**Edinburgh Napier University**

**Environmental Sustainability Actions, Commitments & Progress Working Document 2020/21**

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| Version | Two |
| Date of current version | 28/06/2021 |
| Date of first version | 11/06/2021 |
| Updates since last version | Review of all sections. |
| EMS reference | ENU-EMS-0328 |
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| Reviewer | University Leadership Team (ULT) |

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1. **Document Overview**
   1. The purpose of this document is to pull together a snapshot of key environmental sustainability actions, commitments and progress at Edinburgh Napier focused on and covering the 2020/21 academic year. The document starts with strategic development, governance and embedment specifically referencing the environmental sustainability commitments made within the [University Strategy](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/principal/University%20Strategy/Pages/University%20Strategy.aspx) ‘Shaping our Future: Driving Distinctiveness’. The document then moves on to highlight wider areas of activity such as biodiversity, energy and food.
   2. Writing and sharing this document is an interim arrangement as we progress the development of a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) at Edinburgh Napier. There are references to the ESS and the University Strategy commitments throughout all sections below.
   3. All sections include a target or measure of progress where appropriate and agreed.
   4. This is a live working document. If you are aware of any projects or areas of work that have not been referenced please contact [environment@napier.ac.uk](mailto:environment@napier.ac.uk) and provide a short update to add.
   5. You can also access information covering our work through [www.napier.ac.uk/environment](http://www.napier.ac.uk/environment) <http://staff.napier.ac.uk/environment> and <http://my.napier.ac.uk/environment>
2. **Environmental Sustainability Strategy**

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| **2020/21 Target** | **Progress** |
| Develop and publish an Environmental Sustainability Strategy within the 2020/21 academic year. Include proposed projects up to 2023/24. | Under development |

* 1. The [University Strategy](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/principal/University%20Strategy/Pages/University%20Strategy.aspx) ‘Shaping our Future: Driving Distinctiveness’ includes environmental sustainability commitments focused on our academic and research expertise, carbon emissions and action towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). The core commitments are highlighted within sections 4.1, 6.1 and 7.1 within this document.
  2. To support and enable the Strategy commitments we are working on the development of an Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS). The ESS will reference our environmental sustainability progress to date and will focus on setting clear and time bound targets covering all aspects of our work while linking directly to the University Strategy commitments made. The ESS will also build upon all historic knowledge documents such as the Carbon Management Plan.
  3. The ESS is currently a working draft. The ESS was presented to the University Leadership Team (ULT) on Wednesday 2nd June 2021. Following the comments received at the ULT meeting we are making some further adjustments to the draft before sharing with everyone. To make sure we develop an ESS that fully represents our work we need students, staff and our wider community partners to review, comment on and contribute towards the document.
  4. The environmental sustainability commitments made within the University Strategy are also referenced and embedded within the three core and enabling strategies at Edinburgh Napier. You can access the [Learning & Teaching Strategy](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/principal/University%20Strategy/Pages/Core-and-Enabling-strategies.aspx) and the [Research & Innovation Strategy](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/principal/University%20Strategy/Pages/Core-and-Enabling-strategies.aspx) through the University website. The Internationalisation Strategy is currently in draft form. A specific meeting to discuss development of the Internationalisation Strategy and Environmental Sustainability Strategy was held on Wednesday 26th May 2021.
  5. As ever, we are not developing our ESS in isolation. We are well connected to a wide range of external partners such as the City of Edinburgh Council. The Council are currently developing their own [2030 Climate Strategy](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/climate-2). Representatives from the University attended Council workshops in February covering City-wider De-carbonised Heat and Energy; Net Zero Development and Growth; Low Carbon Economy and New Lead Markets; Net Zero Transport. The Council 2030 Climate Strategy is currently open for public consultation.
  6. Overall, in terms of strategy and commitment, our work at Edinburgh Napier is guided and supported by the legislative carbon reduction targets set by the Scottish Government. The government published a [Climate Change Plan](https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/) update in December 2020.

1. **Environmental Sustainability Strategy Group**
   1. To support our ESS and wider work an Environmental Sustainability Strategy Group (ESSG) was introduced at the University in April 2020. The ESSG reports to the ULT quarterly.
   2. The core focus of the ESSG is “to enhance environmental sustainability within and beyond the University” and “to ensure the target of net zero carbon, which is embedded within the University Strategy, is met by 2030 at the latest”.
   3. ESSG members lead and support a variety of environmental sustainability projects and initiatives throughout the University. ESSG Chair is Gary Hutchison (School of Applied Sciences) and the ULT sponsor is Andy McGoff (Finance). Other current members are Anita Ogilvie (Strategy Hub), Clive Gee (Development & Alumni), Heloisa Fyfe (Edinburgh Napier Students’ Association), Iain Russell (Information Services), Jamie Pearson (Property & Facilities), Jen Robertson (Procurement), Lisa McMillan (School of Applied Sciences), Mark Huxham (School of Applied Sciences), Miles Weaver (Business School) and Nicola Scrimgeour (Marketing).
   4. As well as quarterly meetings, there are currently four ESSG Workstreams led by ESSG members to provide focus in key working areas. Academic (Mark Huxham), Communication/Engagement (Nicola Scrimgeour), Net Zero/Operations (Jamie Pearson) and Societal Impact (Miles Weaver).
   5. We encourage all students, staff and community members to engage in and contribute towards our work and goals. Students are encouraged to join the [Sustainable Society](https://www.napierstudents.com/organisation/societies/7511/). Staff are encouraged to join the Staff [Sustainability Network](https://edinburghnapieruniversity108.workplace.com/) through Workplace. Everyone is encouraged to engage and share comments or suggestions through [environment@napier.ac.uk](mailto:environment@napier.ac.uk) at any time. The environmental sustainability commitments embedded within the University Strategy were achieved because of students and staff at Edinburgh Napier attending and actively participating within Shaping our Future workshops and other events. The ESS and ESSG will succeed with and because of ongoing community collaboration.
2. **Academic**

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| **2020/21 Target** | **Progress** |
| Develop a University wide module ‘Achieving Sustainability: a better world is possible’. | Under development |

* 1. The [University Strategy](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/principal/University%20Strategy/Pages/University%20Strategy.aspx) states that we will “combine the expertise and motivation of our community to enhance environmental sustainability within and beyond the University through our curriculum, research, operations, partnerships and engagement”. Also, we will “align and build academic excellence focused on Wellbeing & Sustainability, underpinned by the themes of: Environment; AI & Technologies; and Culture & Communities”.
  2. There are an array of best practice academic and research examples covering an array of environmental sustainability aspects throughout Edinburgh Napier. We have highlighted a snapshot of activity highlighted at [www.napier.ac.uk/environment](http://www.napier.ac.uk/environment)
  3. Throughout 2020/21 a broad range of colleagues representing all Schools have supported the development of a new University wide module ‘Achieving Sustainability’. The module will be introduced and made available to students during trimester two of the 2021/22 academic year. The two learning outcomes are “identify and plan creative practical actions to promote sustainability and show how these relate to one or more of the key ideas of sustainability that are discussed in the module” and “collaborate to deliver a practical outcome designed to promote sustainability and evaluate its potential for impact”.
  4. Development of the module is incredibly exciting, especially given that it will be offered as an option to students throughout the university and also because it has been designed as part of the commitments embedded within the University Strategy as highlighted in 4.1 above.
  5. The School of Computing have carried out fascinating research into embedding environmental sustainability within the curriculum. The work included a student survey, student focus groups as well as wider discussion to explore students’ views.
  6. The Business School have led an array of environmental sustainability activity throughout 2020/21 including the student led week-long conference held during the second week of March: ‘Reimagining and Rebuilding a Post COVID-19 Sustainable Future Together’. A fantastic range of activity was led throughout the week with a significant number of participants and speakers.
  7. The Transport Research Institute (TRI) celebrated its 25 year anniversary in June 2021. A showcase event ‘Transport Research and Innovation’ was held with a wide range of partners. This follows the incredibly successful 6th [Electric Vehicle Conference](https://blogs.napier.ac.uk/tri/annual-electric-vehicle-event/) held in October 2020.

1. **Communication / Engagement**

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| **2020/21 Targets** | **Progress** |
| Develop new web pages on the front externally facing university website [www.napier.ac.uk/environment](http://www.napier.ac.uk/environment)  Update student facing information on the new My Napier platform <http://my.napier.ac.uk/environment> and mirror all relevant updates on the staff facing site <http://staff.napier.ac.uk/environment>  Ensure [www.facebook.com/SustainableENU](http://www.facebook.com/SustainableENU) and @SustainableENU Twitter accounts highlight ongoing opportunity and overview of progress.  Measure impact of key communication and engagement activity. | Complete  Complete  Ongoing  Ongoing |

* 1. A very significant achievement within the 2020/21 academic year has been the development of [www.napier.ac.uk/environment](http://www.napier.ac.uk/environment) Presence on the front facing university site highlights and demonstrates the commitment of the university to meet, communicate and publically share all progress towards the commitments set within the University Strategy.
  2. As noted above within our target for 2020/21, the work on [www.napier.ac.uk/environment](http://www.napier.ac.uk/environment) has also supported redevelopment of student and staff facing websites (also publically accessible).
  3. The University was recognised as a finalist within the Student Engagement category of the 2020 Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) Green Gown Awards. You can view our application including a video overview of the work submitted on the [EAUC website](https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/student_engagement6).
  4. Representatives from Edinburgh Napier Students’ Association (ENSA), the Edinburgh Napier Sustainable Society (ENSS) and University have met monthly to share progress and project opportunities. The meetings will resume again in September 2021.
  5. The University was invited to speak at the Universities UK (UUK) ‘role of universities in tackling the climate emergency’ conference in February 2021 within ‘the partnership approach’ session. Attendance was followed by an invitation to attend a climate emergency roundtable.
  6. The Environmental Sustainability Manager was nominated as an EAUC Fellow in 2020/21. Nominations are based on personal and institutional drive to enable and support collaborative working throughout all aspects of environmental sustainability including engagement.

1. **Net Zero / Operations**

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| **2020/21 Target** | **Progress** |
| Operational Carbon emissions (CO2e) is a Key Performance Indicator reported through and within the University Strategy. The baseline year is 2018/19, 6,422.6 tCO2e. The KPI target for 2020/21 was set and promoted publically as a 10% reduction on the baseline, 5,790.3 tCO2e. The KPI target encapsulates operational emissions (see point 6.2 and Table 6.1). | Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 use of the measure is inappropriate. |

* 1. The [University Strategy](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/principal/University%20Strategy/Pages/University%20Strategy.aspx) states that we will take “progressive action to achieve net zero carbon in our operations by 2030 at the latest. We will also seek to minimise both our wider and legacy carbon footprint and influence sustainable practices within and beyond our campuses”.
  2. We have included a glossary of terms on the front page of [www.napier.ac.uk/environment](http://www.napier.ac.uk/environment) to ensure absolute clarity in our targets and our work overall. In brief, ‘operational emissions’ includes business travel, electricity, f-gas, gas, waste and water. ‘Wider emissions’ include day-to-day commute, term-time commute, procurement and investment. ‘Legacy emissions’ reference historic carbon emissions through our operations and wider community based activity.
  3. The impact of changes to operational practices in relation to COVID-19 are significant. Table 6.1 show actual and publically reported operational carbon emissions covering the 2018/19 and 2019/20 academic years. The significant reduction in carbon emissions publically reported covering the 2019/20 academic year was due to the impact of COVID-19.
  4. Current estimates and projections for 2020/21 show that reported operational emissions may be as low as 2363.0 tCO2e over 2020/21, a 48% reduction compared to2019/20. The reduction again is due to COVID-19. Operational carbon emissions are expected to increase rapidly once campuses and student accommodation sites are fully occupied and business travel commences.
  5. We are legislatively required through the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to report our carbon emissions, governance arrangements and other pertinent environmental information to the Scottish Government annually. Our annual public reports from 2014/15 to 2019/20 are available on the [Sustainable Scotland Network](https://sustainablescotlandnetwork.org/reports) website. We also report a wide range of environmental and wider property and associated finance information annually through the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Estates Management Record (EMR).

**Table 6.1 Operational Carbon Emissions (CO2e)**

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| **Year** | **Business Travel** | **Electricity** | **F-Gas** | **Gas** | **Waste** | **Water** | **Total** |
| 2018/19 | 2463.3 | 2093.7 | 0.0 | 1835.8 | 7.7 | 22.1 | 6422.6 |
| 2019/20 | 1092.9 | 1554.6 | 51.2 | 1839.7 | 4.6 | 16.0 | 4559.0 |
| 2020/21 | 100.0 | 1000.0 | 50.0 | 1200.0 | 3.0 | 10.0 | 2363.0(e) |

* 1. Table 6.2 provides a snapshot of projects and examples of significant progress planned and achieved during 2020/21. The examples support ongoing and sustained reduction in operational carbon emissions, wider carbon emissions as well as our overall environmental impact.

**Table 6.2 Projects & Examples of Significant Progress**

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| **Aspect** | **Project(s)** |
| Divestment | On Thursday 3rd June 2021 we publically announced that the University and the Development Trust have removed all direct investments from fossil fuel companies. You can read more about what this means and what this covers [online](https://www.napier.ac.uk/about-us/environmental-sustainability/finance-and-procurement/divestment) including quotes from an array of folk involved with this fantastic piece of work. ENSS members were instrumental in encouraging this decision, highlighting the strength of collective and purposeful student voices in leading change. |
| Energy & Utilities | The Maintenance Team within Property & Facilities continue to use the Building Management System (BMS) to manage gas consumption effectively, only using resource when we need to. Historic programmes of work carried out throughout the University estate continue to ensure efficient use of electricity and water. For more information visit our [website](https://www.napier.ac.uk/about-us/environmental-sustainability/reducing-our-energy-and-water-consumption) or contact [environment@napier.ac.uk](mailto:environment@napier.ac.uk)  We have recently updated our existing electricity contract to procure 100% renewable electricity. From the 1st of April 2021, all electricity consumed is backed by Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO). We publically promoted this piece of work alongside our divestment communication. More information [online](https://www.napier.ac.uk/about-us/environmental-sustainability/finance-and-procurement/divestment).  We continue to engage and learn from a range of bodies to plan all future energy and utilities work throughout our estate. Opportunities include the new ‘Net Zero Public Sector Buildings Standard’. |
| Laboratories | The lab team within the School of Applied Sciences, led by Lisa McMillan and Jo Brown, continue to develop the lab plastics recycling programme. To date, the programme has seen a significant overview of practice from use of equipment, decontamination and segregation. The good practice developed has been shared by Lisa and Jo throughout a variety of networks and events.  The team are progressing work within laboratory spaces by joining the Lab Efficiency Assessment Framework ([LEAF](https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/leaf_a_new_approach_to_achieving_laboratory_sus)). Working through the LEAF programme will support a wider assessment and overview of all environmental sustainability opportunities within lab spaces including energy efficiency and reduction. |
| Offset | Throughout the process of agreeing our carbon reduction commitments as highlighted in point 6.1 above, we have publically shared and promoted that in order to achieve net zero emissions and act on our wider and legacy emissions we will need to use ethical offset to build on mitigation, efficiency and reduction.  At the moment we are currently investigating opportunities in this area, including fantastic work already developed and supported by Mark Huxham (School of Applied Sciences) and other colleagues through the Association for Coastal Ecosystem Services ([ACES](https://www.aces-org.co.uk/)). We are also actively collaborating with peers through the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges ([EAUC](https://www.eauc.org.uk/)) and Sustainable Scotland Network ([SSN](https://sustainablescotlandnetwork.org/)) to review opportunities. We will take advice from the Scottish Government, including when an approved position and definition of ethical offset is published. |
| Procurement | The Procurement Team continue to lead and support a wide array of environmental sustainability work. There is a fantastic overview of the Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC) Sustain Project and Supply Chain Code of Conduct on the [APUC](https://www.apuc-scot.ac.uk/#!/susproject.php) website.  Embedment of environmental sustainability within procurement is vital for achieving our net zero carbon and all wider environmental sustainability targets set. The Grounds Management Tender (highlighted in Table 8.2 below) is a great example of embedment, including best practice and legislative requirements. |
| Travel | We gained funding from Cycling Scotland to hire a Campus Cycling Officer between November 2020 and June 2021. During the seven month embedment within the university, the CCO secured £17,000 in funding from Cycling Scotland to procure 25 bicycles (for student use) and run cycle ride leader training and bicycle maintenance sessions. The CCO also worked with Sustrans to introduce boxes of bicycle equipment at each campus and student accommodation sites and, last but not least, filmed all cycling routes between all university sites to show availability of off-road options. We have gained funding to hire a CCO during 2021/22.  We have carried out a review of our vehicle fleet. We’ve reduced the number of core vehicles we use to eight (six within Property & Facilities and two other). Five of the six Property & Facilities vehicles are now fully electric. |
| Waste | In March 2020 we reorganised all internal waste bins within all public spaces. We also rationalised the number of waste types by comingling historic paper, plastics and metal bins into ‘mixed recycling’ bins. We updated signage throughout. We will measure the success of this work in 2021/22.  We will retender our general waste services with a new contract starting from Friday 1st October. The tender process is providing an opportunity to review best practice and seek innovative solutions for further increasing our recycling rate. |

1. **Societal Impact**

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| **2020/21 Target** | **Progress** |
| Review and understand all opportunities for measuring progress against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). | Ongoing. |

* 1. The [University Strategy](https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/principal/University%20Strategy/Pages/University%20Strategy.aspx) states that “our success and academic reputation will be measured by our societal impact”. In terms of environmental sustainability, Scotland’s National performance Framework and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) will support measurement of our work in this area.
  2. The Business School are leading an array of exploratory work in this area. The School have joined the Principles for Responsible Management Education ([PRME](https://www.unprme.org/)) programme and are working collaboratively with St. Joseph’s University (Philadelphia) to trial an UNSDG tracker that they have developed. The tracker highlights UNSDG links to all published work.
  3. The Strategy Hub are currently auditing key environmental sustainability management tools and programmes of work. The audit will help to focus on and provide further confidence towards the initiatives that we should sign up to including the [SDG Accord](https://www.sdgaccord.org/), [Race to Zero](https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign) (COP26), [Edinburgh Climate Compact](https://www.edinburghclimate.org.uk/edinburgh-climate-compact) and also the Times Higher Education (THE) UNSDG [Impact Rankings](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/impactrankings#!/page/0/length/25/sort_by/rank/sort_order/asc/cols/undefined).

1. **Wider Working Areas**
   1. Our work, covering all aspects of environmental sustainability envelops a significant array of activity. All activity contributes towards and will be embedded within our UNSDG and wider University Strategy commitments. Table 8.1 below provides examples of our wider work that have been initiated or further developed throughout the 2020/21 academic year.

**Table 8.1 Wider Activity**

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| **Aspect** | **Project(s)** |
| Adaptation | * Our climate is already changing. For that reason, as well as mitigation projects to reduce our carbon and wider environmental impact, we must adapt. Work includes building resilience, tree and grounds management and awareness of potential impacts to modes of travel and key transport routes. * Representatives from the university have participated within wider community based adaptation activity, including attending the Edinburgh Adapts Network. * In June 2021 Edinburgh World Heritage ran a workshop for all universities surrounding Edinburgh to lead discussion on potential and collective impact. |
| Biodiversity | * The incredible array of work led by colleagues and volunteers through the [Lion’s Gate](https://blogs.napier.ac.uk/thelionsgate/) and Sighthill Gardening Group continues at a pace. * ENSA were recently awarded £2,700 from Keep Scotland Beautiful to support further grounds activity including expanding tree planting and food growing to Craiglockhart. A nature and health walk within the grounds at Craiglockhart is also currently being investigated. * A Biodiversity / Grounds Working Group set-up in May 2021 to support all activity with representatives from all campuses. Will report through the ESSG. * ENSA have led the university to gain Bronze Hedgehog Friendly Campus status. Activity will continue throughout 2021/22 towards Silver. * A Grounds Management tender is currently underway. Six environmental questions were embedded within the tender covering biodiversity, chemical management, waste, compliance (environmental legislation), volunteers, strategies and policies. The six scored questions represent 24% of the total potential tender score. The tender also includes significant pass/fail questions covering equality and diversity, environmental legislation, health and safety legislation and waste regulations. Finally, an environmental sustainability key performance indicator ‘compliance with relevant environmental sustainability legislation’ will be measured and reported monthly. |
| COP26 | * There is significant opportunity to raise further awareness of our collective environmental sustainability work through the COP26 meeting to be held in Glasgow in November 2021. We will use the opportunity to highlight and share all academic, research, professional and community driven expertise that exists within the Edinburgh Napier community. * A Paper will be presented to the University Court in June 2021 highlighting all known information including all known existing engagement with COP26. This will be a significant area of discussion during our 2021/22 academic year. |
| COVID-19 | * Measured impact to carbon emissions is referenced in section six above. * There has been a number of discussions regarding the devolvement of operational impact to domestic environments e.g. consuming electricity and gas at home while studying or working from home. Zero Waste Scotland and other agencies are reviewing potential impact including opportunities to measure. * To support students and staff, ENSA, ENSS and the university developed the ‘Studying from Home – Sustainability Guide’ containing an array of hints and tips for reducing environmental impact at home. Also applicable to staff! * Information has been submitted to the HR team as part of wider flexible working discussions, primarily considering utility consumption and transport. * An ‘Environmental Sustainability’ submission was entered within the Napier Big Read. The 2020/21 book will cover personal snapshots of COVID-19 impact. |
| Food | * [Meat Free Monday](https://www.napier.ac.uk/about-us/environmental-sustainability/food-and-fairtrade/meat-free-mondays-case-study) campaigns led by the Catering Team have been identified and promoted as a good practice example through the McCartney Meat Free Monday campaign. Fantastic recognition of the work led by the team. * The international coffee chain historically housed at each of our campuses has been replaced by [Coffee Conscience](https://coffeeconscience.co.uk/). The company already had a strong presence at the university but this development will further develop our working relationship, linking to the community projects they lead. * The Catering Team are looking at programmes of work to further develop and highlight all existing work in place including procuring from local companies. |
| Health & Wellbeing | * Environmental sustainability information was provided to support the Gold Healthy Working Lives accreditation. Full review document ‘Healthy Working Lives Reaccreditation – Environmental Sustainability ENU-EMS-0309 V1 19.02.21’ is publically available online. The document covers environmental and health links to biodiversity, grounds and transport activity. |