



Nottingham Trent
University

Sustainability Report 2021-22





All members of our NTU community have a part to play in ensuring our activities embrace sustainability. We are proud of all our colleagues, students and partners who have come together to develop and deliver ambitious, sustainability-focused projects and initiatives.

We look forward to continuing to focus and expand our efforts on the elements set out in the Embracing Sustainability Strategy, working together to address the serious climate and environmental challenges that affect us all at NTU and beyond.”

Charmaine Morrell, Head of Sustainability, Nottingham Trent University

We are nearly 39,000 students and over 4,400 colleagues, we understand that our work can significantly impact the world around us. NTU is a socially and environmentally responsible institution, and we are taking strong, innovative steps to promote sustainability awareness and education.

We are committed to developing and delivering effective measures that bring our students, colleagues, and stakeholders into the sustainability conversation driving meaningful change and improvements — both locally and globally.

As a key part of the [University, reimagined](#) strategy, our theme of 'Embracing Sustainability' has committed NTU to becoming 'the most environmentally responsible University in the UK' by 2025. We are committed to developing and delivering effective measures that bring our students, colleagues, and stakeholders into the sustainability conversation, driving meaningful change and improvements — both locally and globally.

These measures will seek to minimise the University's carbon emissions and will be embedded throughout our operational culture — from the everyday things we do to the new ideas we promote. Our approach is documented in our [Net Zero Carbon Roadmap](#) which commits NTU to an ultimate goal of net zero carbon emissions across the University's estate by 2040.

One of NTU's five key research themes is '[Sustainable Futures](#)'. Recognising both the limitations of the Earth's resources and the exponential growth of its population (and consumption) levels, researchers across the University are working to create a future in which resources are used wisely; where climate change is mitigated through low carbon strategies; where circular economic strategies prevent waste; and where pollution is minimised.



Embracing Sustainability

Nottingham Trent University's strategy **University, reimagined** states that NTU should be a university that opens its arms to all, challenges conventions, and enriches the world around us.

The strategy contains six key themes which aim to empower our students to take control of their learning and experience life beyond the lecture hall. The themes ensure NTU does the right thing for our people, our communities, and our environment and that we collaborate with the world's brightest minds to push boundaries, disrupt the status quo, and transform lives.

Embracing Sustainability is one of the six strategic themes in NTU's **University, reimagined 2020-25 Strategy**. The ambition of "Embracing Sustainability" aims to curate an intergenerational conversation with our students, colleagues, and stakeholders and enable NTU to be recognised as the most environmentally responsible University in the UK.

The four approaches NTU has adopted to achieve our "Embracing Sustainability" ambition are:

We will align our activities with the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goals, recognising environmental, social, and economic sustainability in a triple bottom line and supporting our partners and suppliers to do the same.

We will set and meet specific and challenging targets for reducing our environmental footprint and ensure our campuses are exemplars of sustainable practice.

We will prioritise research that promotes sustainability.

We will reflect our social responsibility in our curriculum, our partnership with the Nottingham Trent Students' Union, and our support for social action.

Embracing Sustainability strategic lead is The Chief Operating Officer and Registrar, Steve Denton.

Sustainable Development Goals

The University stands at the forefront of sustainable development research, and our academics are continually embedding the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** into their curriculum.

We are already immensely proud of our world-class estate and operations; NTU's campuses include a range of outstanding green spaces, cutting-edge carbon-neutral/negative buildings, and superb transport infrastructure.

The Sustainable Development Goals have helped to shape the University's strategy, and we are also a signatory of the SDG Accord. This is an important commitment — it recognises the University's work in embedding the SDGs, celebrates our commitment to sharing what we learn with other institutions, and provides us with a formal framework for marking progress.

The **Sustainability Team** works closely with other NTU departments to enable a culture of sustainable development, enhance the experience of our students and colleagues, and cement the University's global reputation and legacy. This annual report highlights how NTU worked to fulfil the UN's SDGs across our operations in 2021/22.



As a University, we care about the direct impact we have on the environment, we will remain firm in our commitment to the Embracing Sustainability approaches outlined in the University, reimagined strategy.

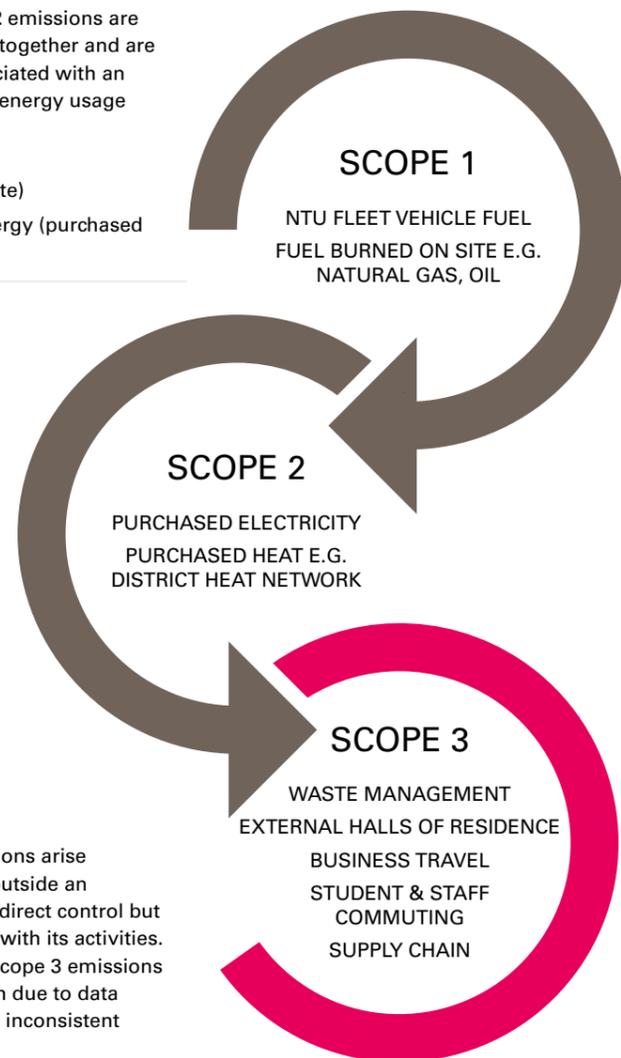
We are also committed to working with our partners to measure and reduce their environmental impact. We are reducing our Scope 3 emissions by assessing the impact of our supply chain, improving transport and travel initiatives, and supporting colleagues wherever they work.

By cultivating an intergenerational conversation with our students, colleagues and stakeholders, we hope to realise our ambition of becoming the most environmentally responsible University in the UK.”

Steve Denton, Chief Operating Officer and Registrar, Nottingham Trent University

Scopes 1 and 2 emissions are often reported together and are primarily associated with an organisation's energy usage including:

- direct energy (burned on site)
- indirect energy (purchased and supplied)



Scope 3 emissions arise from sources outside an organisation's direct control but are associated with its activities. Reporting on Scope 3 emissions is less common due to data limitations and inconsistent methodology



Net Zero Carbon by 2040

Progressing under the **Net Zero Carbon Roadmap**, this strategic, institution-wide target forms part of our ambition under the Embracing Sustainability core principle of our University, Reimagined strategy.

Net zero carbon by 2040 is now a key performance indicator for NTU, meeting our strategic approach to "set and meet specific and challenging targets for reducing our environmental footprint and ensure our campuses are exemplars of sustainable practice".

To reach net zero carbon by 2040, NTU will target Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions meaning that we are not only focusing on direct energy use, which is responsible for around 10% of NTU's emissions, but also our supply chain, travel, and waste emissions amongst others.

To meet our ambitious goals, it will be essential that the whole NTU community is engaged as set out in the NTU Carbon Roadmap. We have established the Net Zero Carbon governance structure, tasked with implementing projects across four workstream areas to deliver the necessary carbon reductions.

These workstreams are Energy and Water, Transport and Travel, Supply Chain, and Partner Accommodation (Figure 1).

The workstreams collaborate ambitious actions that will reduce emissions across all areas at NTU. These workstreams report to a dedicated Carbon Programme Group, consisting of expert representatives from Academia, Research, Professional Services and the student body, chaired by the Director of Estates. Progress is reported to senior leadership.

Whilst the Net Zero Carbon workstreams are managed by Estates, the goal also relies on NTU embedding sustainability into the curriculum, led by teaching and learning colleagues, and within the research carried out under our key research theme "Sustainable Futures" and beyond.



Figure 1



Awards and Achievements

The University continues to introduce sustainable solutions at local and community levels. These measures and initiatives will play a key role in supporting the global effort to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Since 2012, NTU has operated an Environmental Management System certified to the internationally recognised **ISO 14001 Standard**.



In addition, the following **accolades** reflect the University's vision, ambition and leadership in Sustainability, achieved during 2021/22:



In 2022, NTU was listed 2nd in the **UI Green Metric World University Ranking**.



In 2021 and 2022 **NTU was awarded 1st class ranking in the People and Planet University League**.



In 2021 NTU achieved "Silver" in the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Accreditation



Since November 2011, NTU Catering has received Silver in the 'Food for Life Served Here' award, issued by the Soil Association. We are proud to be the first university to achieve the Silver catering mark on a 'Large Volume for Students' basis. With at least 75% of catering dishes freshly prepared, the catering team is committed to sourcing produce from local suppliers wherever possible.



In 2021, NTU was awarded Highly Commended in the "Student Engagement" award and Winner of the "Campus Health, Food and Drink" category at the EAUC Green Gown Awards.



Proud Client Partners of the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

21/22



Catering

In line with our **Sustainable Food and Beverage Policy**, NTU is proud to offer superb seasonal, local and ethically sourced meals across our catering outlets. With a wide range of vegetarian and vegan options also available, we recognise the importance of diversity and plant-based meals, the value of local provenance, and our duties in supporting cultural heritage by purchasing local, sustainably reared meat with high animal welfare standards.



How are we doing?

NTU has received the Silver 'Food for Life' award, recognising the sustainable sourcing of ingredients in our catering (22% local, 72% UK-based, and 11% organic).

55% of all our freshly prepared dishes are vegetarian (and of this, 64% are vegan).



All meat products used in our freshly prepared dishes are certified as Red Tractor standard or equivalent as a minimum.



We are MSC certified which means that we can ensure that the fish we purchase is sourced responsibly.

All the eggs that we use in our freshly prepared dishes are free-range and organic.



NTU are a Fairtrade Accredited University serving tea, coffee and other items such as fruit and confectionary in our catering outlets.

We only use cold-pressed rapeseed oil that is produced in the UK for frying, and olive oil or rapeseed oil for dressings as it has less unhealthy saturated fat than all other cooking oils. All our used rapeseed oil is returned to the supplier and recycled for use as biodiesel for the fuelling of tractors and delivery vehicles.

Between September 2021 and November 2022, 946 reusable cups have been sold in NTU Catering outlets.





Sustainable Procurement

The University buys a wide range of goods and services to deliver academic courses and undertake research. We recognise that what we buy can have a significant impact on the environment. We are continually increasing our efforts to ensure we consider the environmental and societal impacts of goods and services, from the beginning to the end of their life cycles, and support suppliers to work with us to achieve our goals.



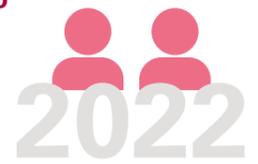
How are we doing?

Updates were made to both our **Sustainable Procurement** and **Modern Slavery** policies in 2022, these are shared with suppliers tendering for our opportunities to ensure they fully understand our commitments and ambitions.



NTU uses the **NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool** which determines a supplier's commitment/approach to sustainability (social, economic and environmental).

As part of NTU's commitment to become Net Zero Carbon across all three scopes (including supply chain emissions), a Sustainable Procurement Project Manager and Sustainable Procurement Project Assistant were newly appointed in 2022.



NTU has developed a Net Zero Carbon Supplier Tool, enabling the collation of suppliers' Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions*. Piloted with 40 suppliers, across a range of categories, the Tool enables us to understand supplier commitment and action on Net Zero Carbon.

Using the Net Zero Carbon Supplier Tool, which will be embedded into all tendered procurement, Stakeholders benefit by receiving a free bespoke carbon reduction action plan. NTU fosters a long-term approach to engaging with suppliers working towards Net Zero Carbon, and NTU will be able to share the tool for wider use within the sector .

NTU approach Net Zero Carbon in procurement by category or business size, targeting engagement activity in areas where suppliers are struggling; particularly supporting small and micro-businesses as well as identifying good practice.



Research and Science is another high-impact commodity area, requiring the consultation and support of our Buyers. Examples of purchases contributing to the protection of our planet through research include vertical farming facilities, a farming feeding system, and an electric autonomous car.



*Supply chain emissions are currently calculated by spend.

Waste Management

We are focused on following the waste hierarchy; avoidance, reuse, reduce and recycle.



Recycling bins are in place across NTU’s estate. The Sustainability and Facilities Teams, working alongside waste management provider Enva offer NTU a service that ensures most waste is reused or recycled.

We are always aiming to improve our recycling rates by asking our colleagues, students, and visitors to follow the waste hierarchy.

How are we doing in 2021/22?

In 2021/22, NTU saw a 32% decrease in the amount of waste produced from 1,595 tonnes in 2018/19, to 1,081 tonnes in 2021/22. For comparison, these were the last two years to be unaffected by campus closures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

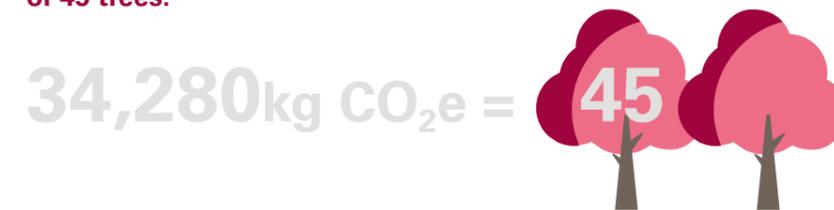
New waste bins have been installed across the three main campuses to maximise the convenience of recycling. This will be followed by improvements to signage and engagement with the NTU community in 2022/23 to further improve our waste segregation rates.



Through the ‘Pack for Good’ scheme in partnership with the British Heart Foundation, Nottingham City Council and the University of Nottingham, 19,467 bags of clothes were donated by students across Nottingham throughout 2021/22. This superb effort raised £272,104 for the British Heart Foundation, diverted 155.5 tonnes of items from landfill, and saved 917,712 kg of carbon emissions.

We are always aiming to improve our recycling rates by asking our colleagues, students, and visitors to follow the waste hierarchy.

NTU utilises the platform Warp-It to allow staff and their departments to redistribute unused furniture internally, this reduces waste and avoids the need for NTU colleagues to purchase new items. To date, the programme has saved £72,935 in costs as well as 34,280kg CO₂e, the equivalent of 45 trees.



Carbon and Energy

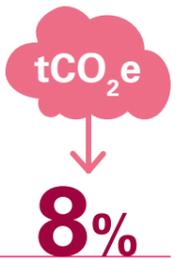
Reducing energy consumption, increasing efficiency, and tackling carbon emissions are key goals for any sustainable institution. With our **ambition to reach Net Zero Carbon** by 2040 (as detailed in section 4), we're working hard across our estate and operations to minimise and eradicate these emissions.



How are we doing?

Our 2018/19 baseline including all three carbon scopes is 74,781.54 tCO₂e. Our overall 21/22 emissions are 90,822.65 tCO₂e. We remain committed to achieving a 24% reduction against the 2018/2019 baseline by 2025.

Our 2021-2022 Scope 1 & 2 emissions are *9,344 tCO₂e*, an 8% reduction against the 2018/19 baseline emissions of 10,150 tCO₂e. NTU continues to purchase REGO-backed renewable electricity as part of its Net Zero Carbon commitment, reducing the net emissions for Scope 1 & 2 to only 6,002 tCO₂e.



A roof retrofit project was completed on Brackenhurst Main Hall using 100% sheep's wool for insulation as a conservation measure. This is expected to save 9.9 tCO₂e per year.

We have calculated the carbon footprint for each school at NTU; this will help the schools to understand their carbon footprint.



We have expanded the solar PV installations on our campuses, we now have solar PV on 14 buildings and the annual solar production was 305,466kWh.

This year we have upgraded to LED lighting on 14 NTU buildings and will continue to improve lighting across our campuses.



The Chaucer building is undergoing a window replacement which will improve the building's thermal fabric and generate significant energy savings.

We continue to support hybrid working which helps to reduce commuting carbon emissions.



We're working hard across our estate and operations to minimise and eradicate these emissions.

Biodiversity

The University **occupies 240 hectares of land across multiple campuses.** The land is a valuable asset to the University, our local communities and the natural world. We are working to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of our spaces for everyone to enjoy.

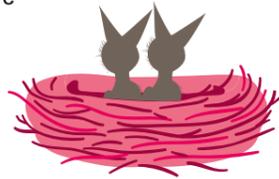
Our Brackenhurst campus is home to a variety of habitats including several ponds and three distinct woodland areas which cover a combined 4.5 hectares. Our Clifton campus is home to 8,000 m² of wildflower meadow and our City campus offers green roofs, pocket parks and a living wall.



How are we doing?

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity:

For the past 20 years, a pair of breeding peregrine falcons have nested on a ninth-floor ledge of the Newton building on City campus. With the support of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, we've followed the falcons' journey since 2012 using a live webcam, attracting over 1 million viewers online. In 2022, we saw a pair of chicks fledge from the nest.



In 2021/22, we secured a Silver 'Hedgehog Friendly Campus' accreditation for City, Clifton and Brackenhurst campuses. Colleagues and students have been working together to create a lasting legacy for hedgehogs by visiting schools and community events, surveying our campuses and running awareness campaigns. Our landscaping team have also undertaken hedgehog-friendly training and continue to increase the provision of habitats for hedgehogs on campus.

Brackenhurst campus hosts one of the largest populations of great crested newts in the county. This year, works have been underway at several ponds across Brackenhurst to improve their ecological value for the campus' great crested newt population.



Areas at our City and Clifton campus have been left to rewild to encourage and support local biodiversity. We have also supported students in planting wildflower meadows outside student accommodation at Brackenhurst, creating habitats for species on campus.



Quality green and natural spaces:

In total, more than 1.2 million bulbs have been planted across the Clifton campus, equating to 8,000 m² of wildflower meadow which helps to support local fauna.



For the 11th consecutive year, NTU has received 'Green Flag' accreditation for the quality of our green spaces at our Brackenhurst and Clifton campuses.

We have over 250 bird and bat boxes installed across the estate.



In December 2022, NTU was announced as a founding signatory of Nature Positive Universities. This means we have pledged to work towards halting, preventing and reversing nature loss by addressing our impacts and restoring ecosystems harmed by our activities.

For the 11th consecutive year, NTU has received 'Green Flag' accreditation for the quality of our green spaces at our Brackenhurst and Clifton campuses.



Sustainable Construction

NTU's estate continues to evolve and grow, providing the best possible facilities for our students and colleagues. Over the past decade, we've invested over £350 million across our campuses; our libraries have a brand-new look, we've revamped historic buildings and built state-of-the-art new facilities, and we're proud to be one of the most sustainable universities in the world. Our **Sustainable Construction Policy** ensures that all new major developments achieve a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating and an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) 'A' grade.



How are we doing?

14 BREEAM 'Excellent' buildings have been completed or are currently in progress, including the Pavilion building – our first EPC A+ building, and the newly opened Health and Allied Professions Centre at Clifton campus. The Pavilion building was designed using Passivhaus principles to maximise solar gain, thermal mass, and air tightness.



Three BREEAM 'Very Good' refurb projects have been completed or are currently underway.

The newly constructed Lyth building at the Brackenhurst campus is awaiting a BREEAM 'Excellent' accreditation and in 2022 won a RIBA Award which recognised high-quality sustainable architecture.

The BREEAM Excellent accredited MTIF building at Clifton campus was nominated for an East Midlands Brick Award in both the categories of Sustainable Development of the Year and Commercial Development of the Year in 2021.

NTU are client partners of **Considerate Constructors Scheme**, a not-for-profit, independently managed organisation that supports and guides positive change in the construction industry.

Travel

NTU is committed to the development of sustainable transport solutions on our campuses and in the surrounding areas. This commitment not only supports our corporate strategic plans but also supports other local area ambitions, such as Nottingham Carbon Neutral 2028.



How are we doing?

Cycling

120 bikes are available for students and colleagues to hire.

We have also recently introduced e-bikes for hire by colleagues.

To ensure bikes are not disposed of, we fix abandoned bikes and use them for hire or, if not required by the university, we donate them to a local community interest company, Women in Tandem, to fix and sell.



To encourage bike ownership and use, there are more cycle than car-parking spaces at the City campus (271), with a further 497 at Clifton, and 58 at Brackenhurst.

We house a BREEAM 'Excellent' rated cycle parking compound on the Clifton Campus. This secure facility can accommodate up to 30 bikes.

This year, 44 members of staff have signed up for the 'Cycle to Work' salary sacrifice scheme, which provides a 25-39% discount on a bike and accessories.



Transport

The Go2Uni4 bus service, which runs between our City and Clifton campuses, has a fleet of vehicles which are fitted with Euro VI engines to reduce carbon emissions.

Students at all campuses have access to subsidised bus travel. For £259, they can purchase an academic year's worth of unlimited travel on NCT buses.

The bus that runs to Brackenhurst (26/N26) has been reinstated with an additional shadow bus at peak morning time to encourage students to take the bus to this campus.

Discounted travel services included the purchase of 50 or 100 trips for NCT, and the introduction of the trams NETGO App.



We encourage students and colleagues based at the Clifton campus to use the tram; they can use Clifton South Tram Park and Ride to the Rivergreen tram stop for just £1.50 per return trip.



We've introduced three fully electric and two hybrid electric vehicles onto our campuses, each one has replaced a fossil fuel-based vehicle.

The EV charging points have increased across the City, Clifton and Brackenhurst campuses having a total of 32 charging points: 10 at City campus, 16 at Clifton campus and six at Brackenhurst campus.



Engagement and Raising Awareness

At NTU, we don't just develop great academics; we also help our students to recognise and fulfil their responsibilities as **global citizens**. Our goal is to establish strong and lasting links between sustainability, literacy, and employability.



In line with our **Environmental Policy**, we're committed to embedding the principles of environmental awareness amongst our colleagues and students; encouraging University-wide participation in our initiatives, activities, training provisions and programmes. Through communications materials, developmental events and NTU's 'Green Rewards' platform, we are encouraging and empowering our community to adopt sustainable practices in their day-to-day work, lifestyle choices and long-term thinking.

How are we doing?

NTU students and colleagues are making a big impact through the **NTU Green Rewards programme**, taking positive actions around sustainability and wellbeing. In 2021/22 there were 900 sign-ups, 69,593 sustainable actions taken and 135,730.49 kgCO2e avoided.

The Sustainability Team engaged over 1,000 colleagues and students across 90 events and activities, including **Green Week**, **Fairtrade Fortnight**, and **Sustainability Action Week**.

We delivered 31 bespoke training sessions, based on sustainability awareness and environmental management.



We coordinated the 2021 **Sustainability Summit** - a student conference for NTU to highlight climate action and net zero carbon goals across Nottingham. The day included a range of guest speakers from local organisations and workshops focused on sustainability. Over 80 students attended on the day.



In May 2022, Confetti and Green Academy co-led the second Green Game Jam. Multidisciplinary groups of students from across NTU were given 36 hours to create prototypes of sustainability-themed games, apps or VR experiences on the theme of SDG 14 Life Below Water.

We organised the **Universities for Nottingham Climate Action Panel** — an online collaborative event that brought together colleagues and students from NTU and the University of Nottingham, plus representatives from both institutions' Students' Unions, and Nottingham City Council.

Regular volunteer sessions are available for colleagues and students at the Clifton campus Foodshare allotment.



14 student societies focused on sustainability and the environment in 2021/22.

A network of 20 Staff Sustainability Ambassadors and 30 Student Eco-Ambassadors represent sustainability among their peers by sharing university initiatives, proposing improvements, and assisting in the coordination of events.

In 2021/22, an NTU Sustainability Employability Award was launched by NTU Employability. The Award supports the closing of the green skills gap as well as helping students to draw connections between their academic subject, career aspirations and sustainability literacy.

In its first year, 265 students signed up and 50 completed a full award.



Education for Sustainable Development

The NTU Green Academy department, established in 2013, continues to work with staff across NTU to embed **Sustainability into the academic experience**. In 2021/22, NTU achieved 99% in Education in People and Planet 2021 and ranked 1st in the UK and 3rd globally for Education and Research within the **UI Green Metric 2021**. The **NTU Carbon Literacy Training for Educators, Communities, Organisation and Students** led by Professor Petra Molthan-Hill received a Gold award in the Sustainability Education category at the QS-Wharton Reimagine Education Awards.



NTU continues to develop expertise in multidisciplinary Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). For example within Nottingham School of Art & Design, a dedicated 'CoLab' module ran to respond to creative briefs. Two CoLab strands in 2021/22 had a sustainability theme; Rebel Tartan where students created new tartan designs on the theme of the climate and ecological emergency and the 'Very' project for industry wherein students were tasked to propose fashion designs encompassing inclusive, adaptive and sustainable features

A key initiative during 2021/22 was the collaboration of Green Academy and the Centre for Academic Development and Quality (CADQ) to integrate ESD into course design and approval through a series of workshops and asynchronous materials for course teams. The Green Academy also

hosted several staff development events within Sustainability Action Week, Fairtrade Fortnight, Global Week and through academic schools to support embedding **OAA and Advance HE guidance** on ESD.

Led by the Green Academy, the **Sustainability in Practice (SiP) module** continues to be offered to all NTU students and staff. Based in our virtual learning environment and twice shortlisted for a Green Gown Award, SiP allows participants to explore multifaceted dimensions of contemporary sustainability issues as framed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, planetary boundaries and other key sustainability concepts.



In 2021/22, 1,363 NTU students received the Sustainability in Practice (SiP) certificate, an increase of more than 100% from last year.



The majority completed SiP independently as a self-paced course, yet SiP is also increasingly delivered as part of the curriculum for some degree courses. Undergraduate students who complete the SiP module receive recognition as part of their Higher Education Achievement Reports (HEAR). Students rated SiP an average of 4.3 out of 5.

We continue two international versions of SiP as part of our work with international partners to address Sustainability; these include an adaptation of SiP for students in ISU, Taiwan and a bespoke version of SiP for NTU students undertaking global mobilities to explore their chosen destination through a sustainability lens.

In early 2022, NTU Global and Green Academy collaborated on a successful funding bid for a British Council project with partner institution Galala University, Egypt. The project constitutes a student-led Climate Commission tasked with defining the remit of universities in fostering climate-resilient communities in the context of the climate crisis. Galala and NTU students are beginning to work together, learning through mechanisms of negotiation, game-based learning and community consultation activities. The project will complete in 2022-23.



Partnerships

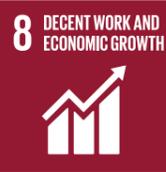
NTU plays a key part in the social, cultural, economic, and environmental development of Nottingham, the East Midlands, and the United Kingdom. The **'Universities for Nottingham'** initiative is a pioneering collaboration that brings together the combined strength and civic missions of NTU and the University of Nottingham.



The Universities for Nottingham Civic Agreement is the result of over 400 hours of conversation between over 150 local partners and colleagues across both universities. It sets out an action plan for us to make a difference to educational opportunities, economic prosperity, health and well-being and environmental sustainability of our local communities.



The Civic Agreement, the first of its kind in the country, was launched in July 2020. Environmental sustainability has been identified as a key area of attention for Universities for Nottingham. Working in partnership with Nottingham City Council, the two universities will continue to develop and deliver projects which improve sustainability and reduce carbon emissions; addressing the challenges of climate change in and outside of our region.



NTU shares expertise with the community, and we show others what best practice in sustainability looks like. The Centre for Student and Community Engagement (CenSCE) works to strengthen connections with our communities and to improve outcomes for young people, the University's students and colleagues, and society as a whole.



How are we doing?

In 2021/22, NTU made a positive impact on many young people (aged 7–18) from disadvantaged backgrounds in Nottingham through programmes raising attainment in schools, NTU Sport initiatives, and community volunteering opportunities.

A specific example is our Progression Programme where young people helped at the Foodshare allotment during their summer residential. Our volunteers grew fruit and vegetables for local charities including community kitchens and food banks at our allotment.



NTU shares expertise with the community, and we show others what best practice in sustainability looks like.

Hundreds of students and staff members contributed to thousands of hours of mutually beneficial volunteering in the local community, working collaboratively with charities and other third-sector organisations to take meaningful action such as language students supporting refugees and asylum seekers or criminology students supporting witnesses in court.

Specific to the SDGs, in 2021/22 the Centre for Student and Community Engagement worked alongside the following local organisations to recruit volunteers, arrange community action days and coordinate student-led projects:

- Stonebridge City Farm
- Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens
- Bulwell Forest Gardens
- Canal & River Trust
- Summerwood Gardens
- Nottingham City Parks and Gardens
- Reach UK (Flowerpod)
- St Anns Allotments
- White Rose Shops
- Wollaton Hall and Deer Park
- Notts Refugee Forum
- Refugee Roots
- SuPer Project
- Fareshare
- Himmah
- Notts Wildlife Trust
- Sustrans
- Roots Out
- Emmanuel House
- Framework
- Maun Refuge
- Belong
- Host Nottingham





Sustainable Futures

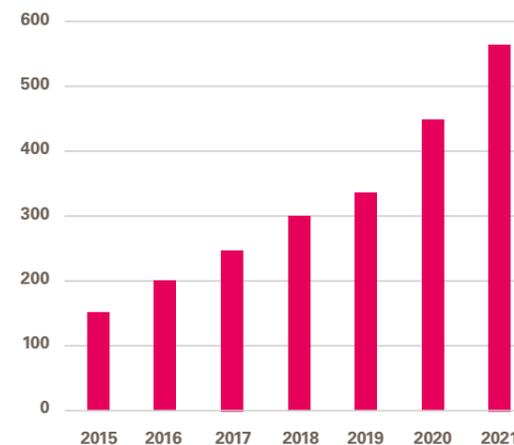
The resources on Earth are finite, but the global population and levels of consumption keep growing. To prepare for the future, we must adapt how we design, make and use products, generate and use energy, and grow food.

Total outputs aligned with the SDGs

Year	No. of SDG tracked outputs
2015	151
2016	199
2017	245
2018	300
2019	334
2020	447
2021	565

Based on Scopus data and the 2022 SDG query methodology (last updated 23/11/22)

Total outputs aligned with the SDGs



Research at NTU explores the challenges of creating a world in which resources are used wisely, climate change is mitigated through low carbon strategies, circular economy strategies prevent waste, and pollution is minimised.

We are investigating efficient ways to manage natural water resources by implementing cost-effective and safe technologies, developing innovative systems to make agriculture sustainable, looking at how to make our cities greener through mobility, technologies and infrastructures, and analysing methods to reduce unnecessary consumption of energy and materials.

Our work focuses on:

- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Ecosystem Sustainability
- The Built Environment and Sustainable Mobility
- Behaviour, Values and Norms
- Leadership, Governance, Participation and Policy

Key figures:

In 2021/22, 16 projects aligned to the Sustainable Futures Strategic Research Theme secured £2 million of research income.



In 2021/22, 133 Researchers across NTU were identified as related to the Sustainable Futures Strategic Research Theme.

In 2021/22, 641 published outputs were tracked as aligned to at least one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*.

*SDG tracked outputs with a publication date between (1/8/21-31/7/22)

Case Studies

Green Rewards

Staff and students are making a big impact through the **NTU Green Rewards** programme by sharing their green actions and taking part in more sustainable and well-being behaviours. Through an easy-to-use, free app, NTU staff and students can log actions, take part in monthly challenges and earn points to win prizes.

Since its launch in 2019, over 4,451 staff and students have taken part in NTU Green Rewards, racking up an impressive 270,945 sustainability actions which have enabled the avoidance of 551,470.99kgCO₂e (as of December 2022).

Every month the top two staff and the top two students win a £20 voucher. Winners can choose a £20 voucher from a range of local businesses or even top up their NTU smart card. We're also supporting local charities! Throughout the programme, participants can vote for their favourite charity, with a £200 charity donation prize for the top-earning team each term.

Each activity theme uploaded to NTU Green Rewards also aligns with one of the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs), allowing participants to understand their positive impact on a global scale as well as at an individual and University level.

One of NTU's most successful case studies from the Universities of Nottingham Civic Agreement has been the development and rollout of a Nottinghamshire-wide Green Rewards platform. The platform is now available for anyone with a Nottinghamshire postcode. The Civic Agreement allows for joint reporting across all Nottinghamshire Green Rewards Platforms, the NTU programme and the University of Nottingham programme. As of November 2022, 10,923 individuals are taking part across Nottinghamshire having logged 470,465 actions, avoiding 983,594kgCO₂e.

[Watch the Green Rewards video](#)



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Challenge

In 2021, the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Challenge** was launched to help UK tertiary education sector hit carbon net zero. Launched by the Royal Anniversary Trust to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, the programme asks leading UK universities and further education colleges to work together to help their sector reduce carbon emissions to net zero; building on the work of the **EAUC – the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education**.

NTU was one of 21 winning institutions (15 universities, six further education colleges) from the most recent round (Round 14) of the Queen's Anniversary Prizes, which is also run by the Trust, to take part. Charmaine Morrell, Head of Sustainability, now sits in working groups to advise and challenge leaders in UK tertiary education, with universities and further education colleges joining forces to help resolve one of the most important issues facing society.

I am convinced that the contents of this course have made me grow and will continue to make me change.

Global Summer School

During July 2022, Green Academy led an online **Global Summer School** on 'The Transformational Leader and the Sustainable Development Goals' which provided students with opportunities to work in multinational groups, develop sustainability literacy, and propose solutions to local, national, and international sustainability challenges. 52 students from eleven countries participated.

Students demonstrated a change in understanding of sustainability as an environmental issue to a holistic triple-bottom line concern and their view of leadership changed from viewing it as relating to control to being about responsibility and inclusivity. The Global Summer School received a 'Highly Commended' NTU team award under the theme of Connecting Globally.

Students fed back that they enjoyed the interactive, inclusive learning environment and that the course had been in some cases transformative, "I am convinced that the contents of this course have made me grow and will continue to make me change", "I was shocked by the relaxed and free atmosphere of the class. For the first time, I knew that class could be very interesting and fun because in my country, class is a very serious business: teachers just talk, students just listen".



We knew there was room for improvement, but we didn't really know where to start.



Case Studies

NTU'S Campaign for COP26

In November 2022, NTU's Green Week ran as the "NTU Campaign for COP26". Coordinated by the Sustainability Team, the campaign saw a fortnight of events, workshops, actions and lectures focused on topics within the **26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)**. Students, colleagues and friends gained an understanding of the current climate crisis, how the crisis relates to other critical challenges in society and the need for climate action.

Over 40 events were hosted by the Sustainability Team and collaborating departments, including our annual Sustainability Summit. The summit is a student conference for NTU to highlight climate action and net zero carbon goals across Nottingham, including a range of guest speakers and workshops.

The week also saw practical activities such as nature walks, gardening, and a low-waste living workshop led by the Sustainability Team. NTU departments, such as Employability and the School of Architecture and the Built Environment, reflected on their impacts on COP26 relevant themes and Notts Wildlife Trust hosted a talk on the introduction of beavers at their Idle Valley Reserve.

With the NTU Campaign for COP26, Green Academy hosted a 'learn over lunch' series which saw NTU researchers sharing their expertise on a variety of COP themes such as the carbon cycles of arctic lakes, climate change politics, biodiversity in UK rivers, local planning for climate change and the involvement of local citizens in Nottingham Carbon Neutral 2028.

Sustainability in Enterprise programme

Now in its second year, the **Sustainability in Enterprise** project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and offers sustainability support to SMEs across Nottinghamshire. As one of several strands of support available from departments across NTU, The Sustainability Team Consultants provide bespoke consultancy support to clients, including establishing a baseline carbon footprint and creating a detailed report setting out opportunities to reduce operational carbon emissions and associated costs.

To date:

- 46 detailed reports have been provided to local SMEs across a variety of different sectors including manufacturing, finance, charities and real estate.
- Over 590 tCO₂e of carbon reduction has been committed as a result of the consultancy support received, equating to around £115,000 of financial savings.

White Rose received Sustainability Consultancy support in Autumn 2021 to calculate their carbon impact and put an action plan in place to reduce emissions. Head of People, Amy Zibek and HR Assistant, Zoe Binding said, "We knew there was room for improvement, but we didn't really know where to start. Working with NTU has filled in key gaps in our knowledge and given us practical recommendations for moving forward." White Rose has committed to making changes that will reduce their carbon footprint by up to 69%, with the potential to go even further. They will also save almost £10k per year.



Get in touch and get involved.

Website: ntu.ac.uk/sustainability

Email: sustainability@ntu.ac.uk

