A close-up photograph of three damselflies resting on a large, vibrant green leaf. The damselflies are positioned diagonally across the leaf, from the bottom left towards the top right. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Annual Sustainability  
Report and the  
Sustainable  
Development Goals  
Report  
2024-2025



# Part 1: Annual Sustainability Report

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# Vice Chancellor's foreword

This report showcases the outstanding work our staff and students are doing to advance sustainability across and beyond the university. Their achievements are underpinned by the strategic importance we place on sustainability, exemplified in the launch of our Sustainability Strategic Action Plan. This plan sets clear goals to be achieved by 2030 across our teaching, research and knowledge exchange, operations, and partnerships. At its heart is our commitment to embed **“sustainability excellence in everything we do”**, a vision we are confident can be realised through the culture, ambition, knowledge, and motivation of our community and aligned with our values of inclusivity, collaboration and impact.

This year, we improved our position in the People & Planet University League and achieved top 100 rankings in four UN Sustainable Development Goals, competing with universities worldwide.

Our ongoing decarbonisation of buildings, alongside improvements in recycling rates and water efficiency, demonstrates how our investments are reducing environmental impacts. Sustainability is also central to our partnerships, exemplified by the award we won in collaboration with IBM for the Green Greenwich Foundation Course.

These successes, and the continuous improvements we make, are a testament to the dedication of our staff and students. Their daily actions drive our progress and inspire our future. This report is a recognition of that collective effort, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone for their positive contributions to sustainability.

**Professor Jane Harrington**  
Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer





# Introduction



# Welcome to the University of Greenwich Sustainability report 2024-25

This report is intended for all stakeholders with an interest in the University of Greenwich's sustainability performance, including our professional and academic staff, students, local communities, partner organisations, and businesses. It focuses on key sustainability issues that matter to both the university and its stakeholders and showcases our commitment to embedding sustainability through a whole-institution approach.



For the past two years we have submitted our Annual Sustainability Report for external verification. For our 2023-2024 report we have achieved the '**Commendation**' status in the ESG Transparency Awards (2025), a result that proves the quality of our reporting and highlights the responsible role we play in promoting transparency.

The University of Greenwich's mission for '**sustainability excellence in everything we do**' continues to underpin our strategic priorities and sustainability commitments in 2024/2025. Through our '**This is Our Time**' corporate strategy and Sustainability Strategic Action Plan, we are driving forward a vision of inclusive, impactful education and research that directly supports local communities and global sustainability goals.

With over 27,000 students and a wide-reaching professional and academic network, the university plays a key role in addressing societal challenges, from climate action and public health to social justice and economic inclusion. Our strategic goals are grounded in the belief that a university's value lies not only in knowledge generation, but in how that knowledge is shared, applied, and co-developed to benefit people and planet.

Over the past year, we have achieved key milestones across our three campuses, from reducing emissions and improving campus infrastructure to advancing research that addresses urgent climate and social challenges. These efforts are driven by collaboration—among students, staff, partners, and the wider community—and highlight the power of collective action in shaping a more sustainable future.

# The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The university recognises its pivotal role in attaining the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). We are committed to making significant strides toward these goals through our education, research, operations, innovation, and service to society.

The UN SDGs, comprising 17 key objectives established in 2015, serve as a global framework to address important economic, social and environmental challenges. These goals provide a roadmap for collective action to create a more sustainable and equitable world.

Our Annual Sustainable Development Goals Report, the second part of this document, reflects our dedication to these goals. This report delves into the impact areas, illustrating how we are contributing to all SDGs through our actions. Through transparent reporting and a commitment to continuous improvement, Greenwich aims to contribute meaningfully to the global efforts outlined in the UN SDGs.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

# Awards and recognition:

**The People and Planet University League:** This ranks universities by their environmental and ethical performance. In 2024/25, we improved our ranking to 17th nationally, retaining our 'First Class' award.



**The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings (THE Impact Rankings):** These rankings assess universities against UN SDGs, and this year we had four SDGs in the top 100 and overall ranked in the 101-200 grouping.



**EAUC Green Gown Awards:** Named as finalists for the Green Greenwich Foundation Course in the Next Generation Learning and Skills category and for Reuse@Greenwich in the Creating Impact category.



**Food For Life:** Food For Life ensures access to healthy and sustainable food for the climate, nature, and health. We have Food for Life Gold across all university outlets and menus.



**Fairtrade accreditation:** The Fairtrade University and College award recognises institutions meeting Fairtrade standards. We continue to be Fairtrade accredited with a 1-star rating.



**ISO 14001 Accreditation:** ISO 14001 is a voluntary international standard set through environmental management systems. Our Estates and Facilities Directorate has been operating to the international ISO 14001 standard since 2012.



**Hedgehog friendly campus:** The Hedgehog Friendly Campus Initiative ensures biodiversity across universities accommodate the endangered hedgehog species. In 2025, we were awarded a Bronze Accreditation.



**Teaching Excellence Framework:** The University of Greenwich has been rated Gold by the Office for Students in their Teaching Excellence Framework 2023.



**Athena Swan Award:** The Athena Swan Award is an equality charter mark that advances gender equality. The university has received the Athena Swan Bronze award.



# Our Highlights:

## Launched Sustainability Strategic Action Plan 2025 - 2030

# #17

People and Planet University League with a First-Class Award

Launched the **Greenwich Curriculum Framework**, aligning with the 2030 Corporate Strategy and underpinning our **Student Success Strategy**, putting sustainability at the heart of teaching and learning.

# 80

**Green Champions** contributing to a sustainable culture

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



26th for SDG 17

## Ranked 100-200th



Times Higher Education **Impact Rankings 2025**

Achieved the **Athena Swan Bronze Award**



**GENDER CHARTER**

Students donated **1,378 bags of items** to the **British Heart Foundation** as part of the End of Term Reuse campaign, saving 11 tonnes of waste and raising **£20,760**



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



67th for SDG 10

Partnered with **Design Dynamo** a social enterprise working with students, to design new signage and compost bays for the garden



Implemented food **recycling** in all student flats across our halls of residence



The Furniture Reuse Scheme avoided **£63,693** by internally relocating items, saving **8.2 tonnes** on waste.



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



60th for SDG 12

## Water consumption reduced by 14.1%

compared to the 2023/24 period.

More than **430** staff members completed the **Green Greenwich Foundation Course**, that won ERP Today's ESG Excellence of the Year Award

## 30% Gas consumption reduced at Drill Hall Library

by installing smart thermostatic radiator valves.

**2** ZERO HUNGER



62nd for SDG 2

## Fully decarbonised

the Avery Hill laundry, Dreadnought, Pilkington and Pembroke catering kitchens.

## Hedgehog Friendly Campus Bronze Award



BRONZE AWARD 2024/25

## 40% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions

compared to the 2018/19 baseline.





# Strategy



# Sustainability Strategic Action Plan



In 2024, the University of Greenwich published its Sustainability Strategic Action Plan (SSAP), which sets out its ambitions in this area.

Our goal is “**sustainability excellence in everything we do**”. By 2030 we will be known as one of the best universities for sustainability, with greener practices at the heart of teaching, research, partnerships and operations. We will deliver progress against the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals to create a more sustainable society.

Our priorities are:

- **Priority 1:** Delivering positive environmental and social outcomes
- **Priority 2:** Research and knowledge exchange that supports the UN SDGs
- **Priority 3:** Equipping our students with the knowledge and skills to engage with real-world problems

Read the sections below to see what we have done to achieve our ambitions. For more information about the Action Plan please review [here](#).

## Governance

Progress is reviewed and important decisions are made following a governance process that includes relevant committees and formal decision-making groups. Each group has Terms of Reference setting out the rationale, membership and reporting requirements. Key impact areas are included as sub committees, however, in other areas where there are potential impact and opportunities sustainability is represented via programme boards and other groups focused usually on specific projects.

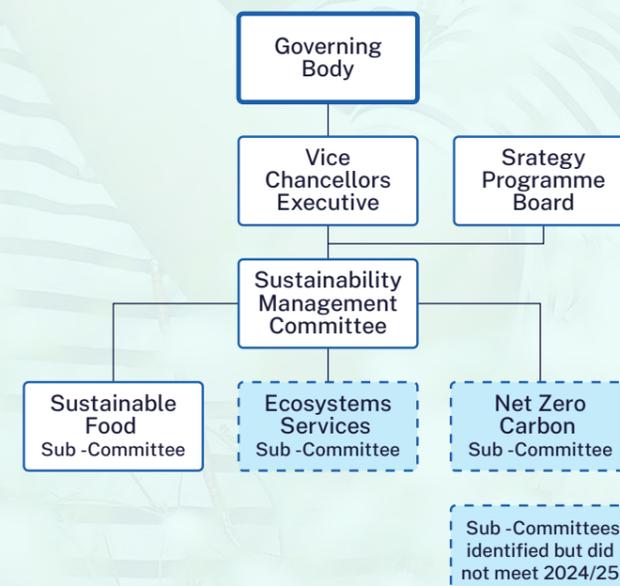
Progress set out in the detailed delivery plans for each of the SSAP priority areas, plus enabling requirements are reported quarterly to the Sustainability Management Board (SMB) chaired by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Exchange), and twice yearly to the Strategy Programme Board, chaired by the Vice Chancellor.

Sustainability related policies are reviewed by the SMB before being presented to the Vice Chancellors Executive for sign off, with the Annual Sustainability Report reviewed by the SMB before it is released.

## Risk

At the University of Greenwich, our Risk Management Policy outlines a clear and practical approach to identifying, assessing, and managing risk across all areas of university life. It supports staff in embedding risk awareness into their daily activities and decision-making processes. Effective risk management plays a vital role in safeguarding the university’s reputation, ensuring regulatory compliance, and advancing our long-term sustainability goals.

In recognition of the growing importance of environmental responsibility, environmental sustainability was formally added to the university’s Risk Register this year. This means it is now recognised as a strategic risk - one that could fundamentally affect our ability to deliver our mission and institutional priorities. By integrating sustainability into our risk management framework, we are reinforcing our commitment to responsible leadership and future resilience. The increasing and significant local and global impacts of the climate crisis are affecting how we as an institution operate. To respond to this, we are developing a Climate Reliance Action Plan that will help us understand our climate risks and actions to mitigate and adapt to these. We expect this Plan to be approved in 2025/26.



# Carbon



UNIVERSITY OF  
GREENWICH

# zero emissions

Progress indicator



7/10



# To achieve Net Zero by 2033

In the SSAP, the university is committed to achieving Net Zero by 2033. It also set the following goals by 2030:

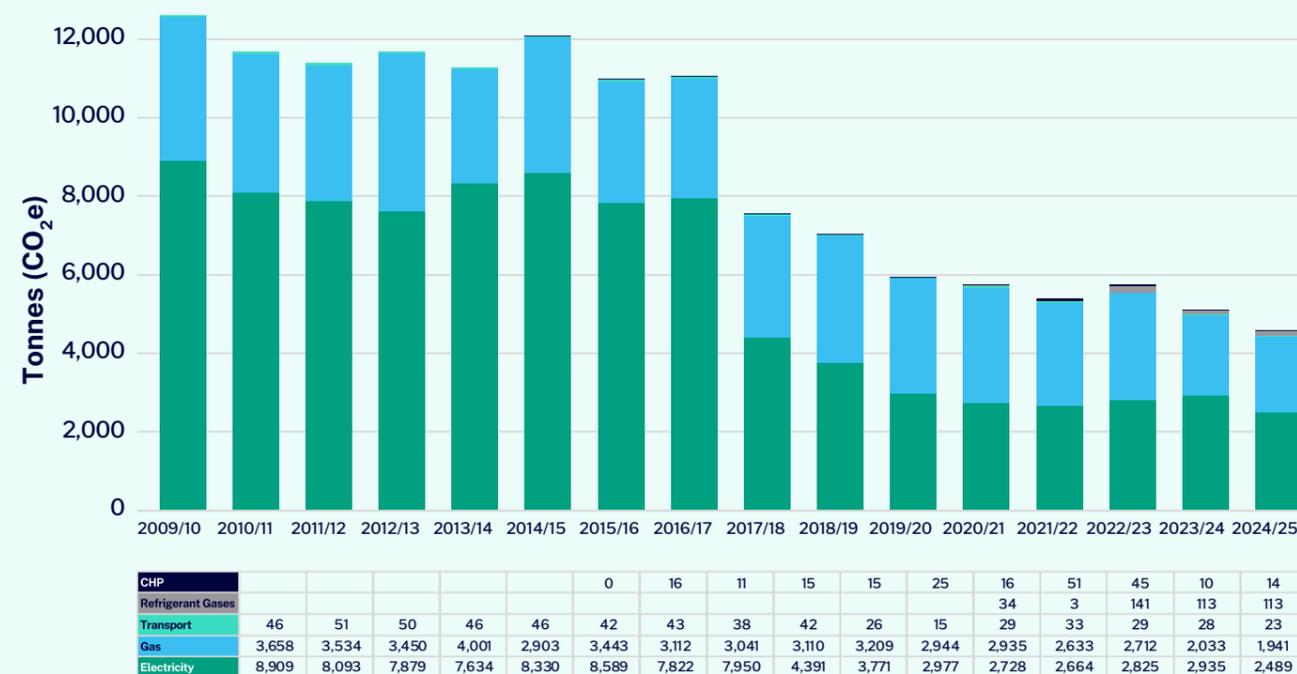
- Carbon neutrality for Scope 1 emissions
- Net Zero for Scope 2 emissions
- 50% reduction in Scope 3 business travel emissions.

In 2022, we launched the [Net Zero Action Plan](#), which outlines how the university will achieve this goal. The plan incorporates detailed analysis to ensure a systematic approach to meeting fundamental targets. In 2024/25 the university reviewed its net zero attainment date and recognised that due to external dependencies we needed to recalibrate our target date to be 2033.

The university has a series of benchmarks to report carbon reduction progress. This includes

our 2005/06 benchmark year for Scope 1 and 2 emissions used by the HE sector for carbon management reporting. Our original Carbon Management Plan used the baseline year 2009/10 for reporting processes and we now use 2018/19 for the updated internal baseline year illustrating Net Zero progress. Our reporting follows the Greenhouse Gas accounting and reporting protocol.

The university has achieved notable progress in reducing carbon emissions, **recording a 40% reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions in 2024/25 relative to the 2018/19 net zero baseline**. This achievement demonstrates our strong focus on sustainability, driven by investments in decarbonisation of heating systems, renewable energy, energy-efficiency measures, and behaviour-change programmes.



Scope 1 & 2 Emissions (Location Based)

<sup>1</sup> Market-based method provides a more accurate carbon emission factor based on the specific supply of electricity to the organisations.

Table 1: Total carbon emissions for all energy scopes

Scope 1 & 2	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (e)	Scope 3	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (e)	Scope 3	tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (e)
Natural Gas	1,941	Procurement	48,295	Waste	3
Transport fuels	23	Business Travel incl. Bus services	1,326.5	Water	20
Refrigerant Gases	113.1	Staff Commuting	1,625.6	Waste Water	14
Biofuels	14	Student domicile travel	21,553		
Electricity	2,489	Homeworking	428.3		

## Carbon emissions

By the end of 2024/25, Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions had **fallen by 5% compared with 2023/24** when assessed using a market-based methodology. The university purchases zero-carbon electricity, which is recognised using this method.

A review of occupancy hours in 2024/25 resulted in library opening times being aligned with the Building Management System (BMS), allowing more efficient scheduling. Following an analysis of visitor numbers, the Drill Hall Library has reduced its annual opening hours and now opens only selected areas to conserve energy. The library has also installed smart thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) to reduce gas consumption.

**Scope 3 travel emissions (excluding student domicile journeys) have decreased by 13.3%, compared to our 2018/19 Net Zero plan baseline.** In 2024/25 there was an 11.4% reduction compared to the previous year. Most of this is attributed to a significant reduction in the published data for aviation calculating the carbon emissions for flying per passenger km.

Emissions related to supply chain procurement are also categorised as Scope 3. In 2024/25 this was estimated to account for 48,295 tonnes (CO<sub>2</sub>e) compared to 58,517 tonnes (CO<sub>2</sub>e) the previous year, and 50,970 tonnes (CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2018/19 our net zero baseline year. This uses the HESCET procurement emission calculator based on expenditure levels and categories. This is a relatively crude measure relying on accurate categorisation of each purchase and can therefore fluctuate year-on-year.

## Residential and non-residential Scope 1 & 2 emissions

Using location-based emission factors (national average for electricity), residential emissions equal 15% of our total Scope 1 and 2 emissions, covering more than 14,711m<sup>2</sup> of student rooms. For 2024/25, halls reported a 17% reduction in carbon emissions, compared to 2023/24 (1,053 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e from 1,267 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e). Emissions are expected to increase next year, due to the completion of the Boleyn refurbishment in September 2025 and subsequent re-occupation of students.



Our electricity is sourced through a net-zero carbon tariff, with four halls of residence having electric heaters, removing the need for gas. Using market-based emissions methodology which recognises that we purchase zero-carbon electricity the carbon footprint drops 95%, from 1,206 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e to only 56 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

## Student domicile travel

Since 2022/23, we started analysing domicile travel (separate from commuting). This is where students travel between a term time residence and their normal permanent residence (domicile). In 2024/25, these domicile travel emissions were estimated to be 21,553 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. Of these 97% related to overseas travel. In 2023/24 we reported 43,027 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. This substantial reduction was mostly due to a reduction in the published data for carbon per passenger km along with fewer overseas students.



# Energy



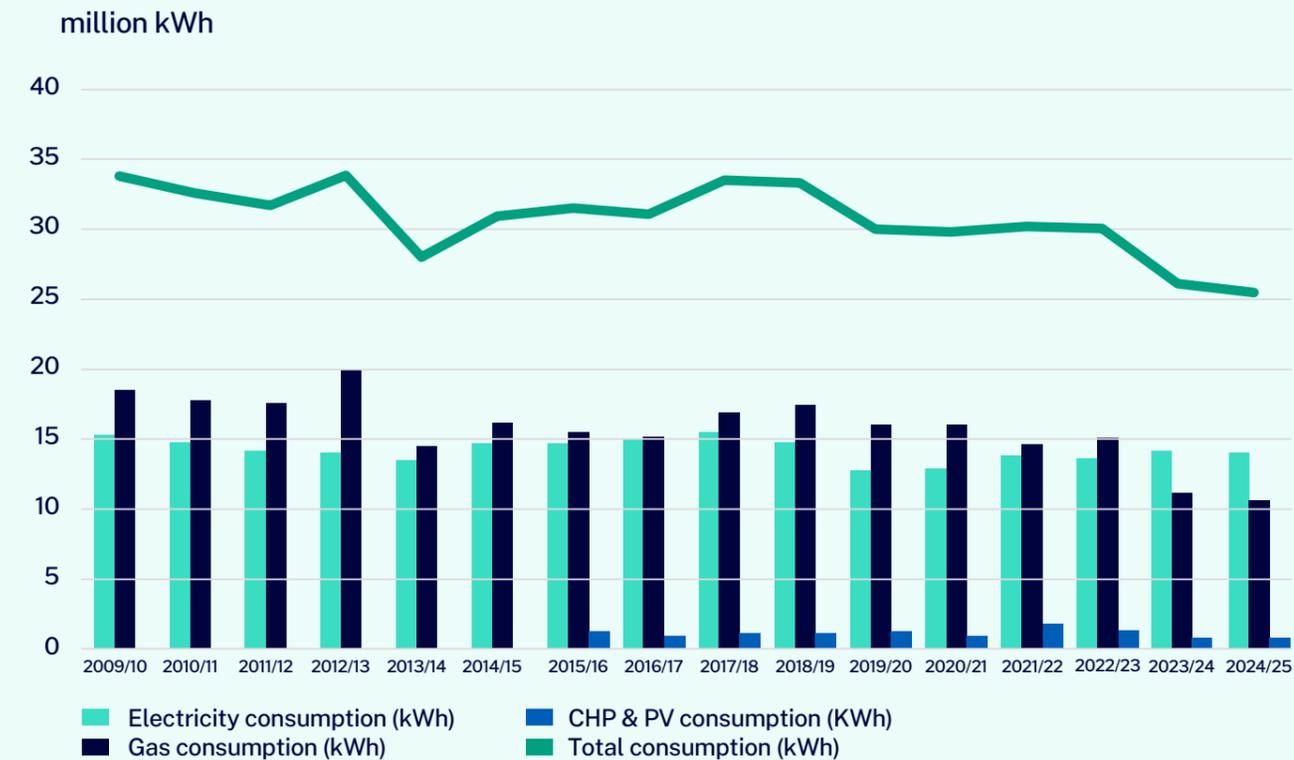
Progress indicator



8/10



# Energy



Annual Energy Consumption (million kWh)

The university has improved its energy efficiency, achieving a **3.1% reduction in overall consumption** compared to 2023/24 baseline. This reflects our commitment to sustainability, which is supported by investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and behaviour change initiatives.

**Since 2023/24, our electricity consumption has decreased by 0.8%, with our gas decreasing by 4.5%.**

## Low-carbon energy

In 2024/25, we generated 58,980kWh-campus photovoltaic energy. Additionally, our CHP systems produced 171,952kWh of electricity and 160,300kWh of heat from the Medway CHP system, with the third party owned biofuel heating system at Daniel Defoe generating another 556,118kWh of electricity.

We are progressing several initiatives to reduce carbon emissions across our estate:

**Avery Hill (AH):** Plans to install significant additional solar PV panel coverage are under review.

- Following the successful installation of smart TRV's at Drill Hall Library plans are in place to roll this out across many buildings of our estate in 2025/26.

- **Mary Seacole (AH):** Salix (PSDS) funding has been secured to connect the building to the district heating system, further reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
- **Medway:** Engagement is underway with the local authority to explore connections to the area's heat network.
- **Devonport and Cooper buildings (Greenwich):** Decarbonisation plans are in development for both sites. The Devonport project will utilise air source heat pumps (ASHP) to deliver low-temperature hot water, supported by installed solar PV panels. The project is due for completion in 2027. At Cooper, low-temperature hot water will meet the building's heating demand, supplemented by water-to-water heat pumps.

These projects form part of our wider decarbonisation programme, which prioritises renewable energy generation, heat network integration, and low-carbon heating systems.

## Energy optimisation and decarbonisation

We continue to invest in technologies and upgrades that reduce energy use and cut carbon emissions:

- **Drill Hall TRV Pilot:** Installation of smart thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) has achieved a 30% reduction in gas consumption. We have also begun a phased rollout of LED smart lighting upgrades, with half of Drill Hall Library now completed.
- **Avery Hill Laundry:** The facility has been fully decarbonised, with hot water systems and dryers now powered by electricity instead of gas, reducing direct fossil fuel use and supporting our net zero ambitions.
- **Building Management System (BMS):** Our BMS plays a central role in cutting carbon emissions. By using a staged heating approach—running the heating system

intermittently throughout the day—we have lowered energy consumption. The BMS is continuously monitored and adjusted to respond to changes in how buildings are used.

- **Automated Meter Readings (AMR):** Across our campuses, around 90% of our buildings are fitted with AMRs, providing precise monitoring of energy and water consumption. We launched an interactive dashboard in 2024/25, enabling building user groups access to real-time data on their consumption, supporting the monitoring of energy usage, with high usage out of hours being raised with the Estates and Facilities team to implement interventions.
- **Avery Hill air source heat pump:** This significant decarbonisation investment operated without problems for the whole full year of operation, reducing carbon emissions of the campus by over 55%. This initiative connects the Energy Centre (interior pictured) that utilises air source heat pumps to extract heat from the atmosphere to transfer to create higher temperature water that is pumped to heat buildings on campus.



These projects build on previous years' initiatives, including LED lighting upgrades across 11 buildings, SmartCool technology for Medway Central Services chillers, and the decarbonisation of kitchens at our Medway campus.

Recognising that there is still substantial progress to be made, our Estates Sub-Strategy emphasises the importance of implementing smarter technologies to enhance efficiency. This strategic focus aims to lower grid energy use and reduce infrastructure demands, helping us fully decarbonise our estate.

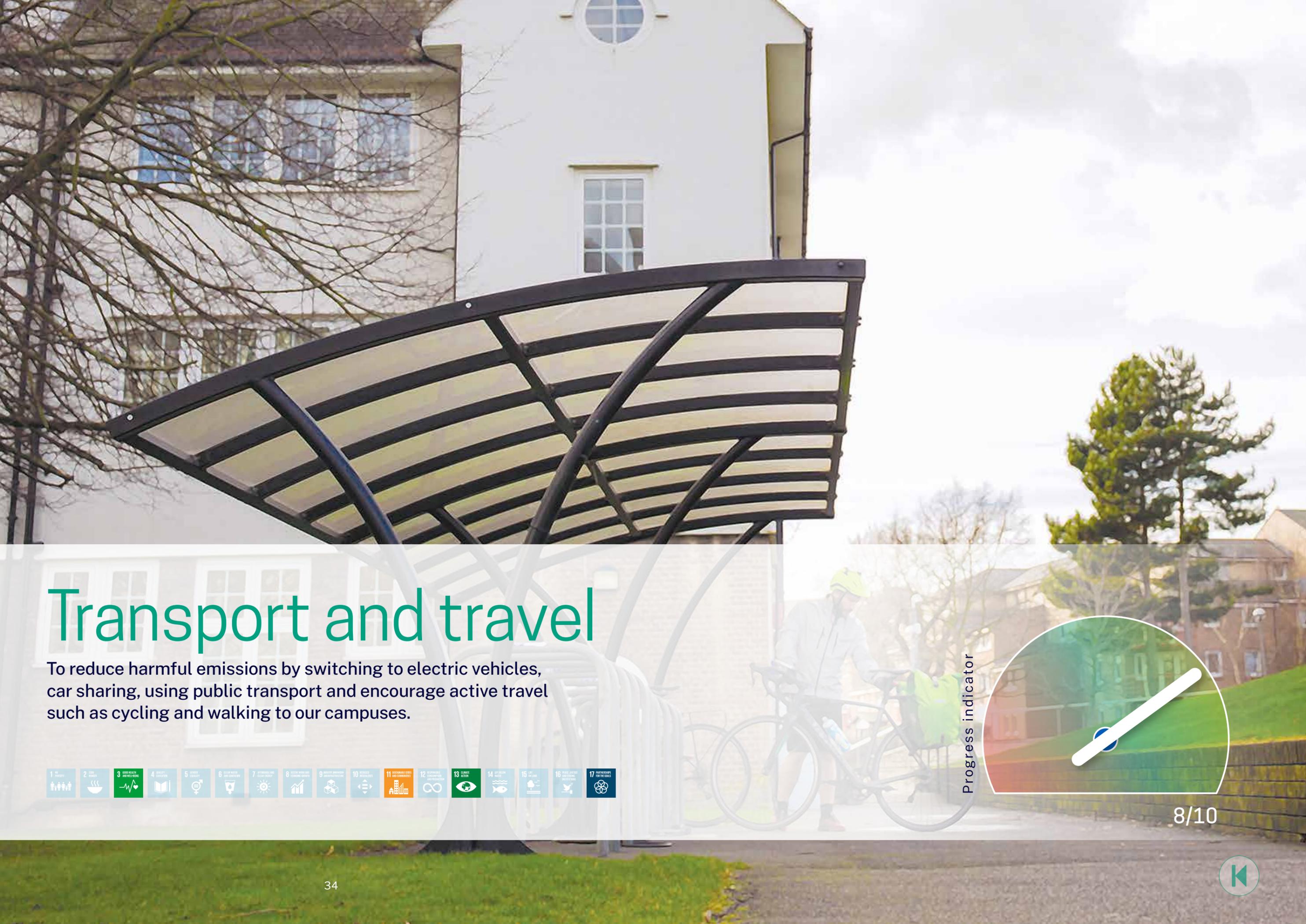
## Engagement

Green Rewards, our behaviour change app, continued to add users, enabling them to track personal switches through personalised challenges and tips. In June 2024-June 2025, 2,068 members saved 120,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Student spotlight

Arad Soutekeshan, a second-year BSc (Hons) Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence) student at the University of Greenwich, has won the MathWorks 2024 Sustainability and Renewable Energy Challenge. Arad submitted a Smart Watering System using IoT and Neural Networks to optimise water use for plants. The system uses sensors to monitor soil moisture, temperature, humidity, and light, while AI predicts the precise watering needed. Data is transmitted via ThingSpeak™ and analysed with MATLAB®, allowing automated responses and alerts for plant care.





# Transport and travel

To reduce harmful emissions by switching to electric vehicles, car sharing, using public transport and encourage active travel such as cycling and walking to our campuses.



Progress indicator



8/10



# Transport and travel

Our target is to achieve a 50% reduction in our Scope 3 business travel emissions, by reducing business travel and reduce our Scope 1 travel emissions to net-zero by switching our fleet to electric vehicles.

This plan will reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, and support healthier lifestyles. The Green Travel Plan includes a separate plan to reduce carbon from university flights, due to be effective from 2026/27.

## Carbon emissions

This year, we reduced our vehicle fleet emissions by 18%, mostly attributed to switching daily intercampus transport from diesel to electric fuel.

Our business travel and commuting activity makes up 9.62% of our total Scope 3 emissions. There has been a 11.4% decrease in business travel and commuting since 2023/24.

The introduction of a CPI increase in parking permits each year has supported our ongoing progress to reduce single-occupancy car commuting.

Our overall emissions from travel and transport are now estimated at 7,109 tonnes, a reduction from the pre-COVID level of 8,692 tonnes recorded in 2018/19.

## Travel to campuses

Two electric double-decker buses operate between the Avery Hill and Greenwich campuses, and two hybrid coaches operate between Greenwich and Medway campuses. An electric coach is also used most week on this service. We have also upgraded cyclists lockers at Greenwich and Avery Hill to keyless to make them more user-friendly.

## Engagement

In February 2025, 519 staff completed our [staff travel to work survey](#), a 200% increase on the previous survey year. The survey recorded another decline in car use (although it still accounts for 77% of commuting emissions). Rail use increased, attributed to Greenwich Campus. All other modes were similar to the previous survey. This survey data was referenced for staff commuting in 23/24 and 24/25. The small increase this year is attributed to a higher headcount.

We continued to host Dr Bike sessions across all campuses, offering free bicycle checks and repairs to staff and students. These events provided a skilled mechanic helping cyclists keep their bikes in good condition for regular travel to campus.

Our Green Rewards app has encouraged staff and students to lower their carbon footprint by choosing sustainable travel options. Initiatives like **“Active Travel”** and **“Use the University Buses”** have positively influenced commuting habits. Active Travel has recorded savings of over 41,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub> with over 150,000 miles logged, while **“Use the University Buses”** has recorded savings of 790 kg CO<sub>2</sub> with over 3,400 miles travelled.



# Water

To reduce water consumption by 1% per annum.



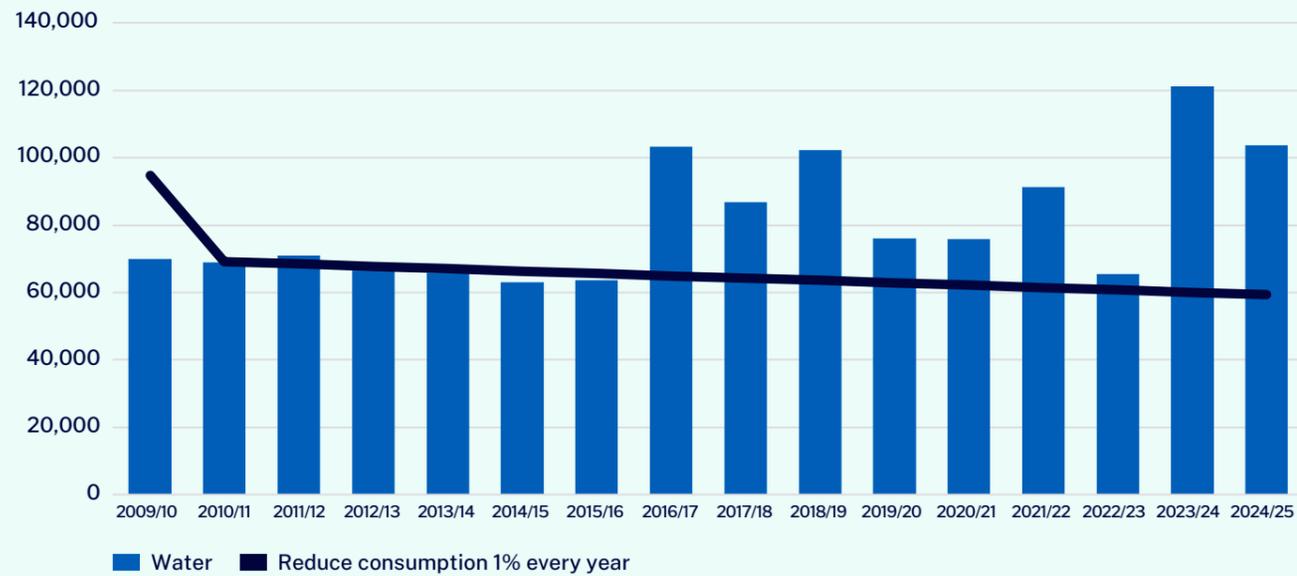
Progress indicator



6/10



# Water



Water Consumption (m³)

Through our SSAP, our aim is to reduce water consumption by 1% per year.

This year, water consumption **reduced by 14.1%** compared to the 2023/24 period. Several large leaks across the campuses were identified and resolved during the year. There is continuous analysis of the data and supplier portal, as discrepancies do occur monthly.

## Water consumption management

At Greenwich, water conservation is a core part of our operations. We prioritise the use of drought-resistant plants. At Avery Hill, rainwater is collected on a small-scale using water butts in the Edible Garden, while the roof gardens at Stockwell Street help retain water and mitigate downstream flooding.

Across our campuses, Automated Meter Reading (AMR) devices have been introduced to track water consumption, allowing us to spot irregularities and locate leaks swiftly. This year, we increased our monitoring coverage, with 17 of our 22 supply meters now integrated into the AMR system.

## Engagement

The university aims to foster a culture of responsible water use across our community. We involve staff in water-saving practices through multiple communication channels, including social media and on-campus posters. Our [‘Being Sustainable at Work’](#) guide also encourages both staff and students to make water-efficient habits part of their everyday routine.

In our Green Ambassador Programme, we also monitor aquatic life in ponds at Avery Hill. For more information please refer to the [Ecosystem Services](#) section.





**Food**

All cooked & raw leftovers

Small bones

Tea bags & coffee grounds

Throwing in other waste can contaminate the compost!  
**Think & Care to get it right...**

**Only food waste**  
No other waste items.  
Food waste is sent for anaerobic digestion.

# Waste and recycling

To achieve a 70% recycling rate (by weight) of non-construction waste and reduce total waste by 5% annually .



Progress indicator

6/10



# Waste and recycling

**We aim to achieve a 70% recycling rate by 2030, and to minimise our waste generation by 5% annually.**

Though our waste generation at Greenwich (not including construction waste) has **reduced from our 2018/19 baseline by 13.43%**, our recycling rate has not increased as we would have expected, with its management an ongoing effort.

Challenges remain, but our recycling rate saw an **upturn to 45%** this year, the highest since 2020-21 with project progress signalling a potential turning point into further recycling successes. Our commitment remains in reducing unnecessary waste generation alongside higher recycling rates.

## Waste

In the 2024/25 academic year, the total waste generated decreased by 4.64% to 540.35 tonnes (excluding construction waste) compared to the previous year. Table 1 provides the breakdown of waste per campus.

Campus	Avery Hill	Greenwich	Medway
Total Waste (tonnes)	135.58	310.77	94.01

**Table 2:** Total non-residential and residential waste produced per campus

We disposed of **49.42 tonnes of food and green waste across our university campuses**, which is anaerobically digested off-site. In line with Simpler Recycling legislation, we rolled out food waste recycling to all flats across the University of Greenwich, building on the food waste trial in 2023/24. All flats received a roll of compostable liners, a leaflet explaining the recycling service and email communications encouraging use of food waste caddies. In the first month (April 2025), 10 tonnes of food waste was diverted away from general waste.

To continue to improve our waste and recycling management, in the next academic year we will seek to roll out a small food waste recycling

trial within our academic kitchenettes, as currently staff are encouraged to use larger food bins in the cafe areas. This will make food recycling easier for staff and divert more waste away from the general waste stream.

Coffee cups contaminating our recycling bins is also an ongoing issue across our campuses. A targeted coffee cup campaign is planned, with scope for a specific recycling stream to be trialled, as well as a physical and digital communications campaign.



This year, all circular economy projects were brought under one programme of work, Reuse @ Greenwich. This has allowed us to better communicate the collective benefits of our various projects. The programme was shortlisted as a Green Gown Awards Finalist in 2025 for 'Creating Impact', an awards category focused on projects with limited resources that create maximum impact.

- **The Furniture Reuse Scheme:** Since its launch in 2019, The Furniture Reuse Scheme has created a circular economy within our campuses. When items of good quality are no longer required internally, we donate where possible. We have avoided over £255,000 by reusing furniture since the beginning of the scheme. This year we have avoided £63,693 worth of items (**454** items) and saved **17 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>** and **8.2 tonnes of waste** by doing so.
- **Lost Property:** Lost Property is centrally managed at our Greenwich campus, with items donated after a six-month period. Items are donated to Bargain Corner for resale to students at our Medway campus, books and stationery are donated to our free book and stationary shelves at our Greenwich campus, and eyeglasses are donated to Chichester Lion's Club, promoting core values of the circular economy.
- **The Bargain Corner:** Our Medway campus Bargain Corner, run by The Chaplaincy, provides second-hand donated items that are sold at low cost to students. **We have sold over 1,500 reused and discounted items to students**, helping to avoid £8,000 compared to buying new for students.
- **End of Term Reuse:** The university continues to partner with the British Heart Foundation, encouraging students and staff to donate unwanted items at the end of the year. This promotes reuse to avoid surplus waste. In 2024/25, 1,378 bags were donated, raising £20,760 and diverting 11 tonnes of items from being wasted.
- **Clothes Swaps:** We ran two Clothes Swaps in 2024/25, which adopted circularity as its core concept to tackle issues related to fast fashion. Students and staff brought their pre-loved clothes to swap with one another and donated items.

## Engagement

During Welcome Week, we highlighted recycling to help new students understand the university's waste and recycling processes. Across six stalls, we engaged more than 680 students through an interactive recycling game, challenging them to place items in the correct bins while raising awareness of sustainable waste practices on campus.

We have partnered with nine London universities to deliver a series of circular economy-themed hackathons. These have included a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) challenge in collaboration with Hubbub, and a food waste-focused hackathon in partnership with Gather & Gather.

A key method of engagement has also been via **"Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability in Marketing"**, a core module studied by Marketing Management MA students. As part of this module, the Sustainability Team provided students with a live brief from to address the challenge of poor recycling habits in academic buildings and asked for a creative response using behaviour change methods. Students came up with digital campaigns, poster redesigns, and physical interventions such as placing mirrors behind bins to 'shame' people into recycling correctly. Using the university environment as a 'living lab' ensured teaching was relevant encouraged greater student engagement. From an operational standpoint, the team now has a better understanding of the barriers students and staff face to recycling correctly. In 2025/26, the brief will be changed to encourage more ethical consumption on campus.



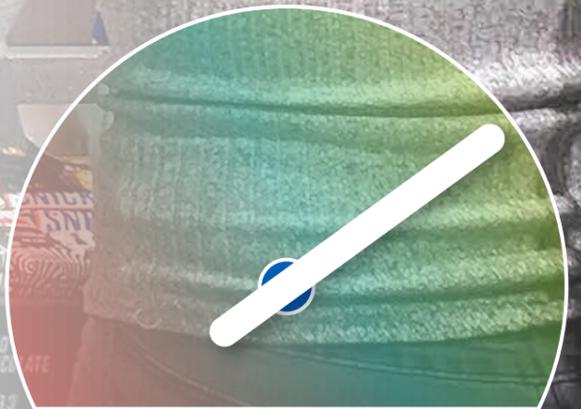


# Food

To provide nutritious and sustainably sourced food for the University of Greenwich community



Progress indicator



8/10



# Food

The university and its catering partners recognise their duty to provide healthy, sustainably sourced meals. In our SSAP, we aim to:

- Deliver sustainability in our catering offer
- Retain Fairtrade University status and other sustainability accreditations.

## Meat-free menus

21% of hot meal purchases in 2024/25 were non-meat. On average, over half of the menu was meat-free.

## Accreditations

We were reaccredited as a Fairtrade University in 2024, achieving a One-Star rating in line with our [Fairtrade Policy](#). All our catering outlets have also maintained their Food for Life Gold accreditation, reflecting our commitment to fresh ingredients and high-welfare meat.

## Palm oil

To mitigate the environmental impacts associated with palm oil production, our catering teams avoid using palm oil in any food prepared in-house. Where palm oil is unavoidable within our supply chain, we prioritise products that are RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) certified.

## Engagement

Our catering teams adopt a comprehensive approach to improving food systems by offering leftover food for free on designated days before closing. This helps reduce food waste while also giving those experiencing food insecurity access to nutritious meals at no cost.

As a **Fairtrade University**, we celebrated Fairtrade Week by hosting stalls and events and working closely with our catering partners.

## Re-usable cups

The university partnered with Cauli Box to offer customers use of a free take away re-usable cup for hot drinks and reusable box for hot food. This initiative offered an alternative to paying a 30p fee when purchasing a drink in disposable cup. These initiatives have helped increase the use of reusable cups to 51% (for central outlets, not including Greenwich Student's Union's café's).

## Coffee waste innovation

Our 'Grounds to Ground' initiative offers used coffee grounds to customers for use as garden fertiliser, closing the loop on coffee waste in a creative, eco-friendly way.

## Sustainable eating options

Our '**Nourish to Flourish**' and '**Bean is How**' campaigns promote pulses and grains as nutritious, sustainable alternatives to meat. One such innovation includes beef burgers blended with 20% lentils, reducing meat consumption while maintaining taste and quality.

## Reducing food waste

Through our partnership with **Waste Knot**, we've saved 356.7kg of surplus vegetables from our suppliers that would have otherwise gone to waste. These perfectly good, misfit vegetables are now a regular feature in our menus.



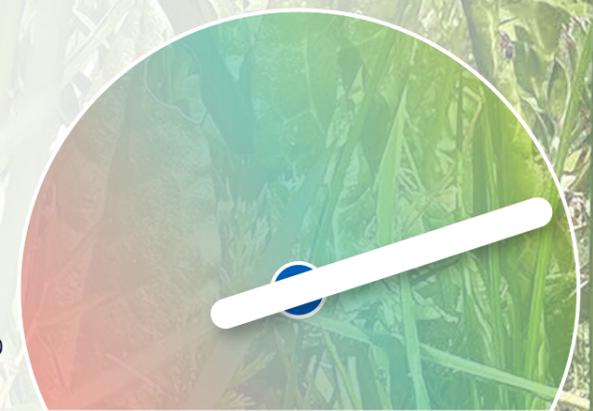


# Ecosystem services

To maintain and enhance the biological diversity of the campus.



Progress indicator



9/10



# Ecosystem services

We are continuing to build on our work to ensure our natural landscape balances the community and social needs to that of conservation and biodiversity enhancement, guided by our SSAP, Biodiversity Action Plan and Ecosystems Services Policy, we have focused on mapping all our natural land, identifying its usage and then prioritising where appropriate areas to diversify.

## Partnerships

To help engagement and education we have beehives across our campuses. Managed by external, licensed beekeepers we are supporting local business opportunities. Knowing that native bee populations can be impacted by the establishment of honeybees, we will not be increasing the size of the apiaries. In 2025, the resident keeper at our Avery Hill campus, received the prestigious Platinum World Taste Award for honey produced directly from the apiaries on site.

At our Avery Hill edible garden, we have maintained our external partnerships with Crafty Wizards and New Haven College, providing early years to secondary school engagement into the importance of biodiversity and what benefits can be drawn from it.

## Hedgehog friendly campus



The university is proud to have re-gained its Hedgehog Friendly status, the national Hedgehog Friendly initiative, focusing on

natural landscape conservation to encourage hedgehog presence since hedgehog populations in the UK have decreased by 70% in the last 20 years. Monitoring, placement of artificial homes and pond health checks are just some of the actions undertaken during the past year. Hedgehogs were last spotted in the summer of 2024 at Avery Hill, and we hope the work being done will increase the sightings, and populations at this campus, but also experience sightings at our others.

## Biodiversity monitoring project

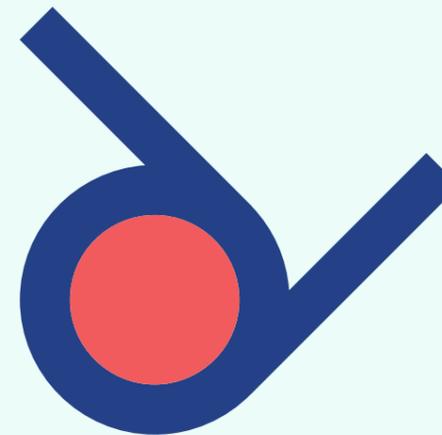
Following on from the pilot Living Lab project in collaboration with global sustainability consultancy RSK, the Sustainability Team have moulded this project into the Green Ambassador volunteering programme, allowing students and staff the opportunity to gain experience with hands-on learning. Survey sessions, including monitoring of birds, aquatic life, mammals, butterflies and bees, were held bi-weekly in the garden and meadow area at Avery Hill campus. Some interesting findings include redwing, stickleback and ringlet.

In November 2024 Avery Hill had its first earthworm monitoring day and the first across sites looking at the biome below the ground. Nine species were identified, with an annual partnership established with the Biological Recording Company to further the test sites and analysis. An urban consultant, focusing on pollinators visited in the summer, recommending several opportunities to enhance habitat that will be taken forward into the next Biodiversity Action Plan.

## The edible garden

The Edible Garden at Avery Hill allows students and staff to grow their own vegetables and serves as a space for teaching, wellness activities, and community engagement. The community group, made up of volunteers both internally and externally, provided nearly 200 volunteering hours this year, the most since the garden took shape 10 years ago. Two staff team-building days also took place, during which time we helped plant additional crops, create bug hotels and maintain our benches.

The partnership with Design Dynamo, a social enterprise, founded by alumni Andreas Arany-Toth continued this year, with the produced edible garden signage due to be installed in winter 2025. This will increase awareness and knowledge of the garden, promoting opportunity and the beauty that can be found within its wild spots.





# Construction and refurbishment

To create spaces that drive utilisation



Progress indicator



7/10



# Construction and refurbishment

Our **Estates Sub Strategy** supports our Corporate Strategy to 2030, guiding the development of a modern estate that reflects our commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2033. Our work below helps us achieve the goals set in our SSAP, including:

- Decarbonising our Avery Hill and Medway Campuses by 2030
- Decarbonising three buildings on Greenwich Campus by 2030 and fully offsetting the remaining emissions
- Decarbonising our remaining Greenwich premises by 2033, utilising a district heating scheme.

## Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM)

Campus masterplans are developed to guide behaviour and practices across all our capital projects, with every new major refurbishment and building targeting BREEAM 'Very Good' and 'Excellent' standards.

## Sustainable estates practices and procedures

Following the RIBA Plan of Work stages, we consider sustainability from the concept and design phases throughout use. This approach ensures our estates are being constructed and upgraded to achieve net zero, maximise material reuse, incorporate biophilic design principles, and source from suppliers that align with our principles. Recent acquisitions,

including Devonport Hotel and Bounty House, have expanded teaching space to meet growing demand. We have better utilised the space we have where campus size has fallen when our student and staff numbers have increased. This has meant we have not needed to add estate space saving resources, time and costs. In addition, we have collaborated with charities such as the Salvation Army to reduce waste from the Devonport acquisition by repurposing items from the hotel that could not be reused internally.

## Capital projects programmes

Our Capital Projects Team runs ongoing rolling programmes targeting energy efficiency across learning spaces, laboratories, residential areas, external spaces, and WCs, aiming to enhance student outcomes while maintaining sustainable estates. These programmes integrate energy-saving measures, such as upgrading to LED lighting and installing automated electricity sub-meters, alongside accessibility improvements—for example, the

WC programme ensures wheelchair-accessible facilities in all buildings. These initiatives represent continued significant investment in improving the environmental performance of our estates, as detailed in the Carbon and Energy sections of this report.

## Circular economy in our estates

The Move and Changes team collaborates with The Furniture Reuse Scheme to apply circular design principles in our estate renovations. An example of this is at our Medway campus, where existing furniture was repurposed to refurbish the campus's most frequently used café.

## Devonport hotel building redevelopment

The university acquired Devonport hotel in 2022, and planning permission for the development—which includes a partial new build and refurbishment of the existing structure—was granted in March 2025. Both the new construction and the refurbished building will achieve BREEAM Excellent standards and incorporate environmental efficiencies to optimise energy use. The refurbishment aligns with Greater London Authority (GLA) carbon reduction guidelines, employing passive measures such as enhanced insulation and natural ventilation where feasible, along with zero-carbon technologies like air source heat pumps. These measures will eliminate Scope 1 carbon emissions for this building and the adjacent Cooper Building, as it will be connected to the same heating network.





# Environmental Management System (EMS)

To maintain ISO 14001 certification for the Estates and Facilities Directorate



Progress indicator



10/10



# Environmental Management System (EMS)

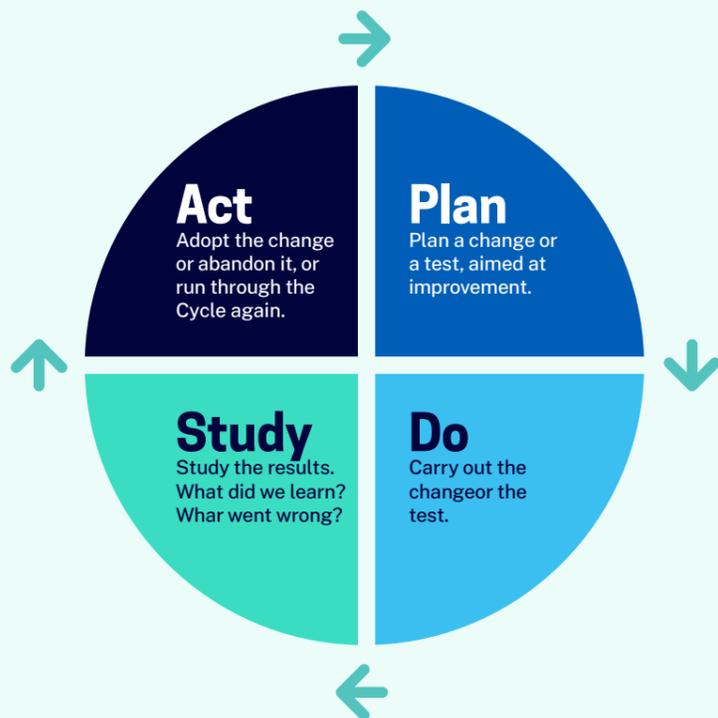
Our Environmental Management System (EMS) continues to drive environmental performance within all Estates and Facilities operations. Accredited to the international ISO14001 standard, the framework allows us to increase efficiencies whilst reducing environmental impact and promoting collaborating between staff.

Internal audits maintain performance and push continual improvement, with the standard incorporating 10 different clauses that must be met. The standard is externally audited by a certification body (third-party to avoid bias) within a three-year cycle, and all audits are conducted against strict criteria. We are proud to have recorded zero non-conformances over the past six years of external audits, illustrating our system's robustness commitment in minimising our environmental impact.

The ISO 14001 framework follows the “**plan, do, check, act**” cycle, requiring ongoing improvement.

A proposal has been submitted into the expansion of the EMS, to cover all operations across all faculties, with 2027 the scheduled growth period. Investment has seen the launch of an online internal auditing tool, in addition to the training of internal auditors.

LEAF (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework), aligned to the ISO standard has been launched, which focusses on efficiency improvement within labs, and is to be rolled out during 2025/26. Climate & Sustainability Resilience, forecasting future scenarios and the potential impacts on our operation has been in review this year with an action plan due in 2026.





# Education

To enable and encourage the education and research for sustainable developments for the University of Greenwich community



Progress indicator



8/10



# Education

The university has set out its ambition to equip our students with the knowledge and skills to engage with real world problems. The Sustainability Strategic Action Plan sets out our priority to deliver education for sustainable development across all programmes, so by 2030:

- All programmes will provide and understanding of how the subject relates to the UNSDGs
- Sustainability will be integral to our enhanced curriculum framework
- Programme specifications will address real-world problems and
- We will have developed partnerships with enterprises and organisations working on sustainability initiatives.

To achieve this we will implement a revised curriculum framework, enable our teaching staff to reflect on the relevance of sustainability to their programmes provide support for teaching staff to create engaging, relevant and, where possible, practice-led development opportunities in this area, developing partnerships with enterprises and organisations working on sustainability initiatives.

want our graduates to share the values of our institution, these we call Graduate attributes. They should view knowledge as an asset that they can use, alongside their research and transferrable skills, to make a real difference to their communities, professions, and society as a whole. Our postgraduate students apply these values to lead in complex situations and therefore will achieve these attributes at a higher level.

- Greenwich graduates are: Impactful and ethical agents of change (GA1)
- Active knowledge producers and practitioners (GA2)
- Competent and capable professionals (GA3)
- Real-world problem solvers (GA4).

When looking at Programme Learning Outcomes for each qualification level the application of understanding and solving real world problems is always covered and these are aligned with Graduate Attribute 4:

## Teaching

### Staff engagement

In April 2025 the university launched its Greenwich Curriculum Framework. This provided a comprehensive review of our approach to teaching at Greenwich aligning closely with the 2030 Corporate Strategy and underpinning our Student Success Strategy.

We are committed to delivering Education Without Boundaries. This means we proactively support our students to achieve their ambitions because of, rather than despite, their diverse backgrounds.

The Greenwich Curriculum Framework outlines principles for designing programmes, modules, teaching sessions and learning resources. We

- **Level 4:**
  - PLO4 - engage with real-world problems through analysis and evaluation, and collaborate to achieve sustainable practices and outcomes.
- **Level 5:**
  - PLO4 - engage with complex, real-world problems through analysis, evaluation and applying concepts in new contexts, and collaborate to achieve sustainable practices and outcomes.
- **Level 6:**
  - PLO4 - engage critically with complex, real-world problems through research, analysis and evaluation, and collaborate within multidisciplinary groups to achieve sustainable practices and outcomes.
- **Level 7:**
  - PLO4 - engage critically, systematically and creatively with complex, real-world problems through research, analysis and evaluation in the absence of complete data, and collaborate within multidisciplinary groups to achieve sustainable practices and outcomes.

Curriculum Shape encompasses the development of a new Greenwich Curriculum Framework and Assessment and Feedback policy. In 2025 work started in the development of the framework and resources to ensure that the key requirements of the Curriculum Framework were included to support the review of existing and new programmes. Over the summer of 2025 sustainability resources were developed to help teaching staff better understand sustainability so that it is effectively applied for students to understand how best to understand and solve real world problems using sustainability thinking and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Unit provides guest lectures for students to understand the

basic principles of sustainability. Each lecture is tailored to the module subject, allowing students to understand sustainability through the lens of their interests. We collaborated with 14 teaching academics, delivering guest lectures on topics ranging from public health and project management to social sciences and economics.

The university participates in the Student Organising for Sustainability (SOS) SDG Teach-In. This annual campaign calls upon educators to include the SDGs within their teaching, learning and assessment during the campaign. In total, we have had 23 teaching staff engage with the initial development of the SDG Teach-In.

The university has opportunities for teaching staff to come together to learn and explore ways to integrate sustainability into their programmes. Staff are encouraged to join the Education for Sustainable Development Community of Practice and Special Interest Group.

### The SHIFT Conference 2025

The SHIFT conference is the annual learning, teaching, and assessment conference open to students and staff from Greenwich and other institutions. Providing a platform to a multitude of speakers in the UK and internationally, it facilitates opportunities for research and knowledge exchange and sharing innovative practice. Key themes in the conference were **“Inclusivity and wellbeing”**, **“Sustainable, authentic and real-world approaches”**, **“Technology Enhanced Learning”** and **“Partnerships and co-creation”**.

### Student engagement

Our graduates have paid roles in helping support the delivery of the Curriculum Shape programme, using their perspectives as recent students to ensure that programmes are re-designed to meet the needs of our diverse student body.

The Sustainability Team have delivered a range of interactive guest lectures to student across our

faculties, from Public Health, Business to Maths and Education programmes, to help them better understand key sustainability issues and how they relate to the programmes they are studying.

In 2025 this included working with academics in the MSc in Strategic Marketing where the Sustainability Team created 'live briefs' for 60 students to understand and develop solutions and present in groups of 6-8 how they would address recycling challenges in two of our Greenwich buildings. Greenwich Sustainability, Marketing and academic team staff judged presentations as the client providing live feedback to students on their approaches. The feedback from all involved was very positive and this project is being replicated in 2025/26.

The Sustainability and Energy Teams at Greenwich also worked to support Business Analytics Masters student's dissertation projects again in a client role supporting students

who were applying AI, Machine Learning and statistical analysis to identify improvements in energy and water efficiency using our detailed Automatic Meter Reading data systems.

In 2024/25 we redesigned the Green Greenwich Foundation Course into a student Moodle for them to complete key basic understandings of key sustainability issues and how they relate to Greenwich and their time here. This will be launched ready for the start of term 2025/26.

We have continued to work with RSK to provide bursaries for students to deliver Living Labs. We have also worked with Greenwich's Generator to deliver sustainability focused Hackathons including one with Syntech Biofuels, a renewable energy company, with the challenge to design a strategy for a sustainability platform that allows users to track, display, and reduce their carbon footprint.



“Partnering with the community and local universities is key to our mission. The next generation is our future, and engaging with their ideas helps shape the future of our business. Today’s hackathon is all about hearing fresh perspectives, I’m eager to see how the students have interpreted the brief and what innovative solutions they’ve come up with.”

**Tom Bingham**  
Chief Executive Officer, Syntech Biofuels

Greenwich's student enterprise hub, The Generator, worked with IKEA to create a panel discussion to support our entrepreneurial students to create '[a community around your business](#)'. This session at IKEA's flagship sustainable store in Greenwich provided our students with a great insight into the world of responsible business.

During London Climate Action Week, we hosted the Grenovate Innovation Sprint at the Blue Earth Summit 2025. This dynamic session invited 20 students to take on the role of climate start-up founders and, within just one hour, pitch

bold, planet-positive solutions to tackle global sustainability challenges.

As part of our partnership with the [Blue Earth Summit](#) we give students free tickets to attend this highly engaging, impact focused three-day gathering of internationally recognised sustainability experts and change makers.

The second part of this annual report provides examples of how our teaching and learning contribute to all UN SDGs.





# Research



Progress indicator



8/10



# Research

At Greenwich we recognise the significant positive contribution that our research makes in improving social and environmental impact and supports how organisations and political systems can better support the transition to sustainability. This impact can happen from a local to a global level.



The relationship between sustainability and research is set out in our corporate strategy and is explicitly stated in the deliverables set out in our Sustainability Strategic Action Plan. Our priority is “Research and knowledge exchange that supports the UN SDGs.” By 2030 we will:

- Focus our Research and Knowledge Exchange (R&KE) activity to support the UN SDGs
- Achieve top 100 in at least three SDGs in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings
- Ensure that at least 20% of our Research Excellence Framework case studies focus specifically on sustainability
- Ensure that at least 25% of Knowledge Exchange Framework narratives specifically highlight sustainability outcomes

- Monitor and report progress, including producing an annual Sustainability Impact Report.

To achieve this the university will align our R&KE activities with specific SDGs, develop annual planning and reporting processes that identify R&KE activity focused on the SDGs. A Knowledge Exchange for Impact Funds will support identifiable sustainability impacts from research outputs and align research outputs to SDGs. Research outputs would be communicated to encourage engagement uptake and impact, and sustainability related research and knowledge exchange work will be integrated into our taught work.

All of Greenwich’s Research Centres have mapped the relevant UN SDGs that their work supports. This helps the university understand our contributions to a broad range of sustainability areas and provides opportunities to connect academic research work to support interdisciplinary sustainability focused research work and impact.

Examples of our research across all SDGs is illustrated in the second part of this report. The [Natural Resources Institute](#) is an example where we are not just creating research, it is also delivering impact. The NRI works across social, environmental and economic sustainability issues through its three research centres: the Centre for Society, Environment & Development, the Centre for Food Systems Research and the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture 4 One Health. Its work can be seen at a level local to the NRI’s Medway Campus and to very many areas and communities around the world. Impact and output can be seen for 2024/25 and years previously via this [link](#).

Another leading Greenwich research centre is Political Economy, Governance, Finance and Accountability (PEGFA). This researches pathways to a green, caring and equitable economy, financial system, and society. With a focus on impactful world-leading research, knowledge exchange and research-informed teaching in economics, accounting and finance, PEGFA addresses many of the urgent problems of our time. Its researchers contribute to the development of sustainable public policy and business models by proposing economic, financial and governance solutions to inequalities, climate change, care crisis, and financial instability. Impact, in terms of contributing to sustainability, equality, inclusivity, diversity, and decolonising research and education, lies at the heart of its research and knowledge exchange activities.

The Institute for Inclusive Communities and Environments, launched in 2023, has a vision and mission to:

- Foster greater inclusivity and reduce inequalities among diverse individuals, communities and environments.
- Create an inclusive, sustainable and fairer society, through the arts, creativity and culture
- Empower communities to develop partnerships to share solutions and help improve the lives of citizens
- Work collaboratively with public, and third- sector organisations, and industry to address important social and environmental challenges of our time.
- Showcase research informed teaching, as enablers for innovative learning, curriculum development, pedagogical practice decolonising the curriculum.

This Institute is important as it enables and supports interdisciplinary research that enriches lives, empowers communities and improves the world. Our research directly contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key examples from ICE Research Centres include Work at the Centre for Communities and Social

Justice supporting SDGs including No Poverty (SDG1), the work undertaken at the Centre for Research in Language and Heritage to raise awareness and improve the assessment of language needs –supporting SDGs including Good Health and Well-being (SDG3), the Centre for Creative Futures supporting SDGs including Gender Equality (5), the Centre for Sound and Image supporting Reduced Inequality (SDG10), the Centre of Spatial and Digital Ecologies supports Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG11) amongst others and the Centre for Transformative and Global Justice on the global electronics supply chains has led to public procurement professionals and policy makers at national and international levels to address their human rights’ impact, supporting Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG12)

The second part of this annual report provides examples of how our research contributes to all UN SDGs.

## Greenwich and the Environment Podcast

The [Greenwich and the Environment](#) podcast, available to the public, was launched by the Institute for Communities and Environments (ICE) in collaboration with the Sustainability Team in 2025. The podcast provides accessible, research-informed discussions on environmental issues, addressing themes including human–animal relations, the global water crisis, sustainable city design, and the role of slowing down in nature. By amplifying diverse academic voices, it strengthens engagement within and beyond the university, showcasing how research at Greenwich contributes to dialogue on sustainability. The podcast has established itself as a key platform for impact, enabling the dissemination of ideas that influence both academic and public audiences.



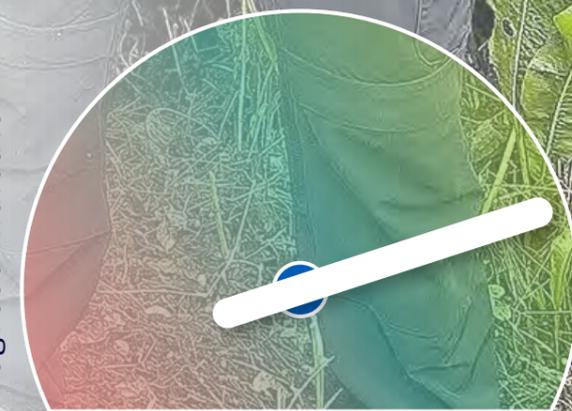


# Engagement and community

To promote sustainability across our entire network and play an active role in building a sustainable community.



Progress indicator



8/10



# Engagement and community

According to our SSAP, staff and student engagement are important to support our three priorities. By 2030 we aim to have:

- Staff equipped with the knowledge, skills and tools to deliver our sustainability aims
- More impactful sustainability partnerships
- A digital environment that supports our sustainability ambitions.

## Green Greenwich Foundation Course

The university collaborated with IBM to create and deliver a professional development programme for all staff. This course offers a structured route for staff to develop green knowledge, covering topics such as carbon reduction, nature protection, and valuing resources. The programme explains what sustainability means to the university and why it matters, supporting staff in making informed, positive choices. More than 430 staff members have now completed the course with positive feedback. We are looking to develop the next level of the course, providing a deeper, practical understanding of sustainability relating to work at Greenwich. We have redesigned this programme and integrated it into the Student Moodle for launch in August 2025.

## Green Champions network

Our Green Champions Network represents an important move toward building a sustainability-focused culture. Co-created and led by staff, it empowers colleagues to

advocate for sustainable practices across the university. With over 80 champions across three campuses, the network offers sustainability-focused training sessions to enhance the professional skills of both academic and professional staff. Champions have also implemented impactful action projects, such as digitalising exam materials to reduce paper use and having students do audits on the “sustainability levels” of courses within the health faculty.

## Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

EDI is fundamental to the fabric of our university, as highlighted in the [Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion 2024/25 report](#). Notable progress includes the launch of peer-to-peer mentoring for the Senior Leadership Team, achievement of an Institutional Bronze Athena Swan Award and gaining Handpicked Menopause Friendly Award.

## Health and wellbeing

In March 2025 the university hosted its annual flagship mental health and wellbeing event to mark University Mental Health Day. The 6-day agenda of wide-reaching activities included sessions from Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, colleagues in the Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences, Active Life & Engagement, STAART (a disability and diversity focused initiative), and the Student Wellbeing team.

## LGBTQI +

In 2023/24, the university is ranked 20th overall and 1st among English universities in the UK Stonewall's Top 100 Employers List. The ranking provides the definitive benchmarking tool for employers to measure their progress on lesbian, gay, bi and trans inclusion in the workplace.

## Race Action Plan

In 2022, the university launched the Race Action Plan. The plan sets out our timetable of 2021-2026 and our 6 key areas of focus with in-depth scrutiny of our processes and approach to race action. In 2024, we designed and developed a Black and Racial Studies module for all staff and students.

## Alumni engagement

The Alumni team organised an alumni webinar ‘Sustainability: Vital for you, us and the planet’ to raise awareness and engagement on relevant sustainability action plans from the university. Alumni in the field of sustainability have been invited discuss why exactly sustainability is so strategically important to our alumni community, the university and the planet.

## Green Fortnight

In 2024/25 we extended our Green Week to a Green Fortnight to engage staff and students in sustainability. This year, we organised a range of activities both online and on campus, including talks, workshops and volunteering sessions, to inspire students and staff in their sustainability ambitions.

## Team building in the garden

Colleagues from GRI gathered at the Edible Garden at Avery Hill for the team's annual team get-together. Contributing 78 volunteering hours, the GRI team helped with pruning and watering the beds, constructing artificial habitats, staining benches and helping to relay some relaxation areas.

## Green ambassadors

We launched our Green Ambassadors programme in October 2024, which provided students with opportunities to gain skills and experience within the sustainability sector. Specific roles included biodiversity monitoring, content creation, gardening, and clothes swap event support. In total, 20 volunteers committed to supporting the university in its sustainability vision.



# Closing remarks

At the University of Greenwich, our progress in sustainability is powered by the dedication of our staff and students. Every member of our community plays an essential role in shaping a vibrant and sustainable future, and we sincerely appreciate your ongoing commitment. Sustainability is a collective effort, and we are proud to champion inclusivity and innovation as we work toward a better tomorrow.

As we approach the 2025/26 academic year, our commitment to sustainability remains strong. We will continue to broaden opportunities for sustainable development and community involvement, enabling everyone to make a meaningful contribution.

If you are enthusiastic about sustainability or have ideas to offer, we encourage you to connect with the Sustainable Development Unit. Whether you are part of our university or an external partner, your participation is key to realising our shared goal of a more sustainable world.

Thank you for your support. Together, we can continue creating positive change within our community and beyond.



# Part 2:

## Contributing to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals Annual Report 2024 - 2025



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



# Deputy Vice Chancellor's foreword

Our ongoing commitment to sustainability is clearly demonstrated in this report, which highlights how we are supporting the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) through our research, teaching, and operations. Having worked in the sustainability field for many years, I know that the urgency to address the social and environmental challenges we face has never been greater. The contributions showcased here are a remarkable illustration of the work we are undertaking not only at Greenwich and Medway, and across our region, but also around the world.

Our increasing focus on the UNSDGs is reflected in the breadth of activity within our Research Centres and in the way we are embedding sustainability into our curricula. This ensures that every graduate leaves Greenwich equipped to tackle real-world problems, using the UNSDGs as a guiding framework.

We are proud to be recognised for these contributions in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, where we achieved 26th place globally for SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals, alongside notable top 100 positions for SDG2: Zero

Hunger, SDG10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

The UNSDGs also inform the delivery of our Sustainability Strategic Action Plan, which continues to prove its effectiveness as a tool for driving impact. Looking ahead, we will ensure that our students and staff understand the importance of sustainability and their role in addressing the challenges and opportunities it brings. At Greenwich, we believe that everyone has a part to play, and through our collective efforts we will deliver positive impact across the SDGs, helping to solve many of the urgent issues of our time.

This progress is the result of the dedication of our staff, students, and partners. I thank each of you for stepping up and contributing to this vital work, and I look forward to seeing even more inspiring achievements in the years ahead.

**Professor Andrew Westby, OBE,**  
Deputy Vice Chancellor  
and Chair of the Sustainability Management Committee.

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# Introduction

## Welcome to the University of Greenwich UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024/25.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) consist of 17 global goals underpinned by 169 targets aimed at tackling major social, economic, and environmental issues worldwide. Established in 2015 as part of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they offer a comprehensive framework for guiding progress toward a fairer and more sustainable future.

These goals call on governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals to work collectively to achieve sustainable development. They serve as a common vision and pathway for creating a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable world, benefiting both present and future generations.

This year we ranked 26th for SDG 17, Partnerships for Goals, 60th for SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production, 62nd for SDG 2, Zero Hunger and 67th for SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities, showing our continual contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals.

This report reflects a university-wide collaborative effort. We continue to embed the SDGs across teaching and research, enabling us to monitor and enhance our operational progress.

We are proud to highlight our SDG initiatives and remain committed to sharing annual progress updates.



# 1: No poverty

*End poverty in all its forms everywhere.*

This goal relates to the university's research on poverty and the commitment to support low-income or disadvantaged students and citizens in the local community.

## Our research

[Depleted by Debt – “Green” Microfinance, Over-Indebtedness, and Social Reproduction in Climate-Vulnerable Cambodia.](#)

Fiorella Picchioni from the NRI supported research exploring micro finance, which has long been promoted in mainstream development as a vital tool for poverty alleviation, particularly for smallholder farmers in climate-affected regions. It is often framed to enhance resilience by improving households' ability to recover from, and adapt to, environmental and economic shocks. However, this study challenges the dominant “green finance” narrative by revealing how microfinance can deepen social and economic vulnerabilities, rather than alleviate them.

## Our teaching

Our Poverty, Inequality and Social Exclusion module covers inequalities within the public health system. Looking at health from an intersectional perspective, the module sheds light on social implications of public health in deprived locations.

## Our operations

The university's commitment to fostering social equity is reflected in our recently renewed Access and Participation Plan, which outlines ambitious strategies for alleviating poverty and fostering social mobility.

To help students overcome financial barriers, the university provides a wide range of support initiatives and funding options. These include bursaries for accommodation, travel, digital access, and energy costs, as well as vocational and financial assistance for staff through employer sponsorship and teacher training bursaries.

The Greenwich Annual Fund launched in December 2024 and supports students facing hardship by providing vital financial assistance, including food vouchers, emergency grocery funding, and campus meal provisions. Donations from £25 to £1,000 help ensure students can overcome financial barriers and fully engage with their studies, promoting equitable access to education and enhancing student success across the university.

Our Student Ambassador programme offers paid roles that enable students to represent the university while gaining valuable experience. In addition, our employability team collaborates across departments to provide flexible, part-time opportunities through the Job-Shop.

Greenwich also proudly maintains its Fairtrade Accreditation, reinforcing our commitment to ethical practices and reducing poverty in developing nations.



A red banner containing a play button icon, a logo of overlapping colorful hexagons, and text: 'THE Impact Rankings: 2023: / 2024: 201-300th 2025: 101-200th'. To the right is a white icon of a family and the text '1 NO POVERTY'.

## Our partnerships

We have announced applications for the Football Foundation funded Stephen Lawrence scholarship at the University of Greenwich, providing one MArch part 2 student with a

fully funded course, joining the university September 2025. This initiative will prioritise black students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and those who are estranged or care experienced.

“This initiative is the perfect legacy, as we work to plan, design and construct facilities that target and support groups and communities who have faced barriers in terms of participation. This includes lower socio-economic groups and culturally and ethnically diverse communities. These facilities provide not only a great place to play but also a safe space for communities to come together, where people can meet and build friendships.”

**Robert Sullivan,**  
Chief Executive of the Football Foundation



# 2: Zero hunger

**End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

This goal highlights the multidimensional nature of food and nutrition security beyond mere availability to encompass resilience, nutrient quality, food safety, and sustainable agricultural practices. It aligns with our research on hunger and food sustainability and our commitment to reducing food waste and addressing local hunger challenges. For more details, please see our [Sustainable Food Policy](#).

## Our research

[Global Collaboration Targets Cassava Whitefly to Boost Farmer Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

On 12 December 2024, an international consortium of research institutions and development partners, including Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) at the University of Greenwich, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Centre, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Yissum, launched a major initiative to protect cassava yields for millions of smallholder farmers across sub-Saharan Africa. Supported by Gates Ag One, the Cassava Whitefly Control project aims to combat the growing threat of the cassava whitefly pest, which not only causes direct crop damage but also spreads devastating viral diseases like Cassava Mosaic and Cassava Brown Streak. The collaboration seeks to develop resilient cassava varieties and ensure equitable access to improved planting materials, especially for women farmers. NRI Director Professor Sheryl Hendriks emphasised the need to close the innovation gap, ensuring smallholders benefit from modern agricultural advances.

[Innovative Plant-Based Project Using Croton Seed Oil Gains Recognition for Sustainable Agriculture in Kenya](#)

As global focus on sustainability intensifies, Professor Philip Stevenson's project, Designing and Developing Plant-Based Natural Product Innovations Using Croton Seed Oil, stands out as a pioneering example of impactful research and collaboration. Recently named a finalist for the Best African Agriculture Knowledge Transfer Partnership (AAKTP) Project Award, this initiative highlights successful innovation in sustainable agriculture, particularly within Kenya. This collaborative effort brings together key partners from the UK and Kenya, including Egerton University and EcoFix in Kenya, and the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) at the University of Greenwich alongside Kew Gardens in the UK. The partnership has been fundamental in driving forward a shared vision for sustainable, organic agricultural solutions.

## Our teaching

Our faculties offer a diverse range of courses, including our Food Science & Nutrition BSc, featuring modules such as Introduction to Sustainable Food Systems, Safety and Quality Assurance, and Basic Principles of Nutrition; our Agriculture for Sustainable Development, MSc;



**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: /  
2024: 83rd  
2025: 62nd

**2 ZERO HUNGER**



and our Sustainable Agriculture (QA only) BSc, which focus on advancing theories and practices in sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

## Our operations

Tackling food insecurity starts on campus, where the university has introduced a range of initiatives to support both students and staff.

Please refer to our Annual Sustainability Report for details of our operations towards sustainable food.

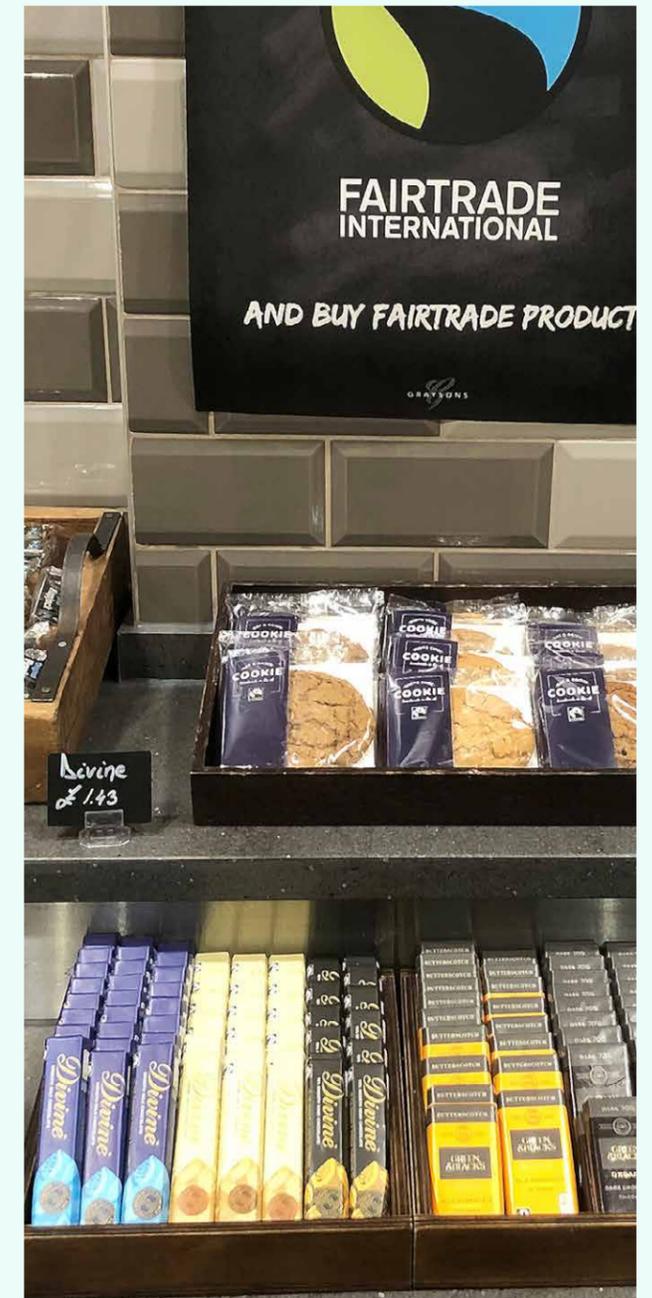
Some key projects include allowing leftover food to be available before closing, providing affordable £3 meals and introducing food waste recycling in our halls. Over 4 tonnes of food waste have been recycled.

Through these combined efforts, the university not only meets immediate food needs but also fosters long-term solutions that empower individuals to take control of their own food security.

## Our partnerships

On 24 June 2025, NRI and the Food Futures Programme at the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU) co-hosted an international symposium in Bangalore, India, bringing together over 150 experts to explore food-first solutions to the interconnected challenges of nutrition, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. The event marked the beginning of a promising partnership between NRI and TDU, grounded in a shared commitment to inclusive, evidence-based food systems transformation. Through expert talks, panel discussions, and hands-on activities,

the symposium highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration, combining scientific research and indigenous knowledge to support human and planetary health.



# 3: Good health and well-being

## Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

The university is dedicated to enhancing health and wellbeing while tackling inequalities at local, national, and global levels.

### Our research

#### Participatory art and health and wellbeing

The University of Greenwich brought student and staff creativity to the streets of central Greenwich by projecting artwork onto the side of a former bank building. The projection marked the closing event for the annual Sound/Image exhibition at the university's Stephen Lawrence Gallery and coincided with the conclusion of the AHRC-funded research project p\_ART\_icipate!, led by Olive Gingrich, which explored the impact of participatory art on health and wellbeing.

#### Using simulations to foster activism and advocacy in healthcare education

Phil Gurnett has worked with Dr Lydia Mainey from Central Queensland University as well as Dr Ryan Essex from the University of Greenwich to focus on empowering students to see themselves as active participants in political processes that shape healthcare systems. Through their research on advocacy and activism, they emphasise the role of simulations as a teaching tool to inspire professional political action. In these simulations, students take on the roles of healthcare advocates, policymakers and activists, navigating the complex dynamics of political action in real-world contexts. This

hands-on approach not only helps students understand the intricacies of healthcare policy but also demonstrates the importance of professions taking political stances to achieve societal improvements.

### Our teaching

#### Our Health and Social Care and Public Health degrees encompass modules promoting physical and mental well-being.

The Queen's Nursing Institute, founded during Queen Victoria's reign and patronised by every queen since including Queen Camilla, annually awards the title of Queen's Nurse to nurses who promote the highest standards of community patient care. This year, five nurses from the University of Greenwich received this honour. Professor David Evans, who earned the title in 2022 despite not working directly in the community, explained that teaching community nursing students qualified him. Since then, Greenwich has had 14 Queen's Nurses in total, reflecting the university's ongoing commitment to inspiring future nursing professionals.

### Our operations

At the University of Greenwich, we continue to prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of our students and staff.



**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: 401-600th  
2024: 401-600th  
2025: 301-400th



The university's strategic ambition is to be a leader in employee mental health and wellbeing; this means working towards an environment and culture that reduces poor mental health and supports good mental health, and facilitates university staff to develop insight, understanding and skills to manage and maintain their own wellbeing.

#### The University Mental Health Charter

We're committed to providing comprehensive mental health support and promoting a culture of wellbeing at Greenwich. Seeking to obtain the University Mental Health Charter (UMHC) Award will demonstrate and recognise this, and 2024-25 has seen a large university-wide effort towards obtaining the Award. Following submission in the Autumn 2025, the result from Students Minds is due by early 2026.

#### Pulse staff survey actions

Since our staff survey in 2024, Senior People Business Partners have been working with teams in Faculties and Directorates to develop and implement local action plans, to address some of the issues raised which impact employee wellbeing. This has brought into focus local communications, dialogue with local managers and leadership teams, collaborative working, and workload management.

#### Employee Assistance Programme

The university changed its EAP provider during 2025 and employees have continued to be able to access free information, advice and confidential support, including counselling.

#### Wellbeing days

Employees have continued to be able take up to two (paid) days off work to take care of their mental health and wellbeing.

#### Support for parents and carers

In June 2025 during Carers Week, the university's 'Parents and Carers Together (PACT) Community' was launched. PACT aims to offer a safe and supportive space for parents, parents-to-be, and carers to share their experiences, offer emotional and practical support, and foster a sense of belonging across the university.

The university has become a member organisation of the Carers UK scheme 'Employers for Carers', through which employees can access free information and support through Employers for Carers (EfC) Digital.

#### Staff wellbeing network

The university's thriving Staff Wellbeing Network has continued to attract new members, promote the health and wellbeing of employees, signpost to support, and coordinate events and opportunities for connection. The network's 'connect cafes' initiative has delivered monthly meetings held across campuses – to help colleagues build a sense of belonging, share positive experiences and interests, and create support networks – and will continue into the 2025-26 academic year.



## University Mental Health Day 2025

In March 2025 the university hosted its annual flagship mental health and wellbeing event to mark University Mental Health Day. The 6-day agenda of wide-reaching activities included sessions from Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, colleagues in the Faculty of Education, Health & Human Sciences, Active Life & Engagement, STAART (a disability and diversity focused initiative), and the Student Wellbeing team. The keynote session featured high-profile mental health ambassadors Neil Laybourn and Jonny Benjamin MBE, covering themes of recovery from mental illness, support within universities, and suicide prevention. It was attended by over 200 people and received excellent feedback for its impact.

## Equality, diversity and inclusion

Joint working across the People Directorate and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion has continued to progress our charter and accreditation work and strategic priorities for people, and the Race Equality Chartermark accreditation submission is imminent.

The EDI team have continued to develop an EDI Strategic Action Plan, with staff focus groups having taken place this year. The Action Plan will support the university to better understand and intervene around the intersectional mental and wellbeing of employees.

## Mental health learning and development

The Health and Safety Unit continues to offer new and refresher training to maintain the university's Mental Health First Aid provision.

Having emerged as a theme within the 2024 pulse staff survey, specific support around men's mental health and wellbeing has been piloted through the delivery of a workshop on having conversations with men around mental health. This received excellent engagement, with feedback praising the importance of shining a light on this important issue in the context of societal challenges around engaging

men with mental health services. Further sessions are being planned for 2025-26.

The university-wide mental health and wellbeing training matrix for staff in non-clinical roles is continuing to be developed, with partnerships with sector-leading training providers being established to meet the university's requirements.

## Menstruation and fertility work

Building on our sector leading accredited status as a Menopause Friendly Employer, work has focused on developing interventions around on menstruation and fertility respectively. Training for line managers is being developed, and focused interventions are taking place – including a workshop building awareness and understanding around fibroids, hosted by the Menopause Team.

## Sports and active life activities supporting physical and mental health

There has been enhanced activity planning, communications and engagement work to facilitate staff to take part in sports and active life at the university. For example, communications have promoted the discounted university gym memberships, state-of-the art sports facilities at the Avery Hill campus, and the recently launched Active Life Community at Medway.

## Staff supporting students with mental health concerns

We know that staff and student mental health and wellbeing are interconnected, and our Student Wellbeing Service has updated the guidance for staff to help them assess and identify the appropriate action to take when supporting students with mental health concerns.

## Green champions supporting sustainability and wellbeing

The university's growing network of Green Champions have been working to enhance the connections between sustainability and



wellbeing. Champions have been actively promoting these areas across their teams and the wider university, organising events such as staff gardening sessions at the edible garden on the Avery Hill campus.

## Student Support

We provide counselling in a safe, confidential space to explore any problems you may be experiencing. The university offers a range of counselling services, including Sexual Assault Referral Centres, grief and bereavement, hate crimes, addictions and domestic violence.

The Student Wellbeing Service Psychological Wellbeing team offer confidential, pastoral support and a space to explore things that may be worrying students.

We work to support students who experience a range of issues such as loneliness, friendship difficulties, and other life challenges. We also work with students in a positive, proactive way to help them identify ways to get ahead.

We want to help students identify life challenges and support them in making the changes needed to achieve academic success and thrive in their time at university.

Students can self-refer for an appointment by completing an online self-referral form on the Digital Student Centre. Or join the online drop-in that runs on Monday's, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## Our partnerships

There are a range of ways students with disabilities and dyslexia can receive support from the university, including disabled Students' Allowances, Study support, Access and Safety, and STAART, in partnership with Aimhigher, which provides information and guidance to disabled and diverse students.

Student Wellbeing Services also partners with Student Assistance programme providers Spectrum Life in offering our students and offer holders access to a 24/7 in the moment service, platform and app.

# 4: Quality education

*Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.*

The university remains committed to providing high-quality, inclusive education while supporting the local community's access to excellent teaching and learning opportunities across our campuses.

## Our research

### Is language the missing link in sustainability learning?

Dr Anna Costantino, an applied linguist and language teacher, is conducting research on integrating sustainability and social justice into language education. Her work explores how global challenges, particularly those related to climate change and social justice, can be effectively addressed at the local educational level through language pedagogy. Anna has developed classroom exercises that engage students in role-playing activities where they explore the viewpoints of different stakeholders in climate justice issues. These activities not only enhance language proficiency but also help students build empathy, resilience and ethical reasoning skills

### Developing a sustainability toolkit for PhD students – empowering the next generation of change makers

A team of researchers, led by Dr Rob Amos, are developing an innovative Sustainability Toolkit, due to be launched in 2026. This tool aims to guide PhD students in identifying how their research contributes to sustainability objectives. Engaging students with Sustainability Learning (SL) is an increasingly important concern for the higher education sector. It is reflected in numerous universities' strategies for SL, with a range of formal and

extra-curricular initiatives being developed by both institutions and other organisations. A neglected constituency in these efforts is PhD students, whose programmes typically contain limited taught content. This carries wider implications than simply restricting the opportunities open to PhD students while at university. SL is about equipping individuals with skills to aid society in making sustainable transitions and PhD students, who have the potential to be at the forefront of tackling contemporary global challenges, should therefore be at the forefront of efforts to deliver SL. As the need for sustainability learning (SL) rises in higher education, the University of Greenwich recognises an underserved group, PhD students, in their sustainability initiatives.

## Our teaching

The Sustainable Development Unit has partnered with Dr Klairoong Phairor, Programme Leader for MA Marketing Management, to embed the Living Lab model into the Ethics, Responsibility and Sustainability in Marketing module. As part of this collaboration, students designed waste reduction campaigns using live recycling data from Greenwich campus, transforming the classroom into a real-world problem-solving space. This hands-on approach enhanced students' cognitive, socio-emotive, and



**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: 201-300th  
2024: 301-400th  
2025: 201-300th

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



behavioural skills while driving environmental responsibility within the university community.

## Our operations

Our 'This is Our Time' strategy advances quality education through 'Education without Boundaries,' which widens access, promotes social mobility, and builds global partnerships. We offer flexible online courses that allow students to earn qualifications from anywhere, fitting study around their lives. Expanding this provision, we are embedding sustainability into course design, ensuring learners gain the skills and knowledge needed to shape inclusive and sustainable futures.

Our Sustainability Strategic Action Plan outlines the embedding of sustainability throughout the curriculum by working with the Student Success team to equip students with the knowledge and skills to engage with Real World Problems, with the goals to have all programmes include relative SDGs by 2030. This is being delivered in response to the Curriculum Framework, launched in April 2025, through the Curriculum Shape programme that was in development in summer 2025 preparing for delivery in 2025/26.

The University of Greenwich's Access and Participation Plan reaffirms our commitment to widening access to higher education for all. Our priorities include improving opportunities for students from BAME communities and diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

To support learning, we provide free library services across campuses, alongside extensive online resources. Students benefit from over 137,000 eBooks, workshops, tutorials, and eight specialist guides offering open access to peer-reviewed articles, conference papers, and book chapters. Public access is also available at our Medway campus library.

Our Academic and Learning Enhancement (ALE) Team enhances teaching and learning by offering staff tailored guidance, including curriculum design support and drop-in sessions.

The university provides a range of top ranked courses, recognised as one of just two UK universities delivering undergraduate economics degrees that are "**fit for the 21st century,**" according to a new report by Rethinking Economics. The Guardian League Tables 2025 has also ranked biology at the university as third in the UK. The University of Greenwich has also been recognised by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC, part of GCHQ) as an Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Education (ACEs-CSE).

## Our partnerships

The university collaborates with more than 300 schools, colleges, and education partners across London and the South East to raise academic attainment and support progression into higher education. For over 20 years, we have also built strong international teaching partnerships, advancing our mission to inspire society through discovery, application, and knowledge-sharing.



As part of our valued partnership with Santander, our university is pleased to share an exciting opportunity for students and staff to access high-quality online learning. Santander is offering 50,000 free places for individuals to access 80 of the most in-demand online courses hosted on Coursera.

The University of Greenwich will launch a new PhD in Economics of Social and Ecological Sustainability under the Economics Pathway of the ESRC-funded UCL, Bloomsbury and East London Doctoral Training Partnership (UBEL DTP). Led by Professor Özlem Onaran, Co-

Director of the Centre of Political Economy, Governance, Finance and Accountability, the programme reflects Greenwich's strong research environment and long-standing MSc Economics. Research areas include ecological economics, inequality, social mobility, poverty,

the care economy, green finance, macro-financial stability, technological change, and democratic participation.



# 5: Gender equality

*Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.*

This goal relates to our commitment to recruiting and promoting women, reducing gender inequalities within our operations, teaching and research, and our policies on gender equality.

## Our research

### The Centre for Inequalities

The Centre for Inequalities focuses research efforts on a range of equality-based challenges. However, their focus on gender equality specifically supports work on intimate partner violence and the issue of sexual consent among different social groups.

### NRI Collaborates on Groundbreaking Report on Women in Agrifood Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa

The Natural Resources Institute (NRI) recently partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), and other key collaborators to hold a vital consultation on the forthcoming regional report, The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. Building on FAO's global 2023 report, this new publication will offer the most comprehensive data, analysis, and regional priorities focused on women's contributions and challenges in agrifood systems across sub-Saharan Africa. Once published, the report aims to serve as a foundational resource for policymakers, civil society, and researchers seeking evidence-based strategies to empower women and create gender-just, sustainable agrifood systems across sub-Saharan Africa.

## Our teaching

On 7 March 2025, the Natural Resources Institute Postgraduate Society (NRIPS)

hosted a powerful event to mark International Women's Day, focusing on gender equality, leadership, and social inclusion in food systems and beyond. The event featured a keynote from Dr Lora Forsythe, Associate Professor in Gender, Inequalities and Food Systems at NRI, who shared insights from her research on the systemic undervaluing of women's contributions in agriculture and the importance of intersectional and feminist approaches to food systems transformation. Her talk highlighted the need to reframe narratives, restructure leadership, and support women's collective action. A dynamic panel discussion, led by PhD student Rose Joseph, explored challenges women face in leadership and the vital role of allyship in driving systemic change. The event sparked meaningful conversations and called for continued personal and professional commitment to equality and inclusion. It served as a timely reminder of the work still needed, and the collective power we hold, to build a more just and inclusive future.

## Our operations

Our commitment to advancing gender equality is set out in our Strategy 2030 and our Self-Assessment Team (SAT) began working on this in 2022. The EDI annual report produced by the Talent, Development & Reward team outlines our achievements towards gender equality. We have received the Athena Swan Bronze Charter with highlights, including reducing the gender pay gap to 8.5%, the lowest figure since reporting began in 2017.



**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: 201-300th  
2024: 201-300th  
2025: 201-300th



To create an inclusive workplace, we have introduced a network of Menopause Champions. This initiative encourages open conversations about menopause and provides practical support for colleagues and line managers. Throughout the year, the Wellbeing Network has hosted events such as Menopause Awareness Training, nutrition workshops, and menopause cafés to foster understanding and wellbeing.

We've celebrated over 10 years of being a part of the Aurora Programme, an Advance HE Leadership Development programme for colleagues who identify as women. The programme helps colleagues find their leadership identity and voice to support their success, with 15 members of staff recruited for 2024/25.

### Women mentoring programme/ event/ initiative targeted at students

Greenwich is a founding member of the South East Action Learning (SEAL) scheme and has participated in it for the last five years. SEAL brings together women of all grades in higher education across London and the Southeast.

An online Lunch and Learn session with Dr Meredith Wilkinson, explored the intersectional barriers faced by disabled women in academia and professional roles. Chaired by Megan Rudden (Disabled Staff Community) and Katherine Leopold (Women's Network), the event highlighted underrepresentation in senior positions, particularly for disabled women. Building on the establishment of the Disabled Women in Academia Group (NADSN), the session shared strategies for empowerment, inclusion, and institutional change.

The University of Greenwich marked International Women's Day (IWD) under the global theme Accelerate Action, calling for faster progress toward gender equality. Events across our campuses included workshops, talks, exhibitions, and networking.

The university participated in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign. Through events such as Orange the World Day, a charity bake sale, and the Greenwich night safety walk, we raise awareness of gender-based violence and promote equality. With campaigns, resources, and shared stories, we aim to challenge harmful norms, empower survivors, and foster a safe, inclusive, and respectful university community.

## Our partnerships

The university hosted its third International Women's Day Employability Event, welcoming 49 students, 20 staff, and 20 employer representatives from ten companies. The event featured Lightning Panels on empowerment, mentoring, and career journeys, alongside networking sessions that connected students with professionals across industries. The event was sponsored by Enterprise Mobility.

The University of Greenwich promotes gender equality through its Women's Football Team and partnerships with Charlton Athletic. Her Game Too themed match day was organised, and at the men's game the Partnership Hub collaborated with the university's Degree Apprenticeships team to deliver the pre-match reception and discuss the importance of women in sport.





# 6: Clean water and sanitation

**Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.**

The university has established robust processes and systems to manage water consumption and support progress toward SDG 6. Our Environmental Management System provides our framework to make improvements, and we have a water reduction target of 1% per year.



## Our research

### Public Services International Research Unit (PSIRU)

The PSIRU examines the social, economic, and political aspects of privatisation and liberalisation in water, energy, waste

management, health care, and social care, as well as the role and structure of public services and public finance globally. They have specifically explored the ethics of private water lobbying groups, financing water and sanitation, and corruption associated with the privatisation of public water access.

### Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) for rainwater harvesting and stormwater management in temporary humanitarian settlements

Dr Colin Douglas Hills contributed to this paper which explored effective management of stormwater runoff in refugee camps and temporary shelters, particularly across Africa, where intense rainfall events are becoming more frequent due to climate change. The paper found that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) offer a potential solution by providing both stormwater management and additional water resources for refugee camps and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

## Our teaching

The MSc in Water, Waste and Environmental Engineering equips students with expertise in sustainable resource management, solid waste treatment, and contaminated land remediation. Graduates develop skills for careers in areas



**TH E Impact Rankings:**  
2023: 201-300th  
2024: 201-300th  
2025: 301-400th

**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**



such as desalination, water reuse, hydraulics, hydrology, and environmental remediation.

The Water, Waste and Environmental Engineering with Industrial Practice MSc focuses on designing environmentally friendly solutions, integrating science, public health, and engineering, with modules such as Sustainability for Engineers.

Postgraduates can explore adaptation strategies in water resource management through the Adaptation to Environmental Change: Climate and Water module, using case studies from local to global scales.

The Civil Engineering MSc also offers key modules including Hydrosystems Engineering and Management and Water and Wastewater Engineering.

## Our operations

The university provides complimentary drinking water facilities, clearly marked on campus maps. We optimise water usage across all campuses through a range of strategies, including compliance with BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) standards.

Our Legionella Control Policy outlines the management of legionella in the university's hot and cold-water systems. Developed collaboratively by the Estates and Facilities

Directorate and senior management, the policy details preventative measures to ensure safety.

In managing ground watering, we prioritise drought-tolerant plants to enhance biodiversity and conserve water resources, with further details available in our Annual Sustainability Report.

## Our partnerships

We have partnered with Re:Water, which are aluminium bottles exemplifying practical and environmentally sustainable design, supporting our commitment to reducing single-use plastics. Re:Water was founded by University of Greenwich alumnus Ben Richardson, who has translated his dedication to sustainability into a successful social enterprise. This partnership highlights the university's commitment to fostering sustainability-focused initiatives and promoting alumni-led impact in the wider community.

We collaborate with Stone IT Solutions, whose commitment to environmental responsibility aligns with our own. Together, we ensure that equipment is collected, repaired, reused, or recycled wherever possible, minimising waste and conserving resources. This partnership demonstrates how educational institutions and businesses can work together for environmental good. In the last academic year, our initiatives have achieved 598,400 gallons of water saved, equivalent to the annual water usage of 52 people.

# 7: Affordable clean energy

**Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.**

This goal focuses on energy efficiency and reducing the university's carbon footprint through sustainable operations, teaching, and research.



## Our research

### Solar panels for farm growth facilities

Dr Elinor Thompson's leads the project, which is about the latest solar technology that can revolutionise plant-growing at home and in commercial horticulture. The Greenwich research into pioneering agrivoltaic systems combined renewable energy generation with agricultural production, showing how new fields of productive land are not always needed for large solar installations, and that shading installed does not decrease yield from the crop.

## Our teaching

The Fundamentals of Energy Transition module explores the key challenges of moving to sustainable energy sources. It covers all major forms of renewable energy for fuels, electricity, and derived commodities, while enabling students to critically assess barriers in the transition process and unresolved issues related to adoption of renewable energy.

The Electrical Power Engineering MSc includes a Smart Grids and Sustainability module,



**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: /  
2024: 301-400th  
2025: 301-400th

**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**



providing an in-depth study of emerging Smart Grid technologies and their practical and research applications.

The Public Services International Research Unit and the Centre for Political Economy, Governance, Finance and Accountability recently hosted a conference examining public pathways to renewable energy. The event addressed the political, economic, and social dimensions of municipal and community-led renewable energy generation, highlighting campaigns, trends, and the challenges of balancing economic necessity with political debate in the sector.

## Our operations

Our Sustainability Strategic Action Plan outlines our ambitions to become carbon neutral by 2030 and achieve net zero for heating across all buildings by 2033.

Key work completed towards reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy efficiency within the university can be found in the Carbon and Energy chapters of our Annual Sustainability Report.

Greenwich Business School has launched the Fundamentals of Carbon module and certificate, designed to embed carbon literacy into our students' education. This initiative

equips staff with the knowledge and tools to teach students the essentials of carbon, sustainability, and energy awareness from day one. Using a "train the trainer" approach, trained staff will be able to deliver the module at scale, ensuring that all students gain a foundational understanding of carbon and energy-related issues.

## Ethical investments

The university does not have direct investments in fossil fuel companies. However, due to the nature of investment tracking portfolios, there may be transient exposure to such entities within our short-term investments in alignment with our stated [investment policy](#).

## Our partnerships

The University of Greenwich has partnered with Syntech Biofuel, a UK leader in sustainable Advanced Smart Biofuel (ASB), to drive innovation, sustainability, and student engagement. The collaboration includes research incubators, hands-on science projects, hackathons, and community outreach, providing students with work experience, talks, and opportunities to explore real-world sustainability solutions. This partnership also aims to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers, with a focus on supporting diversity in STEM.



# 8: Decent work and economic growth

*Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.*

The university is committed to fair employment practices and helping students gain work experience and employment after graduation.



  **THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: 201-300th  
2024: 201-300th  
2025: 201-300th

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**  


## Our research

### [Towards a Purple-Green New Deal – economic and social policies for sustainable futures](#)

Professor Özlem Onaran and supporting academics, have been exploring solutions to create a sustainable, inclusive and equitable economy through a “Purple-Green New Deal”. This approach addresses climate change and inequalities simultaneously by proposing a new social contract based on public investment in green and social infrastructure, wealth taxation and labour regulations to promote decent jobs. There are two key research strands addressing sustainability. The first strand is public investment for sustainable development funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Özlem’s research presents a policy mix to advance sustainable economic and social development. The second strand include a feminist new green deal and shorter working week in partnership with the Women’s Budget Group and Women’s Environmental Network. The work of Özlem and her colleagues has garnered international recognition, with invited keynotes at high-profile events, such as a 2023 conference in Brazil hosted by IAPE and University of Brasilia and inclusion in a forthcoming publication on employment prospects in developing countries edited by Nobel Laureate, Joseph Stiglitz.

## Our teaching

Dr Lianfeng Quan’s initiative to integrate sustainability into the MSc Principles of

Finance (PoF) module at the University of Greenwich reflects a commitment to embedding sustainable finance principles throughout the School of Accounting, Finance and Economics. This core module, shared across seven MSc programmes, enables students from diverse academic backgrounds to engage with crucial concepts such as Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors, climate risk and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr Jeff Powell has integrated sustainability throughout the Economics BSc and Business Economics BA programmes. From 2024/25, students can choose between two pathways: ESG, featuring modules such as Climate and Investment and ESG Investing, or Public Policy, which includes Economics of Social Change and Economics of Public Policy.

## Our operations

We provide students with exceptional industrial placements and internships that build skills aligned with industry standards. Our dedicated Careers Service and Business School Employability Office offer comprehensive support to help undergraduates and postgraduates secure placements with leading organisations.

The Early Years Careers Fair successfully connected over 90 students with employers from the Early Years sector. The event featured both established partners, including Fennies Nurseries, More2Nurseries, Kido, and the London Early Years Foundation (LEYF), alongside new employer connections such



as First Bridge Centre, Nannie Annies, and University Schools Trust.

The University of Greenwich Generator supported students in becoming entrepreneurs, helping them start, scale, and grow their businesses from the ground up. Read the [Generator's Impact Report 2024/25](#) to see their impact.

In addition to supporting students, the university hosts a variety of staff development and networking events. Among these is the GOLD Scheme, a flexible pathway to professional recognition for academic and professional services staff. Recognised by HESA as a teaching qualification, the scheme aligns with Advance HE's Professional Standards Framework and offers three fellowship categories.

The 2025 Discovery Days programme was successfully delivered across six partner organisations, including Berkeley Group, Genesys, Leonardo Hotels, Peabody, Royal Museums Greenwich, and SAP. This initiative had a turnout of 59 undergraduate students who made up 82 attendances, as some students participated in multiple sessions.

LLB students at the University of Greenwich can access a wide range of employability and mentoring opportunities through our Law Employability Platform. These programmes aim to support students' transition to university, boost confidence, develop practical skills, and bridge the gap between legal theory and practice.

We are proud to be a London Living Wage employer, ensuring that all our staff receive at least the London Living Wage as a minimum standard.

## Our partnerships

The University of Greenwich formalised a partnership with Punchdrunk, a leading immersive theatre company, to provide practical opportunities for students, particularly those underrepresented in the creative industries. This partnership, building on prior collaborations, encompasses work placements, community engagement initiatives, and career development activities, creating structured pathways for student employability in the creative sector.

The University of Greenwich has partnered with TechInsights, a global leader in semiconductor intelligence, to provide targeted career development opportunities for students in STEM disciplines. This partnership enables students to engage directly with industry experts, gaining practical knowledge and insight into careers in electrical, chemical, and materials engineering, as well as software development.

The University of Greenwich has partnered with Criterion Hospitality, a leading UK hotel operator, including its in-house Zedwell brand, to provide students with immersive learning and career development opportunities within the hospitality sector.

An internship programme funded by alumnus John Maynard will run from 2023 to 2027, with a £40,000 investment as part of a wider support package that includes PhD and Visionary Scholarships for students from Partner Schools and Colleges.

# 9: Industry, innovation, and infrastructure



**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: /  
2024: 601-800th  
2025: 601-800th

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.**

We aim to drive innovation and promote sustainable technologies for efficient use of resources.

## Our research

### Improving sustainability through dedicated AI hardware and creating systems of systems

Dr Wim Melis' research bridges two significant fields: developing energy-efficient AI hardware and combining systems for improved sustainability. His work addresses limitations in current computer hardware for AI applications and explores how renewable energy systems can better work together for improved overall efficiency, delivering smarter buildings and supporting communities. Through innovative approaches, Wim optimises for energy use, enhances system reliability and fosters community involvement in sustainable solutions. Wim also engages in "systems of systems" research, particularly towards optimising renewable energy systems, energy storage and building efficiency. This includes designing systems that combine different renewable energy systems with various storage solutions. In a subset of this work, Wim supervises projects focused on improving

energy efficiency in heritage buildings through Life Cycle Assessment and Digital Twin technologies. By leveraging Machine Learning models, his team can analyse and enhance energy use within older buildings, while maintaining historical integrity and achieving modern efficiency standards.

### Natural Resources Institute (NRI)

The NRI has continually been a leading research, learning and innovation institute that seeks to solve some of the world's most challenging issues regarding agriculture, food, environment and nutrition. Professor Philip Stevenson's project, Designing and developing plant-based natural product innovations using Croton seed oil, recently recognised as a finalist for the Best African Agriculture Knowledge Transfer Partnership (AAKTP) Project Award.

## Our teaching

Modules like Environmental Engineering and Sustainability introduces students to key environmental challenges, applying core science and engineering principles to assess and address them.

Cultural Contexts of Architecture examines the cultural contexts of the built environment and investigates the relationships between design and society.

Delivering a Sustainable Event Experience aims to guide students in exploring the challenge of sustainability and considering how it applies to the management and production of events.

## Our operations

The [Impact Development Fund](#) supports Greenwich Research and Innovation (GRI) demonstrating social, environmental, or economic impact. This fund supports research that delivers practical outcomes and demonstrates impact beyond academia.

Enactus Greenwich brings together a dynamic community of entrepreneurial leaders committed to driving positive change through sustainable solutions. As part of a global network of students, academics, and business professionals, the team works to transform lives and create a more sustainable future through innovative action.

The Carbon Nanomaterials Laboratory at the University of Greenwich's Medway Campus is a world-leading research facility focused on carbon nanomaterials—tiny, advanced materials that could change medicine, electronics, and computing. Founded by Professor Kyriakos Porfyrakis, the lab is part of the Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Materials (CAMM). It is one of only a few labs in Europe that can create and study special carbon molecules called endohedral fullerenes, which can contain metals or nitrogen. These

materials have exciting applications, from improving medical scans to developing quantum computers.

## Our partnerships

The University of Greenwich collaborated with Formula E through Change.Accelerated. Live (C.A.L.) London, presented by the Public Investment Fund (PIF). This sustainable innovation conference, established and operated by Formula E, brings together industry leaders, innovators, and changemakers to share best practices, knowledge, and thought leadership in sustainability.

The University of Greenwich's partnership with Squiz, a global technology company specialising in digital experience platforms (DXP) enables organisations to deliver personalised, seamless, and accessible online services. This collaboration will provide opportunities for students across technology, digital marketing, and design-related programmes.



# 10: Reduced inequalities



## Reduce inequality within and among countries.

This reflects our commitment to tackling disadvantage and reducing social and economic inequalities through research, teaching, and policy, ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities and no one is left behind.



## Our research

### Mental health inequalities in African Caribbean Communities

Dr Myrtle Emmanuel and Dr Dave Hockham have collaborated with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to present critical research on supporting African Caribbean Mental Health. This work addresses mental health inequalities faced by African Caribbean communities, particularly in the context of the global climate crisis, which disproportionately impacts marginalised populations. By recognising the lived experiences of African Caribbean individuals, the advocate for a shift in power dynamics within research and healthcare interventions. Their work challenges top-down approaches and prioritises co-creation, ensuring that affected communities play an active role in shaping mental health solutions tailored to their unique needs.

### Inaugural Distinguished Windrush Lecture

The University of Greenwich co-hosted the inaugural Distinguished Windrush Lecture with the National Windrush Museum, sponsored by ICE. The keynote, *The Lost Souls of the Windrush Generation*, was delivered by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, exploring the historical experiences, contributions, and injustices faced by the Windrush Generation. The event featured poetry by Claire Jackson, reflections from Professor Tracey Reynolds, and notable attendees including Baroness Doreen Lawrence and Diane Abbott.

### Decolonising Research and Education

The decolonisation of knowledge exchange and research represents one of the emerging frontiers in academia. By recognising the historical and ongoing impact of colonial structures on knowledge development in the Global South, decolonisation research seeks to address this critical blind spot. As part of the University of Greenwich's commitment to this area, two experts from the MIG team, Dr

Sterling Rauseo and Dr Abdullah Ijaz, were awarded internal funding from the university's Institute of Inclusive Communities to explore the project "Decolonising Knowledge and Research: Rethinking Youth Empowerment through Employment and Entrepreneurship."

## Our teaching

Our Public Health degree also tackles issues such as Poverty, Inequality, Social Exclusion, Housing, Environment, and Well-being, and Community Development and Engagement.

## Our operations

The EDI annual report produced by the Talent, Development & Reward team outlines our achievements towards reducing inequalities.

To mark Disability History Month, the Disabled Staff Community at the University of Greenwich welcomed Megan Rudden as Vice-Chair. Key events included the STAART survey on disability-inclusive language, the Histories of Disability exhibition, and the campus lighting up purple for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The NADSN 10th Anniversary Conference featured presentations from the UK, Norway, and Canada, with online access provided. Student Wellbeing Services also hosted staff sessions. These activities highlight the university's ongoing commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and staff wellbeing.

The university celebrated Refugee Week 2025 under the theme 'Community as a Superpower', recognising the resilience and contributions of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Workshops, creative sessions, career guidance, and performances highlight migration, innovation, wellbeing, and inclusion. Activities were open to students, staff, and the public, providing opportunities to learn, connect, and celebrate community solidarity.

The University of Greenwich Sanctuary Scholarship provides vital support for asylum seekers and refugees, enabling them to access higher education

and fostering an inclusive, diverse academic community. The scholarship covers tuition and accommodation costs, along with additional financial assistance for living expenses.

To mark Pride Month, the university invited staff and students to a workshop exploring barriers to LGBTQ+ career progression in the UK. Drawing on insights from over 1,000 LGBTQ+ professionals, the session highlighted hidden and overt obstacles, from discrimination and lack of role models to intersectionality and confidence gaps.

In 2023/24, the university is ranked 20th overall and 1st among English universities in the UK Stonewall's Top 100 Employers List.

The University of Greenwich Alumni & Fundraising team launched the Black Business Series, celebrating the achievements of black alumni entrepreneurs and fostering a supportive network for future business leaders. The event featured keynote Roneish Myers, founder of MoneyHeave, alongside a panel including Duval Middleton, CEO of Gumipod Group, and Paula Francisco, founder of VP Royals.

We continued LEAP, a leadership programme for BAME staff, which marks a key milestone in our culture change journey. Through our People Sub-Strategy, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering excellence in leadership and management by developing employees who share our values and positioning the university as a sector leader in EDI.

## Our partnerships

Greenwich Business School partnered with The World Reimagined to support the Triangle of Unity: Festival of Arts and Culture, held from 12–13 October 2024 during Black History Month. The festival, designed to be inclusive and free to attend, featured a food village, performances, art displays, and nine globe installations, providing a dynamic environment for both public engagement and student participation.

As part of the Windrush Summit 2025, the university, in partnership with the National Windrush Museum, hosted The Windrush Legacy: Celebration, Community, Voices. The day honoured the contributions of the Windrush Generation while addressing the injustice and trauma caused by the Home Office Windrush scandal.



# 11: Sustainable cities and communities

**Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.**

The university is dedicated to creating safe, resilient campuses and fostering strong, collaborative relationships with our surrounding communities.

## Our research

### Transformative Research Actions for Resilient Coastal Communities (TRACC)

A UK-wide team of researchers and coastal partnerships will collaborate to research key approaches and solutions to build resilience in coastal communities. The team is led by Professors Tim Acott (Professor in Human Geography, University of Greenwich) and Jasper Kenter (Professorial Research Fellow in Ecological Economics, Aberystwyth University).

The four year-long project, Transformative Research Actions for Resilient Coastal Communities (TRACC), will work with coastal communities in Mid-North Wales, the Humber Estuary (England), Lough Foyle (Northern Ireland) and the Firth of Clyde (Scotland), and lessons learned will be shared nationally through a new UK-wide 'Resilience Assembly'. TRACC will bring together different forms of knowledge from diverse social groups and movements, decision-makers, researchers, and other stakeholders to design new approaches together to tackle coastal challenges and help positively shift values, goals, and paradigms towards more sustainable and resilient communities.

### Revitalising Sustainability: Plural Futures for a Changing World

At the University of Greenwich, Professor Valerie Nelson leads transformative research that rethinks sustainability by moving beyond narrow,

technocratic models. Her work embraces plural perspectives, exploring governance systems that recognise non-human agency, participatory arts-based methods, solidarity economies, and educational approaches that foster inclusive, hopeful futures. Internationally, she co-authored the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment, shaping policy debates on biodiversity and collective wellbeing, with coverage in 58 countries. Through EU Horizon projects, her team co-creates solutions with communities in Cameroon, Colombia, Kenya, and Europe, while UK-based projects support values-led governance in coastal communities. Her research drives global and local sustainability transformations.

## Our teaching

The Sustainable Construction and Integrated Project module builds on Level 4 knowledge, focusing on technology and strategies to reduce carbon emissions in building design, construction, and operation.

Our MSc in Sustainable Building Design and Engineering is accredited by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). Students benefit from free IEMA membership and, upon graduation, can use the GradIEMA designation.

Sustainability is also embedded across most of our Architecture degrees. Modules such as Cultural Contexts of Architecture, Design



**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: /  
2024: 301-400th  
2025: 101-200th

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**



Ecologies, and Advanced Urban Design examine environmental and social dimensions of urban spaces, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of cities and approaches to sustainable design.

## Our operations

Our Estates Strategy supports the Corporate Strategy 2030, delivering a modern estate aligned with our Net Zero 2033 commitment. Guided by the RIBA Plan of Work, sustainability is embedded from concept to completion—prioritising net zero in our buildings, reusing materials, biophilic principles, and responsible procurement. Further details are available in the Annual Sustainability Report 2024/25.

The Greenwich Mentor Mates scheme is a supportive and engaging community for all students. We currently have about 300 mentors and thousands of mentees. Through this initiative, we match experienced student mentors with new or less experienced students to provide guidance, support, encouragement and sense of belonging.

## Our partnerships

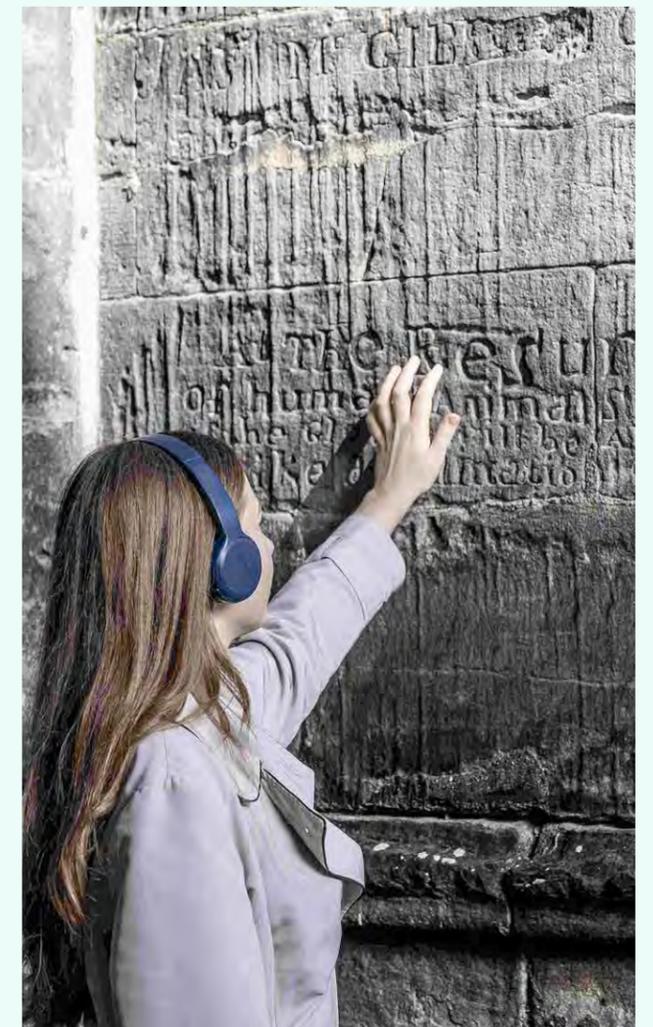
### Glasgow Requiem - The Walk

Professor of Music and Sound Arts, Professor Andrew Knight-Hill has made the original sound score for a new audio-guided walking experience of Glasgow called Glasgow Requiem: The Walk. This free audio experience will guide walkers through the city's medieval roots and pre-industrial past, offering an immersive exploration of the city that goes beyond its well-known landmarks. The Walk (picture below) is part of Glasgow Requiem,

a five-year creative programme initiated by Glasgow charity Aproxima Arts.

### The Greener Game

The university, in partnership with Charlton Athletic, Charlton Athletic Community Trust and RSK contributed to the annual 'Greener Game' played on 8th February 2025. This is a match day where sustainability is centre stage with activities and information provided for fans before, during and after the match.



# 12: Responsible consumption and production

## Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

The university is committed to using resources responsibly and embedding sustainable consumption practices across research, teaching, and operations.

### Our research

**The CIRCURBATT project (Circular Economy Innovations for Resilient, Competitive, and Sustainable Battery Technologies)**

This three-year initiative positions Greenwich Business School (GBS) at the forefront of global efforts to reshape Europe's battery industry. With a focus on sustainability, cutting-edge technologies, and circular business models, CIRCURBATT is set to revolutionise the battery lifecycle - from raw material sourcing to end-of-life solutions.

Coordinating a consortium of ten leading organisations across Europe, the project aims to develop innovative Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) models, design eco-friendly solutions, and conduct ground-breaking pilot studies. These efforts will directly address the dual challenges of environmental impact and economic transformation in the battery sector.

**Climate Smart Food Innovation using Plant and Seaweed Proteins from Upcycled Sources (IPSUS)**

Funded by the European Research Area Network (ERA-NET), the multidisciplinary



IPSUS project aims to explore opportunities for using upcycled plant and seaweed proteins from materials that would otherwise contribute to the 1.6 billion tonnes of global food loss and waste annually. By reducing food waste and promoting sustainable protein sources, the project addresses critical aspects of climate change mitigation. Spanning six partner countries (UK, Italy, France, Romania, Turkey, Morocco), the project focuses on agronomic, biochemical, nutritional, and socio-economic dimensions of upcycled plant-based food products from six protein-rich sources: pumpkin, hazelnut, grape, potato, brewers' spent grain, and seaweeds. Among the four NRI staff members involved in this project, Dr Mofa Islam from the Climate Change



**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: 36th  
2024: 64th  
2025: 60th

**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**



Research Group is responsible for the Work Package investigating consumer attitudes and behaviours as well as the regulatory and policy frameworks that can support the transition to upcycled plant-based proteins.

### Our teaching

Circular economy principles are integrated into various academic programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The Design and Materials module in our Engineering School introduces engineering design principles and processes, with a strong emphasis on sustainable materials and their application.

The Delivering a Sustainable Event Experience module helps students explore sustainability challenges in event management and production. It focuses on practices and introduces tools and innovative solutions to minimise waste across key operational areas.

Our Environmental Science degrees ensure circular principles are at the core of the curriculum. Our Innovations in Food Packaging module in Food Innovation MSc highlights the necessity of sustainable packaging design. Our Natural Resources Institute MSc is for graduates and professionals looking for greater knowledge and expertise in natural resources and sustainable development.

### Our operations

The university has implemented policies on Sustainable Procurement, alongside specialised directives such as the Sustainable

Food and Fairtrade policies. These ensure responsible sourcing, reduce plastic use, and promote reusable materials.

Greenwich has held Fairtrade University status since 2012, achieving Level One Accreditation in 2020. Each year, we celebrate Fairtrade Week with events that engage students, staff, and the local community in understanding ethical food consumption. In 2025, the campaign attracted over 245 participants and raised £97 for the Fairtrade Foundation.

We have multiple circular economy projects aimed at tackling unnecessary wastage. See the Annual Sustainability Report 2024/25 for details.

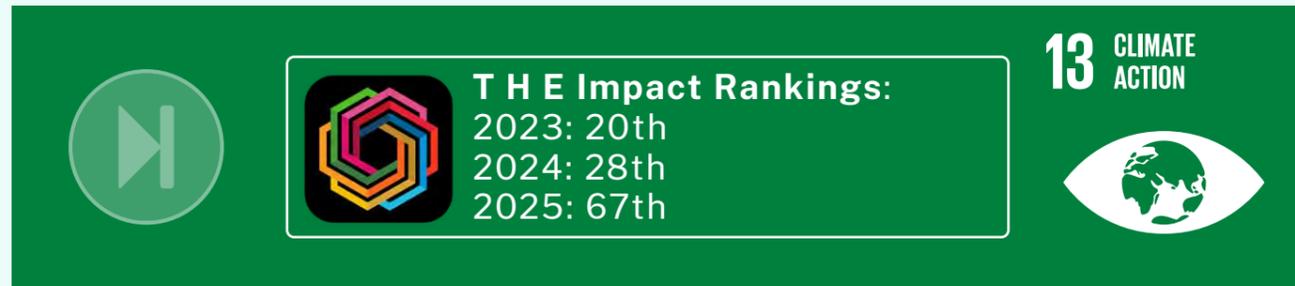
### Our partnerships

The university has entered its eighth year in partnering with the British Heart Foundation, supporting our End of Term Reuse campaign. This campaign encourages students and staff to donate unwanted items at the end of the year and promotes reuse to avoid surplus waste. In 2024/25, over 1,378 bags of items were donated, worth £20,000 to the charity and saving 11 tonnes of waste.

We have partnered with nine London universities to deliver a series of circular economy-themed hackathons. These have included a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) challenge in collaboration with Hubbub, and a food waste-focused hackathon in partnership with Gather & Gather.



# 13: Climate action



**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: 20th  
2024: 28th  
2025: 67th

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**

## Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Our research, teaching, and operational initiatives drive climate action and help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

### Our research

#### Advancing decarbonisation through central banking and ecological macroeconomic modelling

Dr Maria Nikolaidi's research explores how central banks and financial systems can help achieve decarbonisation targets, thereby supporting global climate change mitigation efforts. Her work examines the potential of financial institutions like the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of England (BoE) to integrate climate considerations into their monetary operations, with the goal of incentivising sustainable practices and reducing carbon emissions in the economy. This research, conducted with collaboration from the New Economics Foundation and Greenpeace, is funded by INSPIRE and the ClimateWorks Foundation. The primary aim of Maria's work is to reconfigure the monetary policies of major central banks to better align with climate goals. This includes proposing adjustments to the ECB's collateral framework and the quantitative easing (QE) programmes of the ECB and BoE. Her approach advocates for a structured shift whereby central banks support climate-friendly bonds more favourably than

those issued by carbon-intensive companies. This prioritisation could lead corporations to adopt lower-carbon practices to gain greater financial support, catalysing a transition to a low-carbon economy.

#### Independent report by NRI's Prof. Valerie Nelson to inform Scottish Government's environment strategy

A new report by NRI's Professor Valerie Nelson is set to shape Scotland's environment strategy by offering bold, interdisciplinary recommendations for driving transformative change toward sustainability. Commissioned to inform the Scottish Government's overarching framework for environmental and climate action, the report explores how policy decisions can catalyse deeper systemic shifts, drawing on critical social science, environmental humanities, and recent transformation theory. Building on and extending the 2022 IPBES Values Assessment, the report identifies a range of leverage points, from economic and legal reforms to rights-based and socio-cultural strategies, that prioritise care, equity, and more-than-human perspectives. It calls for moving beyond market-based instruments and behavioural nudges to embrace values-led,

justice-oriented approaches, including post-growth economic models, rights of nature, Indigenous land rights, and participatory democracy. Acknowledging the political and conceptual challenges of achieving such change, Professor Nelson argues that hope lies in pursuing these deeper shifts to ensure flourishing futures for all life.

### Our teaching

The annual NRIPS Symposium was held on 13 June at the University of Greenwich's Medway campus, bringing together students and staff under the theme 'Interconnected futures: integrating science, society, and sustainability.' The event celebrated the diverse research within the Natural Resources Institute (NRI), spanning agriculture, health, social science, and sustainability. Opened by NRIPS President and PhD student Kainat Bibi, alongside NRI Director Professor Sheryl Hendricks, the symposium featured a keynote from Professor Jeremy Hagger, who shared insights from Costa Rica on aligning environmental sustainability with human well-being. The programme showcased PhD research across all stages, from first-year turbo talks and second-year posters to final-year presentations, highlighting both academic progress and real-world impact. Reflecting NRIPS's interdisciplinary ethos, the symposium fostered critical dialogue and strengthened connections within the research community.

#### MSc Global Environmental Change with Industrial Practice

The Natural Resources Institute (NRI) at the university is excited to announce its newest taught postgraduate programme, MSc Global Environmental Change with Industrial Practice. This innovative two-year course is accredited by the Community for Environmental Disciplines in Higher Education (CEDHE), the largest global accreditation scheme for environmental degree programmes.

### Our operations

The university is driven by its capacity to instigate change and recognises the profound impact of our collective contributions, ranging from individual actions to transformative research, guided by our Sustainability Policy and Sustainability Strategic Action Plan.

The university won the Greener Greenwich Award at this year's Best of Royal Greenwich Business Awards. The Greener Greenwich Award recognises organisations actively tackling the climate crisis and promoting environmental sustainability. It celebrates businesses committed to reducing their carbon footprint and making a positive impact on the environment.

Our commitment to sustainability includes initiatives like the Green Rewards app, launched in January. In June 2024-June 2025, 2,068 members had signed up and saved 120,000 kg CO2. This innovative app provides a platform for individuals to actively engage in sustainable practices and be rewarded for their contributions.

### Our partnerships

The university maintains a long-standing partnership with Planet Mark to support its net zero by 2033 commitment. This collaboration focuses on two key areas: creating graduate employment opportunities and developing sustainable, net zero-focused courses and teaching.

This year's Blue Earth Summit took place at Woolwich Works, bringing together thought leaders, changemakers, and innovators all dedicated to driving sustainable change. Simon Goldsmith, Head of Strategic Sustainability at the University of Greenwich, was among the featured speakers. The summit attracted over 7,000 participants, including startups, investors, corporations, politicians, adventurers, academics, media representatives, and campaigners, all focused on creating planet-positive impact.

# 14: Life below water

*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.*

This goal relates to our commitment to preserving and supporting aquatic ecosystems.

## Our research

Water provides lifeways, subsistence and has undeniable spiritual significance for indigenous peoples. While increasingly recognised as global leaders shaping water policymaking, many indigenous communities still face systemic barriers to water justice, shaped by colonial legacies that affect self-determination, socioeconomic development, cultural identity and health outcomes.

Dr Pamela Katic leads the project “Water justice & youth mental health resilience: co-creating art-based solutions with Alaskan Native and Awajun communities”, which is funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council through its Indigenous Research Methods programme. The project started by consolidating a cross-country indigenous and non-indigenous partnership based on mutual trust and understanding. Working closely with communities, Dr Katic and her team blended narrative and participatory art approaches rooted in indigenous peoples’ knowledge systems. These methods raised awareness, supported social change, and opened new pathways to knowledge development that shift the power towards indigenous peoples and communities. Activities included artistic caravans blending dance and theatre, arts-based mural workshops, an arts-based social enterprise, photovoice, and a travelling exhibition exploring linkages between mental health, water and equity and justice in water

governance. In later stages, the project developed a global network of indigenous youth, researchers, artists, activists and policymakers committed to arts-based research and intercultural knowledge exchange.

This research worked with indigenous youth across three regions – Awajun Peoples (Peru), Yukon First Nations (Canada/USA) and Sámi Peoples (Finland) – to address current water and mental health issues affecting indigenous communities. Guided by the concept of “two-eyed seeing,” the project’s approach blended indigenous and non-indigenous ways of knowing through a common language, art.



**Picture 1:** Chiriaco River, Wachapea Native Community, Amazonas, Peru.



**Picture 2:** A youth representative from Wachapea, presenting their art exhibition in the SALSA conference in Helsinki, August 2025.





**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: 101-200th  
2024: 101-200th  
2025: 201-300th

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



## Our teaching

Our MSc Global Environmental Change explores the interactions between food, land, energy, water and climate. The Adaptation to Environmental Change: Climate and Water module studies the adaptation strategies in water resource management, using case studies from river basin to global scale.

Our Environmental Science degrees provide a broad, interdisciplinary education in water resource management and conservation, covering areas such as agriculture, global sustainable development, and natural resources.

The BSc (Hons) Aquaculture and Fisheries Management (Final Year Entry, Hadlow) equips undergraduates with the scientific knowledge and managerial skills needed for successful careers in the growing aquaculture sector or the sports fisheries industry.

## Our operations

Our campuses have wildlife ponds and streams, where frog spawn, dragonflies, butterflies, snails, fish and other wildlife are observed in our biodiversity monitoring project.

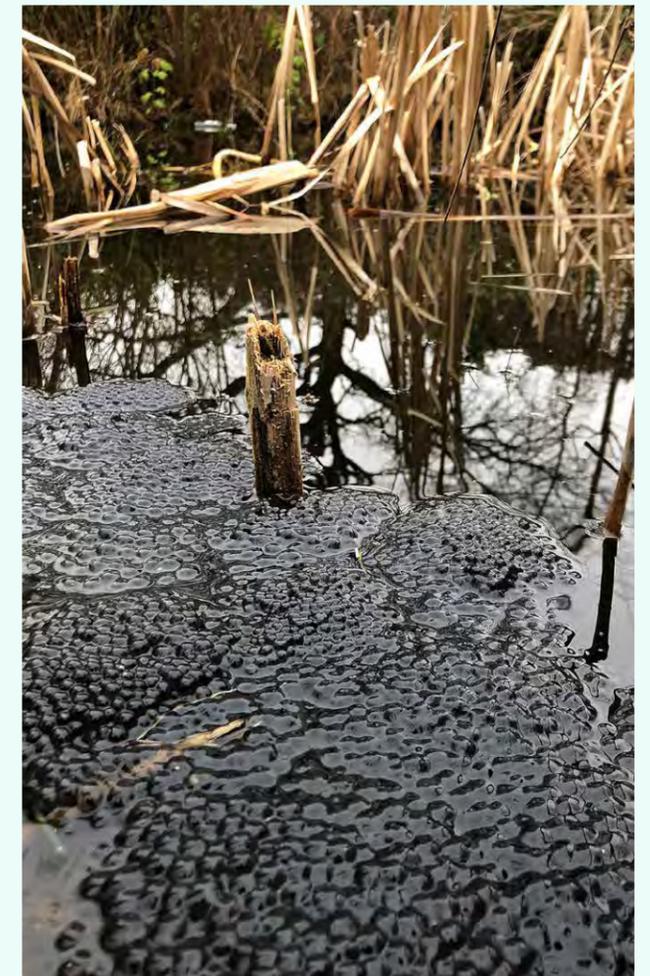
We follow a comprehensive Sustainable Food Policy to ensure all food served on campus is sourced responsibly.

To protect water resources, the university has established robust conservation policies. Guided by our Environmental Management System, we minimise discharges within set limits and ensure safe chemical disposal by specialists. For further details on safeguarding

marine and aquatic life, please refer to our Waste Management Action Plan.

## Our partnerships

We hosted the Society & The Sea Conference (SOCSEA24), on behalf of our partners, National Maritime, a not-for-profit organisation that supports UK maritime SMEs. The conference brought together experts, innovators, and industry leaders to discuss sustainability, the energy transition, and the future of the maritime industry.



# 15: Life on land



  **THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: 20th  
2024: 28th  
2025: 67th

**15 LIFE ON LAND**  


**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.**

Greenwich undertakes many operations to ensure that we protect and manage our natural environment and land ecosystems.

## Our research

### Innovative landscape and nature-based solutions for sustainable futures

As Professor of Landscape and Nature-Based Solutions, Dr Benz Kotzen's research and outreach advocates for harmonious coexistence between technology and nature to address climate, urban sustainability and food security concerns. His projects range from urban environmental challenges to habitat restoration efforts and even extend to exploring sustainable practices for extraterrestrial environments. One of Benz's primary research areas focuses on mitigating the urban heat island effect and enhancing urban food security through green infrastructure. Based at the Stockwell Street building with its 0.5-hectare roof gardens and two cutting-edge aquaponic laboratories, Benz's work explores innovative solutions such as green roofs and living walls. These technologies are essential for creating cooler urban spaces, particularly as climate change exacerbates extreme heat. The aquaponic labs at Greenwich are at the forefront of urban agriculture research, exploring methods to increase sustainable

food production. With the Covid-19 pandemic revealing vulnerabilities in global food supply chains, Benz's research advocates for increased local food production as an essential aspect of resilient and self-sufficient communities.

### Restoring Freshwater Habitats to Save the Critically Endangered Lemur Leaf Frog in Costa Rica

The lemur leaf frog (*Agalychnis lemur*), a small tree frog native to Central America's humid tropical forests, once thrived in Costa Rica, Panama, and parts of Colombia. However, over the past few decades, habitat loss, irregular rainfall, and the deadly fungal disease chytridiomycosis have devastated its populations. Now classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN, the species has lost between 80-95% of its numbers. To reverse this alarming decline, Dr Barbara Tiddi from the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) at the university has launched an ambitious project focused on freshwater habitat restoration as an in-situ conservation strategy. Freshwater ponds and water bodies are essential for amphibian survival, but while pond restoration has shown

positive effects on amphibian populations, its long-term success is still uncertain.

## Our teaching

Our Landscape Architecture degrees equip students with the professional skills to design sustainable spaces for the future. The programme explores diverse approaches to landscape design, including urban parks, public spaces, waterfronts, green roofs, living walls, and future city concepts. This helps us improve and refine our daily lives via the creation of sustainable places.

Our Global Environmental Change MSc equips students with a solid foundation in environmental science, data analysis, and land/water-use interactions. Students learn about environmental footprinting, conservation ecology, soils and conduct risk analysis for agriculture and environment.

## Our operations

Our SSAP, [Ecosystems Services Policy](#), [Biodiversity Action Plan](#), and Environmental Management System provide the framework for protecting and managing the natural environment, ensuring effective stewardship.

The Edible Garden at Avery Hill provides space for growing vegetables and supports teaching, wellbeing, and community engagement, with nearly 200 volunteer hours contributed this year.

Greenwich achieved Bronze Accreditation for Hedgehog Friendly Campus in 2025. We have placed out hedgehog homes, installed "slow down" signs at our car parks to reduce risk of car accidents and installed wildlife ladders as escape routes in our ponds. We had a hedgehog sighting at the Avery Hill Campus in 2024.

To further enhance habitats for various species, the university has installed four bird boxes and four camera traps around the Avery Hill campus, which are constantly monitored.

We have continued The Biodiversity Monitoring Project at Avery Hill, ran by the Sustainable Development Unit with support from student and staff volunteers. The collaborative project works with volunteers to monitor a range of species including mammals, birds, aquatic life, butterflies, and insects.

Our caterers source food locally and sustainably, maintaining the Gold Soil Association Food for Life Catering Mark across all menus.

Refer to the Ecosystem Services chapter in the Annual Sustainability Report 2024/25 for more information.

## Our partnerships

The Butterfly Conservation carried out work in Avery Hill Park, as part of their Big Cities Butterflies Project, and offered to assess our site. Following their visit and guidance, we participated in several surveys and subsequently held a butterfly workshop. We have also received further expert advice, which was funded to support ongoing conservation efforts.

The Biological Recording Company came to our Avery Hill campus to understand soil biodiversity on our site. The event was open to all, including external participants, with around 8-10 people taking part. During the day, participants visited pre-selected locations representing different habitats and dug sample squares to collect adult earthworms for identification, in which five species were identified.



# 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions



**THE Impact Rankings:**  
2023: 101-200th  
2024: 201-300th  
2025: 101-200th

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

The university is committed to ensuring academic freedom and implements policies that foster inclusivity.

## Our research

### Is misinformation delaying climate action?

At the 2024 AICAR International Research Conference held at Aston University, Dr Colin Coulson-Thomas delivered a presentation on existential threats, with a particular focus on India. His presentation addressed the global environmental and climate crises, shedding light on how misinformation and disinformation are being used to discredit and delay necessary climate action. Colin has established direct connections with business leaders through various journals and international events, providing Theme Papers for conferences on corporate governance and sustainability. His most recent articles, such as **“Accelerating Environmental and Climate Action”** and **“Dealing with Disruptive Directors,”** explore how biases and disinformation tactics hinder efforts to phase out fossil fuels and achieve net zero. These works aim to equip business and

thought leaders with strategies to overcome these obstacles.

### In Defence of Lives and Livelihoods: Co-creating Pathways towards Peace and Prosperity for the Lake Chad Region (DEFENCE)

Working in areas of the Lake Chad Basin in Chad, Niger and Nigeria, that are affected by a nexus of conflict, poverty, environmental degradation and climate change, this project is researching and co-creating locally valid, locally owned and locally sustained peace and prosperity pathways that will serve as decision-support tools to foster sustainable and inclusive development planning in fragile environments. It is funded under a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship won by Dr Uche Okpara.

## Our teaching

Our Law degrees offer modules addressing social, environmental, and economic inequalities, including Environmental Law,

Immigration and Asylum Law, Human Rights, Women, Power, Crime and Justice and Drugs and Us: Crime, Health, Politics, and Culture.

## Our operations

Our **“This is Our Time”** strategy and Education Without Boundaries vision are built upon four priorities: Student Success, Inclusivity and Culture, Impactful Research and Knowledge Exchange, and Connected and Sustainable Campuses. These guide all university decisions.

The university enforces policies on [anti-bribery](#), [socially responsible investment](#),

and [freedom of speech](#), upholding academic freedom and core educational principles. Our Annual Financial Statement demonstrates accountability and compliance.

The university is governed by a diverse body comprising independent members, university representatives, and elected student representatives. Supported by committees such as the Finance Committee, these governance structures ensure effective management and decision-making. They ensure that the objectives of many SDGs are met through our operations, procedures, systems, and actions.

## Our partnerships



[The Innocence Project London \(IPL\)](#) is a pro bono law clinic based in the School of Law and Criminology. Students work alongside the director, Dr Louise Hewitt, and lawyers, offering their time for free, deconstructing claims of innocence from convicted individuals who have exhausted the criminal appeals process. Participation has grown steadily, and in 2021, the opportunity was extended to students from other schools within FLAS. Since 2017, 178 students have contributed to 27 cases. To raise awareness and foster community engagement, IPL hosts an annual symposium that engages with the wider community.



# 17: Partnerships for the goals



## THE Impact Rankings:

2023: 14th  
2024: 30th  
2025: 26th

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



**Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnerships for sustainable development.**

The university is committed to developing and strengthening partnerships locally and globally to promote collaboration and progress the goals.



[part 2 contents link](#)  
**Our research**

## [Embedding Evidence into Policy: A New Approach to Social Forestry in Indonesia](#)

A new research project led by the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) and funded by the British Academy is set to explore how evidence can more effectively shape policy within Indonesia's long-standing Social Forestry Initiative (SFI). Titled Contextualising the Dynamics of Evidence-Informed Policymaking in Social Forestry, the one-year project is spearheaded by Dr Truly Santika, Associate Professor in Environmental Geography at NRI. The SFI has been a key part of Indonesia's climate and development strategy for over a decade, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while improving local livelihoods through community land tenure.

## [Policy relevance of IPCC reports for the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond](#)

Dr Laxmi Prasad Prant, from the NRI, contributed to this paper which synthesised the coverage of SDGs in the IPCC's fifth and sixth assessment reports at a target level. Based on this reflection, they propose the seventh assessment cycle of the IPCC to cover SDGs holistically, using a systematic approach, breaking the Working Group silos, and contributing to the post-2030 agenda.

## Our teaching

Greenwich Business School has launched the Fundamentals of Carbon module and certificate, designed to embed carbon literacy into our students' education. At the end of the training, students need to complete an action plan which is assessed by the trainer to determine pass or fail.

## Our operations

The university provides comprehensive data to support sustainability benchmarking and continuous improvement. This includes

submitting complete datasets to the Higher Education Statistical Agency's (HESA) Estates Management Record, enabling analysis of progress toward sustainability goals. Professional services teams work collaboratively with academic departments and external partners to advance these objectives and embed best practices across the institution.

## Our partnerships

### [Charlton Athletic Football Club and Community Trust](#)

We value our long-standing partnership with Charlton Athletic Football Club and Charlton Athletic Community Trust. These collaborations provide high-quality employment and volunteering opportunities for Greenwich students and deliver impactful engagement initiatives, including events such as Greener Game 2025, Her Game Too, and Red, White & Black Day.

A sustainability project is underway with the club and our partners, RSK, who are also sponsors of Charlton Athletic. The aim of this project is to make CAFC's stadium, the Valley, more sustainable and to support CAFC in their efforts to achieve the highest possible sustainability accreditation as a club.

### [London Higher Sustainability Network \(LHSN\)](#)

We have seen at Greenwich that universities have an essential role in the transformation to a sustainable society and planet. To support this transformation Simon Goldsmith, the university's Head of Strategic Sustainability, has the role of Practice Chair of the London Higher Sustainability Network. This network brings together London's higher education sustainability leaders to collaborate on delivering large-scale sustainability changes to the capital and beyond.

### London Student Sustainability Conference (LSSC)

The university partnered with 10 London universities to deliver the London Student Sustainability Conference (LSSC). This conference allows students to present their sustainability-related research to peers, industry professionals, and the broader higher education sector. Over 200 delegates attended LSSC25, one Greenwich student presented their research, and another of our student's was a part of the Student Delivery Group.

### Pledgeball

Pledgeball is a research-proven charity that engages people around environmental sustainability. They work with stakeholders across the sports community from clubs, county Football Associations and leagues, to the Football Supporters' Association, Lawn Tennis Association and UEFA. In April, the university hosted a Collective Thread workshop with Pledgeball and

### Football Beyond Borders.

#### Crystal Palace FC

Crystal Palace will be providing a judge for the Hackathon delivered in collaboration with Pledgeball on kit waste.

### Re:Water

The university has partnered with Alumni-founded sustainable brand, Re:Water, a UK-based company committed to providing a sustainable alternative to single-use plastic water bottles. Through the partnership, Re:Water will provide mentoring support, ensuring students receive guidance and industry insights from experienced professionals.

### Punchdrunk

Greenwich has formalised its partnership with Punchdrunk, a leading immersive theatre company, to create meaningful opportunities for students—particularly those from underrepresented groups in the creative industries. Building on previous collaborations, this partnership offers structured pathways to employment through work placements, community engagement projects, and career development initiatives, helping students gain valuable experience in the creative sector.



# Looking ahead

Our commitment to creating a positive impact on the world is guided by SDGs, which provide a vital framework for action. We will continue to take responsibility for advancing sustainability and shaping a better future for all.

This commitment is embedded within our strategic plans and policies, and strengthened through partnerships that amplify the role of higher education in achieving the SDGs. By reporting on how these goals are integrated across the university, we identify opportunities for improvement and set the foundation for future progress. We aim for our next report to demonstrate even more ambitious achievements and targets.

## [Share your sustainability contributions](#)

Please share any sustainability work you are doing as a University of Greenwich staff member or student to consider for future reports.

## [Share your work here](#)



## Get in touch and keep updated:

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