



Nottingham Trent
University

Sustainability Report 2020-21





“As a University, we care about the direct impact we have on the environment, but 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

For many, 2020 was a year of instability, confusion and fear. Alongside the pain and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 demonstrated that humanity has immense potential for collective action and change when faced with a global crisis.

At Nottingham Trent University (NTU), we have a willingness to learn from the past and take positive steps to protect our future. When it comes to sustainability, our plans are creative and ambitious. By working together with our communities, we are transforming lessons into action for our students, staff, partners and networks.

As one of the UK's largest universities, with over 33,000 students and 4,000 colleagues, we understand that our work has a significant impact on the world around us.

A key theme of NTU's University, reimagined strategy is 'Embracing Sustainability' which demonstrates our commitment to becoming the most environmentally responsible University in the UK by 2025. We are committed to developing and delivering effective measures that drive meaningful change on a local, national and international scale.

These measures seek to minimise the University's carbon emissions, and they are embedded throughout our operational culture — from the little things we do today, to the big ideas we have for tomorrow.

Our approach is documented in our [Net Zero Carbon Roadmap](#) which commits NTU to an ultimate goal of net zero carbon emissions 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, pollution is minimised, and waste is prevented.



As one of the UK's largest universities, with over 33,000 students and 4,000 colleagues, we understand that our work has a significant impact on the world around us.

Embracing Sustainability

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

The strategy contains 6 key themes which aim to empower our students to take control of their learning and experience life beyond the lecture hall. The themes ensure we do 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.

One of these six themes, '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.

Led by Chief Operating Officer and Registrar, Steve Denton, NTU has adopted four key principles in order to achieve this goal:

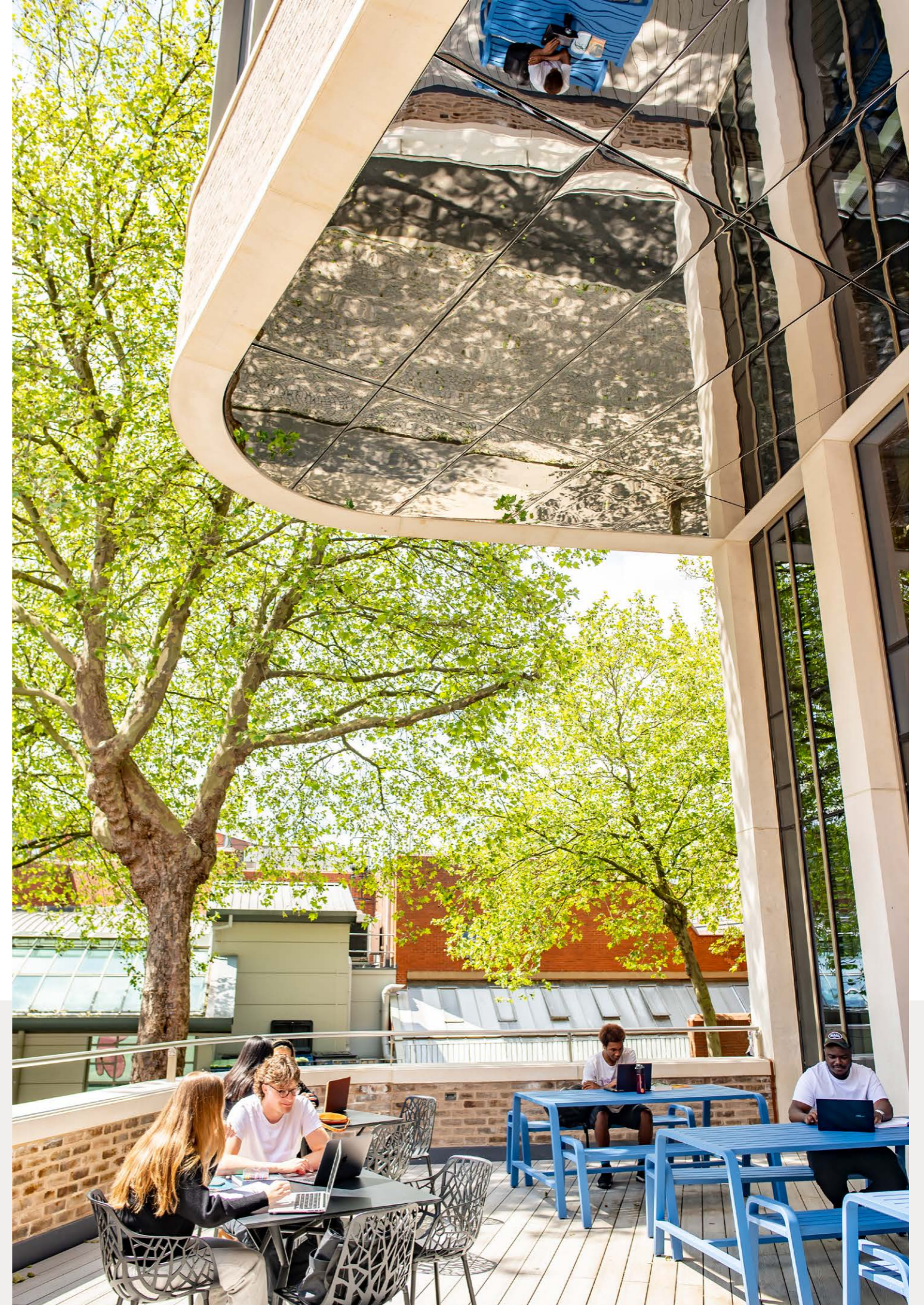
We will align our activities with the United Nations' Global Sustainable Development Goals, recognising environmental, social, and economic sustainability in a triple bottom line and supporting our partners and suppliers to do the same.

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.

The themes ensure we do 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.





Sustainable Development Goals

Our academics are shaping the future of sustainable development research, and regularly feed their insights and the **United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals** into the curriculum.

The Sustainable Development Goals have helped to shape the University's strategy, and NTU is a signatory of the Sustainable Development Goals Accord. This is an important commitment that recognises the University's work to embed the Sustainable Development Goals into our operations and strategy. It also outlines our commitment to sharing insights and expertise with other institutions, and applying the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for measuring impact and progress.

Our **Sustainable Development team** work closely with departments across the University to enable a culture of sustainable development, enhancing the experience for our students and colleagues and cementing the University's ambition to be the most environmentally responsible University in the UK by 2025.

“I am extremely proud of NTU's sustainability achievements throughout this period of disruption that has affected our communities in many different ways. Thank you to all of our colleagues, students and partners who have come together, despite all odds, to develop and deliver ambitious, sustainability-focused projects and initiatives.

There is no doubt that sustainability is at the forefront of our Strategy at NTU. Our colleagues and students have an incredible sense of responsibility and a collective desire to drive forward positive change.”

Charmaine Morrell, Head of Sustainability, Nottingham Trent University

Net Zero Carbon by 2040

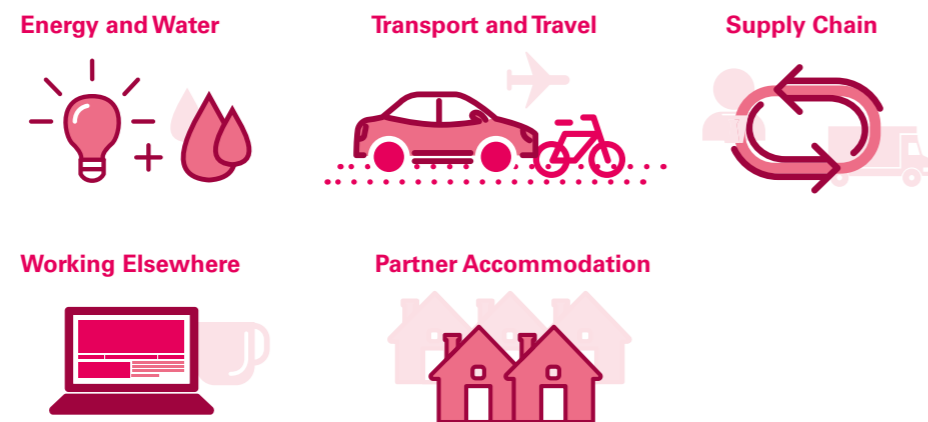
Reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2040 is a key performance indicator of the 'Embracing Sustainability' theme under the University, reimagined strategy. In order to achieve this goal, we will set and meet specific and challenging targets to reduce our environmental footprint and we will make positive changes to ensure our operations meet the standard of exemplary sustainable practice.

NTU will target Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions, not only focusing on energy use (which is responsible for 14% of NTU's emissions outputs), but also our supply chain, travel, and working from home outputs amongst others.

Measuring against a 2020/21 set baseline of 2018/19 figures, we have set interim milestones of a **24%** reduction in carbon emissions by 2025 and a **50%** reduction by 2030.

In order to achieve our interim and long-term goals, we have established a net zero carbon governance structure tasked with implementing projects in particular areas that will deliver necessary carbon reductions.

The structure includes **working groups** that will oversee developments in the following areas:



Each working group consists of representatives from Academia, Research, Professional Services and the student body. The groups report to the **Carbon Programme Group**, consisting of expert representatives from all areas of the University. Ongoing progress updates are then presented to the **Embracing Sustainability Strategy Board** for onward reporting to the **Board of Governors**.



Authority Reporting Structure for Net Zero Carbon 2040



Awards and Achievements

We are proud to be recognised as one of the most sustainable universities in the world. Our success hinges on two key principles: harnessing the talents of our people and working together to deliver positive change, however big or small.



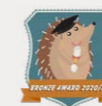
EAUC Green Gown Awards

The NTU Catering Team won for Campus Health Food and Drink, and the Sustainability Team were Highly Commended for Student Engagement at the 2021 EAUC Green Gown Awards.



UI Green Metric World University Rankings

In 2020, NTU came 4th in the UI Green Metric World University Rankings, cementing the University's position as a World Top 5 University for Sustainability.



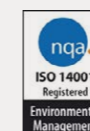
Hedgehog Friendly Campus

We achieved the Hedgehog Friendly Campus (HFC) Bronze Award 2020/21.



'Food for Life' Award

Since November 2011, NTU Catering has maintained a Silver 'Food for Life Served Here' Award 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.



Improving environmental performance

NTU has been a certified user of the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System for over a decade.



In addition to these achievements, NTU is a proud Client Partner of the Considerate Constructors Scheme.



Our Sustainable Construction Policy ensures that all new major developments achieve BREEAM Excellent.

Catering

In line with our **Sustainable Food and Drink policy**, we are proud to offer superb seasonal, local and ethically-sourced meals across our main catering outlets.



In 2021 NTU Catering Services won the 'Green Gown Awards 2021: Campus Health, Food and Drink'

We are continuing to diversify our menus by providing a growing range of vegetarian and vegan options for our students, colleagues and visitors to enjoy. For our meat dishes, we are reducing our carbon footprint and supporting the regional economy by purchasing more local, sustainably-reared meat with high animal welfare standards.

How are we doing?

NTU Catering Services has received recognition from the Soil Association for the sustainable sourcing of ingredients (15% local, 60% UK-based, and 9% organic).

48% of our freshly-prepared meals are vegetarian and of these, 27% are suitable for vegans.

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



NTU Catering is certified by the Marine Stewardship Council, which ensures our fish is sourced from sustainable fish stock and has a minimised impact on the environment.

The eggs used in our freshly prepared dishes are free range and organic.



In 2021 NTU Catering Services won the 'Green Gown Awards 2021: Campus Health, Food and Drink' for their holistic approach to sustainability which included a compelling reduction in food miles, waste, and energy consumption, and a considerable expansion of Fairtrade, organic, MSC, Red Tractor and plant-based produce.



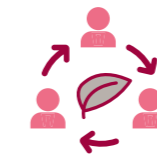
Sustainable Procurement

As a large institution, we recognise our procurement of goods and services can have a significant impact on the environment. That's why we are taking steps to consider the environmental and societal impact of goods and services, from the beginning to the end of their life cycles.

How are we doing?



Our Sustainable Procurement Policy has been in place since 2017 and is reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The Policy is shared with suppliers during the tendering process to set expectations and ensure contracts are awarded in line with our sustainable commitments.



Procurement training and resources for colleagues include advice and guidance on sustainable procurement.

The Procurement team work closely with the Sustainability team to consider the sustainability of the goods and/or services as part of the tendering process; the sustainability team support the evaluation of bids by providing expertise and guidance as required.



All contracted suppliers are required to sign up to the NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool and must develop their own Sustainable Action Plans. The Procurement team actively monitor supplier engagement and sign-ups.

The Procurement team are introducing requirements for suppliers to share their scope 1 and scope 2 emissions data (NTU's scope 3 emissions). This will help us to better understand NTU's carbon footprint and work towards reducing global carbon emissions.

Waste Management

Our approach to waste is aligned to the waste hierarchy framework, which establishes an order of preference for managing and disposing of waste, from least environmentally harmful (avoidance) to most environmentally harmful (disposal).



Recycling bins are in place across NTU's estate. With close supervision from the Sustainability team, NTU's waste management provider offers a service that ensures most of the University's waste is reused or recycled and is collected in a user-friendly manner. As a University, we are continually striving to improve our recycling rates by engaging our colleagues, students and visitors in the waste hierarchy.



How are we doing?



In 2020/21, NTU saw a 33% reduction in total waste produced from 971 tonnes in 2019/20 to 650 tonnes in 2020/21. The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have influenced these results.

New waste bins have been implemented across the Clifton campus to maximise the convenience of recycling. The new bins will be rolled out at NTU's other campuses in 2022.



In 2020/21, student donations saw 448kg of food donated to local food banks.



Delivered in partnership with the British Heart Foundation, Nottingham City Council and the University of Nottingham, the 'Pack for Good' scheme saw 12,099 bags of clothes donated to charity in 2020/21. The donations raised £169,386 for the British Heart Foundation, diverted 96.7 tonnes of items from landfill and saved 985,052 kg of carbon emissions.



Warp-It enables NTU staff and their departments to redistribute unused furniture internally, reducing waste and the need to purchase new items. To date, the programme has saved £58,103 in costs as well as 29,440kg CO₂; the equivalent of 39 Trees.



With our ambition to reach net zero by 2040, we're working across our estate and operations to minimise and eradicate our emissions.

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 by 2040, we're working across our estate and operations to minimise and eradicate our emissions.

How are we doing?

Our 2018/19 baseline including all 3 carbon scopes is 72833.5 tCO₂e, our overall 20/21 overall output was 69942.0 tCO₂e which now also accounts for Supply Chain and Working Elsewhere emissions.

We've recorded a drop in Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions of 857 tCO₂e, compared with the 2018/19 baseline

857 tCO₂e

We have recorded a drop in Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions of 2,891.5 tCO₂e compared with the 2018/19 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 — each replacing a fossil fuel based vehicle.

Our solar PV/rooftop installations can now generate a total capacity of 396 kW.

We have reduced the file size of images across the NTU website by 55%, resulting in a 9% reduction in energy to power our webpages.



As a result of the pandemic and fewer people working onsite, we reduced our energy consumption by 25% between April 2020 and March 2021.

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 promote the biodiversity of our spaces for everyone to enjoy.



Our Brackenhurst campus is home to several 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 m² of wildflower meadow and our City campus occupies 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 made their nest on a ninth-floor ledge of the Newton building (City campus). With the support of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, we've followed the falcons' journey since 2012 using a live webcam. In 2020/21, we saw the 40th chick fledge the nest, attracting over 1M viewers online.



In 2020/21, we secured a Bronze 'Hedgehog-friendly Campus' accreditation for both our Clifton and Brackenhurst campuses. Colleagues and students have been working together to raise awareness through webinars, surveys and social media campaign reaching over 8,000 people. Warning stickers have also been installed across the estate to protect hedgehogs from mowers and trimmers. We are now working towards Silver accreditation.



Following completion of the Great Crested Newt survey in 2020/21, our Brackenhurst campus saw a colony of newts at Sheepwalks Pond for the first time.

Areas of grass at our City campus have been left to rewild for the first time, encouraging and supporting local biodiversity. Both Clifton and Brackenhurst have increased wild areas also.

Our Brackenhurst campus is home to several pond habitats, three distance woodlands areas (which cover a combined 4.5 hectares) and hedgerows.

Quality green and natural spaces:

For the 10th consecutive year, NTU has received 'Green Flag' accreditation for the quality of our green spaces at our Brackenhurst and Clifton campuses.

A new wildflower meadow is being cultivated at our Clifton Campus. There are now over 1.2 million bulbs planted across the campus, which equates to 8,000 m² of wildflower meadow. As well as providing a picturesque display, these wildflowers also play an important role in supporting local fauna.



We have installed over 250 bird and bat boxes in trees across the estate alongside new bird feeders to provide valuable nourishment.



Sustainable Construction

NTU's estate continues to evolve and grow, providing the best possible facilities for our students, colleagues and communities. Over the past 10 years, we've invested £350 million in our facilities, buildings and spaces, whilst ensuring sustainability remains at the heart of what we do.

Our **Sustainable Construction Policy** states that all new major developments should attain a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating and an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) at grade A. The policy continues to support NTU's ambitions to embed sustainable buildings and facilities across all campuses.

How are we doing?



14 NTU buildings have achieved or are on track to receive a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating, including the Pavilion building at our Clifton campus – our first EPC grade A+ building constructed using Passivhaus principles: a leading international design standard to achieve optimum energy efficiency.

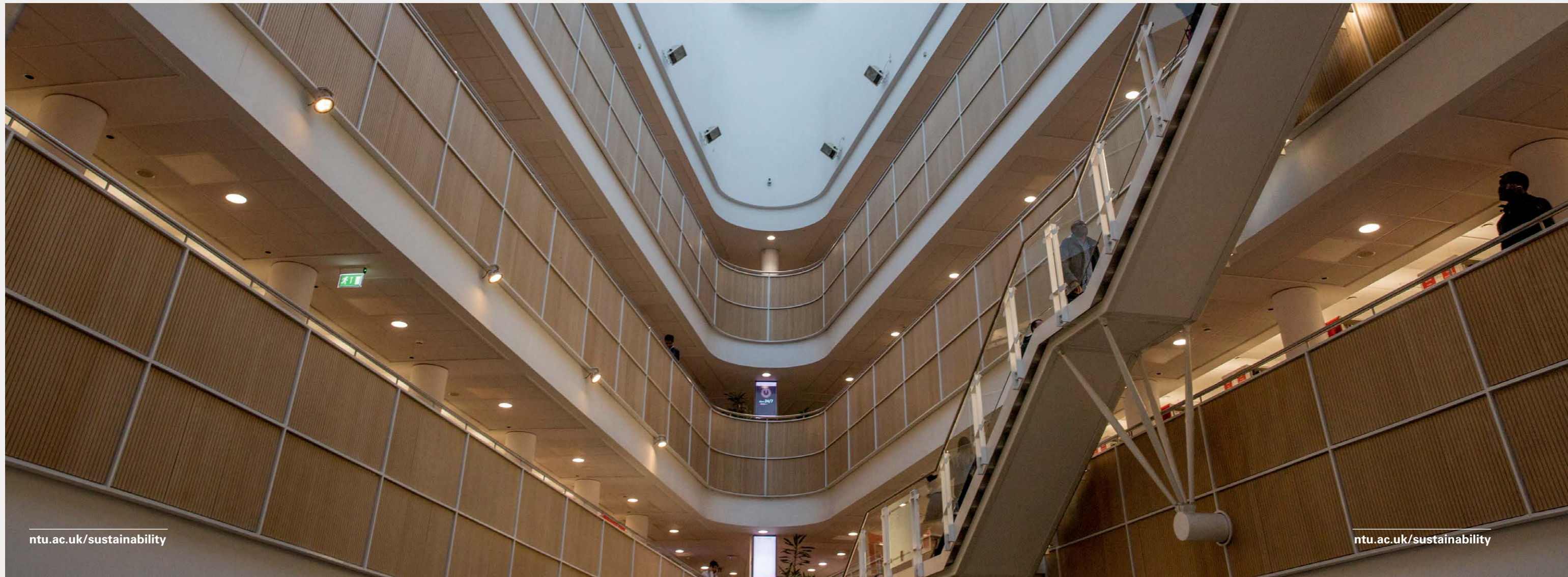


3 BREEAM 'Very Good' refurb projects have been completed or are currently in progress.



The newly-constructed Lyth Building at our Brackenhurst campus is awaiting a BREEAMM 'Excellent' accreditation and was nominated in the Sustainability category at the East Midlands Constructing Excellence Awards and Structural Timber Awards. The Lyth Building has been created using raw materials including timber and straw.

The Medical Technologies Innovation Facility (MTIF) building at our Clifton campus has BREEAM 'Excellent' status and was shortlisted in the East Midlands Brick Awards 2021 for 'Sustainable Development of the Year' and 'Commercial Development of the Year'.



Travel

Transportation is now the most polluting sector in the UK, producing the equivalent of 122 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (MtCO₂e) in 2019. NTU is committed to finding sustainable and affordable transport solutions that connect people to our campuses and the surrounding areas. This commitment appeals to our corporate, strategic and local plans.

How are we doing?



Cycling

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



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



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

Additional cycle storage has been erected close to the large cycle enclosure at Maudsley (City campus).

A BREEAM 'Excellent'-rated cycle parking compound is located at the Clifton campus and can store up to 30 bikes.

NTU has supported NHS key workers by offering complimentary cycle loans throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.



Our Cycle Report was published in 2020 and consolidates these efforts.



Public Transport

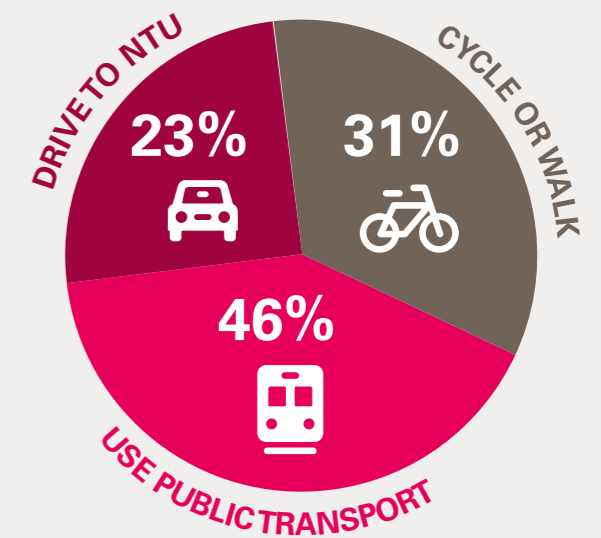
The Go2Uni4 bus service which runs between our City and Clifton campuses has a new fleet of vehicles fitted with Euro VI engines to reduce carbon emissions. The service welcomed 842,000 passengers in 2018/19.

Students across all campuses have access to subsidised bus travel. For £259, students can benefit from unlimited NCT bus travel over the 2021-22 academic year.

Travel discounts and price freezes were introduced by NCT in 2021/22 alongside the launch of the NETGO App for tram users.

Students, colleagues and visitors to our Clifton campus can make use of the Clifton South Tram Park and Ride to travel to the Rivergreen tram stop for just £1.50 return (price correct as of Feb 2022).

Sustainable travel highlights at NTU



We're committed to embedding the principles of environmental awareness among our colleagues and students.



Engagement and Raising Awareness

At NTU, we empower our people to recognise and fulfil their responsibilities as global citizens. Our goal is to establish strong and lasting links between sustainability, carbon literacy and employability.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In line with our **Environmental Policy**, we're committed to embedding the principles of environmental awareness among 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 supporting our community to introduce sustainable practices into their work, home life and longer-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 2020/21 the app recorded 1,632 signups (1,445 students and 187 staff), 83,608 sustainable actions and 167,476.66kg CO2 avoided.

We engaged over 1000 colleagues and students across 58 events and activities, including Green Week, a Climate Action Summit, and Sustainability Action Week.



A network of 20 Staff Sustainability Ambassadors and 25 Eco-Ambassadors have been appointed to share university initiatives with their peers, propose improvements and assist in the coordination of events.

We organised the **Universities for Nottingham Sustainability Action Panel and Workshop** – an online collaborative event with students and colleagues from NTU and the University of Nottingham, plus representatives from both Students' Unions and Nottingham City Council.

We delivered 35 bespoke training sessions, based on sustainability awareness and environmental management.

Regular volunteer sessions were made available to colleagues and students at the Clifton Campus Foodshare allotment.



14 student societies led events, activities and initiatives to raise awareness and start a conversation about sustainability and environmental impact.

Education for Sustainable Development

In 2013, NTU's Green Academy was appointed to embed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into curricular and extracurricular activities across the University. Nationally-renowned and highly respected, the Academy is acknowledged as a sector leader in Higher Education. The team provides consultancy and training for colleagues to apply ESD to academic disciplines whilst utilising and promoting evidence-based practices to support the success of all NTU students.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



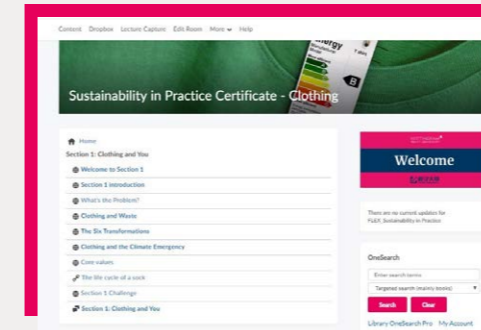
ESD gained further traction in March 2021 with the launch of Guidance for the HE sector jointly produced by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and Advance HE. The QAA has pledged to integrate sustainability into all subject benchmarks as they come up for renewal over the next few years of work which the Green Academy have begun.

Notable ESD-themed events for 2020/21 included student and staff workshops within Sustainability Action Week, Fairtrade Fortnight, Global week, and a multidisciplinary 36-hour Game Jam during Confetti Industry week. The Green Academy also worked with Nottingham City Council to set Nottingham Business School students challenges based on the City's net zero by 2028 goal.

During July 2021, the Green Academy facilitated a fully online

Global Summer School for NTU and external international students. The theme of the Summer School was 'The Transformational Leader and the Sustainable Development Goals'. The Summer School provided students with opportunities to work in multinational groups, develop sustainability literacy, and propose solutions to local, national and international sustainability challenges.

NTU's **Carbon Literacy Course** for Staff and Students at Universities was launched in January 2021 to enable colleagues across the HE sector to teach sustainability principles to university staff and students from all departments and disciplines. In the last year at NTU, we have delivered four tailored carbon literacy training courses and an expert session.



Led by the Green Academy, the **Sustainability in Practice (SiP)** module has continued as an offer for all students and staff in 2020-21. 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**.

This year,
732
NTU students
completed SiP.

The majority completed SiP independently as a self-paced course, yet SiP is also 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).

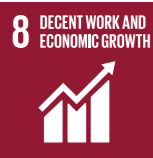
In 2020/21, SiP was offered to students in Mansfield and Ashfield for the first time, as well as to a cohort of students at a partner institution in Taiwan (ISU). The ISU adaptation of SiP was a collaboration between NTU Green Academy, NTU Global and the Pre-session English for Academic Purposes team.

In addition to SiP, staff with teaching responsibilities have been invited to complete the 'Future Thinking and the Sustainable Development Goals' staff development course which introduces participants to the Sustainable Development Goals.

2020/21 saw the launch of many new networks and groups, including the NTU Sustainable Development Academic Forum (SDAF); the TILT 'Education for Sustainable Futures' Practice and Scholarship Group, and a joint steering group for sustainability-themed student work experience.

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 more than 150 local partners and colleagues across both universities. It sets out an action plan for us to make a difference to the educational opportunity, economic prosperity, health and wellbeing and environmental sustainability of our local communities.

The Civic Agreement — the first of its kind in the country — was launched in July 2020 and contains more than a dozen new initiatives to have been actioned over the past year - many of which consider the impact COVID-19 has had on the local community. 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.

One of the most successful outputs from the Universities for Nottingham network so far has been the Universities for Nottingham **Sustainability Action Panel and Workshop**, which saw NTU, the University of Nottingham and Nottingham City council share guidance and lead discussions on climate action to over 100 attendees.

NTU shares expertise with the community, and we show others what best practice in sustainability looks like. **The Centre for Student and Community Engagement** 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.



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

How are we doing?

In 2020/21, NTU engaged with approximately 8,000 young people (aged 7–18) from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Our volunteers grew fruit and vegetables for local charities including community kitchens and foodbanks at our Foodshare allotment.



505 NTU student volunteers and 233 colleagues contributed 23,124 hours of support in 2019/20 — serving communities locally, nationally and (remotely) around the world.



In 2020/21, 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
- Bulwell Forest Gardens
- Summerwood Gardens
- Reach UK (Flowerpod)
- White Rose Shops
- Arkwright Meadows Community Gardens
- Canal & River Trust
- Nottingham City Parks and Gardens
- St Anns Allotments
- Wollaton Hall and Deer Park

COVID-19 Adaptations

NTU was not exempt from making adaptations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students were required to study remotely and most colleagues worked from home to reduce the spread of the virus.

Despite the restrictions, NTU managed to keep 100% of its site operational, thanks to the support of approximately 3,318 staff who worked on-site in some capacity over the 2020/21 academic year. In addition, through mixed learning, approximately 20,000 students accessed our campuses during the 2020/21 academic year.

Measures were put in place to ensure the health and safety of our colleagues and students at all times. Hand-sanitiser, masks and sanitising wipes were made available in every room across all sites. Free lateral flow testing kits were provided and students and colleagues were advised to take a COVID-19 test before entering any of our buildings or spaces.

PCR test sites were established at our City and Clifton campuses. Vaccination centres have now also been implemented across City, Clifton and Brackenhurst – allowing staff and students to be vaccinated at a time and a place that works around their schedule.

Air filters were installed across the estate and all surfaces and public spaces were cleaned more regularly across all sites.

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic brought challenges to our sustainability agenda. Engagement figures were down from the previous year, fewer in-person sustainability-based workshops were held, and less training was able to take place for staff and students focused on sustainability.

As we look forward, we remain committed to finding new opportunities to engaging our audiences in a post-pandemic climate, and we will adapt our approach to ensure we remain on track to achieve our goals.

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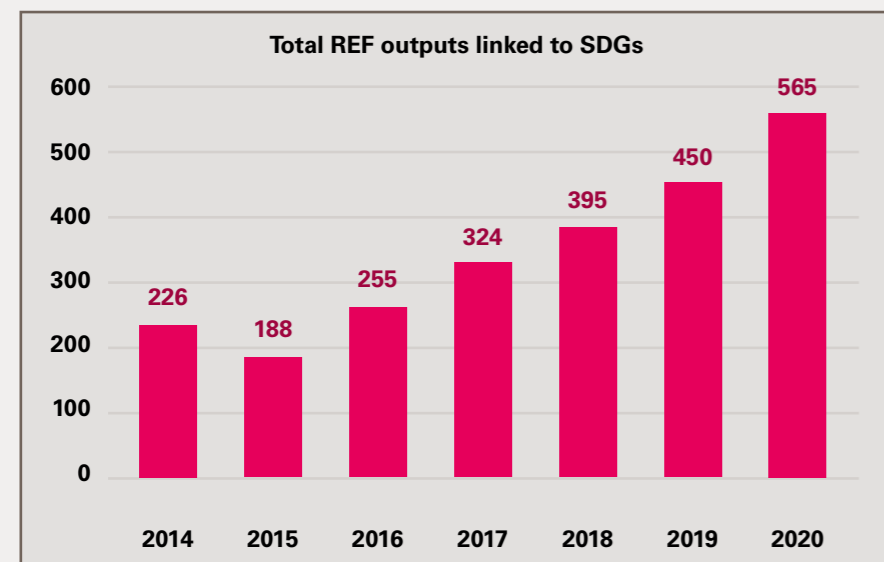
Sustainable Futures

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

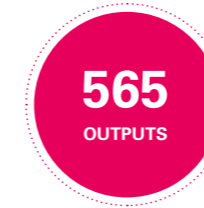
Our researchers are investigating efficient ways to manage natural water resources; developing innovative systems to make agriculture more sustainable; exploring how to make our cities greener, and analysing methods to reduce unnecessary consumption of energy and materials.

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
- Our School of Science and Technology laboratories meet the **Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF)** standards.



Key figures:



In 2020/21, there were 565 REF outputs that labelled themselves as researching/reporting on one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



In 2020/21, £3.2M research income was secured from projects which incorporated or focused on SDGs.



In 2020/21, 53 students completed or were undertaking PhD projects which included research on sustainability topics.



SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production generated the highest research income of £1,356,396.



Case Studies

Green Rewards

Since its launch in 2019, over 3,000 staff and students have taken part in NTU Green Rewards, racking up an impressive 215,367 sustainability actions which have enabled the avoidance of 430,696kg of CO₂

NTU Green Rewards is a joint venture between NTU and our students' union, NTSU. Through the platform, NTU staff and students can track their positive actions across six key themes ranging from reducing food waste to more sustainable travel options to reducing your personal carbon footprint.

Every month the top 2 staff and top 2 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 are able to vote for their favourite charity, with a £200 charity donation prize for the top-earning team each term.

Each activity theme uploaded on to NTU Green Rewards also aligns with one of the United Nations' Sustainability Development Goals (SDG's), allowing participants to understand their positive impact on a global scale as well as at an individual and University level. For example, employees are rewarded for using reusable bottles and reusable cups instead of single use plastics, contributing to SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production.

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.



Action Weeks

Each year the Sustainability Team, in collaboration with NTSU and other departments such as the Green Academy and the Global Lounge, coordinate a series of 'action weeks' that focus on sustainability and provide students and staff with relevant knowledge learned through a range of workshops, activities and talks. In 2020/21 The Sustainability Team hosted Green Week in November 2020 and Sustainability Action Week in March 2021.

Whilst many events within 2020/21 had to be virtual, due to COVID-19 restrictions, these action weeks still offered a range of activities and learning for staff and students. An online Climate Summit, with a range of workshops on biodiversity, climate action, reducing plastics and carbon was held in November 2020. 116 people, both NTU staff and students, attended the virtual climate summit.

In March 2021, NTU teamed up with the University of Nottingham and waste management provider Enva, to host a virtual workshop on waste management at both universities and facilitated discussion on student behaviours. In collaboration with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, NTU hosted a talk on the "Story of the Peregrine Falcons". The NTU Sustainability Team also hosted the Universities for Nottingham Sustainability Action Panel and Workshop- which is detailed in our engagement section.

Sustainability is also focused on within Fairtrade Fortnight, two weeks dedicated awareness and celebrating our commitment to Fairtrade at the university, and NTU's annual Enterprise Week, a collaboration between the Students' Union (NTSU), NTU Enterprise and NTU's Sustainability Team which supports students to put forth their best business ideas. Throughout the year the team also run several staff and student training courses and workshops on sustainability at NTU.

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.



Sustainability in Enterprise programme

Funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) a range of departments, including the Sustainability Team, at NTU are now available to offer to support to eligible Nottingham small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as part of the Sustainability in Enterprise (SiE) programme.

As part of the Sustainability in Enterprise programme, two members of the Sustainability Team have taken on roles as consultants, who provide practical support and funding to reduce the carbon emissions of eligible SMEs. Our Sustainability Team consultants can support with understanding and reducing carbon emissions, improving environmental performance, reducing costs, and ensuring long-term business sustainability.

Key stats from the SiE programme:

- To date, we are working with 22 local SME's, five of which are part of NTU's supply chain
- Carbon savings of 450tCO₂e have been recommended to local businesses

One example of NTUs sustainability in Enterprise Project's partnerships is with Murphy & Son Ltd, who have been world leading in providing technical support and supplies for brewers, wine-makers, and manufacturing chemists for over 130 years.

The business has been working closely with NTU's qualified and experienced consultants to accurately calculate their carbon impact and put an action plan in place to reduce emissions.

Head of Technical, Iain Kenny at Murphy and Son Ltd says "The Sustainability Consultants have been great, approachable and helpful, and the process was very easy and productive. They didn't just tell us, 'you need to do this, and you need to buy that', it's been a lot more thoughtful, educational and has given us the mindset to ask what we can work out now and plan where we want to be in a year"

As a top-line figure, the recommendations provided to Murphy & Son could result in them saving an estimated 216 tonnes of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent), or 65% of their overall footprint, from their operations and a financial saving of around £24,000 per year. Their immediate actions will result in a reduction of 27%, or 90 tonnes of CO₂e.



European Union

European Regional Development Fund

Get in touch and get involved.

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