



Nottingham Trent  
University

# Annual Sustainability Report 2019-20



Our approach will pave the way for a 'zero carbon culture', and the ultimate goal of net zero carbon emissions across the University's estate by the year 2040.

The world is facing a complex range of sustainability challenges — and at Nottingham Trent University (NTU), we are committed to continually improving our performance in this area. Our plans are creative and ambitious, and they involve all of our internal and external communities.

As one of the UK's largest universities (with over 32,000 students and 3,500 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.

These measures will seek to minimise the University's carbon emissions, and they will be embedded throughout our operational culture — from the everyday things we do, to the new ideas we promote. Our approach will pave the way for a 'zero carbon culture', and the ultimate goal of net zero carbon emissions across the University's estate by the year 2040.

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As a key part of the **University, reimagined** blueprint, our theme of 'Embracing Sustainability' has now committed NTU to becoming 'the most environmentally responsible University in the UK' by 2025. We are obliged to develop and deliver effective measures that bring our students, colleagues and stakeholders into the sustainability conversation, driving meaningful change and improvements — both locally and globally.

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.

# Sustainable Development

The University stands at the forefront of sustainable development research, and our academics are continually embedding the **United Nation's 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 a 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, to enhance the experience of our students and colleagues, and to 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 2019/20.

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# Awards and Recognition

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, we have held the internationally recognised **ISO 14001 Environmental Management System**, and the EcoCampus Platinum award.

In addition, the following accolades reflect the University's vision, ambition and leadership in embracing sustainable development:



In 2019, NTU won the Green Gown Award for 'Outstanding Leadership Team of the Year'.



In 2020, NTU was listed 4th in the **UI Green Metric World University Rankings**.



NTU was listed 11th in the UK – and 57th globally – by the **2020 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings**. The University's highest placing was for 'Responsible Consumption and Production' (SDG 12), which saw us ranked 4th overall.



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.



Proud Client Partners of the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

# Catering

In line with our [Sustainable Food and Drink policy](#), NTU is proud to offer superb seasonal, local and ethically sourced meals across our main 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 (15% local, 60% UK-based, and 9% organic).

**395** specially introduced vegetarian and vegan meals were served in our refectories during 'Meat Free Monday', as a part of Green Week 2019.

**48%** of all our freshly prepared dishes are vegetarian (and of this, 27% are vegan).

In 2019/20, we invested £72,000 in Fairtrade products.

In 2019, Ivan Hopkins — Head of Hospitality and Catering at NTU — was awarded the 'Further and Higher Education Champion Award' by the Soil Association's 'Food for Life' programme. This award recognised Ivan's commitment to going above and beyond in sourcing and serving food that is better for the environment, and prepared with sustainable practices in mind.

Read more about [sustainable food at NTU](#).



# Sustainable Procurement

As a large institution, we recognise that our procurement of goods and services can have a potentially significant impact on the environment — especially in terms of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the supply chain. Through the **Sustainable Procurement Policy** (which has been in place since 2017), we are committed to raising awareness and promoting best practice in sustainable procurement.



## How are we doing?



**All key procurement training now includes information about sustainable procurement.**

Life-cycle cost analysis guidance is now available to all colleagues.

There is a dedicated folder on the Procurement SharePoint page, which includes resources and guidance on sustainable procurement.

The Procurement and Sustainability teams have joined forces, encouraging suppliers to both sign up to and develop their own Sustainable Action Plans. This is done via the NET positive Supplier Engagement Tool, which encourages and signposts sustainable practices.

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# Waste

Recycling bins are in place across NTU's estate. 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?



Through our 'Plastic Planet' campaign, we're working to eliminate single-use plastics on campus. We are also encouraging colleagues and students to reduce consumption of these plastics in their own lives. In 2019/20, 348,950 single-use items were replaced with sustainable alternatives in our catering outlets. Our colleagues in the Print Shop have worked to eliminate PVC binding covers and plastic coil binding; they have also achieved a 90% reduction in heat binder covers (which require plastic).

Through the 'Pack for Good' scheme — run in partnership with the British Heart Foundation, Nottingham City Council and the University of Nottingham —



This superb effort raised £108,262 for the British Heart Foundation, diverted 62 tonnes of items from landfill, and saved 629 tonnes of carbon emissions.

We're committed to re-use. In 2019/20, 56 items were collected and redistributed through WARPit, our online re-use platform for furniture and equipment. These items included 30 clothing racks and 20 bed frames, which were donated to local charity Pathway Housing Solutions. 3,925 kg of waste were diverted from landfill as a result of these donations, and 8,600 kg of carbon emissions were avoided.



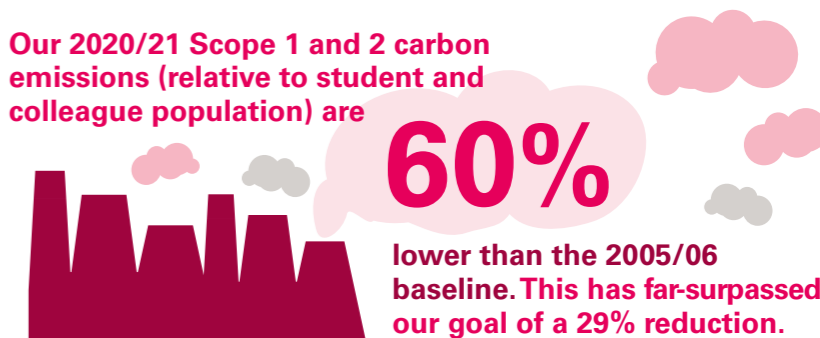
# Carbon and Energy

Reducing energy consumption, increasing efficiency and tackling carbon emissions are key goals for any sustainable institution. We're working hard across our estate and operations to minimise and eradicate these emissions.



## How are we doing?

Our 2020/21 Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions (relative to student and colleague population) are



We've recorded an absolute drop in Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions of 6,642 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, compared with the 2005/06 baseline.

Through placements, in-work opportunities and the expertise of our students, we continue to help local businesses reduce their carbon emissions and improve their sustainability.

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

The solar PV installations on our campuses can now generate a total capacity of 396 kW.



# Biodiversity

NTU's multi-campus estate covers over 240 hectares of land. These different land types are valuable assets to the University, local communities and the natural world — and that's why we're working hard to conserve and promote the biodiversity of our places and spaces.

Our Brackenhurst Campus is home to four pond habitats, three distinct woodland areas (which cover a combined 4.5 hectares), and a management plan for our hedgerows. Our Clifton Campus is home to 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> of wildflower meadow, and our City Campus includes three pocket parks, a living wall and three green roofs.



## How are we doing?

### Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

The Newton building (City Campus) is home to a pair of breeding peregrine falcons. These birds have made their nest on a ninth-floor ledge on the building for the last 20 years. In partnership with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, we're proud to share the falcons' journey through a live webcam, which was installed in 2012. In 2019/20, 508,131 viewers watched the falcons — almost double the number of views from 2018/19.

In 2019, NTU was awarded the 'Bees Needs Champion' award. This accolade recognised the bee-friendly environment on campus, which we've cultivated through good maintenance practices, innovative planting design and informed species selection.

NTU is proud to have recently achieved 'Hedgehog-Friendly Campus' accreditation at the Bronze level for our Clifton, City, and Brackenhurst campuses. A group of colleagues and students have worked hard to raise awareness of protecting the endangered hedgehog. They have organised a webinar, undertaken garden surveys, and coordinated a social media campaign that over 8,000 people engaged with. They have also organised warning stickers to be attached to 70 NTU mowers and strimmers.

### Tree planting

We supported the planting of

**4,700**

new trees in 2019/20, bringing NTU's total to over 18,000 in the last four years.



Partnering with Nottingham City Council, local councillors and the Trees for Cities charity, we mapped a series of city parks that required additional tree planting — working together, NTU and community volunteers planted 3,000 trees in a single day at Southglade Park.

With funding from Trees for Cities, NTU worked with Nottingham City Council and Farnborough College to enhance Clifton Playing Fields — a large city park — with more native trees. Thirty pupils from Farnborough's Eco-council planted many of the trees, working alongside our colleagues and students.

### Quality green and natural spaces

For the ninth consecutive year, NTU has received 'Green Flag' accreditation for our Brackenhurst and Clifton campuses. These awards celebrate the quality of our green spaces.

We are growing a new wildflower meadow in the southern section of our Clifton Campus.

**Over 600,000 bulbs have been planted, with a special and carefully selected mix of native and non-native species.**



As well as providing a great visual impact, these wildflowers will also play an important role in supporting local fauna. There are now over 1.2 million bulbs planted across the campus, which equates to 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> of wildflower meadow.

We have installed over 250 bird and bat boxes in trees throughout the Brackenhurst Campus, and new bird feeders to provide valuable nourishment.

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# Sustainable Construction

NTU's estate continues to evolve and grow, providing the best possible facilities for our students and colleagues. Over the past 10 years, we've invested £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. This policy has helped us to create sustainable buildings at all four campuses.



## How are we doing?



Including the **Pavilion building at Clifton Campus** — our first EPC A+ building. The Pavilion was designed using Passivhaus principles to maximise solar gain, thermal mass and air tightness.

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

We've taken a multidisciplinary approach to sustainable building design research, collaborating with Innovative and Sustainable Built Environment Technologies ([iSBET](#)) — a research group based within the School of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment.

# Travel

NTU is committed to the development of sustainable transport solutions on our campuses and in the surrounding areas. This commitment appeals to our corporate, strategic and local plans.



## How are we doing?

### Cycling

**150** bikes are available for students and colleagues to hire.



We've introduced e-bikes for short-term trial use by colleagues.

In order to encourage bike ownership and use, there are now more cycle than car-parking spaces at the City Campus (270), with a further 497 at Clifton, and 58 at Brackenhurst.

In February 2020, we opened a brand-new, BREEAM 'Excellent'-rated cycle parking compound on the Clifton Campus. This secure facility can accommodate up to 30 bikes.

We've supported NHS key workers with complimentary cycle loans throughout the Covid-19 crisis.

Our 'Cycle Report' — which consolidates all of these efforts — was published in 2020.

### Public Transport

The Go2Uni4 bus service — which runs between our City and Clifton campuses, and had 842,000 passengers in 2018/19 — has a new fleet of vehicles, fitted with Euro VI engines to reduce carbon emissions.

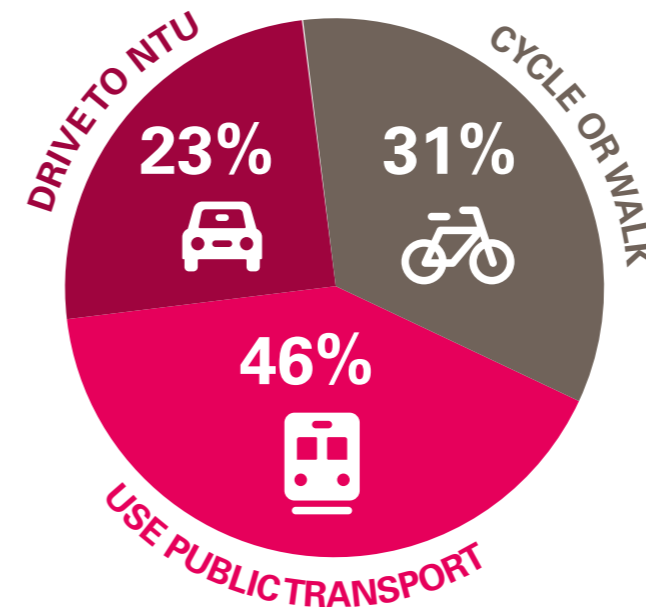
Prior to the 'lockdown' of March 2020, passenger figures were up on the previous academic year of 2018/19.

The Pathfinder 26 bus service — which runs between our City and Brackenhurst campuses — has a new timetable, and also a new 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.

We encourage students and colleagues based at the Clifton Campus to use the tram and park their cars off-campus — they can use Clifton South Tram Park and Ride to the Rivergreen tram stop for just £1.50 per return trip.

## Sustainable travel highlights at NTU



We've supported NHS key workers with complimentary cycle loans throughout the Covid-19 crisis.



# 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 comms 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.



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



## 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 2019/20, over 1,600 colleagues and students completed an impressive 75,876 actions, resulting in 79,000 kg of avoided carbon emissions.

We delivered 42 bespoke training sessions, based around sustainability awareness and environmental management.

We organised Getting to Net Zero Carbon — a collaborative event that brought together colleagues and students from NTU and the University of Nottingham, plus representatives from both institutions' Students' Unions, Nottingham City Council and members of the public. In this friendly and engaging forum, we explored the prospective pathways to carbon neutrality / net zero carbon.

£1,000 was awarded to support student businesses and social enterprise ideas at the [Enterprise Week Dragon's Den event](#).

Regular volunteer sessions are available for colleagues and students at the [Clifton Campus Foodshare allotment](#).



We engaged over **1,500** colleagues and students across **33** events and activities, including **Green Week, the Nottingham Sustainability Conference, Fairtrade Fortnight, and Sustainability Action Week.**

# Education for Sustainable Development

Formed in 2013, NTU's Green Academy is a specialist team dedicated to embedding Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into our curricular and extracurricular activities. Nationally renowned and highly respected, the Academy is acknowledged as a sector leader in higher education (HE).



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
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In 2019/20, the Green Academy Lead joined the **QAA-Advance HE advisory group to help update ESD guidance for the HE sector**. Based on our internationally successful UN PRME Champions Project – 'Carbon Literacy Training for Business Schools' – the Academy was also selected to design one of the two Carbon Literacy Toolkits for the HE sector, funded by BEIS and the GMCA.

NTU's Sustainability in Practice module was offered to all **33,255** students at NTU in 2019/2020; **2,524** in total, **2,524** students gained the certificate this year.

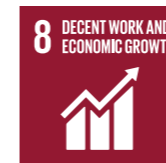
NTU's in-house **Carbon Literacy Training** was attended by 88 colleagues and 78 students in 2019/2020, inspiring an innovative range of projects throughout the University that supported our carbon targets and wider sustainability efforts. The Green Academy gained funding and successfully launched a pilot course for **Small and Medium Enterprises: Sustainability and Inclusive Leadership**.

NTU colleagues are provided with a multidisciplinary **online staff learning room**. This helps our academics incorporate ESD and the global SDGs into their teaching. We also launched an **online training course for academics, focused on teaching the SDGs**. A number of events have been run for students, including the **Sustainability Solutions College Week**, where students competed in multidisciplinary teams to win the industry clients' awards while also learning about the SDGs.



# Global Legacy

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



Over the next few years, it will improve the way we work with each other and our key partners, helping to change the lives of local people for the better.

The Civic Agreement — the first of its kind in the country — was launched in July 2020 and contains more than a dozen new initiatives, all scheduled to take place over the coming year. These activities and events will harness the collective will and expertise of the region's biggest institutions, with the aim of delivering meaningful change across our local communities.

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 2019/20, our outreach interventions engaged with approximately 10,000 young people (aged 7–18) from disadvantaged backgrounds.

570 NTU student volunteers and 300 colleagues contributed 28,000 hours of support to communities in 2019/20 — locally, nationally, and around the world.



**Our volunteers grow fruit and vegetables**

for donation to local charities at our Foodshare allotment.

## Get in touch and get involved.

Website: [ntu.ac.uk/sustainability](https://ntu.ac.uk/sustainability)

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 [@NTUEnvironment](https://twitter.com/NTUEnvironment)

 [@NTUSustainability](https://www.facebook.com/NTUSustainability)

 [@ntu\\_sustainability](https://www.instagram.com/ntu_sustainability)