

Highlights 2022/23

This year at the University of Cambridge, we have continued efforts to improve our environmental sustainability performance. We remain on track to meeting our commitment to reduce energy-related emissions from our operational estate to absolute zero, for scope 1 and 2 emissions, by 2048. We've also been transforming the way we report on our sustainability performance and progress.

Here are some highlights of our achievements...

We have focused on scope 3, or 'indirect' emissions, to understand the best opportunities and potential collaborations for carbon reduction across all our activities.

We are continuing to explore options for reducing our use of gas across the estate and are working with Cambridge City Council on the feasibility of a city centre heat network.

We appointed a new waste contractor for the whole estate and introduced some new targets. The 'zero to landfill' target remains, but we want to significantly increase recycling rates to 80%.

The University commissioned an independent study – ['The Topping Report'](#) – to examine its ties to the fossil fuel industry.

A Water Management Plan is being developed, with baselines set to understand how and where we are using water, and how to manage this more efficiently.

Our Operational Grounds Team joined Cambridge City Council for biodiversity training with the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust to share knowledge and ideas, and enhance practical skills and understanding.

We were an early signatory of the Nature Positive Universities Network, and have pledged our commitment to enhance biodiversity across our estate and within our cities and communities.



The Entopia building won at the Greater Cambridge Design and Construction Awards 2023 and Construction News Awards 2023. The Chris Abell Day Nursery was awarded an 'Excellent' BREEAM rating.

Summer 2023 saw the arrival of electric buses across our newly extended Universal Bus network.

It was the busiest ever year for the Universal Bus, with almost 720,000 passengers using the service.

Of those staff travelling to work at the University 26% cycle and 5% walk.

We continued to implement the Strategic Procurement and Purchasing (SPP) programme and have a minimum 10% weighting relating to sustainability in all tender criteria.

The Cambridge Centre for Carbon Credits (4C) has been developing its methodology to accurately assess carbon credits needed for offsetting. Alongside advanced assessment, it can also properly account for changes in forests, such as forest fires or deforestation.

Work continued on Local Environmental Sustainability Plans with NETPositive Futures to identify sustainability impacts and embed environmental considerations across the University.

The 31 Cambridge Colleges published an Environmental Sustainability Report highlighting the positive progress they are making.

