UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER

Environment Strategy Annual Report 2023-24

Document Title:	Environment Strategy Annual Report 2023-24
Responsible Role and Department:	Director of Esates and Facilities Services (EFS)
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Approving Body:	Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Board of Governors – endorse
Date of Approval:	24 June 2025
Date Effective From:	24 June 2025
Review Date:	01 June 2026
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Summary:
This report details progress against targets set in the University of Winchester Environment Strategy for the year 2023/24.

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INTRODUCTION

This report details progress against targets set in the University of Winchester Environment Strategy. The information within the document is for the 2023/24 academic year. To avoid an overly long document, only key headline achievements and areas of concern are covered.

As before, the relevant SDGs have been included against each section where they are applicable. Where target dates are set to 2025, we define this as being the end of the 2025/26 academic year (ending 31 August 2026).

Key Points

1. Continued reductions in energy use in absolute terms and relative to the size of the estate
2. On target for decarbonising the university fleet by 2025.
3. Continued increase in recycling rate and waste mass generated per student target already exceeded.
4. Slight increase in water consumption compared to previous year but exceeding 2025 target reduction

Area	Description	Progress by 2023/24	Target	By When
Energy	Electricity, gas & oil consumption	51%	65% reduction relative to floor area	2025
Water	Consumption volume per M2 of estate	39%	40% reduction relative to floor area	2025
	Consumption volume per FTE	31%	30% reduction in water per staff and student FTE	2025
Transport-fleet	Decarbonising the University vehicle fleet	81%	100% electric or other forms of zero/low carbon powered vehicles	2025
Waste	Total waste produced onsite per FTE	36%	25% reduction in waste mass generated per staff and student FTE	2025
Waste-recycling	Segregated recyclate onsite and within sorting facility	61%	increase recycling rates to 80% of all waste generated	2025

Please note that the University carbon footprint data is covered in a separate Carbon Management Plan Annual Monitoring Report.

Energy

The University is a large user of gas & electricity. Excellent reductions in consumption of these natural resources have been achieved (per m2) since 2006/07. Significant investment in energy efficiency and management of energy has been made since the start of the Carbon Management Programme. Overall total kWh consumption of utilities has reduced per m2 of the estate by 51% since 2006 and reduced by 5% from the previous year (2022/23).

	2006/07	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	% change (2006/7 to 2023/23)	% change (2022/23 to 2023/24)
Electricity Intensity by M2 (kWh's)	78.69	64.28	69.89	**71.52**	**-9%**	**2%**
Gas Intensity by M2 (kWh's)	133.73	83.59	74.15	**63.99**	**-52%**	**-14%**
Oil Intensity by M2 (litres)	54.98	0	0	**0**	**-100%**	**-**

Figure 1 – Table of energy consumption per m² 2006/7 to 2023/24

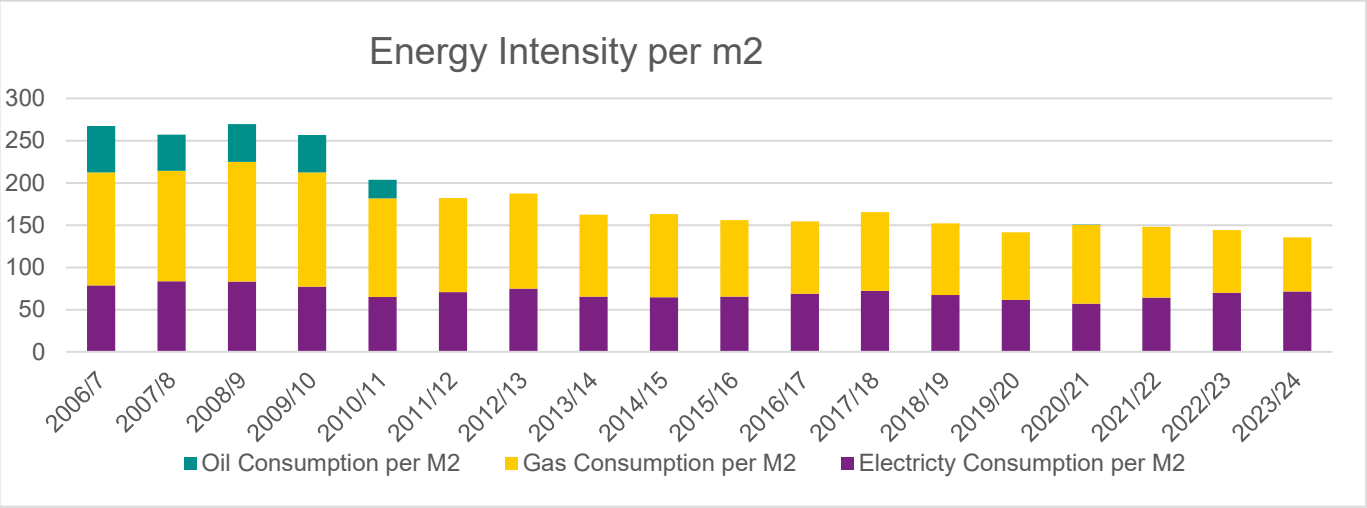

Figure 2 – Energy Intensity (kWh's per m²) 2006/07 to 2023/24

It has become apparent that the large gains made early in the energy reduction programme are starting to become more difficult to sustain and it has been necessary to look at larger scale energy reduction projects . The University made a successful bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (PSDS) in November 2020 which provided £3.12m of grant funding towards low carbon projects. Installation commenced in Spring 2021 by the contractor Ameresco under the Re:Fit Framework and 2022/23 saw the first year of full operation for the equipment installed.

Energy efficiency projects implemented as part of the PSDS scheme included:

- 36 air source heat pumps to 15 buildings replacing gas boilers.

- LED lighting upgrades and lighting controls
- BMS installation, upgrade and optimisation
- 150 kWp Solar Photovoltaics on 6 buildings

Over the past 2 years, the installation of 36 air source heat pumps as replacements for gas-fired heating systems has significantly altered out energy consumption profile. This transition has driven a noticeable increase in electricity usage alongside a corresponding decrease in gas consumption. In 2022/23 electricity use rose by 11% compared to the previous year while gas consumption fell by 9%. The trend continued into 2023/24, with a further 2% rise in electricity use and a substantial 14% drop in gas consumption. These figures reflect the growing impact of electrification through heat pumps technology on our overall energy use.

Renewable Energy Generation

At the start of 2021, the University had 5 renewable electricity installations, located on the Burma Road Student Village Blocks B and D, St Alphege, Bowers Building and the West Downs Centre. Under the £3.1 mil Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant a further 151Kw of solar photovoltaic panels were installed on a further 4 buildings (Burma Road Student Village Blocks A, C and E and installed capacity was increased on blocks B and D along with a final installation was made on The Stripe). BRSV started generating savings in November 2021 with The Stripe coming online in December 2021. The 2022/23 academic year saw the first full reporting year for electrical generation for these new installations, which has increased by 36% compared to the previous year (2021/22). This dropped slightly in 2023/24 due to an inverter on one of the installations failing. This is due for replacement in 2024/25.

On-site generation accounted for 3.20% of total electricity consumed in 2023/24.

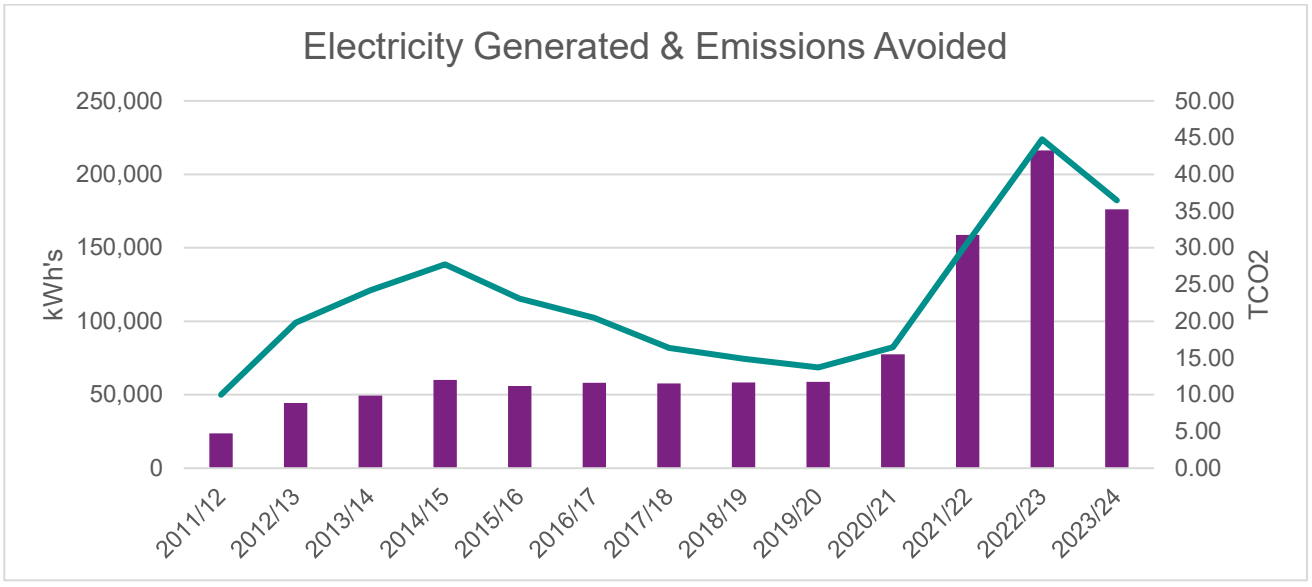

Figure 3 – Renewable Energy Generated on Campus

Renewable Energy Procurement

The University has purchased zero carbon electricity to cover 100% of its demand since 2008/09, meaning that, under the market-based methodology, carbon emissions are much lower. Between April 2022 and April 2024, the university had to switch the procurement of its electricity supply to a Zero

Carbon for business tariff, backed by 100% nuclear generator declarations and zero carbon emissions. This move away from renewable was due to the high national demand of 100% renewable energy and limited supply of REGOs to cover this demand. The University returned to purchasing 100% renewable energy, backed by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGOs) from wind, solar and/ or Hydro, from 1st April 2024

In 2019/20 the university also purchased 47% of its annual gas demand from renewable gas generation (biomethane). In the 2020/21 & 2021/22 reporting years the University increased its annual purchasing of renewable gas to 100%. Due to cost pressures the University were unable to continue with the purchase of renewable gas in 2022/23 and 2023/24. As such only 4% of the annual gas demand was from renewable sources in 2022/23 and 0% from renewable sources in 2023/24. Rather than continue to fund the extra cost for green gas, the university have made the decision to invest the extra funds into infrastructure changes that allow the university to move away from gas consumption, and towards the electrification of the campus.

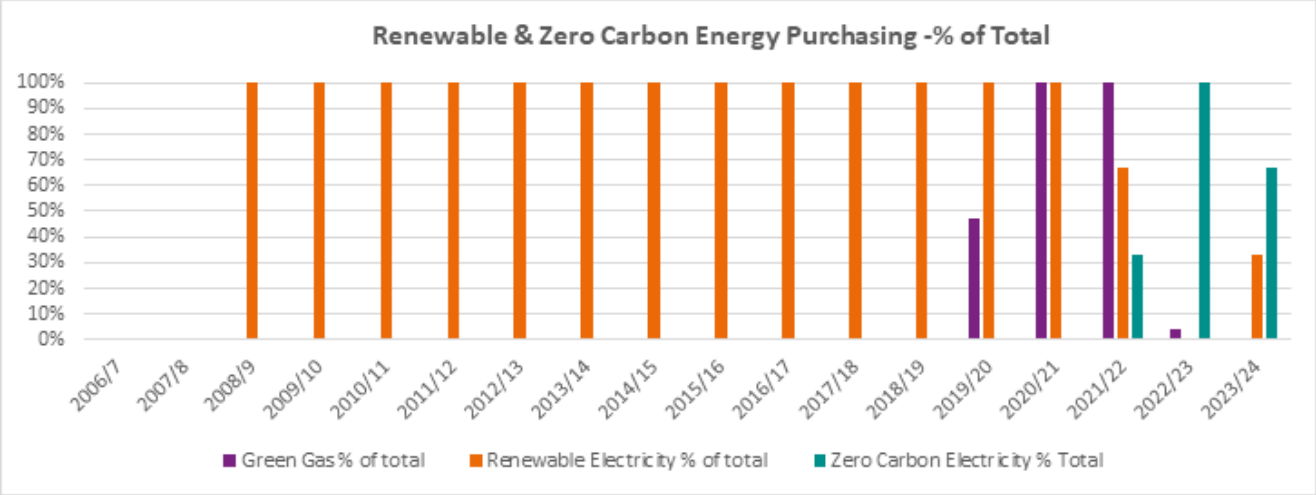

Figure 4 – Renewable & Zero Carbon Gas and Electricity – Percentage of total by year

Display Energy Certificates

Display Energy Certificates (DECs) were introduced by the Government in 2009 and must be displayed in the foyer of all public buildings over 1000m2 in size. More recently the introduction of DECs for smaller buildings over 500m2 and then 250m2 were introduced. DECs on smaller properties are a legal requirement every 10 years but for benchmarking purposes the University will make voluntary DECs on all buildings over 250m2 on a more regular basis. DECs are a public display of the energy and carbon performance of the University's buildings, therefore it is essential to reduce the carbon emissions of the buildings to avoid DECs highlighting poor performance. As demonstrated in figure 5 below, the energy efficiency projects which have been conducted have improved the ratings of the buildings for which DECs are applicable. We have utilised metering data and installation of renewable technology to improve the ratings of some buildings.

The average DEC rating has improved significantly since 2009/10, the average rating in 2023/24 is 59/C compared to 105/E in 2009/10.

It should be noted that the G rating for buildings in 2009/10 are default rankings due to having no useful energy data to compile the DEC with. DECs for an academic year are based upon the energy data from the previous academic year.

	2009/10	Rating	2010/11	Rating	2011/12	Rating	2012/13	Rating	2013/14	Rating	2014/15	Rating	2015/16	Rating	2016/17	Rating	2017/18	Rating	2018/19	Rating	2019/20	Rating	2020/21	Rating	2021/22	Rating	2022/23	Rating	2023/24	Rating
Alwyn Hall	114	E	114	E	110	E	41	B	44	B	48	B	38	B	49	B	44	B	44	B	43	B	28	B	30	B	27	B	29	B
Herbert Jarman Building	93	D	102	E	72	C	38	B	36	B	43	B	36	B		B	41	B	49	B	42	B	41	B	33	B	41	B	48	B
Bowers/Centre for Sport	64	C	59	C	53	C	31	B	27	B	25	A	26	B	29	B	23	A	41	B	41	B	50	B	46	B	45	B	47	B
Winton Building	109	E	111	E	81	D	70	C	70	C	65	C	68	C	66	C	66	C	74	C	62	C	65	C	55	C	60	C	63	C
Martial Rose Library	89	D	88	D	77	D	57	C	57	C	64	C	46	B	43	B	43	B	49	B	53	C	42	B	74	C	39	B	36	B
Medecroft	76	D	70	C	55	C	51	C	39	B	44	B	32	B	34	B	33	B	37	B	36	B	36	B	33	B	41	B	38	B
Paul Chamberlain Studios	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	24	A	19	A	20	A	19	A	16	A	17	A	16	A	17	A	24	A	23	A	21	A	26	B	26	B
West Downs Centre	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	43	B	55	C	67	C	65	C
St Alphage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	B	27	B	25	A	19	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
St Edburga's (+Alphage from 2017)	200	G	84	D	74	C	33	B	32	B	26	B	40	B	53	B	40	B	37	B	36	B	36	B	37	B	36	B	37	B
St Elizabeth's Hall	91	D	67	C	71	C	46	B	43	B	42	B	38	B	38	B	42	B	33	B	40	B	44	B	41	B	43	B	41	B
St Grimbalds	73	C	90	D	83	D	59	C	60	C	59	C	52	C	54	C	53	C	49	B	48	B	34	B	41	B	51	C	49	B
TAB and FWB	73	C	72	C	63	C	53	C	54	C	56	C	48	B	64	C	58	C	58	C	54	C	35	B	41	B	23	A	53	C
The Stripe	97	D	101	E	91	D	50	B	57	C	56	C	42	B	42	B	43	B	51	C	59	C	41	B	42	B	52	C	57	C
King Alfreds Centre	200	G	69	C	67	C	88	D	76	D	67	C	59	C	61	C	59	C	64	C	60	C	71	C	42	B	78	D	69	C
Winchester Business School (A4)	96	D	83	D	73	C	52	C	67	C	57	C	56	C	60	C	56	C	59	C	54	C	53	C	30	B	46	B	42	B
St Swithuns (500 m2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	51	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	54	C	54	C	54	C	54	C	60	C	53	C	53	C	53	C	53	C
St James Hall (500 m2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	77	D	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	79	D	79	D	79	D	79	D	87	D	81	D	81	D	81	D	81	D
Medecroft Annexe (500 m2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	57	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46	B	46	B	46	B	46	B	55	C	55	C	55	C	55	C	55	C
Kenneth Kettle (250 m2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	112	E	112	E	112	E	112	E	120	E	111	E	111	E	111	E	111	E
Holm Lodge (250 m2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	30	B	30	B	30	B	30	B	30	B	49	B	49	B	49	B	49	B
Masters Lodge (250 m2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	41	B	41	B	41	B	41	B	45	B	42	B	42	B	42	B	42	B
Bar End (250 m2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	104	E	104	E	104	E	104	E	38	B	38	B	38	B	38	B	38	B
The Chapel (250 m2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	191	G	149	F	149	F	233	G	233	G	233	G	233	G
Average Rating (250 m2)	105.77	E	85.38	D	71.00	C	51.35	C	47.47	B	46.53	B	49.45	B	52.14	B	61.37	C	58.05	C	56.18	C	56.70	C	55.78	C	58.13	C	59.22	C

Figure 5 – Display Energy Certificates by building 2009/10 to 2023/24 (100 is typical)

Student Engagement- Energy Saving Campaigns

Figure 6 – Picture of students volunteering for the Blackout Energy Saving event

Student engagement played a pivotal role in energy reduction campaigns at the University and each year the University's Energy & Environment Team run a large switch off event. More than 20 students

and staff joined a campus Blackout event in November 2024. This annual energy switch-off event took place across King Alfred and West Downs Quarters highlighting the positive impact that small, collective switch-off actions can have on the University's carbon footprint.

Teams of student volunteers, led by staff from the Estates and Facilities department, walked around the University and switch off non-essential small power equipment left on that evening in office areas and teaching rooms - including lights, computer monitors, non-networked printers, mobile phone chargers, and PC speakers. During the event 847 PC monitors were switched off along with 75 lights and 82 windows shut.

Energy usage during the Blackout evening was measured and compared to a comparable evening to demonstrate the real savings. The results showed that a 5% energy reduction per year could be achieved with just a few changes to the way we work and switching off equipment that does not need to be left on.

Water

Water consumption on campus was significantly affected by the global pandemic during the 2020/21 academic year, resulting in atypical usage patterns.

Since the 2006/07 baseline year, water consumption per square metre of estate has decreased by 39%, and by 31% per full-time equivalent (FTE), based on 2023/24 data. Additionally, the volume of rainwater reused in the West Downs Building increased by 7% compared to the previous year.

In 2018, the Estates Department introduced a standard specification for construction and refurbishment projects, mandating the installation of water-saving devices in all new buildings and refurbishments.

However, water consumption has risen in recent years, with a 10% increase in 2023/24 compared to the previous year. This is believed to be due to suspected leaks across the campus. In response, the Energy & Environment Team plans to implement projects in 2024/25 to identify and address water wastage. These efforts will be supported by a comprehensive water awareness campaign targeting both staff and students.

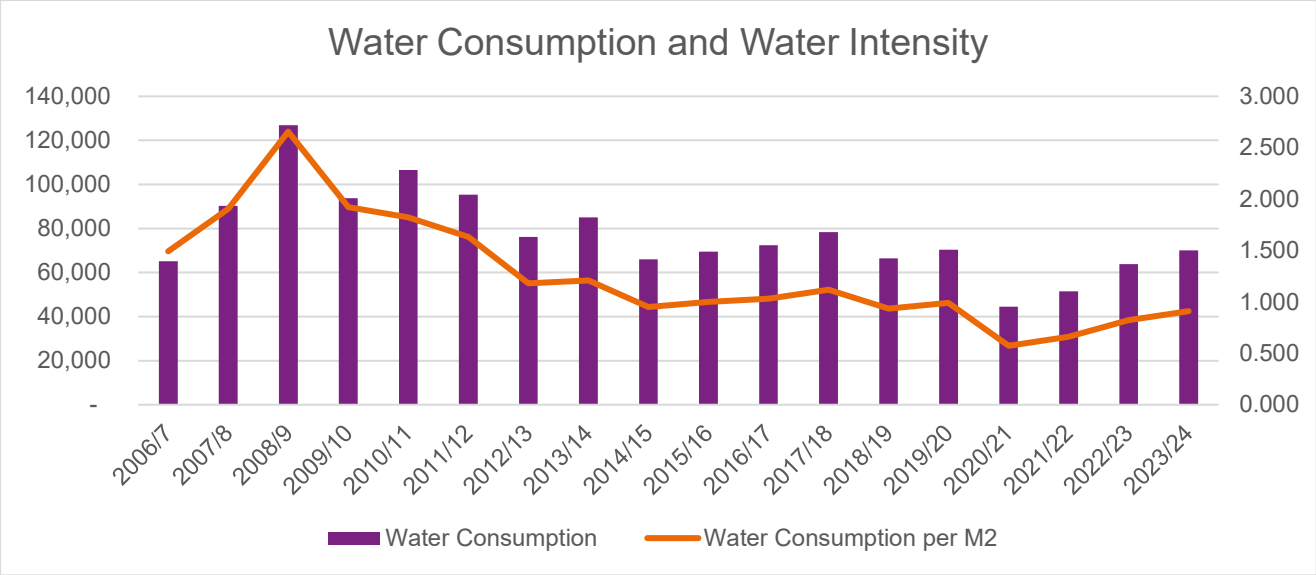

Figure 7 – Water Consumption (m^3) and Water Intensity (m^3 by m^2 of estate) 2006/7 to 2023/24

Transport

Campus Fleet Vehicles

By the end of 2023/24, 81% of fleet vehicles had been switched to electric vehicles as part of our journey towards our target of net-zero carbon emissions from fleet vehicles by the end of 2025/26.

This has had a significant impact in the amount of diesel and petrol being bought to fuel campus vehicles, with volumes reducing by 84% in diesel from baseline year and 65% reduction in petrol from baseline year.

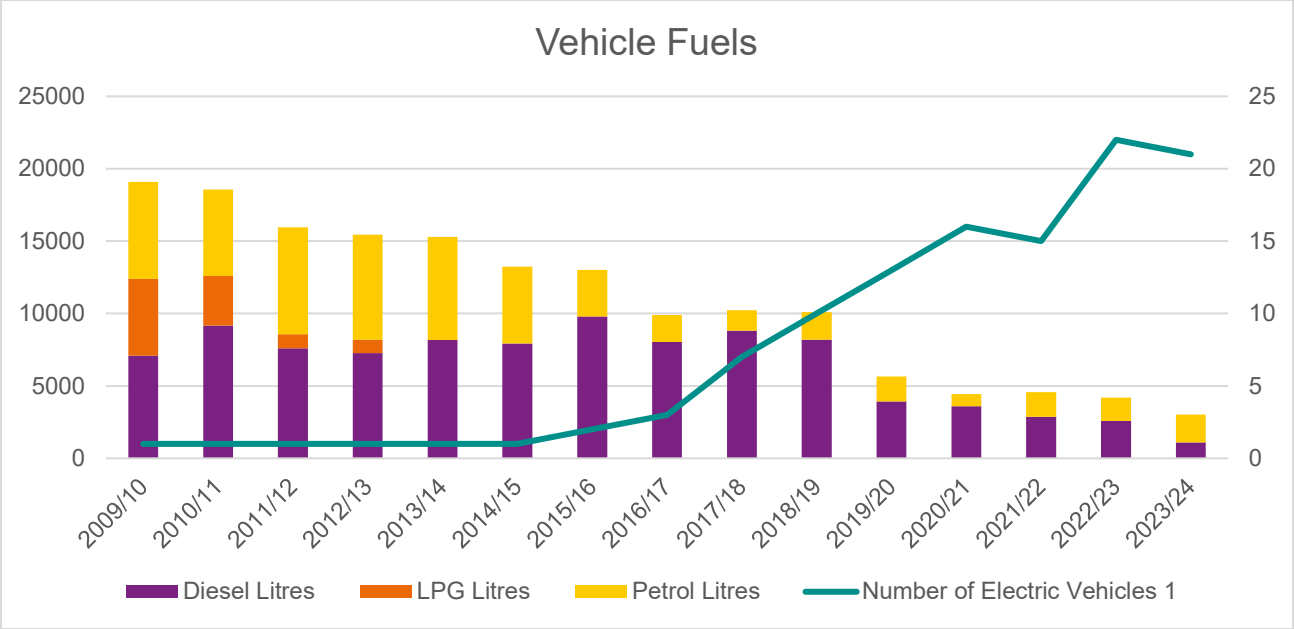

Figure 8 – Fleet Vehicle Fuel Consumption and Electric Vehicles 2009/10 to 2023/24

It is expected that the majority of the University fleet will be changed to Electric technology as the vehicles are replaced by 2025. Please note that the data submitted to HESA in 2006 to 2008 is not reliable and has therefore been excluded from this report on accuracy grounds.

Travel Survey

In March 2024 a student and staff travel survey was conducted with 27% of staff responding to the survey and 6% of students. The university is committed to carrying out staff and student travel surveys biennially.

Understanding how staff and students travel to the University is key in helping us to determine what facilities or incentives are required to help reduce single occupancy car use and drive an increase in sustainable transport and active travel.

Headline data showed the following trends in travel behaviours for the university staff and students:

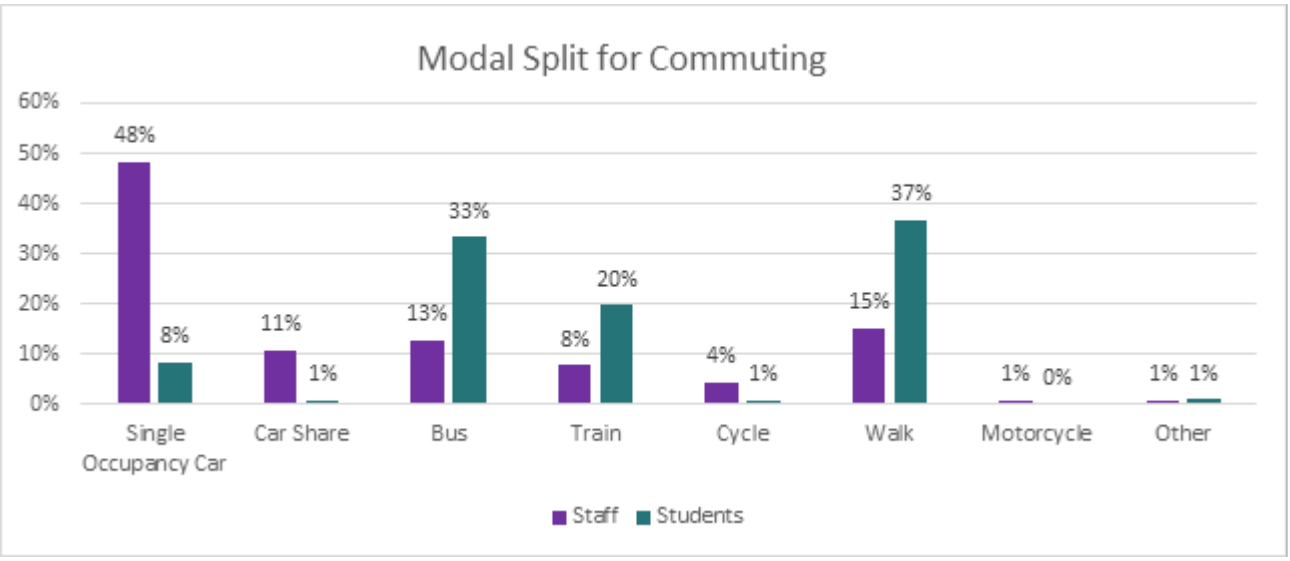

Figure 9 – Modal split for staff and student commuting to the University of Winchester

Promoting Sustainable Transport

The University of Winchester has set out the commitment to support students and staff to travel sustainably, reducing single occupancy car use and producing a modal shift to sustainable transport options. The University continues to secure new discounts on public transport and with local suppliers, to diversify the travel offers to staff and students.

Information on transport options was distributed via dedicated intranet webpages, the University's external website and App, leaflets and social media.

Local Travel Discounts

In 2023/24 we continued to support sustainable travel choices by offering discounted public transport options for staff and students. These included savings on multi-day network tickets across regional bus services, encouraging the use of buses for commuting and travel between key locations. Discounts were available on selected ticket types for services operating in and around the area, helping to reduce reliance on private vehicles and promote more environmentally friendly travel.

Sustainable Travel continued to be supported by providing access to discounted rail travel. While student discounts on season tickets via South Western Railway were no longer available, staff were can still benefit from reduced fares through membership in the Easit Scheme.

Cycling

A Bike Doctor event, run in conjunction with Bespoke Biking, was held monthly during the term time of the 2023/24 academic year Staff and students were able to bring their bikes for a free service and minor repairs. This event ran from October to the following June, on the first Thursday of every other month.

The University has two cycle maintenance stands in two locations on the University site which offer bike users the option to undertake small maintenance tasks on the go. In 2023/24 we provided over 18 secure bike parking lockers and we provided a total number of 257 cycle parking spaces.

Easit Membership

The University remained a member of the EasitHAMPSHIRE network with all staff being eligible to join the scheme, enabling access to a suite of discounts. EasitHAMPSHIRE membership amongst staff has grown steadily since 2014/15, as shown in figure 9. There were 443 staff signed up to the scheme using EasitDISCOUNTS and initiatives in the 2023/24 academic year. A further 16 members of staff have also signed up to EasitSHARE, a journey sharing initiative. The University recently launched Easit for students and currently had 240 students accessing discounts through the scheme.

Waste

The University carried out a waste tender exercise in collaboration with the SCAG (South Coast Affinity Group) in 2022/23 and have re-entered into a waste contract with SUEZ Environmental from January 2023 which will run for 5 years. The collaborative contract as part of SCAG, over the last 7 years, has led to the University achieving zero waste to landfill from 2013 and a significant improvement in its recycling rate.

	2023/24 (Tonnes)
Total Waste to Landfill	0
Total Energy From Waste	176
Total Recycled	217
Total Waste Weight	393
Total Recycling Rate	61%

Figure 10 – Waste breakdown per year

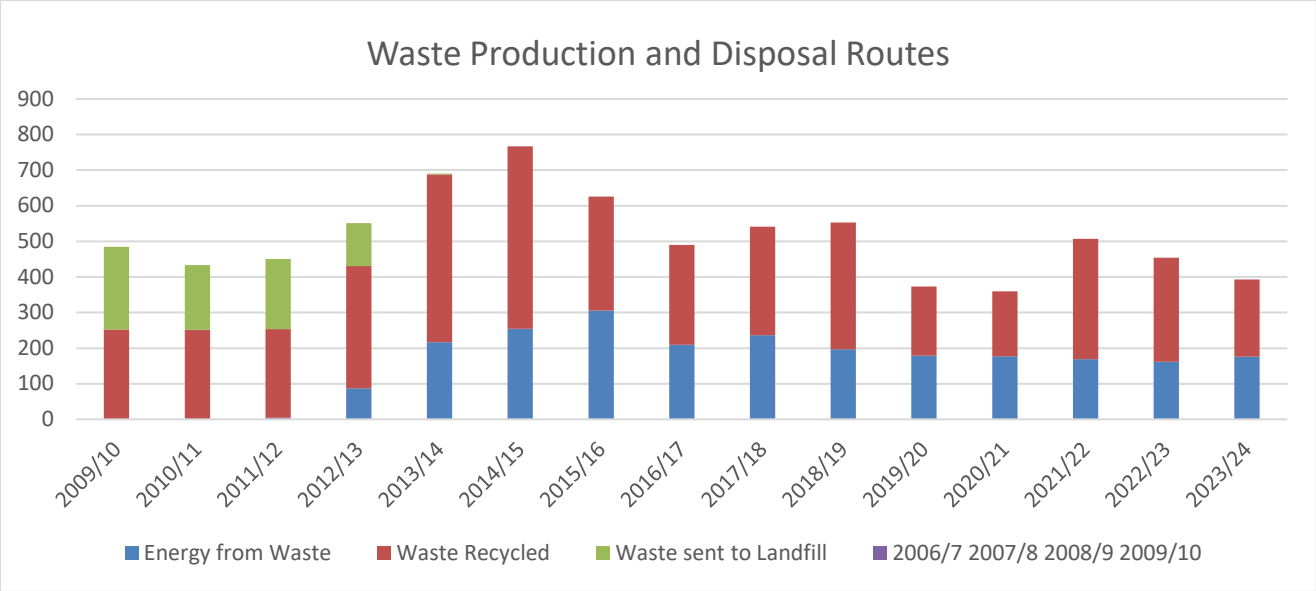

Figure 11– Total Waste Production by year

2023/24 saw the University of Winchester achieve a recycling rate of 60%, representing a 5% decrease compared to the previous year. However, this decline coincided with a 13% reduction in the total volume of waste generated on campus.

This drop in recycling rate can be partly attributed to the overall decrease in waste production. As the University continues to prioritise waste avoidance and reuse, less material is being discarded, and therefore, less requires recycling.

Notable achievements include:

- 13 tonnes of books recycled through the Better World Books scheme.
- 7.4 tonnes of waste reused via the University's partnership with TRACO.

These initiatives reflect the University's ongoing commitment to a circular economy and sustainable waste management practices.

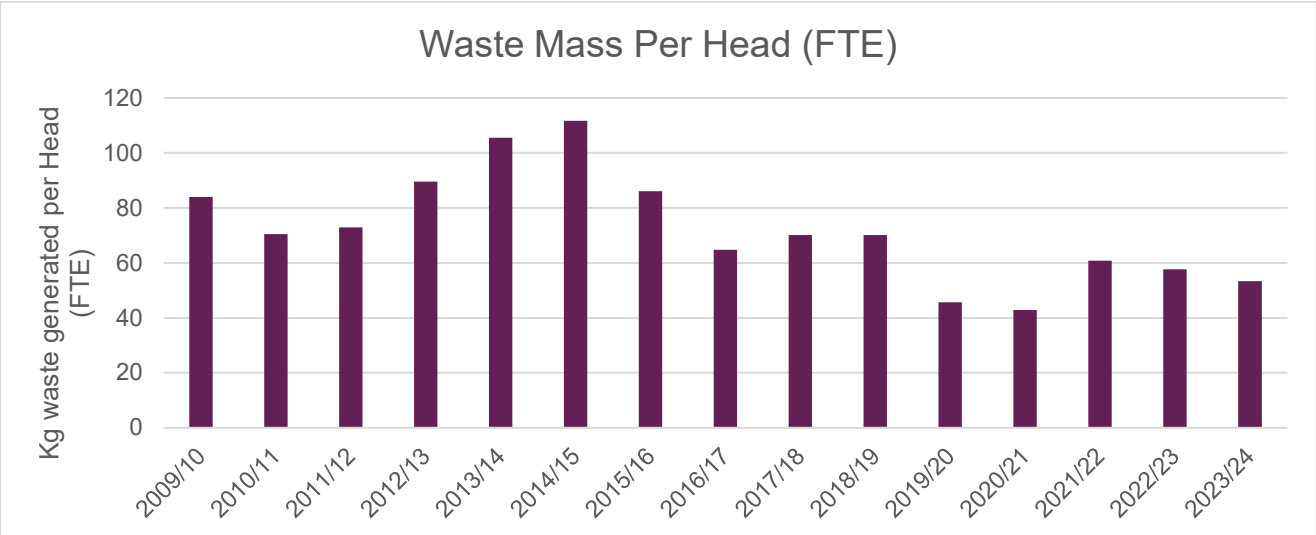

Figure 12 – Waste Mass Per FTE by year

Figure 12 illustrates a continued decline in the amount of waste generated per staff member and student. The significant drop in waste per capita observed in 2019/20 and 2020/21 reflects the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which both campus activity and population were significantly reduced due to lockdowns.

In 2023/24, the University recorded an 8% reduction in waste mass per head compared to the previous year, and a 36% reduction since the baseline year of 2009/10.

Winchester Refill

The University runs an award-winning initiative to reduce the use of disposable coffee cups. In 2016, a 25p surcharge was introduced on all hot and cold drinks served in disposable cups, which increased to 50p in August 2022.

As part of this initiative, all new staff and first-year students are invited to collect a Gum-tec Americano mug, made in part from recycled chewing gum collected on campus. This supports the University's goal of reducing disposable cup usage.

In 2023/24, 56% of all hot drink sales were served in reusable cups—a 7% increase compared to the previous year.

Additionally, water refill points are available across campus, encouraging staff and students to refill bottles rather than purchase new ones.

End of Term Move-Out

In 2023/24, the University repeated its end-of-year move-out recycling initiative called ‘Bag It Up’. Students were asked to donate unwanted items such as clothing, kitchenware, books and unused food when they vacated their Halls of Residence. This was the sixth successive year of the Bag it Up campaign (having been skipped in 2019/20) and saw good student engagement with the scheme.

The 2023/24 campaign saved hundreds of items from going to waste and instead saw them donated to Winchester Basics Bank. These items included clothing, homeware, kitchenware, bedding and food.

Nursing Uniform Swap Shop

Nursing Students at the university set up a swap shop for the reuse of uniform when no longer needed and when they are graduating. As well as reuse, there were items received back which were no longer able to be worn and beyond repair and these were donated to the on-campus cloth bank, helping to raise funds for the nearby Winchester Hospice.

Figure 13 – Student donating their old uniform for fabric recycling with funds going to Winchester Hospice

Biodiversity

In July 2024 the University were very excited to be awarded the prestigious Green Flag for the grounds in the King Alfred Campus.

The Green Flag Award scheme - managed by Keep Britain Tidy, recognises and rewards well-managed green spaces and the conservation of natural features, wildlife and flora. King Alfred was one of just 30 university campuses across the UK to earn a Green Flag in 2024.

Figure 14 – Awarding of the Green Flag Award

Sustainable Education

In April 2024, the University of Winchester were named as one of just nine UK universities to become a champion in the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) programme to raise the profile of sustainability in business and management education. Across the globe just 47 institutions were accepted onto the 2024 two-year cycle.

Dr Rick Boidurjo Mukhopadhyay, PRME Champion at the Winchester Business School, said that to be included in the list of fewer than 50 from around the world and “recognised for our track record of impactful contributions in thought and action leadership was an honour.”

Winchester’s teaching programmes emphasises authentic leadership, long-term value creation, innovation and change, employee well-being, sustainability, ethics and social responsibility.

Emissions

The University holds three Discharge Consents for wastewater from on-campus laundries, which is discharged to the mains sewer as trade effluent. There are no soakaways in operation on campus, and the University does not generate any air emissions that require a permit.

In compliance with legal requirements, the University monitors F-gas emissions from air handling units, which are regularly maintained. In 2021/22, 32.5 tCO_2e were produced due to F-gas losses from catering equipment. This equipment has since been largely replaced, and there were no reported F-gas losses in 2022/23 or 2023/24.

The Energy and Environment Team has continued to improve the F-gas register throughout 2023/24, with the goal of maintaining zero fugitive emissions.

Community

Reputation

In 2023/24 the University continued to support the Hampshire Sustainable Business Network and the Environment & Sustainability Manager regularly attended regional and national HE and Public Sector networking meetings.

EAUC Sustainability Conference

The University of Winchester was very excited to host the 2-day 2024 EAUC Sustainability conference in June 2024. This conference was attended by over 150 sustainability practitioners from 90 Higher Education & Further Education Institutions across the UK. The event was hosted in our flag ship West Downs Centre, a building boasting many sustainability features including a combined heat and power plant, heat recovery systems, rainwater harvesting, a green roof and solar photovoltaic panels.

Supporting Local Charities

Winchester Basics Bank

The University formed a close working relationship with Winchester Basics Bank through the Universities end-of-term Bag It Up donations.

WinACC

The University continued to support Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) with free office space.

Procurement

The University has clear procurement policies and sustainability has been embedded into these policies. Staff involved in buying activity across the University have been trained on their procurement approach and how this should align with the environmental and sustainability objectives of the University. These policies are reviewed throughout the financial year.

Examples of this can be seen in university tendered contracts such as for stationery, where daily deliveries were rescheduled to twice a week, electric vehicles introduced when replacing older vehicles and single-use plastics greatly reduced across a wide product range. Another example can be seen in the recently tendered Graduation Services Contract where our specifications dictated the usage of sustainable and ethically sourced materials in all gowns and supporting clothing.

The University's travel contract was retendered in Autumn 2021 with the new contract producing more granular data on carbon emissions from staff business travel. The new travel bureau is fully committed to supporting the University with all key sustainable policies and targets.

Targets for the coming year include:

- Accurate capture of carbon data from business travel
- Introduction of a Carbon Conscious Researcher policy which will restrict business air travel

- Further improvements in Sustainable Procurement to more accurately record Scope 3 emissions from goods and services.

Ethical Finance

The University is committed to environmental sustainability through the implementation of its ethical investment policy and regular review of its investment portfolio.

the University will never knowingly invest in companies with any link to the production of munitions, tobacco, pornography, gambling or any company that is primarily focused on coal or oil extraction or processing.

The University does not intentionally invest directly (or through collective funds) in fossil fuel companies, arms companies or corporations complicit in the violation of international law. This includes organisations with high exposure to activities or substances, which are potentially injurious to animal or human health (including armaments, alcohol and tobacco), that could destabilise community cohesion and threaten international stability

The University has committed to helping protect and preserve the global environment and in terms of environmental sustainability, does not invest directly in organisations that do not have policies to control and significantly reduce the risk of serious negative environmental impact. Nor does the University knowingly invest directly or indirectly in organisations that breach human or animal rights or that breach the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The University has an Ethical Investment Policy which can be accessed via the Policies and Procedures section of the website.

In 2018/19, the new West Downs Centre Building became the first building in the HE Sector to be funded using an ethical finance.

Sustainable Buildings

The University's Sustainable Building Policy aims to ensure that all major construction projects are built to sector-leading environmental standards. The policy is informed by industry leading organisations on sustainable building, including UK Green Building Council (UKGBC) and the Low Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI).

The university Estates medium to long-term plan sets out an estate development framework to manage change and renewal by reusing buildings where possible and developing sector-leading new buildings where required. Buildings which perform poorly in terms of energy efficiency, condition and function

are prioritised for refurbishment or redevelopment which helps maintain and improve portfolio building performance. Any new buildings will be designed to meet the highest practical standards meeting or exceeding sector best practice.

The standards adopted vary depending on building type and location but are always be founded on the values of the university. In general a “fabric first” approach will be adopted, where the energy use of the building will be reduced before consideration is given to renewable energy sources. Typical accreditation standards which could be applied include BREEAM and Passivhaus in terms of general sustainability and energy use, however, a bespoke approach will generally be adopted. Additionally, all designs are informed by health and wellbeing design principles and life cycle carbon emissions.

Smaller construction projects will adhere to the University of Winchester Standard Specification, which sets out energy and water saving specifications and products among other requirements. Waste management for smaller projects is strictly managed using the university waste management supplier.

REFIT / Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)

In 2021/22, the University delivered the Public Sector Decarbonisation Programme (PSDS) installation. The PSDS funding covered installation of 34 Air Source Heat Pumps (replacing gas boilers), completion of LED lighting roll-out, installation of smart heating controls in West Downs Student village and in other building across campus and the installation of Solar PV panels on 4 more buildings. The University used the REFIT framework, an Energy Performance Contract framework, for procurement of these large-scale energy efficiency measures. Work commenced on site in Spring 2021 and was completed in 2023.

This investment has been made possible by a £3.12m grant from Salix. Reporting has found that over the first year of operation (2023/24), these energy saving measures have saved around 2,5 million kWh/ year and 486 tonnes of CO2e, this is equivalent to a saving of £68,984.