



**UCL's Sustainability
Annual Report
2020-21**



FOREWORD

This represents my final Sustainability Annual Report as the Chair of the Sustainability Steering Group.

Not only will I be handing over the reins to a new Chair, I am also handing over responsibility for a newly established Sustainability Committee, which will increasingly focus on driving our commitments into the operational divisions of the University.

In my time as chair of this Group, I have had the pleasure of overseeing a dramatic change in the way that UCL addresses issues of sustainability: the launch of an ambitious Sustainability Strategy; our divestment from fossil fuels; our decision to buy 100% renewable electricity; the roll out of the Lab Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) which now has 60 institutions taking part; and the completion of two BREEAM 'Outstanding' buildings.

And as we look forward, I can see huge opportunities for UCL to further drive sustainability through its education, research and operations as well as catalyse wider partners through its external engagement and partnership work. This report stands as a record of the drive and ambition which we have to address our sustainability impacts both now and in the future.



Professor Geraint Rees
Chair of UCL Sustainability Steering Group



Dr Michael Spence AC
UCL President & Provost

As we become increasingly aware of the scale of the global sustainability challenge that faces our society – the climate crisis, resource depletion, biodiversity loss – so we look to major Institutions like UCL to understand, enable and catalyse our global response.

It is therefore vital that our approach to sustainability weaves through everything we do – from the research we undertake and how we undertake it, the education we provide and how we conduct our operations. I am therefore delighted to share with you the 2020/21 Sustainability Annual Report, which demonstrates the scale of activity which we have underway across all our activities and the power of collaboration and collective action.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Sustainability Annual Report for the academic year 2020/2021.

It has been another exceptional year; one that none of us could have imagined when we launched the UCL Sustainability Strategy, Change Possible in October 2019.

This report reflects the progress against UCL's Sustainability Strategy "Change Possible" and celebrates achievements from across the UCL community. We highlight the work done towards our 2024 commitments across the three Foundation Programmes: UCL Shapes the Debate; UCL Inspires Action; and UCL is Run Sustainably - as well as our three Signature Campaigns: The Loop; Positive Climate; and Wild Bloomsbury.

As with all areas of our lives, there has been some disruption to UCL's sustainability activities due to the impact of COVID. It has allowed an acceleration in some areas such as online conferencing whilst it has slowed development in others. Our emissions associated with travel have dropped significantly. Waste has decreased but the purchase of single use items such as face masks has increased.



As we return to campus, we will be looking at how we build on some of the positive elements of the past two years whilst also refocusing efforts to reduce our impacts.

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 2020/2021

A Sustainable Future is possible	Headline Commitments for 2024	Headline Progress in 2020/2021
UCL Inspires Action	Every student will have the opportunity study and be involved in sustainability	35% of modules in the formal curriculum reference Sustainable Development Goal key words
UCL Shapes the Debate	We will increase our sustainability research with increased focus on the Sustainable Development Goals	Sustainable Development Goal citations in public policy 2020 – 1,314 citations 2021 – 843 citations
Positive Climate	Our buildings will be net zero carbon UCL will be a net zero carbon institution by 2030	By switching to renewable electricity in 2020-2021, UCL are 45% towards net zero buildings UCL achieves first net zero building PEARL.
The Loop	Be a single use plastic free campus	Baselined UCL's total single use plastic consumption, using waste data returns
The Loop	Reduce waste per person by 20%	Waste reduction rate per person 84.78% – this was largely due to the lower level of activity on the campus
Wild Bloomsbury	Create 10,000m ² of more biodiverse space on campus	518m ² of additional biodiverse space has been added since 2019 In 2020-2021 165m ² was added

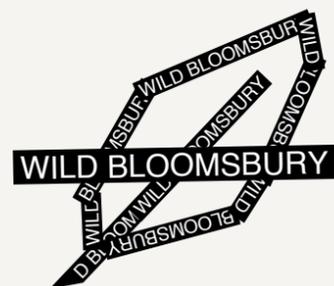
FOUNDATIONS

Our approach is underpinned by three Foundations:

we inspire action;

we are run sustainably;

and we shape the debate.



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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.

OUR 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

PROGRESS

UCL has committed to providing every student at UCL the opportunity to learn about sustainability by 2024 through the curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular offer.

The UCL module catalogue provides information to students about modules within their department and across UCL, currently 142 modules list sustainability and 2,160 modules reference Sustainable Development Goals key words.

All UCL students have access to complete the Sustainability Induction Moodle Course and the Introductory Programme Green UCL discovery module.

413

students have completed the sustainability induction Moodle course. This was launched last year and we plan to increase uptake through campaign work

1,299

students have completed the Green UCL discovery module

Informal curricular activities include sustainability engagement events, the Student Sustainability Council and Sustainability Ambassador programmes.

2,000

students attended our engagement events which includes sustainability month

53

students are part of our sustainability ambassador programme

To achieve our aims, we also need staff to be sustainability champions:

1,792

staff completed Sustainable UCL Mandatory Training #Change Possible

271

Green Champions across UCL

6

faculty lead Green Champions



In July 2021, Sustainable UCL hosted the ninth annual Sustainability Awards Ceremony celebrating the inspiring work of staff and students rallying to create a fair and sustainable future through teaching, research, and projects.

See full list of award winners here

[LINK](#) 

PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR 2020-21

View the progress we have made against our priority actions:

Priority Action	Progress
Extend the sustainability introductory programme	→ Complete View website
Create a framework for living lab teaching projects	→ Complete View website
Support departments to further embed sustainability into the curriculum	→ Ongoing

Priority Action for 2019 – 2020 (carried over)

Work with the connected curriculum to launch a sustainable curriculum tool kit and incentive scheme	→ In progress with UCL Arena
Review all relevant job descriptions to ensure sustainability is represented	→ To progress with HR

NEXT STEPS FOR → 2021-22

- Investigate the feasibility of a UCL wide sustainability module

HIGHLIGHTS

Introductory programme – Green UCL

The UCL Introductory Programme is an interactive online learning experience designed to help students learn about UCL's values, community, and achievements. As part of this programme Sustainable UCL has worked with UCL Office of the Vice-Provost (Education and Student Experience) to develop a module on UCL's surrounding biodiversity and linking to global discussions on the rights of nature. Students are invited to join a virtual citizen assembly game, giving their voice to some of the real-life decisions UCL must make to reach net zero carbon by 2024.



28 Days of Sustainability

In February 2021 Sustainable UCL invited the UCL community to “28 Days of Sustainability”. From careers in sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals, to Fairtrade, wellbeing and climate justice. Sustainable UCL collaborated with student societies, UCL departments, UCL alumni and the UCL Students’ Union to create a virtual programme that covered a wide range of topics. Over the four weeks, more than 2,000 members of the UCL community engaged with the programme.



HIGHLIGHTS



The #ChangePossible zine

Sustainable UCL set out to create an online publication, the [#ChangePossible Zine](#), that celebrated the creativity and community spirit that normally permeates the UCL campus. We invited students, staff, and alumni to participate in our #ChangePossible zine competition to capture the resourceful, and diverse ways in which the UCL community were coping with exceptional circumstances and contributing to a fair and sustainable future. The result was an inspiring online magazine.



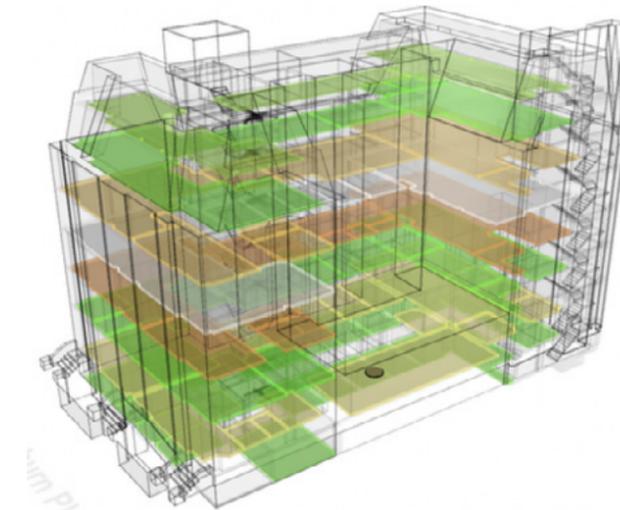
Living Labs: Smart energy for UCL's campus

The UCL Living Lab is the opportunity for students and staff to solve UCL's sustainability challenges through research, teaching, dissertations, and projects and to lead the debate on everything from the climate emergency to plastic waste.

Vasiliki Kourgiouzou (MEng, MSc, CEng, MCIBSE) Doctoral Researcher, UCL institute for Environmental Design and Engineering, is currently carrying out research for an industrial PhD funded by EPSRC and Buro Happold Ltd on 'Integrated multi-vector smart energy systems to campus scale:

The overarching aim of this project is to investigate the potential for integrating smart energy systems on university campuses. Smart energy systems can intelligently link supply, storage and use of heat and power in such a way to help improve efficiency whilst also creating a more comfortable working environment. This will assist with decarbonisation initiatives through better metering, monitoring and adjustment of energy consuming systems to optimise efficiency.

The UCL Bloomsbury campus was used as the reference system. Its location, within the heart of London, is a characteristic example of an existing university network sharing infrastructure and continuously interacting with an urban district system. Thus, it can be used as a model to demonstrate the intricacies and benefits of the adaptation to a smart campus with smart energy systems for the entire ecosystem.



Uniting faith groups to take climate action

The [UCL's Ahlul-Bayt \(ABsoc\) Student Society](#) won the UCL Sustainability Impact Award 2021 for engaging their members in sustainability campaigns and undertaking a sustainability week. Their events aimed to mobilise the Shia Muslim community to engage with the climate crisis. During sustainability week they sought to unite student societies such as the Climate Action Society and the Pakistan Society, to discuss how climate change affects people of all faiths and backgrounds, and how they can work to achieve environmental justice and tackle the climate crisis. Find out more about the winners.



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.

OUR 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.

PROGRESS

Sustainability bond

UCL is pleased to have launched a new sustainability bond; bringing £300m of external investment to help UCL to deliver on the sector leading commitments that are laid out in our Sustainability Strategy.



[LINK](#)

ISO 5001 & ISO 14001 accreditation



UCL has been certified by independent provider NQA for an effective environmental sustainability management system and energy management system. The systems help us to minimise our environmental impact and deliver our commitments. NQA identified several examples of best practice during its annual ISO audit.



[LINK](#)



Governance arrangements for sustainability

The governance arrangements for Sustainable UCL have been reviewed and a new Committee has been established to have oversight of our Strategy. Moreover, as part of the changes which we are bringing about, all external audits on our sustainability progress will be submitted to UCL Audit Committee for their information.



[LINK](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR 2020-21

Priority Action	Progress
Link the sustainability strategy to other university policies and strategies →	Ongoing – a review of UCL policies and strategies has taken place. We are working with UCL planning to support the development of the UCL Strategic Plan 2022-2027
Review the university governance arrangements and further embed sustainability into decision making →	A new Sustainable Committee is being formed reporting to the Operations Commitment
Provide faculties with sustainability benchmarking report for 2019-2020 and action plan →	Ongoing – Reports provided for 2019-2020 the development of action plans is on-going

NEXT STEPS FOR → 2021-22

- Establish new Sustainability Committee
- Establish the staff sustainability forum
- Develop Professional Service Division sustainability action plans



Green Impact

Staff and students worked together to make meaningful changes and improve sustainability across a wide range of UCL's departments by participating in the Green Impact programme.

Of the 52 teams active in 2020-21, an impressive 44 teams met the criteria for the respective award levels: 9 Bronze, 13 Silver, 22 Gold. Teams taking part in Green Impact completed actions such as promoting online-conferencing, running recycling campaigns and introducing shut-down procedures for equipment.

The teams were supported this year by a cohort of 23 dedicated student Departmental Sustainability Ambassadors, some of whom also received student auditor training and helped audit other teams at the end of the programme.

Green Impact savings



The impact of the Green Impact programme can be assessed by the measures undertaken by the teams. UCL saved £43,383 and 142,698 kg of CO₂ because of actions taken through Green Impact. However, Green Impact is so much more – enabling staff and students across departments to actively work together towards a common goal.



Student Council

The Student Sustainability Council is the first student-led sustainability council in the Higher Education sector and is developed annually in collaboration between Sustainable UCL and student officers. In alignment with the council members interests, departments across UCL are invited to share their sustainability strategies. This is a unique and valuable opportunity for students to gain experience in making real positive change, and for staff to gain student perspectives on key issues.

HIGHLIGHTS



UCL's first zero carbon building

UCL's first zero carbon building, PEARL (Person-Environment-Activity Research Laboratory) is a unique facility to explore the ways in which people interact with their environment. With an A+ rated Energy Performance Certificate, the building hosts UCL's largest solar array with surplus energy being exported to the surrounding site – making it carbon negative in operation.

The building is also one of the first to achieve an 'Outstanding' rating under the latest version of BREEAM, a sustainability rating scheme for the built environment.



[LINK](#)

what3words

Accessible buildings

Many of UCL's buildings have multiple entrances and sometimes the accessible entrance differs from the main entrance and is therefore difficult to find. Following a successful, year-long trial, UCL has worked with AccessAble to add the 'what3words' method to UCL's building access guides.



Pip Jackson, UCL Inclusive Environments Manager

The feature will provide more accurate signposting information for UCL staff, students and guests. This method is now being adopted by other Higher Education Institutes.



[LINK](#)



Sustainable refurbishment of the estate

SKA rating helps UCL assess fit-out projects against a set of sustainability good practice criteria. SKA comprises more than a hundred 'good practice' measures covering energy and CO₂ emissions, waste, water, materials, pollution, wellbeing and transport. A hat-trick of Ska Gold certifications has been achieved confirming exemplary environmental performance on our refurbishment and fit-out projects.

- New facilities for the School of Management at Canary Wharf were designed with wellbeing and accessibility as a priority, and the reuse of materials helped to minimise the embodied carbon associated with the project.
- Refurbishment of 36-38 Gordon Square saw a focus on energy efficiency and waste reduction, helping to maximise the value of existing furniture and fittings.
- The creation of a new home for the Eastman Dental Institute in the Rockefeller included the provision of efficient ventilation systems and an emphasis on water-saving fittings.



[LINK](#)

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.

We’ve committed to increase our sustainability research with increased focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

OUR COMMITMENTS

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

PROGRESS



In 2020/21, a university-wide initiative to maximise our impact on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the targets within the Goals was developed. There have been 824 Sustainable Development Goal citations in public policy in 2021 and 1,314 citations in 2020

The new UCL Climate Hub demonstrates the breadth of UCL research and action on SDG13 – Climate Change and the UCL SDG website contains 100 case studies on how UCL’s research is engaging with the SDGs.

This is the first year that UCL has published a report on the extent of the SDG-related activity across the university.

Read the SDG report [here](#)



Visit the UCL Climate Hub [here](#)



PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR 2020-21

Priority Action

Progress

Further embed the SDG’s into UCL teaching and research	→	The SDG Board has been established
Work with the UCL London and national framework to ensure UCL has a positive impact on the local environment	→	UCL London framework launched in November 2020
Develop a cross UCL approach for COP 26 building on the new UCL Climate Hub	→	Complete – see case study below
Achieve Living Wage accreditation	→	Complete

Priority Action for 2019-2020 (carried over)

Establish sustainability community of practice	→	On hold due to Covid
Establish local community sustainability forum to share our work and increase linkages	→	On hold due to Covid

NEXT STEPS FOR → 2021-22

→ Further development of the Climate Hub

HIGHLIGHTS



Launch of the UCL Climate Hub

At UCL we know that we can't address the climate emergency with a single idea. That is why we launched the pan-UCL Climate Hub – a collaboration between researchers and professional staff from across the institution. The hub brings together minds, perspectives and expertise across disciplines and communities to foster the innovation needed to face the world's greatest challenge – the climate emergency.



[LINK](#)

Spot Light on our community

Dr Priti Parikh, Associate Professor and Head of Engineering for International Development Centre at the Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction, won the Sustainability Research Award 2021 for championing the role of infrastructure to address the SDGs over the last five years.



She led a UCL team which demonstrated the links between sanitation and energy, climate change, health, education and poverty reduction, making a case for targeted action in sanitation. Until that point the linkages between water and the SDGs had been mapped but the role of sanitation had received very little attention. Priti has also led efforts to influence policy and practice, with her and her team's work influencing the African Sanitation Strategy, and how SDGs are monitored in South Africa.



[LINK](#)

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Realising the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The Beyond Boundaries conference

From 19th – 29th October 2020, UCL Grand Challenges (Office for the Vice-Provost Research) and the Global Engagement Office (Office for the Vice-Provost International) hosted a two-week virtual conference exploring the role of universities in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conference was attended by 1,354 individual attendees from 58 countries.



[LINK](#)

UCL's sustainable lab programme goes global



After being piloted in 23 research institutions, Sustainable UCL's Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) is now being rolled out as an online platform for publicly funded institutions seeking to improve the sustainability of their laboratories. LEAF is now in use in over 60 institutions across 10 countries and growing fast, with 1100 users signed up since February. LEAF enables lab users to save plastics, water, energy and other essential resources. At UCL over 40 lab groups took part in the programme last year with 14 achieving the highest Gold level.



[LINK](#)

POSITIVE CLIMATE

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

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

OUR COMMITMENTS

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

PROGRESS

	tonnes CO ₂ e 2020-21	% of total CO ₂ e	% Change from Baseline 2018-19
<i>Energy for our campus</i>	28,522	7%	-48%
<i>Travel</i>	2,179	0.5%	-94%
<i>Food</i>	2,815	0.7%	7%
<i>Waste & Water</i>	642	0.2%	12%
<i>Products that we buy*</i>	392,839	92%	-7%
<i>Total</i>	424,727		-17%

* Data estimated based on spend in each category (HESCAT model)

Since the baseline year, we have started buying renewable electricity to support our net zero carbon buildings target by 2024. Since setting our zero carbon buildings target in 2019 UCL has gone 48% towards meeting this target through a combination of reducing energy use and switching to a renewable electricity supply.

In terms of the target for the whole Institution to be net zero carbon by 2030, UCL is 17% towards this target; this has been achieved through a combination of the energy reductions mentioned above, a reduction in our business travel (precipitated by COVID restrictions) and actions to reduce the products that UCL purchases.



During our 2020 Christmas Switch Off campaign the UCL community saved 147 tonnes CO₂, equivalent to planting 2,499 trees by switching off appliances that would've otherwise been left running.

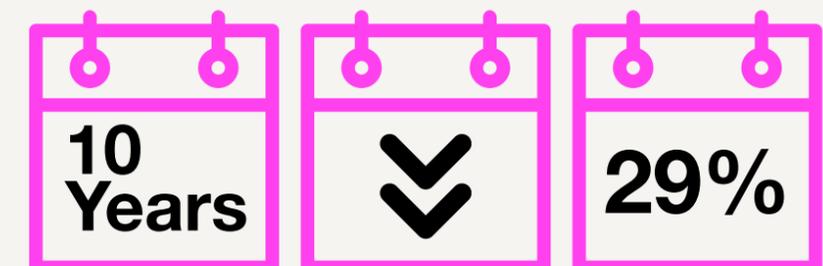


Net Zero Carbon plan

In 2021 UCL developed a draft Zero Carbon Plan setting out the main approach to how UCL will deliver on its commitment to be a zero-carbon university by 2030; and the contribution that every part of UCL has to make. Over 2022 this plan will be refined with the UCL community.



Over the last 10 years our carbon emissions from our energy use have reduced by 29%.



PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR 2020-21

Priority Action	Progress
Improve control of our building and heating and cooling systems →	Controls were optimised to reflect the reduced presence on campus this year, and new controls installed.
Improving sub-metering across campus →	Planning for a major upgrade to the metering system will enable easily accessible sub-meter data from next year.
Exploring options for UCL to become a climate-positive investor →	Ongoing
Making more of our energy and carbon data available for research →	UCL Fabriq platform is now available

Priority Action for 2019-2020 (carried over)

Review UCL Buildings for climate change resilience →	On hold due to Covid
Climate change integrated into institutional decision frameworks →	Ongoing

NEXT STEPS FOR → 2021-22

- Develop investment ready plan for zero carbon
- Major switch-off campaign to reduce energy use out of hours

HIGHLIGHTS

UCL number one in University Carbon League

As part of our #PositiveClimate Campaign, UCL has pledged to become a net zero carbon institution by 2030. This ambitious commitment has earned us the highest score in the University Carbon League Table out of 519 institutions.



Green Gown award for climate action

UCL students and staff won the UK Higher Education sector Green Gown award for Climate Action for the #PositiveClimate campaign to become a net zero carbon institution by 2030 in response to the climate emergency:



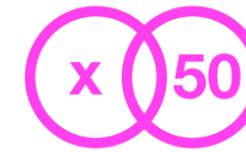
Some of the key activities in the campaign so far include:



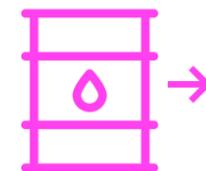
100% renewable electricity for UCL



A carbon pricing scheme to incentivise departments to reduce carbon emissions



A world-leading sustainable science programme (LEAF) that has now been adopted by 50 other universities



Divestment from fossil fuels



The launch of the [UCL Grove](#); now with 188 trees to support carbon offsetting from travel

UCL Medical School declares a climate emergency

The UCL Medical School declared a climate and ecological emergency emphasizing that without a change of course, we are at risk of a major health crisis over the coming decades.



THE LOOP

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

OUR 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

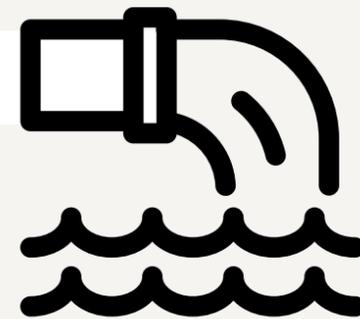
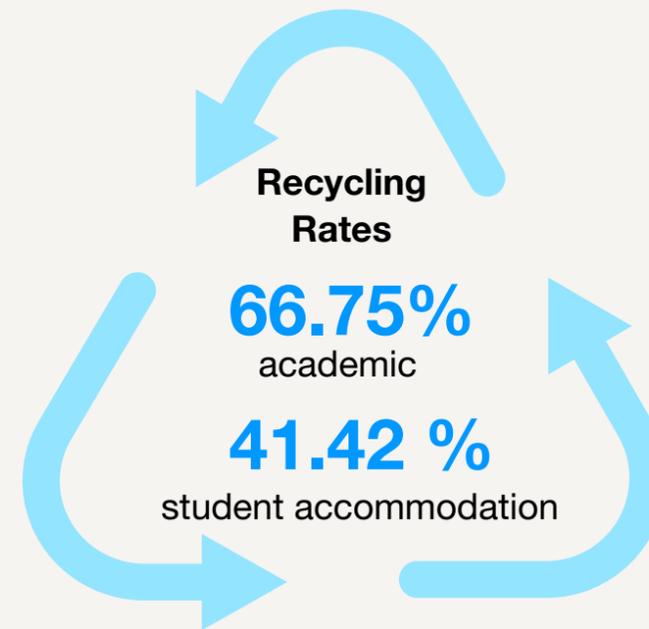
Single use items become a thing of the past

Maximise the value from our waste products

Working with responsible suppliers and support our local economy

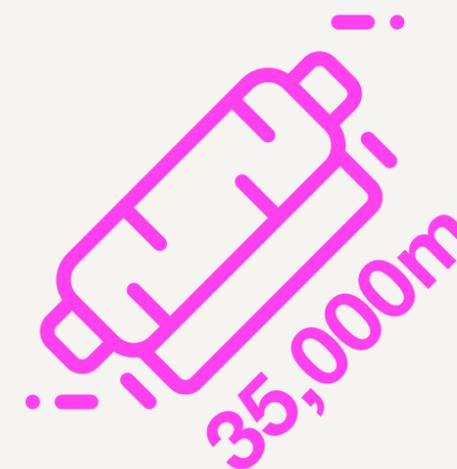
Specify products with the highest environmental and wellbeing standards

PROGRESS



84.78%

Aug 2020 to Jul 2021 **Waste reduction** rate was 84.78% – this was largely due to the lower level of activity on the campus.



Clingfilm Savings

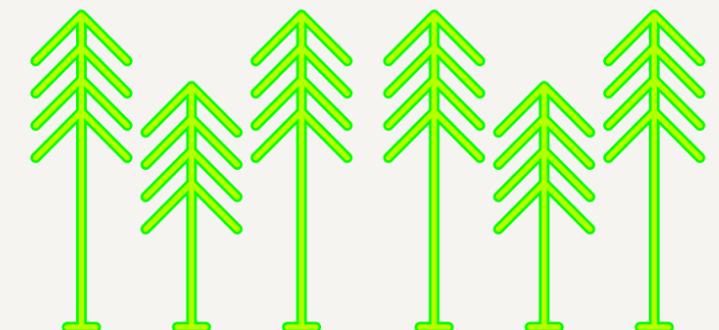
– Following on from previous efforts to reduce single-use plastic front-of-house, cling-film has now been removed from UCL's refectories and cafes. This will save an estimated 35,000 metres annually.

24,826,937 pages

2,979 trees



Print Releaf is a Partner with our Print@UCL provider Xerox. They offset the carbon from printing via reforestation in Ireland. UCL has offset 24,826,937 pages of paper by reforestation 2,979 trees since joining the PrintReleaf exchange in January 2020



PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR 2020-21

Priority Action	Progress
Create a responsible supplier list to help staff make more informed choices →	Ongoing
Add disability requirements into procurement processes →	Ongoing
Review the furniture reuse and recycling process for efficiency →	Complete
Agree a new travel provider contract, which will include carbon-offsetting options and make it easier to book international train travel. →	Complete

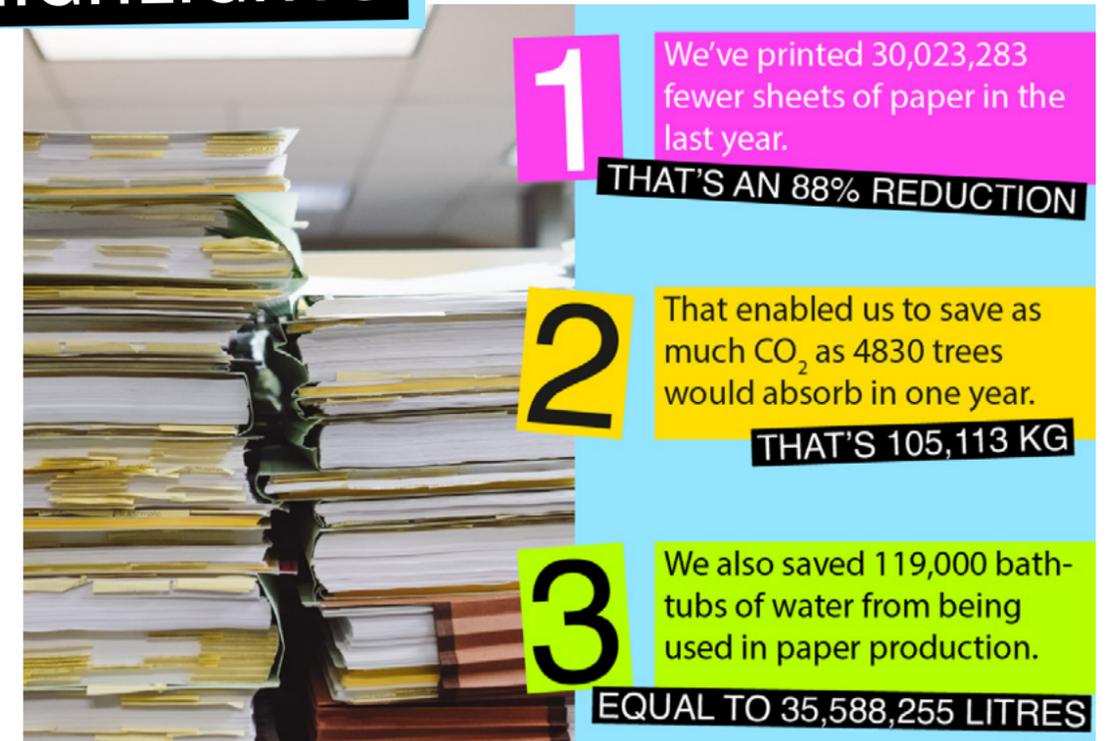
Priority Action for 2019-2020 (carried over)

Review event catering to reduce food waste and expand existing waste food redistribution schemes →	Delayed due to covid
Launch high profile recycling communication campaign →	Pilot Complete, review delayed due to COVID
Roll-out key single-use plastic alternatives in catering and laboratories →	Work is ongoing with laboratories

NEXT STEPS FOR → 2021-22

- Embed sustainability into procurement category management plans
- Create a UCL supplier code of conduct, which will include sustainability expectations of our suppliers
- Establish a Modern Slavery working group, which will co-ordinate and report and measure UCL's work.
- Develop improved metrics for single use plastic reduction and set area specific projects and targets.
- Work towards achieving Platinum in the Responsible Procurement code
- Work with our One Advanced with the aim of introducing sustainability ratings for products on the e-market place

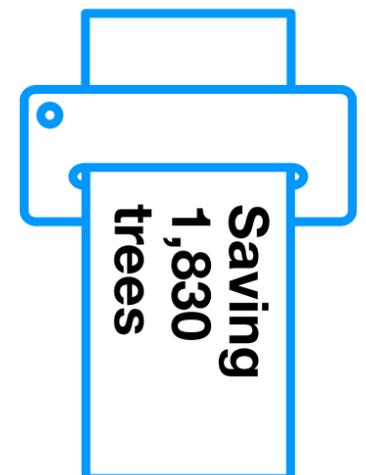
HIGHLIGHTS



88% reduction in printing

While UCL printed 34 million pages of paper via Print@UCL in 2018/19 (Aug-Jul) we collectively reduced this number to only 4 million in 2020/21 – an 88% reduction. Admittedly, this reduction doesn't include the increase in home printing on our personal devices.

By reducing our printing we've saved 105,113 Kg CO₂, the equivalent to the carbon absorbed in one year by 4,830 trees. As paper production requires a lot of water, we also saved over 35 million litres of water. This amount would fill 119,000 bathtubs.



HIGHLIGHTS



Fairtrade Fortnight 2021

As a Fairtrade University, UCL was proud to take part in Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 with a special focus on climate change. There were lots of ways in which the UCL community could get involved while largely working and studying from home. Those that did work on campus, could sample Fairtrade products and enjoy special banana bread deals.



[LINK](#)

Responsible procurement

Considering UCL's new Sustainability Strategy, UCL procurement have retendered and changed many of UCL's contracts to make them better for people and the planet. This has also led to substantial financial savings and improved services. The updated contracts cover: Stationary and office supplies, IT hardware and software, print services and creative services.



[LINK](#)



Gold accreditation for Responsible Procurement Code

UCL achieved Gold on the Responsible Procurement Code (RPC) with an overall score of 78%, up 5% on the previous audit in 2019. The RPC is an external verification audit, which comprises of a self-assessment and a joint external audit of UCL's procurement practices.

Plastic Free July and Single-Use plastics database:

In 2021, UCL took part in [Plastic Free July](#), a global campaign organised by the [Plastic Free Foundation](#), encouraging everyone to commit to taking actions that reduce plastic consumption at home and on campus. As part of the campaign, UCL also launched its plastics reduction database to monitor progress towards our goal of becoming a single-use plastics free university.



[LINK](#)



Trial of new recycling campaign "Stay in #TheLoop"

Sustainable UCL have worked with the environmental charity Hubbub on a recycling campaign to inspire students and staff to recycle better, starting in select areas of the UCL campus where we can make the most impact. The campaign aims to improve awareness of what can be recycled, the benefits of recycling and the role we all have to play to keep our waste in #TheLoop to be used again and again.



[LINK](#)

PROGRESS

WILD BLOOMSBURY

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

By 2024, we will 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.

OUR 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



UCL has worked with academics, students, staff and external partners to create a Wild Bloomsbury Strategy, we are now moving into implementation stage. 518m² of additional biodiverse space has been added since UCL's Sustainability Strategy.

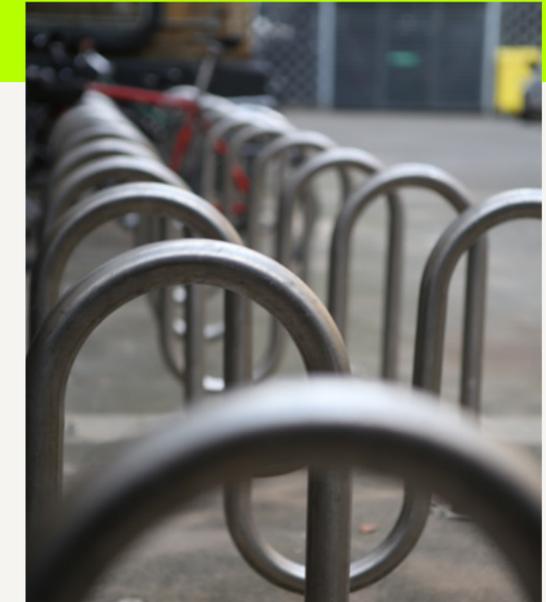
 A community-led project with Sustainable UCL to improve Malet Place. (This comprised 10 benches with planters, plus 7 small planters which were planted with students).

New planting in the South Quad around the trees 

 The Student Centre opened with a green roof
Astor College has a blue roof and new planting 

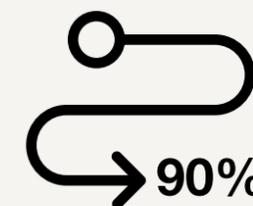
 Planting at the new PEARL building

Staff and student led gardens at Chandler House and in the Careers building 



UCL installed 118 cycle racks, creating over 1,000 parking spaces across UCL.

UCL logistics have been working alongside Camden Council with the 'No vehicle idling' campaign. This involves requesting that vehicles waiting switch off their engines, to lower the emissions in the area and help to improve the air quality.



By consolidating deliveries, re-routing vehicles to our Logistics Hub and delivering post using Cargo Bikes, we've reduced vehicles on main campus by 90%.

PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR 2020-21

Priority Action	Progress
Baseline existing green infrastructure on campus, and opportunities matrix for spaces across UCL and Bloomsbury which are suitable for greening →	Complete
Complete a Wild Bloomsbury strategy defining the environmental and ecological underpinnings. →	Complete
Implement the first Wild Bloomsbury interventions on campus →	Complete
Embed Wild Bloomsbury targets into UCL Capital Projects →	Complete

Priority Action for 2019-2020 (carried over)

Develop an active travel strategy for UCL in partnership with Camden and other local stakeholders →	Complete
Develop a series of nature-based wellbeing initiatives at a minimum six per year →	1 initiative completed
Launch live air pollution monitoring for the UCL campus →	Ongoing

NEXT STEPS FOR → 2021-22

- Provide additional secure cycle parking facilities at Medawar Gardens, Institute of Education and Institute of Child Health
- Develop a business case for Wild Bloomsbury project implementation and management

HIGHLIGHTS



Wild Bloomsbury Lead – Hannah Biggs

Hannah is leading on UCL's commitment of enhancing biodiversity on campus by 10,000sq meters by 2024. She is also working on embedding sustainability into UCL's curriculum and UCL's sustainability engagement programmes. Hannah was named a '30 under 30' sustainability leader by edie in 2020 for her dedication to sustainability at UCL.



Ear Institute – Its good up Ear

A staff team created a roof top garden above the Ear Institute called 'It's good up Ear' as a place for relaxation and recreation. They created a sustainable space by making planters from discarded wood pallets, diverting rainwater to use for watering, and encouraging wildlife through insect hotels.

PALS walked to the moon

In 2021, PALS completed its wellbeing initiative walk to the moon. As a community, PALS took 477,710,000 steps to walk a whopping 238,855 miles – the distance between the UCL Bloomsbury campus and the moon.

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.

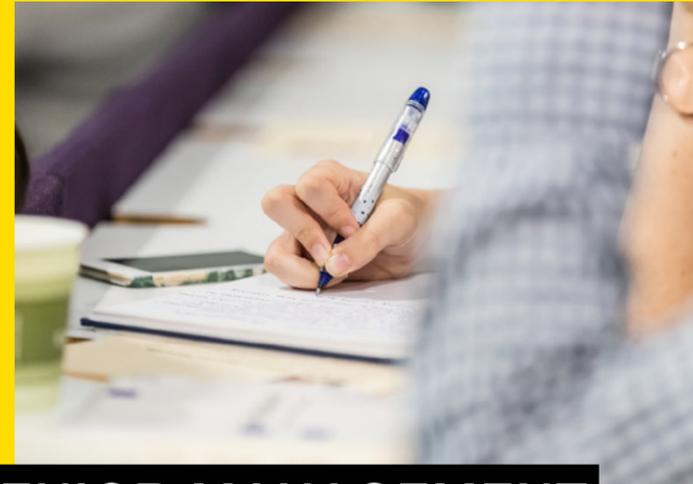
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SENIOR MANAGEMENT

- Develop a sustainability plan for your department or Faculty; Integrate it into Service Plans 
- Join our Carbon Accountability Scheme 



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES STAFF

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



ACADEMIC STAFF

- Embed sustainability into your curriculum 
- Integrate sustainability thinking into your research 
- 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 Council 

