



Environmental Sustainability Summary 2019/20

Welcome to our Environmental Sustainability Summary Report 2019/20. In what has been an eventful year, it looks at the opportunities and challenges presented, and the successes achieved. Of course, COVID-19 has had an impact on what we do but, as a University, we adjusted well to a 'new normal' and have made great progress in many areas.

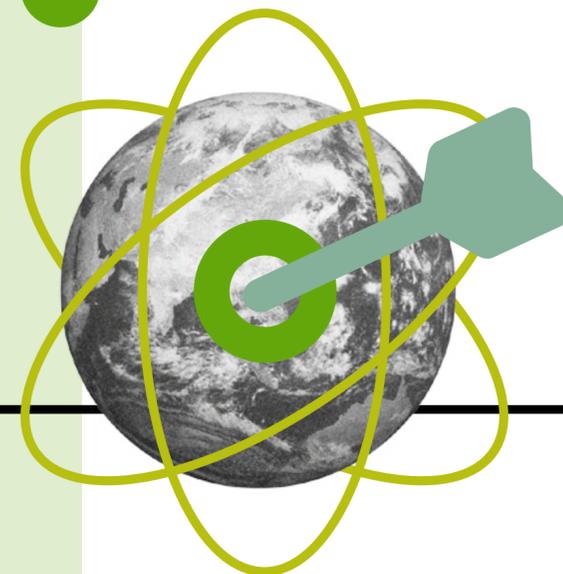
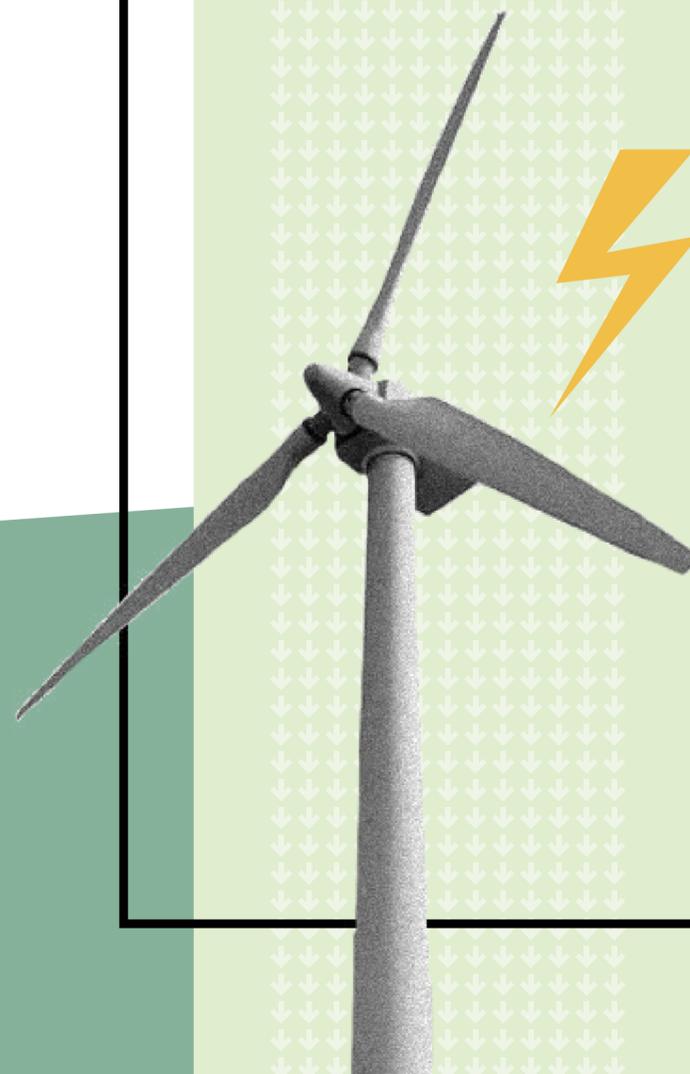
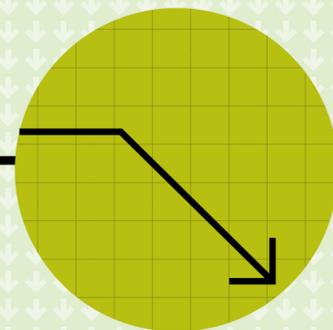
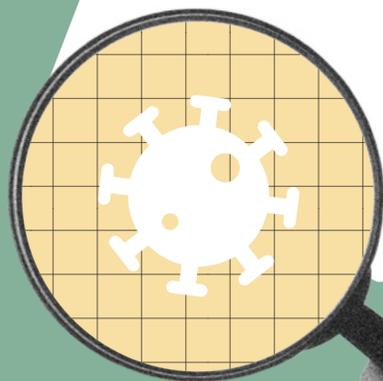
This year has been the first full year of activity for Cambridge Zero, our flagship climate change initiative and, in October 2020, the University of Cambridge took the momentous decision to divest from all fossil fuels.

This summary provides an overview of some of the University's sustainability research, initiatives and activities in 2019/20. We hope it inspires you to get involved and help create a sustainable institution.

Read our full Environmental Sustainability Report.

The impact of COVID-19

Although the impact of COVID-19 will have its influence for years to come, it doesn't all have to be negative. A new way of working forced everyone to think differently and come up with solutions in new ways. We moved many events and projects online, but attendance – albeit virtual – remained high. From Dr Bike workshops to our Engage for Change programme, we continued to deliver educational and inspirational sessions for staff and students. Our new ways of working have also brought some environmental benefits, most notably a decline in travel to and for work, and associated carbon emissions and air pollution. As we work towards our 'new normal', we will be considering how we can sustain some of the benefits over the longer term.



This year scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions fell by another 7% and we're on track to achieve our Science Based Target.

Science Based Targets have been developed for the North West Cambridge Development, Cambridge University Press and Cambridge Assessment. We also developed a tool to allow the 31 Cambridge Colleges to develop their own targets.

Following our first Power Purchase Agreement, around 15% of our electricity demand was met through purchased renewable energy.

The University Council approved a four-pronged approach to degasification of the estate.

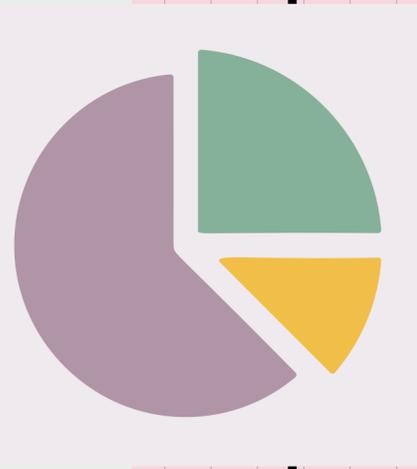
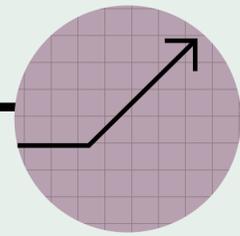
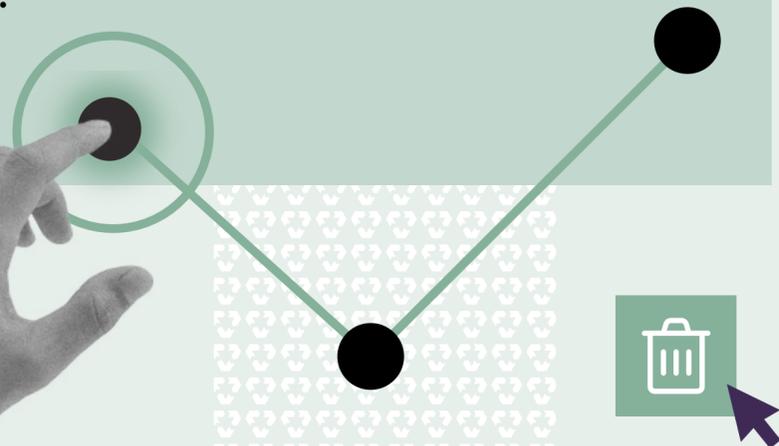
Carbon and energy

Recycling and waste

Building on the University's **Waste Strategy**, the Sustainability Team developed a **waste and recycling dashboard** that allows staff to see how much waste their Department creates and recycles. Understanding waste means we're better placed to tackle it.

New **waste guidance** helps everyone at the University deal with waste and recycling, covering how to reduce waste, ways of reusing resources, and boosting recycling rates.

For the fourth consecutive year, disposal to landfill has dropped.



Biodiversity

In 2020 University Council approved our first ever **Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)** – the 10-year vision to deliver significant and measurable improvement across our estate.

Biodiversity data from our **Biodiversity Baseline Summary Report** was added to the digital Biodiversity Map, meaning all biodiversity data is now visualised in one interactive resource.

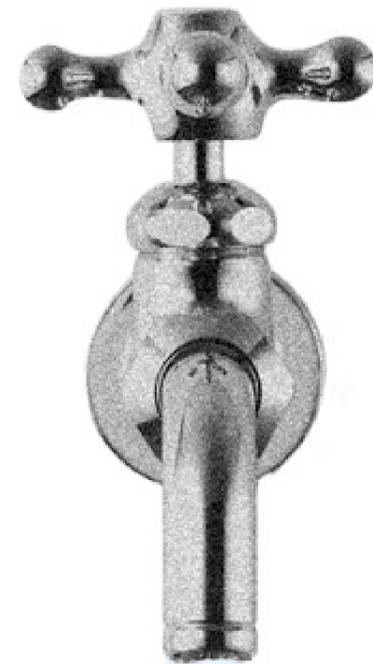
The Ecological Advisory Panel approved the **Cambridge Biodiversity Metric**.



Sustainable food

Building on the University's existing **Sustainable Food Policy**, at a dinner for 43 College fellows, Michelin star chef Andreas Antona curated a four-course menu of entirely seasonal vegan dishes. The event showcased what more could be done if the Colleges moved to sustainable menus.

Cambridge Science Festival looked at the future of food and Nick White, Head of University Catering Service, joined colleagues to discuss the University's **Sustainable Food Policy** and how it has dramatically reduced food-related carbon emissions.



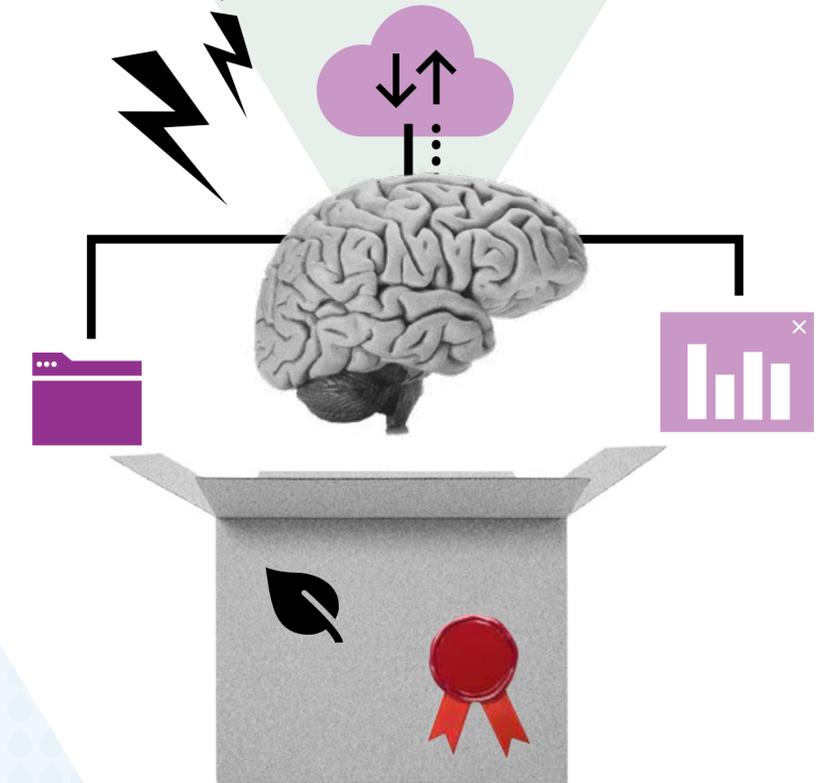
Water

With the expansion of our estate, our water use is increasing. However, there are initiatives in place to mitigate the increase that comes with the development or acquisition of new University buildings.

Sustainable procurement

We completed our **Strategic Procurement Review (SPR)** on how the University could procure goods, works and services in a more efficient and user-friendly way that is both sustainably responsible and commercially viable.

Now underway, the Strategic Procurement & Purchasing Project (SPP) is an ambitious programme to help the University better buy its goods, works and services for improved economic, societal and environmental outcomes.



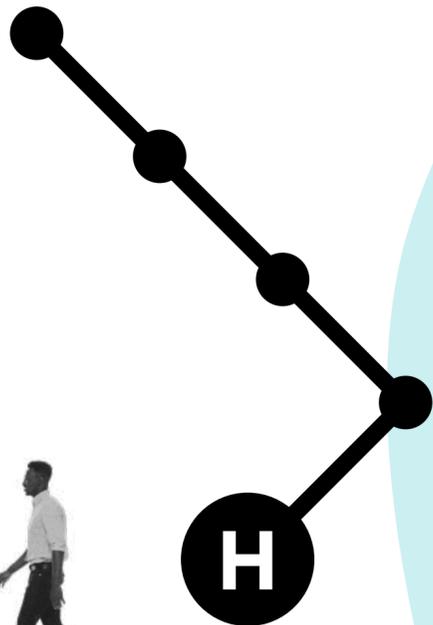


Our **Transport Strategy 2019-2024** was formally adopted in September 2019 and guides everything we do.

69% of staff travel to work via a sustainable mode.

Universal Bus passenger numbers increased before lockdown, and its route was extended out to Addenbrooke's hospital.

Dr Bike delivered 176 hours of free bike maintenance for 619 people.

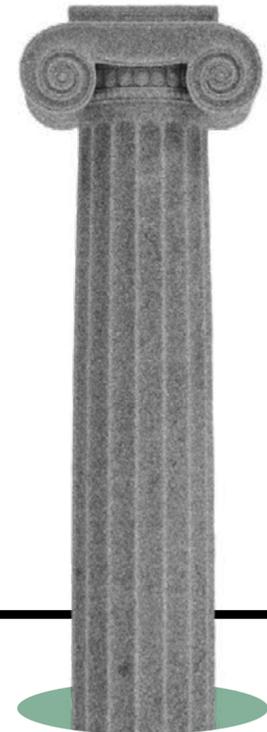
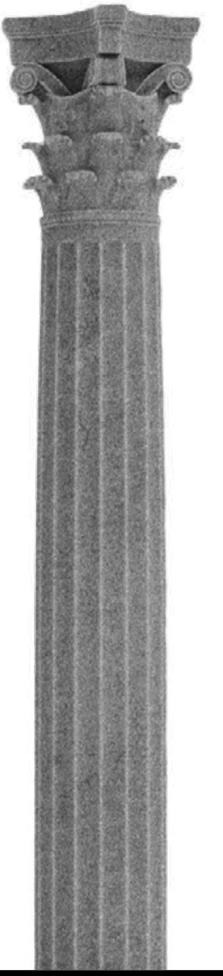
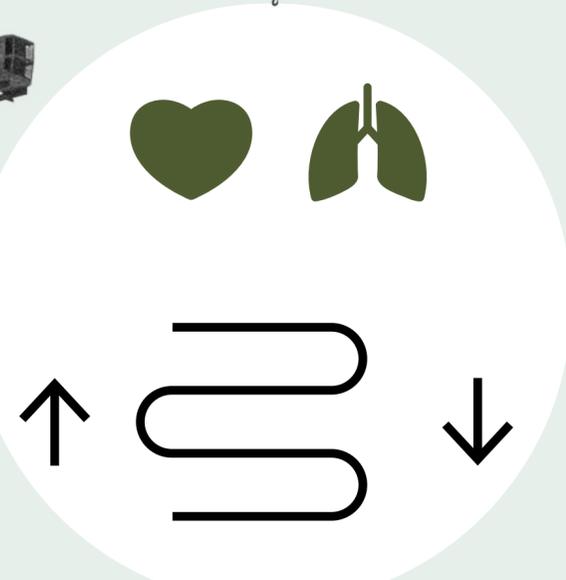
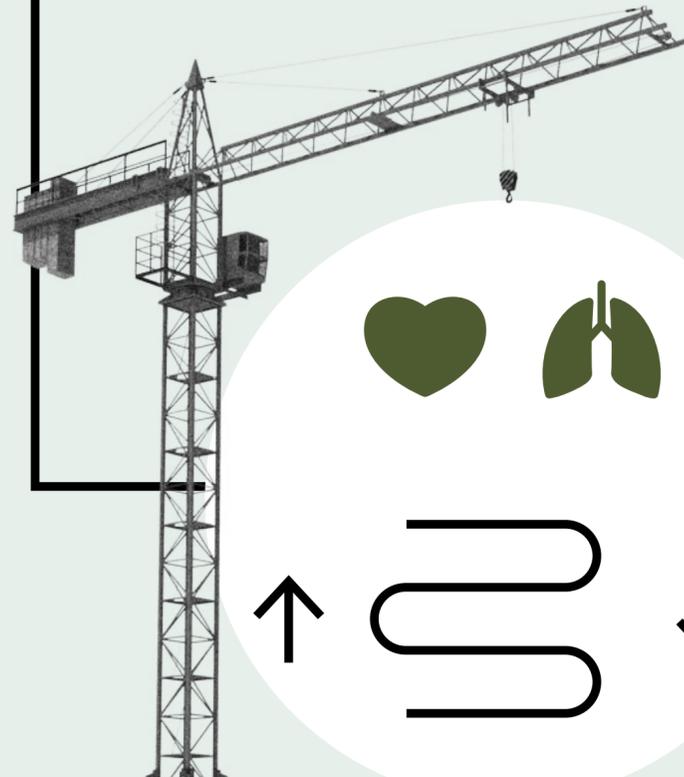


Travel and transport

Sustainable construction and refurbishment

The **Crop Science Centre** was certified BREEAM Excellent, and the **Student Services Centre** achieved a bespoke Sustainable Assessment Matrix.

The new Heart and Lung Research Institute broke ground in 2020, with a new proposal to use natural gas for space heating, and incorporate a heat pump led solution.



Partnership and engagement



Our new three-year **Communications and Engagement Strategy**, will further support the University's environmental vision and get more students and staff involved in sustainability.

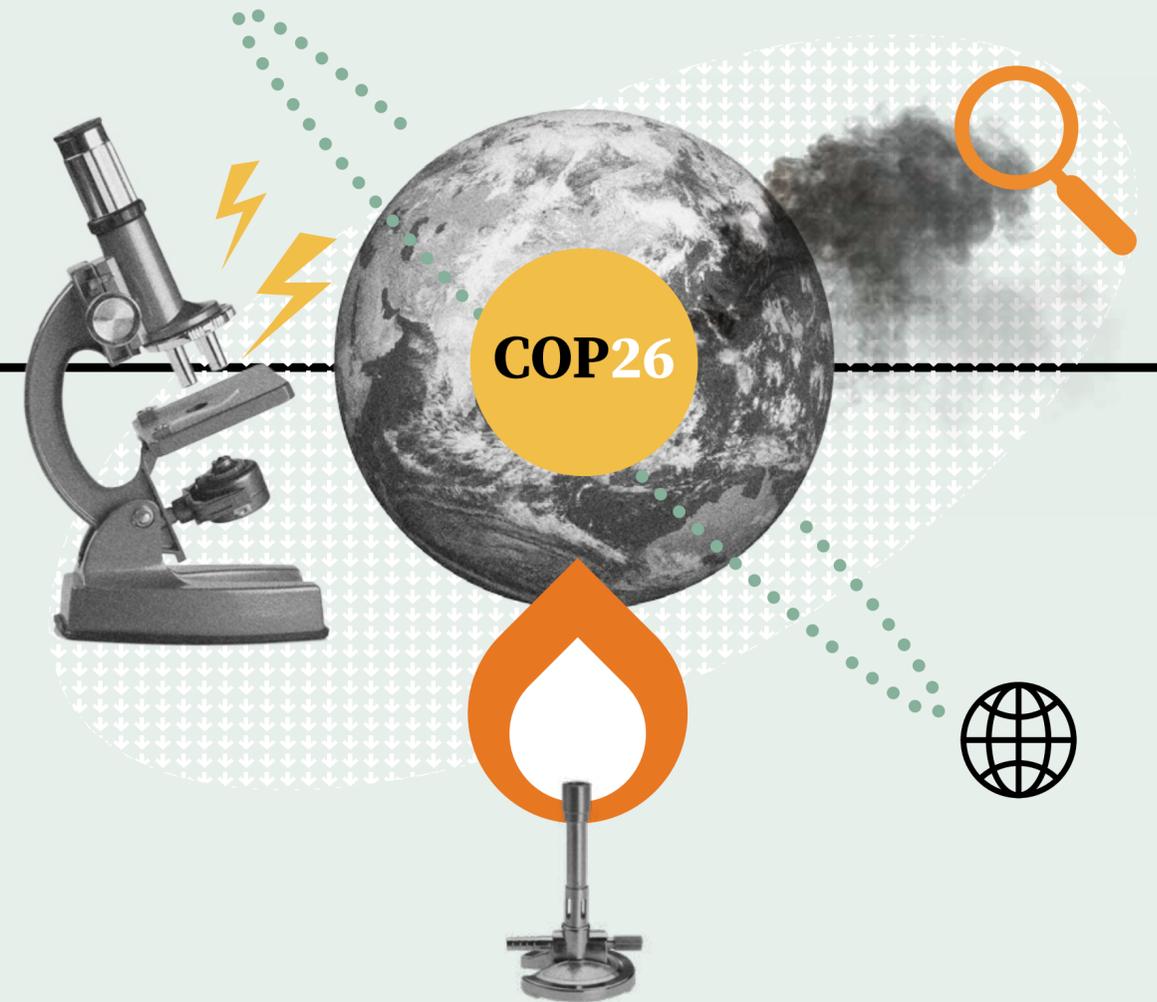
Working with the University of Cambridge Primary School, Cambridge Zero developed teaching resources and lesson plans to help teach sustainability and climate change.

This year in Green Impact, there were 46 awards including 14 College awards – the highest number to date – 48 student auditors and over 2,400 sustainability actions deployed.

96% of surveyed **Environment and Energy Coordinators** would recommend the role to others.



Teaching and research



Formally launched in November 2019, **Cambridge Zero** is the University of Cambridge's ambitious climate change initiative aimed at transitioning to a zero carbon world. Nationally, Cambridge Zero co-founded the COP26 Universities Network and, together with the Centre for Science and Policy (CSaP), founded the Cambridge Zero Policy Forum.

It was a successful second year for **Engage for Change**. One standout project focussed on developing a student-led Carbon Literacy programme, with funding gained from Cambridge Zero to train Cambridge students.

Rise to the Cambridge Green Challenge

The accuracy of our data

Having accurate data is really important in evaluating the projects we implement and is essential to measuring progress against our targets. We are proud to say that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) has provided limited assurance over the 2019/2020 figures in the KPI table on page 31 of our **Annual Environmental Sustainability Report 2019/2020**. PwC's **assurance opinion** can be found on our website.

The Cambridge Green Challenge is our way of building a sustainable University, and you can get involved in lots of different ways:



Become an ambassador for environmental issues as an **Environment and Energy Coordinator**.

Join a **Green Impact team** and make real environmental change in your department.

Test out your research on the University estate through a **Living Lab project**.

Download posters, stickers and all the resources you need to **spread the sustainable message**.

Gamify your sustainable solutions and enter **The Carbon Challenge**.

Keep up to date with the latest sustainable news and events with our **Greenlines newsletter**.

Find out what's going on across the University to tackle the climate crisis on the **Sustainable Earth** site.