



# **Environmental Management System**

## **Investors in the Environment**

Version 13  
September 2023

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## 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2	04/04/2013	03/10/2013	Version 1 superseded by Version 2
3	20/01/2014	19/07/2014	Version 2 superseded by Version 3
4	23/04/2015	22/10/2015	Version 3 superseded by Version 4
5	06/05/2015	05/05/2015	Version 4 superseded by Version 5
6	25/3/2016	25/09/2016	Version 5 superseded by Version 6
7	25/4/2017	25/10/2017	Version 6 superseded by Version 7
8	3/5/2018	3/11/2018	Version 7 superseded by Version 8
9	03/10/2019	09/10/2019	Version 8 superseded by Version 9
10	03/08/2020	16/09/2020	Version 9 superseded by Version 10
11	09/09/2021	30/07/22	Version 10 superseded by Version 11
12	06/09/22	06/07/2023	Version 11 superseded by Version 12
13	06/07/2023		Version 12 superseded by Version 13

## 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 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 Environment and Sustainability Manager, the Environment & Sustainability team consists of four additional roles, an Energy Officer, Environment Advisor, Sustainable Travel Officer, and an Environment & Sustainability Engagement Coordinator. Together the team develops and implements the Environment & Sustainability strategy covering Net Zero Carbon, Biodiversity Net Gain and Education for Sustainable Development.

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.

To embed sustainability across UON, the ULT agreed a Sustainability Governance Structure. 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 and representatives from 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 new policies, Sustainable Development Goals working group, and presenting on specific topics that are linked to sustainability.

## Environment & Sustainability Policy

The UON is one of the first to be named as a Changemaker Hub, reflecting a special focus on social impact. This means that as an institution, we work hard to have a positive impact on the world around us. The UON recognises 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 database and software for utility monitoring, information received from suppliers in the form of monthly reports (web based and excel spreadsheet), and employee surveys all have an important role to play in our EMS.

## 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 with 100% renewable electricity with REGO's (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) 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. 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. Operating hours vary between 8am and 9am 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 was used 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Measure**

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 by the Energy Officer where data is 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.

Baseline annual electricity consumption for 2018/19 academic year was 11,202MWh. Annual electricity consumption for 2022/23 academic year was 9,061MWh. This represents a decrease of 2141MWh from the base line, a decrease of 19%. Annual electricity consumption in 2021/22 was 8,990MWh. 2022/23 usage shows an 1% increase against 2021/22

## Gas

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 new baseline year moving forward 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).

All tariff meters are either already 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 by billing is also reviewed and analysed monthly by the Energy Officer for monitoring and reporting. Consumption data is used to compile annual Display Energy Certificates and to complete carbon foot printing.

Baseline annual gas consumption for 2018/19 academic year was 11,358MWh. Annual gas consumption for 2022/23 academic year was 7199MWh excluding July (no confirmed consumption at time of writing this manual). This is a 37% reduction when compared to the baseline with an 13% increase when compared to 2021/22. This increase is as a result of picking up the heating load from the biomass boiler.

### **Biomass (kWh)**

During the AY 2022/23, the University's biomass boiler generated 1,093 MWh of low carbon heat energy (Table 1c). This has produced 12 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions. Total annual consumption during 202/23 has decreased by 62% when compared to 2021/22.

## 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 of 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. 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 2x coffee shops which have sinks for washing up equipment.



## Processes

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.

Trade Effluent is a product of the Tannery. This is also metered and monitored through the provider, Wave.

## Measure

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. 2021/22 is the most reliable and complete dataset for water consumption since Waterside opened in 2018.

Baseline water consumption for 2019/20 academic year was an estimated 83,460 m<sup>3</sup> with the data that was available. Annual water consumption for 2022/23 academic year was 100,011.84 m<sup>3</sup> (Table 1d). This shows an increase of 19.8%, however, this is not a true representation of water supply consumption changes.

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.

An Automated Meter Reader (AMR) was installed on the main tariff meter at Waterside on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. This is to provide us with accurate, robust data for improved reporting compared to previous years.

Water use and waste data is stored on a central server and can be interrogated by the Environment & Sustainability Team. Data provided by billing is also reviewed and analysed monthly by the Energy Officer for monitoring and reporting. Consumption data is used to complete carbon foot printing.

# 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. 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**

Each 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.

## **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 a new 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 new 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 reflected in the 22/23 academic year travel survey. This new target will be reviewed at the end of the new travel plans 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.

The most recent travel survey (2021/2022) was conducted for Staff and Students

Podpoint, our EV charger company, have recently upgraded their back of house management system, meaning we can now see what chargers are being used monthly, as well as providing CO2 avoided, energy used and revenue.

## **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 litter picking activities.

## Target and Performance

Performance against target in the ten measured resources, including scope 1&2 carbon footprint:

Resource	Target	Unit of Measure	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Total building area (GIA)</b>	Efficiency factor	m <sup>2</sup>	141,423	152,880	125,169	124,738	124,738
<b>Electricity</b>	2% year on year reduction in consumption	MWh	11,202	10,150	9,737	8,990	9,061
	Efficiency measure	kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	79	66	78	72	73
		Consumption compared to baseline		-9.4%	-13.1%	-19.7%	-19.1%
<b>Gas</b>	5% year on year reduction in consumption	MWh	11,358	12,072	7,708	6,357	7,188
		kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	80	79	62	51	58
		Consumption compared to baseline		6.3%	-32.1%	-44.0%	36.7%
<b>Biomass</b>	Supplying a minimum of 85% of Waterside heat demand	% of total Waterside heat demand	1,994	2,458	2,241	3,453	1,093
	Efficiency measure	kWh/m <sup>2</sup>	14	16	18	28	9
		85% of Waterside heat demand		23.3%	12.4%	73.2%	-45.2%
<b>Water</b>	1% year on year reduction in consumption	m <sup>3</sup>	143,170	83,460	61,051	83,275	100,012
	Efficiency measure	m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>2</sup>	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.7	1
		Consumption compared to baseline		-41.7%	-57.4%	-41.8%	-30.1%
<b>Waste sent to landfill</b>	No higher than 1% of total waste produced by 2030	Tonne	0	0	15.9	4.94	8.86
		Compared to baseline			2.7%	0.7%	1.3%
<b>Waste recorded as general waste</b>	5% Reduction in general waste	Tonne	252	172	202	231	255

		Compared to baseline		-32%	-20%	-8%	1.3%
<b>Food waste recovery - non residential</b>	5% Reduction in food waste by 2030	Tonne				82.22	64.52
		Compared to previous year					-22%
<b>Commuting by single-occupancy car</b>	20% reduction compared to baseline (up until 2023)	% of staff	63%	71%	37%	79%	73%
		Compared to baseline		13%	-41%	25%	16%
<b>Carbon Footprint*</b>	30% reduction by 2020	Tonne CO2	5,610	5,142	3,973	3,342	3,421
<b>Sustainable Travel</b>	% increase in mode of sustainable travel	% of staff					8%
		Compared to previous year					
<b>Waste sent to recycling</b>	80% recycle rate by 2030	% recycled	68%	71%	67%	68%	61%
		Reduction compared to baseline		4.41%	-1.47%	0.00%	-10.63%
<b>Sustainable Travel</b>	% increase in mode of sustainable travel	% of students					23%
		Compared to previous year					

**Table 3. Resource Table 2022/23**

## Performance Analysis:

Summary of performance against annual targets for 2022/2023

<b>Plan</b>	<b>Overall Target</b>	<b>Annual Target(s)</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Performance Summary</b>
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%	Energy & Carbon Officer	Annual electricity consumption for 21/22 academic year is a decrease of 19%. When compared to baseline, however, 2022/23 usage shows a 1% increase compared to 2021/22.
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 in across the estate by 5% compared to previous year.	Energy & Carbon Officer	Gas consumption decreased by 44% compared to baseline levels. There was an annual decrease of 18%.
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 2022/23 compared to 2020/21	Energy & Carbon Officer	Water consumption in 22/23 has shown an increase in 84% supply compared to 2020/21.
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.	Environment Advisor	The recycling rate for 22/23 reduced by 8% from 21/22 to 60%.  The reduction in recyclable material has been due to a significant reduction in the disposal of cooking oil. This is currently under investigation. The most challenging area for waste management is

				residential buildings, where recyclable material collected is 52.41% of total waste generated. This is the first year of monitoring the waste output specifically by residence and non-residence and therefore there is no comparable data. Oppositely, all non-residential buildings have a greater recycling to general waste ratio (Recycling 68%; General waste 32%).
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 2022/23 compared to baseline 2018/19.	Environment Advisor	Baseline for 18-19 compared to 22-23: 1.3%. YoY 21- 22 to 22-23: non-recyclable waste has increased by 7.6% increasing to 39.23% compared to the previous year's 31.55%.
5	5% reduction in food waste produced from non-residential areas by 2030	Reduce food waste collection by 2% from 2018/19 baseline.	Environment Advisor	No baseline data for Food Processing Waste Suez 18- 19. There has been a reduction in food waste of 35 t from 21/22 to 22/23 this is due to a reduction in the last 3 months of the AY compared to the same period last year. Food waste in non-residential areas amounts to 19% of total waste produced.
6	Reduce the proportion of staff and non-residential students	1% reduction in single-occupancy car travel.	Sustainable Travel Officer	Actual stats TBC  This SOV calculation will not be reflected



	commuting to the University by single occupancy by 1% year on year.			next year, as the focus is to increase sustainable travel.
6	Sustainable travel - increase sustainable modes of travel for staff and commuting students by 1% year on year.	1% increase for sustainable travel.	Sustainable Travel Officer	<p><b>STAFF</b>  SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL:  155 responses received.  WALK - 19%  CYCLE - 4.61%  BUS - 12.5% (this figure is a combination of Uno, Park &amp; Ride &amp; other bus routes)  TRAIN - 0.66%  MOTORCYCLE - 1.97%  CAR SHARE - 11.84%  TOTAL: 50.58% of journeys are considered sustainable.  ALONE CAR TRAVEL - 73% but only 13.1% said every day.</p> <p><b>STUDENTS</b>  SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL:  261 responses received.  WALK - 59.15%  CYCLE - 6.71%  BUS - 112.81% (this figure is a combination of Uno, Park &amp; Ride &amp; other bus routes)  TRAIN - 15.24%  MOTORCYCLE - 0.61%  CAR SHARE - 11.59%  TOTAL: of journeys are considered sustainable.  ALONE CAR TRAVEL - 13.42% but only 2.44% said every day.</p> <p>Car sharing permits and electric vehicle permits delivered &amp;</p>

				<p>successful among students.</p> <p>Park and Ride patronage built up from last academic year.</p> <p>Student bike hires continue to be steady, even through winter due to our 50% discount offered.</p>
7	Net Zero Carbon Scope 1&2 carbon emissions by 2030 and Net Zero Carbon Scope 3 emissions 2050	Net Zero Carbon Plan dates have been agreed, with final plan to be signed off by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022.	Environment & Sustainability Manager	Carbon Management Action Plan delivered by Gleeds Advisory. Scope 3 carbon emissions for waste, water, procurement, travel (partial) and business travel 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.	Environment & Sustainability Manager	Management Plan for Biodiversity; A Baseline Report has been delivered and signed off by the Sustainability Board.
8	Increase engagement in biodiversity through teaching and research	Annual targets are to be confirmed once the baseline has been established through surveys and monitoring.	Environment & Sustainability Manager	Baseline report created, specific Action Plans to be created for 2023/24.

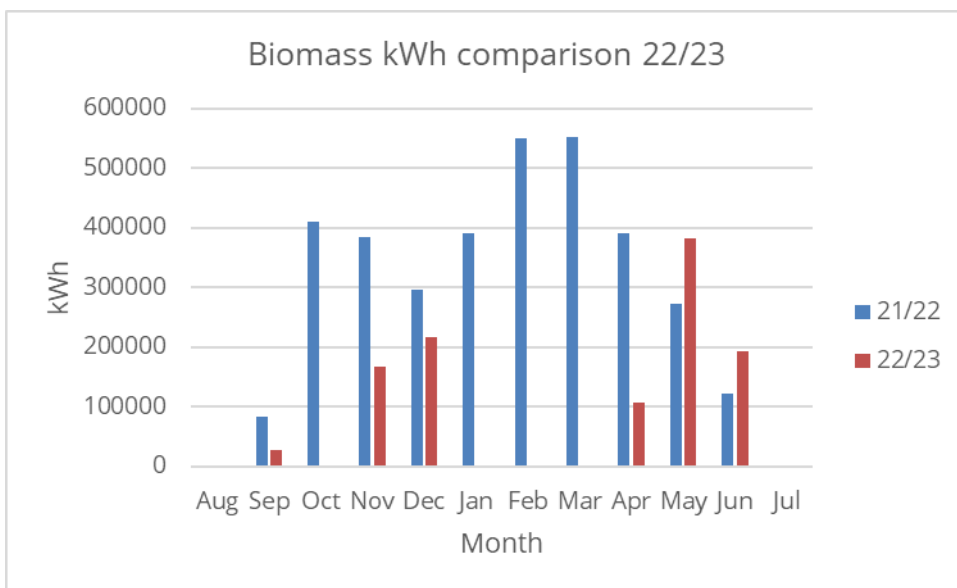
## Energy Performance

The UON has consumed 9061MWh of electricity, a decrease of 1% compared to the previous academic year.

Gas use has increased by 13% for the August – June period compared to 2021/2022. 7,188MWh of gas has been consumed. The main cause for this increase is due to a technical issue with the Waterside meter which has meant that our true gas consumption was not being recorded previously. Since April 2023, the UON now has access to true consumption and appropriate targets to reduce this will be set.

The carbon emissions generated from energy use can be seen in table 5 and compared against the previous year for the same period (August – June).

There has been a significant decrease in biomass consumption due to an operational fault which resulted in the boiler being out of use for a total of four months across the year (Figure 1). 1,093MWh was consumed, compared to 3,453MWh the previous year, a 68% decrease. This is not on target as we aim to increase biomass use year on year. Associated emissions have decreased by 65%, a total of 12(t) CO<sub>2</sub>e. This means that we have had to use more gas resulting in increased CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions as the gas emissions conversion factor is higher than biomass. Measures have been put in place, along with projects, to increase the efficiency and optimisation of the biomass moving forward, including a new role in the Energy Centre that will have a proactive role in managing the asset(s) and BMS, and design work to complete a new control strategy for the BMS and heating systems.

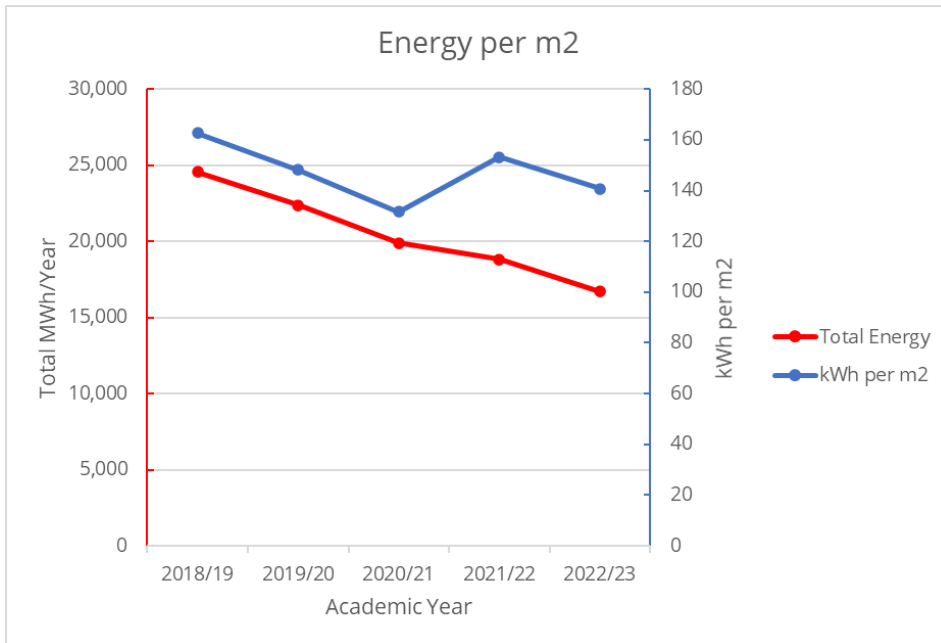


**Figure 2. Monthly biomass consumption kWh 2022/2023 compared to 2021/2022.**

The solar PV array at St Johns has been improving performance year on year since it underwent a maintenance and clean in 2021. Statements are only available up to May 23

at the time of writing so current analysis is for August – May. So far, 13,803kWh have been generated which is 15% less generation compared to the same period last year. However, this may change once we receive the last quarterly statement as this will include the sunniest months. Whilst is a decrease currently, when compared against 2019/2020 prior to the service, it is above a 40% increase of kWh. It is recommended that the annual maintenance and clean are continued so that the panels can perform to their optimum.

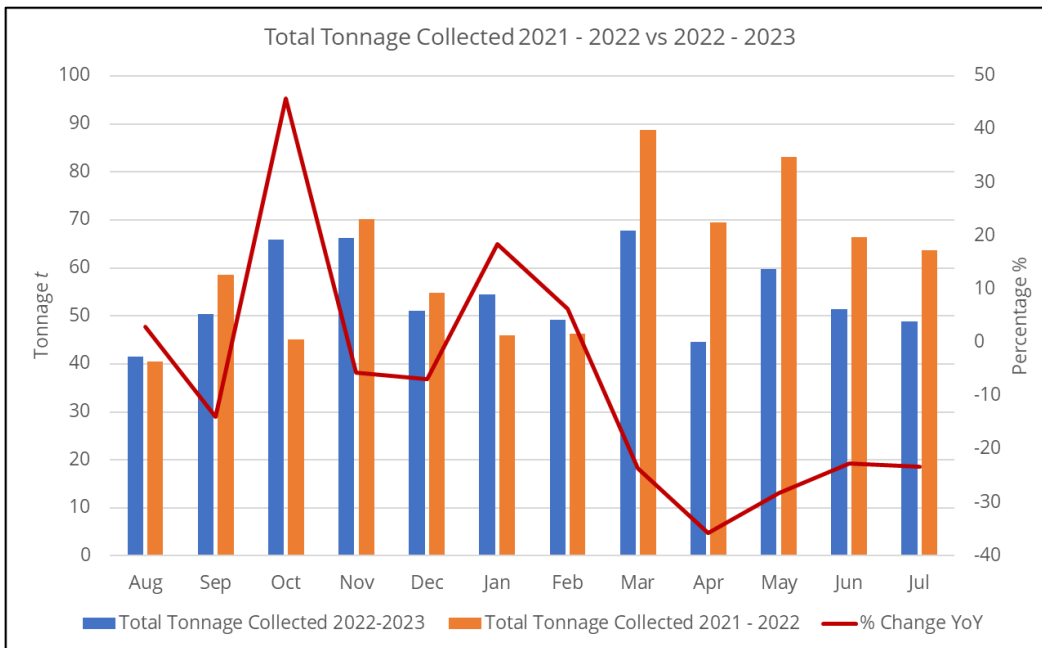
Overall, the energy performance of the estate shows a decrease of 8% use per m<sup>2</sup> compared to 2021/2022 and a 13% decrease since the 2018/2019 baseline (Figure 3). The estate GIAm<sup>2</sup> has changed since 2018/19, with the decommissioning of St Georges Avenue Campus in 2021. Energy per m<sup>2</sup> increased last year, which is likely due to the change in GIA, however, we can see that performance is now improving as energy use has decreased again this year.



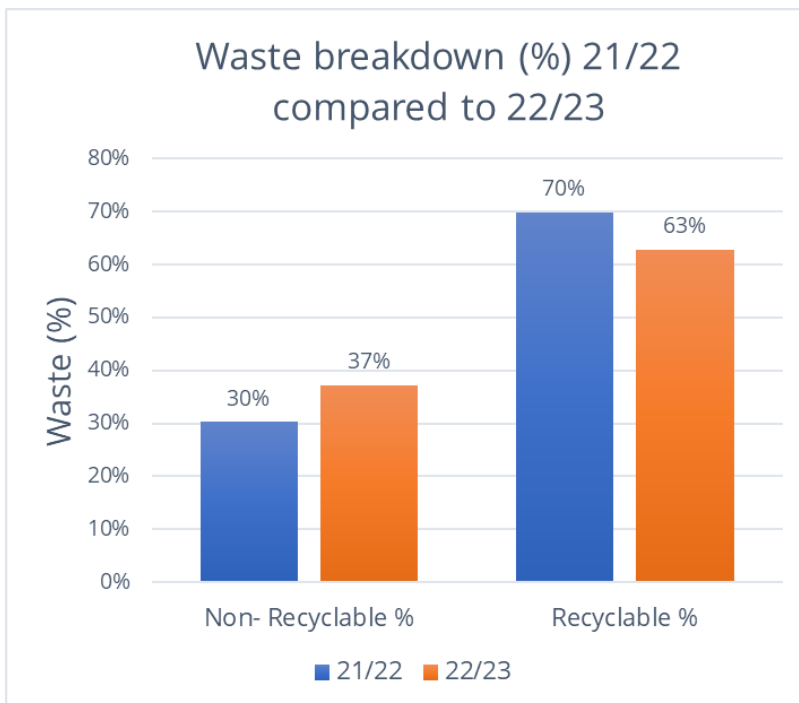
**Figure 3: Normalised energy use per m<sup>2</sup>.**

### Waste Performance Analysis

The current academic year (2022/23) has seen an overall decrease in waste by -11% (-81.574) (Figure 4), when compared to the previous academic year (2021/22). The total waste produced for 2022/23 was 650.909 tonnes (t) of which, 395.568 (61%) was recycled, 255.341 tonnes of waste sent for energy recovery (EfW) and 8.6 tonnes sent to landfill (Bio-ash). Recycling rates have reduced by 4%, dropping to 61% compared to the previous year's 66% and non-recyclable waste has increased by 5% increasing to 39% compared to the previous year's 34% (Figure 5).

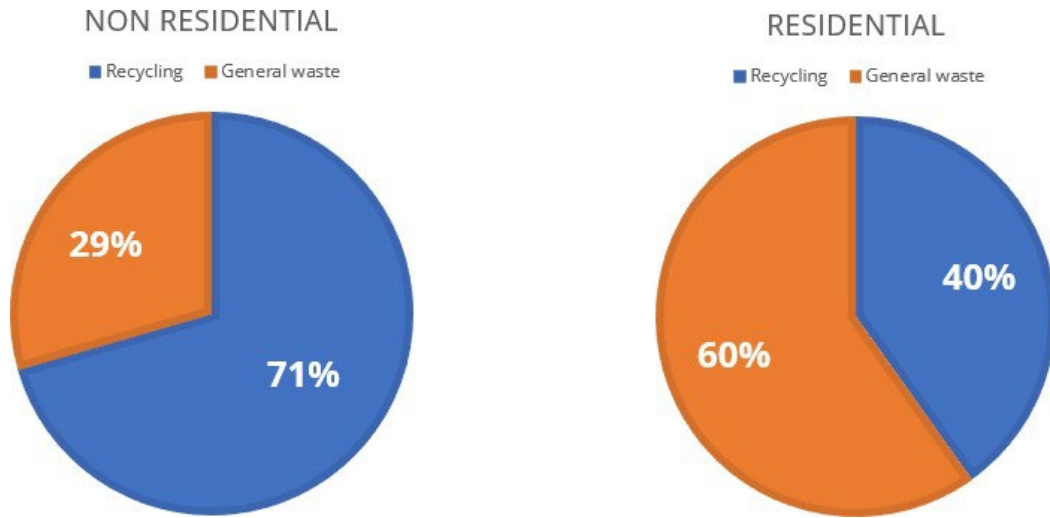


**Figure 4. Total waste across all UON estates by month; Suez data from current academic year compared to previous years data. Percentage change by month and overall annual % change of -10%.**



**Figure 5. Breakdown of waste by recycling and non-recycling as a percentage (%) 2021/22 compared to 2022/23.**

The most challenging area for waste management is residential buildings, where general waste outweighs recycling by 20% (Recycling 40%; General waste 60%) (Figure 6). Oppositely, all non-residential buildings have a greater recycling to general waste ratio (Recycling 71%; General waste 29%).



**Figure 6. Breakdown of waste by recycling and non-recycling; waste from non-residential buildings compared to residential buildings for the current academic year (2022/23).**

In addition to the Suez annual data, waste audits conducted within the halls of residence during the ENV1 127 Environmental Pollution module reported high levels of recyclable waste in general waste bins and high levels of contaminated recyclable waste within the Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR). Bin audits within Charles Bradlaugh halls of residence displayed levels of contaminated recycling as high as 73% and 11% non-recyclable waste in DMR. This would suggest that communication and education on the importance of sustainable waste management is needed for students across halls of residence.

### Travel Plan Performance Analysis

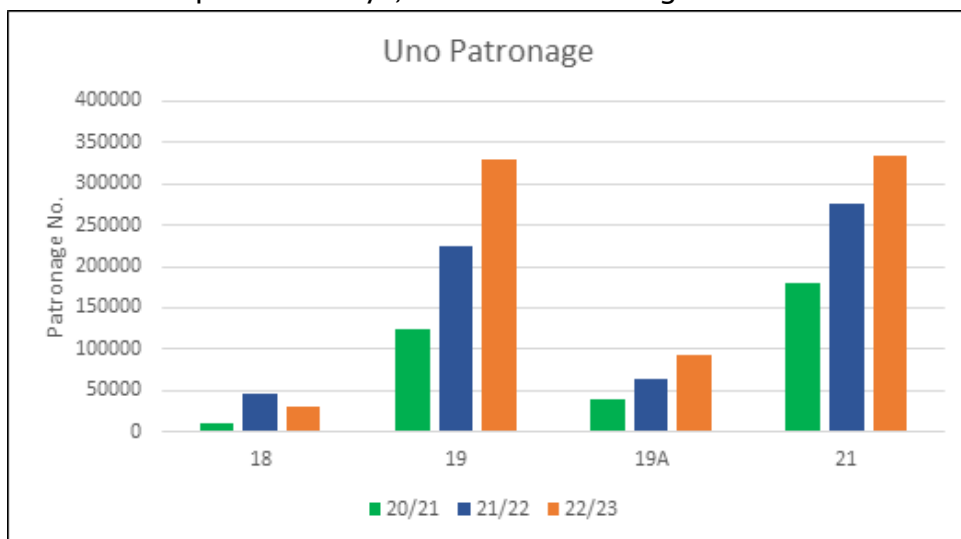
The University of Northampton Travel and Car Park Management Plan was developed in 2018 and outlines how the University intends to implement and promote specific measures to help staff, students and visitors commute to the University’s sites via sustainable measures and aims to reduce Single Occupancy Journeys (SOV) by 20% in 5 years.

In 2020, the university met this target, three-years early, with a reduction in staff SOV usage of 38%, this was largely due to the increase in working from home following the March 2020 pandemic. However, when the Campus was back to being fully open, we saw the SOV % increase. On the positive side of this, walking and cycling also increased which, with the lockdown rules encouraging people to exercise for an hour a day, could be a result of people taking up walking and cycling during this period and wishing to continue its health and wellbeing benefits as a means of commuting to work.

Table 5 below demonstrates how commuting by cycling and walking has continued to increase. 22/23 SOV shows a slight decrease from 79% to 73%, we have no data for cycling and walking as we are moving forward with a new target of % increase in sustainable travel year on year.

The new travel strategy 2023 – 2028 aims to address the year-on-year increase for cycling, walking, EV use, motorcycles, public transport use and car sharing. It does not include working from home, because although it is taking cars off the road, it is not a form of actual travel. By measuring our successes in this way, we understand we may be excluding those where non SOV use is simply not possible such as a disabled person or someone who lives too far away. Instead that person may choose to travel by an electric vehicle or by car sharing which are valid forms of sustainable travel and therefore should be included in our survey figures.

Cycling among staff continues to rise, with a significant increase in bikes being purchased through the Cycle2Work scheme in 2023 following on from a council led free e-bike trial UON were lucky to be enrolled on 3 times. Each round of e-bikes was followed by an online webinar for staff hosted by Cycle Solutions regarding the salary sacrifice scheme and each webinar had at least 1 purchase. Students continue to use the bike hire scheme throughout the year, with a peak over winter when we offered a 50% discount. Public transport also remains steady, with the #19 Uno bus route being the most popular, due to the students living at Scholars Green Halls, and whilst the #18 Park and Ride isn't as used as pre covid days, its numbers are higher than that of 2021/22.



**Figure 7. Uno Bus patronage for A/Y 2021/2022 vs A/Y 2022/2023.**

October continues to be popular for the #18 Park and Ride as new students start their academic year and the summer tends to be in low in numbers due to the vacation periods.

However, the numbers have dropped this year showing less popularity to use the Park and Ride as a form of transport to the University campus.

The #19 & 19A Scholars Green is steady in numbers due to our students in halls, as does the #21, our Rectory Farm/Weston Favell/Town Centre route. These routes have all increased their patronage since last year by around 5000 each.

## **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 response to this Environment & Sustainability Team prepared a paper for the University Management Team (UMT) requesting agreement and sign off on our own Net Zero by 2030 carbon target. 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 2019/2020 of 4716 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

## **Carbon footprint 2022/23 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.

## **Scope 1 and 2**

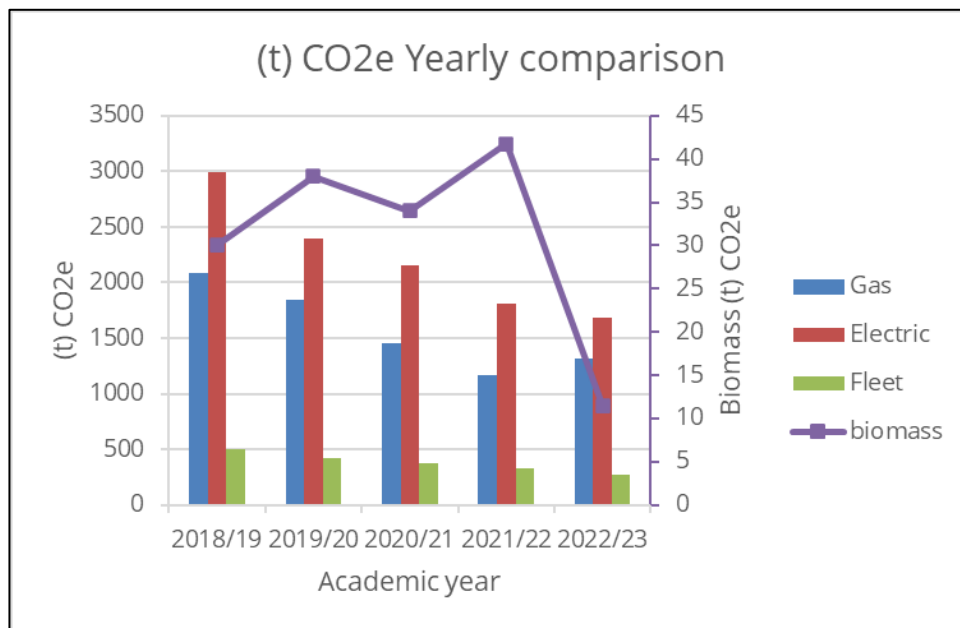
The UON current carbon footprint for scope 1 & 2 emissions is 3,289 (t)CO<sub>2</sub>e, which is a combined total of 3,016 (t) CO<sub>2</sub>e for energy-based emissions (gas, electric and biomass) and 273 (t) CO<sub>2</sub>e from fleet emissions, inclusive of the park and ride bus fleet. Year on year progress reporting is based on the period August – June due to not having a full year dataset for 2022/23 at the time of writing.



This academic year so far, our CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions have increased 16% and 1% for gas and electric (respectively) compared to last academic year but decreased by 35% and 39% when compared against our baseline year of 2018/2019. Biomass emissions have decreased by 65% compared to last year, which reflects the reduced usage of biomass this year due to operational failures with the boiler.

### Normalised carbon footprint Scope 1 & 2

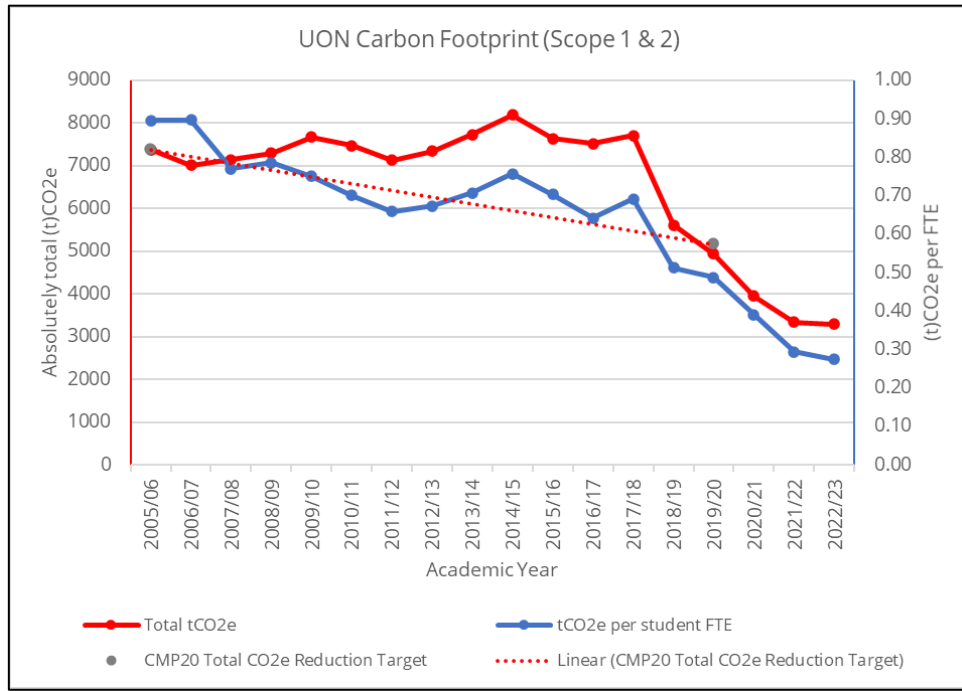
UON normalises its carbon footprint against two metrics: total GIAm<sup>2</sup> of the estate and number of FTE students. This allows UON to monitor emissions against changes in the estate and student intake to ensure carbon emissions are decreasing relative to the size of the University and its student population.



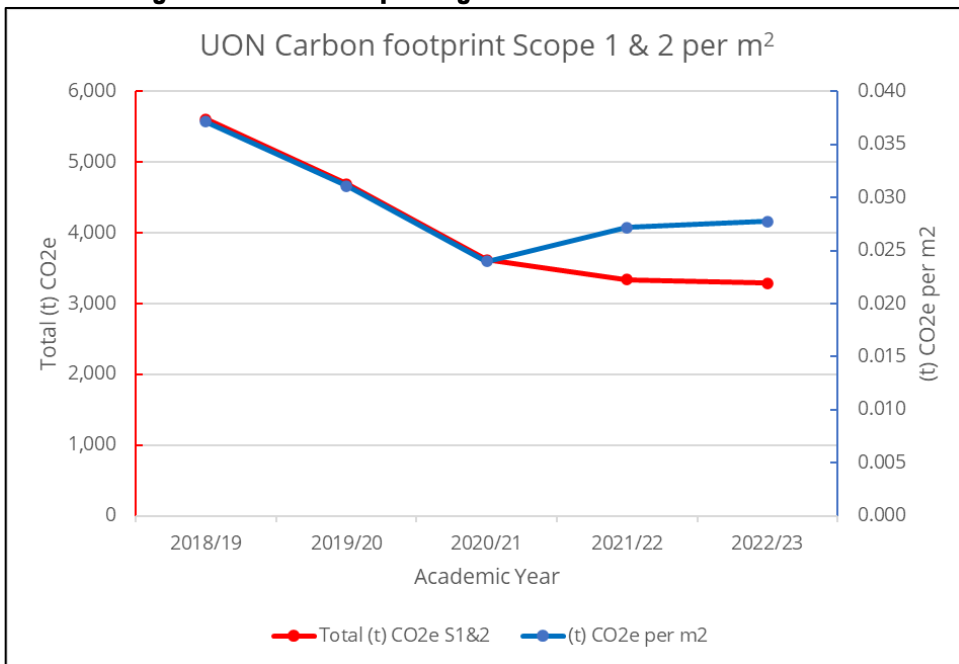
**Figure 5. Scope 1 and 2 (t) CO<sub>2</sub>e including fleet. 2022/2023 is August – June.**

The UON carbon footprint per FTE student has continued to decrease. In 2022/2023, the number of FTE students increased by 6%, and the (t) CO<sub>2</sub>e decreased by 7% compared to the previous academic year (Figure 5).

Whilst our carbon footprint has decreased in 2022/2023, the (t) CO<sub>2</sub>e per GIAm<sup>2</sup> has increased by 2%. The UON carbon footprint per m<sup>2</sup> has been rising since 2021/2022 which is negatively correlated with the size of the estate as this has decreased since 2021/2022 (Figure 6).



**Figure 6: Carbon footprint against student FTE.**



**Figure 7: Carbon footprint against GIA m².**

### Scope 3

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 in table 10.

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
- Water supply and treatment

A project is underway with a third party to calculate our scope 3 emissions for procurement.



## Environment & Sustainability Projects:

### **Carbon Management Action 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 losses 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.

Gleeds is also providing more general careers mentoring, interview skills and CV writing masterclasses for university students to prepare them for entering the employment market.

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**

On May the 15th and 16th of this year, the University of Northampton (UON) held its first-ever Sustainability Summit. This landmark event not only marked a significant milestone for the university but also served as a momentous occasion for the entire stakeholder community in Northamptonshire and the wider East Midlands region.

The primary objective of the Summit was to establish a dynamic platform that would unite the stakeholder community in addressing common sustainability challenges. By providing this platform, the Summit aimed to facilitate productive discussions and create a framework for actionable steps to tackle these challenges through collaborative research, enterprise and knowledge exchange.

Over 150 delegates representing over 40 different businesses, charities, local authorities and HEI's attended the two-day Summit. Throughout the event, stimulating and substantive discussions took place, leading to a consensus among the delegates of what their shared sustainability challenges were, and the sustainability goals they wanted to pursue together. As a result of these discussions, the delegates agreed the Northampton Sustainability Accord and unveiled it as the main outcome and achievement of the Summit.



The Northampton Sustainability Accord provides a framework for action to address the shared sustainability challenges of the stakeholder community in Northamptonshire and the wider East Midlands region through the adoption of an inclusive approach to engagement which guarantees broad-based impact.

The Accord lists a set of sustainability goals that have been collectively endorsed by the stakeholder community. By committing to work in collaboration with the University of Northampton, the stakeholder community aims to pursue these goals in the short, medium, and long term. The Accord serves as a roadmap for joint efforts, emphasizing the importance of partnership and collective action in achieving sustainable outcomes.

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 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 year long sustainability campaign with SOS UK, formerly known as the 'national student switch off'. The campaign was branded 'Halls HEROES': Heating, Electric, Recycling, Optimise water, Environment & Sustainability.

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.

A great opportunity for students from this campaign was the chance to sign up for volunteer training which introduced sustainability, climate crisis and social justice, explored ways students could save energy and water and how to recycle and discussed actions the volunteers could take as part of the campaign and encourage fellow students. UON had 13 students sign up for this training which was a great result.

The overall engagement results were very positive, Northampton was the 4th most engaged University nationally out of over 100+ Universities that had signed up! 452 students participated in the online activities (competitions, pledges and webinars) with 272 students engaging in person at the 3 events throughout the

year. An additional bonus to the level of engagement received was being able to be part of a Homes Fit For Study campaign which looked at the private accommodation for students to collect valuable data on how our students are managing in this accommodation, which was even more prevalent with the cost-of-living crisis.

The campaign was finished off with a pizza party for the winning hall, St Johns Core 2.

## Sustainable Travel Initiatives

**E-bike trial:** UON took part in an e-bike trial as part of a Smart Move Northants & Outspoken Cycles initiative which provided free of charge e-bikes for local businesses to use for 6-10 weeks. UON were lucky enough to have the bikes 3 times for staff and the uptake on all occasions were nearly full capacity. After each round, our Cycle to Work provider, Cycle Solutions, held online webinars on how the scheme works which resulted in 5 bike purchases.



**Car sharer permit:** This academic year we trialed a car sharer permit scheme for students which resulted in 30 vehicles on site car sharing between 43 people. Whilst the scheme proved a success, it did put us over our permit numbers, therefore for the next academic year will place a cap on car sharing permits being distributed to a first come first served basis for up to 20 permits.

**Staff EV user group:** This year saw an increase in the number of electric vehicle (EV) owners which led to a rise in charge point use. An EV users' group was created using TEAMS as a platform, this enabled members to use the group to ask questions about chargers, report faults or swap spaces with those waiting to charge once theirs was full.

**EV student permits:** For the first time, students with electric vehicles and hybrid vehicles were given permits permitting them to charge on the Pod Point chargers at Waterside and Development Hub, originally only for staff. A total of 11 permits were issued and this will continue into the next academic year to promote sustainable travel and ease of charging as part of the Cost-of-Living initiative.



## 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 Land, ranking 25<sup>th</sup> and SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, ranking 29<sup>th</sup> 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 82<sup>nd</sup>, 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<sub>2</sub> 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 progress reporting, monitoring and communication of environmental performance and sustainability across the institution.

Progress reporting takes place twice a year with an annual report presented to the ULT and Sustainability Board in the Autumn and a mid-year review provided towards the end of spring. The Sustainability Board meets three times per year with a full progress update presented by the Environment & Sustainability Manager and supported by the rest of the team.

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. The Environment & Sustainability Team produces regular articles 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

<b>University Management Team (UMT) Board Level</b>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Responsible for agreeing sustainability strategy, accountabilities, responsibilities and governance structure with respect to sustainability.</p>
<b>Sustainability Board</b>	<p><b>Who:</b> 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 &amp; Sustainability Manager (or representative of the Environment &amp; Sustainability Team).</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Reporting Structure:</b> Chair updates the UMT once a year</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Sustainability Board meets termly.</p>
<b>Environment &amp; Sustainability Team</b>	<p><b>Who:</b> Members of the Environment &amp; Sustainability Team.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Oversee and coordinate the implementation of the sustainability strategy. Monitoring reporting and reviewing sustainability policies and practices. Provide specialist advice as required.</p>
<b>Action Groups</b>	<p><b>Who:</b> Members of the Environment &amp; Sustainability Team, staff and students.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Reporting Structure:</b> Action Team members report to the Sustainability Board.</p>