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Sustainability Report 2018-19

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This annual report highlights the key achievements and activities during 2018/19 to improve the sustainability performance of our University. Focusing primarily on campus operations, the report looks at waste, carbon and energy, travel, biodiversity, governance, and engagement and partnerships, before outlining priorities for 2019/20.

Waste



- **WasteNott campaign** launched to tackle single-use and disposables waste across our campuses, with ambitious targets of 50% reduction in disposable cups and 30% reduction in single-use plastic drinks bottles by August 2020.
- Around 100,000 **disposable coffee cups** have been avoided in cafes through customers presenting their own cup.
- **20p latte levy** introduced in September 2018, generating over £63,000 for investment in opportunities to reduce single-use plastic waste, including reusable cups for Delivered Catering service, equipment for catered halls to eliminate single-serve sachets, and branded reusable cups and bottles for Graduation and Open Day events.
- **WasteNott microgrants** supported five departments to part-fund waste reduction initiatives within their own operations.
- Maps now available of **water fountains on campus** – online and in MyNottingham app – to encourage students, staff and visitors to refill water bottles.
- Around 38% of waste generated was segregated on campus for recycling, with **less than 1% of waste going to landfill** due to further recovery and recycling by the waste contractor.
- To date, the WARPit reuse network has avoided around 70 tonnes of furniture becoming waste and saved £360,000 by enabling **surplus furniture** to be reused.
- As part of the Pack for Good scheme, around 17,000 bags of clothing and other items were **donated to British Heart Foundation** by students packing up at the end of term - from both the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.
- **Tours of enva's recycling plant** gave students and staff the opportunity to find out what happens to our waste when it leaves campus.

► [Click here to read more about waste management](#)

Carbon & Energy

- **Energy consumption** decreased by 4% year on year. Fossil fuel use decreased by 6.5% and electricity was down 0.3%. This is against a backdrop of floor area and student numbers both increasing by 1%.
- **Carbon dioxide emissions** reduced by 7% compared to the previous year. Some of the 3,345 tonnes reduction is due to a full year's operation of improvements made by the University during the previous year, but part is attributed to the National Grid using fewer coal-fired power stations.
- **Renewable energy installations** on campus generated around 950,000 kWh – approximately 0.5% of our total energy consumption.
- **Water consumption** reduced by 7% compared to the previous year.
- Overall **energy and water costs** were £12.9 million in 2018/19, an increase of 6% from the previous year. Market energy prices rose considerably more than this and even higher costs were avoided by purchasing early in the year.

► [Click here to read more about carbon and energy management](#)

Travel

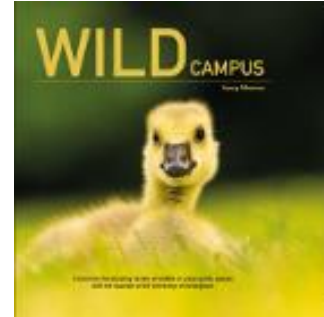
- New **hopper bus contract** introduced in August 2018, with new double decker buses, a more frequent service to Royal Derby Hospital, eduroam wi-fi, and charge points for mobile phones and tablets.
- University-wide **travel survey** received nearly 4,000 responses – our highest number to date. Results indicate that 53% of students commute on foot or by bike, whereas 23% of staff commute on foot or by bike.
- Uptake of **staff travel pass scheme** increased further, with 737 staff purchasing a pass for Nottingham City Transport, Trent Barton, East Midlands Trains, the tram or Robin Hood multi-operator pass.
- 173 staff benefited from the **Cycle to Work scheme**, which now includes a wider range of cycle stores offered as part of the Employee Hub.
- Around 400 bikes have been checked over by mechanics at the **free Dr Bike sessions** held on our campuses.



► [Click here to read more about sustainable transport](#)

Biodiversity

- University Park campus received a **Green Flag Award** for the 17th consecutive year, whilst Jubilee Campus received the award for the 7th consecutive year. The award indicates that the park or garden is a well-maintained, well-managed and environmentally sustainable green space with excellent facilities.
- **Biodiversity Action Plan** developed for Sutton Bonington campus.
- #beastsofUoN continue to be popular with the annual sale of **University honey** and **wildlife calendars**.
- **Wild Campus photo book** published to celebrate the remarkable range of wildlife seen around University Park campus and adjoining Highfields Park. Authored by Biological Photography and Imaging MSc graduate, Jusep Moreno, the book started life as a piece of coursework which captured the character of the campus.
- **'Ponder on Life' photography exhibition** on Highfields Park featured the work of BSc and MSc students, including Jusep Moreno, and staff from the University's Biological Photography and Imaging courses taught within the school of Life Sciences.



► [Click here to read more about our grounds and gardens](#)

Governance

- Ranked second in the **UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2018**, which measure participating universities' commitments in developing 'environmentally friendly' infrastructure.
- During 2019, the University of Nottingham has been undertaking an extensive process to develop a **new University strategy** to replace the Global Strategy 2020. It's been encouraging to see the extent to which sustainability featured in comments from staff and students as part of the Green Paper consultation.
- **Environment Initiative Fund** financially supported a range of projects, including Ponder on Life – the Biological Photography & Imaging Photography Exhibition 2019, and replacement of 80 water condensers in labs with waterless condensers.
- **Sustainability Committee** to become a UEB subcommittee from 2019/20, with revised membership and terms of reference.

► [Click here to read more about our sustainability strategy](#)

Engagement and partnerships



- **Student Switch Off** project in halls of residence saw 4% reduction in electricity usage and 9% reduction in waste generated, with Florence Boot hall crowned the 2018/19 winner.
- **Technicians Sustainability Working Group** formed to look at ways of improving sustainability and sharing ideas amongst technicians, such as installing waterless condensers and reviewing use of ultra-low temperature freezers.
- Sustainability Communications and Engagement Assistant joined the team, contributing to a 31% increase in **Instagram** followers and 13% increase in **Facebook** followers.
- Sign-ups to monthly **Sustainable Nottingham newsletter** increased by around 65%.
- Raised **awareness of sustainability** at a range of events including Jubilee Opportunities Fair, Fairtrade Fortnight and World Water Day.
- Supported Students' Union to run their biggest ever **Sustainability Week** in March.
- Students' Union awarded 'Good' status in the **NUS Green Impact Scheme**, which supports Students' Unions to approach sustainability strategically.
- Two projects highly commended in **Green Gown Awards 2018**, which recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by Universities and colleges across the UK. Project SCENe (Sustainable Community Energy Networks) seeks to accelerate the adoption of community energy schemes, while The Liter of Light Nigeria project utilises solar panels and recycled plastic bottles to create clean, long-lasting solar bottle lights.
- **RAD building** awarded EMPD Sustainable Development of the Year 2018.
- **Teaching and Learning building** awarded RIBA East Midlands Sustainability Award 2019.

► [Click here to read more about getting involved in sustainability](#)

Looking forward

Over the next 12 months we plan to:

- host a series of open 'town hall' events to share our achievements to date and engage with the University community on what the next steps should be to deliver further improvements
- develop a new Sustainability Strategy to support the goals of the new University Strategy
- develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the University
- develop a new Energy Policy and Ten Year Carbon Strategy, in line with the new University Strategy and Estate Development Framework
- refresh our policies and specifications to reduce the overall carbon impact of construction and refurbishment works
- place an emphasis on engagement and behaviour change programmes, recognising that all of the University community have a part to play in improving our sustainability performance
- launch a new sustainability decision making tool to help guide and support key strategic decisions across our University
- set science-based carbon reduction targets for our UK operations