University of Northampton

INVESTORS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Management System (EMS)

University of Northampton

Submission Year: 2025

Reporting Year: 2024/2025

Contents

Introduction

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.

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.

To support our environmental aspirations, we are proud to be working towards a Green Accreditation with Investors in the Environment.

Teams, Boards and Management Structure

Led by the Director of Estates and Campus Services and The Head of Hard & Infrastructure Services, the Environment & Sustainability team consists of an Environment Advisor role with the remit 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. A new Social Impact Board (SIB) was established in AY_2025/2026, replacing and broadening the remit of the former Sustainability Board. The SIB will have an expanded focus, including the oversight and monitoring of social impact initiatives, and will report to the Board of Governors' Infrastructure and Resources Committee. It is 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.

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.

Environmental policy

The University's Environment & Sustainability Policy has been established by the Environment and Sustainability Team to enable delivery against Environment and Sustainability objectives. The policy is reviewed every 3 years, with the last review taking place in June 2025 where a full review 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.

In 2025, the University devised a new Sustainability Strategy after a series of workshops with staff and students across the faculties to input their ideas and visions, and close work alongside the Environment and Sustainability Team.

Our new Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030 is based around our four pillars:

- Our operations
- Our teaching and learning
- Our research
- Engagement for change

"At the University of Northampton, we recognise the critical importance of sustainability in shaping a better future for our community and the world. Our commitment to sustainability is deeply embedded in our values and strategic objectives, guiding our actions and decisions across all aspects of university life. This Sustainability Strategy outlines our vision, goals, and initiatives to promote environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic viability. By fostering a culture of sustainability, we aim to

inspire and empower our students, staff, and partners to contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future. Together, we will work towards reducing our environmental impact, enhancing our social contributions, and ensuring the long-term success and well-being of our university and the broader community." – Tracey Russell.

Evidence Pack 4 Contents

All policies including the new Sustainability Strategy 2025 – 2030

(waste, energy, ecology, water, single use plastic, procurement, environment, construction)

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.

At the end of the academic year, an End of Year Report and Carbon Footprint is created to present to University Leadership Team (ULT) as well as publication on the front facing website and feeds into such programmes as HESA and People & Planet.

Sustainability | University of Northampton

Electricity

General

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. 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.

Operating hours vary across the University estate. Building settings change seasonally to accommodate the changes in temperatures as defined in the Heating and Cooling policy. 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 have a mixture of bulbs fitted, but all remain on timers. 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 10pm closing depending on the outlet (for example The Waterside Bar has longer hours than The Ground Coffe Shop). 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.

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.

Measure

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.

Our base line year is 2018 – 2019 and each year our report looks at the difference between the academic year compared to base line, as well as year on year.

Gas and Biomass Boiler

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.

Measure

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.

Our base line year is 2018 – 2019 and each year our report looks at the difference between the academic year compared to base line, as well as year on year.

Other Renewable Energy Sources

St Johns

Combined Heat & Power (CHP) is a technology that produces electricity and thermal energy at high efficiencies using a range of technologies and fuels. With on-site power

production, losses are minimized and heat that would otherwise be wasted is applied to facility loads in the form of process heating, steam, hot water, or even chilled water

We have solar panels at St Johns Halls that are part of the Feed In Tariff (FiT) with EDF Energy. The FiT is a government programme that provides financial incentives to generate renewable electricity from sources such as solar panels.

Podiatry Clinic

An air source heat pump was implemented at the start of 2025, as part of the hybrid Heat Pump and Gas Boiler solution as a replacement for the redundant gas boiler.

A case study was conducted with the aim to source a sustainable and cost-effective heating solution that could meet the facility's heating demand while reducing energy costs and environmental impact. A thermal buffer was strategically placed to integrate with both the boiler and heat pump and the heat pump was installed outside the building with connections to the internal system.

The replacement of the Potterton Concord CXA/H40 boilers with a hybrid heating solution of a BOSCH Condens 7000W boiler, thermal buffer, and BOSCH CS3000AWP-Logatherm WLW276-19P heat pump successfully modernized the building’s heating system. This upgrade delivered measurable improvements in efficiency, cost savings, and environmental performance while meeting the heating and hot water demands.

Water

General

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 with cost and consumption data from the invoices being input onto spreadsheets for data monitoring and reporting.

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. Most taps are either percussion or electric sensor operated, however some had to be changed to mixer manual taps due to Legionella testing.

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. The bottle-fed water stations located in the Sports Pavillion use large plastic bottles which are taken away to be reused.

Washing up

Kitchen sinks are in staff rooms for minimal washing up. There are four hospitality areas onsite, 2x restaurants and 3 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 should be diverted into a separate tank where it can then be reused for the Grounds team for plant and tree watering.

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. The tannery was decommissioned in 2025 and therefore will not be included in the next report.

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.

Measure

The University is a member of the TEC framework with Wave as the provider. This was set up at the start of academic year 2024/25 and supports the monitoring of the estate's

water consumption. All mains water supply usage is monitored by the Environment and Sustainability Team through monthly water bills and through a mix of manual meter reads and sub-metering.

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.

Our base line year is 2018 – 2019 and each year our report looks at the difference between the academic year compared to base line, as well as year on year.

Evidence Pack 1 Contents

GIA Data

Energy Consumption from Baseline Year

Waste Data 24/25

Water Consumption Data from Baseline Year

Targets

Our base line year is 2018 – 2019 and each year our report looks at the difference between the academic year compared to base line, as well as year on year. Annual targets and action plans are then set to ensure we are on track to meet short term and long term targets, such as Net Zero Carbon Scopes 1, 2 & 3 in line with the Government legislation target of 2050 with an ambition to do it within the next decade.

- Electricity: Reduce electricity consumption across the estate by 2%
- Gas & Biomass: Reduce gas consumption across the estate by 2% and increase Biomass usage 10% to previous year
- Water: Reduce consumption across the estate by 1%
- Carbon Management: Reduce carbon emissions by 60% compared to baseline year
- Waste: Reduce total waste as recorded as general per student FTE by 2kg, 2% reduction in food waste and 5% increase in recycling rate.
- Engagement: Establish Sustainability Champions
- Biodiversity – To survey and establish our Biodiversity Net Gains baseline

- Travel: To increase sustainable travel by 1% compared to previous year

Analysis of AY2024_2025

Location Based: This includes data from our Zero Carbon for Business electricity rates.

Market Based: This does not include data from our Zero Carbon for Business electricity rates and therefore the carbon footprint appears higher.

This analysis uses data from the Location Based stats.

For AY24_25 our total tonnes of CO2 were 4,076.27 – this is a 14% reduction across all 3 scopes from AY23_24. A Scope 3 reduction of 30% was the most significant and this includes our travel, water, waste and transmission & distribution.

Whilst our overall waste tonnage was the highest since AY19_20, more was disposed of sustainably and therefore the emissions were lower. However, actions should be taken to reduce the overall waste in the upcoming academic year in line with our waste hierarchy and focus must be given to Residential Halls. A waste audit will be carried out within the first 3 months of the new academic year, including a survey of students about their habits.

Gas use was less due to the biomass boiler functioning all year and our move to more electric fleet vehicles had an impact on reducing the fleet's emissions.

Travel for business remains high with air and rail, but as of September 2025 Estates and Campus Services look after the Travel for Business and therefore can impose stricter criteria.

Water usage has reduced slightly, but an investigation will be opened regarding the water used by the window cleaning company as to how this can be reduced further, as well as a pilot project in Halls with new shower heads donated by Anglian Water.

Normalised Targets

tC02e/Student (FTE)

Distance Learning – 26

On-site – 9875

Taught by Partners – 1563

Total – 11,464

Analysis:

Location-based	SCOPE 1	SCOPE 2	SCOPE 3	Total (tCO2e) Location-based	Students (FTE)	tC02e/Student (FTE)
18/19 baseline	2,618.25	2,991.54		5,609.79	10,942	0.51
19/20	2,300.11	2,394.00		4,694.11	10,084	0.47
20/21	1,468.71	2,151.83	48.37	3,668.92	10,109	0.36
21/22	1,532.77	1,809.72	218.63	3,561.12	11,345	0.31
22/23	1,596.15	1,824.67	507.28	9,928.10	12,004	0.83
23/24	2,375.27	1,930.23	428.58	4,734.09	12,587	0.38
24/25	1,930.31	1,846	299.96	4,076.27	11,464	0.36

Market-based	SCOPE 1	SCOPE 2	SCOPE 3	Total (tCO2e) Location-based	Students (FTE)	tC02e/Student (FTE)
18/19 baseline	2,618.25	2,991.54	0.00	5,609.79	10,942	0.51
19/20	2,300.11	2,394.00	0.00	4,694.11	10,084	0.47
20/21	1,468.71	2,151.83	48.37	3,668.92	10,109	0.36
21/22	1,532.77	1,809.72	218.63	3,561.12	11,345	0.31
22/23	1,596.15	1,824.67	507.28	9,928.10	12,004	0.83
23/24	2,375.27	1,930.23	428.58	2,803.86	12,587	0.22
24/25	1930.31	1846	299.96	2,230.27	11,464	0.19

There were 1123 less students this academic year meaning a deduction in the tonnes of emissions per student. 0.02 location based, and 0.03 in market based. This is a 63% and 30% reduction since baseline year.

Action Plans

Our Environment and Sustainability Climate Action Plan has been spread across AY24_25 & AY25_26 to ensure any actions that may have been impacted due to reduction in team numbers and was unable to be completed within 2024/2025 will be completed within the next academic year.

Each section is marked whether it is a short-term or an on-going goal with a description, along with the owner, time frame and latest update.

The Environment and Sustainability Climate Action Plan can be found

in Evidence Pack 3.

Waste Management Plan

The UON Waste Policy demonstrates our approach to waste management and focuses on the Prevent / Avoid principle at the top of the Waste Hierarchy.

- Every effort is made to support the correct segregation of waste to maximise the recycling opportunities and reduce waste sent for energy recovery crosses various residential and non-residential buildings by having dedicated separate and clearly labelled bins. The labels are WRAP compliant.
- We ensure staff and students have the knowledge to be mindful when making non-essential purchases along with the university's definition of avoidable waste.
- We ensure items are maintained, repaired, refurbished, used for spare parts or donated where applicable.
- We have a long-established relationship with charities such as Anglo Recycling and Children's Air Ambulance with donation banks on site for staff and students to donate quality clothing, books, DVDs etc, especially in busyt times such as Moving Out Weekend in Halls.
- 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.

- 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.
- We offer coffee cup recycling historically 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.
- We have incentives for staff and students to bring reuseable cups in our eating establishment by imposing a 20p surcharge when using regular take away containers.
- 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.
- UON is proud to only send Bio-ash to landfill.

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.

Site audits were undertaken by our Environment Advisors as part of our Duty of Care for:

May 2025: SUEZ MRF - Birmingham

July 2025: Biogen Atherstone - Warwickshire

August 2025: Cawleys Transfer Station – Wellingborough

August 2025: Rookery South ERF – Bedford

These will be repeated annual or if there are changes that may affect the site or our services.

Travel Plan

With over 2,000 staff and 10,000 students, travel is a key issue for the university to manage, and the Travel Plan exists to reduce the impact of our student, staff and visitor travel to our sites and to provide viable and accessible sustainable travel options

instead, which results in a reduction of carbon emissions, Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) pollution and congestion. The original overall target as set out by the Council was to reduce single occupancy car journeys by 20% within the first five years of occupation. This was achieved in 2020/2021. Our target now is to increase sustainable travel, such as walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing, by 1% year on year. This data is collected through our annual Sustainability Survey. The results are published on our front facing website, including a Your Feedback Our Response document.

Staff and Student Commuting including Business Travel

In 2025 a Sustainable Travel Action Plan was created with 3 key targets:

- Target 1. Achieve a year-on-year increase in sustainable forms of travel to reduce our Scope 3 carbon emissions.
- Target 2. Measure the travel patterns of staff and students by annual surveys to establish behaviour change initiatives.
- Target 3. Continue to provide education for travel to staff and students through events, collaborations of lectures and advertising of alternative travel schemes available to all.

Whilst we do have a Travel Hierarchy in the Business Travel Policy, we are working with the Procurement team to see how we can implement this more rigidly and ensure some forms of travel used are questioned and justified on a case-by-case basis.

Fleet Vehicles

The University operates a fleet of vehicles for operational purposes used by the Security, Grounds and Maintenance Team and our Portering and Housekeeping Teams. The fleet comprises of 16 vehicles – 9 are diesel, 1 is hybrid and 6 are electric vehicles.

13 of these vehicles are leased and our Environment Advisors manage this so when a vehicle come up for renewal, they can liaise with the team about needs and usage to establish where we can go electric and, if we can't, what the justification is to continue with petrol/diesel. Fuel consumption is monitored and reported annually to account for greenhouse gas emissions of these vehicles and reported in Scope 3.

Evidence Pack 2 Contents

All Travel Data 24_25

Sustainable Travel Action Plan

Travel for Business Policy

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. This is set out in our Ecology Policy.

In 2024 we had a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Baseline BNG report carried out on site. This will feed into a Biodiversity Management Plan (which will supersede the Betts Management plan) and Biodiversity Action Plan guiding the need to conserve and enhance the species we have across our estate.

UON achieved the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Gold Award in 2022 - 2025, a student led campaign which the Environment & Sustainability Team provide support. This award runs for 3 years and has been re-applied for 2025 – 2028.

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.

Carbon Management Plan and Footprint

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.

Carbon Footprint

Scope 1

Year	Gas Usage (kWh)	Gas Emissions (tCO2e)	Biomass Usage	Biomass Emissions (tCO2e)	Travel (Fleet) Usage (Litres)	Travel (Fleet) Emissions (tCO2e)	Refrigerant Usage (kg)	Refrigerant Emissions (tCO2e)
18/19 baseline	11,357,542	2088	1,994,121	31		499		
19/20	10,026,043	1843	2,458,370	38		418		
20/21	7,708,400	1412	2,240,850	35		22		
21/22	6,357,226	1162	3,453,361	43		328		
22/23	7,184,847	1312	1,093,421	12		273		
23/24	10,646,502	1947	1,843,642	21		333	40.1	75.35
24/25	9,909,787	1813	2,120,454	24	5350.07	13.23	42	80.08

Scope 2

Year	Electricity Usage (kWh)	Electricity Emissions (tCO2e)
18/19 baseline	11,202,342	2992
19/20	9,872,222	2394
20/21	9,736,772	2152
21/22	8,991,243	1810
22/23	9,061,348	1825
23/24	9,322,545	1930
24/25	8,915,410	1846

Scope 3

Year	Travel (commuting) Usage (miles)	Travel (commuting) Emissions	Travel (Business) Usage (KM)	Travel (Business) Emissions (tCO2e)	Water Supply Usage (m3)	Water Supply Emissions (tCO2e)	Water Treatment Usage	Water Treatment Emissions (tCO2e)	Waste Usage (Tonnes collected)	Waste Emissions (tCO2e)	Transmission & Distribution Usage	Transmission & Distribution Emissions (tCO2e)
18/19 baseline					139238	47.9	125314.000	136.620	786.52	16.81		
19/20					55227	18.99	49704.000	54.190	604.27	12.89		
20/21					45263.72	10.42	40813.03	28.94	605.56	12.9		
21/22					82316.4	12.26	73882	32	581.34	14.57		
22/23						0	0	0	312	13		
23/24					111030	17	105978	37	594.52	11.77	9,322,545	167.01
24/25	1902	0.31	95737.19	86.42	95300	14.59	91577	32	668.982	3.3	8,925,410	163.34

Evidence Pack 3 Contents

24_25 Carbon Footprint in full + conversion factors

ESG Climate Action Plans AY24_25_25_26

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal & Biodiversity Net Gains Summary

Environmental Projects & Events AY24_25

For a second year running, 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 11 unclaimed bikes to Re-Circulate. We look forward to hearing how many were refurbed and their final destination.

In October 2024, Anglian Water visited Waterside Campus for 2 days to speak to students and staff about what lurks in our drains! With a huge push away from "flushable" wipes, make up wipes and tipping food down the drain, Anglian Water and the Mad Scientist spoke over 200 people about the best way to combat blocked drains, fatbergs, and gave more sustainable alternatives available to us all. Give away goodie bags contained leaflets, free make up cloths, spray to turn toilet paper into a wet wipe and a sink food catcher.

Dominic from Suez, our Waste Contractors, spoke to staff and students in the Market at Waterside about their recycling habits on 'Zero Waste Day' in February 2025. Suez's 'waste hierarchy' promotes waste prevention and the 2 R's – re-use and recycle. Alongside some interesting giveaways such as a reusable cup made from sea plastic, Dominic explained the journey our recycling and food waste takes.

"I spoke to around 30 staff and students, and they were really interested in the process once it leaves site, especially the anaerobic digestion. Some people were really shocked that the cup was made from recycled plastic found in the sea and the pencils were old newspapers." But it wasn't just our staff and students who learned something. "One of the students told me that in her home country, they dry the peels of oranges and lemons to use as fire kindling!"

On Tuesday 11 March, **Anglian Water** partnered with **Hey Girls** to bring free starter kits of sustainable period products to staff and students at UON. Their community hub parked at Waterside Campus outside the Market where they spoke to people about how they can save money over a lifetime and how a sustainable switch can reduce the effect 4.6 million products flushed down UK toilets every day is having on our drains and our oceans. 200 Hey Girls Sustainable Period Packs were given away alongside Anglian Water's Just Bin It Campaign information and other reusable products such as washable make up remover cloths.


On Friday 28 March, volunteer staff and students litter picked around Waterside Campus and the Development Hub as part of the Keep

Britain Tidy campaign, 'The Great British Spring Clean.' Suez, our waste contractors, also joined in and provided some gifts for the thank you goodie bags. They included a recycled plastic water bottle and pen, pencil made of recycled newspapers & a free drinks voucher in a UON canvas tote bag for all those who took part. We collected over 8 bags of rubbish, mostly from the Development Hub, and found that most litter collected was discarded cigarette ends on the ground, so we shall concentrate producing some comms around encouraging people to 'bin their butts.'

During No Mow May, we section off certain green spaces around Waterside and leave to grow wild for our pollinators, and this year we installed wooden posts in these areas to show we are 'growing weeds to feed the bees'. Over lunch time on Friday 25 April, we invited staff and students to decorate 6 wooden posts using Sharpie pens to create a spring themed patchwork mural. They were then varnished and put in situ. We had so many staff and students take part – some sat for a couple of hours decorating entire sides, some came and did something small and personal to them. We have artwork consisting of bluebells, turtles, ladybirds, hedgehogs, a bear & his beehive, tulips, bumble bees and even a mouse – just to name a few!

Environmental Assessments & Accreditations

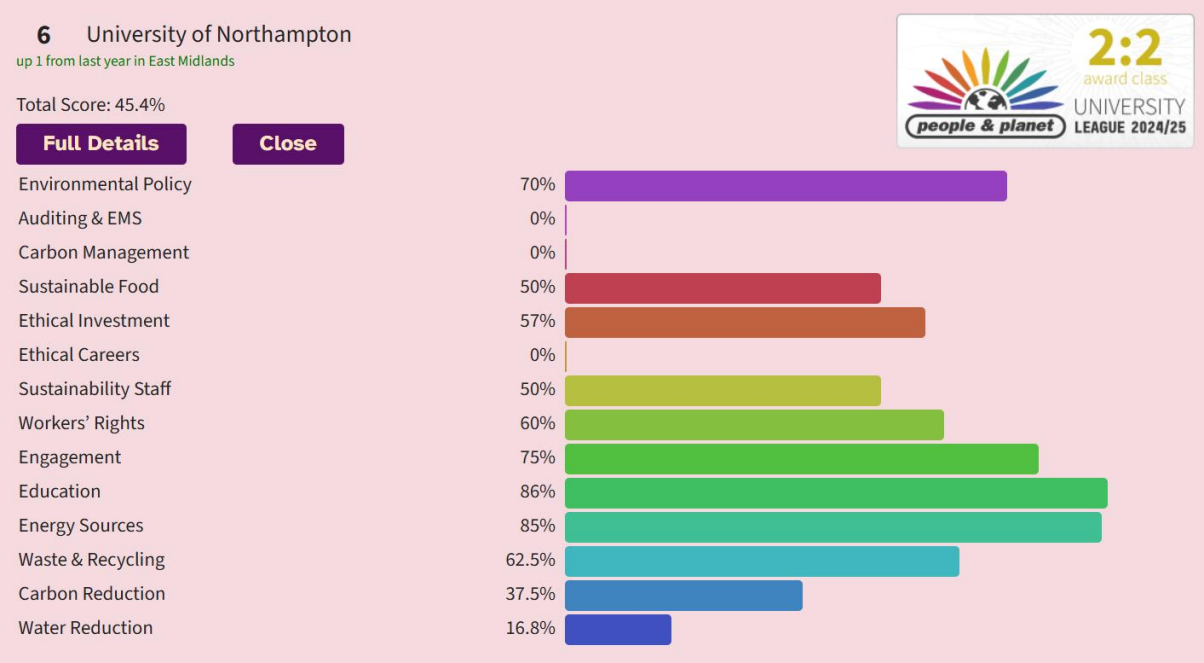
TIMES Higher Sustainable Development Goals IMPACT rankings

The UON has recently completed its fourth submission to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Times Ranking Submission. The Impact Rankings are a global performance tables that assess universities against the SDGs. In 2025 the list of the best universities in the world includes 2,191 institutions from 115 countries and territories. The UON retained its top 200 position for Life on Land 2025 and Responsible Consumption & Production 2025.

Rank	Name	Overall	Teaching	Research Environment	Research Quality	Industry	International Outlook
1501+	University of Northampton United Kingdom	10.3–27.2	16.1	11.0	40.4	18.7	80.3

People & Planet League

People & Planet is a student campaign network which annually compiles a league table on universities commitment to improved environmental performance. In 2024/2025 we rose a place in the East Midlands section after concentrating on areas such as Environmental Policy. However, we continued to score 0% due to IiE not being recognised by HESA for the auditing & EMS category.



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. 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.

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

Monthly

Whiteboard meetings with the Estates and Campus Services department including managers and directors are held on a Monday once a month where we are asked about projects we are working on, whether we have any issues or any wins to be celebrated.

Quarterly

We attend departmental briefings where we give updates on all our subjects to faculty members and interested staff members. These include academic staff, Security, Health and Safety and managers.

Yearly

In December, we write a report on the academic year journey. Each category is analysed as well as an overarching statement regarding our carbon footprint progress for that year. These are published on our public facing website. Environment & Sustainability Report 2023/2024 V.1 GR

We also provide an Academic Report for the internal ULT meeting as well as SECR and End of Year Commentary for our Associate Director of Compliance, Governance and Risk.

The yearly documents are approved at ULT and Board level before being published.

Adhoc

We speak to stakeholders at various events, Open and Discovery Days, external meetings and at induction orientations.

These can be in the form of:

Student Newsletter (email every Friday)

Unify (staff newsletter email every Thursday)

Social Media - @uon_sustainable

Stands at events

Evidence Pack 5 Contents

End of Year Report, SECR & Academic Report

Social Media Posters

Unify Articles

Example briefing notes

Stakeholder meeting 'Give It A Try Pledge'

Sustainability Board Minutes July 2025