

Sustainable UCL Annual Report

2018-19



SSG Chair welcome



On October 17th 2019, UCL launched its new Sustainability Strategy. The Strategy represents over two years work - consulting and engaging with our community and those that live and work around UCL - to establish a set of commitments which are arguably the boldest and most ambitious in the sector. Over the next five years, we are going to try and achieve net zero carbon emissions across our estate, become single use plastic free and deliver a significant increase in green space. And the institution will aim to be a net zero carbon institute by 2030!

Why do we want to do this? Well, UCL has a rich history of taking radical steps to tackle societal issues and given the scale of the climate and ecological crisis now facing us, this was the right thing to do for our institution and, as one of the world's leading research universities, we wanted to use our unique role to catalyse wider change.

To achieve these commitments, we will need to draw on the knowledge and experience of our diverse and talented community of academics, students and professional staff. We will also need to build on the work which UCL has already undertaken through its Sustainable UCL programme. It is in that respect that I am pleased to share this annual report with you.

This report is a testimony to the work which is already taking place across UCL - reflecting the energy and enthusiasm of our community to tackle social and environmental issues. Through our research, we are providing the insight and solutions to tackle the challenges of sustainable development. Our students are agents of change - from challenging what they are being taught to establishing the student conference on sustainability. And our professional teams are working together to identify ways in which we can support our core activities both efficiently and sustainably.

I hope this report inspires you to take action, whether that is as an individual, as part of a departmental team or as an institutional leader. We all need to work together to show that sustainable change is possible.

Professor Geraint Rees

Dean of the UCL Faculty of Life Sciences
Chair of UCL's Sustainability Steering Group

The year in numbers

ISO 14001 : 2015 Standard certification maintained

July 2019 - University College London ranked 18th in the People and Planet league table, out of 150 institutions

1st class award the People and Planet University League

BREEAM achieved final certification for 7 projects;
Bentham House – **Excellent**
22 Gordon Street – **Excellent**
Courtauld – **Excellent**
Charles Bell House – **Excellent**
Student Centre - **Outstanding**

618 students and staff pledge to switch off during Christmas and Easter Switch off campaigns, saving £134,000 and that's equivalent to planting 5,733 trees
*On average, one tree can consume approximately 60kg of CO₂ from the atmosphere

Green Impact - **93 awards**, over 60 teams and 100 Green Champions

£350,000 saved from energy efficiency

250m² of solar panels on the Student Centre and Bloomsbury Theatre have generated 29 megawatt hours of electricity to date – enough to charge nearly a million smartphones

Ditch the disposable **250,000 disposal cups** saved by introducing a cup charge

No. 1 – Position on Warpit league table; Warp It league table is a performance table of all organisation using Warpit. Reuse this year resulted in 26,195 Kg waste diverted and **£321,830 saved**

1000 – The number of meals diverted from waste via food go app

7 departments pledged to go vegetarian. Powered by Plants

Carbon emission continue to fall with our current carbon emissions **20% below our 2005** baseline

Change Possible

The Foundations are the building blocks for embedding sustainability across our institution; an approach to sustainability inspired by our traditions of disruptive and courageous thinking and a desire to make an impact on the world we live in.

Foundations: UCL Inspires Action

Foundations: UCL is run sustainably

Foundations: UCL shapes the debate



Foundations: UCL Inspires Action

As London's Global University with a diverse community, UCL has an opportunity to inspire sustainability action on an international scale. Working with our community and beyond, this report highlights some of the actions that have taken place over the last academic year 2018 – 2019.

UCL Inspires Action

The year started with the launch of the UCL Climate Action Society with a fantastic Sustainability Symposium. The society is now the fastest growing student society at UCL; a sign of the extraordinary level of sustainability interest and action from the UCL community. Interest which is being reflected in UCL's teaching programme with commitments from the Bartlett to increase sustainability teaching, 440 many people students taking part in the Global Citizenship programme.

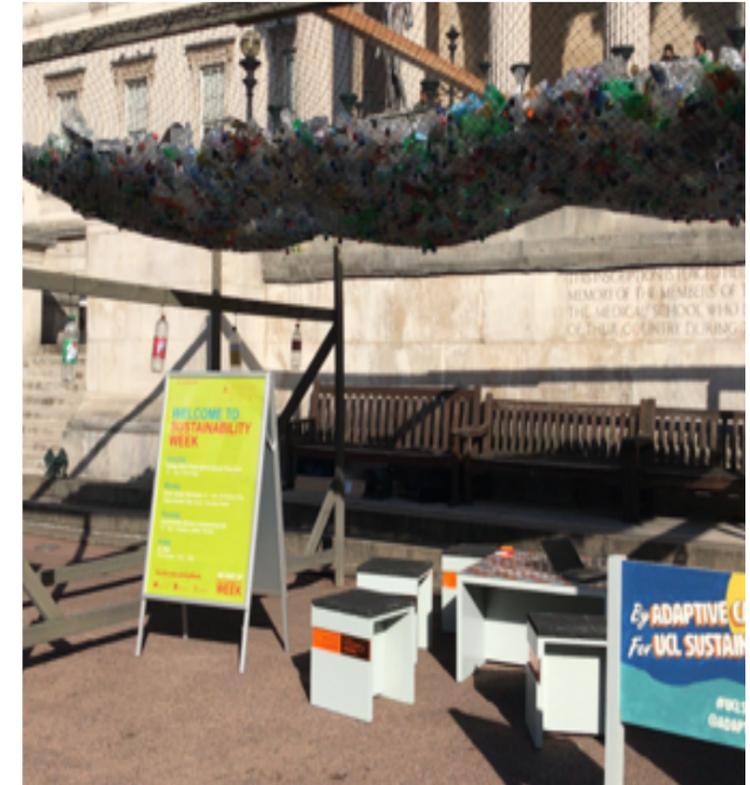
The Green Champion programme has also gone from strength to strength with over 100 green champions, across 60 teams taking place in 93 awards.

“By 2024 Every student will have the opportunity to study and be involved in sustainability”

CASE STUDY

Reflect Your Future

Reflect your Future is a fun campaign that educates students on how to lead healthy, sustainable lives without breaking the bank and compromising on style. It runs within UCL's halls of residences and touches on sustainability topics which are popular to students such as food and fashion. Events were well attended and included a bike-powered cinema, vegetarian cooking lessons and monthly clothes swaps. Termly competitions were also introduced between halls. During food week, students were given chilli seeds, and competed against each other to harvest the highest number of chillies. During the energy week, students took part in solar-powered car racing and competed to reduce the most amount of energy per hall. In the fashion week, students were encouraged to share photographs of themselves on social media with their favourite top and to tag the retailer asking them #who made my clothes? The aim was to challenge the fashion industry on their sustainability performance.



UCL's Great Pacific Garbage Patch

UCL's Great Pacific Garbage Patch, an installation during sustainability week, was aimed at highlighting the issue of single use plastic. Throughout the past year UCL has hosted a variety of events to inspire action including sustainability tours, repair cafes, free bike maintenance, a sustainability market and a sustainability careers fortnight.

CASE STUDY

Architecture Declares – Sustainability Award

The Bartlett School of Architecture (BSA) have declared a climate and ecological emergency. With the built environment producing 40% of global CO₂ emissions, and contributing to habitat destruction and biodiversity loss, students of The Bartlett School of Architecture, have demanded changes to the curriculum in architecture schools.

In an open letter, which gained 700 signatories worldwide, students called for the curriculum to better prepare them to design environments which reverse catastrophic biodiversity loss, climate and ecological breakdown, address associated social and environmental injustice, and mass extinction of nature.

In response the BSA have initiated the following:

A Citizen's Assembly - a working group of staff and students to explore how architectural education and research can avert catastrophic climate change and irreversible biodiversity loss

A voluntary register of intent for each of the school's teaching, research and administrative streams to record their actions and strategies in response to the declaration.



Student Sustainability Conference

UCL's Student Sustainability Officer Seher Ghufour and her team of student sustainability ambassadors organised UCL's first student-led sustainability conference showcasing student research on sustainability. Highlights included San Francisco's sustainability action plan, the essence of rebellion and system dynamics for sustainability and health.

CASE STUDY

Little LEAF



Whilst competing in the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition, UCL students Clare Robinson and Rupali Dabas fashioned their own campaign to embed sustainability into the fabric of the competition. Taking inspiration from UCL's Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF), which provides criteria to help departments make their labs sustainable, the 'Emerald Challenge' (emerald being a green gem) seeks to help students competing in the iGEM competition practice sustainable research. To gain 'Emerald Status,' students must complete a set of criteria from taking photographs of positive sustainable practise, to listing the materials which are usable for future contestants and documenting negative findings to prevent repetition of research. UCL's iGEM team have been meeting with Westminster and Oxford teams to launch the challenge. It is now taking on the title of 'Little LEAF'.



Emerald Challenge

UCL Inspires Action Priority actions for 2019/2020

1. Work with Connected Curriculum to launch sustainable curriculum toolkit and incentive scheme.
2. Revise sustainability induction module for all staff, students and contracted staff.
3. Review all relevant job descriptions to ensure sustainability is adequately represented.
4. Integrate sustainability into leadership training and academic careers and core behaviour frameworks.

Foundations: UCL is run sustainably

For UCL to thrive in the next century, we must make a sustainable and socially responsible way of operating the new normal; becoming a key consideration in our planning, processes and culture.

In June 2019, UCL was certified to ISO14001: 2015 standard following a successful external surveillance audit on the universities Environmental Sustainability Management System (ESMS).

The final report noted UCL has good engagement with staff and students on environmental protection and clear and effective leadership from the Provost down through the various levels of the University.

The certification demonstrates UCL is taking a holistic and strategic approach to environmental sustainability management.

CASE STUDY

It's All Academic - A Sustainable Festival



OVPA is leading the way in making UCL's events environmentally and socially responsible through the 'It's All Academic' Festival. With over 3,500 attendees, the festival has sought to reduce its environmental and social impact through 100% vegetarian catering, digital tickets, free water dispensers, biodegradable glitter painting and a reusable cup scheme. The team behind the event, sought to use it to demonstrate how small actions can all be part of creating a sustainable future. Attendees were encouraged to bring their own cups, tupperware and cutlery and were given advice on cycling and walking routes to the festival. The event also showcased UCL's research on climate change and sustainability.

As a result of the festival, we are sharing the sustainable festive guide with other event organisers at UCL.



Waste Management and Recycling

UCL continues to send zero waste to landfill and we are achieving overall recycling rates in excess of 60%, with some locations regularly achieving over 80% (all considerably higher than the national rate of around 45%).

As we push towards phasing out single-use plastics, there has been a keen focus on packaging materials in particular. The introduction of separate 15p pricing for disposable coffee cups a year ago, part of our 'Ditch the Disposable' campaign has helped to increase drinks sales in reusable cups from around 5% to well over 20% across the campus. Some outlets are already achieving figures close to our initial 30%

target. As a result, we have saved almost 250,000 disposable cups across UCL.

And whilst disposable cups can't be recycled with our standard mixed recycling, dedicated coffee cup recycling bins are now being trialled in the main refectory.

UCL Estates continued to upgrade and replace waste facilities including hundreds of brand new bins. This is helping us achieve a standard approach to recycling across our residential and academic buildings.

Of course, we need the continued support of the wider UCL community to help achieve our goal of 20% waste reduction and eliminating disposables altogether!

UCL Shop – Sustainable products

The UCL Shop is making huge strides in addressing the sustainability of its products. The clothing range is a mix of Climate Neutral and Fair Share Fashion both of which have a traceable supply chain confirming compliance with Sustainable UCL requirements.



#RefillRevolution

This year nine more water fountains were installed across the campus. The fountains are in locations with easy access for students to fill up their bottles. This included a portable unit being set up in the main quad over the hot summer months.



CASE STUDY

Pushing the boundaries of sustainable construction at UCL East

The first two buildings at our new campus in Stratford will be amongst the most sustainable within the UCL portfolio and true exemplars for the wider HE sector. Work started on site in summer 2019 and the landscape is already beginning to change dramatically.

- The developments are subject to ambitious and exacting environmental requirements spanning energy efficiency and carbon emissions; biodiversity; material resource efficiency; and pollution.
- Tapping into the Olympic Park's district heating network will provide efficient, low carbon heating for the buildings.
- Approximately 1000m² of solar (PV) panels on the Marshgate building will be our largest array to date, contributing to an overall 40% reduction in carbon emissions compared to building regulations.

UCL is run sustainably

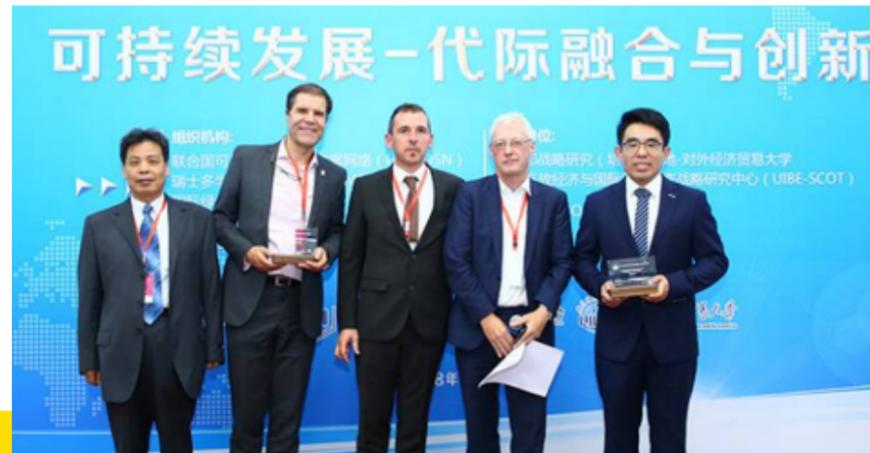
Priority actions for 2019/2020

1. Establish UCL Student Sustainability Council and Staff Sustainability Forum to increase accountability.
2. Launch live reporting of UCL's sustainability impacts.
3. Roll out first phase sustainable infrastructure (e.g. water fountains, bike parking and sustainable catering).

Foundations: UCL shapes the debate

UCL has always pursued a research agenda rooted in positive societal change; with environmental protection and social equality arguably representing the challenges of our age.

Bringing disparate parts of our community together through Grand Challenges, UCL Public Policy, UCL Research Domains and Enterprise activities has already led to fresh sustainability innovations. But we are also looking outside of UCL; creating solutions in partnership with communities from our local neighbours in Camden to the Congo Basin.



CASE STUDY

UCL researcher wins World Sustainability Award

Dr Zhifu Mi, Lecturer in Economics and Finance of the Built Environment at The Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management, has been presented with the prestigious 2018 World Sustainability Award at the World Sustainability Forum in Beijing.

The award recognises Dr Mi's work on climate change economics and sustainability, particularly the methodologies and applications of carbon foot printing.

His work on carbon foot printing aims to track carbon emissions along interregional trade routes, helping to address the challenge of carbon leakage

in which an emissions reduction in one region results in an increase in carbon emissions in another.

Zhifu's current work centres around two topics:

Consumption-based carbon emission accounting. Most current emission inventories are taken at the point of production. Zhifu's work considers the methodologies and applications of consumption-based emission accounting, in which all emissions occurring along the production and distribution chain are allocated to the final consumers of products.

Sharing economies as a pathway to sustainable societies. In collaboration with Professor D'Maris Coffman, Zhifu's research explores a new business model for a sharing economy in which public authorities, enterprises and consumers can collaborate to achieve environmental and societal benefits.

[Click to find out more](#)

Living Lab

The UCL Living Lab is an opportunity to use the university campus and operations as a focus for research or study.

UCL's catering supplier Sodexo partnered with the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering (CEGE), as four students were invited to investigate the elimination of single use plastic in the catering industry, using the refectory as a test bed. The project focused on the elimination of plastic cling film, being widely used across the catering sector.

Sodexo achieved a 28% reduction in cling film use, by adopting the measures suggested by the students.

- Replace open boxes with click close boxes for delivery of hospitality food
- Use cloth covers for tray and food trolleys instead of wrapping film around them
- Increase the training and awareness to staff to not excessively use cling film, such as the poster below.

Every year plastic kills
1 million birds and
100,000 marine animals.



CASE STUDY

How climate change is impacting UK frogs

Climate change has already increased the spread and severity of a fatal disease caused by Ranavirus that infects common frogs in the UK, according to new research led by ZSL's Institute of Zoology, UCL and Queen Mary University of London.

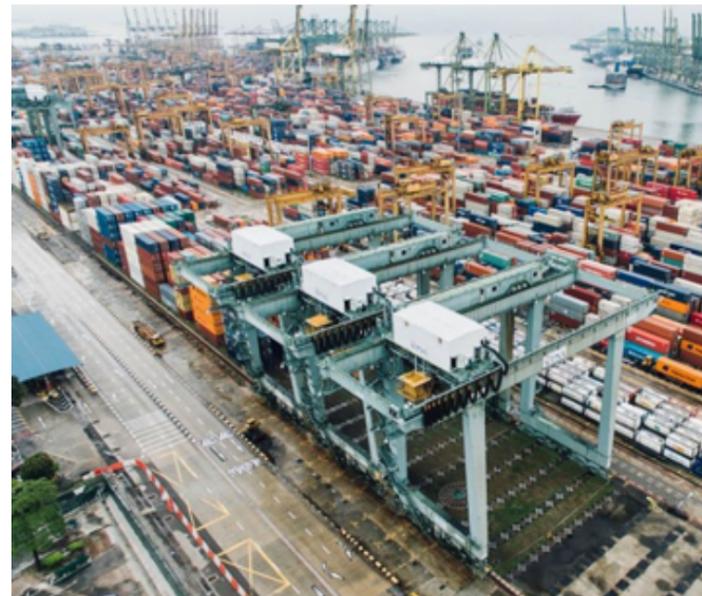
Historic trends in mass-mortality events attributed to the disease were found to match the pattern of increased temperatures recorded over recent decades, with disease outbreaks predicted to become more severe, more widespread and occurring over a greater proportion of the year within the next few decades, if carbon emissions continue at their current rate.

"Climate change isn't something that's just happening in faraway places – it's something real and present that's already had hard-to-predict impacts on wildlife in our own back gardens here in the UK," said lead author Dr Stephen Price (UCL Genetics, Evolution & Environment and ZSL's Institute of Zoology).

[Click to find out more](#)

Reducing shipping's carbon footprint

The Bartlett's Energy Institute is behind the research that's helping shape shipping's transition to a low-carbon future.



[Click to find out more](#)

CASE STUDY

UCL experts advise UK's Committee on Climate Change

The recommendation by the Committee on Climate Change to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050 is "achievable" with the right policy reforms and should be seen as an "industrial opportunity" according to UCL's two experts who advised the independent body.

Professors Jim Watson and Paul Ekins (UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources) chaired Groups which fed into the CCC's latest report "Net Zero – The UK's Contribution to Stopping Global Warming" and informed key recommendations.

The report shows there are multiple benefits of a transition to a zero-carbon economy, including benefits to people's health from better air quality, less noise from quieter vehicles, healthier travelling options through cycling and walking, healthier diets and increased recreational benefits from changes to land use.

Professor Paul Ekins, said: "Hopefully the CCC net zero report will lay to rest once and for all the misperception that deep decarbonisation is either impossibly difficult or impossibly expensive."

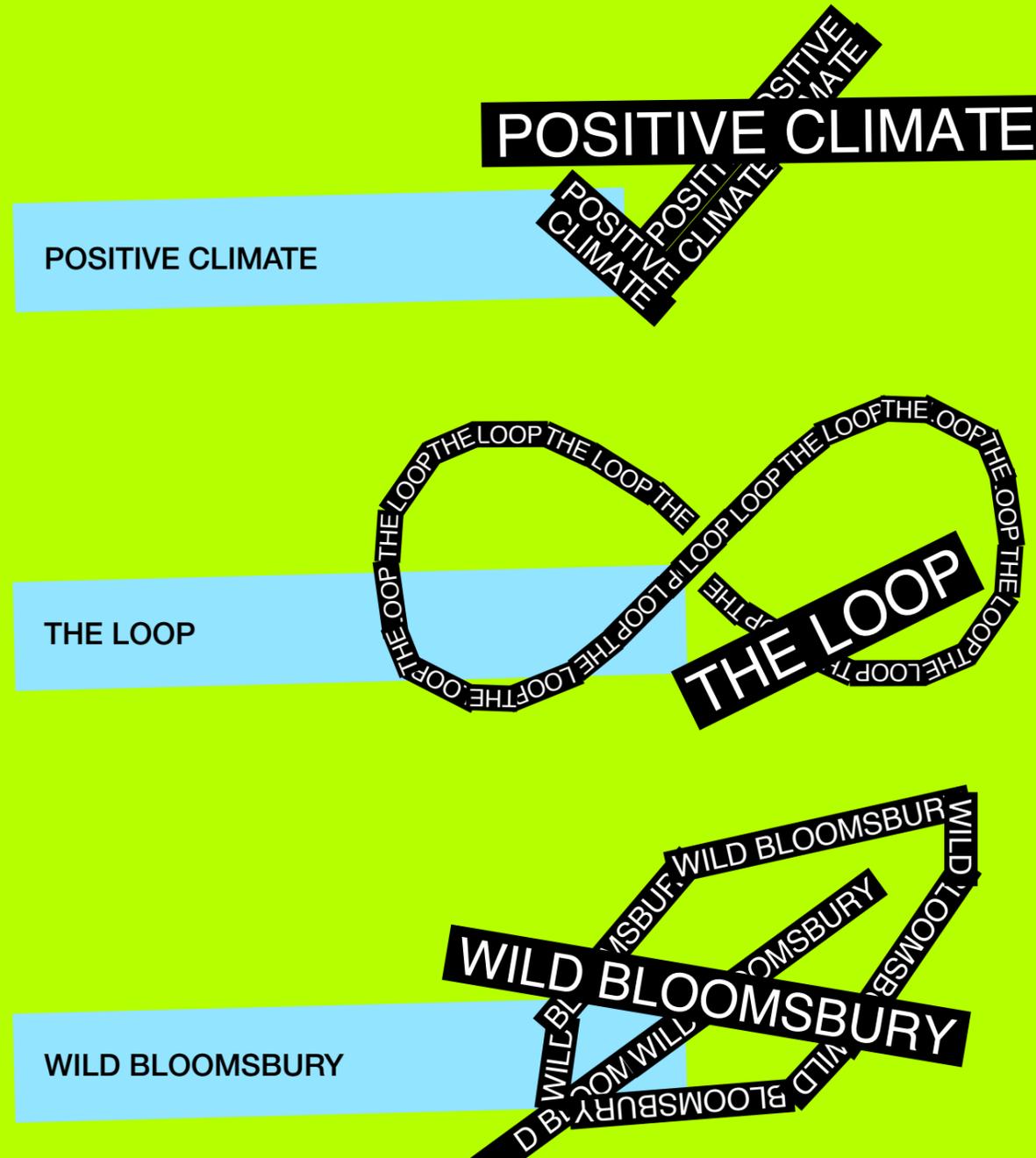
[Click to find out more](#)

UCL Shapes the debate Priority actions for 2019/2020

- 1.** Grand Challenges adopt the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for action.
- 2.** Achieve Living Wage accreditation.
- 3.** Establish Sustainability Community of Practice.
- 4.** Establish local community sustainability forum to share our work and increase linkages.

Signature Campaigns

Our three Signature Campaigns provide an initial focus for bringing together our teaching, research and operations to tackle social and environmental challenges.





Powered by Plants

Initiated by UCL's department for Psychology and Language Science, multiple departments across UCL (including the Senior Management Team) and other Psychology departments globally, have signed up to provide vegetarian-only catering at meetings and events.

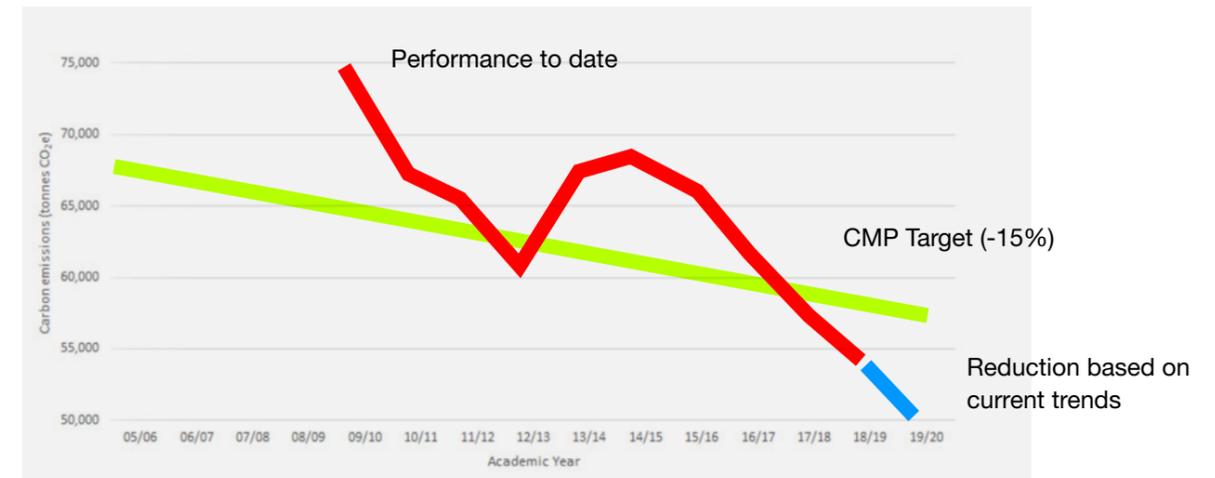
Inspired by academic research from UCL, the campaign aims to enhance the health and wellbeing of staff and students and reduce UCL's carbon footprint. If all departments switched to 100% vegetarian catering, UCL's food emissions would be reduced by 40%, equivalent to taking 1,000 cars off the road.

UCL's catering team are looking at the carbon footprints of different vegetarian options, so that we aren't replacing our meat dishes with high-carbon, less healthy foods like cheese. Locality and environmental credentials such as Fairtrade, Organic Association and plastic packaging are also taken into account.

UCL's contribution to the Camden Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change

UCL Academics and Sustainable UCL supported Camden Council to launch its Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change. The Assembly brought members of the community together to identify the best ways to tackle the climate crisis. Professor Mark Maslin (UCL Geography) who was one of David Attenborough's

UCL carbon reduction performance compared to CMP target



Carbon emissions continuing to fall

UCL's Carbon Management Plan committed us to reducing our carbon emissions by 15% by 2020. Thanks to both energy reduction initiatives at UCL and more renewable energy replacing coal power on the national grid, we have successfully achieved that target and more, with our current carbon emissions 20% below our 2005 baseline.

experts in his BBC One film "Climate Change: The Facts" introduced the Assembly sessions on the science of climate change and the potential solutions. Professor Simon Lock (UCL Science & Technology) helped Camden work out how to get the best out of the Citizen Assembly and also how they can record the detailed discussions and measure outcomes. Joanna Marshall-Cook from Sustainable UCL talked to the Assembly about the actions that large organisations like universities and businesses could take in tackling the climate crisis.

The ideas developed by the Assembly were presented to Camden's full Council in October. The Council will then have the opportunity to debate the proposals and the Cabinet Member for Improving the Environment will be able to propose a motion on potential new targets.

Positive Climate

Headline commitment
zero carbon by 2030

Sub-commitment:
40% reduction in energy use by 2024



CASE STUDY

Living Lab: Making clean energy even cleaner

Sustainable UCL is always looking for ways to combine our operational work with the research interests of our academic community.

Last summer Isa Ibrahim, a student on the MSc Environmental Design and Engineering within the Bartlett School of Environment, Energy and Resources, carried out his dissertation project investigating issues around the maintenance of solar panels. He monitored a small array of panels situated on the roof of Central House and carried out a series of cleaning programmes for each panel to assess the effect of dust deposition in a central London location. It was found that on average the electrical power generation of the panels could be increased by around 25% after two rounds of cleaning. This has implications not only on energy generation from the array itself, but also associated carbon emissions and income via the feed-in tariff mechanism for PV's. It is likely that an improved maintenance regime will be cost effective in a very short time span for most installations.

MSc EDE Dissertation: Ibrahim I., (2018) The Current State of Small-Scale solar PV Systems in the UK: Causes of Degradation and How to Increase Output without Affecting Your Feed-In Tariff.

Supervisor: Dr Ben Croxford, UCL Estates advisor: Ciaran Jebb.



Installing solar power at UCL

This year UCL fitted solar panel installations to the roofs of two of our buildings, the Institute of Archaeology and the Langton Close hall of residence.

One contribution towards being a zero carbon institution in 2030 is for UCL to generate more of our own energy from renewable sources. In central London, the easiest way to do this is to produce zero carbon electricity using solar panels.

These panels will produce around 13,000 kWh every year, preventing almost 4 tonnes of carbon emissions. The output from the panels can be seen in the reception area of the Archaeology building - pop in and have a look next time you are passing to see the impact of renewable energy at UCL in real time!



POSITIVE CLIMATE



CASE STUDY

Clean Energy Projects Society

Sustainable UCL are not the only ones interested in solar panels – this year they worked with a group of students to install a 30kW solar array on the roof of the Langton Close hall of residence.

The Clean Energy Projects Society was set up with three main aims: to increase the share of UCL's energy supplied by renewables, to promote student engagement in clean energy and deliver collaboration between students and staff. Jamie, one of the founding members of the society, described the project:



“We delivered documentation needed to progress the project, including a business case for UCL Estates and design & access statement for the planning application. We held a workshop for other interested students, to enable their involvement in certain aspects of the project, but also to

receive their feedback and ideas. Through site visits and discussions with contractors we gained a better understanding of the practicalities involved in delivering a project. It's wonderful to look back on my time at UCL and think about not only coming away with an MSc but also helping to decarbonise UCL.”



Arran says: It was great to be able to use the financial modelling skills that I picked up in my masters to work on a real business case for something I cared about. It was so gratifying to go and visit the solar panels and see the results of our work.

Jamie, Ali, Arran and Pauls of the Clean Energy Projects Society at the Langton Close solar installation



Ali says: Working on the Langton Close project was great because it allowed us to gain experience in some of the more practical aspects of sustainability transitions. We were lucky in being able to work closely with the Sustainable UCL team to deliver the project – it's amazing to see it completed!



Pauls says: When learning about the immense sustainability challenges in the classroom, you can sometimes feel a bit overwhelmed. Delivering this project with fellow students and friends reminded me that you can make a difference in so many ways!



Enabling low carbon travel choices

In July 2019, UCL Finance amended the travel policy stating staff should choose the most carbon-efficient way of reaching their destination, even if this may not necessarily be the cheapest. To aid this, UCL's travel Booker, Key Travel, presents the carbon emissions of air journey options, and messaging has been added to promote rail travel over flying for European destinations under 6 hours by rail from London.



It's a Vegan thing

Vegan food every day, everywhere. Following the success of Vegan Thursdays, UCL now serves at least one vegan food option every day across all our catering outlets.

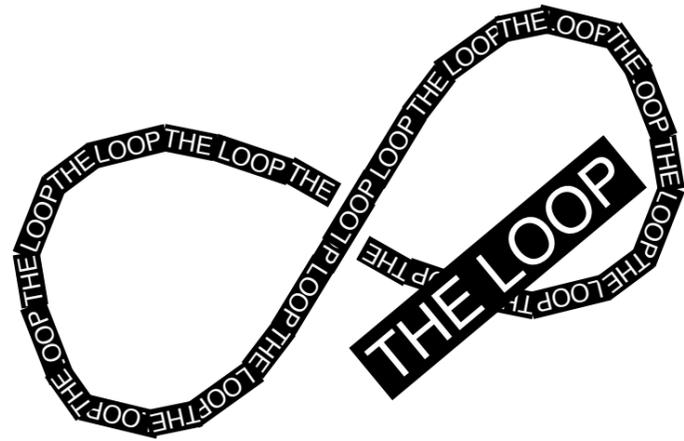


Positive Climate Priority Actions 2019/2020

1. Perform a climate review of UCL Investments.
2. Continue programme of energy efficiency improvements to reduce energy use.
3. Review UCL buildings for climate change resilience and implement adaptation measures.
4. Launch Climate Accountability Scheme (combining a carbon price with behavioural nudges) to incentivise climate action by departments.
5. Climate change integrated into institutional decision frameworks.

**UCL is supplied
by 100%
renewable
electricity**





Headline commitments

**By 2024: Reduce waste per person by 20%,
Be a single-use-plastic free campus**

Gold Standard Procurement

In 2019 UCL achieved the Gold standard for the Responsible Procurement Code, following a joint external audit of the Procurement Department and the Sustainability Team. Previously scoring Silver in 2015 this demonstrates the progress made. It recognised our robust environmental and ethical requirements in tender documents and strong supplier engagement. Importantly it provides

UCL with an improvement action plan; achieving Platinum will centre on formalising training and engagement with all staff on procurement and purchasing decisions.



Fairtrade

UCL's Fairtrade Policy has been updated this year, adding a commitment to source Fairtrade staff uniforms for our new contracts, and to stock more products in our shop. This will be driven by a newly formed UCL Sustainable Food Working Group, which includes representatives from Sustainable UCL, UCL SU, UCL's caterers and student groups. The group's remit will include leading on Fairtrade activity at UCL.

UCL also joined the University Fairtrade Networking Group to share and gain knowledge with other Higher Education institutes.

CASE STUDY

Designing out Plastic Waste at UCL

In October 2018 UCL signed the New Plastics Economy Global Commitment to reduce plastic use. This is supported by many actions across UCL; including a high profile EPSRC programme designing out Plastic Waste Innovation hub led by Professor Mark Miodownik. The programme's aim is to develop new ways to design-out waste from plastic packaging and create new business opportunities.

Sustainable UCL is working with the Designing out Plastic waste team on the next in our programme to eliminate single-use plastics, focussing on disposable coffee cups. This will involve surveys and working groups with staff and students to identify further opportunities to build on our 'Ditch the disposable' campaign and, all being well, work towards a new pilot initiative in 2020.

Also as part of the hub Professor John Ward and Professor Helen Hailes are developing a new recycling technology for plastics using bacteria to break them down into reusable material; compost bins are currently installed in Gordon Square gardens to test the bacteria.

Students' Union UCL and their suppliers are taking steps to reduce usage of

plastics. Actions taken by SU bars and cafés include:

- the provision of biodegradable forks instead of plastic
- fully compostable material for lunch boxes, pots and wraps
- no longer putting forks into salads, but rather distributing them to customers if required at the till
- the removal of plastic straws in the bars

A number of actions have been taken to reduce single use disposables in UCL's catering operation:

- Refectory shop stocks totally plastic free water/drinks products range.
- Reduced the amount of cling film used in kitchen and hospitality, as a result of student led research project.
- Sourced and now trialling a disposable-free hospitality offer, including melamine crockery and wooden salad boxes.



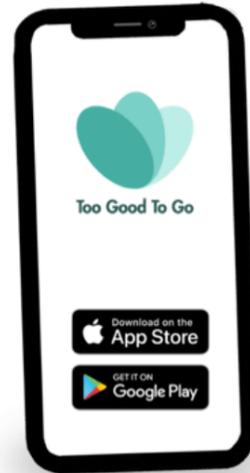


Project Period

UCL started a conversation about periods (and period products) at the Professional Services Conference in June 2019. At this event, colleagues were invited to pitch their ideas for improvements or innovation with the promise that the COO would personally support the development of the winning idea.

After seven projects presented their ideas to the audience and judging panel, Project Period was chosen as the winning idea, and is clearly an important topic for the UCL community.

A working group has been formed to lead this project. The team are keen to understand how periods impact work at UCL and to ensure that we improve understanding of periods across the community as well as consideration for the sustainability impacts of period products.



Food that's too good to go

In a bid to reduce food waste, UCL's caterers have joined the Too Good to Go app, which allows customers to purchase unsold meals that would otherwise go to waste, at a discounted price. This year saw over 1000 meals from the refectory sold and diverted from waste.



Repair Café

Since starting in 2017, UCL's Repair Cafés have gone from strength to strength. This year the group put on a Repair Café in March, as part of the Centre of Critical Heritage Studies Week. With new skilled helpers the event included clothing repairs, bicycle fixing, electronic and musical instrument repair as well as a clothes swap and advice about household maintenance.

Tackling Modern Slavery

This year sustainability and procurement have written additional standard questions for UCL tender process to investigate how suppliers are addressing Modern Day Slavery. These are aligned to best practice - the Government's Transparency in Supply Chains Guidance and the Ethical Trading Initiative's Guidance documents.

We conducted a risk analysis to score our spend categories 1-5 for risk of exploitation and slavery. We will prioritise investigation, by developing actions plans for the high risk (4-5) categories initially.

Reyooz – re-homing valuable furniture and equipment

As part of the ongoing transformation of the UCL estate, large quantities of older furniture and equipment have been made surplus to requirements and needed a new home.

To provide new lives for these items, UCL has been working with Reyooz, an online platform that other organisations can use to claim equipment UCL no longer needs.

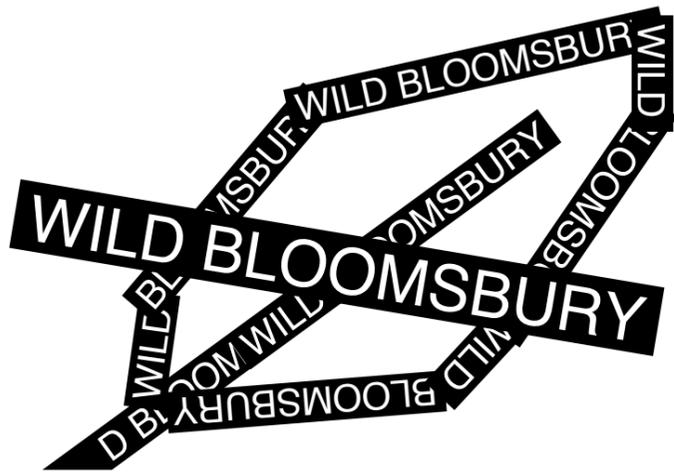
UCL Estates has worked with Reyooz across seven different sites and found homes for over 75,000kg of goods, including a suite of dental chairs and x-ray machines, medical equipment, books, several hundred exam desks,

building materials and standard office furniture. This has saved over 132,000kg of embodied carbon and helped us maintain our policy of sending zero waste to landfill.

A variety of small- to medium-sized charities and enterprises have benefitted from reusing UCL's goods, including the Young Barnet Foundation, 1Love Community Shop, and the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre.

The Loop – Priority Actions 2019/2020

1. Train purchasing staff in sustainable and ethical procurement best practice.
2. Review event catering to reduce food waste, and expand existing waste food redistribution schemes.
3. Establish logistics hub and start track and trace for deliveries.
4. Launch high profile recycling communications campaign.
5. Roll-out key single-use plastic alternatives in catering and laboratories.



Headline commitments

Create 10,000m² of more biodiverse green space on campus.

Greening Malet Place

A number of acer trees were planted on Malet Place at part of greening improvements to central campus.



CASE STUDY

Space for biodiversity at UCL's astronomical laboratory

The Space and Climate Physics department at Mullard Space Science Laboratory near Dorking are making the most of their unusual location in Surrey's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Green Impact team have been busy protecting and improving the site's biodiversity; building a duck house and bug hotel to protect their existing residents. The site already had four allotments and this has increased to ten over the past year. These allotments are managed by individuals at the lab who



want to grow their own produce, including one managed by the sites' head chef, who is growing fresh produce to be used in the lab canteen. MSSL potatoes, radishes, pumpkins, chamomile, and beans have been grown and eaten. Not stopping there, the team plan to plant shrubs to attract wildlife and install a wildlife pond to provide a home for dragonflies, hedgehogs and birds.

Architects create algae bio-curtains to capture carbon dioxide

An alternative to urban trees known as 'bio-curtains', which use the power of algae to photosynthesise carbon dioxide to release oxygen has been developed by architects from EcoLogicStudio, who collaborated with academics from The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL and the University of Innsbruck.

[Click to find out more](#)



Cargo bike trial

UCL's Logistics and Sustainability teams supported Camden Council's successful £1 million bid from the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund to take action to reduce air pollution across the borough. The bid includes developing a cargo bike delivery network in the borough, and UCL will be the first organisation to trial cargo bike loans from Camden Council. These will be tested by the postal team to replace a van, offering a zero carbon delivery service.



UCL Conservation Society Highlights

This was the UCL Conservation Society's first year as a union affiliated society with many new students.

In April 2019, the society ran a Bioblitz on Gordon Square as part of the City Nature Challenge 2019, and discovered over 180 different species of plant, insect, bird and other wildlife. This included their first ever photograph of a Stock Dove, first confirmed sighting of a Common Whitethroat and a species of camel-necked fly.



The ever popular bird walks saw its 50th walk earlier in the year, and over the course of the year added several new species to their Bloomsbury list, including Dunnock, Coal Tit and Mistle Thrush, and some new species with breeding records, too, such as the Starling and Goldcrest.



Aside from the Society's regular mini-conferences on topics such as rewilding and food sustainability, they had a high-profile guest lecture given by George McGavin in December 2018 on the state of insects in the UK.

Bringing farmland ponds back to life to protect Britain's wildlife

A new campaign designed to inspire farmers and the public to restore unloved farm ponds, has been launched by UCL, which aims to achieve at least 50 pond restorations by the end of 2019.

The Big50 is a partnership including UCL, the Norfolk Ponds Project, the Upper Wensum Farm Cluster Group, Gloucestershire Farming & Wildlife Advisory and The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. Big50 is set to bring farmers and

local volunteers together to foster an awareness and appreciation of the value of ponds to biodiversity conservation. Restorations will take place in Norfolk, Lancashire and Gloucestershire.

Over the last 50 years farm ponds have been in-filled to create more agricultural land, while remaining ponds have been greatly neglected and become overgrown with trees making them dark and inhospitable to many species. These two forces have led to widespread declines in farmland pond biodiversity.

Researcher Helen Greaves (UCL Geography) said: "Ponds are a lifeline for Britain's wildlife providing food and habitat throughout the year, but they are in decline. This is a national crisis. We are calling on farmers and the public to help to bring Britain's ponds back to life and reverse this worrying decline."

[Click to find out more](#)



Wild Bloomsbury Priority Actions for 2019 / 2020

1. Baseline environmental and social challenges and opportunities in Bloomsbury.
2. Design a Living Landscape plan for UCL East with the community.
3. Establish Wild Bloomsbury Network to co-create nature-based conceptual framework for Bloomsbury.
4. Develop an active travel strategy for UCL in partnership with Camden and other local stakeholders.
5. Launch live air pollution monitoring for the UCL campus.

What will I do – Pledges

We have been asking UCL departments, staff and student for their sustainability pledges;

See our pledges what will you do?

we pledge to :

UCL Geography's travel policy asks all staff not to take any domestic flights

UCL Research Department of Epidemiology & Public Health – Pledge to aim for silver

UCL Geography's travel policy asks all staff not to take any domestic flights

OVPA have made their It's All Academic Festival plastic free and carbon neutral

I pledge to use less heating in halls

I pledge to buy more sustainable clothing rather than fast fashion

St Johns ambulance pledges to make sure we correctly dispose of our clinical waste.

Chemical Engineering and nine other departments are taking part in UCL's Carbon Accountability Scheme

I pledge to research and buy more sustainable clothing

I pledge to eat less meat

I pledge to use less utilities and research waste-free companies

I pledge to buy less plastic products and recycle more

I pledge to join the Global Climate Strike

TO MAKE A SUSTAINABLE UCL POSSIBLE.

Sustainable UCL

Get in touch

This report is a round up of the many sustainability actions that take place across UCL. The Sustainable UCL Team are listed here, please get in touch with your stories or requests for support.

sustainableucl@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/sustainable

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[Twitter.com/SustainableUCL](https://twitter.com/SustainableUCL)
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Richard Jackson
Sustainability Director



Joanna Marshall-Cook
Senior Sustainability Manager
(Energy & Carbon)



Ben Stubbs
Senior Sustainability Manager
(Built Environment)



Emma Shirbon
Sustainability Manager
(EHS & ESMS)



Ciaran Jebb
Assistant Sustainability
Manager (Energy)



Hannah Biggs
Sustainability Projects Lead



Alex Jones
Assistant Sustainability
Manager
(ESMS & Procurement)



Martin Farley
Sustainability Labs Advisor



Poppy Stockbridge
Sustainability
Communication Intern



Katie Robinson
Sustainability
Communication Intern



Emily Phelps
Sustainability Labs Intern