BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

2022/23 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT REPORT

FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2022/23 Environment Report. This document is a summary of institutional environmental and sustainability performance over the academic year. Our position in People and Planet University League went up from 31st (2:1) in 2021/22 to 26th place (1st) in 2022/23. In the University League, we continue to perform well in our policy, environmental management system, auditing, and delivery. The league does highlight opportunities for the University to make improvements in areas such as ethical investment. Wider sustainability activity also needs to be progressed through informing decision making and in wider curriculum planning recruitment and travel. This year the University again took part in the national Sustainability Scorecard annual report. This will be a useful tool as we develop areas for improvement and further investment proposals in the coming year.

During the year the University received national recognition for its sustainable approach to the briefing design and operation of its capital investment project STEAMhouse. In February 2023 the project received a West Midlands Civic trust award and in November was awarded Education Estates national University project of the year due in part to the project's delivery of a low embodied carbon approach.

The University also received the largest educational grant in the West Midlands under the government Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme following a highly competitive assessment and bidding process. As a result, substantive investments are underway at City South Campus and the Moor Lane complex alongside a program of controls upgrades and investments in technology and controls. Costs of this type of work have risen during the year.

The University achieved a 7-year outline consent for 11,300m² during 2023 on its land at the City Centre Campus. This is a major opportunity to set sustainability standards in this area of the city. Partnership work with Birmingham City Council and neighbours Aston University and Burntwood Investments also saw the University achieve Investment Zone status for its City Centre Campus. This status will ensure area wide net zero carbon investments are funded and opportunities such as heat network assessments linking to the new HS2 station are progressed.

July 2023 saw the approval of BCU's net zero carbon emission reduction targets by the University Executive Group and the Board of Governors. We are targeting net zero in our scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions from our fuel and electricity consumption by 2030/31, and in our indirect scope 3 carbon emissions by 2037/38. These are challenging targets and will require organisational change for us to achieve them, with all our staff and students recognising the role they play in supporting our journey to net zero.

Having started at BCU in October 2023, one of my priorities is to develop Strategy 2030, outlining BCU's priorities and strategic direction. Environmental sustainability was a key priority of Strategy 2025, and in light of the climate and ecological crisis it is my intention to retain it as a priority in Strategy 2030, recognising how sustainability impacts our student experience, from the feel and experience of our estate to our curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

I look forward to embarking on my journey as BCU's new Vice-Chancellor, and further embedding sustainability as a core principle of our student experience and operation.

David Mba,
Vice Chancellor

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1. INTRODUCTION

2022/23 has been a challenging year in respect of resourcing both the team and capital investments fluctuating throughout the year with delays to funding approvals of both minor and major capital works. The market for skills in the area of sustainability is now extremely competitive with some staff turnover occurring. This has seen delays to some areas of work including the completion of the University's new Travel Plan and finalising the Biodiversity Action Plan. The Team and wider University colleagues continue to deliver work to the best possible standard, and environmental performance has continued to improve across a range of areas as highlighted in the headline figures below.

Sign off on our net zero carbon targets was a key achievement in 2022/23. The University Executive Group and Board of Governors agreed to the challenging targets of achieving net zero carbon emissions in scope 1 and 2 by 2030/31, and across the whole organisation by 2037/38. Further details about our net zero targets can be found in the 'Energy and carbon' section of this report.

Headline figures and successes from 2022/23 include:

57
SUSTAINABILITY
related communications delivered to staff and students

WATER WASTAGE
DECREASED BY
7%
compared to 2021/22.

ISO 14001:2015
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
ACCREDITATION MAINTAINED

OVERALL
WASTE PRODUCTION
REDUCED BY **4%** (from 2021/22)

ACHIEVED SILVER
HEDGEHOG FRIENDLY CAMPUS
AWARD

3.5%
REDUCTION
in scope 1 and 2
EMISSIONS
from 2021/22.

ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM DELIVERED
26 EVENTS
ENGAGING
910 STAFF
STUDENTS AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

Water meter data loggers fitted
ACROSS OUR ESTATE

STAFF ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS NETWORK OF
79
MEMBERS

RANKED
26 IN THE
People and Planet university league.

OBJECTIVE 1: EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR PROCESSES

2. Environmental Management System

Objectives and Targets	Status
Continue to manage, maintain and continually improve our ISO 14001:2015 certified Environmental Management System throughout 2020-25	EMS maintained

2.1 Progress update:

Eco Campus conducted a peer audit of our Environmental Management System (EMS) in November 2022. The two-day audit included a review of EMS documents, evaluation of compliance, interviews with members of staff, and on-site audits of University Locks accommodation, Seacole Building, Bevan House, Ravensbury and Harborne Road.

The audit identified 3 minor non-conformities (MiNC) and 11 opportunities for improvement (OFI). The MiNCs related to compliance documentation and storage of waste cooking oil at one of our sites. OFIs included recommendations on the storage and accessibility of documentation and updating documentation.

Our ISO 14001:2015 recertification audit took place in January 2023. This was very successful with only one minor non-conformity and 3 OFIs identified:

- MiNC: documented information required for the recording of corrective actions taken for F-gas leaks.

- OFIs: review internal auditing of non-location specific activities such as sustainable curriculum, review heating controls in sparsely populated locations and review the process for identifying and recording equipment requiring F-gas leak check records.

Internal audits were conducted by the Environmental Team at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Heneage Street and STEAMhouse. Unfortunately, due to Environmental Team resourcing the number of internal audits conducted were fewer than programmed.

2.2 Going forward we will:
- Continue to implement our new internal audit programme.
- Conduct a peer audit in January 2024.
- Conduct an external surveillance audit in February 2024.
- Review the Environmental Plan and Environmental Committee approach.

OBJECTIVE 1: EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR PROCESSES

3. Procurement

Objectives and Targets	Status
Maintain Level 4 of the Flexible Framework throughout 2020-25, exploring the option of achieving Level 5 or moving to ISO 20400:2017 should it become a formalised accreditation.	Continuing to maintain level 4 of the Flexible Framework
From 2020 onwards, all procurements over £60k require a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA), which considers environmental, economic and social impacts, and a light-touch process in place for contracts below £60k.	Achieving
All strategic and operational suppliers will have a sustainability action plan by 2025 and are being monitored to ensure delivery.	In progress

3.1 Progress update:

During 2022/23 the Procurement Team has continued to embed sustainability as a requirement, through the sustainability impact assessments (SIA) and discussions with stakeholders to drive sustainability into contract deliverables.

Procurement have continued to work to the principles of Level 4 of the DEFRA Sustainable Procurement in Government Flexible Framework, with the hope to achieve Level 5 in flagship areas.

All procurements undertaken are assessed on a preliminary basis for sustainability, and where appropriate a full SIA is completed to help inform the procurement objectives, although this is not always based on the monetary value, but instead on the opportunities for sustainability improvements.

Following a review of Contract Management practice, the categorisation of university contracts of importance has changed. The new categorisation will result in specific action plans and re-assessment of sustainability objectives where appropriate. Performance will then be recorded centrally and alongside other contract information for compliance monitoring and reporting.

Key procurements in 2022/23:

- Outsourced catering contract – BaxterStorey promised a comprehensively sustainable approach to the contract, which will be measured monthly via a suite of KPIs:
    - Remove single use plastics from University catering within 2 years.
    - Managing and reducing food waste, including anaerobic digestion.
    - Reduction of coffee cup waste by promoting sustainable alternatives (measured and reported monthly) and use of single-wall cups.
    - Reducing energy usage – outlets are now individually metered to enable more precise control of energy usage.
    - Zero emissions vehicles – campus deliveries and vehicles are being moved to electric.

- Heat Decarbonisation – Design and deliver the move to sustainable heating at two University buildings, following a successful bid for grant-funding. Gas boilers will be replaced by air-source heat pumps for building heating. Funding secured from PSDS following a competitive bidding process and submission of capability statements and method statements.

- Interim Award to CDW – Lenovo laptops and computers purchased by BCU will continue to be carbon-offset, and all packaging will be recycled.

- Joseph Priestley Agile project – furniture reused and reupholstered as a key sustainability initiative. The project supports the broader sustainability agenda by implementing effective space utilisation.

- Litho-print Services – carbon offset and FSC certified paper for all the University's commercial printing.

Key contracts: The University's main waste contract is provided by Veolia, where we continue a zero-landfill approach to waste and have improved recycling rates, despite a significant increase in the tonnage managed this year due to building refurbishments and a return to pre-pandemic activity (see 'Waste and recycling').

The University's e-waste is managed by SER and ensures zero-landfill and 100% re-use or recycling of all University e-waste. All revenue generated by the re-use of IT equipment is given to the University's charities.

OBJECTIVE 1: EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR PROCESSES

Training and development: Two members of Procurement Team have completed NETpositive supplier portal training. This training enables the team to review our supplier's sustainability action plans which they have uploaded onto the NETpositive Supplier Engagement tool.

The Contract Manager and Deputy Head of Procurement attended TEC conference, covering subjects including water sustainability, the path to net zero, and energy markets. Attendances at conferences and events was very low during the year due to the University not funding staff to attend many essential events. Funding for events was made more easily available from December 2023. Work on a wider events and training schedule for 2024 can now begin.

Each member of the Procurement Team has a sustainability goal in their performance review to support the delivery of our Environmental Plan.

Measurement: Regular (monthly and quarterly) reporting of sustainability goals occurs in several key contracts, such as waste management, catering and cleaning.

The NETpositive Supplier Engagement tool allows us to report on supplier progress with sustainability goals. Figure 1 highlights the number of sustainability actions updated from our top 20 suppliers, which gives an indication of the supplier engagement and activity. Further work will be undertaken to encourage our suppliers to engage further with the tool and how they support our sustainability agenda.

3.2 Going forward we will:

- Participate in the Net Zero Carbon Supplier project to better understand our procurement carbon emissions.

- Develop a prioritised list of suppliers to engage and better understand our Scope 3 emissions.

- Follow up on NETpositive Supplier Engagement toolkit findings.

- Develop a sustainable procurement roadmap/strategy including goals for procurements and development of general principles (e.g. no single-use plastics).

- Start a review of Power Purchase Agreements and energy consortiums in relation to sustainably generated energy and access to best practice and frameworks.

- Development of centralised KPI reporting and embedding of sustainability into Contract Management disciplines and using continuous improvement to drive changes to contract delivery.

- Extend SIA assessment to include non-process procurements (e.g. waivers).

- Be reviewing the resourcing of the Environment team focusing on supply chain analysis and scope three standards working with procurement.

Number of actions updated in November 2023

Figure 1. Number of sustainability actions updated by our top 20 suppliers

OBJECTIVE 1: EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR PROCESSES

4. Projects and other processes

4.1 Progress update:

Joseph Priestley Agile project: Sustainability considerations were integrated as part of the Joseph Priestley agile working project, which saw a large volume of furniture being reused and reupholstered instead of buying new, reducing the waste and embodied carbon emissions of the project. LED lighting upgrades were also installed as part of the project.

Project management: The Environment Team developed environmental guidance for the project management process and integrated sustainability requirements in the Business Case template. This was launched in January 2023.

IT: The Environmental Team provided input into BCU's Technology Strategy, highlighting our sustainability targets as a key strategic theme and within the goals of the strategy.

4.2 Going forward we will:

- Review the University decision making process to further embed sustainability as a requirement in the assessment process of projects at the relevant gateways.

- Finalise sign off of the University's Ethical Investment Policy.

- Continue to identify further University processes to embed sustainability.

- Ensure training for all staff involved in projects on sustainability measures to inform decision making.
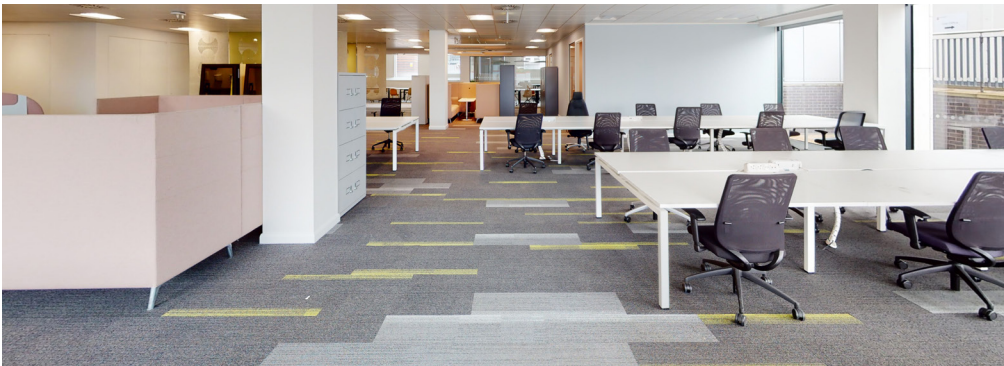
OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

5. Biodiversity

Objectives and Targets	Status
Measure the baseline of our biodiversity on campus by summer 2020.	Achieved
Using the ecological survey report, develop a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for BCU to maintain the number of species and habitats, and where feasible increase these.	In progress
Maintain, and where feasible, increase food growing sites around campuses by 2025 from 2020 provision	In progress

5.1 Progress update:

Our draft Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been further developed, with the targets being aligned to the biodiversity metric of each site to allow for future measurement against our target with a changing estate.

Due to an update in how biodiversity net gain is measured, it was agreed that our sites would be resurveyed in August 2023 to ensure that our baseline and targets are in line with the latest Biodiversity Metric 4.0. The updated surveys and metrics will be applied to our BAP and the Environment Team will look for this to be finalised and approved in 2023/24.

The University has retained its silver award for the Hedgehog Friendly Campus scheme. To achieve this staff and student litter picks were run and habitat improvements some of which are outlined below.

The Gardening Team has continued to support biodiversity improvements across our estate, including:

At City South Campus:

- 8 trees planted including Mountain Ash, Whitebeam, Aspen, and Crab Apple.
- 2 rotating compost bins were installed to enable further recycling of green waste at the site including used coffee grounds and uncooked vegetable waste.
- A polytunnel was installed for the Gardening Team to grow our own seedlings, including fruit and vegetables.
- 200 wildflower plugs were planted specifically for woodland/shaded areas.
- A further 2 compost bins were installed for leaf waste to be composted.

- Log piles were created to encourage biodiversity.

At City Centre Campus:

- Mixed shrub/herbaceous border planting installed at Plot C including lavender, ornamental grass, crocosmia, verbena and apple trees.
- STEAMhouse planting improvements were made including Arbutus, Oleander, Liatris, Heuchera, and the inclusion of office plants.

5.2 Going forward we will:

- Finalise and achieve sign off of the BAP.
- Complete the planting of the Plot C wildflower meadow.
- Target achieving gold for the Hedgehog Friendly Campus scheme.
- Deliver further planting projects and schemes to support biodiversity improvements across our estate.
- Integrate BAP into future planning applications for the Seacole complex and in relation to the outline consent reserved matters submissions at Curzon for 11,300m^2.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

6. Catering

Objectives and Targets	Status
Embed sustainability as a core requirement in the tender of the catering contract in 2020/21, developing a new Sustainable Catering Policy and Targets for the duration of the contract (2021/26)	Achieved
Deliver our Sustainable Catering Policy and Targets.	In progress

6.1 Progress update:

The catering tender process was completed and in January 2023 BaxterStorey were awarded the contract, starting delivery in August 2023. Sustainability was a key topic of the tender strategy and process, addressing issues such as food waste, provenance, ethics, climatarian diets and packaging.

As part of their tender response, BaxterStorey provided a focus on a sustainable and ethical approach, and committed to deliver a range of sustainability initiatives including:

- Creation of a measurable sustainability action plan which will include key controls for energy, waste, water, and disposables.
- Address sustainable and ethical sourcing, using seasonal local produce to reduce environmental impacts and carbon emissions from the food supply chain.
- Remove single use plastics from the BCU contract within 2 years.
- Reduce food waste and coffee cup waste.
- Green Flash training for staff to ensure environmentally efficient cooking methods are used.
- Food EQ initiative which reduces meat consumption and increases the use of plant-based proteins.
- Run initiatives and campaigns on wellbeing and sustainability.

Other initiatives over 2022/23 include the removal of plastic bottled water for bookings. This has been changed and Kiln Jars are being used instead with glass rather that plastic cups too.

BCU ran an Eco Eats event for students to learn about the impacts food has on the planet and how to make low carbon meals.

6.2 Going forward we will:

- Develop and start delivery of a new Sustainable Catering Policy for the delivery of the new catering contract.
- Develop sustainability KPIs for the new catering contract performance meetings.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

7. Energy and Carbon

Objectives and Targets	Status
Reduce our scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 43% by 2020/21 (absolute and by FTE students and staff targets) against a 2005/06 baseline year	Achieved
Continue to purchase 100% renewable energy (both electricity and gas)	Outstanding
Increase onsite energy generation from 2020 levels by 2025.	In progress
Review what is required to achieve a net zero carbon University before 2050 and start the delivery of actions to achieve this by 2025.	In progress
Throughout 2020/25, improve the capture of scope 3 carbon emission data for reporting, and setting associated goals for reporting and net zero carbon work.	In progress

7.1 Progress update:

Scope 1 and 2 emissions (emissions related to electricity, gas, refrigerant leaks, and petrol and diesel consumption) for 2022/23 are 7,167 tCO_2e. This represents a 3.5% reduction compared to 2021/22. Figure 2 illustrates how BCU's emissions have fallen since 2005/06.

Despite an increased electricity emissions factor for the period, BCU has managed to decrease emissions through reduced gas consumption. During 2022/23 BCU used 3 GWh less gas than the previous year. This has been achieved through interrogation of the Building Management System (BMS) and increased use of the biomass boilers at Curzon and Parkside Buildings. Further reductions will be realised in 2023/24 as the BMS consolidation project completes.
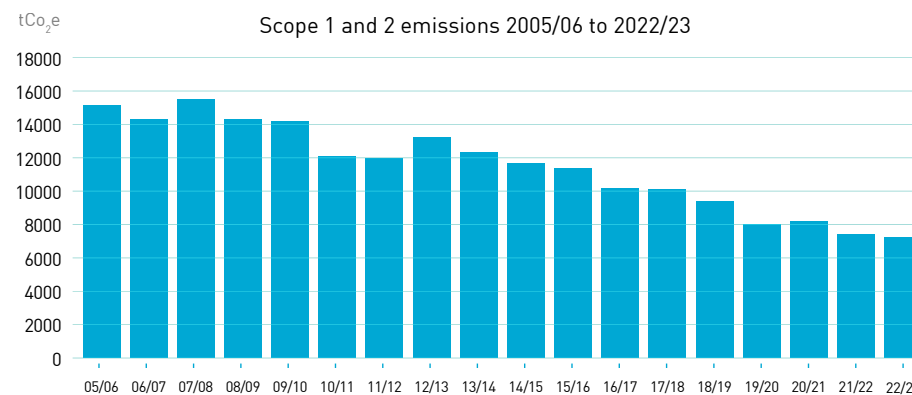

tCO_2e — Scope 1 and 2 emissions 2005/06 to 2022/23

Figure 2. Scope 1 and 2 emissions reductions 2005/06 to 2022/23.

Net Zero Carbon Targets: In summer 2023, BCU committed to becoming a net-zero organisation by 2037/38, with an interim target of achieving net-zero in scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030/31. 2022/23 will now become BCU's baseline year for reporting reductions in scope 1 and 2 emissions and future annual reports will focus on performance against that trajectory. The target for scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2023/24 will be 6,242 tCO_2e.

A strategy is now being developed to outline how BCU will achieve these targets. The strategy will not only focus on how to reduce emissions but also how BCU will adapt to climate change to become a resilient organisation. Mitigation measures are already underway involving building retrofit and improvements in operational control.

BCU was awarded £3.3m of grant funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) in January 2023. This followed a detailed assessment and consideration by government assessors of the BCUs technical ability to deliver and its approach to environmental planning and strategy. Decarbonisation of heat and energy efficiency retrofit projects will be delivered at Seacole and Pavilion buildings. These projects represent the beginning of BCU's journey to net-zero carbon in scope 1 and 2, moving away from fossil fuel heating to a low carbon heat pump solution. These projects will reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions by around 8%. The costs of the investments have risen substantially, and future estimates will take account of the experience and learnings from the market.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

Improved operational control is being delivered through the BMS (heating controls) consolidation project. Several buildings that weren't under the control of the BMS have been added and unsupported controllers and sensors have been upgraded. The project will also deliver improved user functionality and comfort by bringing all the buildings onto one common platform that can be viewed remotely. In some buildings we have already seen large reductions in energy use because of this project. An initial report on savings from the project will be presented to Estates Board 6 months after completion.

Further decarbonisation reports and funding submissions are being developed for the School of Art and Parkside Building. Reports for the rest of the estate will be developed over the next year. These reports will form the basis for future retrofit projects and applications for funding.

The Student Switch Off campaign continues at University Locks. The NUS campaign focuses on encouraging student action on climate change. Over the course of the year, they engaged with 326 of the residents (54.8%) and included training on energy efficiency.

BCU continues to engage with the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy on the city-wide development of a decarbonised heat network and will incorporate this work into planning for the future of the estate. This is particularly relevant to the recently established investment zone.

7.2 Going forward we will:

- Deliver the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme projects.
- Deliver the BMS consolidation project.
- Continue to prepare projects that are application ready for future rounds of decarbonisation funding.
- Advise on low carbon requirements for refurbishments.
- Continue to improve data capture.
- Develop BCU's approach to offsetting.
- Develop an action plan for entering into a power purchase agreement.
- Develop future PSDS and other funding bids including IZ funding.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

8. Environmental management and compliance

Objectives and Targets	Status
Zero major non-conformances due to a compliance obligation breach.	Achieved
From 2020/25, complete the marking of manhole covers with correct identification across the estate, to include drainage CCTV inspections to all PPM maintenance contracts.	In progress

8.1 Progress update:

There have been no major non-conformances in our ISO 14001:2015 EMS due to a compliance obligations breach.

An external evaluation of our environmental compliance register was undertaken in February 2023. The review of our compliance register identified any new or updated legislation. Additions to our compliance register include Electric Vehicles (Smart Charge Points) Regulations 2021 and the Road Traffic Regulations 2002. A full evaluation of compliance will take place in 2023/24.

Several refrigerant gas leaks were reported from Seacole Building in 2022/23. These fugitive emissions equated to 300 tCO_2e, which is a large increase on 76 tCO_2e of refrigerant leaks in 2021/22. The Engineering Team are investigating whether further monitoring of our chillers is feasible through the BMS project to help prevent future leaks.

No further sites had drain types labelled, however BCU is awaiting a quote for further works to be completed in 2023/24.

8.2 Going forward we will:

• Complete a full evaluation of compliance for our EMS.

• Progress drain labelling across the estate.

• Identify feasibility to install further refrigerant monitoring of our chillers through the BMS project.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

9. Sustainable buildings

Objectives and Targets	Status
Achieve an EPC rating of 'A' on all new builds.	In progress NB EPC B achieved for STEAMhouse
Achieve BREEAM 'Excellent' as a minimum for all new builds.	Achieved in 2022/23
Deliver BCU's Sustainable Building Standard for all new builds and refurbishments from 2020-25.	In progress

9.1 Progress update:

City South Master planning: Workshops took place in March 2023 to review project proposals and requirements. The Environmental Team attended to ensure environmental considerations and net zero carbon was at the heart of the development. Environmental sustainability requirements have been embedded as part of the initial project brief. A development framework has been established comprehensive surveys are complete looking at the possible pathways to net zero carbon. There is currently capacity to move to electrification as a solution for the whole site which represents a major opportunity. Introduction of a tram service and work on the travel plan has meant progress has been good.

STEAMhouse: The academic fit-out of the STEAMhouse project achieved BREEAM Excellent with a score of 71.4%. The project scored highly in the following categories: management, energy, transport, water, and pollution. The project achieved all available credits in areas such as responsible construction practices, sustainable transport solutions and flood risk management. 42 desks from University House have been reused in the STEAMhouse commercial phase 3 project. The project achieved a civic trust award in 2023 and was also awarded UK Higher Educational project of the year status. A large component of the criteria was based on environmental performance particularly the buildings low embodied carbon following the extensive reuse of historic materials.

Joseph Priestley agile project: As mentioned previously in the report, the Joseph Priestley agile project to make the building a professional services hub has been a great success. LED lighting and furniture reuse were two main environmental considerations of the project. The project enables flexible working which in turn supports a reduction in our carbon emissions from travel.

Plot A and C: In February 2023 both plots received outline planning consent for 11,300m^2 of academic, support and commercial uses. The consent is for 7 years and is a major opportunity for BCU to influence the environmental and net zero delivery standards across its campus and wider Birmingham investment zone.

Plot C is the area of land subject to future development at the City Centre Campus adjacent to Curzon Building. An interim project has been approved to turn a section of the plot into a wildflower meadow, supporting the improvement of habitat and biodiversity in the area, creating another outdoor area for students and staff to use which will bring mental health and wellbeing benefits. The project is complete and should be visible in spring 2024.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

Alexander Stadium: Sports courses are being relocated to the Alexander Stadium, which was home to the 2022 Commonwealth Games. BCU is developing space in the East and West stands for use by our sports students. From an environmental perspective, the key focus has been reusing as much of the existing fixtures, fittings and finishes as possible, and reuse of gym and specialist equipment from Seacole Building, therefore reducing waste generated as part of the project. Site wide sustainability measures will need to be developed with the site's owners Birmingham City Council.

PSDS: As mentioned in the 'Energy and carbon' section of this report, BCU was successful in securing £3.3m of grant funding to support decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects in our Seacole and Pavilion buildings. Works include LED lighting upgrades, boiler replacement with air source heat pumps, installation of solar panels and associated upgrades to the BMS. The projects are due for completion in 2024. This was the largest allocation of funding to any educational institution in the West Midlands. As such it has the potential to become an exemplar ensuring BCUs profile in this area and securing the potential for more funding.

9.2 Going forward we will:

- Develop and integrate environmental sustainability policies as a key theme in the forthcoming new 2030 BCU vision and subsequent Estates Strategy.

- Promote sustainability and joint investments in the City Centre Campus area potentially drawing directly on IZ investment zone funding.

- Continue to embed sustainability and net zero carbon as core principles of the City South Master planning.

- Lock Keepers cottage – if project is progressed, use it as a net zero carbon demonstrator project.

- Continue to specify net zero and environmental requirements in our project briefs.

- Use strategic AV and introduce smart technology in buildings, supporting our environmental objectives and targets.

- Continue exploring opportunities for sustainability funding.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

10. Transport

Objectives and Targets	Status
Encourage and increase staff, student and visitor sustainable travel through the implementation and two-yearly refresh of the University Travel Plans. Specific targets outlined in the Travel Plans.	In progress
Improve the capture of business travel information through any travel procurements from 2020/25.	In progress
Review and agree an approach to post-combustion engine vehicles for BCU.	In progress

10.1 Progress update:

A travel survey was conducted from Monday 14 November - Sunday 4 December 2022 to capture information on student and staff travel behaviours. 2584 responses were received: staff/associates 44% and students 56%. 40% of staff responded to the survey but only 5% of students.

Figures 3 and 4 show a comparison of student and staff commuting to the University from the 2018 survey to the 2022 survey. Positive environmental trends can be seen in student behaviours with a reduction in single occupancy car use with an increase in students taking the bus and walking. Staff commuting behaviours are similar from 2018 to 2022, with a 1% increase in single occupancy car use and a 3% increase in train use.

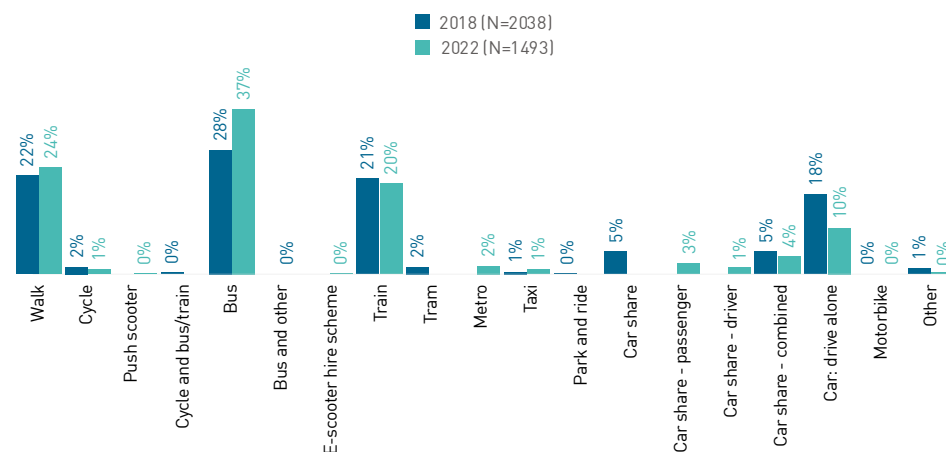### Main transport mode to university - students

2018 (N=2038)
2022 (N=1493)

Figure 3. Main transport mode to university - students

Main transport mode to university - staff
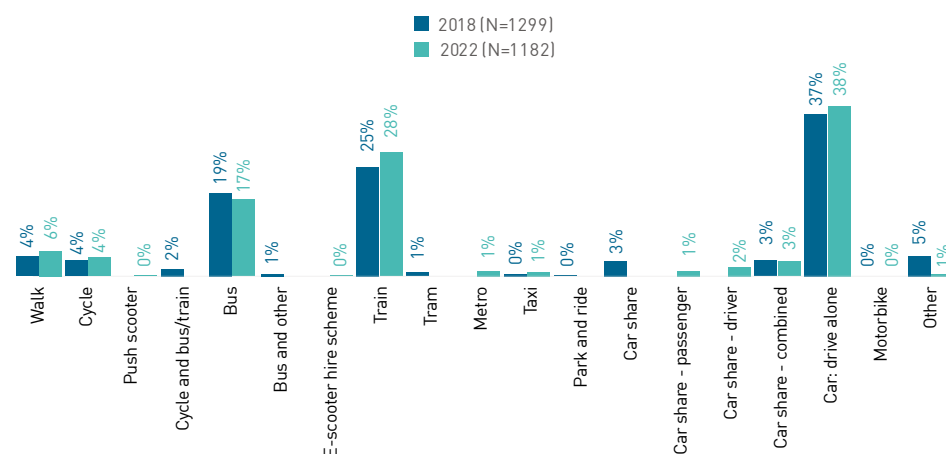
2018 (N=1299)
2022 (N=1182)

Figure 4. Main transport mode to university - staff

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

When looking at student and staff travel by campus (figure 5), there is a significant difference in walking, train, and single occupancy car use, with City South Campus showing lower walking and train use, but much higher car use.
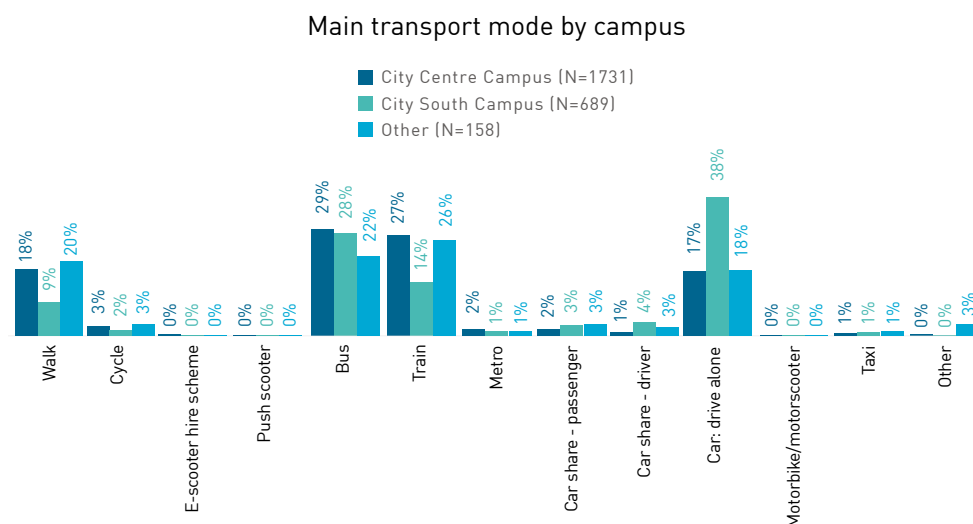
Main transport mode by campus

Figure 5. Main transport mode by campus

Staff and students had the same top 3 reasons for their main mode of transportation to university, however these were prioritised differently as shown in table 1.

Reason of modal choice	Student ranking	Staff ranking
Cheapest journey option	1	3
Quickest journey option	2	2
Most convenient/flexible	3	1

Table 1. Reason to choose mode of travel to university.

The results of the travel survey have been used to shape the Travel Plan goals and actions. A Travel Plan has been drafted for 2023-2027 with a comprehensive action plan outlining how we will reduce our carbon emissions associated with travel in line with our net zero carbon targets. The Travel Plan has historically focused on commuting; however, this latest plan includes business and visitor travel, identifying the sustainability and net zero considerations that need to be made. The Travel Plan will be published on our external website once approved.

Business travel data – air and rail: Business air mileage saw a 185% increase from 861,629 miles in 2021/22 to 2,459,410 in 2022/23, and a rise in carbon emissions from 283 tCO$_2$e to 803 tCO$_2$e respectively (figure 6). Although air travel is still lower than pre-Covid levels, the University will need to work to reduce its carbon emissions from air travel to support meeting its net zero carbon targets.
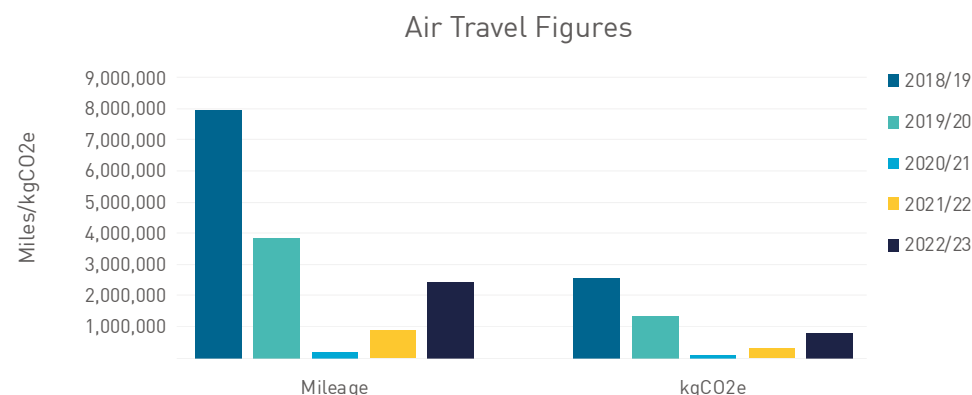
Air Travel Figures

Figure 6. BCU business travel – air mileage and carbon emissions

Similarly, to air travel, rail business travel has increased from 2021/22 to 2022/23 by 66% in both mileage and carbon emissions (figure 7). Rail mileage increased from 132,024 in 2021/22 to 219,762 in 2022/23, and carbon emissions increased from 7.5 tCO$_2$e 2021/22 to 12.5 tCO$_2$e in 2022/23. It is worth noting that the air and rail data from this report relates to data captured from our travel provider, Key Travel. Any business rail and air travel outside of this has not been captured in this report. Work is underway to improve capture of our travel data, from business travel and commuting to student travel abroad and visitor travel.

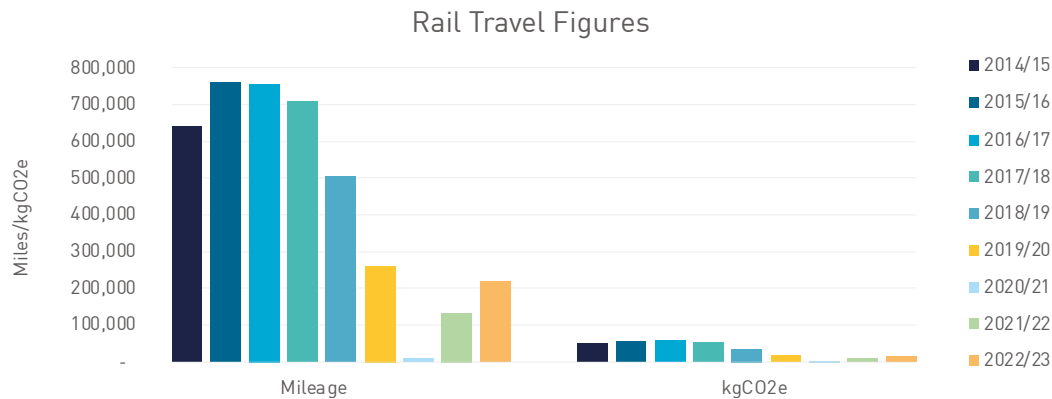# OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

Figure 7. BCU business travel – rail mileage and carbon emissions

The Environment Team have been working with the International College to improve the data capture of student travel abroad. Environmental questions were integrated into the Go Abroad post mobility survey to help estimate carbon emissions associated with their travel. This will be reviewed in 2023/24 to identify how we can improve the process and data capture.

10.2 Going forward we will:

- Conduct a gap analysis of travel data to identify where we can improve data capture for our carbon emission reporting.

- Achieve management approval of the Travel Plan and start delivery of the plan.

- Complete a EVCP project to enable the electrification of BCU's fleet.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

11. Waste and recycling

Objectives and Targets	Status
Reduce the amount of waste generated year-on-year by 1% by 2025 from a 2018/19 baseline.	Achieved
Increase recycling rates annually by 2% per year by 2025 from a 2018/19 baseline.	Achieved
Maintain zero waste to landfill (excluding waste from building projects).	Achieved
Establish and maintain a Waste Task Group at BCU throughout 2020/25 to continue to identify areas of waste prevention and reduction and increase recycling.	In progress

11.1 Progress update:

2022/23 saw a 69% increase in total waste generated when compared to 2021/22 across all academic and accommodation buildings, albeit this is still 5.4% lower than the baseline figure of 2018-19 (see figure 8).
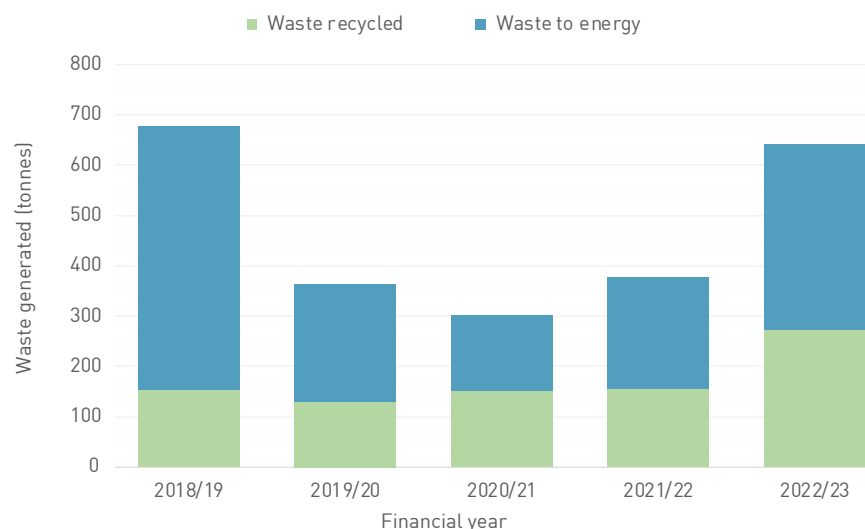

Figure 8. Total University waste generated from accommodation and academic buildings.

The increase from 2021/22 to 2022/23 is directly correlated to footfall on campus, with more students returning to face-to-face teaching and staff returning to workplace offices post Covid. Additional buildings, such as STEAMhouse, also opened adding to the estate portfolio and student numbers were higher than the previous year.

There has also been several building and space reconfiguration projects within the last academic year which have increased the amount of industrial waste disposed of. General waste quantities in accommodation often peaks in summer months also when students move out of halls of residence and new students move in increasing energy recovery from waste figures.

In 2022/23, recycling rates have increased by 69% from the previous year for academic waste. This can be largely attributed to a huge increase of confidential paper waste recycling resulting from space moves and reconfiguration projects. Confidential waste bin signage has also been improved as a result of feedback received from the participants of the first Waste Awareness Event, to assist in easily identifying these bins.

There has also been over 150% increase in cardboard recycling from the previous year. This is also directly related to changes in space use and agile working, where new IT equipment and furniture has been purchased and therefore cardboard packaging has been disposed of. Previously, removal of cardboard packaging has been the responsibility of the IT supplier, however due to changes in IT contractors over the last academic year, cardboard waste has been managed by BCU. This is expected to revert to being the responsibility of the IT supplier in 2023/24 with the introduction of a new IT contract.

A near 82% increase in food waste has also contributed to the significant rise of overall recycling rates. This can also be directly attributed to footfall with higher student numbers in 2022/23 as well as additional catering facilities within new buildings such as STEAMhouse. The second phase rollout of food caddies across the estate has also encouraged staff to recycle their food waste, further contributing to increased recycling rates.

Accommodation recycling rates also significantly improved this academic year in comparison to the previous year, which has again contributed to a positive combined recycling rate of 42%, which is a 1% increase on 2021-22.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

Waste reduction and recycling initiatives: March 2022 saw the University hold its first ever Waste Awareness Week. Following on from its success, the second Waste Awareness Week was held in March 2023, where all BCU waste and cleaning contractors engaged with staff and students in a Waste Awareness fair to educate and gain valuable feedback on waste and recycling within the University. During this week, a 'Common Waste Games' event was held to further engage and educate stakeholders while having fun with waste themed games. Litter picks also took place across both City Centre and City South campuses involving both staff and students and a waste segregation session was undertaken to determine what could have been further recycled. Positive feedback was received from this event and valuable information and content gained, which has helped to shape the way in which waste can be better managed and promoted in future.

A review of confidential bin locations also took place in 2022/23 academic year to better locate and promote the use of paper recycling facilities. This has contributed to improved paper recycling rates, in conjunction with clearer signage, and realised cost efficiencies by maximising the use of existing bin stock across more buildings.

Waste collection schedules have also been reviewed across the estate to ensure that collection frequencies match demand, and so providing value for money to the University as well as assisting in managing the environmental impact of our suppliers through collection efficiencies.

There have been ongoing efforts to remove desk bins across the estate to encourage the use of recycling bins and this has been reinforced through the use of digital advertising across TV screens, articles and good news stories in staff newsletters and membership to staff user groups to help drive the recycling message.

From regular audits carried out by BCU's Quality Control Officer, contractor waste was identified in our waste streams. All contractors are now asked to take their waste away with them to ensure that BCU waste streams are uncontaminated.

BCU has worked in partnership with ISS, our cleaning contractor, who are asked to identify and report hotspots where recycling is being contaminated. Where possible, and safe, the ISS cleaning team also help to segregate waste to reduce contamination into other waste streams and promote recycling.

Through our robust monitoring of the University waste streams, Veolia, our waste contractor, commented that the University recycling is the best it has ever seen.

Positive feedback around waste and its associated robust documentation was also received from the ISO 14001:2015 auditors when carrying out the external EMS accreditation.

We are also reducing waste where feasible through our contracts. ISS, the University's cleaning contractor, are trialling chemical free cleaning using Treason which uses ozone to clean and sanitise. A cost benefit analysis will be conducted to roll this out University wide. ISS continue to invest in low power consumption machinery. They use microfibre cloths, which are washed and reused many times eliminating single use, disposable cloths. They are also currently retraining all staff as part of a companywide project, on more efficient and sustainable methods of cleaning and equipment to further reduce water and energy consumption.

The Grounds and Gardening team play a key role in reusing or composting green waste created from around campuses. Additional compost bins have been built around City South Campus and compost bins purchased for the City Centre to help reduce the quantity of green waste sent to contractors for disposal and therefore reducing both cost and carbon emissions. The Gardening Team also plan to use the raw vegetable peel and fruit skins from catering outlets as part of the composting efforts and do already use the coffee grounds from the cafés on the flower beds.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

The Waste and Resources Task Group has been delayed due to resource issues; however, the first meeting is due to take place by Q2 of 2023/24.

Coffee cup recycling has been a focus of 2022/23, with the first dedicated coffee cup recycling bin being launched with the opening of the refurbished Joseph Priestley building. This was heavily promoted by using all marketing and media channels available to encourage usage and ultimately remove another material from general waste into the recyclable streams to assist with the overall target of general waste reduction. This will continue on into 2023/24 with an aim to introduce into student buildings as well as staff areas.

BCU continues to recycle all redundant IT and electrical equipment via our WEEE waste contractor and 10% of all rebates are donated to Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid.

11.2 Going forward we will:

- Remove any remaining desk bins across our sites.

- Review expansion of coffee cup recycling points across our sites identifying locations and costs.

- Work to reduce waste generation through our supply chain.

- Deliver communications on waste and recycling for example, through attending Facilities Operations Meetings, signage, reporting, cradle to cradle stories for Tiger Today, screens etc.

- Conduct waste audits of all our sites by end of 2023/24.

- Waste tender to include environmental considerations.

- Set up monthly waste and recycling meetings to track and develop progress.

- Conduct a gap analysis of waste data and how we can improve data monitoring and capture.

- Investigate methods for monitoring and recording re-use of furniture to improve reporting.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR OPERATIONS

12. Water

Objectives and Targets	Status
Install water meter loggers and establish a baseline of water consumption for 2019/20	Achieved
Once a baseline is established, develop a water reduction target and approach to reduce water consumption and associated carbon emissions by 2025	Achieved

12.1 Progress update:

Figure 9 shows the change in water consumption split by residential and non-residential since 2008/09. Water consumption remains similar to last year with slight increases to be expected with the opening of STEAMhouse building. During 2022/23 water wastage (water that is used due to faulty appliances and leaks) has continued to fall but it still accounts for around 7% of overall water consumption. A target was set in 2021/22 to reduce wastewater by 5% by 2025. This was achieved in 2022/23 as wastewater was reduced from 14% in 2021/22 to 7%. Work will continue to reduce wastewater across our sites.
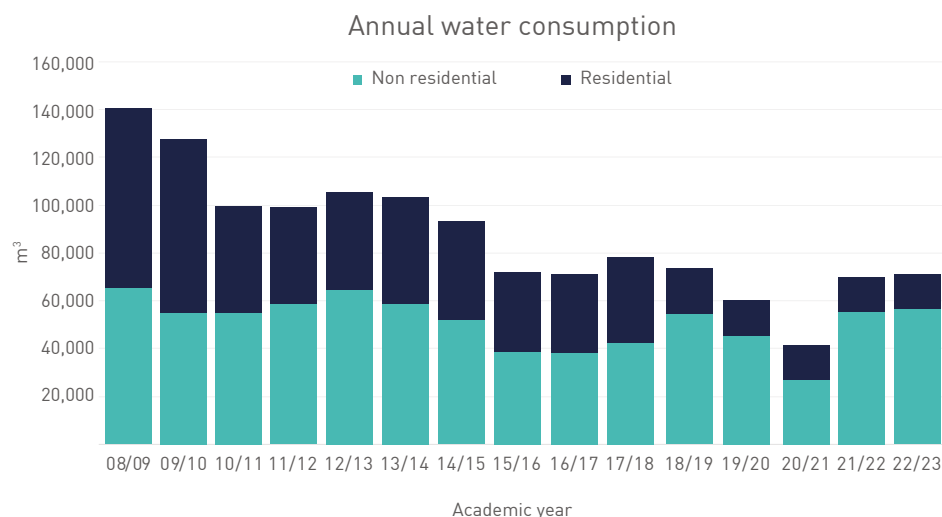
Figure 9. comparison of annual water consumption split by residential and non-residential, 2008/9 to 2022/23.

Curzon Building and University Locks remain the largest consuming buildings. Seacole also continues to have a high level of wasted water. Further sub-metering is required within the larger buildings to assist in locating where problems may be occurring when prolonged increases in consumption occur.

12.2 Going forward we will:

- Procure a new water retail contract before 1st October 2023.

- Procure a new data logger contract before 1st November 2023.

- Explore sub-metering upgrades as part of the building management system consolidation work.

- Continue to carry out water audits across the estate.

- Continue investigations at Seacole to identify source of water wastage.

OBJECTIVE 3: CREATING A GREEN CULTURE IN BCU, LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

13. Curriculum

Objectives and Targets	Status
Sustainability has been integrated as a requirement in the course approval form	Achieved
By 2025 every course has been assessed for sustainability, using the SDGs as a framework, via the Periodic Review.	Lack of resource to achieve programme timescales
Develop and deliver a new SEDA accredited course for staff on Embedding Sustainability in the Curriculum by August 2020.	On hold due to resourcing

13.1 Progress update:

Training: The BCU 'Embedding Sustainability into the Curriculum' SEDA (Staff and Educational Development Association) course did not run in 2021/22 and 2022/23 due to a lack of resource to deliver the course. A light touch 'Introduction to embedding sustainability into the curriculum' session has been integrated into the PgCert by the Education Development Service (EDS) and this was opened to all staff as part of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Teach-in in March 2023, however staff resourcing does not currently allow for more strategic in-depth training to be delivered.

The EDS also delivered a lecture series in May 2023 focused on decolonising academic practice, and looked at examples of how decolonising knowledge provides challenges but also opportunities in Higher Education teaching and research.

Periodic review and process: As with the sustainable curriculum training, there hasn't been sufficient resource to develop and deliver a strategic approach to embedding sustainability into the curriculum, including through the Periodic Review. Sustainability has been integrated as a consideration in the Periodic Review process however further resource is required to provide training and guidance to staff on what sustainability is, what it means in the context of their module and course, and how to embed it effectively. This is essential in ensuring BCU's curriculum is future-proofed, and our students are equipped with the knowledge, understanding, skills, and attributes needed to work and live in a way that safeguards environmental, social and economic wellbeing, both in the present and for future generations.

A business case will be developed for management to review on securing resource focused on embedding sustainability into the curriculum.

Sustainable curriculum examples: While the amount of work is significant to develop and deliver a strategic cohesive approach to embedding sustainability into the curriculum, there are lots of examples of innovative and exciting sustainability practices happening across BCU, with some examples highlighted below.

College of English and Media:

- BAFTA Albert Sustainability training programme: All Media students have the opportunity to become 'BAFTA Albert Graduates'. The accredited training programme is now embedded in the BA Media Production course. It is also offered to MA Media Production students. Students learn to calculate the carbon footprint of a screen production and strive to make their own productions more sustainable. Being a BAFTA Albert Graduate is something which employers look for on CVs. Two BCU July 2023 Media Production graduates are now working in television production, engaged professionally with the Albert Calculator on a regular basis.

- BA English: Runs the first core undergraduate module in the UK focused on the environment: EGL5073 'Writing and the Environment'. The module covers texts from 1722 to the present day that examine the human engagement with, and impact on, the natural world. The module explores the history of ideas shaping modern environmental debates and investigates reading and writing as practices through which we develop understanding of the world, and the place of people within it. The texts studied offer the prospect of re-thinking our relationship to living and built environments in fresh ways, which transcend tropes of conquest and subjugation.

College of Accountancy, Finance and Economics

- Accounting for the Planet: As part of the 2023/24 academic year a new sustainability-based module called 'Accounting for the Planet' is being developed. This is a module that will be delivered for the first time in semester 2 of the 2023/24 academic year across the accounting courses, either as a core or optional module. The module will aim to focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting and Corporate Social Responsibility. Part of the module will require students to complete the ICAEW sustainability certificate which is being embedded into the delivery of the module.

- The Global Manager: Sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been integrated into this core business module.

OBJECTIVE 3: CREATING A GREEN CULTURE IN BCU, LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

College of Law, Social and Criminal Justice

- Human Rights and the Environment: Module includes an Earth Day hike students participate in to learn about and discuss various issues of sustainability and Earth stewardship.

- Embedding sustainability into BCU's LLB programme through modules on legal theory, Critical Legal Thinking (two weeks on critical animal studies and animal rights) and Jurisprudence: Law, Justice and Society (three weeks on socio-legal studies, Eco legalities, and posthumanism).

- Creation of a reading group on Law, Nature and Society within the College of Law, Social and Criminal Justice, which is a first step toward building a research cluster.

- Green Criminology in an Age of Climate Collapse: This discussed issues of environmentalism and sustainability through victims, offenders and solutions. It explored who and what is protected from environmental degradation under national and international law. This included discussing environmental racism, ecocide, and state-corporate crime and harm. The module critically examines how activism on the part of climate victims and their allies build resistance, and analyses proposed solutions such as policing and international treaties.

- Environmental Sociology and Social Justice: This is due to run 2024/25. The module will be firmly focused on real-world application with a public sociology focus on one of the most urgent issues facing global societies today and will reflect the range of theoretical paradigms within environmental sociology including but not limited to ecological modernisation, eco-feminism, and underdevelopment. This will equip them to engage in a publicly engaged analysis of this vital issue and prepare them for employability in fields of sustainability as well as related industries exploring this.

College of Jewellery, Fashion and Textiles:

- The Environmental Officer delivered a talk about environmental sustainability at BCU to Foundation Fashion and Textiles students at the start of their first module. They also ran a sustainability competition as part of the students' first project, for students who incorporated sustainable materials and/or themes.

- Constructive Disruption event: In March 2023, colleagues from the College ran a constructive disruption exhibition using nature as an inspiration, partner, source and aim, with a focus on a circular design approach.

13.2 Going forward we will:

- Develop a business case for designated resource to lead on the sustainable curriculum agenda.

- Continue to deliver the introductory sustainable curriculum session via the PG Cert.

- Develop case studies of good practice from BCU academics to promote their work internally and externally.

OBJECTIVE 3: CREATING A GREEN CULTURE IN BCU, LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

14. Engagement, communication and training

Objectives and Targets	Status
Deliver four environmental engagement events per year	Achieved
Deliver at least one environmental communication per month to staff through our communications channels.	Achieved
Make use of central student communications channels to communicate messages and news of events to the student body.	Achieved
Embed environmental content through nonstandard communication channels to students throughout 2020/25.	Achieved
Increase the number of Environmental Champions joining the network year on year from 2020 to 2025	Same number of Champions as 2021/22
By 2025, all permanent staff have completed the environmental awareness training, with specific environmental training provided to key stakeholders from a 2020 baseline.	At risk

14.1 Progress update:

Engagement: Over 2022/23 26 environmental sustainability events were held engaging approximately 910 students, staff, and alumni. During Welcome Fair, the environmental stall encouraged students to sign up to the environmental mailing list with around 300 sign-ups. Vegan sweets, a reusable cup or straw were given to people if they signed up and they were also entered into a prize draw for a hamper from The Clean Kilo. The same stall was run at the January Welcome Event at City South Campus.

The Environment Team was unable to run a Go Green Week in 2022/23 but coordinated multiple environmental sessions for both the November and March Graduate+ Weeks, including running stalls with How Bad Are Bananas game, wildflower planting at Conservatoire, willow weaving, eco eats and eco gifts workshops (Globe Foundation), making bee homes from natural materials, sessions about climate change and climate futures.

The Environment Team supported the Waste Awareness Week in March 2023, details of which is in the 'Waste' section of the report.

The BCU Family Day in June had a sustainability theme. Visitors had the opportunity to get involved in a range of activities organised by staff and academics, including designing their very own 'city of the future', taking part in environmentally friendly metal workshops and wildflower seed planting. The Environment Team had a stall with How bad are Bananas to engage attendees on the carbon footprint of everyday activities and products.

Communications: 57 environmental articles and newsletters were staff via Tiger Today and through the student newsletter. Articles promoted a vast range of sustainability stories and initiatives from Fairtrade Fortnight to Veganuary.

Membership of the Environmental Champions network remained static at 79.

The Environment Team continued to attend the SU Environmental Committee meetings providing guidance and input. The SU achieved a rating of 'good' in the Green Impact SU awards, which is a great accomplishment for the SU.

Training: Practical spills training was delivering in person to Facilities and Security staff in February 2023 and the spills toolbox talk was rolled out to relevant teams to complete.

Due to resourcing the Environmental Awareness training has not yet been uploaded onto the staff training system. The training needs updating with BCU's new net zero targets. This will be completed in 2023/24.

14.2 Going forward we will:

- Continue to deliver environmental events.
- Continue to deliver articles, newsletters, and social media posts to promote the environmental sustainability work of BCU and the region.
- Support the Students' Union Welcome Week and Environmental Committee.
- Update the staff Environmental Awareness training and upload it onto ERP.

OBJECTIVE 3: CREATING A GREEN CULTURE IN BCU, LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

15. Research, community and partnerships

Objectives and Targets	Status
Environmental activities contribute towards the Graduate+ awards programme each year, including attending and/or involvement in environmental events and volunteering.	Achieved
Maintain our graduate attributes to include a sustainability and global element year on year.	Achieved
STEAMhouse: Deliver environmentally focused event/workshop once a year from 2020/25.	Achieved
STEAMhouse: Support the local business community with the development of environmentally sustainable business solutions from 2020/25.	Achieved
Birmingham 2029: Deliver applied research on societal challenges facing Birmingham from 2019-2029'.	In progress
Work in collaboration with stakeholders and organisations throughout 2020/25 to keep at the forefront of the environmental agenda locally, regionally and globally	In progress
Deliver research projects to develop sustainable solutions locally, regionally and globally through Faculty Research Centres and Groups, for example the Global Environmental Challenges Research Centre	In progress

15.1 Progress update:

Graduate+: The Environment Team continued to support Graduate+ Weeks in 2022/23, and an overview of the events delivered is referenced in the 'Engagement' section of this report. The Environment Team will work with the Graduate+ Manager in 2023/24 to further embed sustainability as part of the award.

STEAMhouse: STEAMhouse delivered an Embodied Carbon Challenge for home builders and building product manufacturers. The keynote was delivered by Senior Policy Adviser Joe Dowley from the Department for Levelling Up, who is leading on government policy for embodied carbon. Attendees also heard more about the Future Homes Standard Demonstrator, Project 80, which is a new development by Midland Heart, that recently conducted an embodied carbon assessment. Wider research being undertaken by BCU's Centre for Future Homes was also discussed.

BCU also ran a series of 3-day Data Analytics for Sustainability courses, providing an introduction to the concepts of data analytics and the use of machine learning, which were then applied on real life data sets. The events were free for eligible SMEs.

During the STEAMhouse Create ERDF-funded programme, which ended on 31 March 2023, there were 37 members with a green/sustainable business agenda. STEAMhouse provided a combined total of 1,583.25 hours of support to these members. Now the ERDF-funded programme is complete, 7 current STEAMhouse commercial members have a green agenda.

Faculty examples:

- **The Faculty of Arts, Design and Media (ADM)**
  - The West Midlands National Park project was recognised as a finalist in Rosa Barba Casanovas International Landscape Architecture Prize.
  - Delivery of a Climate Literacy for Sustainable Futures Skills Bootcamp in January 2023 for practitioners in architecture and landscape architecture who are looking to apply sustainability principles in their work.

- **The Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences (BLSS)**
  - The founder of Hazaar, a zero-waste student marketplace app, delivered guest talks to students in the faculty.
  - Academics from BLSS have secured funding from the Principles for Responsible Management Education's (PRME) Innovative Pedagogy competition to identify strategies to protect UK coastlines from marine dumping.
  - Design and commencement of two PhD projects heavily linked to sustainability, on:
    - A New constitution for the Environment: Improving Environmental Law through application of Animal Law Concepts and Multi-Species Governance
    - Reforming Animal Law through an Intersectional Lens: Law's Humanizing Function, Socio-Legal Justice Movements, and the Ongoing Battle to Enable Animals to Flourish
  - Hosting UK Centre for Animal Law conference at BCU in early 2024. Secured position as regional host for the World Moot on International Law and Animal Rights
  - UKRI cross research council responsive mode pilot scheme (round 1) application submitted for a project entitled 'agricultures.

OBJECTIVE 3: CREATING A GREEN CULTURE IN BCU, LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

- **The Faculty of Computing, Engineering, and Built Environment (CEBE)**

  - Developing green cities: CEBE recently came together to generate a common understanding and vision for Smart, Sustainable and Green cities (SSG). The workshop was hosted by Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of CEBE Professor Hanifa Shah and Associate Dean of Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) Professor Huseyin Seker.

  - Innovation Fest 2023: Hosted in May 2023, the event celebrates the creative talents of our students, inspiring them to address real-world problems through research and innovation. Students created an intelligent green house from scratch to help eliminate hunger and promote sustainable food production.

Partnership working: The BCU India Group continue to develop collaborative relationships in India between academia, industry, government and business organisations. Sustainability is integrated into the work the group does and some examples from 2022/23 include:

- India-UK at 75 Project activities: ADM School of Fashion and Textiles Academic Staff secured funding for a project called 'Flower Power', where participants have combined 60s prints, colours and music with the emerging need for conscious sustainable design. They have used recycled and organic fabric, and all naturally extracted dyes for the development of these samples.

- BCU is working with colleagues in Bengaluru City University to explore supply chain transformation to net zero carbon emissions to assist the vehicle manufacturing sector in Karnataka Province to transition to electric vehicles.

In April 2023, through volunteering days, 8 BCU students helped reduce food waste and generated 3,375 community meals in Birmingham. This was in partnership with FareShare West Midlands, a local food waste charity who source and redistribute good quality, in-date surplus food which would otherwise have gone to waste.

In May 2023, the Students' Union and Volunteering Team coordinated a canal clear up with the Canals and Rivers Trust. 7 BCU students came along and cleared 5 bags of rubbish/vegetation from the canal paths around the canal area between University Locks and the Digbeth branch canal, as well as scattered seed bombs which will become wildflowers.

15.2 Going forward we will:

- Continue to include environmental events in Graduate+ Weeks in 2023/24.

- Work with the Graduate+ Manager to further embed sustainability throughout the award.

- Continue to have BCU represented on environmental forums.

- STEAMhouse: continue to provide sustainability support and events to local businesses and branch out to collaborate more closely with academics across BCU developing STEAM approaches, methods and projects that aid sustainability transition and transformation.

- Academics: continue to develop and deliver research at BCU supporting the local, regional and global sustainability agenda.

KEY

These are the 17 UN SDGs as referenced throughout the document.
For more information on the SDGs visit the UN website.

1 NO POVERTY	**2** ZERO HUNGER	**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	**4** QUALITY EDUCATION	**5** GENDER EQUALITY	**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES	**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION	**14** LIFE BELOW WATER	**15** LIFE ON LAND	**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	