Campus Management Climate Action Plan

This Plan sits alongside the Campus Management Climate Action Policy, which sets our policy commitments to achieve carbon reduction towards net zero and the effective management of environmental impacts, in line with Campus Management operations and activities and the University's ISO certified environmental management system.

It sets objectives for each policy commitment, to both achieve the University's carbon goals and where relevant, the reduction of other relevant environmental impacts identified through our externally certified ISO 14001 Environmental Management system. This version of the Campus Management Climate Action Plan includes longer term targets to meet 2030 commitments as well as short term objectives to complete in the 2026/27 year.

Progress against these objectives will be monitored quarterly and reported annually to the ISO 14001 Management Review Group. Our Campus Management Monitoring Tool will be used as a live document to project and record actual energy consumption and annual targets, as well as the potential carbon impact of actions whilst recording achievements to continually monitor progress against the 2030, 2038 and 2050 targets of the University's Climate Action Strategy. The tool will be used to highlight where targets are or are not being achieved, with findings inputting into annually reviewed objectives to ensure they remain as accurate, relevant and realistic as possible, with the ultimate target being to achieve continuous development and improvement, resulting in positive performance outcomes.

Plan Commitments



Campus Energy Management

(Scopes 1 and 2)

2018/19 Baseline footprint

- 8,046,229 kg CO_2e
  36,484,350 kWh

2024/25 Most recent completed footprint

- 5,459,964 kg CO_2e
  - 32.14% reduction (24.21% projected)
- 30,666,983 kWh
  - 15.94% reduction (6.19% projected)

2030 Target reduction net zero on direct emissions

Purchased electricity and heat used on the estate equates to a sizeable proportion of the Scope 2 carbon footprint for Sheffield Hallam. A considerable proportion of the potential savings of the University's Scope 2 carbon footprint is projected to be achieved through grid decarbonisation over future years (to 2030), the remainder of the potential savings will be achieved through developing a smaller, better utilised and more energy efficient estate, details of which are identified below within the Campus Development section, a commitment to the procurement of 100% green energy by 2030 and through ongoing effective energy management.

The University is committed to maintaining university wide energy and carbon reduction, continuing with the downward trajectory achieved in previous years.

To achieve these long-term objectives, the following key objective has been set for the 2026/27 year:

- To continue to assess building usage, aligned with cyclical requirements, to further condense on site activity thus reducing energy use and carbon emissions, to improve efficiency.



Campus Development

(Scopes 2 & 3)

- 2018/19 Baseline footprint as above
- Development on campus including physical interventions, planned maintenance and the campus plan are projected to reduce the direct energy consumed (kWh) by 56.06% by 2030, with decarbonisation of the grid this is projected to reduce the carbon footprint of the physical estate by 72.13% compared to the baseline.

The effective development of the estate is one of the most significant carbon savings that can be achieved. The long-term target is to achieve savings outlined above, in support of the University's ambitions within the Climate Action Strategy and by implementing the Campus Plan. In the long term, this will reduce the size of the estate and ensure the construction of efficient buildings and facilities.

In 2026/27 the key objective is:

- Assess building usage and suitability, aligned with cyclical requirements, to progress the Campus Masterplan in achieving a reduced, more efficient and fit for purpose estate to support us in achieving net zero carbon ambitions aligned with the University's Climate Action Strategy.



Travel and Transport

(Scopes 1 and 3)

2018/19 Baseline footprint

- 30,051 kg CO_2e (Scope 1 – fleet)
- 4,349,589 kg CO_2e (Scope 2 – business travel and commuting)

2024/25 Most recent completed footprint

- 19,752 kg CO_2e (fleet)
  - 34.27% reduction (50% projected)
- 1,681,897 kg CO_2e (business travel and commuting)
  - 61.33% reduction (24.38% projected)

Scope 1 travel is the fuel used by the University's leased vans and vehicles used across the estate, this has decreased through the years as more electric vehicles have been added to the fleet (now the majority) and continues to reduce through a cyclical replacement programme wherever possible.

Scope 3 travel is much wider. The staff commute and business travel are areas that are monitored through both surveying and data collection via University providers and through the ISO system. Information on student travel, also includes a bi-annual survey of their into campus commute, however, due to the number of international students it is recognised that the majority of emissions will be flight attributed at the beginning and end of term, which, when accounting for our overseas students, is potentially a large element of the University's scope 3 carbon footprint which is more difficult to influence. The long-term target is to be net zero in scope 3 by 2050, however, to achieve this, the University would need to continue to attain more accurate associated data to be fully confident on the size of its footprint.

During the 2023/24 year, the University launched its university wide travel plan to meet the long-term targets and encourage active travel through communications, initiatives, infrastructure and the Campus Plan.

The key objective to complete in the 2026/27 year is:

- Revise and re-publish the University Travel Plan using data from student and staff travel surveys incorporating 'SMART' actions and objectives.



Water Management

(Scope 3)

2018/19 Baseline (water and wastewater)

- 96,945 kg CO_2e
- 185,956 m^3

2024/25 Most recent completed footprint

- 22,027 kg CO_2e
  - 77.27% reduction (26.49% projected)
- 121,438 m^3
  - 34.69% reduction (26.49% projected)

Target to halve scope 3 emissions by 2030.

Whilst water consumption is a small part of the University's Scope 3 carbon footprint, the consumption of water as a natural resource is a significant environmental impact as identified through the University's ISO management system.

The baseline water consumption has decreased, largely due to a move towards more hybrid working for staff and students, however, it is recognised that climate changes can impact upon our water usage in support of our student delivery and consequently it is important for monitoring to continue. Longer term scope 3 targets are to halve emissions by 2030 (currently achieved), however, it is felt more data is required to set better informed long-term consumption targets.

Key objective to achieve for 2026/27 is:

- Use data received to continue to monitor and inform potential projects towards achievable long term water consumption targets whilst working collaboratively with our supplier.



Waste Management

(Scope 3)

2018/19 Baseline

- 28,976 kg CO_2e
- 706.52 tonnes produced (30.22% recycled / recovered)

2024/25 Most recent completed footprint

- 2,513 kg CO_2e
  - 91.32% reduction (26.49% projected)
- 404.32 tonnes produced (32.75% recycled/ recovered)
  - 42.77% reduction (26.49% projected)

Target to halve scope 3 emissions by 2030.

As with water, the production and disposal of waste is a relatively small proportion of the University's scope 3 footprint, however, the disposal of approximately 404 tonnes of waste (2024/25) per year is a potentially significant local environmental impact as identified through the University's ISO system.

The University has overachieved previous waste targets historically and put in place many waste management procedures and controls including behaviour change campaigns, provision of segregated streams and diversion of all waste from landfill.

This is an area of recent regulatory change i.e. 'Simpler Recycling' roll out to businesses, requiring the separation of food and glass. It is still felt that continuing with a focus on achieving high level objectives instead of data driven targets, will still have a greater positive influence on the environmental impacts of waste management and any improvement in waste practices would have a positive impact on the Scope 3 emissions.

In addition to applying procurement actions as outlined in this plan, which would reduce waste produced, centralised recycling stations are now standard across campus to deliver and comply with changing waste legislation, which should improve segregation rates and lower waste produced, as well as reducing scope 3 emissions embedded within the waste management process.

For 2026/27 the key objective is:

- To monitor the impacts of the implementation of the 'Simpler Recycling' regulation across all buildings on Campuses, to continue to increase reuse / recycling rates against general waste by ensuring that information and guidance is clear and easy to follow.



Green Infrastructure

2018/19 Baseline
- 478 species on site
- 293 unique species on site

2024/25 survey update
- 779 species on site
  - 62.97% increase
- 419 unique species on site
  - 43.00% increase

Target to increase species and/or provision by 20% by 2030

How the University interacts with and impacts its surrounding environment is potentially significant within the ISO systems and a holistic climate action approach.

There are now several developments and activities now in place which should continue to positively impact the natural environment around the University campus, including 'Hallam Green' public space, green / blue roof spaces, tree planting and management activity and the ongoing management of the grounds, which includes diversifying planting, creation of wildflower areas and the encouragement of species, flora and fauna onto the Estate.

The University continues to undertake annual biodiversity surveys to assess the number of species on campus, as a measure of success of these schemes and the data used to set ambitious biodiversity targets within grounds management activity.
Key objective for the 2026/27 year:

- Continue to work towards achieving 'Nature Friendly Grounds' recognition via SOS UK in collaboration with key stakeholders including the Facilities Management Grounds Team, Students and the wider University community (final year of 2-year project).



Procurement

(Scope 3)

2018/19 Scope 3 Baseline footprint
- 32,061,368 kg CO_2e

2024/25 Most recent completed footprint
- 31,209,387 kg CO_2e
  - 2.65% decrease (26.47% decrease projected)

Target to halve scope 3 emissions by 2030.

Procurement is the largest section of the University's scope 3 footprint, currently over 6 times the size of the University's combined Scope 1 and 2 emissions. This includes central procurement, information communication and technology, maintenance, as well as food and

catering. The University's long-term target is to achieve net zero in Scope 3 emissions by 2050 and to have made significant progress by 2038.

So far four years' worth of data has been mapped in the Campus Management Monitoring Tool and emissions have been estimated according to spend. These demonstrate a wide variation attributable to various essential activity, whilst it is positive this is now being more fully mapped, a few more years data collection and analysis will provide a more accurate picture.

Procurement across the University presents a large challenge due to the size of activity and number of stakeholders making purchases across all departments. It requires both behavioural and cultural change across the whole organisation and cannot be mitigated by a single workstream or Directorate. There is a need to influence practices and alternative approaches to commit to carbon and ethically responsible decisions, whilst moving towards holistic assessment of supply chains embedding full lifecycle implications into decision-making.

Key objective to achieve over the 2026/27 year is:

- Work with the Procurement Team in improving the data provision from University suppliers and systems to more accurately inform our Scope 3 footprint and positioning, undertaking specific collaborations i.e. energy management working group.

Additional considerations beyond Campus Management

Whilst the above Campus Management Climate Action Plan covers all areas of potentially significant environmental risk on campus as identified through the ISO management systems, there are areas that span across multiple areas of the University, such as procurement which requires a collaborative and integrated approach.

Further Information:

Campus Management Climate Action Policy
Sheffield Hallam Climate Action Strategy - 2023.pdf