

# Sustainability Highlights Report 2013-14

Think **green**,  
act **green**.



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*University of*  
**HUDDERSFIELD**

## **Environmental and Social Sustainability: Highlights 2013-14**

The University is committed to the principles of environmental protection and sustainable development. Our ambition to green our campus, curriculum and University community has seen us become a recognised sector leader in environmental management and best practice. We are proud to be acknowledged among the UK's greenest Universities, nominated for two Green Gown Awards in 2014, and in the nationally recognised People and Planet Green League, our solid environmental performance topping the Upper Second Class Awards in 2013, and previously achieving a First Class Award for five years running.

### **Strategic Activity on Sustainability**

There has been an increase in University-wide strategic level activity on sustainability during the last year, which will shape how sustainability issues are addressed going forward.

Sustainability has been introduced into University strategy, including the University Strategy Map 2013-2018 (enabler E9) and the University Teaching and Learning Strategy 2013-18 (enabling strand TF1-3).

A University-wide Thematic Review of Sustainability was undertaken in May 2014, the first ever review, to assess the University's current activities and performance on sustainability issues. This has resulted in a series of recommendations for the future.

### **Environmental Management**

The University has a comprehensive environmental policy, established in 2008, linking our key environmental impact areas to specific time-bound targets. Core themes are substantially addressed through additional strategies, such as our Carbon Management Plan and Travel Plan.

A dedicated Carbon Manager supported by an Environmental Coordinator oversee environmental, carbon and energy management in conjunction with specialist teams, within a wider governance framework that includes reporting to the Estates Development Committee and the University's Senior Management Team.

Further specialist expertise is offered by a Sustainable Procurement Officer and an Active Travel Project Officer (via working partner Sustrans).

Carbon emissions being one of our most significant environmental impacts, our Carbon Management Plan, established and driven forward by our Carbon Management Committee, includes a series of SMART targets specifically addressing carbon reduction, which is subject to annual progress reporting.

### **Environmental Performance**

We are on track to achieve a BREEAM Excellent rating for our most recent new build, the Student Central building, following BREEAM Excellent for our 3M Buckley Innovation Centre and several 'Very good' ratings on new builds since 2007. We are committed to 'Excellent', plus Energy Performance Certificate 'B' ratings, for all future construction projects.

We are consistently in the top 20 best performing Universities on carbon emissions - our historically low emissions were last year classed as 18<sup>th</sup> lowest per head out of all UK Universities (People and Planet Green League 2013).

We have an ongoing programme of Invest to Save projects, from boiler replacements, building facade replacement and the installation of LED lighting. In 2014 we completed a £5 million window replacement scheme that will help achieve the goal of cutting carbon emissions by 25 per cent within seven years.

We are one of only 22% of Universities to purchase all of our electricity from renewable sources (biomass generation), and amongst the minority (44%) who are experimenting with on-site energy generation.

We have the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest water consumption per head out of all UK Universities (People and Planet Green League 2013), plus 'rainwater recycling' systems installed for all new builds. Last year 2.5% of our water consumption came from grey/rainwater sources, which is 6<sup>th</sup> best amongst UK Universities.

Last year we adopted a 'zero to landfill' waste policy and recycled over 90% of our waste, maintaining our consistently high recovery rate and putting us at 6<sup>th</sup> best amongst UK Universities for recycling. We are implementing waste reuse schemes, such as SPURS, the 'Sustainable Procurement: University Recycling Scheme' for furniture and equipment, launched in 2012.

We were one of the first and largest businesses in Huddersfield to adopt a Sustainable Travel Plan, and have seen a 23% reduction in 'car alone' journeys to campus since its initial implementation in 2007. Additionally, we are working in partnership with Sustrans to deliver the Huddersfield Active Travel Project on campus during 2012-15.

We are amongst the 55% of UK Universities working to a sustainable food procurement policy (introduced in 2010), achieving a Good Egg Award in 2011 for our continuing commitment to using free range eggs in all our catering outlets.

Cementing our strong stance on Corporate Social Responsibility, our achievement of Fairtrade University status in 2009 was described as 'trailblazing for Huddersfield' by the Fairtrade Foundation, and we were central in achieving 'Fairtrade Borough' status for Kirklees in partnership with Kirklees Council. We successfully renewed our Fairtrade University status in September 2014.

We have become a respected and acknowledged local leader on environmental and social responsibility issues, engaging in dialogue and partnerships with organisations from the Canal & River Trust to Kirklees Council, and hosting events such as the 'Solutions for the Planet 2012' regional heat for school children to develop innovative sustainability projects.

We have been nominated for two Green Gown awards in 2014 and the inaugural University Sustainability Awards in 2013 saw green awards presented to seven staff and students.

## **Sustainability Education**

Our involvement in sustainability education has increased, with our Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Forum launched in 2012, a new resource for teaching and academic staff.

As a result of Forum activities, a commitment to ESD has now been incorporated into our Teaching and Learning strategy. The Teaching and Learning Strategy refers to themes of sustainability, responsibility, global citizenship, interdependence of society, economic prosperity and ethical issues, and it sets an objective for all students to reflect on these themes within their studies.

A strategic project is underway to develop the framework for a University-wide 'sustainability module', to enable sustainability issues to be incorporated into the curriculum for all subject disciplines.

## **Sustainability Research**

The University's Research Centres undertake award-winning research into sustainability issues, from research into 'Thorium power', a safer nuclear power to address energy security issues, to the 'NOx factor', a system to cut polluting emissions from growing biodiesel use, to collaborative international development projects to improve the lives of people and communities in developing countries.

A project is underway to map the full extent of sustainability research at the University.

Sustainability Team  
Estates and Facilities  
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