

# **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT**

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**DELIVERING OUR 2021 VISION**







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## DELIVERING OUR 2021 VISION

In 2014, we launched our Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014 - 2021), which set out our 2020/21 vision to embed sustainable development in all that we do at Manchester Metropolitan University – through our learning and development, campus, culture, and leadership.

Since then, we have made significant progress towards realising many of our goals and objectives by translating our strategic commitments into action.

The achievements of our employees and students, as well as our investments into improving the efficiency of our built environment, and our efforts to deliver activities that improve the environmental sustainability of the University and wider society, have given us a great deal of which we are proud of. This statement provides a summary of our performance and key achievements from 2014 to 2021.

“As we look towards 2030, sustainability is a key part of our strategic vision - both for Manchester Met and for contributing to the world’s 2030 agenda for sustainable development.”

**Professor Steve Decent**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor





# DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR'S STATEMENT

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I am proud of Manchester Met's commitment to sustainability. We are again positioned as the number one sustainable University in the UK, achieving first place in the People and Planet University League 2021. We also placed 66th out of 1,154 global universities in the Times Higher Impact rankings. Those results come as we reach the end of our Environmental Sustainability Strategy to 2021, and our progress has been exceptional.

Across our operations, key highlights include more than halving our carbon emissions since 2005/6, achieving a 61.6% reduction, which exceeded our target of 50%.

In education, our Carbon Literacy offering continues to ensure our graduates understand global and local sustainability challenges, and that they are equipped with the skills and attributes to work and live in a way that safeguards environmental, social and economic wellbeing. Meanwhile, our researchers are leading an international effort to recycle waste plastic into feedstock for 3D printing

as well as supporting hydrogen fuel adoption throughout our region.

Maintaining our position as one of the UK's most sustainable universities and building on our existing strengths and specialisms will be vital in remaining at the forefront of positive change. In 2018 we committed to being a zero carbon University by 2038, and in 2021 released the first of our six-year carbon management plans to 2026, outlining the steps we will take to reach zero-carbon – contributing to Manchester's ambitious target to be a zero-carbon city by 2038.

As we look towards 2030, sustainability is a key part of our wider strategic ambition – both for Manchester Met and for contributing to the world's 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

**Professor Steve Decent**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and  
Chair of the Environment  
Strategy Group

# OUR PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

We are proud of our performance since the launch of our Environmental Sustainability Strategy. Our awards and progress show how far we have come, feed into our ambition for the future, and provide a platform for what comes next.



**World top 70**  
University in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings<sup>2</sup>



**ISO 14001:2015**  
First UK university to achieve ISO 14001:2015 certification



**Real Living Wage**  
accredited employer<sup>16</sup>



**1,446**  
Carbon Literate certified staff and students<sup>5</sup>



**Number 1**  
Sustainable University in the UK<sup>1</sup>



**61.1%**  
reuse and recycling rate<sup>8</sup>



**Sustainable procurement**  
Flexible framework level 4 achieved<sup>13</sup>



**Carbon Literacy**  
for leaders' programme launched



**49.1%**  
reduction in total water consumption<sup>9</sup>



**61.6%**  
reduction in carbon emissions<sup>3</sup>



**Top three**  
Top three performing university in the People and Planet University League since 2013



**£2.78m**  
Give it don't bin in student donation campaign has raised £2.78m since 2012<sup>14</sup>



**Sustainable food**  
two-star Food Made Good status<sup>15</sup>



**SKA Silver**  
100% of building refurbishments projects achieving SKA silver rating<sup>12</sup>



**64.7%**  
of our vehicles low or zero emissions



**NUS Responsible Futures**  
Responsible Futures accredited since 2015<sup>10</sup>



**Zero Carbon**  
Committed to being a zero-carbon University by 2038<sup>4</sup>



**Four-time Green Gown Award Winners<sup>11</sup>**



**77.8%**  
of students learning about sustainability issues<sup>7</sup>



# SUSTAINING A TOP PERFORMANCE

Our journey towards environmental sustainability began in 2007, when we were placed 91st in the People and Planet University League<sup>17</sup>. A group of passionate and committed students convinced University leaders that we must do better. We are now the UK's leading sustainable university – placed first in the People and Planet University League 2021 – meaning we have consistently been a top three performing university since 2013\*.

We have worked hard to embed sustainability across the whole University, including within our built environment and infrastructure and learning offering for students and staff. Above all, we view sustainability as a priority and a responsibility our whole community shares.

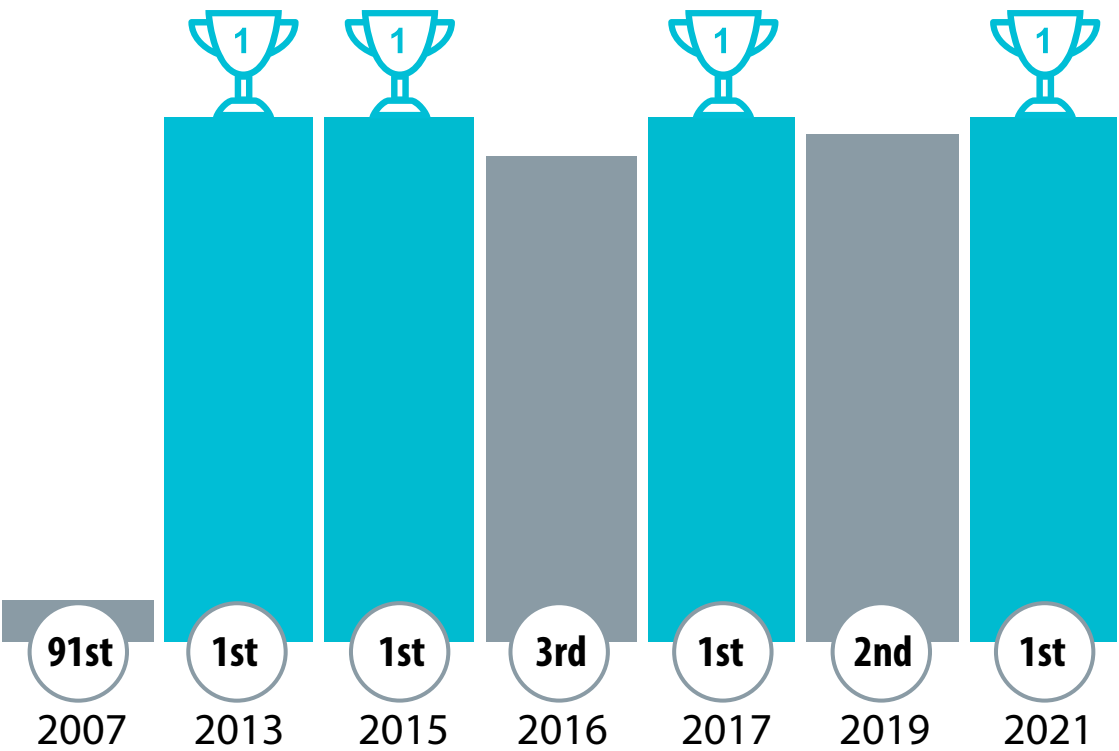
From introducing our first Environmental Strategy in 2008, to launching our first Carbon Trust-certified carbon management plan in 2010, to being five-time UK and Ireland Green Gown Award winners since 2012, to becoming the first University in the world to achieve the international

environmental management standard ISO 14001:2015 and an accredited Real Living Wage employer in 2020, we can be proud of our progress.

In 2020 we submitted to the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings the only global performance table assessing universities against their contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. We established our position in the world's top 100, ranking 66<sup>th</sup> globally out of 1,154 universities, and 15<sup>th</sup> in the UK.



People and Planet University League - our performance



\* The University League did not take place in 2014, 2018, and 2020.

<sup>17</sup> The People and Planet University (formerly 'Green') League is the only comprehensive and independent league table of UK universities ranked by environmental and ethical performance





# LEARNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We pride ourselves on equipping our students and staff with sustainability skills they can apply in their professional and personal lives. We deliver Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in several ways, in our formal education and research activities, informal curriculum offering, and through professional development.

Since the launch of our Environmental Sustainability Strategy in 2014, we have delivered our 'learning for a sustainable future' engagement programme. We provide opportunities for our communities to engage in sustainability – through professional development, extra-curricular activities, course-related projects and units, paid opportunities, and through internships and placements.

## Responsible Futures

We are an accredited NUS Responsible Futures institution and Students' Union. This reflects our institutional approach to embedding sustainability and social responsibility across all aspects of learning at our University. In the 2020/21 reporting year, we were selected as a host partner for Responsible Futures – meaning we are playing a leadership role, sharing our practices, and supporting other institutions' learning and achievement of the accreditation.

## Carbon Literacy

We have continued to build our expertise and sphere of influence in Carbon Literacy learning – becoming a certified Carbon Literate Organisation (bronze) in 2019 and recognised for our innovative Carbon Literacy for student and staff training model at the Green Gown Awards in 2019. We were the lead higher education partner in a project to develop Carbon Literacy toolkits for the public sector<sup>18</sup>, and continued to deliver our programme to staff, students, and external partners – culminating in 1,446 staff and students, and 2,400 participants from external organisations achieving Carbon Literacy certification, who have subsequently delivered Carbon Literacy to more than 7,500 further participants.

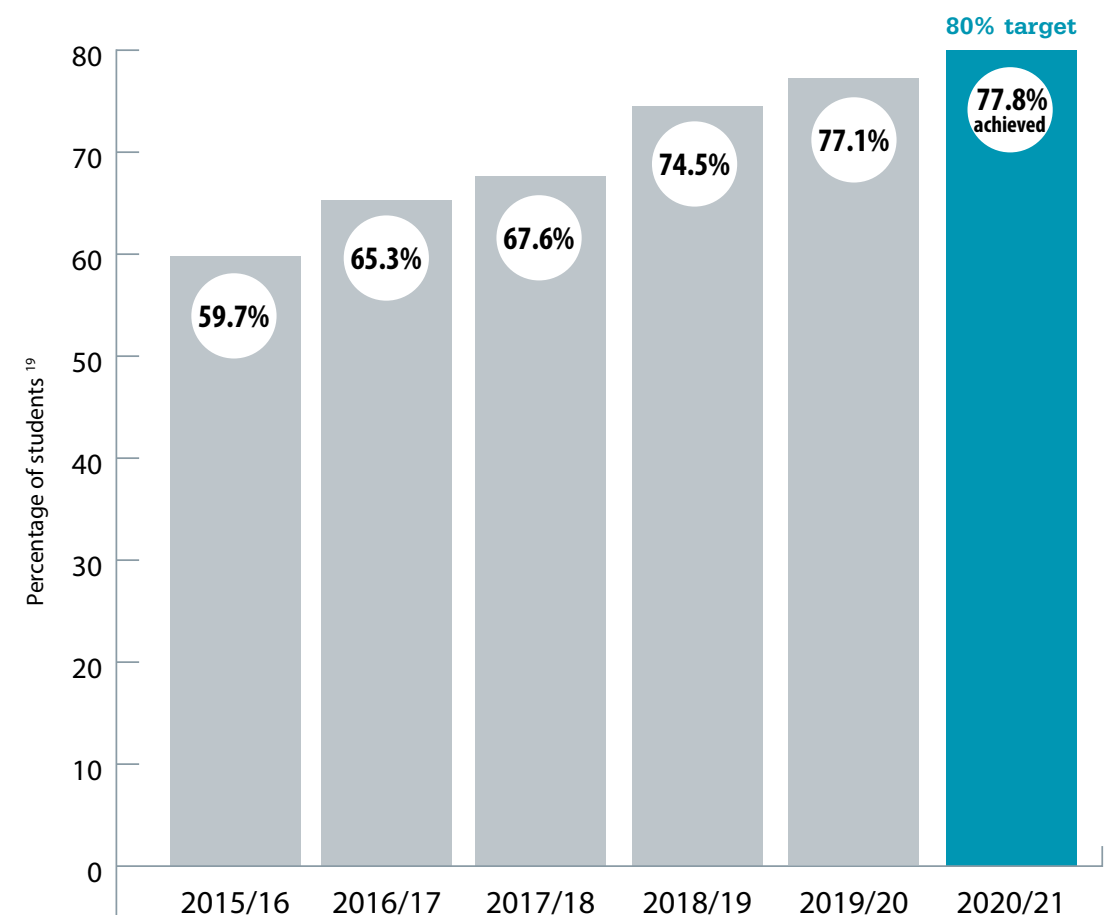
“77.8% of students are gaining the skills and knowledge to understand sustainable development issues”

## Sustainable and healthy food

Our internationally acclaimed student network, MetMUnch, is an award-winning social enterprise where students learn about health, wellness, and food sustainability by delivering public engagement pop-up events, cooking classes and social media campaigns, and were integral in the creation of our GROW meat-free café. Opening in 2019, it is a collaboration between our catering services and MetMUnch. Run by students, GROW has been quick to build relationships with local farmers, bakers and ethical food producers, and has become a runaway commercial success.

## Student understanding of sustainable development

We integrate a series of sustainability questions into our all-student annual enrolment survey. In 2020/21, 77.8% of returning students responded that they are gaining sustainable development skills and knowledge as part of their University experience.



Although we were marginally short of our 80% target, **the graph above shows a continual improvement** in the proportion of returning students who indicate that they are gaining skills and knowledge to understand sustainable development issues as part of their University experience.



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Key to managing and reducing our environmental impacts and risk, and working systematically towards achieving our strategic goals and objectives was the development and implementation of a robust university-wide environmental management system (EMS).

We were the first University in the UK to achieve the more challenging international environmental management standard ISO 14001:2015 in 2016 – demonstrating our commitment to managing and improving our environmental performance. Since the launch of the strategy, its structure has ensured we continually improve our environmental performance. We have maintained our certification to the standard, and we are assessed and audited annually by an independent, globally-accredited certification body.



# SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

Since the introduction of our ambitious Estates Masterplan in 2008, which consolidated seven campuses into one, we have continue to invest significantly in updating and improving our estate. Our current Estate Masterplan Programme delivers world-class teaching, learning, research, and social space, providing opportunities to design, build, and refurbish buildings to become energy-efficient and that enable and facilitate sustainable behaviours amongst staff and students who use them.

We set challenging environmental standards and targets in our Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014 - 2021) for building projects including achieving BREEAM excellent rating<sup>20</sup>, and SKA silver rating<sup>21</sup> for refurbishment projects.

We took additional steps which integrate sustainable design at the core of our masterplan, going beyond the requirements of environmental building standards like BREEAM to develop a series of sustainability targets for each of our building projects. We now also work with expert sustainability consultants to ensure our targets are delivered and that sustainability is a consideration across all stages of our capital development projects.

Looking forward, we will set our approach to designing and delivering net-zero carbon buildings – an essential element of reaching our zero-carbon ambitions before 2038.

<sup>20</sup> A definition of this term is provided in the glossary, page 28  
<sup>21</sup> A definition of this term is provided in the glossary, page 28



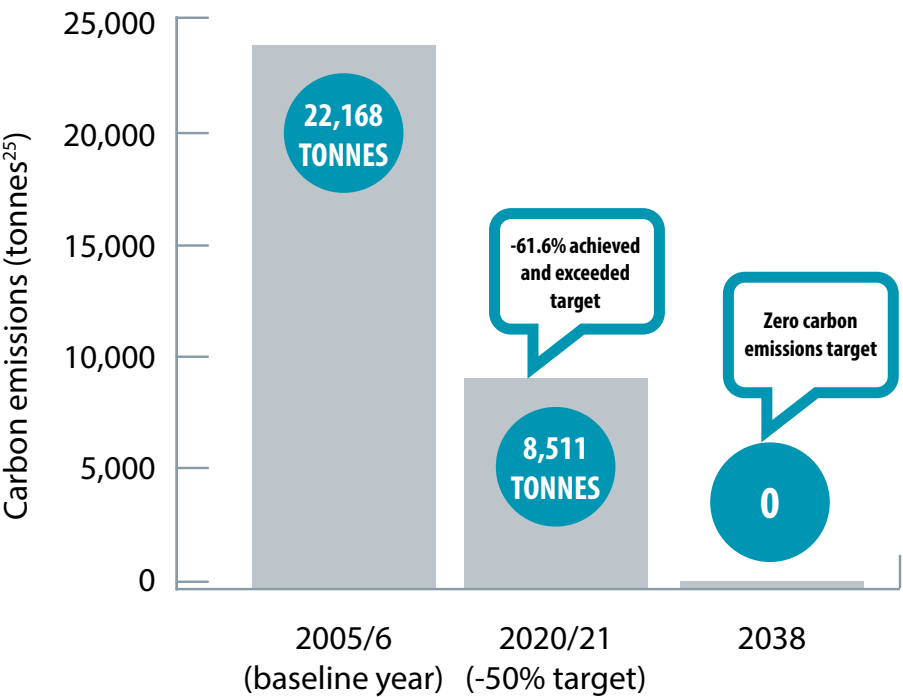
# PAVING THE WAY TO ZERO CARBON

Our first Carbon Trust certified Carbon Management Plan (2010), and subsequent revised plans set our ambition and the steps we needed to take to reduce our carbon emissions<sup>22</sup> by 50% by 2020/21. We exceeded this target a year earlier than expected, largely by delivering the following projects.

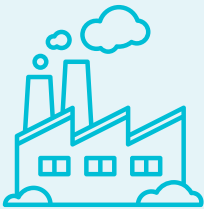
**Investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects** — we've drawn on a combination of external<sup>23</sup> and internal funding to invest significantly in improving energy efficiency, our capacity to generate, store and distribute renewable and low-carbon energy, as well as investing in our electric vehicle infrastructure and electric vehicle fleet. We have engaged with research projects such as the European funded Triangulum project that have allowed us to test and demonstrate new smart innovations, supporting our journey to an efficient, lower-carbon estate with energy efficient buildings<sup>24</sup>.

**Consolidating and upgrading our estate** — rationalising seven campuses into one enabled us to consolidate our estate and replace older, energy-intensive sites with newer, more energy-efficient buildings that primarily consume lower-carbon electricity over high-carbon intensity gas heating systems. This, coupled with the electricity grid's decarbonisation, have contributed to the reduction of our carbon emissions.

## Tracking our carbon emissions reduction



**Our scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions were 61.6% down on our baseline year, which means we easily exceeded our 2020/21 target of a 50% reduction. Although our reduction figure was greater due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent building closures, we calculate that, had normal operations continued, we would still have achieved a 55% reduction.**



## Towards zero carbon

In 2018 we committed to be a zero-carbon<sup>26</sup> University by 2038, and in 2021 released the first of our six-year carbon management plans to 2026, outlining the steps we'll take to reach zero-carbon. Our emissions reductions will be addressed through four main areas of activity. These are: the energy efficiency of our new buildings; additional energy-saving and efficiency initiatives in existing buildings; an increase in on-site energy generation and storage; and off-site renewable energy generation and heat decarbonisation.

<sup>22</sup> Including scope 1 and scope 2 carbon emissions against emissions in baseline year of 2005-6  
<sup>23</sup> For example, the Salix Revolving Green Fund and European Regional Development Funding (ERDF)  
<sup>24</sup> Our building energy efficiency ratings have improved to an average Display Energy Certificate 'C', and all new buildings achieving an Energy Certificate Performance 'B' rating in 2021  
<sup>25</sup> Including scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions

<sup>26</sup> A definition of this term is provided in the glossary, page 28



# LOOKING FORWARD TO 2030

We are proud of our achievements and progress since the launch of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy in 2014, yet we know we need to go even further.

We have developed a new sustainability strategy to define how we will play our part in contributing to the global agenda for sustainable development. Working with colleagues, students, partners, and local communities, we have now developed our vision of sustainable development taking us to 2030. This sets out a definitive plan of action through to 2026, building on the considerable progress we have already made, and involving our academic and research specialisms to a greater extent.

Due to be published in 2022, the strategy outlines our ambition to ensure that sustainable development is woven deeply into everything we do and that it is a priority and a shared responsibility. We will focus on using our education and research strengths to support the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and embed sustainability throughout our educational programmes, in our campus and infrastructure, and in our ways of working.

“Working with colleagues, students, partners, and local communities, we have now developed our vision of sustainable development taking us to 2030”





# OUR KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The following pages provide a detailed overview of our performance against the targets set out in our Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 - 2021. As this report summarises our performance since the release of the strategy in 2014, we provide details of our performance throughout this period against each of the relevant baseline years. For each strategic area, we have identified the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to which it contributes. We have used a traffic light system to highlight performance against our targets.

### United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



● Achieved ● Near miss<sup>27</sup> ● Not achieved

### COVID-19 pandemic – reflecting on the impacts

2020/21 was in many ways overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought disruption to many aspects of our operations, impacting many areas of our sustainability performance and progress.

The closure and reduced operating capacity of our campus buildings for several months affected many of our metrics, particularly our energy and water consumption, waste generation and recycling rates, and carbon emissions associated with our business-as-usual activities such as staff and student commuting and business travel – whether it be positive or negative.

### Biodiversity

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 11, 15

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Undertake University-wide biodiversity audits to monitor priority habitats and species, and inform the development of appropriate management, maintenance, and conservation plans	Number of different habitat types and/or number of different species	2013/14	102 species	297 <sup>28</sup>	Measure and maintain habitat and/or species diversity	<span>●</span>
			10 habitats	17 <sup>29</sup>		
Promote the use of University buildings to enhance habitat connections within and between campuses	Number of physical connections between habitats	2015/16	72	105 <sup>30</sup>	Measure and maintain habitat connectivity	<span>●</span>
Evaluate and promote the multifunctional benefits from the University's green infrastructure	Number of different opportunities for engagement	2013/14	12	18 engagement opportunities delivered on average each year	Measure and increase engagement opportunities	<span>●</span>

### Carbon and energy management

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 7, 9, 11, 13

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Reduce scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions	Percentage reduction of carbon and carbon equivalent emissions	2005/06	22,168 tonnes	-61.6%	50% reduction by 2020/21	<span>●</span>
				8,511 tonnes		
Measure and report scope 3 <sup>31</sup> emissions	Total scope 3 emissions (tonnes). Detailed breakdown of emissions by source available at mmu.ac.uk/sustainability	2015/16	51,573 tonnes	74,039*	Measure scope 3 emissions	<span>●</span>
Reduce energy consumption	Percentage reduction gas consumption (kWh)	2005/06	45,914,023kWh	-49.9%	50% reduction in gas by 2020/21	<span>●</span>
	Percentage reduction electricity consumption (kWh)	2005/06	28,540,624kWh	-35.8%		
				23,024,297kWh	50% reduction in electricity by 2020/21	<span>●</span>
				18,330,897kWh		<span>●</span>
Improve Display Energy Certificate (DEC) rating of University buildings	Average DEC rating	2013/14	D rating (78 score)	C rating (58 score) Our buildings have become more energy-efficient improving from a D to a C rating	Achieve average DEC rating of above C (51-75 score)	<span>●</span>

#### Explanation of performance where targets not achieved

**Reduction in electricity consumption** - This target was not achieved due to the University transitioning towards an electric-heating strategy, moving away from gas to help achieve our zero carbon target by 2038.

**\*Scope 3 emissions**  
2020/21 scope 3 carbon emission figure does not include emissions associated with employee and student commuting and student travel home. The impacts of the pandemic led to significantly reduced travel amongst our staff, students, and for business purposes and meant that it was not feasible to use our survey data or to make assumptions to calculate these emissions. Despite this, our scope 3 emissions have increased compared to both the baseline year and previous reporting year, this is due to the release of an updated version of the Higher Education Supply Chain Emissions tool (HES CET), in which reviewed assumptions led to an overall increase in scope 3 carbon emissions associated with procuring goods and services.



Environmental management systems (EMS)

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Maintain ISO 14001:2015 certification	Certification to ISO14001:2015 Standard using a UKAS accredited certification body	2014	Not certified	Achieved certification in 2016 and maintained thereafter	Maintain certification and continually improve environmental performance	<div></div>

Ethical investment

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Adhere to the commitments in the University's Ethical Investment Policy	Compliance with the Ethical Investment Policy	2014	Ethical Investment Policy in place and compliant	Maintained compliance	Maintain compliance with the ethical investment policy	<div></div>



Learning for a sustainable future

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: All 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Deliver, embed and enhance activities that develop knowledge, skills and attributes for sustainable development amongst students	Percentage of returning students that perceive they are gaining the skills and knowledge that are helping them understand key global sustainability issues	2015/16	59.7%	77.8% <sup>32</sup>	80% by 2020-21	<div></div>
Support professional development opportunities that equip staff with the knowledge and skills to embed Education for Sustainable Development, and support the sustainability commitments of the University	Percentage of staff who feel that the University has provided professional development opportunities that increase awareness and understanding of environmental sustainability	2016/17	39.7%	27.3% <sup>33</sup>	50% by 2020-21	<div></div>
Deliver effective communications that support knowledge, skills, and attributes for sustainable development and promote our reputation as a leading sustainable University	Student perception of Manchester Met as an environmentally sustainable university	2013/14	67.1%	75.3% <sup>34</sup>	Maintain score of 80%	<div></div>
	Staff perception of Manchester Met as an environmentally sustainable university	2015/16	75.8%	71.9% <sup>35</sup>	Maintain score of 80%	<div></div>

**Explanation of performance where targets not achieved**

**Student perception of knowledge and skills for sustainable development** – although we were marginally short of our 80% target, achieving 77.8% in 2020/21, there has been a continual improvement in the proportion of returning students who indicate that they are gaining skills and knowledge to understand sustainable development issues as part of their University experience.

**Staff perception of professional development opportunities for environmental sustainability** – The indicator is measured biennially through the University’s travel and sustainability survey for staff, which was last undertaken in 2020. We are not able to get an accurate assessment of our performance in the 2020/21 reporting year. Despite this, we took many positive steps, launching our Carbon Literacy programme for staff in 2020 and Carbon Literacy programme for Leaders in 2021.

**Student perception of Manchester Met as an environmentally sustainable university** – we were marginally short of achieving our 80% target, and the findings indicate that perception of the University as an environmentally sustainable institution has increased to 75.3% from 67.1% in the 2013/14 baseline year.

**Staff perception of Manchester Met as an environmentally sustainable university** - the 2020 travel and sustainability survey for staff indicated that perception of the University as environmentally sustainable has decreased to 71.9% when compared to 75.8% in our baseline year 2015/16. The indicator is measured biennially through this survey, last being undertaken in 2020, meaning we are not able to get an accurate assessment of our performance in the final reporting year 2020/21.

Pollution prevention and legal compliance

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 14, 15

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Reduce number of reportable pollution incidents to air, land and water	Number of pollution incidents	2014	Zero	Zero reportable incidents since 2014	Zero pollution incidents	<div></div>
Determine and understand the University's environmental compliance obligations and evaluate our compliance status	Number of major non-conformances due to a breach in our compliance obligations	2014	Zero	Zero major non-conformances since 2014	Zero major non-conformances related to a breach in our compliance obligations	<div></div>

<sup>32</sup> and <sup>34</sup> Data Source: 2020/21 student enrolment survey  
<sup>33</sup> and <sup>35</sup> Data Source: 2020 staff travel and sustainability survey



Resilience to climate change

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 11, 13

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Ensure the University is developing emergency plans to respond to severe weather and flooding	Emergency plans developed and tested	2018	No plans developed	Plans developed and tests undertaken at least every 18 months	Plans to be tested every 18 months	<div></div>
Develop and deliver training to staff to ensure the University is prepared for climate change risks	Training delivered	2015/16	No training was developed or delivered	Training delivered in 2016/17 and each year after	Training delivered by 2018-19	<div></div>

Sustainable buildings

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 15, 16, 17

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Improve Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings for new builds	EPC rating	2014	Not applicable	All new buildings achieved EPC ‘B’ rating: - Brooks Building and Energy Centre - Grosvenor East, formerly Arts and Humanities building	Achieve B rating or above	<div></div>
Achieve BREEAM ‘excellent’ Rating for new builds	BREEAM rating	2014	Not applicable	1 out of 2 achieved BREEAM excellent rating: - Brooks Building and Energy Centre (Excellent rating) - Grosvenor East building, formerly Arts and Humanities building (Very good rating)	Achieve ‘excellent’ rating or above	<div></div>
Achieve SKA rating for appropriate building refurbishment projects	Level of SKA rating	2014	SKA framework not used before 2014	All refurbishment projects achieved SKA silver rating: - Ormond - 6 Great Marlborough Street - Student Hub project	Achieve SKA silver rating (on refurbishment completion)	<div></div>
Explanation of performance where targets not achieved						
<b>Environmental rating of new buildings</b> – The Grosvenor East building achieved BREEAM ‘very good’ rating rather than ‘excellent’ because the building’s energy strategy did not meet the mandatory requirements for BREEAM (2014) ‘excellent’. Beyond 2024, we are developing a net-zero buildings strategy, which will entail delivering buildings that have lower embodied carbon and are highly energy efficient.						

Sustainable and ethical procurement

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 16

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Improve sustainable procurement practice	Level of Flexible Framework	2014	Level 2 Flexible Framework	Level 4 achieved in 2018/19 and maintained	Achieve level 4 by 2018/19	<div></div>

Travel management

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 7, 9, 11, 17

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Reduce number of Manchester-based single occupancy vehicle (SOV) journeys direct to campus	Percentage SOV rate	2015/16	25.9%	15.4% <sup>36</sup>	Maintain a rate of less than 20%	<div></div>
Increase the uptake of staff journeys made by active travel modes (cycling and walking)	Percentage staff journeys to Manchester campus made by cycling or walking	2013/14	15.4%	17.3% <sup>37</sup>	19% by 2020/21	<div></div>
Increase journeys to Manchester campus made by public transport	Percentage of staff journeys to Manchester campus made by public transport	2013/14	44.1%	59.7% <sup>38</sup>	60% by 2020/21	<div></div>
Increase the uptake of student commuting journeys by active travel modes (cycling and walking)	Percentage student journeys to Manchester campus made by cycling or walking	2013/14	42.7%	51.8% <sup>39</sup>	67% by 2020/21	<div></div>
Increase the proportion of low emissions vehicles in the University’s core vehicle fleet	Percentage of low emissions vehicles	2013/14	We had no low or zero-emission vehicles in 2013/14	64.7%	75% by 2020/21	<div></div>
Explanation of performance where targets not achieved						
<b>Student commuting journeys by active modes</b> – Although we have fallen short of our target of 67%, this still represents a significant proportion of students who choose to commute to University by active modes of transport, and when we view students’ overall transport choices, 92.4% commute either by public transport or by active travel.						
<b>Low emissions fleet vehicles</b> – overall, we are extremely proud of the progress we have made towards electrifying our vehicle fleet and investing in our electric vehicle infrastructure. In the reporting year 2020/21, we consolidated our vehicle fleet and now own fewer fleet vehicles than in previous years by removing an electric van that was not fully utilised. This affected our overall performance score meaning we fell short of achieving our 75% target.						

<sup>36, 37 and 38</sup> Data Source: 2020 staff travel and sustainability survey  
<sup>39</sup> Data source: 2019/20 student enrolment survey, ‘away’ students defined as living at a term-time address



Waste and resource management

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 9, 12

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Increase reuse and recycling (on-site)	Reuse and recycling rate	2007-08	11.3%	61.1%	60% by 2020/21	<div></div>
Divert waste from landfill (excluding waste from all building projects)	Percentage of waste diverted	2015/16	99.9%	99.8%	Maintain 95% waste diversion	<div></div>
Divert waste from landfill (including waste from all building projects)	Percentage of waste diverted	2015/16	99.3%	92.7%	Maintain 85% waste diversion	<div></div>

Water management

Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 6, 15

Objective	Key Performance Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline Figure	Performance	Target	Target Met
Reduce total water consumption	Percentage reduction of total water use	2010-11	196,896 m3	-49.1% <sup>40</sup>	25% reduction by 2020/21	<div></div>
				94,219 m3		
Reduce mains water consumption	Percentage reduction of mains water use	2010-11	196,896 m3	-49.1% <sup>41</sup>	35% reduction by 2020/21	<div></div>
				94,179 m3		

ASSURANCE AND VERIFICATION

Scope

NQA has undertaken an independent verification for Manchester Metropolitan University's Environmental Sustainability Statement 2020/21. The scope of NQA's verification covers the data and information associated with Manchester Met's sustainability performance for the period 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021. The Environmental Sustainability Statement covers the University's commitments and progress towards the aims and objectives in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 - 2021.

Level of assurance and methodology

The evidence-gathering process was designed to obtain a limited<sup>42</sup> level of assurance to ensure the data and information provided are accurate, reliable, and comparable.

To understand the process that Manchester Met adopted to ascertain key information in the statement, the compilation process was discussed as part of the ISO 14001:2015 certification process.

Systems and processes for collecting, collating, and reporting sustainability performance data were verified. The verification procedure included reviewing relevant documentation, interviewing responsible personnel with accountability for preparing the reporting contents, and verifying a selected representative sample of data and information.

Independence

NQA was not involved in calculating, compiling, or developing the Environmental Sustainability Statement. NQA's verification activities are fully independent from Manchester Metropolitan University.



Principal Assessor Energy and Environment



<sup>42</sup> Limited assurance refers to the level of certainty that something is accurate because no proof to the contrary is present

<sup>40</sup> and <sup>41</sup> The mains and total water consumption figures are the same due to the borehole water abstraction system in the Business school not being operational in the reporting year 2020/21.



# GLOSSARY

- **BREEAM** - the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) is an established method of assessing, rating, and certifying the sustainability of buildings.
- **Carbon emissions** — when we refer to our carbon emissions, this includes carbon dioxide and carbon dioxide equivalents.
- **Carbon dioxide equivalent or CO2e** — means the number of metric tons of carbon emissions with the same global warming potential as one metric ton of another greenhouse gas.
- **Display Energy Certificates (DEC)** — provide an energy rating of a building from A to G, where A is very efficient, and G is the least efficient and they are based on the actual amount of metered energy used by the building over 12 months.
- **Flexible framework** — the framework is a self-assessment mechanism that allows organisations to measure and monitor their progress on sustainable procurement over time.
- **ISO 14001:2015** — is the international standard that specifies requirements for an effective environmental management system (EMS). It provides a framework that an organisation can follow, rather than establishing environmental performance requirements.
- **Scope emissions** — Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are categorised into three groups or ‘scopes’ by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the GHG Protocol. Scope 1 covers the emissions that an organisation makes directly, scope 2 are the emissions that an organisation makes indirectly, such as the energy it buys for heating and cooling buildings, and scope 3 are emissions that cover all emissions linked to the organisation’s value chain.
- **SKA** — an environmental assessment method, benchmark, and standard for non-domestic refurbishment projects.
- **Zero-carbon** — causing or resulting in no net release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Manchester Met is working towards zero-carbon for scope 1 and 2 carbon and carbon equivalent emissions by 2038, as defined by the Tyndall Centre’s proposed science-based targets and definition of zero-carbon for Manchester (‘Playing our full part’).



<sup>1</sup> Ranked first in the People and Planet University League 2021  
<sup>2</sup> Ranked 66th out of 1,154 global institutions in the Time Higher Education Impact Rankings in 2020  
<sup>3</sup> Including a reduction in scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions since a baseline year of 2005/6  
<sup>4</sup> Zero carbon as defined by the Tyndall Centre’s proposed targets and definition of zero carbon for Manchester (‘Playing our full part’), including direct scope 1 and 2 emissions  
<sup>5</sup> Total number of Carbon Literacy certifications from 2012 – 2020/21  
<sup>6</sup> A definition of this term is provided in the glossary, page 28  
<sup>7</sup> Based on returning student responses in the 2020/21 online enrolment survey  
<sup>8</sup> Excluding large scale building and refurbishment projects, data for 2020/21 reporting year  
<sup>9</sup> Mains and total water, data for 2020/21 reporting year  
<sup>10</sup> An accredited programme which takes a whole institution approach to embedding to sustainability and social responsibility across all aspects of learning and development  
<sup>11</sup> Since 2014 winning in the categories of student engagement, sustainability reporting, tomorrow’s employees, and enterprise  
<sup>12</sup> A definition of this term is provided in the glossary, page 28  
<sup>13</sup> A definition of this term is provided in the glossary, page 28  
<sup>14</sup> Give it, don’t bin it - an end of term donation and recycling campaign in Manchester working with charity partners the British Heart Foundation and the Manchester Food Bank  
<sup>15</sup> Awarded by the Sustainable Restaurant Association, which recognises commitment to sustainability across our catering and hospitality services  
<sup>16</sup> Certified by the Living Wage Foundation in 2020



# CONTACT US

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Thanks to the commitment of our staff, students, neighbours, and partners, we have made tremendous progress in reaching so many of our 2021 goals – and we intend to be even bolder in the future. If you would like to find out more, or if you want to share your thoughts and ideas, we would love to hear from you.



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