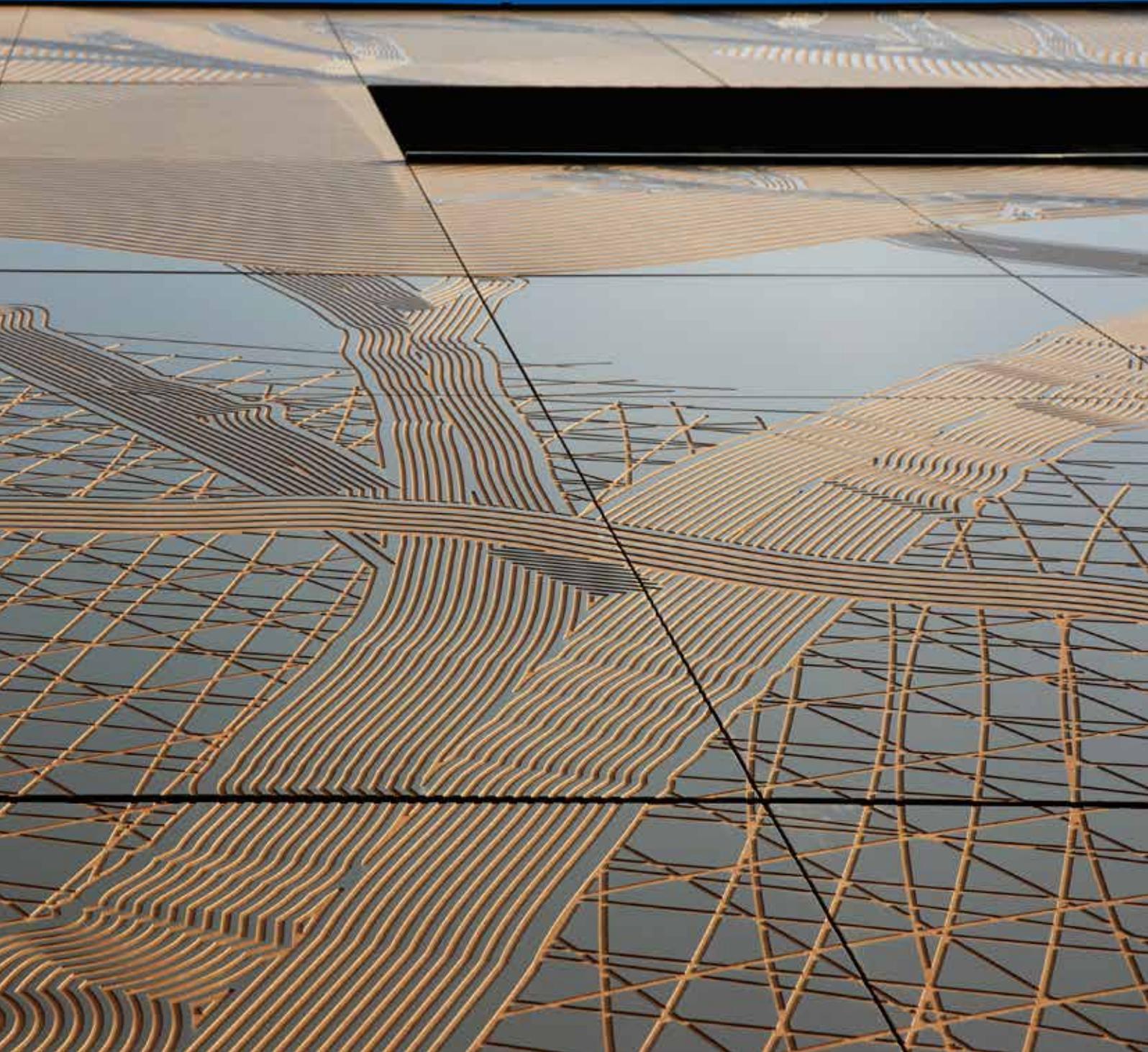


Sheffield
Hallam
University

Annual Sustainability Report *2014–15*





Introduction from Mark Swales, *Director of Estates and Facilities*



2014–15 has been an exciting year for Sheffield Hallam and our sustainability programme. We have been working to ensure progress against our environmental targets and to embed sustainability across the organisation, resulting in recognition from key external stakeholders.

2014–15 marked our third consecutive year in the top 20 of the People and Planet University League with a rank of 15th, and our seventh First Class Award. We also received a silver award in the Business in the Community Environment Index. This award compares a wide variety of businesses according to their environmental credentials and achievements, not just Higher Education institutions. The silver award was given in recognition of our green champions network and ranked us above Business in the Community themselves, Boohoo and Virgin Money in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

We remain one of the few organisations to have achieved continued certification to the ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 standards. These standards ensure we comply with relevant environmental legislation and continuously improve our practices to reduce any negative environmental impacts and energy wastage.

Our Students' Union received the Green Impact Excellence Gold award following the successful establishment of the student-led green group, Sustain, which delivers sustainability projects across Sheffield Hallam.

In 2015–16 we will continue to influence staff and students, and our wider stakeholders in the Sheffield City Region, to make sustainability 'business as usual' and protect our environment for the benefit of future generations. We will:

- review our Sustainability Framework and targets to ensure we are on track to meet our 2020 goals.
- continue to maintain our external accreditation to ISO 14001 and ISO 50001, and transition from ISO 14001:2004 to the recently published revision of the standard, ISO 14001:2015.
- continue to work closely with the Students' Union and key colleagues to develop and deliver projects to meet our corporate targets. This will include incorporating low carbon technologies into our fleet, embedding sustainability into our project management process, and investing in energy efficiency projects to reduce carbon emissions and costs arising from energy use.
- deliver behaviour change campaigns, working closely with our network of green champions, to ensure key messages are shared throughout the University to staff and students.

This work will continue alongside Sheffield Hallam's Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, Healthy Universities, which aspires to create a learning environment and organisational culture that enhances the health, wellbeing and sustainability of its community and enables people to achieve their full potential.

Mark Swales
Director of Estates and Facilities

Policies *and targets*

Sheffield Hallam has a suite of environmental policies, from sustainability to energy, waste management to fairtrade, which outline our key values, aims and objectives. The policies form the backbone of the University's ISO 14001 Environmental and ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems, which identify and manage potential negative environmental impacts and areas of high energy use.

The Sustainability Framework underpins the management systems and policies with targets against which progress, success and continual improvement can be measured and quantified.

Performance



Energy use

The University has reduced carbon emissions resulting from energy use in our buildings by 11.2% since 2005–06.

This achievement is a result of the standardisation of efficient fittings and plant and the introduction of a number of energy reduction schemes and renewable technologies such as building management system controls, voltage optimisation, solar panels and ground source heat pumps, as well as changes to building use across the estate.



Water use

We have reduced water consumption by 48.9% since 2005–06.

The reduction has resulted from investment in water efficient installations across developments on the estate, and a significant operational change when two of our student residences ceased to be managed by the University.

Business travel

During 2014–15 an improved data collection methodology has been implemented to allow us to measure and monitor business travel activities. Establishing an agreed baseline will mean we can monitor progress in the future.

Business travel is now included in the expanded scope of the ISO 50001 Energy Management System, ensuring that emissions and impact will be closely monitored against other types of energy use.



Fleet vehicles

The University has reduced the carbon emissions resulting from fuel used by our fleet by 3.4% since 2012–13.

Sheffield Hallam has a fleet of 20 vehicles, predominantly service vans. The reduction in emissions has resulted from a combination of route planning, driver training and the introduction of alternative fuel sources. In 2014–15 we incorporated a petrol van into the fleet to reduce particulates which are prominent in diesel exhausts, in line with the Sheffield Air Quality Action Plan. An electric vehicle was also successfully trialled with a view to making these a permanent addition to the fleet.



Waste

The amount of waste being produced per Sheffield Hallam student has fallen by 35.7% since 2005–06.

Recycling rates have increased from 10% to 27% since 2005–06.

We continue to be compliant with all waste legislation and zero waste goes to landfill. Non-recyclable material goes to our local energy recovery facility where it is incinerated to provide heat for our buildings via the Sheffield District Heat Network.



Buildings *and estate*

Sheffield Hallam's policies strive to ensure sustainability is embedded into all aspects of the University, in particular into the fabric of our buildings and estate. As our campuses expand to meet the needs of our students, it is important that new developments absorb and reflect our values. This was clearly demonstrated in two buildings which opened during 2014–15.

Heart of the Campus - new build

The Heart of the Campus development opened in October 2014 on our Collegiate Campus. This cutting edge development was awarded BREEAM Very Good status. Sustainable features incorporated into the building include solar panels, a ground source heat pump, a green roof and rainwater harvesting.

It has also been awarded a RIBA Yorkshire award for its iconic design.

Heart of the Campus achieved BREEAM Very Good status and a RIBA Yorkshire Award 2015.

Bryan Nicholson achieved the University's first SKA gold rating and is 34.6% more energy efficient than a similar building in our portfolio.

Bryan Nicholson - refurbishment

Opened in February 2015, the project to develop Bryan Nicholson involved the renovation of an old office building and was designed to change the way work is conducted at Sheffield Hallam. Key sustainability credentials include:

- being the first of our buildings to achieve a SKA gold rating for the refurbishment.
- rating as 34.6% more energy efficient (by floor area) than a building with similar functions in our portfolio.
- sustainable features such as solar panels, LED lighting activated according to occupancy, heat energy recovered from incinerated waste, and secure cycle parking with showers and drying facilities to encourage cycling, running and walking to work.
- 'new ways of working', which has significantly reduced required resources. There are seven workstations for every ten occupants and the office is paper-lite with less storage and smart release printing.
- travel reduced through flexible working locations and online video conferencing facilities. The Directorate of International Development features purpose built Skype rooms that reduce the need to travel, particularly overseas.



Changing *behaviours*

Sheffield Hallam's behaviour change programme has been running since 2013. It incorporates a number of individual initiatives to encourage behaviour change in order to meet our environmental targets and objectives.

Students identified £2,300 worth of energy saving opportunities as part of a 'Switch It Off' audit.

Do The Right Thing

2014–15 saw a change in waste contractors and the start of a new working relationship with Veolia. Veolia use only local facilities to recycle four key materials (paper, cardboard, clean plastic bottles and tops, and clean tins and cans) which make up the vast majority of our waste. All other items are sent to Veolia's local energy recovery facility, where they are incinerated and the heat produced fed into the Sheffield District Heat Network to heat our buildings.

Switch It Off

In February 2015 students took part in a 'Switch It Off' audit looking at the percentage of electrical equipment left on at various buildings across the University out of normal operating hours. This review identified £2,300 worth of potential energy savings across four locations.

On Your Bike

Since 2013 there has been an increase of 123% in staff and students taking to the saddle and commuting to the University on their bikes. This boom has followed the success of the Tour De France Grand Départ 2014, which was hosted in Yorkshire, and is encouraged through the provision of cycle storage and shower facilities across our campuses and initiatives such as Bike Doctor, delivering free bike safety checks and undertaking minor repairs. The University also takes part in the government's Cycle to Work Scheme which offers a tax incentive to staff who are interested in purchasing a new bike and cycle equipment.

There has been a 123% increase in staff and students cycling to the University since 2013.



Students' Union

The Students' Union plays an important role in engaging our students in the sustainability agenda. The student green group - Sustain - has been established to run sustainability projects and shape environmental volunteering at Sheffield Hallam.

During 2014–15 the Students' Union has engaged with the student body and University in leading on numerous sustainability campaigns and events including:

- **Love Food Hate Waste** workshops to educate students on the benefits of shopping and cooking sustainably without waste
- the **Herb Giveaway**, which gave students the tools they need to grow their own herbs for cooking
- a partnership with Zheros (a national food waste charity) and our own catering team. Sustain saw weekly donations of uneaten food from the University collected by volunteers and handed over to Salvation Army food redistribution centres. Volunteers took part in food collections at a local Tesco store and collected 186.kg of food - enough to feed more than 400 people.

The Students' Union received the Green Impact Excellence Gold award in July 2015, in recognition of establishing its student-led green group Sustain.

Student volunteers collect uneaten food from university catering outlets each week, and donate it to Salvation Army food redistribution centres.

- **The Big Stew**, held in November 2014. Student and staff volunteers at Sheffield Hallam gave out free vegetable stew made from leftover ingredients prepared in our training kitchens. Sheffield Hallam, together with the University of Sheffield, fed more than 1,000 people with another 800 making 'Rethinking Food' pledges.
- **Fairtrade Fortnight** featured a host of events from a cheese and wine evening and a blind taste testing of fairtrade products, to a Fairtrade day featuring local business stalls distributing Fairtrade products.

Sheffield Hallam has been a Fairtrade University since 2007.

The strong partnership between the University and its Students' Union has enabled us to maintain our Fairtrade accreditation for another year.

Contact us

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