



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2017–2018

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The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) aims to lead, innovate and create the powerful partnerships needed to address the complex issues we face in the world. We are committed to understanding and transforming our environment, health and wellbeing – and our students and staff play a vital part in that.



Professor Steve West
Vice-Chancellor, UWE Bristol

Introduction

UWE Bristol is committed to supporting the global sustainability agenda for a strong, healthy and just society living within environmental limits in everything that it does. Central to this commitment is an ambition to create an environment and culture in which all student and staff members have the opportunity to develop and use the skills and understanding required to contribute to global sustainability and health, both at the University and throughout their personal and private lives.

We follow a holistic approach that covers all aspects of sustainability across all functions of the University. This enables continuous, innovative, genuine and embedded performance improvements which have been successful to date. This approach has enhanced the University's reputation externally and encouraged faculties, services, students and wider stakeholders to work in partnership. UWE Bristol's Sustainability Plan was further enhanced over the last year, encompassing sections on climate change adaptation and sustainable food.

UWE Bristol is very proud of staff and student efforts to improve its resource efficiency as evidenced by improvements in recycling and reuse, water conservation, carbon emissions and active travel. In 2017–18, the sustainability agenda continues to provide new opportunities for staff and student research initiatives.

Continuous improvement

The University's commitment to continuous improvement in environmental sustainability is verified through certification to the ISO 14001 environmental management system standard. Each year our environmental management system is externally audited against the standard's requirements – this year's audit took place in summer 2018, the outcome of which is recertification to ISO 14001. A critical component of this refreshed standard is that the University has to demonstrate continual improvement in its environmental performance.

£1m

Over £1 million in Fairtrade food and drink sales since 2012





Key achievements

Some of our key achievements are described below:

- Achieved a 1st Class Award in the People and Planet Green League, with ESD scoring full marks and achieving a sector leading position.
- UWE Bristol continues to support the British Heart Foundation through the annual Bristol Big Give campaign, with 185 tonnes collected for resale in the BHF's Bristol charity shops.
- Continued reduction in single occupancy car journeys, with over 1,000 vehicles removed from the daily commute and one quarter of all journeys to UWE Bristol Frenchay Campus now made on foot.
- UWE Bristol now recycles and reuses 69% of its waste material.
- Absolute CO₂ emissions are now 7.8% below the 2005/6 baseline and on target to meet our 2020 goal.
- Water consumption has fallen by 50,000m³ compared to 2016/17 through targeted water conservation measures.
- We were recognised with two Fairtrade Business Gold Awards for the Fairtrade Coffee Cart in the Hub (which was also overall winner of the category) and Phaz Café on Frenchay Campus.
- The University is pleased to support The Students' Union at UWE with its Green Impact submission, and is delighted that it has been recognised as the highest scoring Union in the Green Impact Students' Unions 2017–18 Awards.
- Achieved our first RICS SKA accreditation, Silver Award, for the Health Tech project refurbishment.



Frenchay Campus community garden. Photo: Sophie Prosser

Sustainability awards

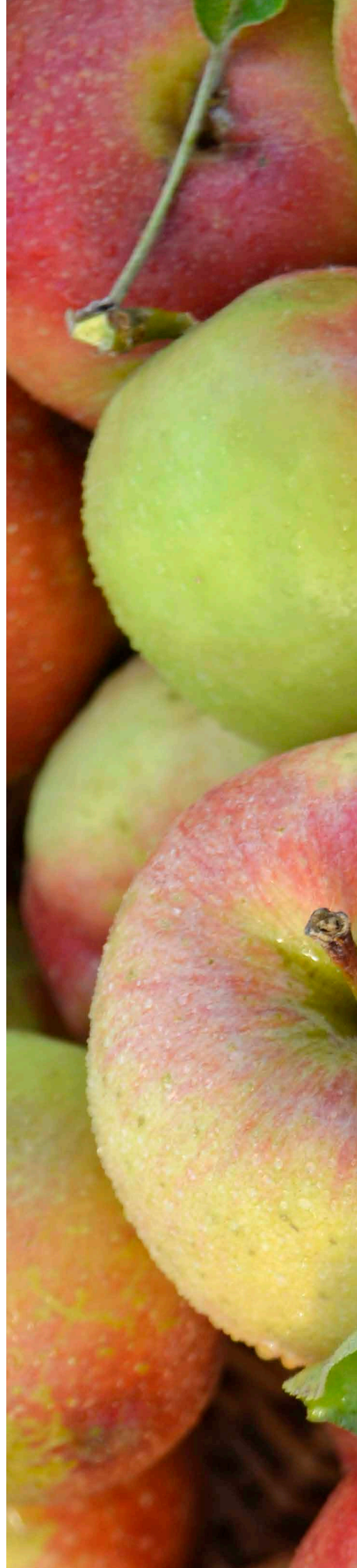
Award-winning success

UWE Bristol's sector leadership in sustainability continued to be demonstrated following our success in November 2016 when we won four UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards and two International Green Gown Awards. In this year's awards the University has the largest number of finalists of any institution in the UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards.

Further details on sustainability at the University can be found here:

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

Progress towards meeting our sustainability ambitions can be found in the University's annual sustainability report: <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/about/corporateinformation/sustainability/policiesplansandtargets.aspx>





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The University of the West of England Bristol is committed to supporting the sustainability agenda in everything that it does. In practice this means we consciously consider the sustainability impacts and benefits of our teaching and learning, campus operations, community engagements and research activities. We seek to minimise our impacts and enhance the positive sustainability benefits of our activities. We are developing a culture in which all student and staff members have the opportunity to develop their understanding of sustainable development and put this into practice throughout their professional and private lives.

Through a dedicated commitment to partnership working the sustainability initiatives engage with the whole University community, the Students' Union, the city-region and across the HE sector. We have been able to learn from successes and failures and put into practice innovative approaches that drive continuous improvement, all verified through certification to the ISO 14001 environmental management system.

I am very proud that the work of the University and the Students' Union has been recognised by numerous awards and certifications but I know that much remains to be done if we are to make our contribution to help solve some of the most intractable problems that global society faces.

Professor James Longhurst
Assistant Vice Chancellor
Environment and Sustainability

| Sustainability timeline

1990's	UWE Bristol's first environmental policy approved and committees established.
2004	Sustainability Board established.
2005	First Sustainability Team established in Facilities. First UWE Bristol strategy – Sustainability Action Plan.
2006	First environmental plan: Environmental purchasing.
2007	Sustainability Strategy with ESD goals. Baseline survey and report of ESD in the modular scheme.
2008	Knowledge Exchange for Sustainability Education (KESE) established.
2010	Winner, UK and Ireland Green Gown Award for continuous improvement and institutional change. First KESE Annual Report to LTAC and Sustainability Board.
2011	Assistant Vice Chancellor, Environment and Sustainability appointed. Sustainability and Education Conference. Sustainable Development teaching resource produced. Sustainable Development Resource Pack.
2012	MSc Sustainable Development in Practice was introduced. Community Garden established on Frenchay Campus. First senior lecturer in Education for Sustainable Development appointed.
2014	ESD and Quality Management Framework – a Guide for Staff. New Sustainability Plan 2013–2020. Keys to Sustainability resource available to students. First certification to ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management System.



2015

Bristol Green Capital – strategic partnership.
All undergraduate and postgraduate programmes allow students to explore ESD in the context of their discipline of study.

2016

UWE Bristol and SU@UWE first to be awarded NUS Responsible Futures accreditation under the full scheme.
UWE Bristol wins four UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards and two highly commended.
UWE Bristol wins two out of three International Green Gowns.
UWE Bristol electricity purchases are now 100% REGO certified as renewable energy.
Largest single roof mounted PV array in the HE sector installed at UWE Bristol.

2017

First RICS SKA assessed project gained a silver award: Health Tech project, Frenchay.
UWE Bristol and the SDG's curriculum report published and we host the UN Global Compact SDG's road show.
Successful transition to ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System.
New Environmental Sustainability Policy.
Refresh of the Sustainability Plan 2013–2020.
SU@UWE establishes a sustainability committee.

2018

Global trends working groups commenced and position statements published.
UWE Bristol Green Treasures interactive website launched.
KESE work recognised nationally in the Advance HE Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence.
Commencement of Sustainability Plan 2030 planning.

UWE Bristol supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals



Carbon management



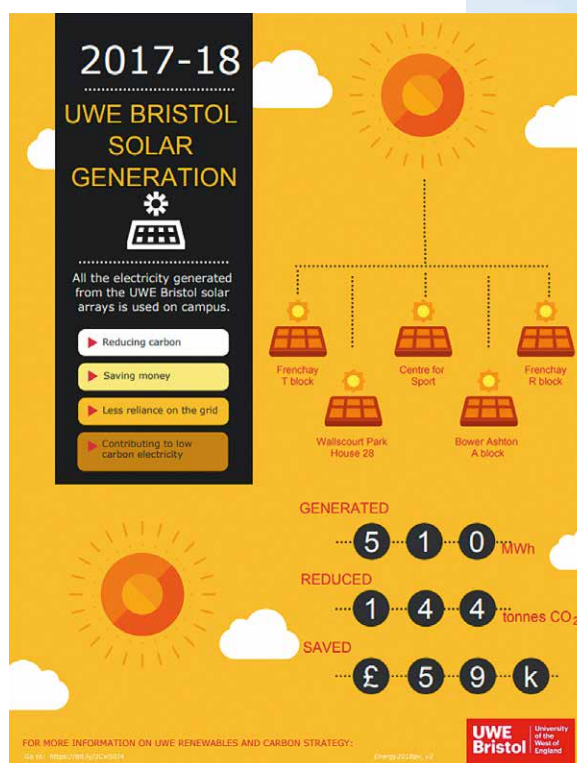
The Carbon management work over the past year has focused on installing lighting and preparing for the installation of the combined heat and power plant at Frenchay Campus.

Around £1 million has been spent on LED lighting and control schemes over the last 12 months, with internal and lighting in eight areas. These schemes are set to deliver annual savings of £167k and 320.4 tonnes of CO₂e, and enhance the internal environment.

CHP plant approved

The installation of the combined heat and power (CHP) plant at Frenchay Campus was approved by the Board in April 2018 and will be installed during spring 2019. This will contribute hugely to meeting our targets relating to low carbon heat generation in addition to delivering annual savings of £366k and 683 tonnes of CO₂e.

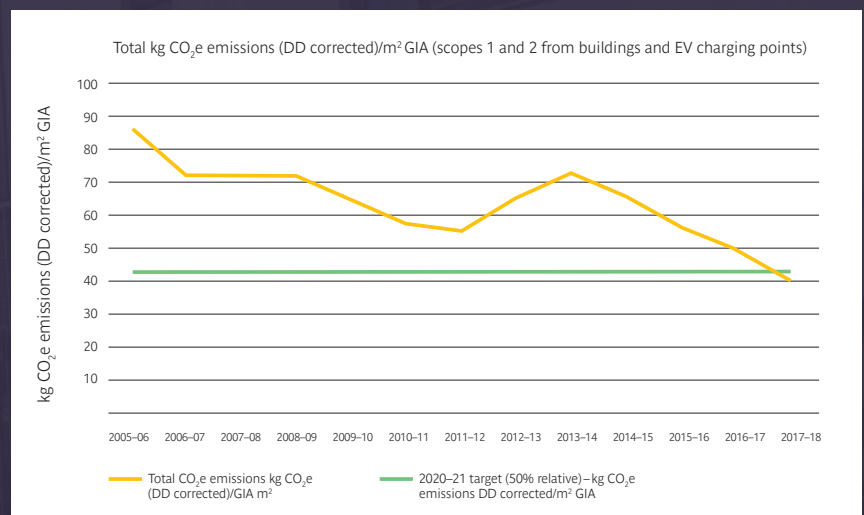
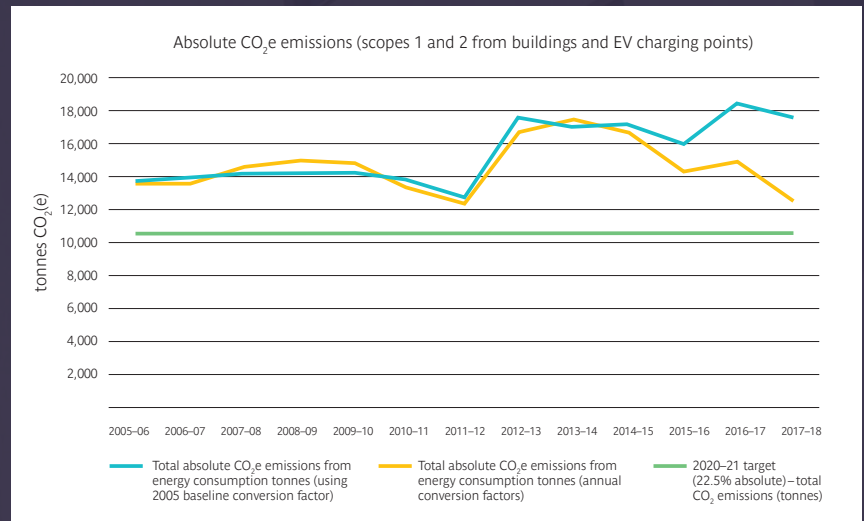
As building and refurbishment works continue at UWE Bristol, the solar photovoltaic portfolio continues to increase. During 2017–18, 510 MWh were generated on site, saving 144 tonnes CO₂ and £59k from the UWE Bristol utility bill.





2017–18 performance

- Absolute CO₂ emissions are 7.8% below the 2005–6 baseline, i.e. 12,547 tCO₂/pa from buildings compared with 13,612 tCO₂/pa in 2005–06, meaning absolute reductions of around 15% are now required to achieve targets.
- CO₂ emissions for 2017–18 equate to 84% of 2016–17. For the first time, the relative CO₂ emissions have broken the target, with weather adjusted CO₂ emissions relating to floor area shifting from 86kg/m² in 2005–06 to 41kg/m² in 2017–18, beating the target of 43kg/m².



£59,000

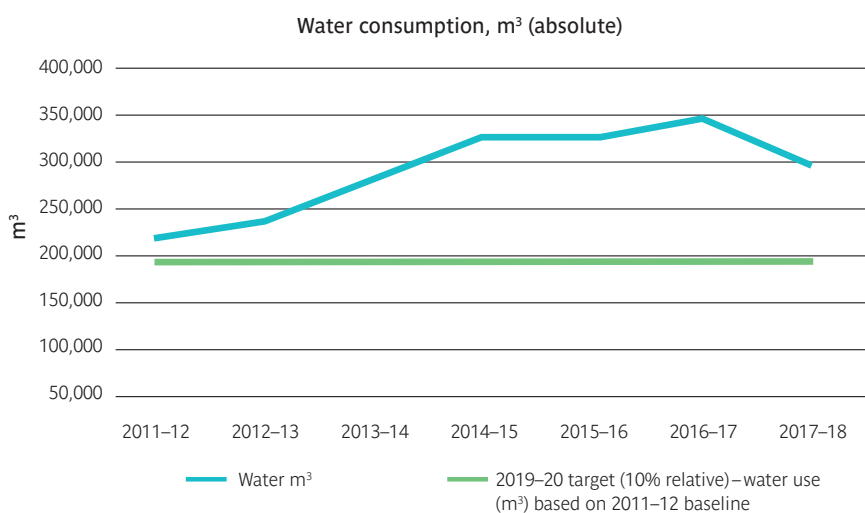
510 MWh was generated by the UWE Bristol PV generation in 2017–18, saving 144 tonnes CO₂ and £59,000

Water management



Due to the position of water in the last academic year, it was prioritised and a dedicated Water Conservation Officer was put in place to focus on achieving improvements.

Water conservation has been a priority over the last year due to the continued increase of water consumption at UWE Bristol. 2016–17 consumption was 57.6% above the 2011–12 baseline. Measures taken this year have brought this down to 36.5% above baseline, which will continue to reduce as the effects of measures implemented over summer 2018 start to appear in the data.



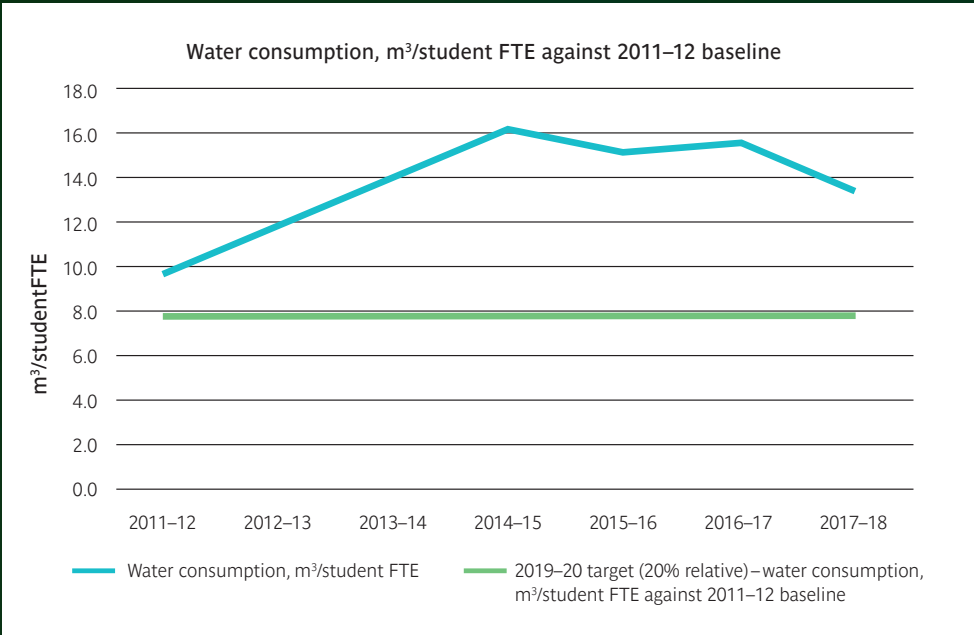
Examples of measures recently implemented or currently being implemented include:

- Replacement of urinal flush controls and the removal of cold water storage tanks at Bower Ashton have delivered savings on this campus c.60%. Further investigative and remedial works are expected to deliver additional savings of 10–20%.
- Similar to the urinal flush controls, related remedial works have been installed at Frenchay and Glenside Campuses.
- Remedial works identified at Frenchay Student Village to replace WC cistern flushes were completed during summer 2018 and are already on track to achieve £130k savings per year.

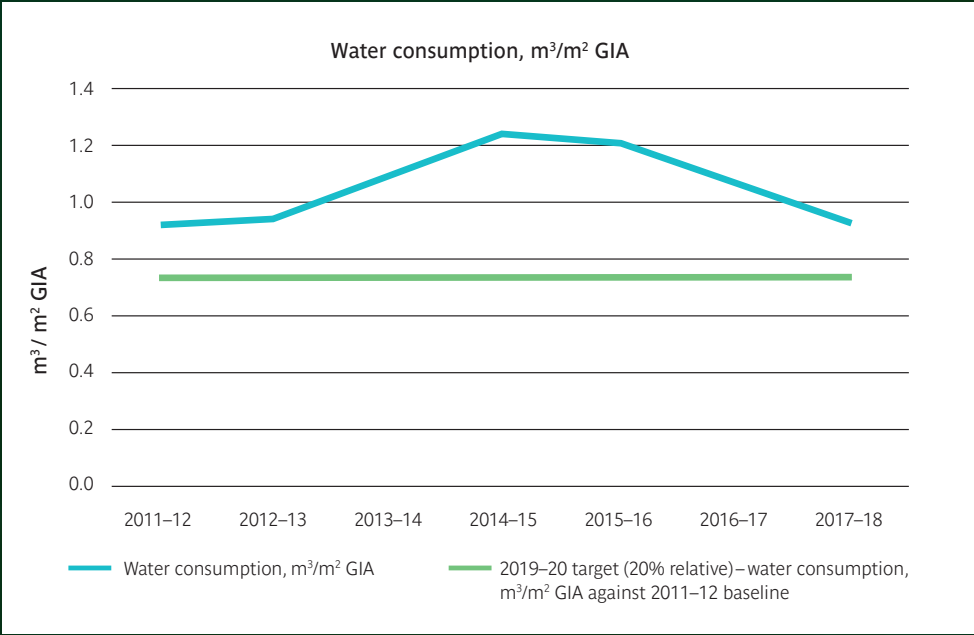
R-Block rainwater harvesting has been recommissioned and is operational, estimated to produce an annual saving of around £3,500.

Rainwater harvesting is included in the new engineering building design.





Water consumption relating to GIA has returned to 2011–12 baseline levels



60%

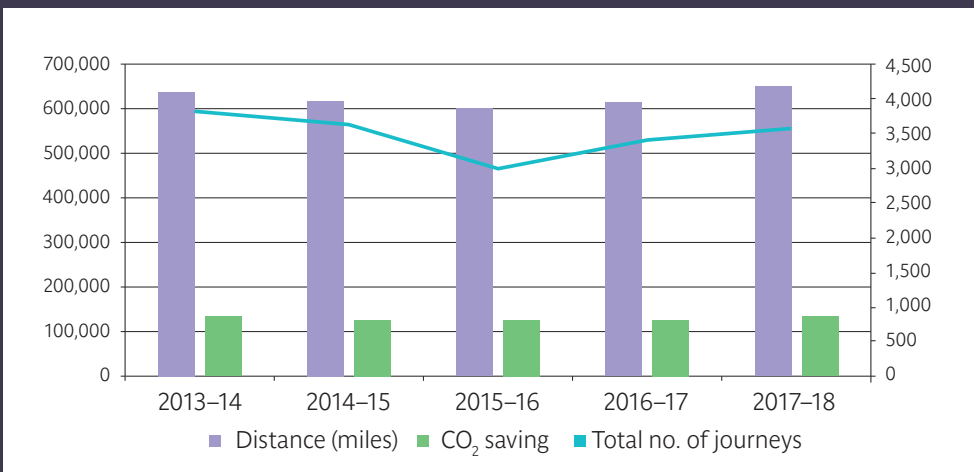
Replacement of urinal flush controls and removal of cold water storage tanks at Bower Ashton have delivered savings on this campus c.60%

Sustainable travel



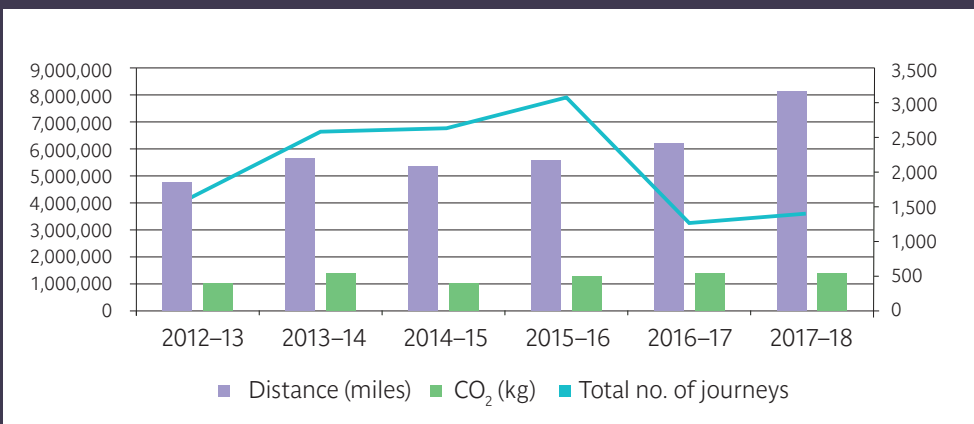
Rail travel

The table below shows the total number of rail journeys made by University staff (via the approved agent) and compares the carbon impact if the same number of journeys were undertaken in a petrol car.



Total cost of rail travel (via the approved agent) during the period was £298,947, an increase of £18,719 in value, and an increase of approximately 6.5% in distance equating to 34,818 more miles.

Air travel



Total cost of air travel (via the approved agents) during the period was £844,878 compared to £751,889 the previous year. This is an increase of approximately 12% by value and 30% in distance; however average journey distance has therefore increased by 17% compared to the previous year from 4,960 miles to 5,791 miles.





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

The results are as follows:

- Car on own 27% (target 30%)
- Car Share 10% (target 12%)
- Bus 27% (target 34%)
- Walk 25% (target 12%)
- Cycle 7% (target 9%)
- Rail 1% (target 1%)
- Park and Walk 2% (which is down on last year's 3%)

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 weather dependent.

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.

Walking increase

This shows a further reduction in car demand meaning we now have reduced car demand by over 1,000 vehicles a day; bus use remains weak, possibly caused by recent network disruptions, we are hopeful Metrobus will help utilisation of this mode. Walking has far exceeded expectations and we are starting to see an increase in students living closer to site representing a shift in the tradition of city centre accommodation choices.

Pool cars continue to see good utilisation, UWE Bristol fleet vehicles continue to be upgraded to low emissions through the normal replacement process. The student bike lease scheme was well received with over 100 bikes now in use, with the addition of staff and student short term loan bikes, including electric bikes for inter-site travel.

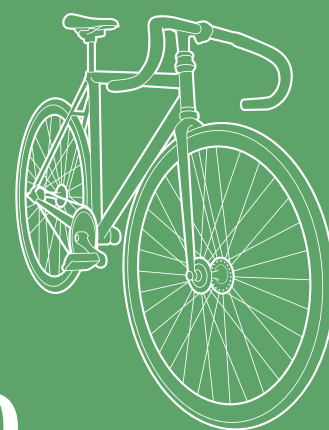
Our Frenchay site now has a bus induction charging plate in operation and an EV bus running to Campus, most of the external bus routes are now served by Euro6 compliant vehicles.

The Bristol Metrobus services have now commenced on the M3 route using Euro6 vehicles and the M2 route due to be commenced in January 2019 will be a gas bus.

2017–2018 has also seen the implementation of:

- Self service staff and student parking permits.
- A Campus-based Metrobus stop.
- A new cycle path by S Block at Frenchay Campus, Bower Ashton and at Glenside.
- Greenway extension.
- A larger visitors parking facility.

| Sustainable travel – cycling



7%

| of UWE Bristol students and staff
regularly cycle to our campus sites.



Resource management



The UWE Bristol Resource Management Plan 2020 was signed off in Autumn 2017.

UWE Bristol was again a 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 Students' 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 25,105 bags of material (approximately 200 tonnes) diverted for resale in charity shops, with a potential resale value to BHF of £350,000. Fifteen tonnes of this is from UWE Bristol halls of residence.

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 £169,418. An increase of £56,000 on the 2016–2017 savings derived of £113,000 through avoided procurement and avoided disposal.

Compostable food packaging

During the year the University's catering operation took the bold environmental step to move to compostable food service disposables in collaboration with Vegware. This has come with its challenges. The need to communicate to the customer effectively so that the material goes into the right waste stream is still in progress. Provision of disposal units for this waste stream has increased but without the message on the packaging behaviour change is one of our biggest challenges.

This year has seen momentum grow in regards to plastics pollution and how we as an institution can prevent plastic waste from single-use products. In response to this a focused working group inclusive of stakeholders from around the University and external partners was set up to identify where improvements could be made. The initial focus was to identify areas for change and produce a position statement which will be available as of autumn 2018.

£169,418

Financial savings through
furniture reuse project

Waste facts and figures

	Total waste excluding construction (tonnes)	Other works waste mass (tonnes)	Total waste mass (tonnes)	Total hazardous waste (tonnes)	Total Scope 3 carbon emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Recycling (%)	Construction waste recovery (%)
2012–13	1,633	155.00	1,797	unknown	81,394	56.62	N/A
2013–14	1,524	11,116	12,640	36.375	unknown	60.9	N/A
2014–15	1,821	22,048	23,869	20.815	69,026	62.19	68.40%
2015–16	1,278.368	231.74	1,510.108	20.882	unknown	60.6	91.6
2016–17	1,493.093	1,925.68	3,418.768	14.3	75.63	56.6	97.8
2017–18	1,258.8	117.01	1,375.806	15.7	111.673	68.7	97.1

Waste Quantity (tonnes) including Construction	1,375.806
Waste Quantity (tonnes) excluding Construction	1,258.8
Recycling Rate %, Overall (Recycling defined to inc. reuse, composting etc)	68.7%
Recycling Rate %, exc. Construction Waste	66.0%
Recovery Rate %	93.3%
Reuse Tonnage	74.9
Reuse %, exc. Construction Waste	6.0%
Construction Waste Recovery Rate %	97.1%
Quantity of Hazardous Waste	15.7

Campus development



The refurbishment of spaces across campuses in 2017–2018 brought about UWE Bristol's first RICS SKA silver assessment, Health Tech Hub, and saw the planned Glenside Optometry and Clinical Skill Centre adopt RICS SKA as its assessment methodology.

Within the year three projects were completed to BREEAM design standards, these being Bristol Business School, Bower Ashton Film Studios and Wallscourt Park phase two. Bower Ashton Design Studios have been designed to BREEAM standards, and the new engineering building shall be assessed to BREEAM standards.

The current combined heat and power (CHP)/district heat network (DHN) project will connect T Block, W Block, Exhibition and Conference Centre and Envirotron. Following a competitive process, CHP specialists have been appointed to design and specify the installation and it is anticipated the works will be complete in Spring 2019.

This will be followed by extending out the connection to the Bristol Business School, the Students' Union, Wallscourt Park student accommodation phase 2, D Block and the new engineering building.

Wider strategic DHN connection with external partners is subject to a separate Feasibility study.

Exploration for the potential to use ground source heat pumps for a water supply have taken place during the enabling works of the new engineering building.

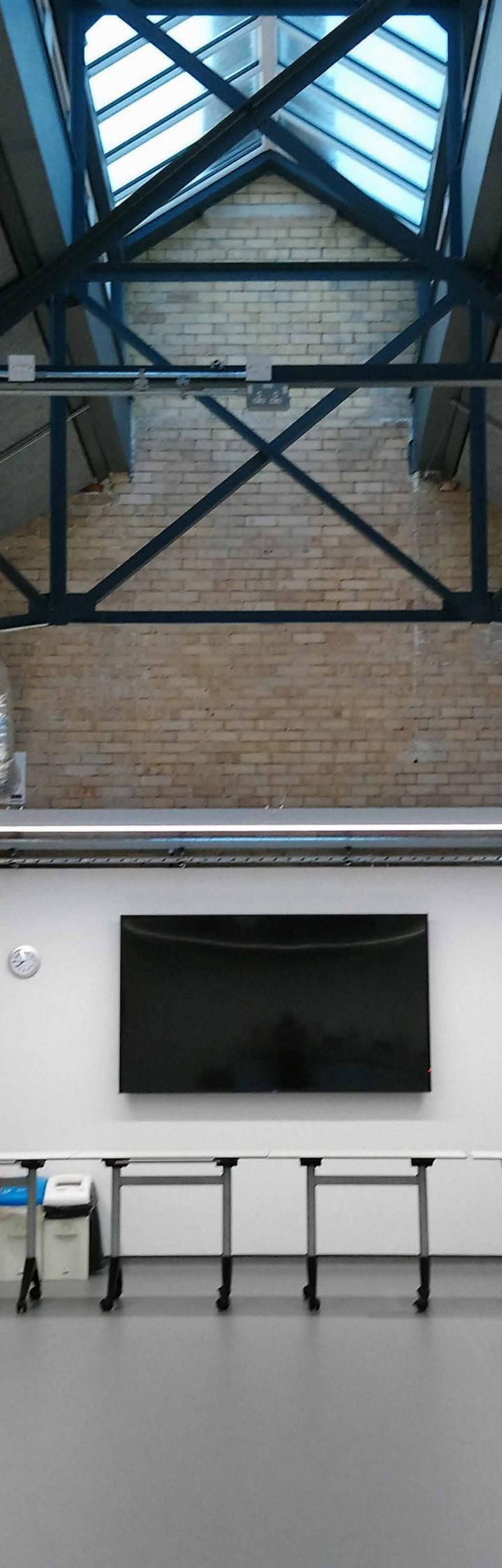
Courtyard refurbishment

As part of the Frenchay Campus Refurbishment Project a modest scheme to improve four courtyards was progressed. Recycled materials are to be used in this project to produce furniture, and a specialist 'recycling' designer (Upcircle) was engaged to develop the scheme.

The courtyard refurbishment project will introduce additional seating enhancing the areas for staff and students to spend time outside and improve health and wellbeing. These areas will also include edible planters consisting of fruit trees, herbs and other edibles helping mitigate some of the tree loss on site.

Due to open in autumn 2018, Hillside Gardens Sports Pitches project, providing two new artificial sports pitches and associated changing rooms, has commenced. These new grounds will encourage healthy behaviours in our students, staff and local community which is a UWE Bristol key enabler for achieving Strategy 2020 priorities.





To mitigate the loss of biodiversity during building works, the following are to be implemented:

- Retention of existing hedgerows.
- A variety of areas being proposed for native woodlands, scrub and tree planting.
- Species-rich grassland areas to be created on the lower nutrient areas.
- The addition of deciduous trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.
- Two ponds to be installed.
- Creating a wildflower meadow working with Urban Buzz Bristol on the bund that surrounds the area, producing a habitat for pollinators and butterflies.

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/urban-buzz-bristol-0>



There are a number of student engagement activities running or planned as part of the Campus development projects. These include:

- An architecture student 'live project' exercise where students will be looking at activity types and zoning/ furniture solutions for the project spaces, as well as studies of the effect of the new engineering building on wind flow and speed.
- Students are part of the stakeholder engagement workshops.
- User groups have taken place specifically related to 'women in engineering' and students were reps on this group.
- How space effects human behaviour.
- Film students documenting UWE Bristol sustainability features.

Sustainable procurement



Our strategy is to work towards sustainable procurement and to embed, where appropriate, sustainability and ethical procurement in tender evaluation criteria.

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 to improvement.

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

- Year-on-year reduction in the carbon footprint of goods and services purchased by 2020 achieving a 30% absolute reduction in the carbon footprint of the UWE Bristol supply chain.
- Target high/medium sustainability risk suppliers to obtain a CIPS Sustainability Index score. Net positive futures/ISO or other alternatives.
- A year-on-year increase spend on local, SME and fairly traded and ethically sourced goods and services.
- Supplier engagement in collaborative performance improvement.
- Completion of lifecycle analysis for all significant tenders – lifecycle analysis is included as part of all building projects.

The 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 treat 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.
- Sharing information on the University's approach to Sustainability within Invitation to Tender documentation.
- Assisting with the development and promotion of a Sustainable Palm Oil Policy and position statement on plastics.





Supplier engagement in collaborative performance improvement

We continue to look for collaborative opportunities wherever possible. Currently we achieve approximately 25%. This accounts for approximately £25 million (including construction).

Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC)

We continue to be an active member of the consortium with approx. £8.7 million of spend going through 43 SUPC/HE collaborative contracts.

SUPC works closely with its members to support them in getting better value through their agreements. This has been achieved through providing better guidance and support in ways to more smartly use agreements. SUPC has also focused on analysing spend data. Spend analysis gives the procurement function a complete picture of the purchase spend and is a precursor to developing a procurement approach that will truly deliver best value.

During the past 12 months, HEPA (BUFDG) has continued its work with the regional and national purchasing consortia highlighting and disseminating opportunities for shared learning and the provision of resources and training which benefit all those parts of the Higher Education landscape.

£35m

50% of our non-pay spend is spent within a 50-mile radius of the University. This equates to over £35m.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

A Bristol-based purchasing forum of purchasing managers including the NHS, Fire, Police, four local authorities and the universities of Bristol and Bath is a valuable source of collaborative information. The group aims to provide guidance to local SMEs who are looking to do business with the public sector.

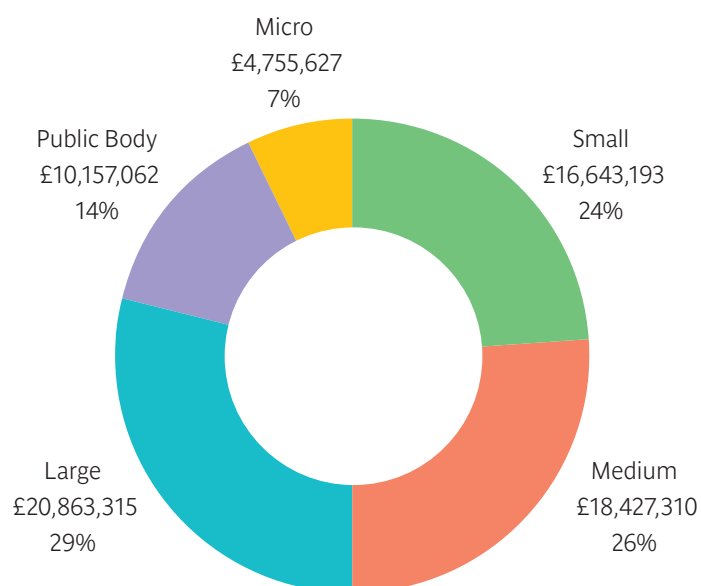
In July, we once again joined with Bristol City Council and PIP (Partners in Procurement) members to support and sponsor the organisation of a 'Supplying the Public Sector' event for SMEs at the ECC. The event was well attended and received positive feedback. The Research, Business and Innovation department of UWE Bristol presented a session on how the University can support local businesses.

The team continues to publicly advertise low value tenders either via In-Tend or Contracts Finder, as this is a successful strategy for generating interest, especially where we have a small or limited tender list. This also ensures compliance to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. These actions are making the University more accessible to small and local businesses.

As we can identify SMEs within our supply chain, we can calculate that 57% of our expenditure is with SMEs. This exceeds the Government's 30% target and equates to 83% of our supplier base. Also with the help of FET colleagues who have data-mapped our supplier post codes 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 £46m being spent in the local economy (including Wallscourt).

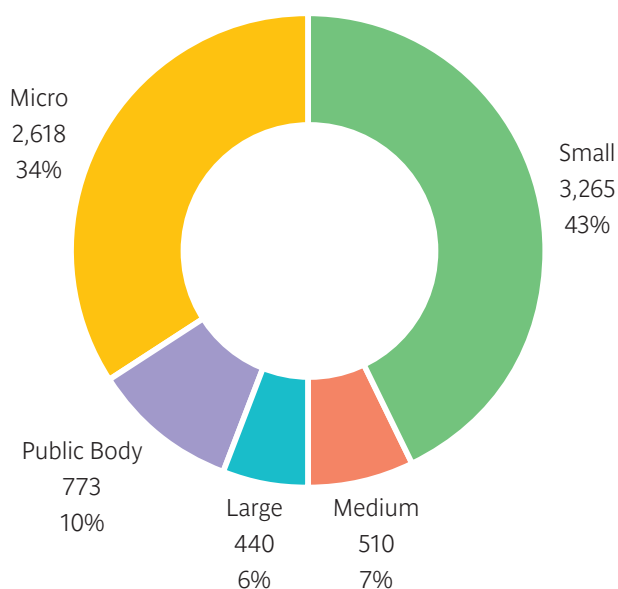
Engagement with Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs)

The analysis of our **expenditure** this year shows:



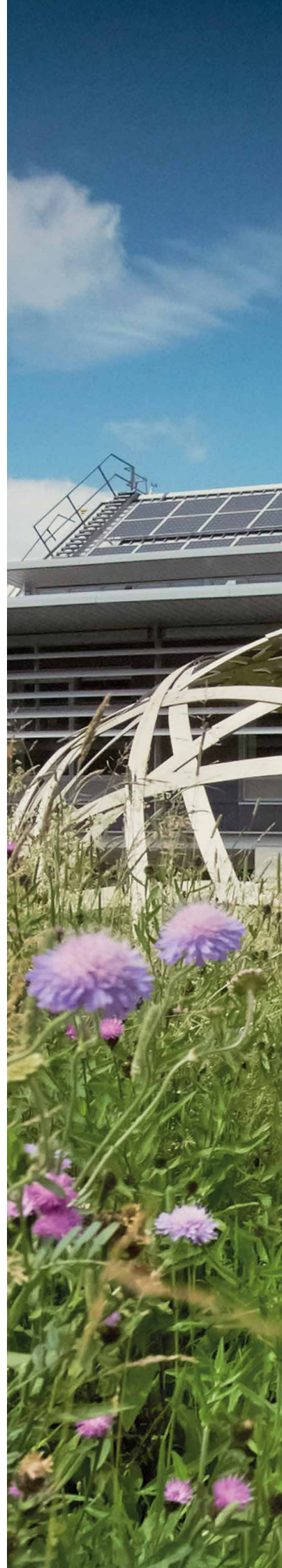
This shows by value 57% of expenditure was with SME's, this is an 18% increase from last year (39%) and is still in excess of the Government's 30% target.

The analysis of the **number of suppliers** used this year shows:



This demonstrates that the percentage of SME suppliers used by the University this year has increased by 0.57% to 84.05% from 83.48%

In terms of local economic sustainable impact, we can now identify that 50% of our non-pay spend is spent within a 50-mile radius of the University. This equates to over £35m being spent in the local economy, supporting the 2020 strategy.





Modern slavery

The University continues to actively monitor legislative compliance to modern slavery regulations within its own supply base. The University actively encourages all current and potential suppliers to submit a copy of their modern slavery statement via the In-Tend portal. This strategy highlights the need to monitor the entire supply network, ranging from core strategic supply partners through to infrequent tertiary suppliers.

Additionally, a request for a modern slavery statement continues to be included on the Tender Evidence Checklist, which is sent out with tenders. This element of the strategy will help to ensure compliance from new suppliers who are keen to do business with the University. This part of the tender process enables the Purchasing Team to utilise the University's buying power to educate and support businesses in ensuring that their supply chains are free from modern slavery.

The University's own modern slavery statement is issued as part of the Annual Accounts.

<https://www1.uwe.ac.uk/about/factsandfigures/financialinformation.aspx>

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 supply chain issues that have had exposure in the media.

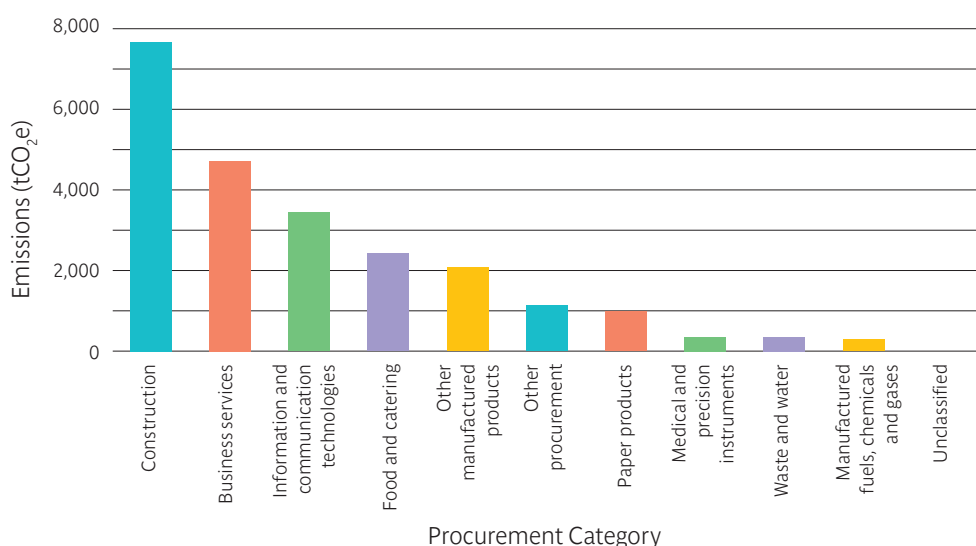


Fruit and herb bed in Frenchay courtyard. Photo: Sophie Prosser

Procurement carbon emissions

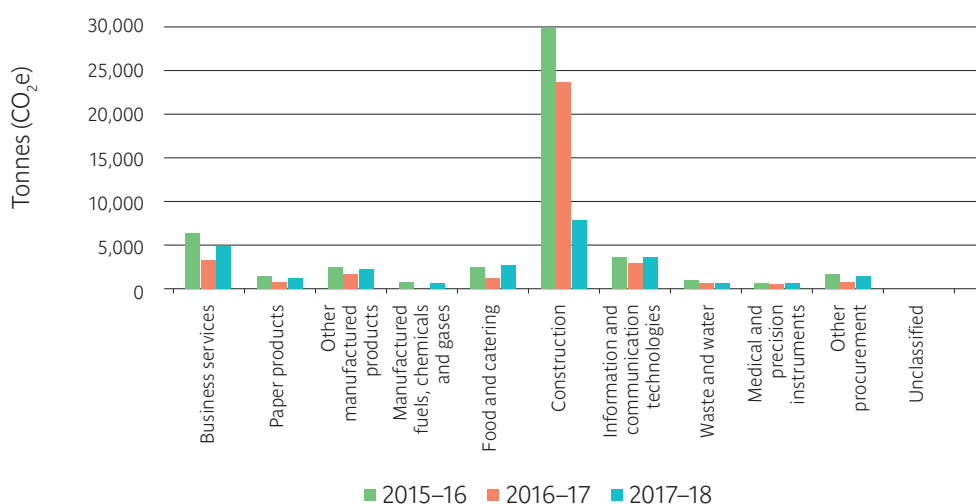
Using the OFS Scope 3 emissions model, we are able to measure our wider procurement carbon emissions using the TBL2 economic model of carbon footprinting. The spend data for 2017–18 shows UWE Bristol's Scope 3 emissions as 23,435 tonnes CO₂e compared to 33,577 tonnes CO₂e for 2015–16. This significant decrease can mainly be attributed to a reduction in construction spend.

HEI procurement emissions



The table below shows the trend by category over the past three years:

Procurement emissions by category





“

Whilst the reduction of over 1,000 single occupancy vehicles is a significant achievement, we cannot be complacent. Bristol remains a highly congested city with poor air quality in many areas. Traffic pollution is directly linked to hundreds of premature deaths each year in our region, with vehicle emissions a major contributory factor of climate change.

Current predictions will see traffic congestion continuing to increase if we do not change our travel behaviours. UWE Bristol is committed to being part of the solution and will continue to develop innovative and sustainable travel solutions across all travel modes.

Chris Donnelly

Travel and Access Manager

25%

of students walking to our campus sites. Far exceeding the target of 12%.



Green IT



IT Services are finding innovative ways to make what they do sustainable. Technology is a part of life for students and staff at UWE Bristol. IT Services manage more systems and infrastructure than ever before, and it's growing to keep pace with advances in a digital age. Most of UWE Bristol's buildings rely on a multitude of sensors and controllers to operate and all these tap into the IT infrastructure and systems. Every aspect of learning and working at the University is underpinned by IT. The University is increasingly 'smart', with internet connected washing machines, collaborative screens and ubiquitous wireless connectivity.

Cloud

There is work being done to take advantage of Cloud integration platforms, moving systems out of UWE Bristol's data centres and into supplier hosted solutions, and reducing the amount of legacy equipment and systems. UWE Bristol's virtual learning environment, Blackboard, is due to be moved to a vendor hosted solution at the end of 2018. This will mean more time to develop learning offerings and less time dealing with updates to the underlying system.

Data centres

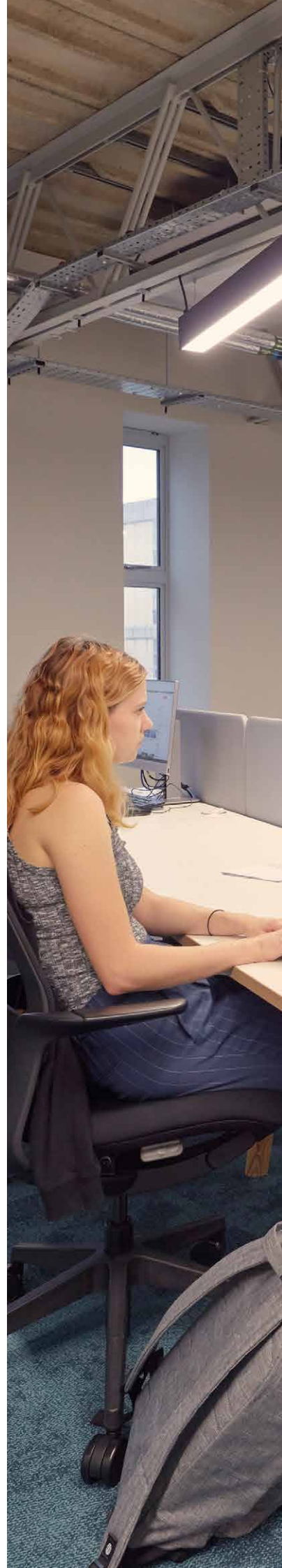
A roadmap for reducing UWE Bristol's data centres from two to one is being developed. There is the possibility of moving equipment from the outdated facility in Building 640 into a purpose-built facility in a building that UWE Bristol recently acquired. It is hoped that the facility can be kept for use by ITS at some point in the future. Cold aisle containment means only equipment is cooled rather than the entire room, and free air cooling means cool outside air is used to cool equipment when conditions allow.

Legacy equipment and systems

IT Services has been working hard over the past 12 months to reduce the number of legacy servers and systems. Over 30 servers have been decommissioned including four power intensive UNIX servers. Older versions of software, like SharePoint 2007, have been retired not only reducing pressure on the IT estate but on the ability of IT Services to support multiple and outdated versions. New compression and deduplication technology is being implemented to provide greater capacity on the University's storage devices and the virtual server estate has been refreshed with more energy efficient and more powerful host servers. In the next three months, the University's core network infrastructure is due to be replaced, reducing three nodes to two with more efficient up to date equipment.

IT Services continues to work with a specialist IT recycling provider to take all retired and redundant equipment.

Over five tonnes of retired and redundant equipment was taken away for recycling from the two data centres in 2017.





Online meetings

The University already has access to an online meeting capability, Skype for Business. In the next six months, a new version of Skype will be deployed, opening up a host of new features to make online meetings a richer and more interactive experience. The use of technology like Skype is already reducing the need to travel, improving participation and productivity. The call centre system is due to be upgraded alongside Skype enabling new ways of interaction between the University, new and future students, and other customers.

Remote access

The remote access solutions offered by IT Services are being overhauled in the next six months. The current infrastructure is being redesigned to provide more capacity and redundancy of equipment. Remote access enables staff to work away from the Campus and will reduce the need for suppliers to travel to the University to update their systems or provide assistance to students and staff.

5 tonnes

Over five tonnes of retired and redundant equipment was taken away for recycling from the two data centres in 2017.



Self service

IT Services introduced an updated service management tool. This provides better information regarding the types of requests and incidents that student and staff log, which in turn informs where improvements to services are needed. One major improvement that will be deployed over the next 12 months is the ability for students and staff to log and track calls themselves. This coupled with backend automation should see requests being fulfilled sooner and incidents reduce, as users find the answers to issues on a knowledge base. This makes providing technology services more sustainable and frees up valuable engineer resource to work on further enhancements and new services.

Location-based services

UWE Bristol provides wireless network coverage in the majority of its buildings. The proliferation of wireless access points, coupled with developments in Wi-Fi technology means data about users can be utilised to inform all manner of decisions relating to spaces and buildings. IT Services will be conducting a proof of concept of location based services over the next 12 months to showcase the sorts of intelligence that can be gleaned from the Wi-Fi infrastructure. Other organisations are already using it to see how spaces are utilised, the routes people take through buildings, to determine whether heating and lighting needs to be on in an area, whether rooms have been used and need cleaning or not, and provide pertinent information to individuals in a specific area, particularly useful for Health and Safety, disposal of chemicals or hazardous waste.

With the use of special asset tags, location-based services can be used to track assets. These can be any manner of University asset, from microscopes to trolleys. The ability to manage assets in this way should see a reduction in the need to replace lost or stolen assets.

Education for sustainable development



UWE Bristol has set itself the aim of ensuring that a sustainability culture permeates its curriculum, research and the knowledge base and behaviour of staff and students, evidenced by the ability of staff and students to articulate links between sustainable development and their discipline (Sustainability Plan 2020).

This is a long term, cross-institutional commitment to sustainability with leadership from the Vice Chancellor, the Chair of the Board of Governors and the President of the Students' Union.

The University's aims, direction and rate of travel are set out in the Sustainability Plan. The UWE Bristol Knowledge Exchange for Sustainability Education (KESE) group is charged with progressing the education for sustainable development element of this agenda, which is central to the achievement of the University's ambitions.

The knowledge, skills and attributes developed in Higher Education will prepare graduates to thrive in the increasingly unpredictable world they will encounter in their professional and private lives. UWE Bristol is committed to ensuring that all students will have the opportunity to consider sustainability in the context of their discipline of study, particularly in relation to contributions to and implications for professional practice.

Green Team

Student expectations remain high with the Green Team in The Students' Union at UWE identifying a key role for the society as 'holding the University to account for its sustainability claims and actions'. The Green Team is the largest society in the Students' Union and the Union are the highest ranking in the NUS Green Impact accreditation scheme. Consequently, there is a high level of expectation that the University sets and achieves meaningful sustainability goals.

Regular meetings were held between UWE Bristol and The Students' Union at UWE Responsible Futures leads and the Senior Sustainability Officer of the NUS in order to ensure that our progress working towards all the criteria of the accreditation scheme complies with the latest examples of best practice in the sector.





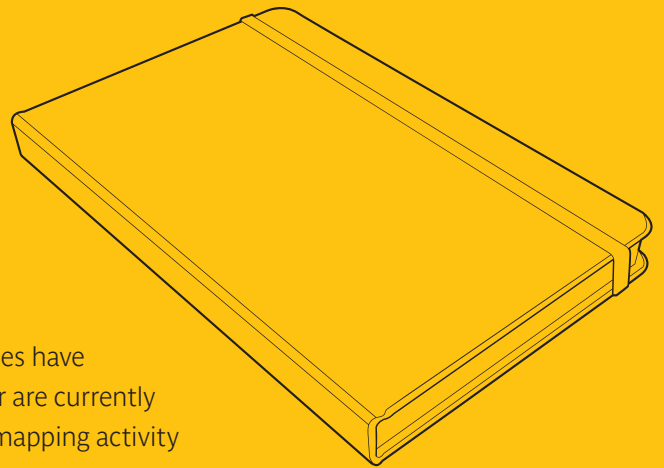
UN Sustainable Development Goals

UWE Bristol achieved its target of ensuring that all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes engage with ESD as relevant to the context of their discipline back in 2015. Since then we have been working on a more ambitious target to map every programme against the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This involves considering not only the content of our programmes, but also the design, delivery and engagement with external partners, even the very ethos and purpose of the programmes.

This year has seen very good progress in mapping of programmes against the SDGs and wider awareness raising of the Goals. In all programmes where this work has been undertaken, opportunities for curriculum changes have been identified and staff and students have been enthusiastic about thinking, learning and doing more for sustainable development.

40

40 programmes have undertaken or are currently undertaking mapping activity



40 programmes have undertaken or are currently undertaking mapping activity and others are lined up to begin their mapping.

The Knowledge Exchange for Sustainability Education (KESE) group continues to be an important vehicle for internal communication with, and support for, staff about ESD. KESE Departmental Reps are important communicators between the University and departments on ESD matters. Many departments have developed small ESD groups to discuss ESD within programme teams.

Most departments have seen excellent levels of ESD activity this year as a direct result of the actions of KESE Departmental Reps. A personal approach to engaging colleagues has been effective in ensuring development of the number of colleagues with good understanding of the SDGs and the potential for them to inform teaching and learning activities. An end of year open meeting on sustainability implications of teaching and learning was well-attended and opportunities for further discussion and reflection on practice emerged. These will be taken forward in 2018–19.

The annual round of meetings with Heads of Department was undertaken in autumn/winter 2017–18 and a number of opportunities for progressing staff engagement emerged from these. However, this year saw the first round of meetings between the UWE Bristol Sustainability professionals and the full set of Deputy Deans and Associate Deans from each faculty. These discussions yielded valuable information on decision making, resource issues and management of academic and operational activity with departments and numerous opportunities for more effective collaborative working towards sustainability objectives

ESD work

UWE Bristol's ESD work was showcased at a variety of sustainability in education conferences. We have also engaged with national ESD discussions at other universities, the Open University and the National Union of Students. UWE Bristol's work with the SDGs has been shared numerous times with the Bristol SDG Alliance. A staff development session on running interdisciplinary sustainability education events was held at UWE Bristol's annual Teaching and Learning Conference in June.

As a result of external presentations, a number of other UK HEIs have sought further information about UWE Bristol's ESD work in order to learn and hopefully progress ESD within their own institutions.

UWE Bristol has continued to be active in national discussions on use of the Living Laboratory concept for sustainability education. At present we do not have a formal Living Laboratory programme. Rather, we have an increasingly coherent and comprehensive engagement by the Sustainability Team with academics and with teaching and research activity within the institution. The work of The Students' Union at UWE in this area is also critical.

During 2017–18 UWE Bristol had ongoing engagement with the EAUC, both as a contributor to events run by the EAUC and in discussions about policy developments for the Association and the wider HE sector. Similarly, UWE Bristol has been actively working to ensure that ESD and sustainability more generally are considered in any discussions about HE development. We increasingly try to support as many senior managers as possible within UWE Bristol to advocate an emphasis on sustainable development in whatever fora they are part of.



71%

of students had the opportunity to engage with SRS issues in their programme of study.





Wild edibles Campus tour. Photo: Sophie Prosser

As part of the preparation for the new Enhancement Framework a series of Critical Reflection Questions relating to ESD have been prepared to be included within the Programme Enhancement Review. ESD is embedded in the continuous improvement cycle of the new Enhancement Framework. New curriculum development proposals and Programme Enhancement Reviews will consider ESD in the context of the discipline. Guidance for curriculum developers makes explicit the University's expectations and supports developers in interpreting and considering the place of ESD in the curriculum.

The Associate Professor of ESD will continue to work with the Academic Practice Directorate in 2018–19 to ensure that sustainability remains central to teaching and learning policy and supports activity within UWE Bristol.

Strategy 2030

Planning for Strategy 2030 is in its early stages. ESD principles are being considered by virtue of the future-facing and horizon-scanning nature of planning activities to date. Both the AVC Environment and Sustainability and the Associate Professor of Education for Sustainable Development represent ESD interests at Strategy 2030 planning events, as do other members of senior management who have taken on responsibility for sustainability.

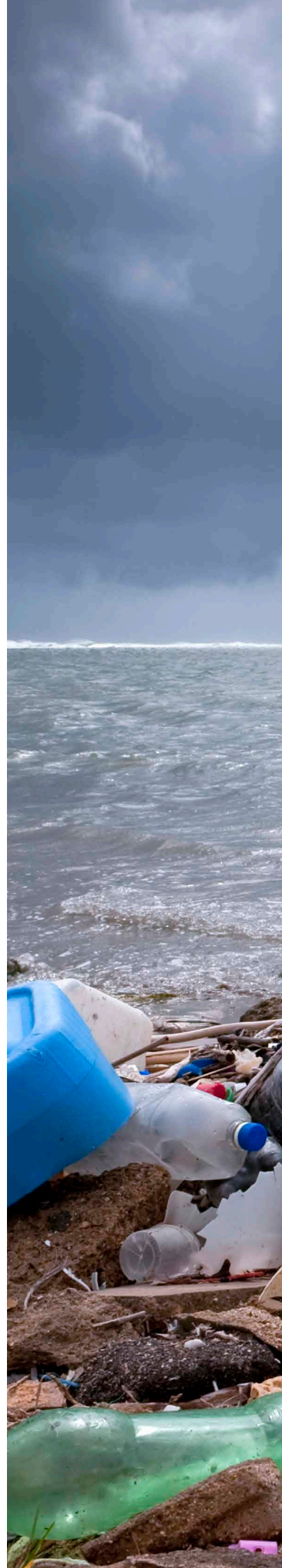
Engagement



Much as in the rest of the country, the impact of Blue Planet 2, with its focus on the plastic pollution of our oceans, was felt and showed itself in the form of increasing interest and concern in how we run the University and in what we teach our students. This has presented the Sustainability Team with welcome opportunities for student and staff engagement, and correspondingly, in the light of increasing demand across the board, necessitated an ever more strategic approach in the use of resources within and external to the team.

Throughout the year, our day-to-day communication and engagement work has continued, focussing on a range of sustainability issues and using different communication channels across the University and The Students' Union at UWE e.g. Green UWE and Green Team, Facebook pages, Twitter, student and staff on-line news items, emails and more. Events and face-to-face interaction, also embedded into the calendar year, have taken place: the Staff Welcome Fair, of key importance in making contacts for future collaboration; our input into student inductions, another valuable avenue for engagement for which demand is increasing; our annual Big Green Week, Fairtrade Fortnight and film series, put on in partnership with the Services, the Students' Union, students and academics. However, we found that these events were increasingly competing for space in the packed student and staff agenda and that paradoxically, whilst interest and concern are increasing, it is proving increasingly challenging to get airspace. Finally, an area where we were not able to meet staff demand is that of working with staff groups on specific issues.

This was in part due to a strategic decision to increase the Sustainability Team's input to the curriculum, linking with the University's 2020 Sustainability Plan and working in tandem with the UWE Bristol network Knowledge Exchange for Sustainability Education (KESE). Based on real world experience and linking academic theory with practice on the Campus and further afield, we aim to bring sustainability alive and to make it relevant to our students' studies and lives. Our input ranges from small interventions such as ten-minute inductions and Campus tours to in-depth lectures and seminars, input to student briefs and a growing number of work-based learning students, on courses ranging from Foundation Level to PhD.





Here are some examples of our work in the curriculum:

Between October 2017 and April 2018 sustainability engagement activities reached over 500 students from 20 subject areas. Some 230 academic staff engaged with sustainability through the work of the team.

In addition all team members plus those from Travel, Energy, Procurement, ITS and Hospitality answer sustainability related queries and give interviews throughout the year on subjects across a wide range of courses.

For the next academic year, our experience shows that there is much demand for our input into the curriculum and moreover that it is an effective way of getting through to people that we wouldn't otherwise reach.

500+

over 500 students
in 20 subject areas
were reached



Health and wellbeing



UWE Bristol has made mental health and wellbeing a strategic priority through the 'Mental Wealth First' strategy, which firmly supports a whole-University approach.

The Healthy University Group has become an operational arm of the Mental Wealth strategy, working under the strategic vision on collaborative projects, campaigns and services, with many different services and sectors of the University. The overarching aim is to empower and encourage students and staff to look after their mental health and wellbeing.

Mental Wealth First

As the Mental Wealth strategy develops the Healthy University Group will:

- Help to map the wellbeing initiatives and services across the University and signpost to them.
- Run Feel Good events and campaigns throughout the year for staff and students.
- Provide mental health and wellbeing information on web pages and through Feel Good communications.
- Work on innovative cross-University projects to benefit the mental health of staff and students.

The increased focus on healthy behaviours and their effect on wellbeing has led to the recalibration of the Healthy University areas to slightly wider and more holistic areas that benefit your mental health: physical activity, getting outdoors, healthy eating, relaxation and stress management, connection with others and involvement in social activities. The harm reduction agendas around smoking, drinking and drugs continue, with pioneering multi-agency work within the University, with the Students' Union and with local health organisations.

There is an extensive programme of activities and services at UWE Bristol for students and staff that help build resilience, foster a sense of connectivity, increase participation and improve wellbeing. The Healthy University Group continues to map and promote this huge range of activities to staff and students.

Feel Good

The Healthy University Group runs the Feel Good programme which includes events and communications throughout the year. The aim of the Feel Good programme is to inspire students and staff to try something new and to look after their health and wellbeing. The flagship event of the year is Feel Good February, a month of free health and wellbeing activities to inspire students and staff. There are now more Feel Good events happening than ever before and with increased engagement: Feel Good February saw participation of more than 10,000 people over four campuses in 2018.

feel good.
feb
thesuatuwe.co.uk/feelgood





Feel Good February in 2018 hosted the first ever vegan and vegetarian street food market on Frenchay Campus: with eight local food traders from Bristol and a footfall of over 3,000 staff and students – promoting a plant based diet and sustainable choices.

Monthly Feel Good Focuses are published for staff and students, with health promotion advice and information, plus a podcast recommendation and healthy recipes. At an organisational level, the Healthy University Group helps facilitate innovative partnerships across the University and brings together a range of stakeholders to collaborate on health and wellbeing initiatives.

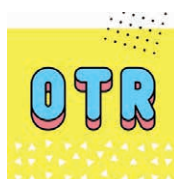
Across the city of Bristol, UWE Bristol Healthy University fosters strong external partnerships with health services and local councils. The Healthy University Coordinator at UWE Bristol is leading the HE/FE work stream for the city's mental health agenda, called 'Thrive Bristol', to share good practice and challenges between the FE and HE institutions in Bristol.

Healthy University Group partnership working in 2018

- Alcohol Impact – partnership working with the Students' Union and NUS, to achieve full accreditation and run interventions on campuses.
- Multi-Agency Drugs Meeting – liaison with multiple community services to achieve a coordinated approach.
- Sugar Smart – working with Bristol City Council and all of our catering services at UWE Bristol to promote low-sugar choices.
- UWE Bristol Academic Courses – partnerships with Health Psychology, Events Management, Psychology and Public Health.
- Wild & Well Festival – partnership with local wellbeing festival, including joint events, student volunteers and sponsorship of the 'connect' strand by UWE Bristol.
- Future Quest – running workshops to improve transitions into Higher Education.

Healthy University: innovative projects

- Currently developing a suite of Social Prescribing programmes for students:
 - Exercise referral from counselling service – with Centre for Sport.
 - Music coaching programme – self-referral with Centre for Music.
 - Gardening programme – in development with The Students' Union at UWE.
- Weekly Wednesday walks on Campus to support staff wellbeing and getting outdoors.
- Wild & Well festival partnership.
- Feel Good Champion programme – being developed with local mental health charity Off The Record (OTR).
- Biggest ever pre-arrival wellbeing survey with 2,500 responses, providing insight and knowledge to shape services and initiatives.
- Feel Good travel coffee mugs given out as main prize in Feel Good February to encourage use of reusable coffee cups across our campuses.



feel good february 2018.

216 Events

600 + 2,000
Pieces of fruit. Condoms
Handed out during February

4,284 Post reach on Facebook

6,190 Website views for SU webpage

3,233 People attended Vegan & Vegetarian street food market

250 Students from across Bristol given access to Feel Good February

10,145 Total participants

65,375 Tweet impressions

1,167 Clicks on staff pop ups

2,000 Coffee cup stickers

6,832 Bottles of water sold across all campuses

2,834 Healthy meals sold during February

Activity challenge: 37 teams took part, and walked 11,650,508 steps!

thesuatuwe.co.uk/feelgood

 **FeelGoodUWE**

Photo: Sophie Prosser

| Sustainable food

The use of palm oil is currently under review. A decision has been made on how UWE Bristol uses palm oil in the future and we will be using RSPO certified palm oil where no substitute or alternative exists.

The position statement for UWE Bristol can be found on the Sustainability pages:
<https://www2.uwe.ac.uk/services/Marketing/about-us/pdf/UWE-Bristol-palm-oil-statement.pdf>

Healthy eating promotions are run throughout the year, such as Feel Good February. We offer incentives to people buying healthy food options, such as free fruit and fruit smoothies. Current initiatives to help increase vegetarian and vegan food consumption include the introduction of the Buddha Bowl in Onezone, which is vegan friendly. This is now on offer daily on our vegetarian counter. We have increased our range of vegetarian and vegan sandwiches by 30%. We have introduced new vegan dishes at The Atrium and Bristas. We have decreased our meat portions from 200g pp to 175g pp.

Fruit and vegetable purchases are in line with our current policy. Seasonal produce is purchased and supplied in all circumstances, except when the supply chain availability is compromised, therefore preventing purchase due to limitations.

We participated in the Sugar Smart campaign for Bristol. This was to support the sale of low sugar/sugar free drinks. As a result, there was an ongoing demand for low sugar/sugar free drinks and we now have a dominating supply of these in some of our catering units. We also have healthy meal deal options in our catering units. There are continual efforts aiming to minimise salt in dishes, as dictated in our Food For Life accreditation criteria.

- Silver Food For Life Accreditation from the Soil Association has been gained at Frenchay Onezone.
- All UWE Bristol used eggs are free range.
- All milk sold is organic.
- All fish used is MSC certified.
- Fairtrade sales, since 2012, have exceeded £1 million in sales value.
- Food waste within the units has reduced to an average of 2.5%.



2.5%

Food waste within the units has reduced to an average of 2.5%

Biodiversity



In 2016–17 we introduced the campaign **UWEat**. This year saw the campaign progress and evolve into ‘The Frenchay **BEELINE**’ initiative, which attracts pollinators to a variety of places across the Campus packed with plants which are both edible and beneficial to pollinators.

We hope to develop each site to include the following four elements: wildflower planting, fruit trees, herbs/salads and vegetables and seating areas.

These places are starting to spread across Campus and the external signs to go into the beds and planters have been ordered. We hope to officially launch the project in spring 2019, although the majority of the planting is already in and **BEELINE** themed walks have already begun. We hope to develop a 'Glenside **BEELINE**' and 'City **BEELINE**' over time.

Frenchay and Glenside

Development of the community garden continued with further engagement with the Green Team and Wellbeing, improved disabled access and the introduction of raised beds for wheelchair users. The community garden has progressed well and the introduction of Gardening 101 sessions by SU@UWE have worked well and new structural additions, completed by students during winter 2017–2018, have improved the accessibility of the site.

Around 50 metres of hedgerow was planted as part of land excavated by the UWEZ project. Additional native hedge was also added alongside the UWE Bristol greenhouse and consequently our target of 25 metres increase was exceeded during this period. Native hedgerow planning has taken place and new areas of native hedge planting were identified which were planted in line with bare root season at the end of March 2018.

New planting took place with two new beds surrounding S block at Frenchay, with many species included in planting schemes of high value to pollinators. The new building for the Faculty of Business and Law has also delivered landscaping including various species that have added value in this area alongside bed and border refreshes. During November the Grounds Team focused on bulb planting on Frenchay and Glenside campuses. In total over 9,000 bulbs have been planted, over 4,000 of which were native species including bluebells, native tulips and fritillaria.

Biodiversity and Edible planting has been improved and progressed well at Glenside Campus. A small orchard was added and herb beds have been enhanced with the addition of 13 new planters on site. We have planted over 750 native bulbs and introduced some new managed log piles – both the new planters and log piles have also been used to manage traffic and parking issues at Glenside that were previously damaging the external environment.

Photo: Sophie Prosser

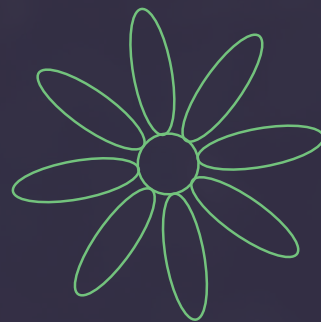


Artificial habitats have been increased by a bug hotel created in the Ravine Woodland area, and nesting boxes have been added together with feeding stations in the Community Garden. More log piles have been added to Frenchay and there is planning to catalogue and improve artificial habitats at Glenside Campus. New areas of artificial habitat, bird boxes, log piles and a new insect hotel have been identified, with installation in late winter 2018.

Wildflower meadows

The general impact and success of the wildflowers in 2017–2018 was diminished due to different weather patterns. However we added new areas to the top of the Ravine and to the front of Carroll Court which have been successful. The area increase across all campuses is over 800m² excluding the large meadow sites, making good progress towards the 30% increase by 2020. The native wildflower meadow and meadow between the Farmhouse and Wallscourt Park phase 1 have been identified as being in need of remedial works.

Introducing stricter controls on glyphosate usage and ensure all obstacle management is now addressed by planting, mulching or mechanical means. Areas where chemical treatments are necessary were reduced. Due to weather experienced our glyphosate spraying was down, but it is difficult to attribute this to change in policy as hot weather reduced weed growth in general. We did reduce spraying in grassed areas and we are working to reduce this even further with the aim of eliminating any lawn management spraying by 2020. A programme of development in Carroll Court will begin 2018–2019 to demonstrate how effective this can be.



4,000

Over 4,000 native species
bulbs planted

The Frenchay BEELINE



Follow the Bee!

| The future of sustainability at UWE Bristol

UWE Bristol is committed to tackling the big issues and solving future challenges whether they be local, regional or global. There are few greater challenges to humankind than the threat of climate change and other forms of environmental degradation: species loss, marine plastic pollution, deforestation and the health effect of poor air quality, to name a few. Higher Education has a unique role in responding to these challenges and our students have made it clear that they expect this of us here at UWE Bristol.

Over the next 12 months we will produce a robust and challenging sustainability plan for 2030, reflecting on the journey so far and the challenges and opportunities ahead. How rapidly can we decarbonise our operations in response to the global climate emergency? The city of Bristol is on track to lead the way as a core UK city and we will play our part in this. What does climate change adaptation mean to the University? How can we contribute to the emergence of a circular economy? Are we able to eliminate single-use plastics from our operations? How can we best impart to our students the understanding and behaviours that will be needed in a low carbon, sustainable future? How can we best identify and respond to the research needs around global, regional and local sustainability challenges? How can we harness opportunities for our students to get involved in developing solutions to environmental problems, and from the enterprise opportunities these present?

We've progressed well up to now but there is work to do on further embedding sustainability into the University – into the institutional DNA.



GreenUWE



@Green_UWE



greenuwebristol

| Acknowledgements

The Sustainability report 2017–2018 was created by collaborating with the thematic leads for each area, using their expertise and knowledge to inform the content.

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Marcus Falla – Green IT

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Jayne Seymour and Adam Hill – Sustainable food in action

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