

The background of the cover is a photograph of a UCL campus scene. On the left is the curved, glass-walled building. In the center is a canal with a bridge. On the right is the red, spiral tower. The sky is blue with some clouds. A large yellow banner with black text is overlaid on the center.

UCL's Sustainability Annual Report 2021-22

FOREWORD BY THE PROVOST

It is with great pleasure that I present to you our 2021-22 UCL Annual Sustainability Report, marking an important milestone in our commitment to making change possible.

Over the past decade, the drive and ambition of the UCL community to foster a sustainable future has elevated UCL to the status of a sustainability leader within the Higher Education sector. In 2019, in line with our bold, brave and global culture, we set a series of ambitious sustainability commitments. This report is an honest account of our progress against these commitments, the challenges we have faced, and the lessons learnt, whilst implementing an innovative sustainability programme across such a large and multi-faceted institution.

Despite significant challenges, primarily the global pandemic, financial uncertainty and geopolitical instability, we have made huge strides towards shifting the culture and core business of UCL to become a sustainable institution throughout our teaching, research and operations. This report highlights some of the success stories within the last year. From developing UCL's first Net Zero building at PEARL, to launching a UCL-wide Climate Hub to bring academics


and researchers together and represent UCL on an international stage at COP27.

Despite a lot of the positive work which has been taken forward, it is important that we position our work on sustainability in the context of our new Strategic Plan and accompanying Financial and Estates Strategies. The UCL 2022-2027 Strategic Plan identifies a number of opportunities to strengthen UCL's sustainability work. For example, the development of the Grand Challenge on Climate Crisis provides the focus to scale-up our climate research and use this to support the way we tackle climate through our operations.

As such, we have made the decision to develop an ambitious Sustainability Plan to lead us up to 2027 and beyond. This represents a progression from our existing strategy, better reflects UCL's position as a global institution and will be informed by the most up-to-date science on climate and sustainable development from our academic community. Rather than waiting until 2024, we have chosen to proactively review our strategies now, taking into consideration these learnings and the renewed direction from UCL's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan.

This is an exciting phase in our journey, and we celebrate the successes to date, but also recognise the challenge and look to collaborate and engage our community to bring about genuine sustainable transformation at UCL. The institution has come a long way, and this report is an accurate reflection of that progress and illustrates just how engaged our community is in addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member of our community who has contributed to our sustainability journey so far, and I invite you all to read this report to gain insight into our progress, challenges and future aspirations.

 [UCL Strategic Plan \(2022-2027\)](#)

 [Change Possible: 2019-2024 Sustainability Strategy](#)



Dr Michael Spence AC
UCL President & Provost

INTRODUCTION: EMBRACING AN EVOLVING SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Welcome to our UCL 2021-22 Annual Sustainability Report. This report reflects the progress against UCL's Sustainability Strategy: Change Possible and celebrates achievements from across the UCL community. It also signifies the beginning of enhancing the current UCL Sustainability Strategy, through an ambitious Sustainability Plan, within the context of the UCL Strategic Plan 2022-27.

When we first embarked on setting our 2019-2024 Sustainability Strategy, we recognised the scale and urgency of the climate emergency and the pressing need to create ambitious commitments. Our history at UCL shows that we have always been pushing boundaries and UCL's ambition to be at the forefront of research and action was clear when setting the 2019-2024 Sustainability Strategy.

The commitments were set through a year-long consultation between academics, students and staff and were driven by ambition, hope and positivity. After four years of working on delivering the strategy, we have witnessed remarkable progress and impactful campaigns that have significantly contributed to our

sustainability goals. However, it is important for us to review our approach, acknowledging that much has changed over the past four years and there is now an opportunity to reflect and plan the best way forward given these changes.

With the appointment of our new Provost, Dr Michael Spence, and new UCL 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, we can more effectively align our sustainability strategy with the overall UCL goals and mission. This means we must more closely align with the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, Financial and Estate's Strategy. The emergence of the Grand Challenge on Climate provides a focused direction and unlocks additional resources to harness our research power and inform our operational approach. This Grand Challenge presents a unique occasion to consolidate our efforts, leverage our intellectual capital, and drive sustainable change on a broader scale and we are excited to see how it fits into the new Sustainability Plan.

We recognise that external factors beyond our control have influenced our ability to meet some commitments. The last few years have been challenging for us all and the global pandemic, financial uncertainty, rising inflation and geopolitical instability, have made an impact across the world.

By acknowledging these external factors and embracing the need for resilience, we can work together to create a robust Sustainability Plan. Evolving the strategy will enable us to adopt a holistic approach, which recognises UCL's global impact across a range of aspects.



INTRODUCTION: EMBRACING AN EVOLVING SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Within the current strategy some targets, albeit commendable, lacked the necessary precision to effectively track progress. By adopting a more specific approach, we can transparently assess our impact, identify mitigative actions, and measure their benefit. The greater methodological certainty provided by the Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework (SCEF) framework, now offers a comprehensive and sector specific approach to the measurement of our carbon emissions, which will assist in the development new targets in the next phase of the strategy.

Furthermore, the goal to be net zero by 2030 has been discussed at length and increasingly, concern has been expressed over the reliance on “offsetting” as a means to achieve this target. Reflecting this need for genuine emissions reductions, we are developing a new UCL Carbon Reduction Framework, with our academics, students and professional services community, to enhance efforts in minimising UCL’s greenhouse gas emissions comprehensively across scopes 1, 2, and 3, before exploring offsetting for our residual emissions.

In the pages that follow, you will find a comprehensive overview of our 2021-2022 sustainability efforts and achievements, as well as a glimpse into the new direction we are taking. We invite you to read the report, explore the initiatives, and envision the possibilities that lie ahead. Together, let us continue to strive for excellence in sustainability, leveraging our collective knowledge, expertise, and determination to create a more sustainable and resilient future for our university and the world.



UCL'S CHANGE POSSIBLE STRATEGY

THE VISION:

A SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE IS POSSIBLE

OUR CAMPAIGNS:

POSITIVE CLIMATE
THE LOOP
WILD BLOOMSBURY

THE FOUNDATIONS:

1. UCL inspires action
2. UCL is run sustainably
3. UCL shapes the debate

OUR HEADLINE COMMITMENTS PROGRESS IN 2021/2022

Foundation/ Signature Programme	Commitments for 2024	Progress
UCL Inspires Action	Every student will have the opportunity study and be involved in sustainability.	188 sustainability related modules and 115 climate related modules, an increase of 46 from 20-21. 2,160 modules that related to one or more of the SDG's (35%). 159 Student Sustainability Ambassadors completed the programme.
UCL Shapes the Debate	We will increase our sustainability research with increased focus on the Sustainable Development Goals.	824 Sustainable Development Goal citations in public policy. <i>In the last five-year reporting period (2017-2022) UCL had 59,8091 SDG-related research publications.</i>
UCL is Run Sustainably	For UCL to thrive in the future, we must make a sustainable and socially responsible way of operating the new normal.	UCL re-certified for international standard for energy and environment ISO 14001 / 50001. 85 teams took part in Green Impact and Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (2021). A record 134 staff teams took part (2022).

THE FOUNDATIONS:


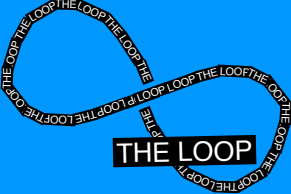

Our approach is underpinned by three Foundations:

**we inspire
action;**

**we are run
sustainably;**

**and we shape
the debate.**

OUR HEADLINE COMMITMENTS PROGRESS IN 2021/2022

Foundation/ Signature Programme	Commitments for 2024	Progress
Positive Climate 	Our buildings will be net zero carbon by 2024.	53% carbon reduction from building energy use in 21-22, compared to 18-19 baseline. <i>100% renewable electricity already secured.</i>
	UCL will be a net zero institution by 2030.	62% reduction from 18-19 baseline. <i>An inflated figure because of a pandemic-related reduction in organisational travel continuing through 21-22.</i>
The Loop 	Be a single use plastic free campus.	100% disposable free hospitality service. Launch of Club Zero, a cup returning scheme across campus alongside UCL's 25p
	Reduce waste per person by 20%.	60% waste reduction rate per person - <i>this was largely due to the lower level of activity on the campus.</i> Recycling rates of 54% with the remainder incinerated for energy recovery. <i>Full 22-23 data will provide a more realistic barometer of progress against baseline.</i>
Wild Bloomsbury 	Create 10,000m ² of more biodiverse space on campus.	Student-led Medawar Gardens project led to a small increase. <i>523m² of additional biodiverse space has been added since 2019.</i> <i>Completion of large capital projects will add a further 4,296m².</i>

CONTENTS

**UCL INSPIRES
ACTION**

7

**UCL IS RUN
SUSTAINABLY**

10

**UCL SHAPES
THE DEBATE**

12

POSITIVE CLIMATE

14

THE LOOP

16

WILD BLOOMSBURY

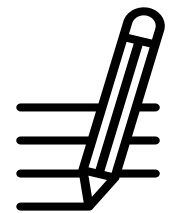
18

CONCLUSION

20



**MORE
STORIES**



21

FOUNDATION 1

UCL INSPIRES ACTION

UCL Inspires Action is one of the three foundation programmes that seeks to embed sustainability across our institution.

As London's global university with a diverse community, we have a unique opportunity to inspire a generation of change makers that will take the lead on climate and sustainability action across the world.

COMMITMENTS

Every student will have the opportunity to study and be involved in sustainability

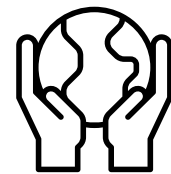
Our staff feel supported to be sustainability leaders whatever their role at UCL

Our community feel recognised and rewarded for their sustainability contributions

KEY PROGRESS

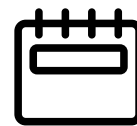
1,600

students completed a sustainability induction



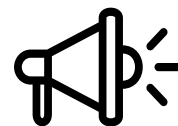
1,654

students attended sustainability events during welcome week



159

student ambassadors



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Further integration of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) can support a future-focused approach to education by equipping students with skills and knowledge for sustainable choices and future job market demands.

Excellent progress has been made, however the measurement of outcomes resulting from students and staff involvement could form the focus of future commitments.

PROGRESS

Welcome

In 21/22 1,600 students completed either the Sustainability Induction on Moodle or the 'green module' on the UCL Introductory programme.

In 21/22 1,654 students attended Sustainability events and the fair during Welcome Week.

Sustainability in the curriculum

In 21/22, 2,160 modules had content related to the SDGs (35% of modules). The module catalogue has been updated to highlight sustainability related modules.

Targeted engagement at a Faculty level has helped to support new modules but also greater integration of sustainability within existing modules. For example, the Medical School's new Health and Climate module and a carbon footprint exercise for all MAPS and Life Sciences students.

Co-curricular offer

UCL's existing programme, the [Living Lab](#) enables students to solve UCL's sustainability challenges through dissertations and student projects.

Extra-curricular offer

Launch of the UCL Sustainability Student Council in 2019 and the Sustainability Ambassador programme in 2020. So far, 159 student ambassadors have completed the programme.

Liaison with the SU to create the [Sustainability Hub](#), which provides a clearer route for students to engage with sustainability focused societies and events.

HIGHLIGHTS



UCL celebrated a decade of sustainability action

The 2022 Sustainability Awards ceremony was a culmination of 10 years of sustainability action. A record 134 staff teams made sustainable changes to their work environments and practices via Green Impact and LEAF.

The awards also celebrated 9 special winners for outstanding sustainability contribution to teaching, research and operations at UCL and beyond.



Students compete to use AI to help tackle climate change

UCL's Artificial Intelligence Society launched an international competition, Climate Hack.AI, in which students at 25 universities competed to use AI to help reduce global carbon emissions.



HIGHLIGHTS



Sustainable Medicine

The PCPH Primary Care Medical Education Team re-designed the Year 5 GP course for students to incorporate sustainability into formal teaching. The aim of the course is to educate future practitioners and leaders that can:

- Advocate for planetary health measures on a population level;
- Create health and practice medicine in ways that are environmentally responsible;
- Lead systems change through quality improvement and innovation to achieve a NetZero NHS.

This is following the UCL Medical School's Declaration of a Climate Emergency in May 2021.



Charity COP26 football match to raise awareness of eco-anxiety

UCL climate scientists teamed up with celebrities, YouTubers, social media stars and football players from Celtic and Rangers, to play in a 'Game of History' at COP26 in an effort to raise awareness of the damaging effects of eco-anxiety on young people.



FOUNDATION 2

UCL IS RUN SUSTAINABLY

UCL's second sustainability foundation programme, UCL is Run Sustainably, is based on the recognition that for UCL to thrive in the future, we must make a sustainable and socially responsible way of operating the new normal.

That is why sustainability is a key consideration in our planning processes and culture.

COMMITMENTS

Sustainability is fully integrated into planning, processes, and delivery at UCL

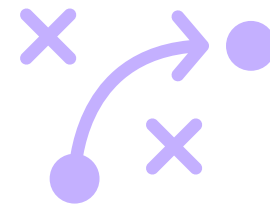
Our campus is a showcase of sustainable solutions inspiring visitors and our community

Our sustainability impacts are reported transparently, and our staff and students hold us to account

KEY PROGRESS

x6

Six monthly reports to the University Management Committee



Sustainability is a key consideration in UCL's strategic plan consultation

1st

UCL has issued its first Sustainability Bond Impact Report

HIGHLIGHTS

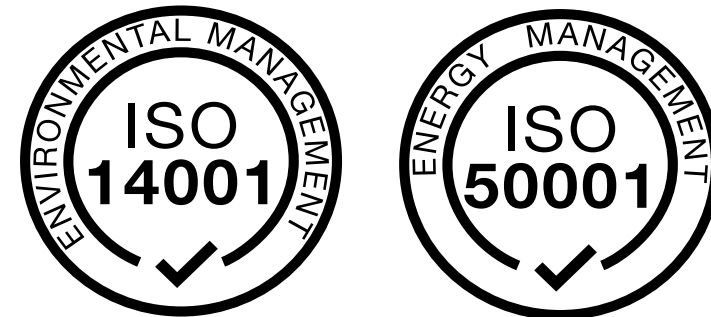
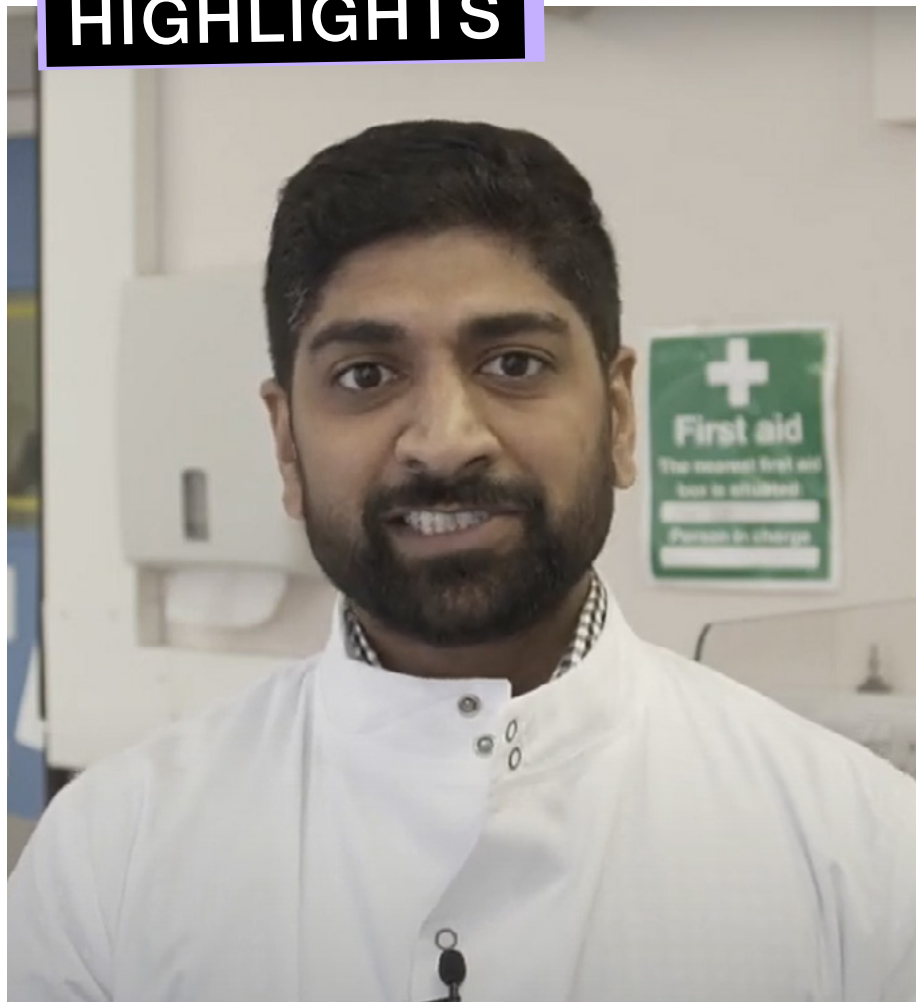


UCL joined U7+ university climate pledge

Ahead of COP26, UCL joined leading universities from around the world to open up new opportunities for students to help tackle the climate crisis.



HIGHLIGHTS



UCL passed first surveillance audit for ISO 14001 / 50001

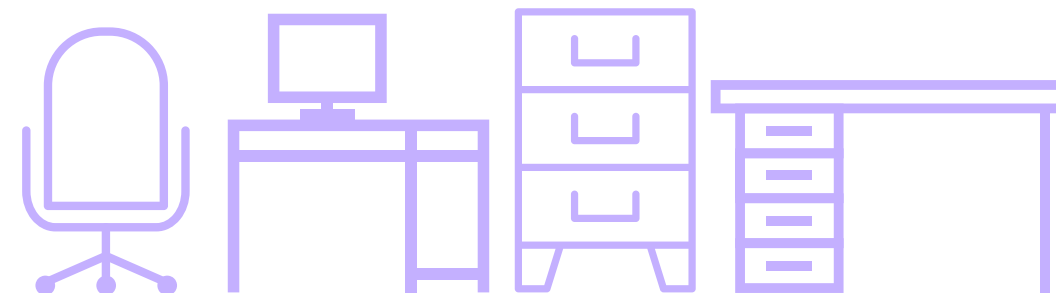
In 2021, UCL was certified to an international standard for energy and environmental management across our full scope of university operations. In 2022, UCL was re-assessed and retained its certification.



Circular Furniture at UCL

Wesley Knapp, Decants and Moves Manager in Estates Development has significantly progressed the agenda around maximising the reuse of furniture across a wide variety of projects by using tools such as Warpit and Reyooz; as well as day-to-day activities working with project teams and UCL logistics colleagues.

Wes is also carrying out audits of UCL spaces prior to strip out to see where and how things can be reused. This has prompted a new partnership with 'Brightsparks' a company which will come in before clearances and take away what we don't need, repurposing it for use in social housing, and for families who are struggling to furnish their homes within the community.



UCL leads the race to make laboratories sustainable

Writing in Nature, Martin Farley (Sustainable UCL) highlighted what institutions are doing to make their laboratories more sustainable, such as using UCL's Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF), and what's still needed.



FOUNDATION 3

UCL SHAPES THE DEBATE

Our third foundation is UCL Shapes the Debate.

It focuses on creating a dialogue with local and global communities to co-create and test sustainability solutions and provide informed science to the public.

COMMITMENTS

Increase our sustainability research with an increased focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Spark debate to co-create sustainability solutions with the wider world

Research and innovation to deliver positive impact

Our estates and operations are a living lab for sustainability research at UCL

UCL is a positive partner in our community

KEY PROGRESS

2,000

Over 2,000 SDG Citations



1,780

climate pledges as part of the Generation One campaign

18,824

listens to the Climate Hub Podcast



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The development of our Sustainability Plan provides an opportunity to broaden the scope of this commitment to also monitor the sustainability of our research practices. Such a commitment would monitor the proportion of UCL laboratories enrolled in the LEAF program and wider adoption of LEAF as a laboratory assessment methodology within the sector.

LEAF is developed and led by UCL, serving as the leading laboratory assessment methodology. Currently, around 40% of the UK higher education sector utilises LEAF to minimise the impact of research activities, but we are looking to grow this even further.

PROGRESS



In 2020/21, UCL launched a university-wide initiative to maximise our impact on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets within the Goals. There have been 824 Sustainable Development Goal citations in public policy in 2021 and 1314 citations in 2020. In the last five-year reporting period (2017-2021) UCL had 59,8091 SDG-related research publications.

The UCL Climate Hub helped launch the Net Zero Innovation Programme (in partnership with the Local Government Association) which has fostered 24 collaborations between councils & universities across the UK to address climate challenges at the local level with 100% of participants ready to implement impactful projects in their local area to deliver impact.

UCL has also taken a number of actions in response to the opportunities presented by the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) and the forthcoming COP27.



UCL's Generation One campaign launched in the lead up to COP26 continued to raise awareness of our cross-disciplinary contribution to climate science and encourage the UCL community wider general public to tackle climate change. 1,780 pledges to have so far been made as part of the campaign ranging from joining a community climate group to undertaking citizen science projects. The podcast series has received 18,824 listens translating UCL's world leading climate research into understanding and action for people's everyday lives.

HIGHLIGHTS

New Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Education set out bold vision

UCL established a new centre to lead research into climate change and sustainability education which shapes the development of outstanding, free professional development for all teachers and school leaders.



UCL IIPP launches the UK Sustainable Development Solutions Network

As the host institution for the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), IIPP will convene UK universities to advance practical solutions to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.



UCL professor's global epilepsy consortium wins PR award for COP26 campaign

A global epilepsy consortium founded by Professor Sanjay Sisodiya (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology) won PR Week's 'Favourite Campaign of COP26' for a campaign to promote the links between epilepsy (and other neurological diseases) and climate change.

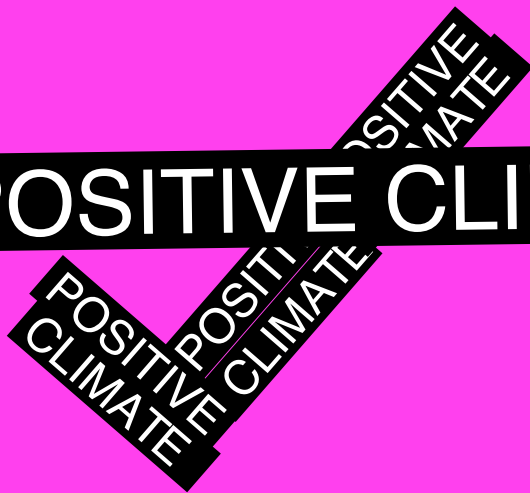


UCL archaeologists oppose the British Museum seeking new BP sponsorship

More than 300 archaeologists, including 14 from UCL, have signed a letter to the Board of Trustees of the British Museum calling on them to cut ties to BP.



POSITIVE CLIMATE



Positive Climate uses UCL’s wealth of climate change expertise and research to reduce carbon emissions.

COMMITMENTS

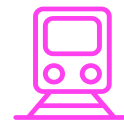
UCL has committed to zero carbon buildings by 2024, and being a net zero carbon institution by 2030.

- Deliver global impact while reducing the climate impact of staff and student travel
- Become a climate positive investor
- Prepare our institution to be resilient to the effects of climate change
- Inspire and enable Climate Change Action and Research

KEY PROGRESS

78%↓

Reduction of travel emissions against 18-19 baseline



62%

Reduction of overall tonnes CO₂e against 18-19 baseline

300

Over 300 tonnes of carbon saved in Easter and Christmas Switch Offs



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

UCL’s 2024 net zero building commitment was based on emissions reduction in scope 1 and 2, with the remainder being offset. Unfortunately, this faces challenges due to costly “Green” Gas (renewable/low carbon gas) and limited sources.

Concerns over relying on offsetting for the 2030 net zero goal has led to the development of a UCL Carbon Reduction Framework, prioritising emissions reduction in scopes 1, 2, and 3, in alignment with the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTI).

The Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework (SCEF) enhances precise carbon measurement for upcoming sustainability targets and offers a sector specific approach that did not exist before.

PROGRESS

Against the 18-19 baseline, overall progress towards the target of net zero is a 62% reduction.

Building emissions reductions were achieved through buying renewable electricity, energy saving projects and national grid decarbonisation.

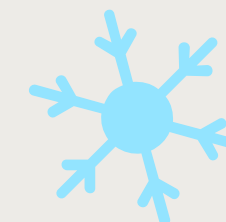
For organisational travel, the pandemic-led pause on travel has

resulted in a significant reduction in travel emissions.

In 20-21 & 21-22, these emissions were around 5% and 21% of pre-pandemic levels respectively.

To encourage lower levels of travel a new travel policy was implemented which requires the lowest carbon means of travel to be taken; this is complemented by an improved European rail travel booking system.

	tonnes CO ₂ e 2020-21	% of total CO ₂ e	% Change from Baseline 2018-19
Energy for our campus	25,501	76%	-53%
Travel	7,432	22%	-78%
Waste & Water	642	2%	12%
Total	33,574		-62%



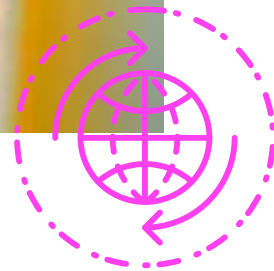
Christmas Switch Off campaign Savings were 816,959 kWh/ £114,374 / 173 tonnes of CO₂

HIGHLIGHTS



UCL expanded its opportunities for sustainable and accessible travel

UCL's travel provider launched a new European rail booking service for students and staff, facilitating sustainable travel to destinations in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain. The updated platform also provides improved options for disabled people by allowing booking of accessible hotel rooms straight from the site.



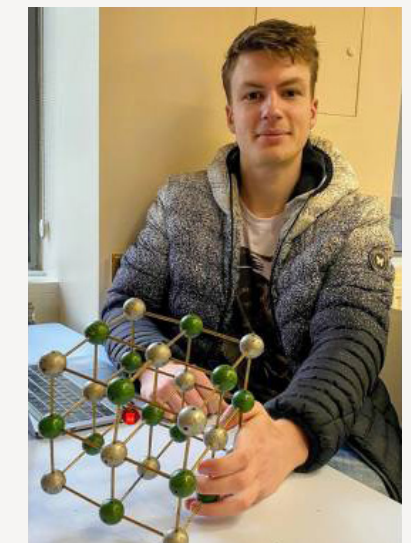
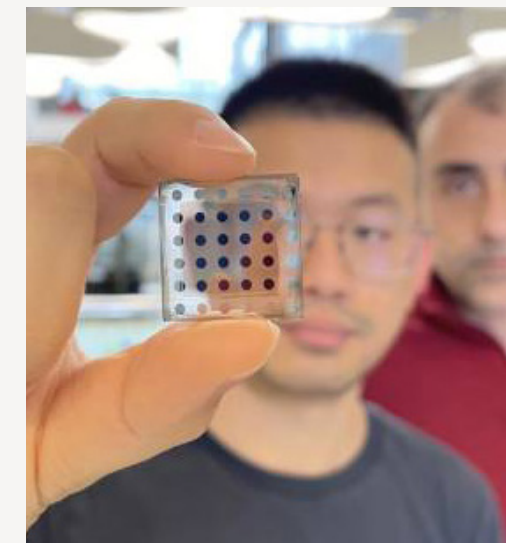
UCL climate tech spinout uses AI technology to cut industry emissions by gigatonnes

World-leading sustainability research from UCL and Cambridge University has been used to create technology which could cut CO₂ emissions in the global cement industry and other energy-intensive trades.



New efficiency record set for ultrathin solar cells

A team co-led by UCL researchers has substantially increased the efficiency of a new type of solar cell, potentially paving the way for its use as a low cost, environmentally friendly alternative to existing solar power technology.



THE LOOP

The Loop tackles unsustainable consumption by rethinking the way we use materials and specifying the best products for people and planet.

COMMITMENTS

By 2024, we aim to increase our recycling rate to 85% and decrease waste per person by 20%

Consume less by reducing, reusing, repairing and sharing

Single use items become a thing of the past

Maximise the value from our waste products

Working with responsible suppliers and support our local economy

Specify products with the highest environmental and wellbeing standards

KEY PROGRESS

60%↓

Aug 2021 to Jul 2022
Waste reduction rate was 60% - this was largely due to the lower level of activity on the campus



68/48

Recycling Rates
- 68% academic
and 48% student
accommodation



2,009

Total Waste
in Tonnes
- 2,009 tonnes

Plastics

We have clarified the scope of the commitment to focus on non-essential single-use plastic. Essential single-use plastic was defined as those plastics with no accessible, safe, or sustainable alternative. We remain data deficient at a university level on plastic waste and rely on industry progress across many categories.

Sustainability projects to reduce waste include:

- Implemented 100% disposable free hospitality service, with reusable cutlery and crockery provided.
- Introduced Plastic free sandwich packaging, minimal cling film and packaging used in cafes. Milk bottles, gloves and disposable cup lids are the only major streams of plastic waste left to reduce within the catering service.
- Launch of Club Zero across campus (returnable reusable cups) and a 25p charge on disposable cups, although uptake remains low with 77% of customers still using disposables in UCL run facilities.
- Incorporated plastic reduction criteria within UCL's LEAF programme and the Green Impact programme for sustainable offices.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Plastics

The lack of data on the volume of single use plastics as a separate waste stream, makes monitoring the progress towards this target difficult to achieve. Actions will be taken to address this as part of our wider efforts around waste.

Waste

To date, we have surpassed the target of a 20% waste reduction from the 18-19 baseline, primarily as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. The academic years 20-21 and 21-22 saw an 85% and 60% reduction respectively. The latter was significantly lower and indicates a return to more normal ways of working for UCL staff and students.

Sustainability projects to reduce waste include:

- 53 teams completed Green Impact and 78 teams completed the Lab Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) in 21-22, with numerous criteria in place to reduce waste in labs and offices.
- Beyond our directly measurable waste, a variety of initiatives are in place to reduce the quantity of materials arising from Estates projects. This includes construction site waste through BREEAM and SKA assessments, and furniture reuse in minor refurbishments.
- CH&CO, UCL's catering contractor, worked with Sustainable UCL to run disposable-free events at student and staff gatherings resumed.

Waste

Previously our data has not included a reliable baseline for residences, as these waste streams were managed separately until relatively recently. It should also be noted that due to the location and nature of our operation, our figures will also include some imported waste, not directly linked to institutional activities.

Whilst the reduction target is unambiguous, some greater granularity in reporting would be beneficial. To this end a waste stream analysis will be conducted in the new year. This will also us to assess the viability of monitoring single use plastic as a separate waste stream.

HIGHLIGHTS



UCL joined reusable cup scheme

UCL has introduced Club Zero to campus. This returnable cup scheme offers UCL staff and students the opportunity to borrow a cup when purchasing a drink and then drop it in one of the return points on campus.



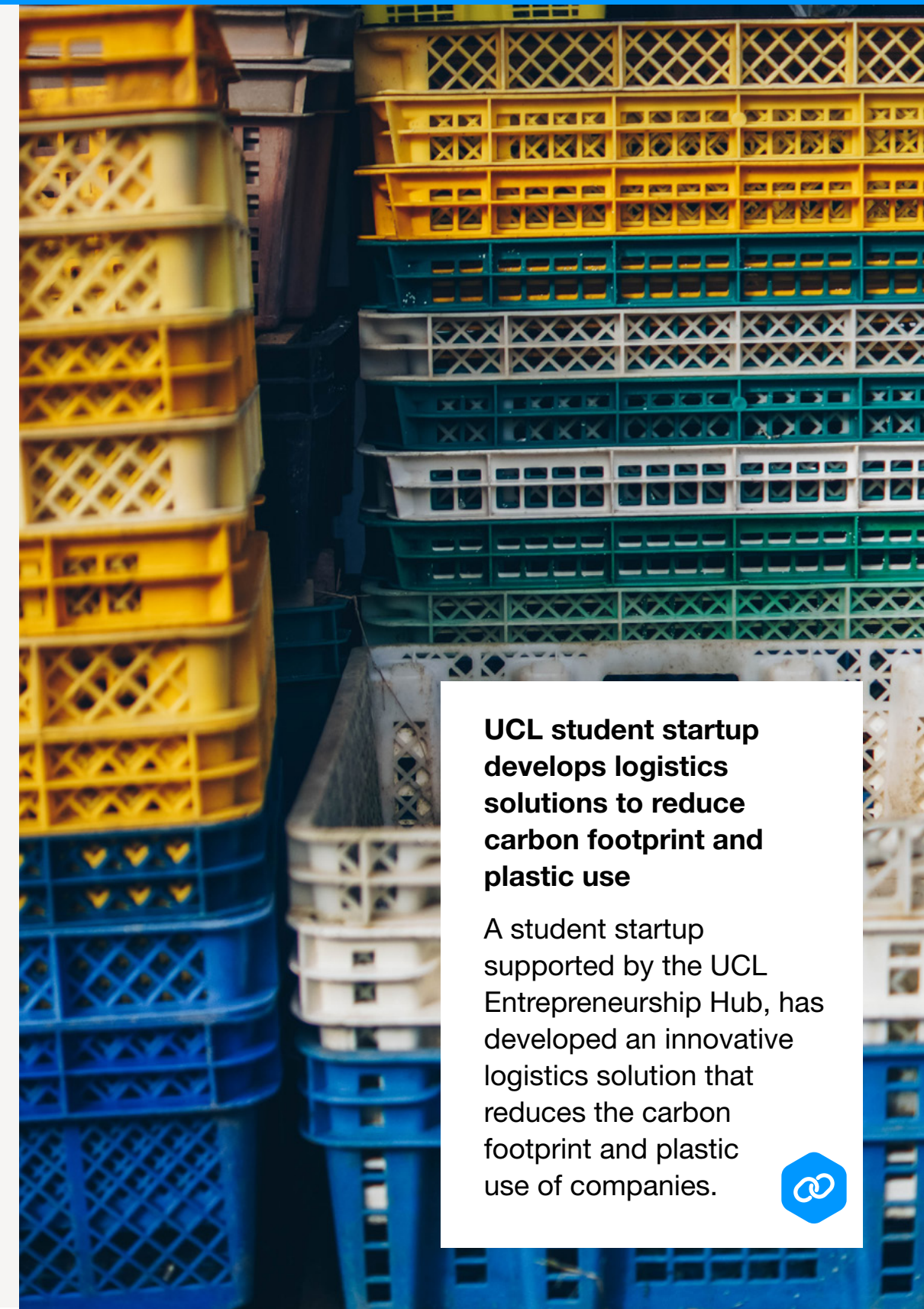
Swap don't shop

Hundreds of UCL students joined monthly clothes swaps helping keep money in their banks and clothes out of landfill.



UCL Institute of Making Repair Week

The Institute of Making' organised Repair Week in the run up to International Repair Day. They invited participants to take a creative look at the ways in which we mend and maintain our stuff, celebrating the repair techniques of expert makers and legitimising the world of playful and experimental repair.



UCL student startup develops logistics solutions to reduce carbon footprint and plastic use

A student startup supported by the UCL Entrepreneurship Hub, has developed an innovative logistics solution that reduces the carbon footprint and plastic use of companies.



WILD BLOOMSBURY

With Wild Bloomsbury we are introducing nature-based solutions to Bloomsbury.

By 2024, we aim to have created 10,000m² extra biodiverse space – equivalent to more than one and a half football pitches – to increase wellbeing and reduce the impacts of pollution in the heart of London.

COMMITMENTS

Create a vibrant and liveable Bloomsbury by reintroducing nature

Introduce nature-based solutions to Bloomsbury

Create a living landscape at UCL East

Reduce congestion and pollution in Bloomsbury

Provide the infrastructure to enable healthy and active travel choices

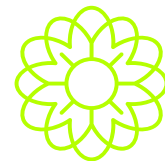
Partner with our local community to solve social challenges

Create healthier internal environments

KEY PROGRESS

523m²

523m² added at Medawar Gardens.



4,296m²

Additional 4,296m² of biodiverse space is due for completion before 2024

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Whilst good progress has been made in the delivery of the current commitment, the development of our Sustainability Plan may allow the scope of this target to be broadened to reflect institutional activities.

PROGRESS

A Wild Bloomsbury Plan was developed setting out how UCL will achieve the 10,000m² commitment of additional biodiverse space.

A student-led Living Laboratory project added 523m² at Medawar Gardens.

As a student-led engagement project, this was highly successful.

Additional 4,296m² of biodiverse space is due for completion before 2024:

- UCLE Pool Street (444m²)
- UCLE Marshgate (578m²)
- Gray's Inn Road site (1,776m²)
- PEARL (298m²)
- Project Oriel (1,200m²)

To identify how the remaining quantum of biodiverse space (4,881m²) could be delivered an opportunities matrix was created based on UCL's available public realm from which a series of costed projects have been developed. A business case is being worked up by the project team to be presented to CESB this Autumn to seek approval for the delivery of the projects to meet the remaining m².



HIGHLIGHTS



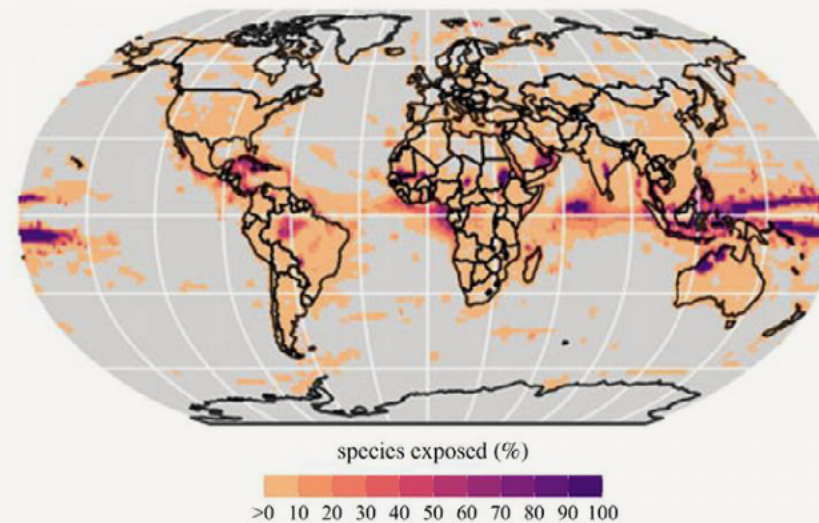
Cycling to power the big screen



Sustainable UCL and the Students' Union UCL teamed up to run 2 cycle cinema events to welcome students to the new academic year and offer fun ways of engaging with sustainability.

Students transformed Medawar Gardens

Students from across UCL collaborated to create a green oasis in the heart of UCL's Bloomsbury campus for other students and staff to enjoy.



Biodiversity risks to persist well beyond future global temperature peak

Even if global temperatures begin to decline after peaking this century because of climate change, the risks to biodiversity could persist for decades after, finds a new study by UCL and University of Cape Town researchers.



UCL installed biodiverse rain planters for nature-based climate adaptation

A collaboration between The Bartlett School of Architecture, Sustainable UCL and UCL Estates has led to the installation of two rain planters on campus to pilot a new prevention method for flooding.



UCL PHD students co-create garden with local community

The Evaluation Exchange is a partnership between UCL and voluntary and community sector organisations that aims to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of those who live nearby.



CONCLUSION

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Do you feel inspired by UCL's sustainability achievements?

Look at the breadth of sustainability opportunities available at UCL and start being part of the change.

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

Facebook.com/SustainableUCL

x.com/SustainableUCL

Youtube.com/SustainableUCL

instagram.com/sustainableucl

SENIOR MANAGEMENT



- ▶ Develop a sustainability plan for your department or Faculty; Integrate it into Service Plans
- ▶ Support Green Champions



ACADEMIC STAFF



- ▶ Embed sustainability into your curriculum
- ▶ Integrate sustainability thinking into your research
- ▶ Take part in LEAF if you work in a laboratory



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES STAFF



- ▶ Take part in Green Impact if you work in an office
- ▶ Take part in LEAF if you work in a laboratory



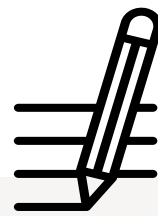
STUDENTS



- ▶ Join a green student society
- ▶ Take part in the Living Lab programme
- ▶ Become a Sustainability Ambassador
- ▶ Join the Sustainability Forum



MORE STORIES



UCL INSPIRES ACTION

UCL staged its first Youth COP Climate Summit

Students from across UCL agreed seven resolutions to tackle climate change after a marathon event emulating proceedings at the UN COP26 negotiations.



UCL TEDx puts climate front and centre

Mukund Hari Nathany, BSc Economics student and President of the UCL TEDx Society brought TEDx back to the UCL campus after 6 years; choosing to license TEDxUCL under TED's Countdown initiative to demonstrate and amplify solutions to the climate crisis.

Under Mukund's leadership, UCL TEDx Society made sustainability the core focus of all its activities in 2021/22 including the flagship TEDxUCL conference on climate, which became one of the largest conferences of its kind in the entire United Kingdom. The live audience exceeded 500 people, and the talks delivered on stage have been uploaded to the official TEDx Talks YouTube with 34.9 million subscribers, where they are being amplified to the entire world.

Reimagining Museums for Climate Action museums toolkit launched at COP26

The Reimagining Museums for Climate Action project, co-led by Rodney Harrison (Professor of Heritage Studies, UCL Institute of Archaeology), launched an open access museums toolkit at COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference Green Zone.



VR tech brings a UCL science lab to schools in UK and India

New virtual reality (VR) technology created by UCL academics is opening up cutting-edge sustainable science to school children in the UK and India who might otherwise never have the opportunity to access it.



UCL joins #WeMakeCamden campaign for a better, fairer place to live

Leading academics from UCL will be joining a series of events aimed at making the area a 'better, fairer, place to live' as part of its partnership with our local London borough of Camden.



UCL IS RUN SUSTAINABLY

The Bartlett's Net Zero Pledge

The Bartlett pledged to become a net zero faculty by 2030 and has published their first progress report on reducing the emissions from energy used in buildings.



People and Nature Lab launched at UCL East

Long lasting solutions to the global challenges of biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and climate change, will be the focus of the new People and Nature Lab, launching this week at UCL East.



UCL retains First-Class status in University 'Green' League

The People & Planet University League 2021, which assess the environmental performance of Higher Education institutions, has awarded UCL 'First-Class' Honours for the fifth consecutive time.



UCL SHAPES THE DEBATE

UCL at COP26

Fossil fuel, temperature targets, climate finance and NDCs – researchers from across UCL attended COP26 to provide insights to the UCL community and the world.



IOE academic chairs climate education policy briefing event at Education World Forum

Professor Nicola Walshe, Head of IOE's Department of Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment, and Executive Director of the UCL Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Education, led a panel discussion at the 2022 Education World Forum (EWF) on Thursday 25 May. The event created the opportunity to share learning from individual climate education initiatives, as well as highlighting the impact of climate shocks on education in Global South countries, and strengthening international co-operation towards improving climate education at a global scale.

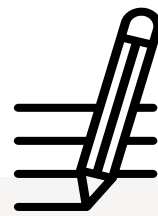


ISH selected to participate in first ever UNESCO-IPCC-ICOMOS Meeting

ISH participated in the first ever meeting organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on strengthening synergies between culture and climate science in the common fight against climate change.



MORE STORIES



Climate Action Unit co-authors 2021 Climate Risk Assessment with Chatham House

On 14th September, Chatham House released a major report looking at the downstream consequences of climate change. The summary report for heads of government was co-authored by Dr Kris De Meyer and Dr Lucy Hubble-Rose from the UCL Climate Action Unit.



POSITIVE CLIMATE

UCL tackling energy use to combat climate change

A cross-UCL team is working to identify measures for reducing UCL's energy consumption. Action has included the creation of a Switch Off Squad; reducing night time consumption through reducing out of hours access; and encouraging uptake of engagement programmes such as Green Impact and LEAF.

UCL launched Foodsteps carbon labelling

All food made in-house at UCL has been carbon accounted and will be labelled accordingly to empower the UCL community to make low carbon meal choices.



Keeping fossil fuels in the ground: identifying unburnable fossil fuels

Researchers at UCL Bartlett's Institute of Sustainable Resources have established what proportion of fossil fuels need to remain in the ground in order to meet international climate change targets.



Policy measures can 'close the competitiveness gap' aiding commercial viability of Net Zero shipping

New study by UCL Energy Researchers suggests a multi-pronged policy approach can close the competitiveness gap between fossil and zero-emission fuels whilst enabling an equitable transition.



New study shows 24 countries sustained national greenhouse emissions reductions

A new paper published in Climate Policy Journal by Prof Michael Grubb from the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources with Mercator Research Institute Germany shows that 24 countries have sustained reductions in both CO2 and overall greenhouse gas emissions.



THE LOOP

UCL retained Fairtrade Award

Sustainable UCL, the Students' Union UCL and UCL's caterer Gather&Gather joined forces to ensure the use of Fairtrade products on campus retaining the institution's Fairtrade accreditation.



Vision for the Future of Plastics

The UCL Plastic Waste Hub published a vision statement in advance of the COP26 talks on climate change.



WILD BLOOMSBURY

Revealing ecological risks of climate change on global river basins

Rising global temperatures will impact major river basins differently around the world, with rivers in South America, southern Africa and Australia among those most at risk of extreme ecological changes, a new study led by UCL has found.



The background of the cover is a photograph of a UCL campus scene. On the left is a large, modern building with a curved, metallic, ribbed facade and a glass section. In the center is a canal with a bridge in the distance. On the right is a tall, red, lattice-structured tower with a spiral walkway. The sky is blue with some clouds. A large yellow banner with a black border is overlaid on the center, containing the title text.

UCL's Sustainability Annual Report 2021-22