustainability/policiesplansandtargets.aspx>

# Engagement

## ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW



### Green is the new normal –UWE Bristol’s International college.

International students can progress to a UWE Bristol degree through a preparation course at UWE Bristol’s International College run in partnership with Kaplan and based at Frenchay campus. The Sustainability team have been working with the college for 3 years now, using a variety of initiatives to engage the students and to orientate them within the university and the city of Bristol.

The students come from a range of countries and for most it is their first time living in a foreign country. To interest and engage as many students as possible, we use a multi-pronged approach and a range of interactive teaching techniques such as small group discussion, individual reflection exercises and group work. We do sustainability inductions talks, showing a range of videos; we run tours of the grounds using our on-line map, hold travel stalls and offer group bike rides, we set projects. Working with the staff of the college we work hard to show that there is life within and beyond the UWE campus, as one of the challenges for the students is to get out and about and to experience life here. Included are some photos of students who won an award for their sustainability project and a quote from their key tutor: Emma O’Hara:

‘The students really enjoyed the presentation delivered and were surprised by some of the information they learned . They all wrote really positive reviews of the talk and most seemed to have thought about how they might become more sustainable while here at UWE and in Bristol in general. The majority of them implemented very simple things such as recycling more, but some did say they had hired bikes. One group came up with the idea of a type of vending machine that would pay you to feed it recyclable materials...possibly already in existence somewhere...but top marks for the idea anyway! ....’





### Challenges

There is a lot of energy and enthusiasm amongst students and staff for sustainability activities on campus – a key limitation is staff time and resources to support and facilitate this into practical action. We are working to address this and to do more within our existing resources by:

- increasing our use of external groups such as Bristol Waste to run effective campaigns
- Using opportunities for student input to our work within their curricula – whether to contribute to our social media, do surveys, take on a work-based learning placement
- Using the ISO14001:2015 process to increase staff awareness and sustainable behaviours.



### Focus 2017/2018

In addition to maintaining 'business as usual', we have several specific areas of focus:

- To support the new committee structure and theme leaders of The Student Union Green team; The new committee is a mirror of the UWE thematic leads involved with sustainability
- To increase and embed input into the curriculum by the Sustainability team
- To work to get increased resources in particular for our food waste prevention campaign and for our general communications work through student projects, work-based learning etc, and through external bodies such as Bristol Waste.

To maximise staff engagement through the ISO14001:2015 process, the staff welcome fairs and the staff network.





**100%**  
Increase in teaching and assignments input

**23%**  
Increase in staff cycling

**1400+**  
Green team members

**20+**  
Communication channels used in addition to face to face to promote green events and activities

**567**  
Staff sustainability network members

**9 internships, 43 projects, 21 dissertations, 62 feel good champions**

Campus walks run on a weekly basis  
**40-60** members of staff attend

**84 teams; 420** members of staff took part in the pedometer challenge  
**£3872.00** raised for charity

**UWE GO** staff challenge  
**145** members of staff participated in a scavenger hunt around campus





University of the West of England, Bristol  
**Health and Wellbeing**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW**

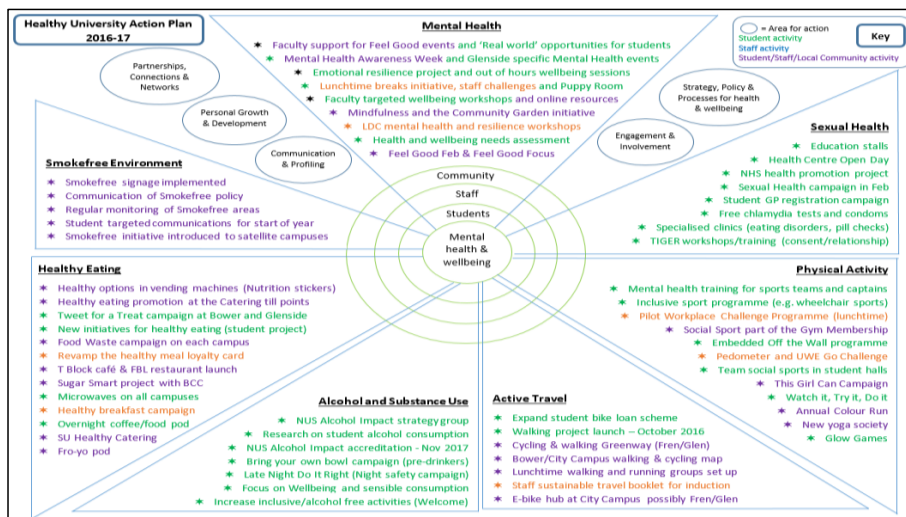


UWE is committed to a whole university approach to health and wellbeing. Mental health and wellbeing is central to all the Healthy University work that is achieved. We have already achieved a great deal in creating and ensuring a healthier and more sustainable environment for UWE Bristol students, staff and our wider community. We have a strong commitment to health promotion and wellbeing and central to our work is enhancing the involvement and participation of students in all aspects of university life. In collaboration with many services and sectors of the university, we have raised awareness of health and wellbeing services; facilitated health promotion campaigns e.g. sugar smart, sexual health screening; increased opportunities to participate in physical activity and increased options for healthier and sustainably sourced food on all campuses. Our Healthy University Action Plan, along with other supporting plans including the Travel Plan have established the conditions to enable students and staff to easily participate in health and wellbeing enhancing choices while studying and working at UWE.

**Mental health and wellbeing is central to the Healthy University Map**

NB: Our work aligns closely with the Universities UK new framework for Mental Health in Higher Education:

[www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/stepchange/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/stepchange/Pages/default.aspx)







**Focus up until 2020**

A university renowned for and proud of its commitment to promoting health and wellbeing with clear impacts on student and staff health, wellbeing and experience.

Enhance social engagement and create a supportive culture of belonging and feeling connected and decrease the need for wellbeing services

**University of the West of England and UWE Students' Union – 'Late night, do it right'**

Tips for students' and information on how to support others on nights out.

A PHD student is running a research project to test out the effectiveness of the intervention. As part of this a selection of students' have agreed to be breathalysed before and after their night out.



Reactive campaigns: volunteers stationed in the centre of Bristol, who give away water, tea & toast, lollipops, condoms, flip flops, pints of chips for donations to UWE RAG (Raising & Giving), emergency tin foil blankets to fight the cold. Ability to charge mobile phones & support travelling home from nights out.



**INTRODUCTION TO MINDFULNESS IN THE SECRET GARDEN**

Peer led one-hour introduction to mindfulness and how to use it to improve your mental wealth

**OVERVIEW**

This short one-hour course gives you the opportunity of an introduction to mindful techniques followed by a visit to UWE's secret garden where you can escape the busy bustle of University life and look at how to practice mindful techniques to improve your mental wealth.

**MINDFULNESS**

Mindfulness is the mental state of being calmly and consciously aware of what is happening in our body and mind, as well as in our surrounding area. Stemming from ancient Buddhist traditions and practices; increased mindfulness can help us improve our mental clarity, concentration, emotional flexibility, empathy and resilience whilst also reducing stress and rumination.

**SECRET GARDEN**

Gardening and mindfulness are a perfect match. Due to the challenging nature of university life, we often feel anxious and stressed. It doesn't need to be like this. If you want something that reconnects you to the world around you, which makes you more mindful of the present moment, than look no further than the Community Garden at UWE.

**Please ensure you wear suitable clothing (coat, waterproof shoes) for this event as you will be going outside for half of the session.**

**Feel Good February**

This event is part of Feel Good February. Don't forget you only need one stamp on the Feel Good February loyalty card to be in with the chance of winning a prize! Simply collect your loyalty card from any UWE Info Point or SU office, get a stamp on each activity you attend and then hand your card back in by 5th March!

Telephone: +44 (0)117 32 86268,  
 Email: wellbeing@uwe.ac.uk

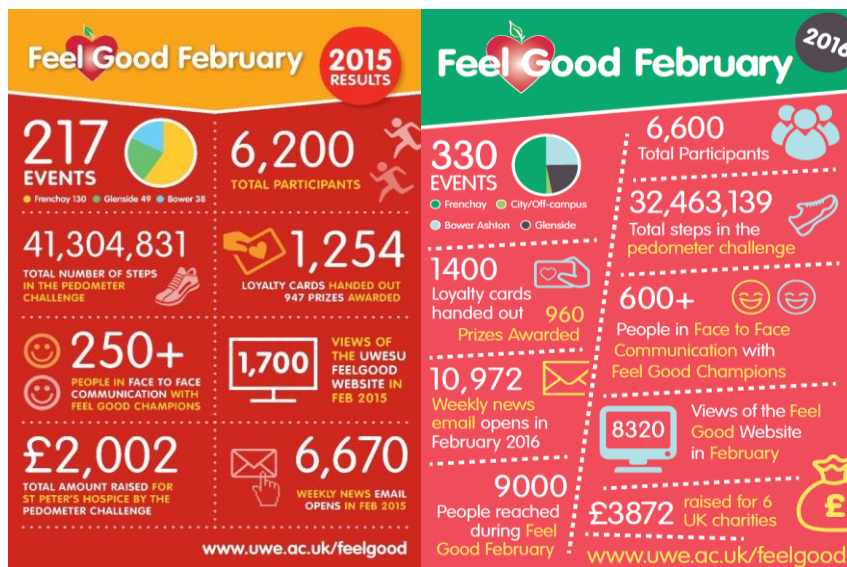
**THE GREEN TEAM**  
 THE CHANGING SIDE

**You can grow your own plants, flowers, fruit and veg for free!**

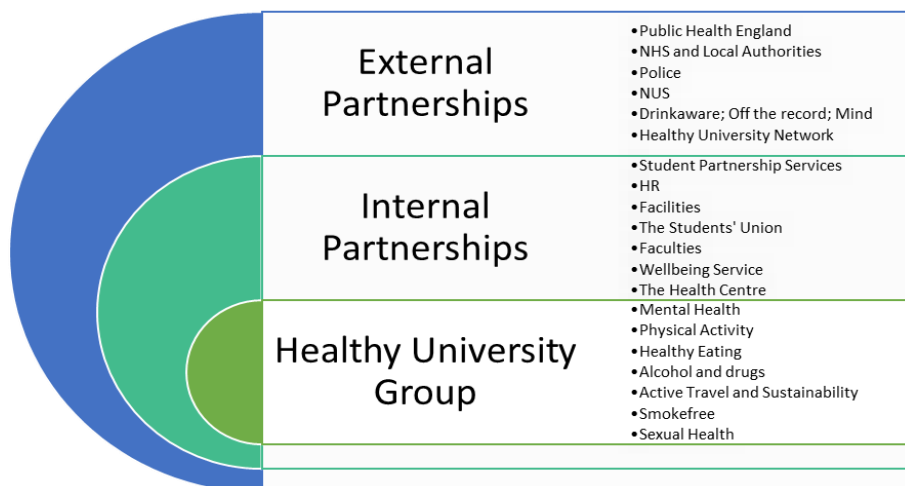
The Community Garden provides regular volunteering opportunities for all students to have a go at gardening regardless of experience.

You can get involved to create a positive environmental impact and reducing food miles – we produce lots of free food too!

Gardening can be a great way to take a break from busy university life and the garden is in a beautiful and quiet corner of Frenchay campus.



- working in partnership both across the university and external to the university.
- Support from and recognition by the Directorate has been key.



# University of the West of England, Bristol Resource Management

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW



The UWE Bristol Resource Management Plan 2020 has been produced with final sign off due in autumn 2017.

2016/2017 began with a review of recycling provision across the estate, alongside this a revision of the service standard for provision of waste and recycling bins in small multi-person offices' allowed for an introduction of twin-bins in small offices of less than 5 staff in the new Bristol Business School building.

The introduction and trialling of café recycling cabinets across multiple outlets and additional recycling provision in our largest café, OneZone at Frenchay.

In addition a growing number of "compostable waste" bins front of house have been provided, in response to university catering outlets increasingly using biodegradable packaging. Collections of this waste stream in the cafes at Northavon House, Glenside Hub and Bower Ashton Traders have been introduced and we will continue to improve our collection logistics for this new material stream.

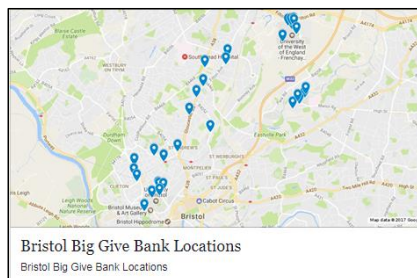
A reconfiguration of the back-of-house waste compound has allowed for the reintroduction of timber recycling and improved opportunities for reusing surplus items that would otherwise have gone to waste.

Smaller ad-hoc waste collections at Frenchay, are now solely being carried out by electric buggy, to avoid the use of diesel transit van.



UWE was the leading partner on this year's cross-Bristol Big Give campaign. The campaign, which is aimed at sustainably managing waste generated when students vacate their accommodation, sees UWE Bristol join forces with the University of

Bristol, both student unions, student housing providers, Bristol Waste company, the British Heart Foundation and other local charities. The project promotes numerous temporary charity banks around the streets of the city and near to student halls. The city wide campaign saw 18,093 bags of material (approx. 145 tonnes) diverted for resale in charity shops, with a potential resale value to BHF of £253,000. A thousand of the bags (14.7 tonnes, £26,000) were from UWE Bristol campus halls.



# University of the West of England, Bristol Resource Management



The UWE Bristol reuse scheme has continued to thrive at the university, with reallocation of furniture and equipment leading to an estimated annual saving to UWE Bristol of £113,000. An increase of £33,000 on the 2014/2015 savings derived of £80,000.

## Faculty of Business and Law (FBL) and Northavon House declutter projects

Two major projects happened during the last year: the opening of a £50 million new faculty building (Bristol Business School) and the move from two large office buildings (buildings 650 and 435) into Northavon House. These two projects involved moving 350 and 250 staff respectively. These sorts of major staff moves are potential generators of large quantities of additional waste.

At an early stage in these project's it was recognised that there would be a considerable environmental and potentially a safety impact without proactive action to help staff declutter and effectively manage materials in the run up to the moves. In response, we implemented a package of measures:

- **Regular declutter sessions** were supported by senior management in affected departments and promoted via a project blog (in the case of FBL) and by staff emails in the Northavon House moves.
- **Provision of additional segregated material containers** for confidential waste, non-confidential paper, books, stationery, small electrical items, and batteries.
- **Facilities staff time** provided to support the declutter sessions: to provide and label crates and other containers for specific materials and then to move the full ones to a store area for subsequent sorting and onward dispatch of materials.

The declutter sessions pro-actively managed an estimated 15 tonnes of material, around 90% of which was reused or recycled. They were popular among staff, although there were some people who did not engage so early and repeated promotion is necessary.



# Resource Management

## Challenges

While there is still work to do to ensure the effective placement of appropriate containment and collection services, the main challenge concerning the achievement of sustainable waste management at the *recycling* point of the waste hierarchy is behavioural: getting people to put waste: a) In bins (i.e. in relation to littering), b) In to the correct bins (Ensuring material can be recycled without contamination).

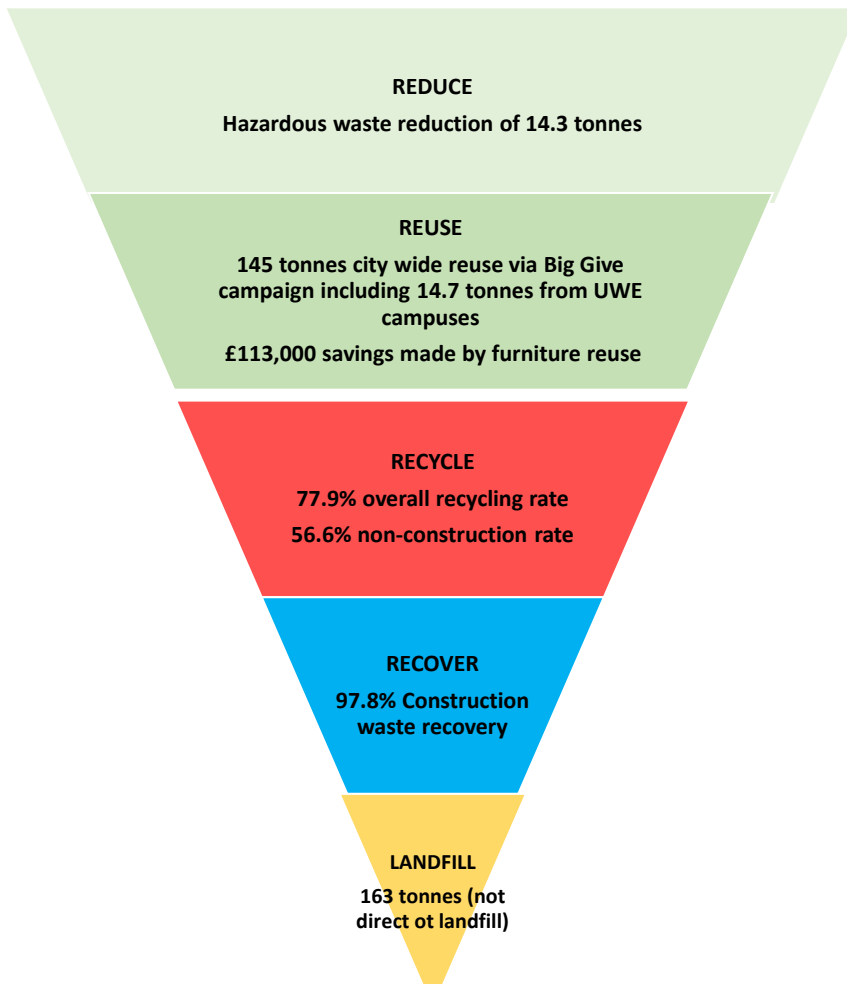
Other varying challenges and opportunities include:

- The back of house recycling centre was affected by an adjacent project's infrastructure requirement, which has impacted on the efficient and sustainable use of waste materials.
- Decamps prior to the demolition of D Block, Bower Ashton. We have developed a new declutter service which aims to pro-actively tackle surplus and "clear-out" material from projects (FBL, Northavon House and Science relocations)
- We have an effective furniture reuse service now which has become more embedded and it provides good financial efficiencies to the university. However to optimise these gains there would be further awareness of the service and closer integration into procurement activities, for example assess tagging and standardisation of furniture specification across all departments. This is a longer term aspiration.
- Responding to customer feedback the university's catering operations are increasingly moving to the use of compostable food service packaging. This sounds like a good environmental step, but it comes with its challenges. There is the need to communicate to the customer effectively so that the material goes into the right waste stream; currently only some of the food service disposables are compostable, making the communication effort difficult.
- Resources did not allow for setting up any repair workshop initiatives nor retender of the confidential service this year.
- Increase of student residents onsite.



### Focus 2017/2018

- Target & reporting requirement needs to be more firmly placed in tendering & contract mechanisms. New template for construction waste data returns has been developed and included in Estates preliminaries.
- Further provision of compostable waste front of house to accommodate food service packaging. Need to work with catering and SU to align messages on packaging and bins: there is a need for "on-product" messages, to be repeated on collection containers (bins!).
- A re-emphasis on food waste prevention.
- Review of waste and recycling collection services, with retender of general waste, recycling and confidential waste contracts by end of year.
- Refresh of UWE Bristol reuse service.



\* Absolute and relative/FTE student (excluding construction)



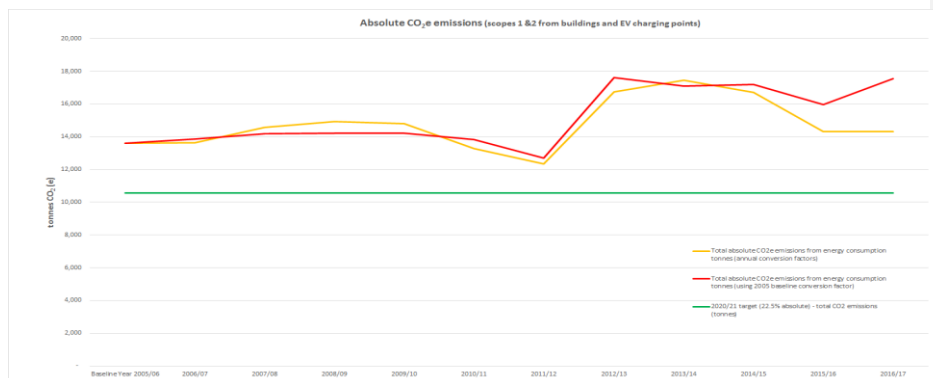
**CARBON MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW**



- Target 1:** Scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction from 2005/6 baseline:
- 1.5% per annum absolute
  - 22.5% absolute by 2020/21
  - 50% relative by 2020/21 (weather and floor area corrected)

**Performance:** For the reporting year 2016/17, UWE Scope 1 and 2 absolute emissions from buildings were 10% over the 2005/6 baseline (using annual CO<sub>2</sub> conversion factors), i.e. 14,510 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/pa compared with 13,226 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/pa in 2005/16.

Without accounting for decarbonisation of the National Grid, UWE would have increased emissions by 34% over the 2005/06 baseline (using 2005/06 emission factors), i.e. 17,690 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/pa compared with 13,226 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/pa in 2005/16.



UWE success and expansion of its estate present a huge challenge in meeting the absolute target.

Between 2005/06 and 2016/17, the GIA has doubled, from 153,540m<sup>2</sup> to 319,200m<sup>2</sup>. This year, the GIA increased around 20% from the previous year.

This is highlighted when considering performance against the relative target (and allowing for weather), which shows that carbon emissions per m<sup>2</sup> have reduced by 45% (from 86 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e / m<sup>2</sup> GIA to 48 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e / m<sup>2</sup>) placing UWE on track to hit our relative target.



University of the West of England, Bristol  
**Carbon Management**



- Target 2:** Renewable targets, for the following to be generated from on, or near, site low or zero carbon technologies:
- 10% of university electricity
  - 5% of university gas

**Performance:** In 2016/17, UWE generated 1% electricity from Low or Zero Consumption sources, however it is anticipated that this target will be largely met by the installation of combined heat and power (CHP) at Frenchay campus in 2017/18.

This target has changed since the targets review to:

Low and Zero Carbon Electricity and Heat Generation:

- 10% electricity to be generated from on/near site LZC\* sources by 2020/21
- 20% of space heating and domestic hot water to be provided by 2020/21.

\*low zero carbon





# University of the West of England, Bristol Carbon Management



## Progress

A number of initiatives have been implemented which will contribute to the carbon targets, such as the installation of 1732 solar panels on the UWE Future Space and Bristol Robotics Laboratory. This is the largest single solar installation in the UK Higher Education sector, and since installation in October 2016 has already generated (to end Sept 2017) 380 MWh, saving 134 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> and a financial saving to the university in electricity purchase of £38k.

In addition, 100% of electricity purchased is from 100% renewable sources.

**Our business** is backed by electricity generated from renewable sources.

**Renewable for business**

We certify that **University of the West of England** has **100%** of its electricity supply from EDF Energy backed by **Renewable Energy**.

1st October 2016 - 30th September 2017

*R. Hughes*  
Rich Hughes  
Director of Sales and Marketing

**TEC** POWERING THE PUBLIC SECTOR

**EDF ENERGY**

All source certification meets GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance Quality Criteria. This is not a WECQ certificate. WECQ certificates are held by energy suppliers for Fuel Mix Disclosure. The low carbon electricity that we buy for Renewable tariffs and products is supplied into the National Grid. Customers receive that electricity through the National Grid, not directly from low carbon generation.

## Carbon Management



### **T-block solar PV**

In October 2016, UWE Bristol quadrupled its solar generating capacity through the installation of 1,732 solar panels, making it the largest solar panel array in the UK university sector.

- In the first year of installation, the array has generated 380 MWh, saved 134 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e, contributing to the university meeting its significant carbon reduction targets and 2020 renewables target. It has also saved £38,000 per year in purchased electricity.
- The installation of a flat membrane roof covering the new 'Future Space' and 'Bristol Robotics Laboratory' provided the ideal opportunity for a large scale array.
- Dulas Ltd worked with Bauder and approved contractor Mitie Tilley Roofing to develop an innovative fixing system, which required no penetration to the new roof covering, and was lightweight to avoid the need for reinforcing the roof structure. This greatly improved the business case for the solar installation.
- The array is a learning tool and students are already preparing to use data for dissertations in the Faculty of Environment and Technology.
- As a leading participant in Bristol Green Capital 2015, UWE Bristol are keen to continue pioneering the sustainability agenda through setting an example to others, and through sharing learning – UWE hold regular tours of the panels for interested parties, and worked with *Made in Bristol* to film the installation, which was shown on local television.

### **Challenges**

- **Growing estate:**  
UWE estate continues to grow. 2016/17 saw the addition of the new Bristol Business School of 20,000m<sup>2</sup> and additional residential space of 13,000m<sup>2</sup>. The University Enterprise Zone (completed 2015/16) has been highly successful, however this additional occupation of space does naturally increase energy consumption and therefore impact on UWE carbon targets.
- **Maintenance:**  
An increase in fossil fuel consumption occurred as result of heating maintenance issues in the ECC and T-block prior to the refurbishment of the Energy Centre. In addition to this additional consumption during the commissioning period of the plant.
- **Delayed projects:**  
There have been delays in implementing two major initiatives:
  - Installation of combined heat and power (CHP) plant at Frenchay campus.
  - A university-wide behaviour change programme based on a monitoring and targeting approach.

The behaviour change programme is proposed to begin August 2018, and the CHP is planned to be onsite in 2018.
- **Electric charging infrastructure:**  
The continued increase of electric car charging points adds to the electrical demand on site.



**Focus 2017/2018**

1. Energy Team has been strengthened, and a major focus in the coming years is to be a university behaviour change programme, subject to board approval.
2. Large scale lighting refurbishment programme is to be undertaken with up to £1m to be spent on LED fittings and intelligent controls.
3. The sizing of the combined heat and power (CHP) plant for the district heating network is being carefully reviewed to optimise savings. It is anticipated that the CHP will be installed at the end of the 2017/18 year.
4. Dialogue around the increased installation of electric car charging points and the role UWE has in providing car charging, in particular in relation to UWE targets. It is also important that these points are metered to allow distinction between building emissions and transport emissions.

# Water Management

## WATER MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW



The relative 20% reduction target (m<sup>3</sup>/student FTE) has not been met, indeed water / per student FTE has increased by over 50% since the baseline 2011/12.

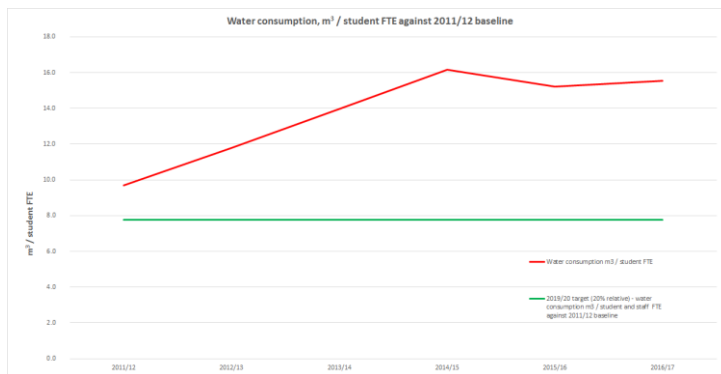
The red RAG rating presented through the year to the Sustainability Board has instigated the Water Review Project Team to be established in May 2017, which has since led to the appointment of a water conservation specialist. This in turn has led to the identification of water saving measures across UWE, amongst others:

- Over £100k savings in the student village
- Approximately £13k savings in Bower Ashton
- Saving of £3,100 in the Farmhouse, Frenchay
- A plan to enable the reinstatement of the R block rainwater harvesting system

Estates are working with academic colleagues Prof Chad Staddon and SU Sustainability Committee Water rep (and PhD water conservation student) Karen Simpson, along with other academic specialists.

It is hoped that the new Engineering building will have rainwater harvesting and water provided through boreholes as part of its design.

Subject to the challenges identified, the early indications are that UWE could reduce water consumption to the baseline figure within 12-18months.



# Water Management

## Challenges

- The focus on water efficiencies needs to be maintained, along with effective maintenance to ensure that savings made are maintained.
- Key staff, essential to identify and implement water savings initiatives need to be retained.
- The balance between corporate aspirations on sustainability goals versus project value engineering and lack of support within Faculties to keep proposed water saving measures in projects.

A very early example of a water conservation measure:

### **Urinal Fault in the Farmhouse, Frenchay**

A long term fault was reported to the energy team during the last week in July 2017 that a urinal had been running continuously for some time in the Farmhouse. This was investigated, and the urinal was found to be without any flow control.

The cisterns were replaced, saving around 1350m<sup>3</sup> water / year, at a financial saving of £3,100/year.

The average 4-person occupied house in the UK uses 164m<sup>3</sup> water / year. So this repair alone will save the equivalent water consumption of 8.25 family homes per year.

Further investigation has shown that this is a repeatable measure with Bower Ashton in particular likely to provide savings of £13k.

### **Focus for 2017/2018**

- It is proposed to review targets set, to ensure they align across UWE strategic documents.
- Reinstatement of rainwater harvesting in R block.
- Development of water metering across sites to enable better understanding of water consumption in different areas of the university.
- It is hoped that the new Faculty of Engineering building will use rainwater harvesting in accordance with UWE's Water Management Plan, and boreholes for water supply.
- Water conservation measures that will result in £200k annual savings. This is likely to reduce consumption back to the baseline figure, which puts UWE in a good place to realise targets set.





#### Post 2020 vision

Masterplanning maximises the opportunity for sustainable urban drainage (SUDS), including full adoption of rainwater harvesting, grey water systems and habitat formation.

- SUDS are widely used on masterplanning projects.
- Estates with support from Faulty water conservation experts are proactively promoting rainwater harvesting and borehole extraction as a viable technology on new projects.
- Further work is taking place on re-instating existing installations and retro-engineering in buildings where this technology may be applicable.

Deleted:

# Biodiversity

## BIODIVERSITY OVERVIEW



1. The production of plants from seed and cutting on site has progressed well. We have better record keeping and have produced plants to help us with a new “planter” scheme. We have successfully reintroduced home grown winter bedding to the site to improve aesthetics in winter and spring period in a sustainable manner.
2. Wildflower strips have been increased as wished and although some newly sowed beds, including Carroll court and Coldharbour lane did work well and give us high visual impact during Welcome Weekend and Open Day, the general success of wildflower beds was not as high as in 2016. This can be attributed to lack of time as critical points of the season to manage the beds as well as differences in weather patterns between the 2 years.
3. Green flag application was shelved again, due to lack of recourse to push through the application at Glenside and increased building works at Frenchay and Bower making Green flag status unlikely.
4. We have improved our record keeping and monitoring of UWE Waterways. We now aim to check each water body on campus weekly and note any signs of pollution so we are able to respond more quickly to any such occurrences.
5. Good progress has again been made in identifying the spread of artificial habitats spots across the campus at Frenchay, additions have increase the diversity further. A site have been identified for development this winter at Glenside to improve nesting opportunities, native bulbs, access routes, clear water pond creation and outdoor seating area. Designs are currently being finalised.
6. We have continued to develop the community garden again during this year. There has been a step up in volunteer levels and we have started very strongly with numbers attending our monthly sessions at the beginning of this year. The structure has again take a step forwards with outside seating areas being added and the garden is now much more user friendly and we are starting to see signs of it being used as a recreational space. We are developing a strong partnership with the SU on this project and starting to see the benefits.
7. We now have a series of “mini orchards” on site which we have focused on maintaining this year and we will look to add to these during the winter of 2017. We have started to promote the availability of fruit and herbs planted externally across the campus with our “UWEat” campaign. The grounds team took to the streets during fresher’s week to talk directly to students, hand out some maps (see attached in case study) and let people know about what we are providing on campus. We also started to label up a lot of the herb beds and have received good feedback on this during the year.
8. We have maintained composting procedure during the year and are still processing the vast majority of our waste, despite increasing demands on our resources.
9. Grass cutting management has been a challenge this year. We have had to remove some resource from this area, and despite some problems we have managed to keep the quality quite high. However we are looking at new procedures and management in this area to ensure improvements next year.



## Biodiversity



10. We have not progressed with installation of the Light trap. We have go ahead and plenty of communication with Rothamsted but again, grounds team resource has been needed elsewhere and difficult to commit to being able to manage this on a daily basis. Other options currently being explored as there is interest in the faculty as something that could be of use to students.
11. Road sweeper has not been purchased, expanse of exterior hardstanding for the team to manage has been increased by large amount with handover of X Block and Sap 2 (including the Greenway) the type of hardstanding and quality of delivery has meant it is prime location for weed growth, hence Chemical usage has not been reduced this year. It is almost impossible to manage these type of areas and surfaces effectively without relying on increase in chemical treatments .However one of our priorities next year will be to continue to reduce our chemical usage in other areas of the campus.
12. The programme on native bulb introduction this year was very successful with areas between car parks 1,2 and 3 being effectively planted out and the copse to the west of Brecon court also being significantly improved, we hope to see even stronger plants this year with native Tulips, bluebells and daffodils all becoming established.
13. As well as promoting the edible campus theme the Grounds team have also tried to be proactive with the litter problem we have on campus. This is taking a large amount of our time and is the biggest threat currently to our aims and aspirations as far as Biodiversity is concerned. We have launched a campaign called "Litter Free Campus" to try to raise awareness and attempt to change the culture. We hope get buy in from facilities departments and faculty in the future and again our good relationships with the SU are helping to spread this message.



Figure 1 Native Bluebells and Wild Garlic getting established in Hawthorn Walk







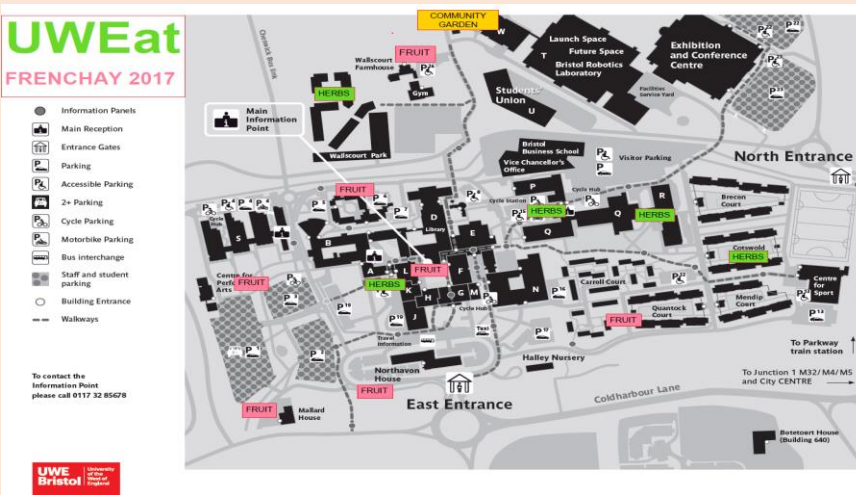
**UWEat**

- Grounds team took to the streets to promote the edible campus theme under the heading “UWEat”
- We handed out Maps to show location of “mini orchards”, Community garden and herb beds across Frenchay campus
- Staff planted up “meal barrows” to show examples of the fruit, herbs and veg we have available for staff and students across the campus.
- We engaged with students in various locations across the campus in fresher’s week and worked with the SU to hold a garden party on the Friday to promote the community garden space.



- Many of the herb beds/fruit trees across site and in the community garden were labelled to advertise they were free to use and to give information on plant names. We have received great feedback on this throughout the year.
- The second phase of this project has involved the production of large quantities of winter bedding in our newly developed on site nursery beds. This has allowed us to increase the number of biennials and bedding plants raised from seed.

These will be planted out during winter in lots of the planters that have held edible plants over the summer. This will provide winter/spring interest across the campus and enable us to look after some of the more tender edibles, getting them ready to replant later in the spring



## Biodiversity

### Challenge

In 2016 we reported

*..... In the opinion of the grounds department that new buildings are being delivered with poor external soft landscaping and poor external spaces. As a result, an unnecessary amount of extra time will be required in the future to maintain these spaces. If this is not resourced or managed better, then the ecological value of the campus will continue to decline.....*

That worry appears to be coming true. The percentage of the teams time that is required just to keep the campus free from litter and safe has increase dramatically over this 12 month period and we expect this to continue into the 2017/18 academic year. Increased numbers of staff are required just to get the basic clean completed in line with our service level agreements and this means there will be less time available to spend on Biodiversity projects and campus development. The additional development of the new engineering block could also impact on the ecological value of the site, although we are working with master planning in the design phase to ensure we keep suitable wildlife corridors open across the campus.



#### Focus 2017/2018

- Introduction of mechanical method of weed control (Road sweeper) to help reduce chemical usage across areas of Frenchay and Glenside and to free up time to achieve Sustainability targets.
- Introduce stricter controls on glyphosate usage, amend spray procedure and ensure all obstacle management is now addressed by planting, mulching or mechanical means. Therefore reducing the areas where chemical treatments are necessary.
- Improve Biodiversity and Edible planting at Glenside Campus, investigate option for small orchard, clear water pond, native bulb planting, additional herb planting, and further artificial habitats.
- Maintain the thorough processing of our green waste on site, with greater restriction on working space.
- Continue with winter bedding/summer herb planters scheme, focus on reintroduction of removed summer herbs and increase in winter bedding production.
- Development of on site Grounds team plant nursery – production of more edible plants.
- Continued development of community garden, further engagement with Green Team and Wellbeing, improve disabled access and introduce raised beds for wheelchair users.
- Improve artificial habitat sites across Campus, bringing something into all sections of Frenchay.
- Continue with programme of annual bedding being reintroduced to campus in sustainable form.
- Further areas of native bulbs planting, focus on Glenside.
- Progress with UWEat campaign, produce better map and introduce – “crop spots” to the Campus as well as adding more fruit trees and herb planting
- Improve signage across the board -plant labels and information points to promote grounds and biodiversity further.
- Produce application documents for Green Flag status.

University of the West of England, Bristol

## Sustainable Food

### SUSTAINABLE FOOD OVERVIEW



UWE Bristol Hospitality Services provide catering for over 28,000 staff and students, as well as numerous visitors, through a range of facilities across our three campuses. Our commitments to provide sustainable and healthy food in support of the delivery of the University's Sustainability Plan 2013-2020 reflect our dynamic approach in making ongoing improvements and pushing the boundaries of our work, whilst playing our part in the wider community through our support for Bristol in the Sustainable Food Cities awards.

#### Suppliers:

UWE Bristol Hospitality Services are committed to providing good quality, locally sourced food across all our outlets. We encourage and support a healthy, active lifestyle, and offer a wide range of meals which promote a balanced diet.

UWE Bristol Hospitality works with suppliers to encourage proximity purchasing to minimise food miles. We know that our students and staff are increasingly concerned about where their food comes from, its impact on the environment and animal welfare issues as well as on their own health. We are in a unique position to provide environmentally friendly and healthy food to a receptive audience and to reinforce a longer-term change in buying and eating habits. We are particularly committed to using local food and ingredients, both to cut food miles and to contribute to thriving local economies and sustainable livelihoods.

#### Catering Mark:

The Catering Mark addresses many of the food quality issues that concern us all. It ensures our meals are made up of seasonal, traceable, healthier, sustainable and fresh ingredients, free from trans fats and nasty additives.

As a university, we are in a unique position to provide environmentally friendly food to a receptive audience and reinforce a longer-term change in buying and eating habits.

Martin Sawyer, Chief Executive of Soil Association Certification, says: "This is a fantastic achievement by the University of the West of England. Together they are leading the way in the drive to change food culture in the workplace, and of showing staff and students the great work UWE is doing to improve health, support better animal welfare, and tackle climate change".

#### We give our customers what they want

The student population is increasingly demanding ethical, sustainable and healthier food options. Food for Life Served Here has helped us with providing fresh and sustainable foods for everyone to eat.



University of the West of England, Bristol

## Sustainable Food

### MSC Accreditation:

The MSC Chain of Custody Standard is a traceability and segregation standard that is applicable to the full supply chain from a certified fishery or farm to final sale. Each company in the supply chain handling or selling an MSC certified product must have a valid MSC Chain of Custody certificate. This assures consumers and seafood-buyers that MSC labelled seafood comes from a certified sustainable fishery.

UWE Bristol Hospitality uses sustainable seafood products which have been certified by the Marine Stewardship Council. We never use fish from the MSC 'fish to avoid list'.

As we have a yearly audit, we ensure we meet the strict standards dictated by the Marine Stewardship Council. Another successful audit this year has meant we can continue using the logo and products, reinforcing our commitment to providing sustainable fish.

### Red Tractor:

Red Tractor is the largest food scheme in the UK, which covers all aspects of the food's lifespan. The Red Tractor logo indicates that food is safe to eat, and has been produced responsibly - from farm to fork. Red Tractor cover an extensive range of products including, meat, poultry, dairy, cereals, fruit and vegetables.

UWE Bristol Hospitality use Red Tractor Farm Assured beef, chicken, pork and lamb from John Sheppard Butchers in Bristol and our sausages are Red Tractor Farm Assured, sourced from Fairfax Meadow. By using Red Tractor Farm Assured meat, we can trace all our meat back to independently inspected farms in the UK which must meet safety, hygiene, and animal welfare standards.

Red Tractor requires information about our suppliers, so:

- RT can trace ingredients through the food chain, if required.
- How we control food safety and traceability
- How you will display the Logo in your outlets

We carry out this submission yearly, so we help keep within the parameters of sustainable sourcing of ingredients within the TUCO framework agreement.



## Sustainable Food



### Fairtrade Awards:

In line with our policy on sustainability, and commitment to principles of fairness and equality, UWE Bristol Hospitality is committed to supporting, promoting and using Fairtrade goods and has worked hard to achieve accreditation.

- Fairtrade foods are used in all cafes/restaurants/bars on all campuses. Where this is not possible, there is a commitment to begin to use Fairtrade foods in these establishments as soon as it becomes possible to do so. We also work hard to source ethical suppliers
- Fairtrade coffee, tea, and sugar are sold at all catering outlets and served at all meetings hosted by us and The Students' Union
- there is a commitment to campaign for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus

Commitment to Fairtrade from staff and students has grown over the years, witnessed by:

- more products stocked, which increased sales
- innovative promotion and greater engagement in issues
- a commitment in our Sustainability Plan 2020 breakthrough indicator to grow sales by 25%, in the event sales have increased by **over 800%**.
- resolutions from The Students' Union at UWE AGM (annual general meeting) to increase Fairtrade products on campus.

Our efforts have achieved external recognition at the South West Fairtrade awards, where we are regular winners of awards in many categories, In 2016/7:

- Full of Beans coffee cart was an outright winner in the 'Café or restaurant' category
- Gold award for Phaz Café
- Best Fairtrade University, UWE Bristol were a joint winner with Bristol University.



## **Challenges**

### **Health and Wellbeing**

We have already achieved a great deal in creating and ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment for students and staff. Although this has been a challenge for us, as we have to embed the principles we believe in when it comes to not only giving the best student experience possible but, we have increased opportunities to participate in physical activity through supporting campaigns with the healthy university group, such as feel good feb and increased options for healthier and sustainably sourced food on all campuses. Working closely with the sustainable team and Healthy University group we have established the conditions to enable students and staff to easily participate in healthier lifestyle choices whilst studying and working at UWE Bristol.

### **Engagement**

This has been the most challenging, being able to recognise that it is vital to nurture staff and students' concern, passion and energy to make a positive difference in the world and to be active agents in our future. Enabling people to do this is central to our approach to sustainability both within the university.

Through various communications and campaigns throughout the year, we have had to look at our student and staff population. Based on various needs, we have had to be select in the type of campaigns we run, ensuring we try and meet everyone's needs, as best as possible.

We seek feedback from students and staff in forms of various communications, feedback from our CRT machine, which we send to each outlet monthly, across Frenchay, Bower Ashton and Glenside. This gathers crucial information, not only about the service given, but also highlights recommendations for us moving forward.

### **Procurement**

Another challenging area we have faced is procurement.

By working collaboratively with other public sector partners, such as TUCO and factoring into procurement environmental protection, the pursuit of social and corporate objectives as well as economic efficiency has been tough. With Brexit looming, we have already been challenged with fluctuations in operating costs from our suppliers. In order for us to continue to improve the sustainability of UWE Bristol Hospitality and its wider supply chains, we need to look at how we reduce whole life costs and minimise our exposure to supply chain risk. This can only be achieved by sticking to our sustainable food plan and keeping abreast of new and innovative ideas that come our way.



## CONCLUSION

This report has summarised the key issues and challenges faced by the university in implementing its ambitious Sustainability Plan. Good progress is being made across the suite of actions considered in the report but continuing effort is needed to ensure that the journey towards embedding a sustainability culture within all of the university's activities continues with direction, pace and enthusiasm.

This report fulfils the governance requirement for monitoring the sustainability performance against the targets set in the Sustainability Plan 2013-2020. It also outlines the priority areas for academic year 2017/2018.

The report will assist the university in assessing and prioritising its ongoing engagement with sustainable development, particularly the lens provided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, within its teaching, research, community engagement and campus management activities.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Sustainability Board is invited to discuss the Annual Report, review its key findings and to consider how best to support the further implementation of sustainability change management activities within the university.



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