

Environmental Performance Report 2025

Sustainability
Cynaliadwyedd

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1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This 2025 report provides an overview of Environmental Sustainability performance of Swansea University aligned with our Objectives Goal Strategies and Measures (OGSM) and our Environmental Management System ISO 14001.

N.b. Due to varying reporting requirements and periods the latest published data is used wherever possible to provide timely official information. For example, carbon emissions data is derived from published HESA data 2023/24, whereas EMS performance information may be consolidated and presented for 2024/25.

GENERAL UPDATES

- Last annual ISO14001:2015 external audit conducted by NQA, 20th-23rd May 2024. This was a recertification audit, and the **University achieved full re-accreditation**.
- **University Sustainability Policy** is being reviewed for updates and taken to the Sustainability Committee in May 2025.
- **The Sustainability Committee meets quarterly**, including Faculty, PSU, Union and SLT and Student representatives and oversees the progress of the OGSM.
- **The Sustainability & Climate Emergency Strategy** covers the period 2021-2025, and the team have begun a review process to quantify accomplishments and re-write for future goals.

- **In line with University Financial Sustainability programme**, the University Environment & Sustainability team have undergone redesign resulting in 3 voluntary redundancies, and 1 fixed term contract not renewed. Going from 9 staff members to 4.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY OGSM PERFORMANCE

Sustainability and Climate Emergency Strategy					
Goals			Base	24/25	25/26 target
	1	People and Planet League position	10 out of 154	Goal 7 / Actual 21st	6 th
	2	Sustainable Development Goal THE Impact Rating	101 - 200th	Goal <100 / Actual 65 th	<75 th
	3	Zero Carbon Operations (Scope 1 and 2) Zero by 2035	17602 tCO ₂ e	Goal 45% / Actual 39% (23/24)	45%
	4	Net Zero Carbon Services (Scope 3) -50% by 2035	40395 tCO ₂ e	G 22.5% / A 23% (23/24)	22.5%
	5	QS Sustainability Ranking	321-340th	Goal <150 / Actual 121 st	<100 th

2. NON-CONFORMITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- **Zero Non-Conformities** were identified in May 2024 ISO14001 audit, with 9 Opportunities For Improvement (OFI).
- **In 2024/25, 4 internal audits were completed** in Pharmacy, CSAR, Diabetes Research, and Anatomy. 24 OFIs were recorded across these audits, and 4 minor Non-conformities.

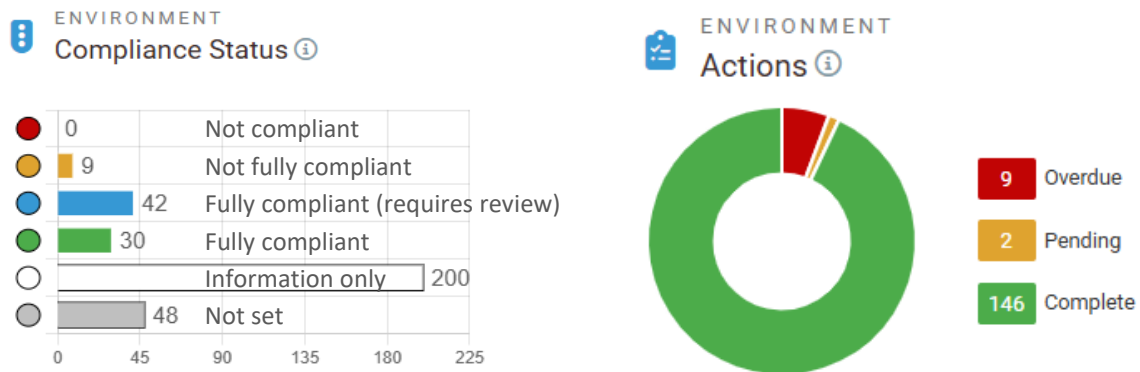
Opportunities for improvement – OFIs (2024 External Audit):

- 1) The university could usefully review open actions in the Adverse Event tracker spreadsheet. (IN PROGRESS)
- 2) The university could usefully revisit the internal audit schedule & align the frequency of planned internal audits in line with environmental risk & the resource that is available to deliver these internal audits. (IN PROGRESS)
- 3) A new padlock could usefully be sourced for the waste compound. This will safely guard against fly tipping. (CLOSED)
- 4) The spill kits could usefully be on the ground for ease of access. (IN PROGRESS)
- 5) The university could usefully check if the fire extinguisher in the garage at the Sports Village has received an annual service. (CLOSED)
- 6) The university could usefully ask SL Recycling for higher resolution images of the waste transfer notes. (CLOSED)
- 7) The university could usefully enter the aspects analysis for grounds maintenance & biodiversity into the LUS portal when time is available. (CLOSED)
- 8) The university could usefully remove the use of review dates for EMS documents. (IN PROGRESS)

- 9) The university could usefully complete the review of Rev. 6 of the FERDC Procedure.
(CLOSED)

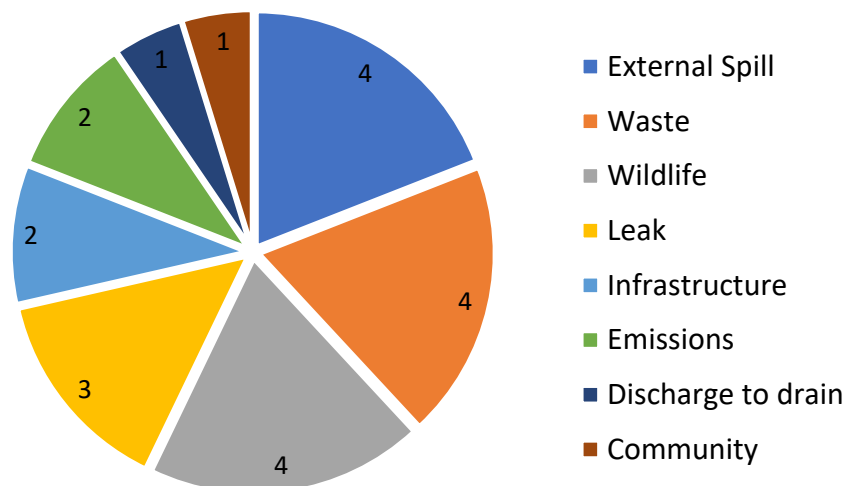
2.1 COMPLIANCE OBLIGATIONS

Via the Legislation Update Service system, our environmental compliance obligations are tracked.



3. ENVIRONMENTAL ADVERSE EVENTS

Environmental Adverse Events 24-25



- 21 environmental adverse events reported June 2024-May 2025 via the university adverse event reporting system.
- Actions arising from 24-25 adverse events include:
 - Increased provision of external spill training for lab and operational staff, spill kits audited, and spill procedure reviewed.
 - Engagement with external parties (e.g. First Cymru) to improve spill response and agree to recharge costs where necessary.
 - Chemical amnesty programme to improve inventories and reduce risk.
 - Biodiversity and Wildlife training with estates staff to increase awareness of gull behaviour and how to reduce risk.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

UNIVERSITY SCOPE 1 & 2 EMISSIONS 23/24 VS BASELINE (TONNES CO₂E)



39% reduction from 2015/16 baseline:

17,603tCO₂e to 10,788tCO₂e.

33.72% reduction from baseline on Singleton from 9,416tCO₂e to 6,241tCO₂e.

9% increase from baseline on Bay from 3,875tCO₂e to 4,243tCO₂e.

Scope 1 and 2 emissions represent 13% of our overall emissions, with Scope 3 contributing 87%.

*N.B. The Campus specific emissions do not include Fleet & F-Gas, Hendrefolian student village (now vacated), Sport Centre at Sketty Lane, Baglan PMRC or South Wales Miners library.

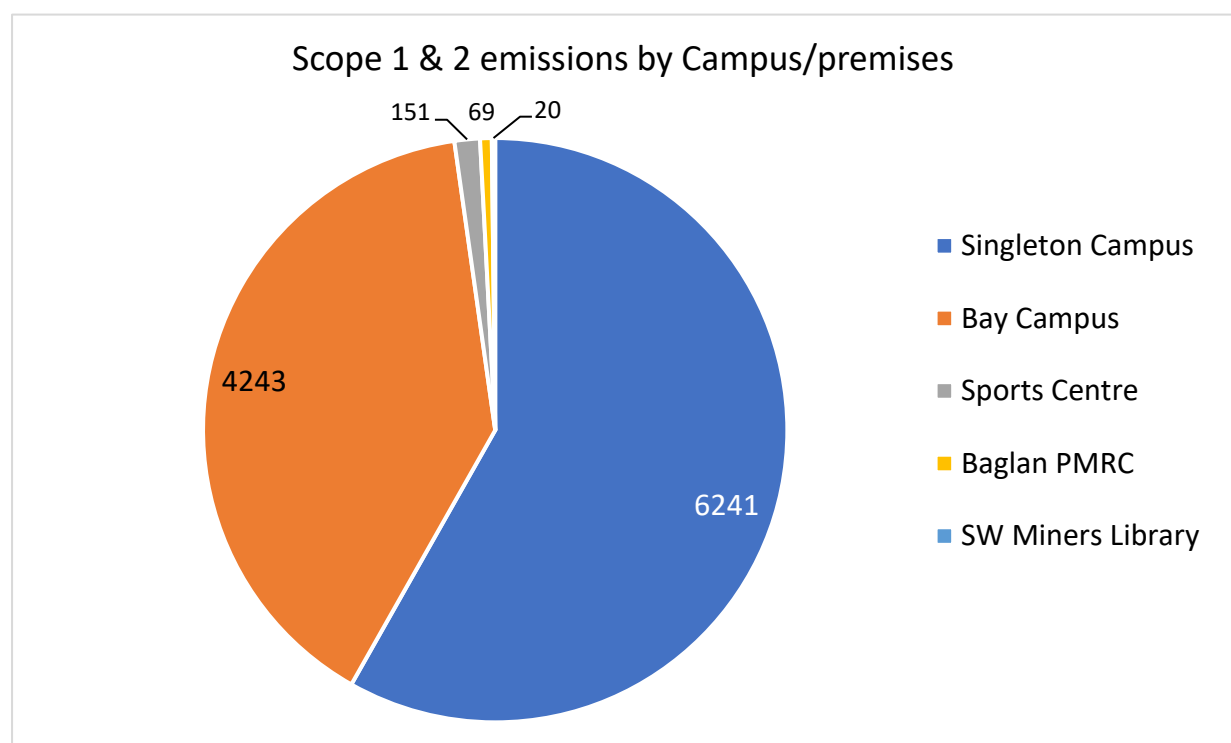
UNIVERSITY SCOPE 1 & 2 EMISSIONS 23/24 VS 22/23 TONNES CO₂E

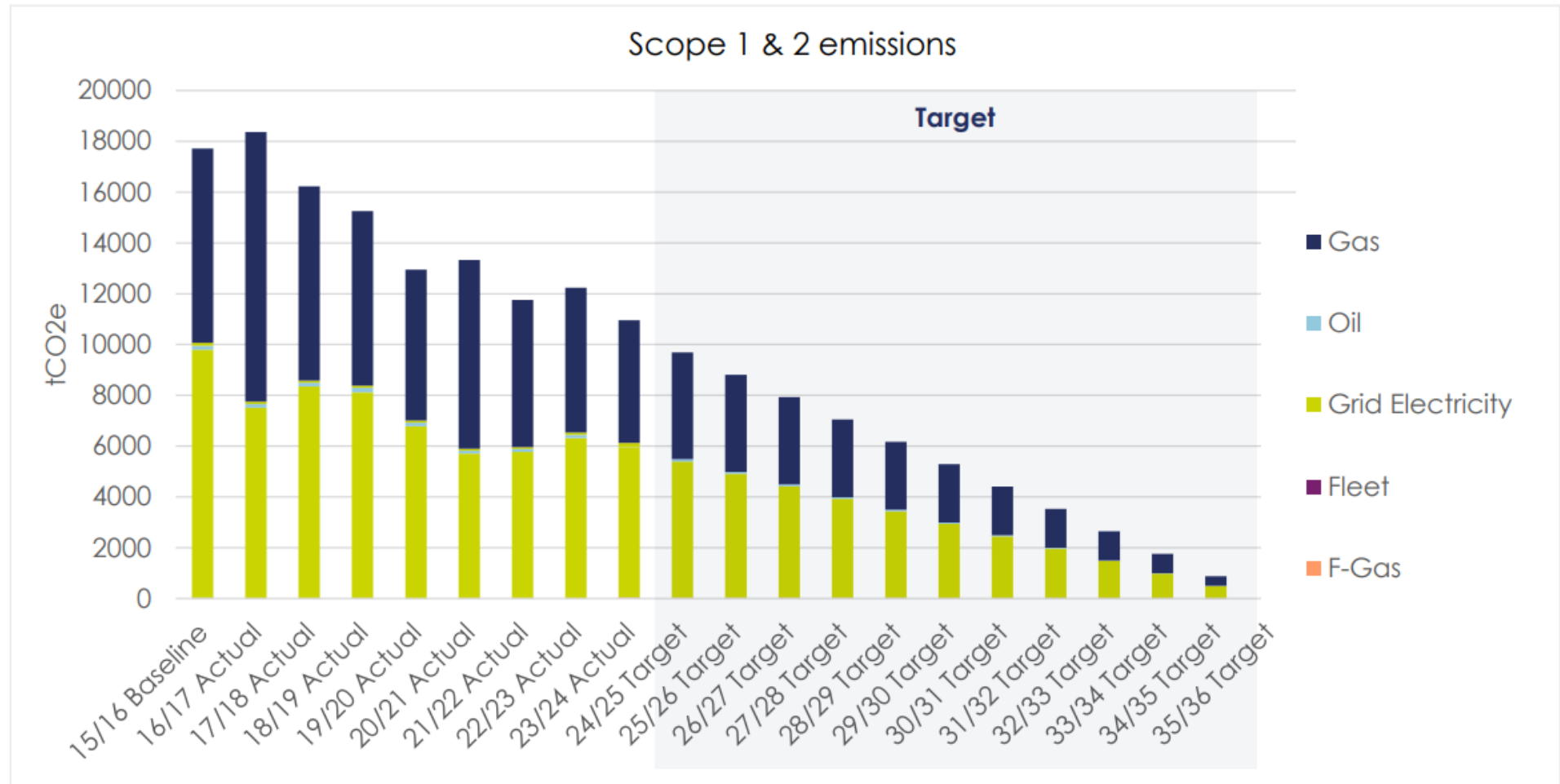


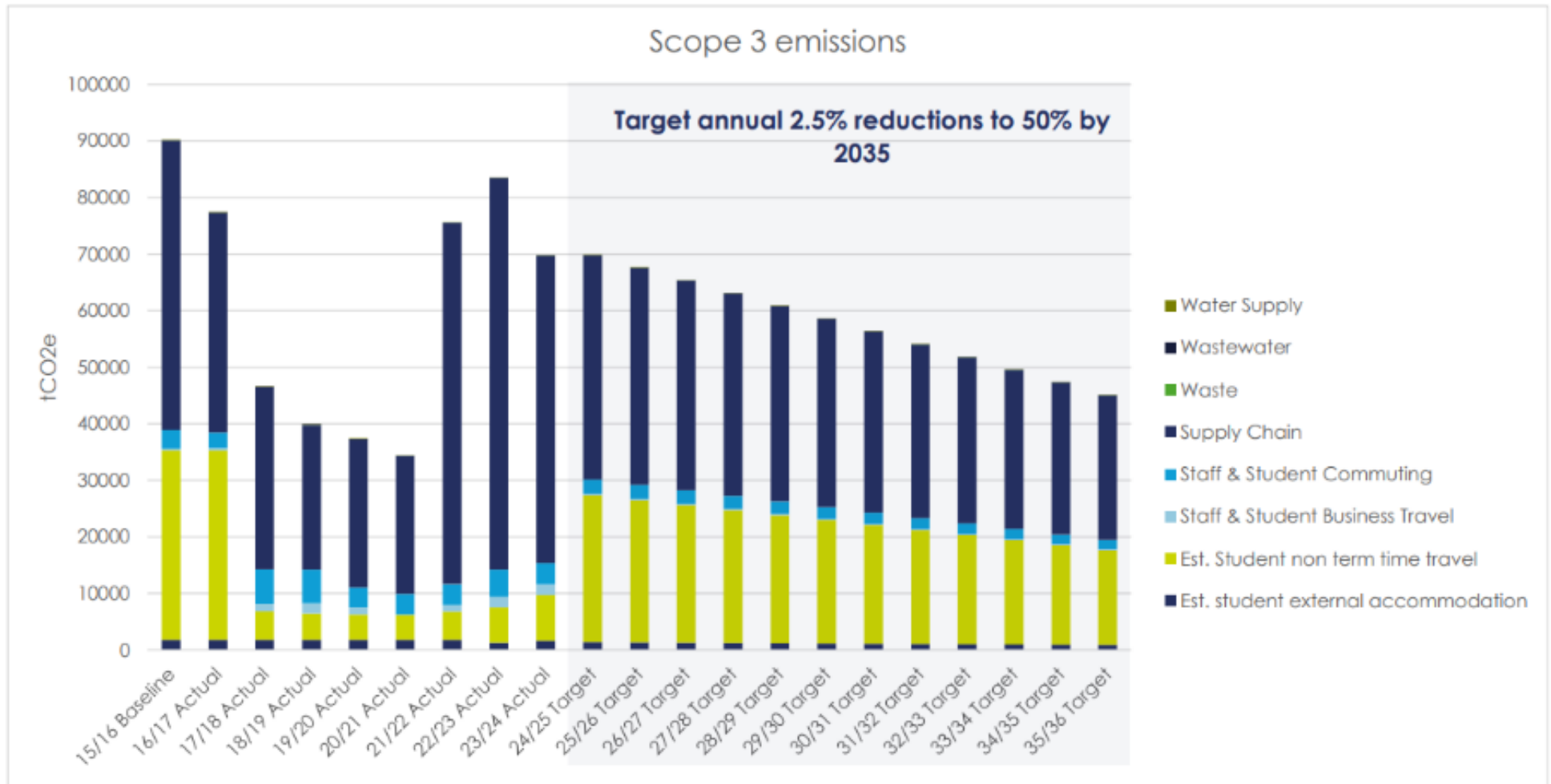
1,354tCO₂e reduction from 22/23 to 23/24 (8% reduction).

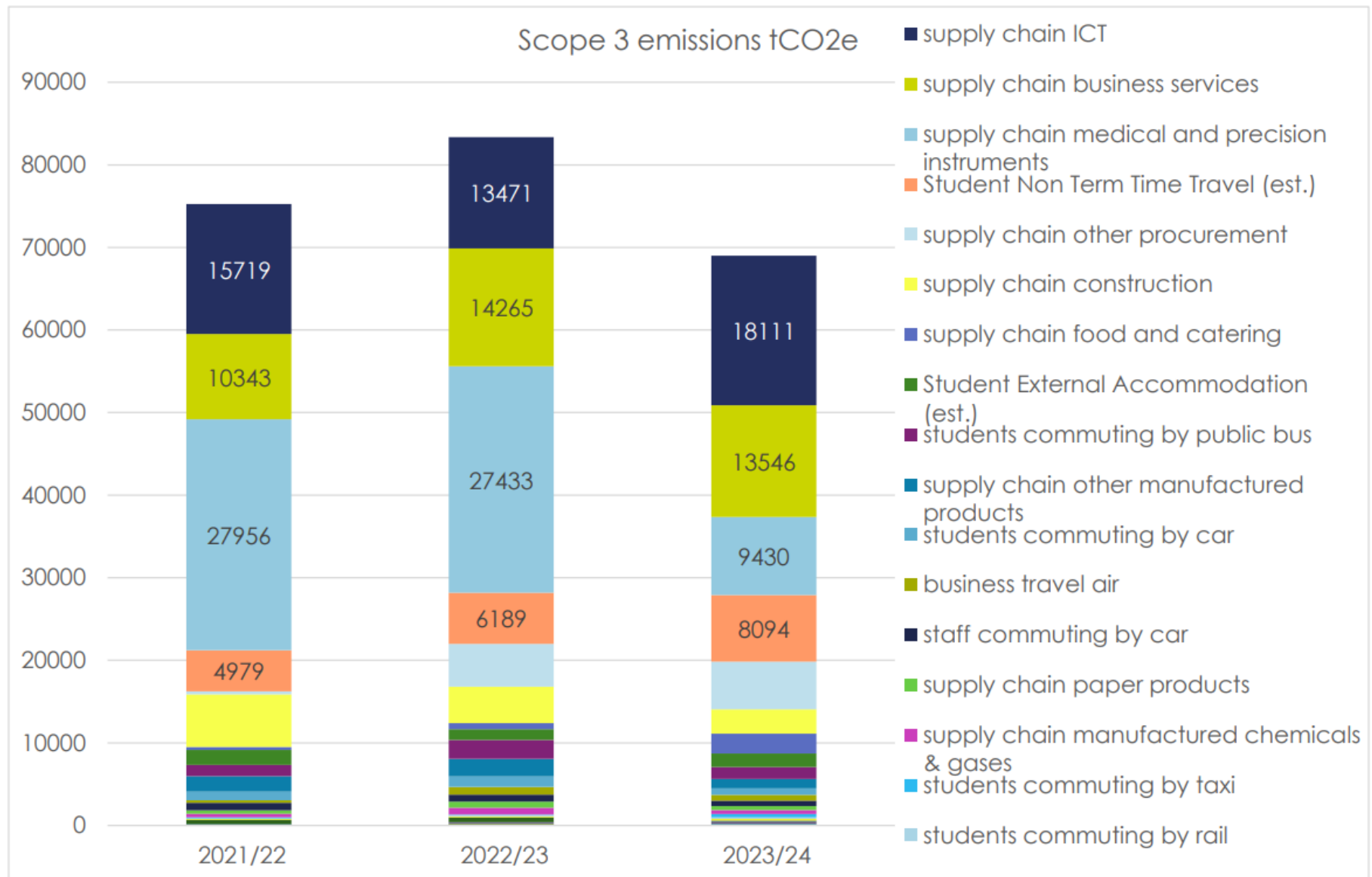
20.67% decrease from 22/23 on Singleton from 7,867tCO₂e to 6,241tCO₂e.

2% increase from 22/23 on Bay from 4,160tCO₂e to 4,243tCO₂e.









UNIVERSITY SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS (TONNES CO₂E)



16% reduction in total Scope 3 emissions in 23/24. 69,802tCO₂e compared to 83,554tCO₂e in 22/23.

23% decrease in Scope 3 emissions since 2015/16 baseline decreasing from 90,260tCO₂e.

22% decrease in Supply Chain emissions, 6% increase in University travel emissions.

RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION 23/24



30% increase in renewable energy generation:

1,368,086kWh generated in 23/24, compared to 1,050,646kWh in 22/23.

Includes onsite and offsite generation.

WATER CONSUMPTION



38% increase in water consumption in 23/24 from 22/23.

24% increase in water consumption since 2015/16 baseline year: 279,613m³.

347,572m³ consumed in 23/24, compared to 251,720m³ consumed in 22/23.

DEC SCORES



28% decrease in buildings energy performance rated D to G.

11% increase in buildings energy performance rated A to C.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

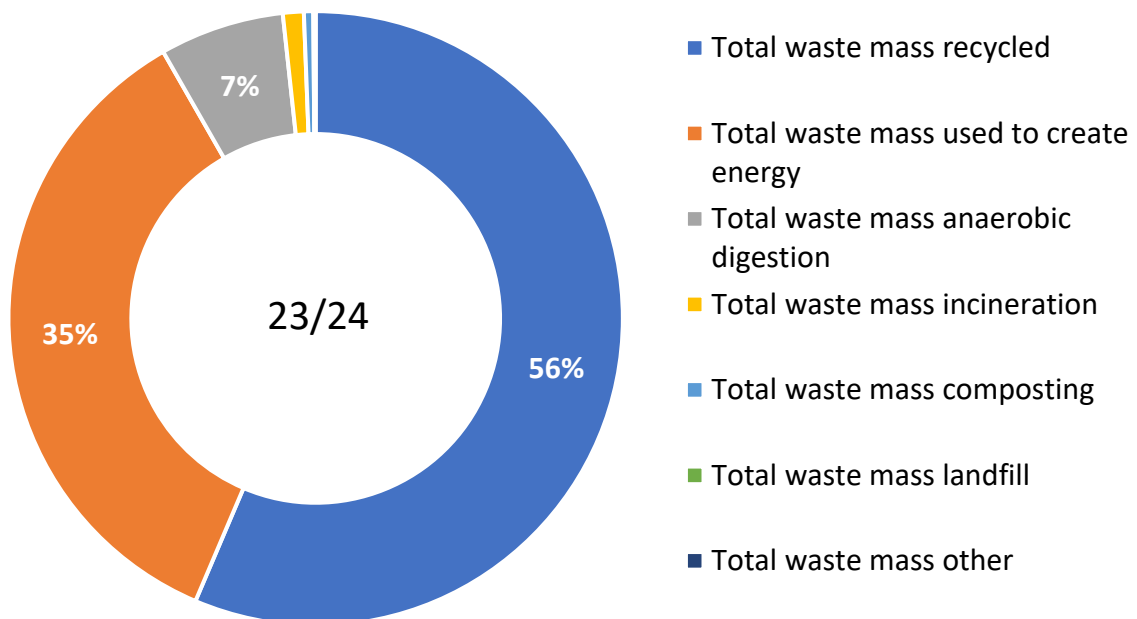


5 tCO₂e (Scope 3) produced from waste in 23/24
compared to 29tCO₂e in 22/23.

892 tonnes of total waste mass produced in 23/24 compared to 1,571t in 22/23.

480 tonnes (56%) of waste recycled in 23/24 compared to 779t (49%) in 22/23.

£34,656 & 39,000kg CO₂ saved via the WARP-IT furniture reuse platform within the University since May 2024.



	Tonnes 23/24	Tonnes 22/23
Total waste mass recycled (t)	480.22	779.00
Total waste mass incineration (t)	9.34	15.00
Total waste mass composting (t)	4.20	11.00
Total waste mass anaerobic digestion (t)	55.82	141.00
Total waste mass landfill (t)	1.05	0.00

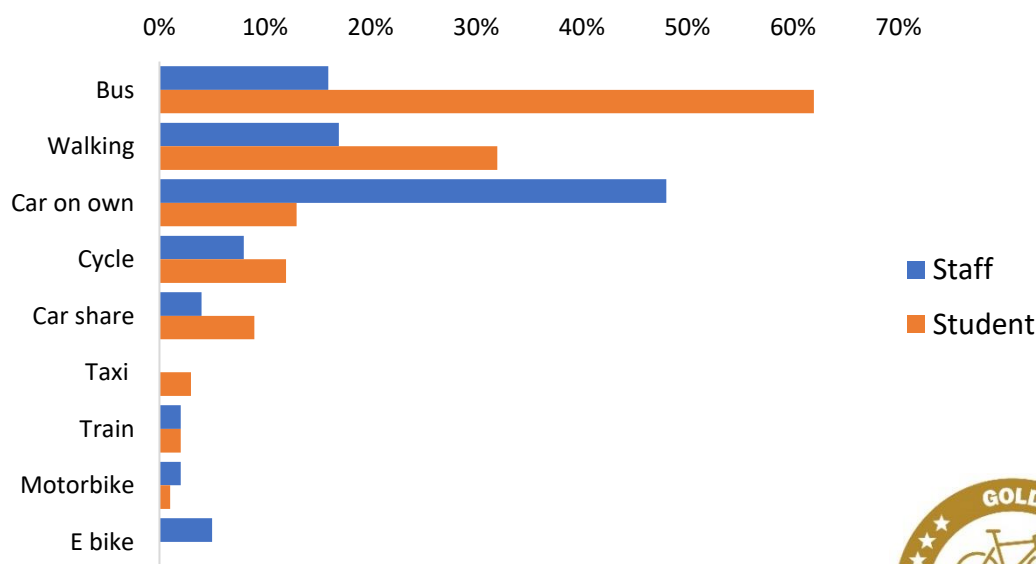
Total waste mass used to create energy (t)	300.79	581.00
Total waste mass other (t)		43.00
Total waste mass (t)	892.00	1,570.00

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

3,712tCO₂e Total emissions from staff and student commuting in 23/24, a 1,147tCO₂e decrease from 22/23.

1,913tCO₂e Total emissions from staff and student business travel, a 33tCO₂e increase from 22/23.

Staff vs Student modes of transport (2024 travel survey)



CFE Gold status maintained with the next audit due May 2025.



Achieved all 17 commitments of the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter, and are in the process of agreeing the level 2 commitments

207% increase in users of the Swansea University cycles since September, with a 168% increase in first time users.

76 staff sign-ups for the Cycle to work scheme in 24/25.

600 lights and locks given to students, and 500 bikes registered to date.

BIODIVERSITY

Habitat mapping surveys completed for both campuses to give a biodiversity baseline to increase via the Nature Positive Universities programme.

iNaturalist app launched during Go Green Week to record wildlife sightings on campus.

12 beach cleans on Bay Campus, and 12 beach cleans on Singleton, with litter picked up being used to create recycled plastic merchandise for Go Green Week.



UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY RANKINGS

21st out of 149 universities in the People and planet Green League for 2023/24. With 100% being scored for *Environmental Auditing & Management Systems, Ethical Careers & Recruitment, and Staff and Student Engagement*.



Ranked 121st out of 1743 universities assessed in the QS Sustainability rankings, dropping from 80th in 2024.

Ranked 65th in the Times Higher Impact Rankings for 2024. **NB we will no longer be submitting to this as a result of resource constraints.*



SUSTAINABLE CATERING

Fairtrade University Award

achieved in 2023, highlighting work on sustainable procurement, ethical supply chains, and education for sustainable development. WE have resubmitted for this in 2025 and are awaiting audit results.



Sustainable Restaurant Association

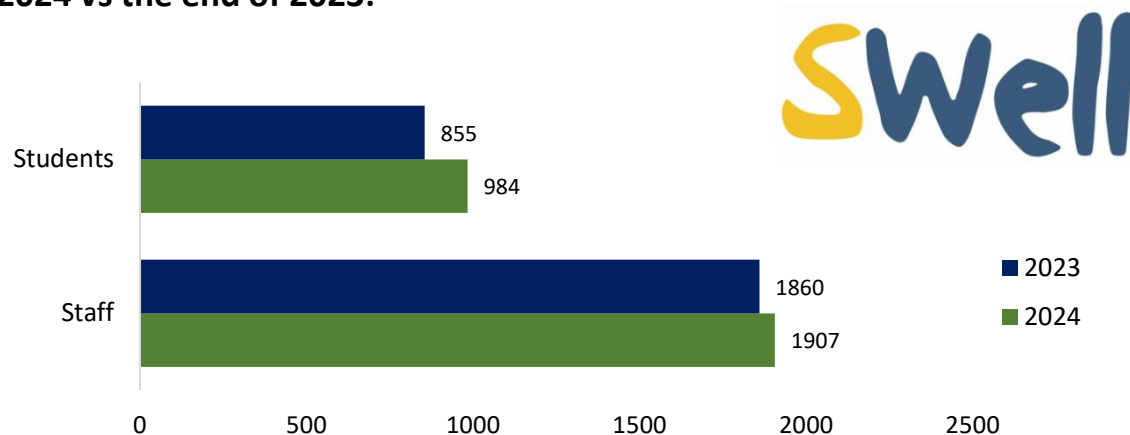
Two-star rating was achieved by the University catering contractor in March 2025. This is valid until October 2027, but there are plans to apply for 3 stars in August 2025.

80% People & Planet score

was achieved for Sustainable food criteria in 24/25. An extra 10% for gaining SRA 3 stars, and 10% for having a plant-based outlet on campus.

ENGAGEMENT, EVENTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Number of students and staff registered on the SWell platform at the end of 2024 vs the end of 2023:



70,360 sustainable actions logged via SWell in 2024, comprised of 56,757 by staff, and 13,603 by students.

An estimated total of 492,857kgCO² saved since November 2021 by the end of 2024.

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

367 modules mapped against the SDGs through the student-led SOS-UK curriculum mapping programme.

9 LEAF Gold awards achieved in FMHLS and FSE

and a total of 26 labs accredited to at least Bronze.

7 active Green Impact teams made up of a total of 46 users. ***NB We will not be continuing to run Green Impact due to resource constraints.**

Over 100 Sustainability events

in 2024, including our regular events: 24 beach cleans, 24 gardening sessions, 20 conservation volunteering sessions, as well as Go Green Week, Repair Cafes, Community Fridge events, and a Sustainability Awards event.

136 Estates and Campus Service Staff spill trained from across campus operations, security, H&S, grounds and project teams.

20 students and 8 staff certified Carbon Literate through the external Carbon Literacy Project certification.

4B. OBJECTIVES & TARGETS FOR 25/26

Strategy Theme	Key Sustainability Indicator
Climate Emergency	Scope 1 & 2 emissions (inc. reduction from previous year).
	Scope 3 carbon emissions (pa inc. reduction from previous year).
	% energy consumption generated through renewables.
	BREEAM Refurbishment and Fit Out (RFO) standard for all infrastructure projects – No. of buildings refurbished to BREEAM/RFO.
	P&P League table carbon reduction criteria.
Natural Environment	Nature Positive Universities Programme baselining and year on year improvements.
	Welsh Government Net Zero Public Sector reporting for CO2 of land use - GIS mapping for benchmarking and improving biodiversity and climate change mitigation.
	Biodiversity duty report, required under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act (every 3 years).
Working Environment	Total diversion of waste from Landfill / Energy from Waste (EFW)**
	% of major contracts (>£25k) with sustainability built into selection criteria (>5%) and subsequent contract KPIs.
	Catering - Sustainable Restaurant Association (target SRA 3 star).
	P&P Ethical Investment and banking scores.
	% community benefit funds towards university sustainability strategy
	Scope 3 emissions from Procurement and Waste.
	P&P League table sustainable procurement, ethical banking and investment and waste and recycling and Water criteria.
Our Travel	Maintain CFE award (target gold).

	Annual Travel Survey results.
	Scope 3 Travel emissions.
	P&P League table carbon management and reduction criteria.
Learning, Capacity, Skills and Engagement	Staff engagement/awareness (No. of activities and volunteering opportunities)
	Number of discreet corporate sustainability initiatives pa
	SWell sign ups & proportion rate %. Numbers of staff involved in SWell and/or other initiatives pa
	P&P League table- Sustainability staff and student engagement criteria.
	Time Higher Impact and QS ranking for sustainability.
	P&P league criteria for education for sustainable development and ethical careers and recruitment.

5.CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES (PESTLE ANALYSIS)

Only new additions from the comprehensive 2024/25 corporate environmental PESTLE analysis are included here for information. (Political, Economic, Sociological, Technological, Legal and Environmental).

P	<u>Risks</u> - <u>League tables:</u> Potential lack of resources (finances and staff resources) to progress league table position.
	<u>Opportunities</u> - <u>League tables:</u> Positive performance in League tables may increase student numbers. - <u>UNSDGs:</u> Completion of student led student mapping against SDGs and education through SOS will increase our understanding of SDG coverage in the curriculum.

E	<u>Risks</u> - <u>Availability of funding:</u> Reduction in international student numbers due to new legislation and restrictions. - <u>Contracts:</u> Cost-saving in contract decisions may lead to sustainability being less of a priority. - <u>Financial viability Audit (KPGM):</u> Not to have considered financial materiality, or sustainability aspects that have the potential to either positively or negatively impact the university's cash flow generation and revenue growth. <u>Opportunities</u> - <u>Significant decisions:</u> Opportunity of land purchase may increase solar potential to reduce costs and emissions long-term. - <u>Financial viability Audit (KPGM):</u> Identify positive actions to address financial materiality as part of sustainability growth and development including climate change, mitigation and resilience. - <u>Financial viability Audit (KPGM):</u> Identify opportunities to develop university strategies, policies, procedures and approaches to improve all aspects of environmental and sustainability improvements e.g. ethical banking and investments.
S	<u>Risks</u> - <u>SMT, staff, student and SU awareness, engagement & expectation:</u> Reduction in staff numbers may decrease resource and staff engagement, whereas student expectation remains high- creating a gap in resource and delivery. - <u>Staff retention/changes:</u> Loss (TBC) of sustainability staff (1 x change agents, 1 x Sust officer) and uncertainty of recruitment.
T	<u>Risks</u>

	- <u>Advances in technology:</u> Investment in research and development projects not bringing expected benefits (e.g. crossflow turbine). - <u>Advances in technology:</u> Decline of investment in research and technology from companies and loss of research partnerships such a SPECIFIC due to economic downturn. - <u>Costs/Existing infrastructure:</u> Projects being cancelled or delayed due to current University financial sustainability situation e.g. Fulton House.
L	<u>Risks</u> - <u>New legislation:</u> Unaware of new legislations and requirements associated with it. <u>Opportunities</u> - <u>Staff awareness & knowledge:</u> Restructuring is focussed on compliance requirements, giving it higher prioritisation. - <u>Staff awareness & knowledge:</u> Gower college training partnership and SPF funding can increase staff knowledge.
E	<u>Risks</u> - <u>Institution's impact on the environment:</u> Review of Sustainability Strategy due, decreasing resources and changes in the financial situation may impact the aspirations of the new strategy. - <u>Institution's impact on the environment:</u> Partnership working and engagement work may decrease due to lack of resources and finances. - <u>Resource availability:</u> Staff and team resources will be reduced as a result of VES and cost savings across the University. - <u>Existing infrastructure:</u> Postponement of projects due to financial restraints leading to loss of opportunity to integrate sustainability.

	- <u>Capital development:</u> New research centres could contravene or deter from the achievement of Sustainability O&T. <u>Opportunities</u> - <u>Institution's impact on the environment:</u> Redevelopment of the University's estate offers opportunity for increased efficiency, climate adaption/mitigation and biodiversity gain e.g. Decarbonisation Action Plan and Path to Zero – Funding received (£11M) to continue with decarbonisation plans. - <u>Climate change:</u> Curriculum mapping to identify course with SDG links and gap analysis. - <u>Climate change:</u> Funding received to remove gas from the university estate as part of the decarbonisation plan. - <u>Existing infrastructure:</u> Funding received to remove gas from the university estate as part of the decarbonisation plan. - <u>Capital development:</u> Utilising new schemes such as BOF refurbished furniture schemes to improve environmental credentials and reduce capital investments.
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CHANGES IN INTERESTED PARTIES:

Issue	Risks	Opportunities	Relating aspects
<u>Remove Purpose Built Student Accommodation</u> to interested parties as a service provider.	- Limited control over operations.	Improved environmental performance and behaviour due to new build and locations of buildings.	Performance evaluation
Potential <u>removal of voluntary commitments/ stakeholders</u> e.g.	- Decline in sustainable behaviour and commitments	Resource management	Continual improvement

SOS, SWELL, hedgehog friendly University, electronics watch		In house schemes and programmes	
Add HSE following a combined HSE/DEFRA visit	- Non-Compliance	- Improvement in compliance and awareness of regulatory requirements.	Compliance obligations
Add Finance auditing KPMG (consultants) Key finance contact (Swansea University)- Nicola Owen	- Not taking into consideration how climate change and sustainability is not considered as part of the university financial and strategic process and commitments.	- Identification of sustainable, environmental, ethical and material considerations, including checks and measures.	Performance evaluation against sustainable commitments.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Ceasing the submission of a full SDG report to the Times Higher Education Impact rankings due to resource constraints and giving priority to the People and Planet Green League, and QS Sustainability global rankings.
- Coordination and collation of data for the QS Sustainability rankings, including webpage development and edits to streamline data presentation and improve our ranking.
- We will be submitting to the following in 2025/26, the SDG accord is a self-assessment of how we as an institution support the UN SDGs across our teaching, research and operations: The SDG Accord aims to highlight the important role that education plays in sustainable development.
- Investigate and analyse water consumption data to decrease water use per head (and therefore improving our People and Planet score for Water Consumption- currently 27.75%).
- Investigate ways to reduce the percentage of waste recycled, composted or anaerobically digested, excluding construction waste per head of FTE students and staff (this will reduce Scope 3 emissions and improve our People and Planet score- currently 50%).
- Review of the Sustainability and Climate Emergency Strategy 2021-2025, determining what has been achieved and what will be carried forward, with identification of new targets for the next strategy period.