Environmental Management System

Investors in the Environment

Version 14
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Contents

Version Information

Version	Date of Issue	Review Date	Comments
1	13/03/2013	12/09/2013	Version 1 created
2	04/04/2013	03/10/2013	Version 1 superseded by Version 2
3	20/01/2014	19/07/2014	Version 2 superseded by Version 3
4	23/04/2015	22/10/2015	Version 3 superseded by Version 4
5	06/05/2015	05/05/2015	Version 4 superseded by Version 5
6	25/3/2016	25/09/2016	Version 5 superseded by Version 6
7	25/4/2017	25/10/2017	Version 6 superseded by Version 7
8	3/5/2018	3/11/2018	Version 7 superseded by Version 8
9	03/10/2019	09/10/2019	Version 8 superseded by Version 9
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11	09/09/2021	30/07/22	Version 10 superseded by Version 11
12	06/09/22	06/07/2023	Version 11 superseded by Version 12
13	06/07/2023	06/09/2024	Version 12 superseded by Version 13
14	19/11/2024		Version 13 superseded by Version 14

Introduction and Scope

In September 2018 the University of Northampton (UON) moved to the new £330m Waterside Campus, located close to the heart of Northampton's bustling town centre. The new campus provides a modern, urban environment, making use of carefully designed spaces for learning and teaching, socialising, sport, and leisure for up to 11000 students. Three halls of residence remain at the former Park Campus, which is now referred to as Scholars Green Student Village. Several satellite buildings are also occupied by the University: The Development Hub, Resource Centre, The Podiatry Clinic and Innovation Centre.

The UON Environmental Management System (EMS) considers the environmental impacts of the institution across the estate and provides a systematic approach to planning and implementing continual improvements to its environmental performance. The system is based on the Investors in the Environment (IIE) accreditation scheme, with all University activity including teaching, research, administrative and operations under scope and is maintained by the Environment & Sustainability team within the Estates and Campus Services Directorate. Led by the Director of Estates and Campus Services, the Environment & Sustainability team consists of 2 roles, an, Environment Advisor and Sustainable Travel Advisor. The remit of the team is to develop and implement the Environment & Sustainability strategy covering Net Zero Carbon, Biodiversity Net Gain and Education for Sustainable Development aligned with the main University Strategy and Estates Development Framework.

The University Leadership Team (ULT) have overarching accountability for the EMS and provide the strategic direction through the governance structure. The UON is committed to continually improving the environmental performance across all functions and operations and according to all legal, regulatory, and service requirements. The University recognises that our activities impact upon the local and global environment and is committed to lessening this impact through embedding sustainability across the institution.

The Sustainability Governance Structure is in place to support the embedding of sustainability across all areas of UON. This governance structure ensures effective oversight and decision-making on strategy, performance, responsibility, and accountability. The Sustainability Board, attended by senior academics, team leaders or members from the wider university, members from Action Groups, the Recognised Trade Unions and along with the Environment & Sustainability Team form part of the UON governance structure. The Board meet three times per year, and the agenda includes feeding into specific activities covering strategy, new policies, Sustainable Development Goals working group, and presenting on specific topics that are linked to sustainability.

Environment & Sustainability Policy

Social impact is the ultimate purpose of UON. This means that as an institution, we create transformative lives for our students and through our research, enterprise and engagement with communities and businesses we work hard to have a positive impact on the world around us. We recognise that our activities can have a negative impact on the environment, both locally and globally and we are committed to making sustainable development part of its operations, research, and curriculum.

The University's Environment & Sustainability Policy has been established by the Environment and Sustainability Team to enable delivery against our Environment and Sustainability objectives. The policy is reviewed annually, with the last review taking place in August 2022 (V14) where a full rewrite was undertaken to reflect UON updated targets. In addition to this the UON has produce a policy statement which provides a summary of the Environment & Sustainability Policy's main objectives. The full UON Environment & Sustainability Statement can be read here.

Measuring Resource

Several methods are used by the University to measure its resource use, enabling annual, quarterly, and monthly reporting. Sophisticated cloud-based utility management databases and software for utility monitoring, information received from suppliers in the form of invoicing and monthly reports (web based and excel spreadsheet), and employee surveys all have an important role to play in our EMS.

Data is gathered and assessed monthly against our pre-defined targets to ensure any issues or anomalies can be identified and addressed at the earliest opportunity.

Electricity

Waterside Campus is supplied via two half hourly tariff meters on North and South HV ring mains that cover the entire campus. Electricity is supplied via half-hourly tariff meters across the majority of the estate. All sites are supplied using a Zero Carbon for Business Tariff via our provider.

The primary use of electricity within the University of Northampton is lighting, office and classroom equipment such as screens and computers, catering facilities, air handling units, and plant. We monitor our bills monthly.

Operating hours vary across the University estate. Building settings change seasonally to accommodate the changes in temperatures. Operating hours are generally set either from 6am to 6pm or 8am - 10pm for teaching, except for our main academic building which has 24-hour access. Other parts of our estate include halls of residence which are also 24/7.

Lighting

Waterside campus is fitted with sensor LED lighting throughout, except for back of house areas such as plant rooms. Sensors are in classrooms and open spaces where lights will come on when the space is occupied. The lighting system is maintained by the University's facilities team to monitor the sensors and identify any issues or challenges at the first instance so that it can be resolved.

Other sites have a mixture of sensor LED lights in common areas such as hallways, open offices, and shared kitchens in the halls of residences. Other areas do not have sensor LEDs but are still fitted with LED lighting. The only lights that remain on are fire exit lights which is a legal requirement.

Office Equipment

The UON uses office and classroom equipment at Waterside and our satellite sites. This includes computer monitors, laptops, photo copier and printers and LED screens in the classroom and throughout the academic buildings at Waterside for digital displays.

The screens are managed through a software operated within the IT and AV department. The screens have three settings: off, idle and in use. They operate between 8am and 7pm. The space booking system is connected to the meeting room screens and will automatically switch on and off around meeting times scheduled in via the space bookings. When screens are in idle mode, they are running at 20%.

Staff use laptops which are the responsibility of the individual and are therefore switched on and off per use. Monitors at the University are not controlled by a software and will be manually switched off or left on standby mode.

Kitchen Equipment

Kitchen equipment in office spaces at the University include fridges and an instant hot water tap, in some instances kettles are used when hot water taps are not working. There are a few microwaves located in office and open spaces in the academic buildings for students and staff to use. Fridges must be left on to prevent food waste and to maintain hygiene standards.

Our catering facilities, including two restaurants and three take away coffee stations use chillers, fridges, barista coffee machines and instant hot water boilers. In addition, the two commercial kitchens in operation use electric ovens, microwaves, electric hobs and deep fat fryers. Operating hours vary between 8am and am opening and 3pm and 10pm closing. When some of these facilities close for term holidays (e.g., summer period) all equipment is switched off at the mains. When the facilities are open, fridges and chillers remain on for hygiene standards and to prevent food waste.

The 'switch off' campaign launched in Spring 2022 is aimed at staff and students to switch off appliances after use, such as microwaves and printers. A sticker system is in place to visually identify the appliances that are included in this initiative.

Air Conditioning

Air conditioning is used at Waterside Campus in the data center rooms, one located on each of the four floors with one Main Equipment Room on the 4th floor. This must always be kept on ensuring the IT equipment does not overheat. There is air conditioning in the sports labs and Senate meeting rooms. A natural ventilation system where ambient air is drawn in and cooled and ventilated through the building is used for most of the spaces. Sensors are located across the buildings in rooms to monitor air quality. These are linked to the Trend BMS, managed by the facilities team.

Further Information

Plant equipment such as chillers are required for our academic buildings. We have 1x chiller on academic buildings Senate and the Creative Hub, and 2x chillers for the third and largest academic building, The Learning Hub. Two extra chillers are required to cool the Main Equipment Room.

Electricity Measurement and Performance

Our baseline year for reporting is 2018/19 the year the Waterside Campus opened. Monitoring is a mix of monthly utility invoices, manual reads and submeter data.

Most of our tariff meters are half hourly, supplying our electricity provider with accurate data. Cost and consumption data from our online account is input onto spreadsheets to enable comparison to sub-metering data and figures from previous years. This spreadsheet is updated monthly and data regularly analysed for reporting. Consumption data is used to compile annual Display Energy Certificates (DECs) and to complete carbon foot printing.

All tariff meters are included in the University's utility monitoring system, provided by Elcomponent, which also includes building–level sub-meters for most on and off campus buildings, giving real-time consumption readings every half-hour. This data is stored on a central server and can be interrogated by the Environment & Sustainability team. The sub-metering software allows us to review and compare data against invoices for bill ratification.

The UON consumed 9,322 MWh of electricity during Academic Year (AY) 2023/24, this is an increase of 3% compared to the previous academic year, with a reduction of 17% from the baseline consumption figure of 11,202 MWh (*Figure 1*).

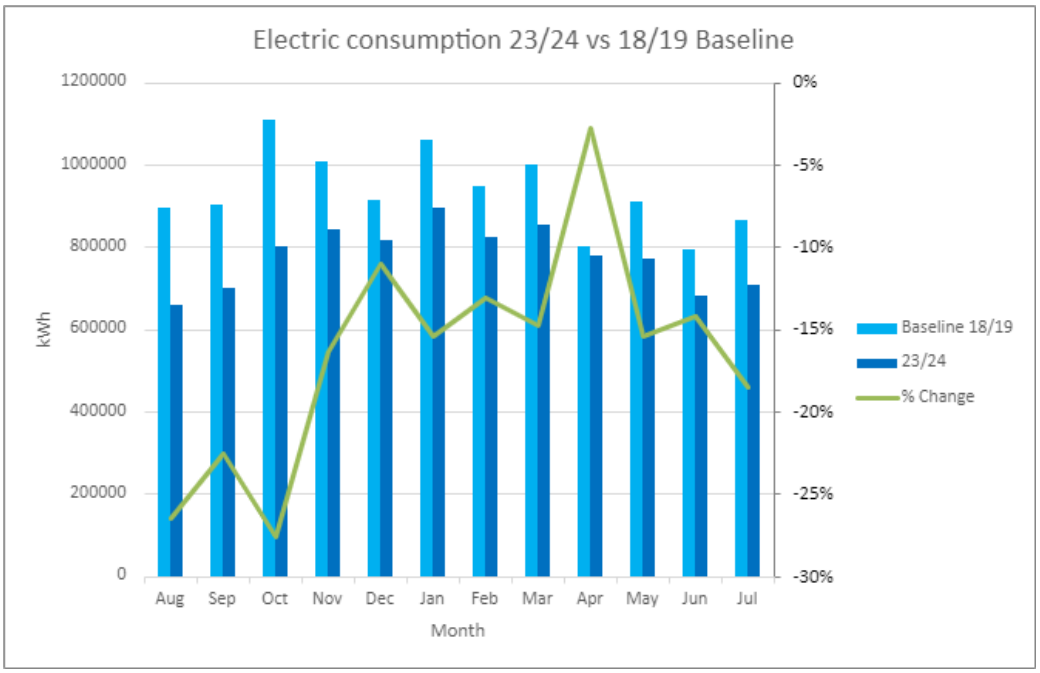


Figure 1: Annual Electricity Consumption AY 203/24 Vs Baseline 2018/19

Gas and Biomass

Waterside Campus has two gas supplies. A medium pressure main serves the energy centre plant which provides gas to the campus except for the ICLT building which is supplied via a low-pressure main. Scholars Green Village has one supply point servicing the student halls. St Johns Halls have three gas supplies, two for St Johns House and one for the Halls.

At Waterside Campus, a 995KW biomass boiler is the primary source of heat. Three 12KW gas boilers provide the surplus heat whilst the biomass takes the baseload and distributes heat across the campus on the district heat network. The baseline year is 2018/19 when the Waterside campus was opened, however, the biomass boiler was not operational until January 2019.

Biomass and gas are used to heat our academic buildings and halls of residences. Temperature, seasonal and operational settings are controlled by the Building Management System (BMS) The management of the BMS is the responsibility of the Building Services Team with input from the Environment and Sustainability Team regarding KPIs and progress monitoring.

All tariff meters are either included or soon to be added in the University's utility monitoring system, provided by Elcomponent, which also includes building level sub-meters for most on and off campus buildings. This data is stored on a central server and can be analysed by the Environment & Sustainability Team. Data provided through invoicing and billing is also reviewed and analysed monthly for monitoring and reporting. Consumption data is used to compile annual Display Energy Certificates and to complete carbon foot printing.

Gas Measurement and Performance

The baseline annual gas consumption for 2018/19 academic year was 11,358MWh. The annual gas consumption for 2023/24 academic year was 10,646MWh (Figure 2), including July 2024. This is a 6.5 % reduction when compared to baseline and a 39% increase when compared to 2022/23. This increase is noted through the winter months and is thought to be a result of the performance of one building (the Innovation Centre).

This increase is a combined result of:

- The operation of the Air Handling Units (AHU) in one of our buildings was significantly impacted due to mechanical issues, resulting in the system having to work harder leading to an increase in consumption over the winter months.
- The re-introduction of the café on the ground floor may have made a slight difference to consumption due to an increase in hot water.
- An increase in tenant occupancy resulting in previously un-occupied offices in use through the winter months and therefore heated.

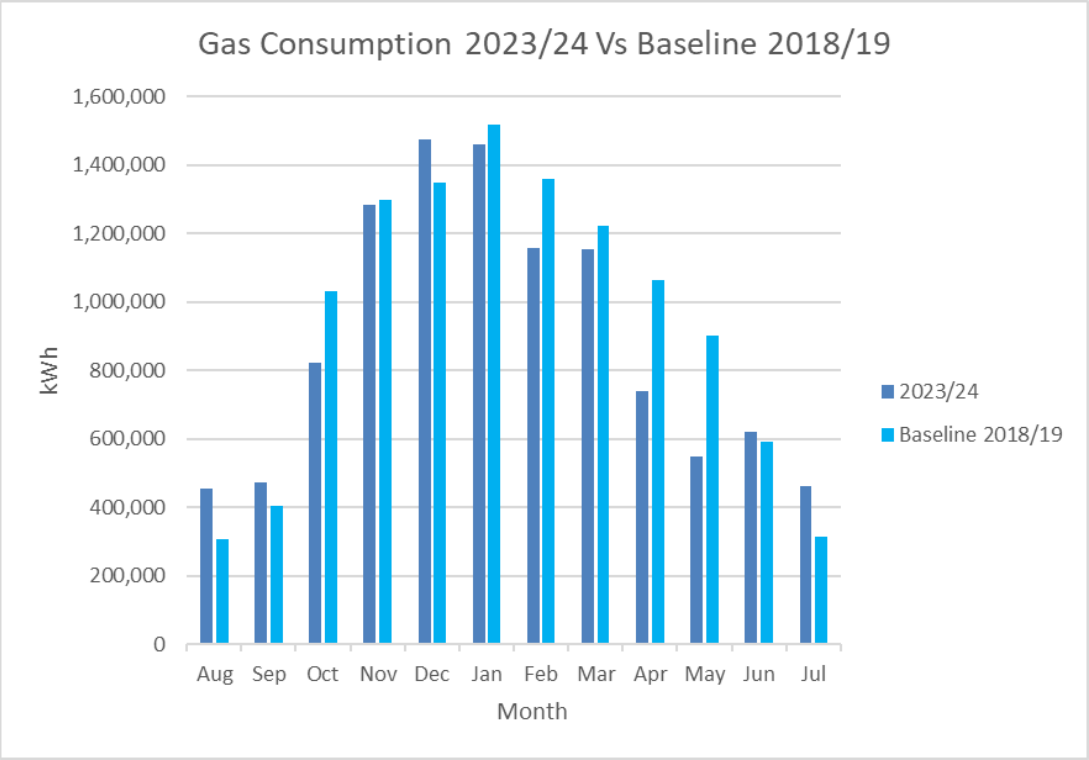


Figure 2 Gas Consumption in kWh 2024/23 Vs Baseline Data

Biomass Measurement and Performance

During the AY 2023/24, the University's biomass boiler generated 1,844 MWh of low carbon heat energy (inclusive of July 23). This produced 19.8 tonnes of CO_2e emissions, a CO2e saving of 317.41 compared to the natural gas equivalent (figure 3)

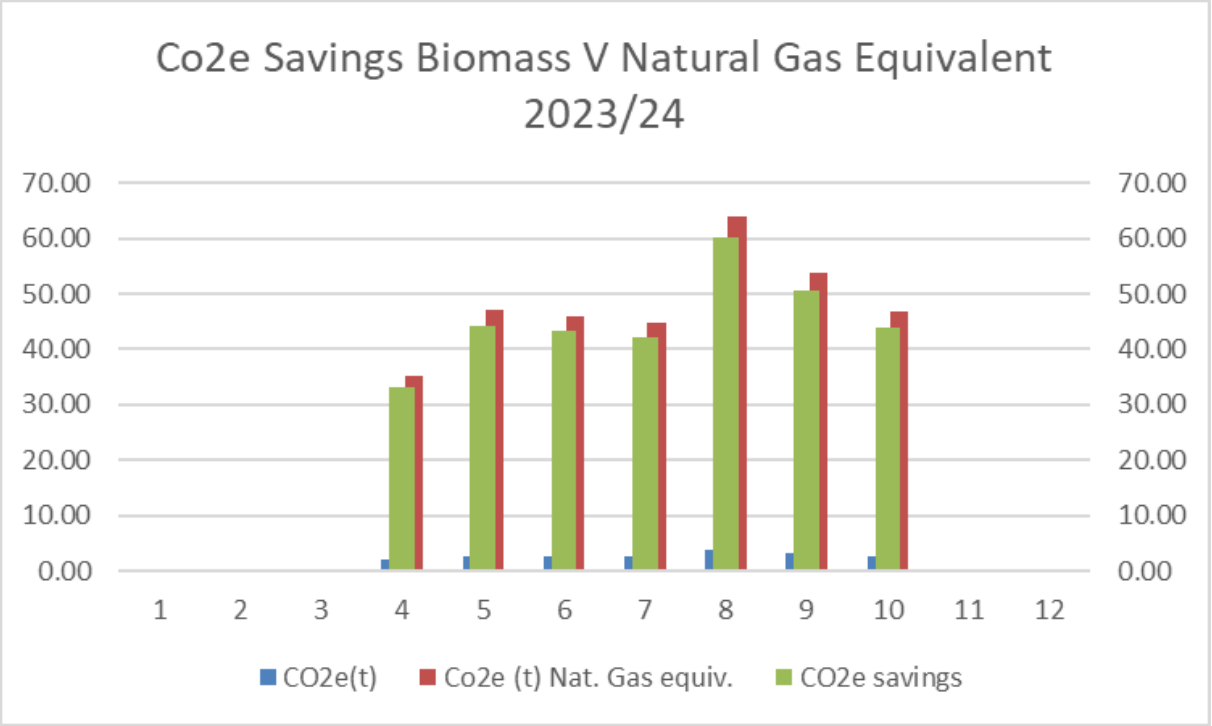


Figure 3 CO2e Savings Biomass Vs Natural Gas

Air to Water Heat Pump

During Academic Year 2023/24 an Air to Water Heat Pump was installed at the UON Podiatry Clinic as a low carbon source of hot water. The performance of the heat pump will be monitored and reported on during AY 2024/25.

Solar Feed in Tariff (FIT)

11,802 kWh of electricity was generated during the AY 2023/24, this is 14% less generation compared to the previous year and 19% higher than the initial operational year (2019/20). The amount of energy exported to the grid during AY 2023/24 was 31% lower than the previous academic year when 12,022 kWh were exported, however it was on par with data for both 2020/21 and 2021/22. This could be a result of cleaning and maintenance schedules, it is recommended that the annual maintenance and clean are continued so that the panels can perform to their optimum.

Overall, the energy performance of the estate shows in increase of 26% use per m^2 compared to 2022/2023 and a 11% decrease since the 2018/2019 baseline. Gas is currently the predominant resource for energy across the estate (Figure 4), this is also the most carbon intensive and therefore projects focusing on the optimum performance and efficiency of the biomass boiler are crucial to reducing the consumption of gas across the estate.

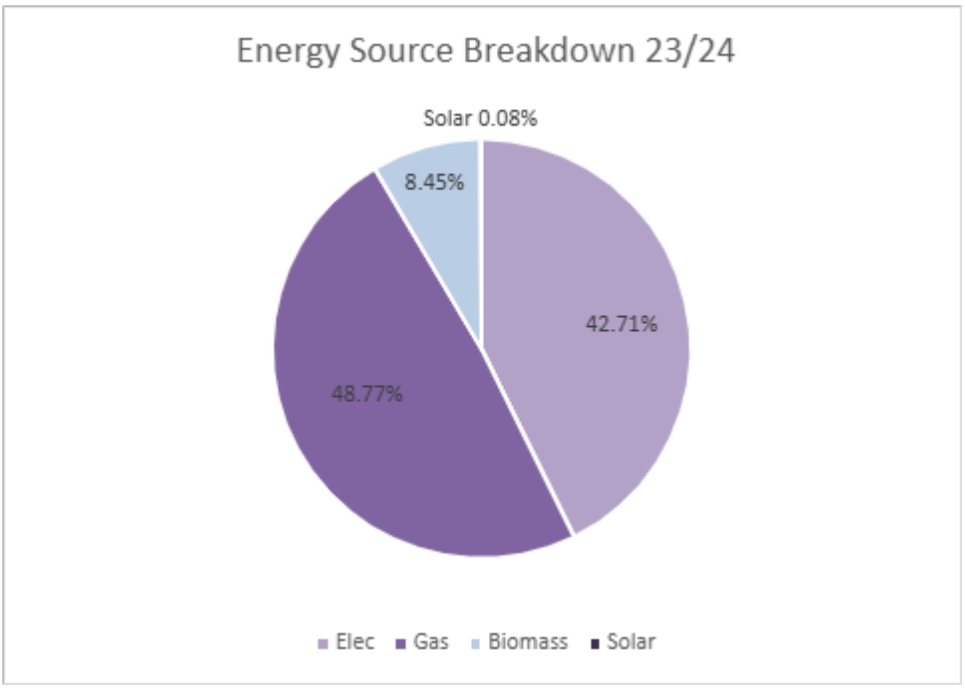


Figure 4 Energy Source Breakdown 2023/24

Water

Waterside campus has two water supplies. One serving the administrative block called Senate,and the second serving the remaining campus. There is one main tariff water meter at all other satellite sites including Halls of Residence.

Water is used primarily for window cleaning, amenities and showers. The supplier is Anglian Water, and our provider is Wave. Our bills are monitored monthly. The University is in a framework with Wave as the provider. This was set up at the end of academic year 2020/21 and will support the monitoring of the estate's water consumption. This is done using monthly water bills and through a mix of manual meter reads and sub-metering.

Toilets

The toilets at Waterside campus are dual flush cisterns (four and six litres). Flushing of urinals is sensor controlled so they only flush once they have been used. Cistern size depends upon the number or urinals on a run.

All toilet areas have sensors connected to solenoid valves on the water supplies. These turn off the water to the toilets, basins and urinals when the toilets have not been used for a while to reduce the water waste. The taps are either percussion or electric sensor operated.

Drinks

Hot water taps are in staff kitchen areas, eliminating the requirement of kettles. However, we do hold a small stock of plug in kettles to be used as back up if the hot water taps are not in working order, or to fill small urns used in meetings. Access to free drinking water is provided through water coolers situated throughout the site, a watercooler map is available to show the locations of each station, therefore cold drinks, including just water, do not need water from the mains supply.

Washing up

Kitchen sinks are in staff rooms for minimal washing up. There are four hospitality areas onsite, 2x restaurants and x coffee shops which have sinks for washing up equipment.

External Services

Water is used for window cleaning which is contracted to a third party. This is monitored by the contractor and External Services team. Water from the mains supply where it is then filtered through a purification process and used to clean all windows on each building across the estate. Wastewater from the purification process is diverted into a separate tank where it can then be reused for the Grounds team for plant and tree watering.
All mains water supply usage is monitored by the Energy Officer through water bills and meter reads.

Waste Water

Trade Effluent is a product of the Tannery. This is also metered and monitored through the utility provider. Regular effluent quality testing is carried out by Anglian Water and is the responsibility of the Tannery Manager, with input from the Health and Safety and Environment and Sustainability teams.

Water Measurement and Performance

Cost and consumption data from invoices are input onto spreadsheets for data monitoring and reporting. During 2020/21, all the University's water supply was moved onto a contract with one sole provider, instead of having more than one provider across the estate. This is to allow for a more streamlined and manageable approach to collect water consumption data.

The baseline year for water reporting is 2019/20. This differs to energy baseline reporting due to the level of historic data that is available. Water management has previously been heavily estimated due to issues with the wholesaler and retailer. Whilst data from 2019/20 and 2020/21 contains estimates, there are less gaps in the data. An Automated Meter Reader (AMR) was installed on the main tariff meter at Waterside on the 25th of May 2022. This ensures we are now provided with more accurate, robust data for improved reporting compared to previous years. 2021/22 is the most reliable and complete dataset for water consumption since Waterside opened in 2018.

Meter reads are carried out by meter operators at a frequency depending on the size of the meter which is standard in the industry. Water meter readings are taken, when possible, for additional measure, but due to the location and accessibility of the tariff meters (under heavy manhole covers), it is not possible to do this each month.

Water usage and waste data is stored on a central server and is reviewed and analysed monthly for monitoring and reporting, consumption data is used to complete annual carbon foot printing.

Baseline water consumption for 2019/20 academic year was an estimated 83,460m^3. The annual water consumption for 2023/24 academic year was 111,030m^3, an increase of 33% on baseline, and an 11% increase on the previous year. The halls of residence show the highest consumption of water across the estate (figure 5), therefore the increased usage for AY 2023/24 can potentially be attributed to an increase in the occupancy across all halls of residence. Leak detection processes are included within the Water action plan to ensure leaks are identified as soon as possible.

It also should be noted that due to the data available for the baseline year it may not be a true representation.

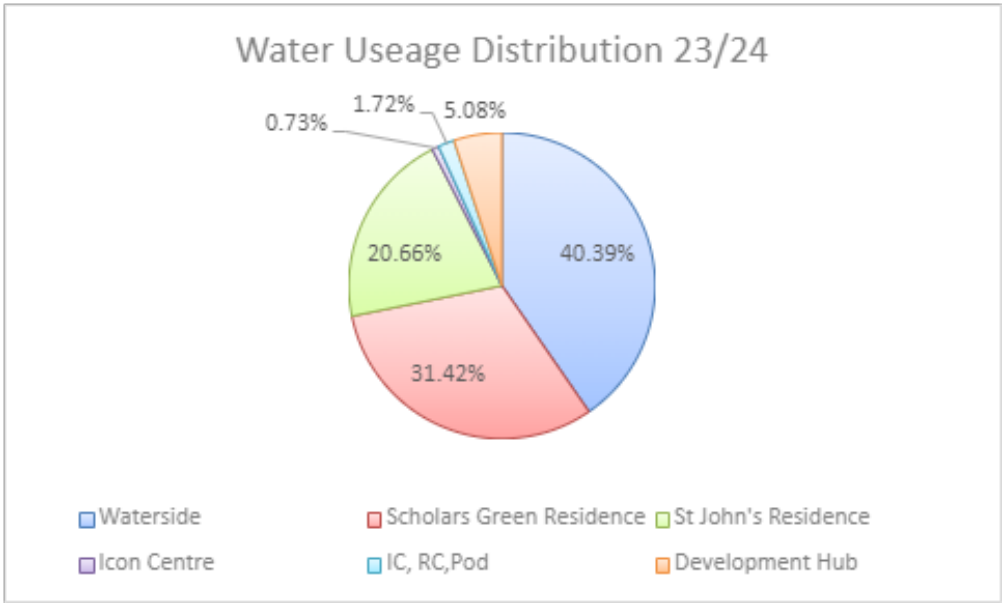


Figure 5 Water usage distribution across the estate 2023/24

Waste Management

The UON Waste Policy demonstrates our approach to waste management, with a target set to make a 5% reduction in waste recorded as General waste across the estate by 2030. This will be achieved by focusing on the Prevent / Avoid principle at the top of the Waste Hierarchy and every effort made to support the correct segregation of waste to maximise the recycling opportunities and reduce waste sent for energy recovery.

Applied Waste Hierarchy Principles:

Prevent / Avoid

Communicate with staff and students to be mindful when making non-essential purchases along with the university's definition of avoidable waste.

Re-use

Ensure items are maintained, repaired, refurbished, used for spare parts or donated where applicable. This is evident in a recent project to decommission The St Georges Avenue Campus, through the donation of desks, chairs, IT equipment for use here in the UK and in Djibouti.
We also encourage student initiatives such as Hazaar and have a long-established relationship with The British Heart Foundation with donation banks on site for staff and students to donate quality clothing, books, DVDs etc. Further information on the work we have completed with Phoenix and The British Heart Foundation can be found here.

Recycle

Every effort has been made to make waste segregation easy for staff, student and visitors across the campus through the installation of internal and external recycling stations. These allow for separation of food, mixed recycling (plastic, paper, card, cans) and general waste.

Our halls of residence have the same bin segregation structure as the rest of the campus, with the addition of glass segregation bins. If glass recycling is required by staff the items can be placed in the glass bins in the service areas or the halls of residence bin stores. Campaigns take place on a regular basis to encourage waste segregation and increase recycling rates including recycle week, zero waste week and the first UON Go Green Week. All labelling is the same across all areas of the campus to ensure consistency of messaging.

In addition to mixed recycling, we offer coffee cup recycling through our Up for The Cup campaign with special cup recycling bins in place to allow for the separation of the lid, liquid and cup to reduce contamination and optimise recycling rates.

Recover

All non-recyclable waste is processed as a source for low carbon energy production by Suez, our waste management service provider. This enables us to divert our residual waste from landfill and to recover value from a resource by producing energy.

Waste Measurement and Performance

Each stream of segregated waste is collected from UON by Suez and monthly weight data is supplied via the customer portal and is accessible by Environment & Sustainability Team and wider Estates & Campus Services team. Data is also provided via an excel spreadsheet, split across residential and non-residential waste to support our Estates Management Record data submission. Suez also supply carbon emissions data across our waste streams supporting our scope 3 emissions reporting.

The academic year 2023/24 has seen an overall decrease in waste by 9% (-51.53t) (Figure 6) when compared to the previous academic year (2022/23). This is a 24% decrease on waste produced during the baseline year. Waste avoidance is an integral element of the revised UON Waste Policy and therefore is anticipated to make further reductions year on year.

The total waste produced between August 2023 to July 2024 was 594.52 tonnes (t) of which, 325.85t (54.81%) was recycled, 268.67 tonnes of waste was sent for energy recovery (EfW) and 0 tonnes were sent to landfill (Bio-ash).

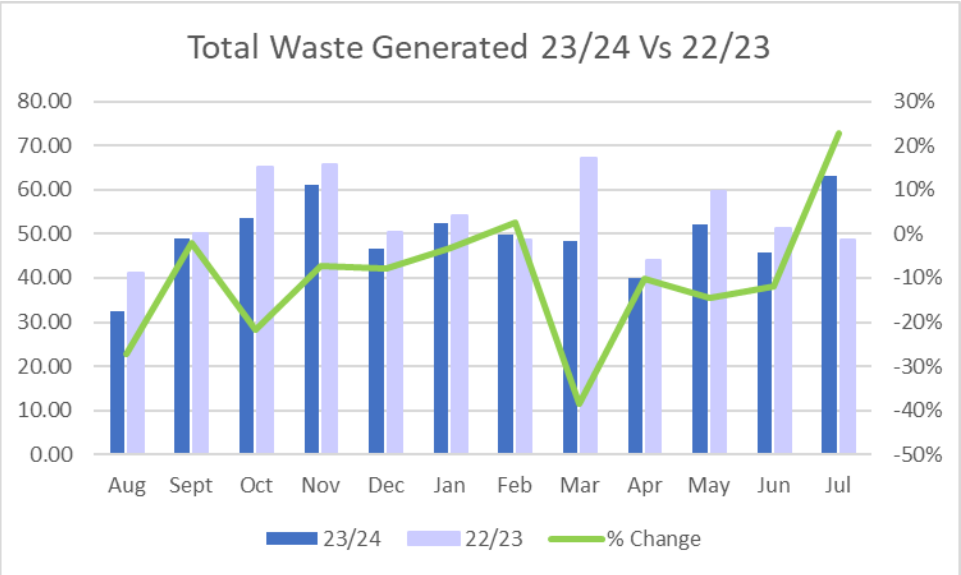


Figure 6. Total waste across all UON estates by month

Recycling rates

The annual recycling rate across all buildings for 23/24 is 55%, a reduction of 6% from 60.7% in 22/23 and a further 13% reduction on baseline 2018/19 data. (Figure 7)

The residential buildings represent 42% of the total recyclable waste produced across all sites, with an annual recycling rate of 47%. This is a reduction of 5% on the previous year for residential buildings only. (Figure 8)

Behavioural campaigns and targeted communications are required to engage students in waste segregation and recycling to support an increase in the % of recyclable material captured.

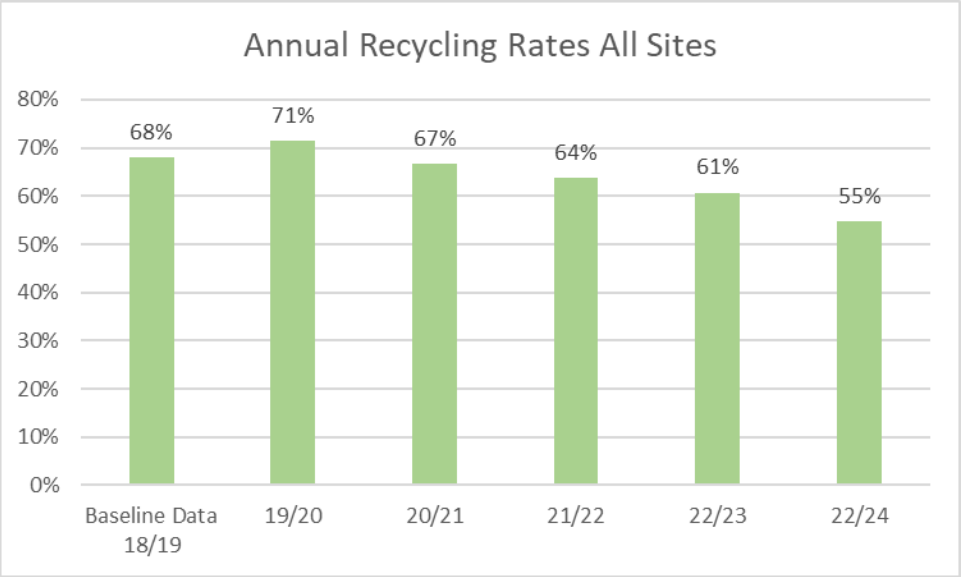


Figure 7 Annual recycling rates across all sites year on year

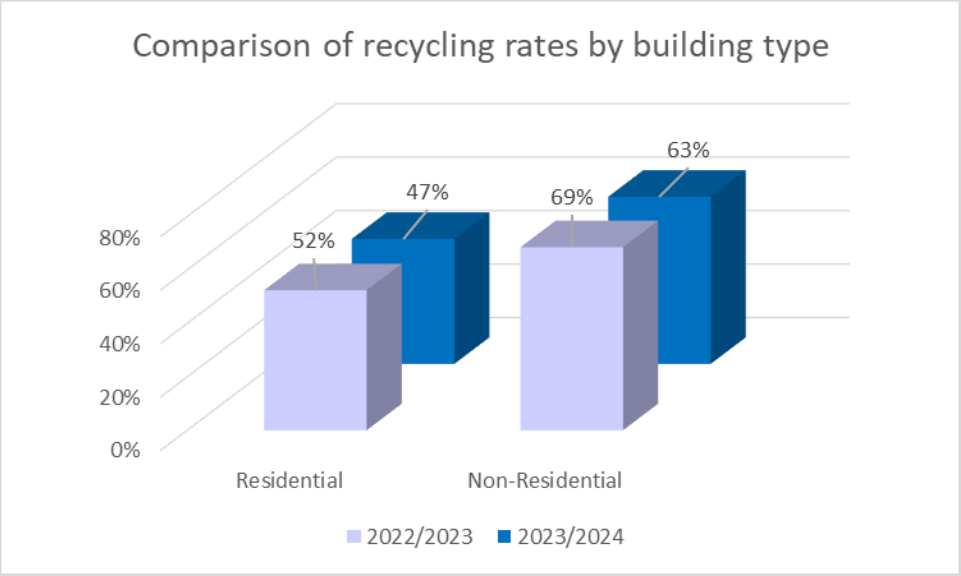


Figure 8. Recycling rate comparison by building type.

Carbon Analysis

Climate change is one of the biggest global challenges faced today. In 2019 the UK government passed legislation under the Climate Change Act for the UK to become Net Zero Carbon by 2050, following this public and private sector bodies have responded by setting themselves challenging targets, which in some instances aim to bring forward the target date of 2050 or split into smaller targets.

In response to the UK government target of achieving Net Zero emissions on all Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 the Association of Colleges, EAUC, Guild HE and Universities UK partnered to establish a Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education. A key aspect of the Commission is the targets set for achieving Net Zero in Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions by 2030 and Scope 3 Net Zero GHG emissions by 2050.

In February 2021 the University of Northampton signed up to the One Planet Pledge, demonstrating our commitment to becoming a Net Zero institution in our Scope 1 & 2 Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHG) (carbon emissions) by 2030 with a baseline of 2018/19 of 5,609.79 tonnes CO2e.

Carbon footprint 2023/24 calculation details

The University's scope 1 & 2 carbon footprint has been completed following a consistent methodology going back to 2005/06. This method makes use of an "Emissions Baseline & Targeting Tool for UK Higher Education Institutions (Release version 1.2)"issued by the Carbon Trust. All carbon conversion factors have been updated using the 'UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting' spreadsheets.

Scope 3 carbon emissions have been calculated following and using the UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting' spreadsheets. Reporting continues to evolve year on year with additional resources / items being added into the scope categories i.e. refrigerants.

The method of calculation used follows GHG Protocol Guidance, it is the market-based calculation using DEFRA conversion factors for the applicable years and includes:

Scope 1: Direct emissions from Gas, Biomass and Fuel for Fleet
Scope 2: Indirect emissions from purchased electricity.
Scope 3: Emissions from activities related to services or goods purchased including Water, Waste disposal and Business Travel

The calculation for waste emissions has been amended this year to reflect the various DEFRA factors for different waste streams i.e. batteries, food and green waste, previously one factor for the relevant year was used for all waste streams.

The UON carbon footprint (Scope 1,2 & 3) for the academic year 2023/24 was 2,308 tCO2e. This is 50.04% below the 2018/19 baseline of emissions of 5,606 and 29% reduction on the previous year (2021/22). (Figure 9)

Reporting continues to evolve year on year with additional resources / items being added into the scope categories i.e. refrigerants.

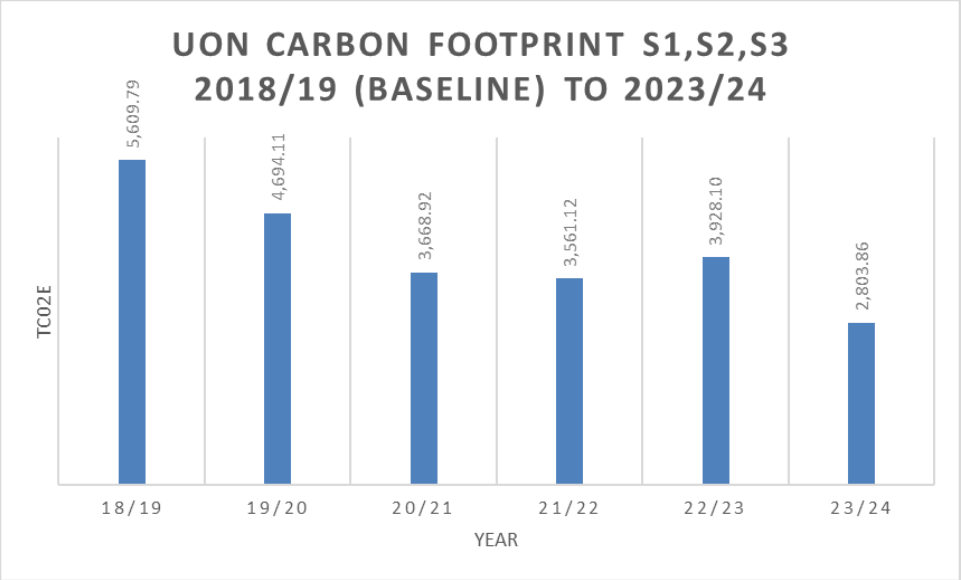


Figure 9: Annual Carbon Footprint

Scope 1 and 2 emission reporting

The UON 2023/24 carbon footprint for scope 1 & 2 emissions is 2,375.75 (t)CO2e, which is a combined total of 2,043 (t) CO2e for energy*[1] based emissions and 332(t) CO2e from fleet emissions, inclusive of the park and ride bus fleet up to March 2024. Year on year reporting prior to 2023/24 has been collated based on periods August to June due to the availability of the dataset. As of 2023/24 data presented is for a full academic year (August to July) and will continue for future reporting years.

Energy

Scope 1 energy generated emissions have increased in 2023/24 by 49% from the previous year, this is the result of a combination of factors including, mechanical issues with the Air Handling Units (AHU) in one of our buildings, this resulted in the heating system having working harder than usual and therefore consuming more gas. An increase in tenant occupancy in the same building has also contributed to the increased gas as previously un-occupied offices were in use through the winter months and therefore heated, increasing consumption during the winter months.

Scope 2 emissions have reduced significantly as a result of the EDF zero carbon for business tariff, using Market based emissions reporting our scope 2 emissions are zero, using location-based reporting our scope 2 emissions would be 1,930 tCo2e throughout the academic year.

*[1] Includes (gas, biomass and refrigerant), excludes market-based emissions from the EDF Zero Carbon for Business Tariff.

TRAVEL OF UON FLEET VEHICLES & UNO BUS*

Carbon has increased by approximately 60 tons of CO2e, and we believe this is because it is the first academic year since Covid that all teams were fully functioning, trips resumed, and buses ran on a full schedule. We could look at this encouragingly that bus usage increased as a means of sustainable travel rather than opting for single car journeys amongst staff and students.

All fleet vehicles were upgraded from petrol/diesel vehicles to hybrid and fully electric vehicles and are charged via the EV charging stations on campus. Business travel is monitored through the platform Diversity Travel and reports on air and rail journeys. Staff are encouraged to consult the Travel Hierarchy before booking travel and consider whether that journey is necessary for business.

Normalised carbon footprint Scope 1 & 2

UON normalises its carbon footprint against two metrics: total GIAm2 of the estate and number of FTE students. This allows UON to monitor emissions against changes in the estate and student intake to ensure carbon emissions are decreasing relative to the size of the University and its student population.

During academic years 20/21 and 20/22 footfall was significantly reduced across campus along with lower numbers of students occupying halls. Whilst our carbon footprint has increased year on year, when looking at normalised data against student numbers during this academic year (2023/24) the tCO2e generated per student fte has reduced by 51% against the 2018/19 baseline of 0.6 tCo2e per student fte (figure 10)

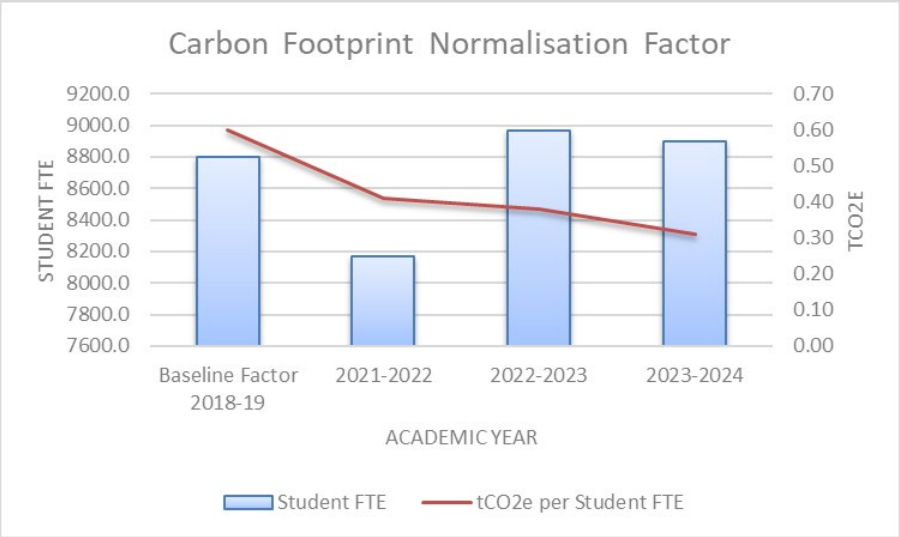


Figure 10: Normalisation Factor of tCO2e per Student FTE

Whilst our carbon footprint has decreased significantly in 2023/24 due to the zero carbon for energy tariff, it is essential that carbon reduction projects focus on the efficiency of the biomass boiler to reduce the consumption of gas across the estate.

Scope 3 Emission Reporting

Scope 3 emissions are the indirect emissions generated within an organisation. For example, from supply chains and production, commuting and business travel and waste. Details of UONs current scope 3 emissions are listed below:

UON scope of S3 emissions

- Travel
    - Total Business Travel – Own Vehicles
    - Total Business Travel – Rail
    - Total Business Travel – Air

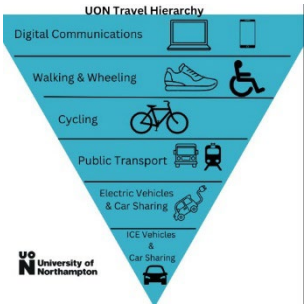
- Total Waste Emissions – Calculated using DEFRA Conversion Factors

- Water Emissions – Calculated using DEFRA Conversion Factors
    - Supply
    - Treatment

The UON set a target in 2021/22 to increase and improve on scope 3 reporting across:

- Staff and student commuting (to include international student travel)
- Business travel
- Fieldwork travel

Privately owned vehicle trips, rail and air has increased this year compared to last but this too could be an indication of the campus being fully functional compared to the previous year when covid was very much present. It could also indicate that staff are using our rail network for business travel rather than driving in their cars, which is positive when looking at sustainable travel and the travel hierarchy.



Because the data provided did not state the size of vehicles used, a calculation of an average sized vehicle was used to calculate Scope 3 for the business travel data.

Travel

Commuting by single-occupancy car

The University encourages students, staff and visitors to consider using alternative transport modes when travelling to the campus to reduce the congestion and pollution caused by single-occupancy vehicle travel. The University's Travel and Parking Management Plan (2018) highlights the ways in which the University is developing alternative travel options to help reduce commuting by single-occupancy vehicle. The University's travel plan set a five-year target to reduce single occupancy vehicle travel by 20% by 2023, which was achieved early during Covid but then returned to above average when campus started to open again. The travel plan has now come to the end of its life span and our updated plan is currently being implemented.

The initiatives to reduce the need for single occupancy travel remains the same, but targets are focused on increasing active and sustainable travel (this does not include working from home). A target of an increase in walking, cycling, scooting, public transport, car sharing and electric vehicles of 1% each year for staff and 1% for students have now been established and will be reviewed at the end of the travel plan's life span in 2028.

Staff and student travel surveys have been carried out since 2008 and are undertaken at regular intervals to measure and understand the mode and level of commuting to and from the University. The baseline and progress figures have been calculated using sampled data from the University's travel surveys. In the previous two academic years, the Travel Survey has been combined with other sustainable elements such as recycling, energy, and biodiversity under the name The Big Green Survey.

This year the response rate for the survey was extremely low among both staff and students, despite the incentive being increased to £200 supermarket vouchers of the winner's choice. Because of this our results may not be representative of the whole staff and student population's travel mode.

The most recent Big Green Survey (2023/2024) was conducted and a comparison to the base line data (staff only) is demonstrated below:

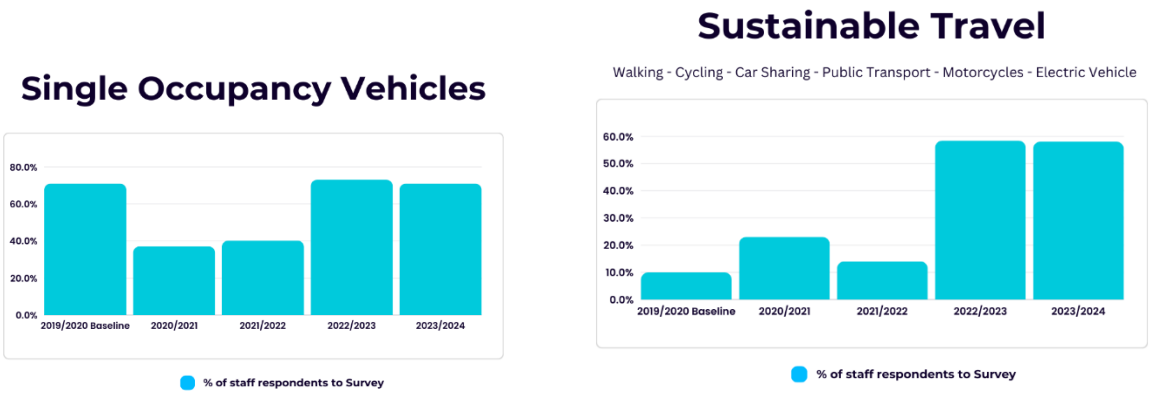


Figure 11: Staff results year on year regarding SOV & Sustainable Travel

Podpoint, our EV charger company, has a management system-providing us with stats on the CO2 avoided, energy used and revenue. Below-is a snapshot of the stats for CO2 avoided for one year (August 2023 – July 2024). The total figure is 13,336.57kg.

Figure 12: Podpoint avoided CO2e data.

Our bus patronage for the Park and Ride continues to remain low and frequencies within the bus timetable may need to be reviewed in order to give users confidence they can reach campus in a timely mannerHowever, the Stagecoach patronage figures below, whilst look in serious decline, are reflective of the time of year when the academic lessons draw to an end.

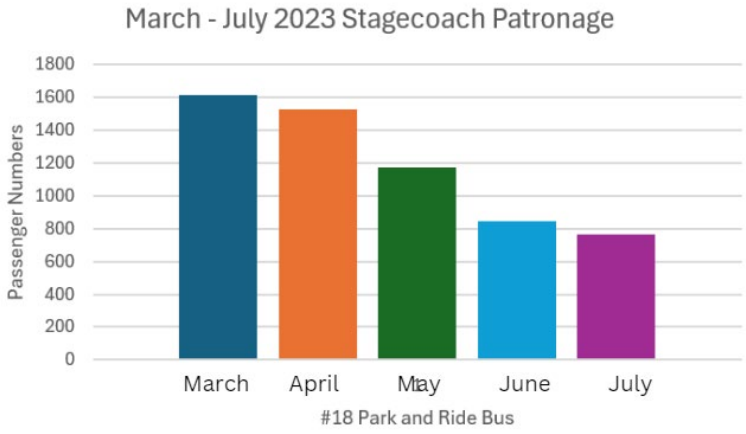


Figure 13: Stagecoach patronage stats March – July 2023

Operational Fleet

The University operates a fleet of vehicles for operational purposes. Fuel consumption is monitored and reported to account for greenhouse gas emissions of these vehicles. The fleet has additional electric vehicles and is managed by the individual teams who use the vehicles rather than the Environment &Sustainability team enabling teams to manage the fleet efficiently.

Biodiversity

At the University we recognise that wildlife supports healthy ecosystems and are weakened through wildlife loss. Waterside Campus offers a diverse range of habitats for wildlife, from the River Nene, to grassland to wildflower habitats, which we will conserve and create where possible to enhance wildlife on and around campus.

UON Management Plan for Biodiversity; A Baseline Report was signed off by the Sustainability Board in June 2023. This highlights the UON approach to biodiversity across the estate and highlights goals and aspirations to conserve and enhance the natural habitats and variety of species found across the estate. Prior to the construction of Waterside Campus, an ecological assessment was completed by Betts. A Plan was formulated that identified the species we have across the site and recommendations for actions to be taken pre-build, during the build and once the build was completed.

The UON Management Plan for Biodiversity; A Baseline report will supersede the Betts Management plan and guides the actions needed to conserve and enhance the species we have across our estate. The Management Plan for Biodiversity is supported by a series of action plans which enable the achievement of each target.

UON achieved the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Gold Award in 2022, a student led campaign which the Environment & Sustainability Team provide support.

In recognition of the important role that biodiversity plays in providing health benefits to our students, staff, and the wider community and of experiencing nature, we aspire to ensure that our spaces can be used to educate and support the mental health and wellbeing of everyone who uses Waterside campus. This is achieved through working with the Student Union, Sports Groups and various events including guided wellbeing walks and enrichment projects to teach others to look after our world, for example litter picking activities.

Performance Analysis:

Summary of performance against annual targets for 2023/2024

Plan	Overall Target	Annual Target(s)	Performance Summary
1	Interim target whilst the Estate Plan is under development is to not exceed electricity consumption beyond 2018/19 levels by 2% year on year.	Reduce electricity consumption across the estate by 2%	The overall target continues to be achieved, however the annual target to reduce consumption by 2% from the previous year has not been achieved. The UON consumed 9,322 MWh of electricity during Academic Year (AY) 2023/24, this is an increase of 3% compared to the previous academic year, with a reduction of 17% from the baseline consumption figure of 11,202 MWh.
2	Interim target whilst the Estate Plan is under development is to not exceed gas consumption beyond 2018/19 levels by 5% year on year	Reduce gas consumption across the estate by 5% compared to previous year.	The annual gas consumption for 2023/24 academic year was 10,646MWh (Figure 2), including July 2024. This is a 6.5 % reduction when compared to baseline and a 39% increase when compared to 2022/23
3	Interim target whilst the Estate Plan is under development is to not exceed water consumption (supply and waste) levels by 1% year on year.	Reduce water consumption in existing buildings by at least 1% in 2023/24compared to 2022/23	The annual water consumption for 2023/24 academic year was 111,030m^3, an increaseof 33% on baseline, and an 11% increase on the previous year.
4	Reduce the generation of non-recyclable / avoidable waste by 25% by weight of total waste arising by 2030 and increase recycling rates to a minimum 80% by weight of total waste arising.	Increase recycling rate by 12% from 68% of total waste in 2021/22 to 80% in 2022/23.	

4	Reduce the generation of non-recyclable / avoidable waste by 25% by weight of total waste arising by 2030 and increase recycling rates to a minimum 80% by weight of total waste arising.	Reduce the generation of non-recyclable / avoidable waste by 5% by weight of total waste arising in 2023/24 compared to baseline 2018/19.	
5	5% reduction in food waste produced from non-residential areas by 2030	Reduce food waste collection by 2% from 2018/19 baseline.	
6	Reduce the proportion of staff and non-residential students commuting to the University by single occupancy by 1% year on year.	1% reduction in single-occupancy car travel.	2022/2023: This SOV calculation will not be reflected next year, as the focus is to increase sustainable travel. 2023/2024: N/A
6	Sustainable travel – increase sustainable modes of travel for staff and commuting students by 1% year on year.	1% increase for sustainable travel.	**STAFF** SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL: 107 responses received. WALK – 20% CYCLE –9% BUS – 6% (this figure is a combination of Uno, Park & Ride & other bus routes) TRAIN – 4% MOTORCYCLE – 0% CAR SHARE – 15% TOTAL: 58% of journeys are considered sustainable. ALONE CAR TRAVEL – 71% but only 10.4% said every day. **STUDENTS** SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL: 55 responses received. WALK – 60% CYCLE – 6% BUS – 34% (this figure is a combination of Uno, Park & Ride & other bus routes)

			TRAIN – 10% MOTORCYCLE – 2% CAR SHARE – 10% TOTAL: 125% of journeys are considered sustainable. ALONE CAR TRAVEL – 10% but only 4.88% said every day. Sustainable and active travel has remained the same as last year, however due to the low response rate of the survey, this is not a fair representation of both staff and students and we believe it could have increased, especially as more students are now using Motorcycles and Electric Vehicles than the year before. Student bike hires & staff Cycle to Work scheme continue to be steady.
7	Net Zero Carbon Scope 1&2 carbon emissions by 2035 and Net Zero Carbon Scope 3 emissions 2050	Net Zero Carbon Plan dates have been agreed, with final plan in progress.	Carbon Management Action Plan delivered by Gleeds Advisory and approved in July 2023. Scope 3 carbon emissions for waste, water, procurement, travel (partial) and business travel are now calculated.
8	To conserve, enhance and improve the biodiversity of species and increase their populations where possible across all the University landscapes over the next 5 years, with a view to achieving biodiversity net gain.	Annual targets are to be confirmed once the baseline has been established through surveys and monitoring.	Management Plan for Biodiversity; A Baseline Report has been delivered and signed off by the Sustainability Board. The PEA (Preliminary Ecological Report) has been carried out and will be assessed and discussed with Board in the upcoming months. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report focuses on Waterside, Gallagher Fields and Scholars Green. The purpose of the PEA is to identify the current biodiversity at the sites above along with their value, ecological constraints and opportunities, including recommendations and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculations.

Further detail of year-on-year performance against targets is available upon request via environment@northampton.ac.uk. This is represented in the Investors In Environment Resource Table.

2024/25 Targets

Action Plan	Overall Target	Annual Target(s)	Measure
1: Electricity	Consumption not to exceed 2018/19 levels by more than 2%	2% Reduction (vs previous year)	Overall consumption of electricity monitored through the University's sub-metering system and monthly utility invoicing. DEFRA emissions factors applied to calculate carbon emissions.
2: Gas & Biomass	GasConsumption not to exceed 2018/19 levels by more than 5%	2 % Reduction (vs previous year)	Overall consumption of gas monitored through the University's sub-metering system and monthly utility invoicing. DEFRA emissions factors applied to calculate carbon emissions.
3: Water	Consumption (Supply and Waste) not to exceed 2018/19 levels by more than 1%	1 % Reduction (vs previous year) in consumption across all existing buildings	Overall consumption of water monitored through the University's sub-meteringsystem and monthly utility invoicing. DEFRA emissions factors applied to calculate carbon emissions.
4: Biomass (New)	To provide 85 % of total Heat Supply of waterside campus	10% increase in usage vs previous year.	% of biomass kWh produced vs gas kWh Waterside Campus only % of biomass kWh produced vs previous year
5: Carbon Management (updated)	Net Zero Carbon Scope 1&2 carbon emissions by 2035 and Net Zero Carbon Scope 3 emissions 2050	60% reduction in carbon emissions from 18/19 Baseline	Approval of the Carbon Management Plan Carbon Footprint Calculation of Total Co2e produced across the estate
6a. Waste – Recorded as General (updated)	Reduce total waste recorded as general to 23kg or less per Student FTE by 2030	2 kg reduction (vs previous year) in the total waste recorded as general per Student FTE	Measured through the annual Student FTE Normalisation Factor: Waste recorded as general (all sites) / Student FTE x 1000 = Kg waste per Student FTE Measured using the data from all waste management contractors including Suez and Stericycle reports and Waste Transfer Notes.

6b: Waste – Recyclable Material	70% of total waste produced recorded as recyclable material	5% Increase in recycling rate	Measured using the data from all waste management contractors including Suez, Stericycle and Cawleys monthly reports and Waste Transfer Notes. Periodic visual waste audits measuring % of waste streams captured in all bin types.
6c: Waste - Food	5% reduction in food waste produced from non-residential areas by 2030 – compared to baseline	2% reduction in food waste collected vs previous year	Food waste measured for all Non-residential buildings across all sites including satellite sites (Podiatry, Development Hub, Innovation Centre, Resource Centre). Data collated using the Suez monthly waste report. Periodic visual waste audits measuring % of waste streams captured in all bin types.
7: Travel – Sustainable Modes	Sustainable travel – increase sustainable modes of travel for staff and commuting students by 1% year on year.	1% increase for sustainable travel.	Comparison of student and staff travel modes against previous surveys.
8: Biodiversity	To conserve, enhance and improve the biodiversity of species and increase their populations where possible across all the University landscapes over the next 5 years, with a	Annual targets are to be confirmed once the baseline has been established through surveys and monitoring.	Methods of monitoring will include: • Professional /expert surveys • Staff and student engagement and observations thorough established projects and societies i.e. AWESOME, BioBlitz • Wildlife camera Footage • Student projects associated with course work / dissertations. Data collected will be collated and stored in a central repository to be determined as part of the initial phase of the implementation of the MPB.

	view to achieving biodiversity net gain.		
9: Engagement & Communication	To engage staff, students and the wider UON community in all aspects of the UON environment and sustainability activities.	•25 Sustainability Champions; Staff & Students. • 4 Placement Students. • 8 External Forums attended by E&S Team. •4 Sustainability Forum meetings completed and attendee numbers. •Halls HEROS league top 10 •At least 5 events for the year Sustainability Pages up to date	KPIs to include number of •Sustainability Champions; Staff & Students. •Placement Students. •External Forums attended by E&S Team. •Sustainability Forum meetings completed and attendee numbers. •At least 5 events for the year

University of Northampton

Environment & Sustainability Projects:

Carbon Management Plan

Following our commitment to become a Net Zero Carbon University we commissioned Gleeds Advisory Ltd to work with us to develop a planned programme of initiatives and projects designed to improve the energy efficiency of our buildings and to decarbonise our heating systems.

The decarbonisation plan covers the UON owned buildings, covering Waterside Campus, Scholars Green Village, St Johns Halls of Residence and Podiatry building. A key challenge of the project was to develop cost-effective decarbonisation solutions that can be delivered without disrupting day-to-day operations of the University. Avoiding impacts on teaching activities and student bedrooms was critical.

Ensuring that existing plant and equipment lifespan was maximised to reduce embodied carbon impacts and depreciation cost loses was also a key consideration. Gleeds developed design solutions and programmes that avoided working inside buildings wherever possible to minimise disruption. A full constraints analysis was undertaken to understand each building and its operational profile to develop a decarbonisation solution that minimised impact on its use. Existing planned maintenance programmes and associated costs were reviewed to ensure the delivery programme for the decarbonisation activities was aligned to minimise the university's costs.

An additional key driver us in delivering social value as part of the contract, Gleeds developed a programme of social value activities that are being delivered across the contract to support UON. Gleeds technical specialists are providing guest lectures to UON modules on project management, sustainable interior design and digital building, bringing our practical experience to the University's students.

The outcome of the project was a robust, costed, and programmed carbon reduction strategy that will avoid over 60,000 tonnes of carbon and reduce UONs energy costs by nearly £14m by 2065. Gleeds also identified potential grants of nearly £5.85m and have support UON in preparing grant applications.

Management Plan for Biodiversity Baseline Report

UON recognise that biodiversity on the university estate is valued and plays a vital role in providing healthy outdoor environments that benefits our students, staff, and the wider community. By supporting natural ecosystems, the UON aspire to ensure that our spaces can be used to educate and support the mental health and wellbeing of everyone who visits the estate.

As part of our commitment to become a Nature Positive University the Environment & Sustainability team working with Dr Janet Jackson, Senior Lecture in Environmental Science and External Services team wrote a Management Plan for Biodiversity, a baseline report (MPB). This MPB builds on the Betts Management Plan for Biodiversity produced during the development of the Waterside

Campus, which provided details of flora and fauna present and outlined actions to be taken to ensure the protection of ecology on the site.

The resulting baseline ecological assessment of UON Waterside Campus established the composition of habitats throughout the campus. Highlighting the ecological value of the site for widescale biodiversity, with significant importance to endangered and vulnerable species. The finding of the baseline report underpins our vision of how we can retain, maintain, and target restoration of ecological systems and increase biodiversity through habitat management and creation.

UON Sustainability Summit

The UON Sustainability Summit is an annual sustainability event led by Dr Ebenezer Laryea and held at the University of Northampton's Waterside campus. The purpose of the Summit is to provide a platform which brings businesses, charities, educational institutions, policy makers and local government authorities together to identify and address shared sustainability challenges through collaborative research, enterprise and knowledge exchange.

Since its maiden edition in 2023, the UON Sustainability Summit has attracted over 300 delegates from over a hundred different businesses, charities, HEI's, and local government authorities. Stakeholder discussions at the first Summit in 2023 produced a multi-party stakeholder agreement called the Northampton Sustainability Accord. Under this Accord, stakeholders agreed to pursue a shared set of sustainability goals such as; progression towards Net Zero and Decarbonisation, sustainable water use, eradication of modern slavery in supply chains, waste minimisation, amongst several others. In addition to setting these goals, the stakeholder community also committed under the provisions of the Accord, to establish a hub at the University of Northampton called the Sustainability Local Innovation Partnership Agenda Hub (SLIPAH). Under the terms of the Accord, SLIPAH was given a mandate by the stakeholder community to coordinate all of the collaborative research, knowledge exchange and enterprise activities required to operationalise the Accord and deliver on the sustainability goals set out in the Accord whilst working collaboratively with stakeholders. Since it was established in July of 2023 the work done through SLIPAH has so far successfully attracted external grant funding of over 900k to coordinate and run different projects on Net Zero, Decarbonisation and Waste Management. These projects provide research and knowledge exchange support to over one hundred business and charities to help them pivot to more sustainable business practices.

As an example of its impact, SLIPAH has recently been able to collaborate with external partners to develop a bespoke carbon calculator with Net Zero modelling capabilities that local businesses can use to calculate their emissions and model their Net Zero plans.

Following on from the progress made in the twelve months after the holding of the 2023 Summit and establishment of the Northampton Sustainability Accord, the local stakeholder community once again gathered together on the 20th and 21st of May for the UON Sustainability Summit 2024. The aims of this year's Summit were two-fold; a) take stock of the progress that has been made towards achieving shared sustainability goals so far, and b) identify innovative solutions that help accelerate collective efforts in areas of the Northampton Sustainability Accord where progress has

been lacking. The main outcome of the Summit this year was the agreement of a schedule to the Northampton Sustainability Accord which will deliver shared solutions to address shared sustainability challenges in areas such as circular economy, sustainable water use, flood management and behavioural change.

As we look ahead to future years, the UON Sustainability Summit and Northampton Accord Frameworks will continue to provide a foundational basis upon which we collaborative progress can continue be made to address shared sustainability challenges within the local stakeholder community. Together, we are not just meeting today's challenges but paving the way for a brighter more sustainable future for generations to come.

The University of Northampton is extremely proud to have provided the required leadership to assemble the stakeholder community through its Summit strategy. By providing the necessary leadership and facilitation, the university successfully orchestrated the agreement of the Northampton Sustainability Accord.

This significant achievement marks a pivotal moment in the university's commitment to collaborate with the stakeholder community and work collectively towards accomplishing the goals outlined within the Accord. The university is dedicated to actively engaging with stakeholders, fostering collaboration, and driving tangible progress in the pursuit of sustainability objectives

Cost of Living Task Force

In September 2022 the UON Cost of Living Taskforce was formed to respond to the cost-of-living crisis and support students, staff and the local community during a time of increased stress and financial pressure. Over 200 suggestions of assistance were received across the board, broadly categorised into the following key areas: Academic costs, Food & living support, On-campus facilities, Financial Education and Support, jobs and employment support, social experience, sustainability, and travel. Initiatives implemented as part of the programme have ranged from tactical reactive measures that prevent hunger and create warmth, to the promotion of affordable social experiences.

Key Achievements

A 'Help Us Support You: UON Cost of Living Fair' was held on 17th and 19th January 2023. The event encouraged the attendance of staff, students and the local community and included a bake sale to raise money for the Samaritans via their 'Brew Monday' campaign. Several internal and external support services were present, with free hot food and drinks on offer. A prize draw incentive was also included for those engaging with stalls and services, prizes included a mix of essential items i.e., supermarket vouchers, as well as non-essential items i.e. afternoon tea.

Free breakfast cereal was made available across all university sites with over 602 portions served since October 2022. Free community meals held for Christmas and Eid Celebrations, attracting around 500 diners across the two celebrations. £1 meal options were introduced on Friday afternoons, more than 6,516 have been purchased to date passing on a potential saving to students and staff of £18,700* The promotion of the Too Good To Go app has passed on approximately £143.00** in savings to our staff and students using the app.

Clothing Swap Shop held in January by members of the Environment & Sustainability Tea, over 50 items of clothing were swapped with remaining items being donated to the Children's Air Ambulance.

The Student Cost of Living Hardship Fund launched at the start of the year and received approx. £127,000 in funding. A total of 710 applications were received, with 461 successful in receiving an award, this was apportioned as: 198 students receiving £150, 70 students receiving £250 and 193 students receiving the maximum £450 award.

Free Period Products was implemented across all University Teaching Buildings, these are available for students, staff and visitors to take as needed. The products selected will be supplied by to ensure we remain aligned to our ethical and sustainability ethos.

The Sunley Hotel was also registered as a "warm space" on the WNC warm spaces register to encourage the local community to take refuge in warmth during the winter months.

Moving into the new Academic Year, an inviting free social space will be available for Students in the Market Mezzanine – rebranded as "The Mezz" where a selection of boardgames and puzzles are available. The Campus Pantry will be launched in September – this will provide a source of free food

supplied from the University Catering outlets as well as local businesses. The objective of the pantry is to promote the sustainable practices of minimising food waste as well as providing food for those in need.

* Based on a saving of approx. £2.87 per option, a total of £7,224 saving has been passed on to staff and students.

** Based on a minimum bag value of £5.00.

Energy Working Group

The Energy Working Group (EWG) was created to ensure a collaborative approach to enable energy saving goals across the estate. Goals are to be achieved in the form of processes, best practice, behavioural change and awareness initiatives and larger operational projects. The EWG encourages collaboration and empowerment of staff, and it is a place for different teams to communicate.
A key aim is to identify areas of energy waste or where there are opportunities to improve energy efficiency, either through adjustments to settings or implementing new or improved procedures within teams. Nine objectives were set as part of the Terms of Reference for this group.

Working together enables a focus on smaller scale energy saving initiatives to encourage behaviour change and reductions in consumption without needing large capital investment or infrastructure changes. Initiatives range from behaviour changes through Standard Operating Procedures in teams to energy efficiency projects. For example, catering outlets initiated a shut down over the holiday period, an initiative raised by the group. This resulted in approximately 4,000kWh of electricity saved, equating to c. £1000 across this period. A full shut down procedure is now part of the SOP for the catering team.

Halls H.E.R.O.E.S

UON launched a 12-month sustainability campaign with SOS UK in 22/23, formerly known as the ‘national student switch off’. The campaign was branded ‘Halls HEROES’: Heating, Electric, Recycling, Optimise water, Environment & Sustainability.

In its first year, this was a successful engagement campaign which included competitions, quizzes, Changemaker certified student volunteer training and pop-up events. The aim of the campaign was to increase student engagement with sustainability, specifically in their accommodation (halls, private and home), and how to live more sustainably using everyday actions and changes. Part of this included an inter-hall competition to encourage students to reduce their energy and water use. Using submetering data, the team were able to monitor and report on the energy and water consumption per hall to compare.

However, budget restraints, engagement and accuracy of data unfortunately declined for this 23/24 academic year, therefore we decided not to continue with Halls HEROES and instead will promote planet positive changes inhouse and utilise groups such as the Sustainability Champions and our social media account.

Sustainable Travel Initiatives

In October 2023, we linked up with Re-Circulate, a company who takes abandoned and unwanted bikes to local prisons for the inmates to learn engineering and repairing skills to fix the bicycles and then they are donated to NHS workers. We were able to provide 6 unclaimed bikes to Re-Circulate and in December the bikes were sent to Aylesbury prison to be given a new lease of life. One bike, once repaired, was given on to Southmead Hospital. We have recently been contacted again to see if we have any more unclaimed bikes so as part of our recycling and sustainable travel initiatives, we will make this an annual occurrence.

Environmental Assessments and Initiatives

The UON is committed to reducing its impact on the environment, working towards sustainability, and ensuring social value in all that it does. To support these commitments UON has signed up to several initiatives and external assessments, these initiatives hold us to account.

TIMES Higher Sustainable Development Goals IMPACT rankings

The UON has recently completed its third submission to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Times Ranking Submission. The Impact Rankings are a global performance tables that assess universities against the SDGs. The 2023 Impact Rankings is the fifth edition with a total of 1591 universities from 112 countries making submissions. In collaboration with the SDG Working Group an assessment was submitted against the 2023 rankings. The UON retained its top 200 position, scoring particularly well in SDG 15 Life on Lad, ranking 25th and SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, ranking 29th in the list of UK institutions.

People & Planet League

People & Planet is a student campaign network which annually compiles a league table on universities commitment to improved environmental performance. In 2021/2022 league table UON was ranked 82nd, a 2:2 ranking an uplift of 21 places compared to the previous academic year ranking of 102. Following the 2022/2023 rankings, UON achieved a ranking of 61, an uplift of 21 places and is recognition of the sustainability initiatives and engagement activities undertaken during the year.

Race to Zero

The Race to Zero is a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) global campaign to rally leadership and support from all (regions, cities, companies, universities) for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery globally. The objective of the Race to Zero is to accelerate momentum around the shift to a decarbonised economy ahead of COP26. Members of the Race to Zero now number over 3,000 companies, cities, regions, investors, and universities, and covers over 15% of the global economy, 7% of total CO_2 emissions and 0.62 billion people. By committing to the Race to Zero we joined the 730 plus UK universities already working collectively across the HE and FE sectors to further the net zero agenda.

Nature Positive Universities

In December 2022 UON signed up to be a Nature Positive University in time for COP15, UON has joined an alliance of universities from around the globe pledging to work towards a global nature positive goal. The goal is to halt, prevent and reverse nature loss. UON were one of 117 universities from 48 countries who signed up. The pledge takes a similar approach to the Race to Zero; UON make a pledge, prepare an action plan (this takes the form of our Management Plan for Biodiversity baseline report), publish our plans, act, and then report annually. This pledge supports UONs Biodiversity Net Gain target within its Sustainability Strategy.

Good Business Charter

UON recognises its responsibility to operate in an ethical and sustainable manner and take account of social, environmental, and ethical considerations in all activities. In demonstration of this commitment, UON signed up to the Good Business Charter, an accreditation scheme which organisations in the UK sign up to in recognition of responsible business practices, as part of this accreditation UON become an accredited Living Wage Employer**.**

Monitor and Report Progress, and Communication

Following the development of the UON Sustainability Governance Structure, UON has ensured effective oversight and decision-making on strategy, performance, responsibility, and accountability. This framework supports the reporting, monitoring and communication of environmental performance and sustainability across the institution.

Data is collated and monitored monthly and progress reporting presented bi-annually to the Sustainability Board. The UON Annual Environment and Sustainability Report is presented to the ULT at the start of the following Academic Year.

In addition to the formal framework other methods of communication including an Estates & Campus Service newsletter and department briefing, wider Health, Safety & Security Committee meeting updates, faculty specific meetings as requested. At these meetings updates are provided by the Environment & Sustainability Team on projects, campaigns, and performance to ensure all departments are aware of the impact and progress of the projects underway. Regular articles are also produced by the team for internal student and staff Communications (UNIFY), as well as material on the University's website, external publications and via social media.

The University is a member of the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges and regularly participates in the Northamptonshire Climate Change and Social Impact Groups, for example Northamptonshire Sustainable Food Places, Circular Economy 3 Counties, the East Midlands Universities Association, Local Nature Partnership Group, UK Universities Climate Network & Net Zero Universities and the AUDE Sustainability Advisor Group.

This list is by no means exhaustive but does provide an insight into the areas of communication covered within and outside the University.

The UON Sustainability Structure

University Management Team (UMT) Board Level	**Purpose:** Responsible for agreeing sustainability strategy, accountabilities, responsibilities and governance structure with respect to sustainability.
Sustainability Board	**Who:** At least one member of the (UMT), senior academics from key Faculties, team leads or members from the wider university teams, representatives from the Action Groups and Environment & Sustainability Manager (or representative of the Environment & Sustainability Team). **Purpose:** To oversee our objectives, targets and work on sustainability. Responsible for ensuring that our sustainability targets are integrated into projects, initiatives and where appropriate approving projects. This group is responsible for reviewing our progress against targets and strategy. This Group is responsible for signing off policies and procedures. **Reporting Structure:** Chair updates the UMT once a year **Frequency:** Sustainability Board meets termly.
Environment & Sustainability Team	**Who:** Members of the Environment & Sustainability Team. **Purpose:** Oversee and coordinate the implementation of the sustainability strategy. Monitoring reporting and reviewing sustainability policies and practices. Provide specialist advice as required.
Action Groups	**Who:** Members of the Environment & Sustainability Team, staff and students. **Purpose:** Action Groups are voluntary groups responsible for generating ideas for innovation and support activities such as applying for support and funding for initiatives, implementing specific UON projects, engaging staff, students and the local community. **Reporting Structure:** Action Team members report to the Sustainability Board.