

2019-20 Environmental Sustainability Strategy Update

Contents:

The UN Sustainable Development Goals.....	2
2019-20 Sustainability Targets & Progress.....	3
2020-21 Sustainability Targets.....	5
Environmental Management.....	7
Service at King's.....	8
Spotlight on: Divestment.....	9
Carbon and Energy.....	10
Spotlight on: Scope 3 Carbon Emissions.....	12
Waste and Recycling.....	14
Sustainable Food.....	17
Fairtrade.....	18
Supply Chain.....	19
Engagement: Students & Education.....	20
Engagement: Staff.....	22
Sustainable Transport & Travel.....	24
Biodiversity.....	26
Water.....	27
Spotlight on: Residences.....	28
Partnership & Community Engagement.....	29
Construction & Refurbishment.....	30
Stay in touch.....	31

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

King's College London recognises that as an educator, we have a responsibility to play a central and transformational role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The SDGs are a set of 17 goals aimed at transforming the world by 2030 and were approved by the member states of the United Nations (UN) in 2015. To showcase how our work relates to the Sustainable Development Goals, we have highlighted the relevant goals in each section of this update.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



2019-20 Sustainability Targets & Progress

Environmental Management

- Maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) to the standard of ISO14001:2015: Achieved
- Achieve a reportable environmental pollution incident rate of zero: Achieved

Construction and Refurbishment

- BREEAM assessment carried out on all new buildings/major refurbishments as required by planning:
 - o New builds to achieve minimum “Excellent”
 - o major Refurbishments to achieve “Very Good”: Progress towards target
- All large-scale fit-out projects to apply King’s Sustainability Guidelines and Checklist, or complete SKA assessment: Progress towards target

Water

- Reduce consumption of water by 2% each year over the 2013-20 period (cubic metres per total FTE – staff and student): Not achieved

Carbon and Energy

- Reduce absolute CO₂e emissions to achieve a 43% reduction in scope 1 and 2 carbon footprint from a 2005-06 baseline: Achieved
- Achieve Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2025: Progress towards target

Partnership and Community Engagement

- Achieve SRA Rating of at least two stars for King’s Food: Achieved
- Achieve Fairtrade University status
- Engage with at least one local community project which promotes and improves the environment: Achieved

Clean Air

- Implement at least two clean air initiatives recommended by Business Low Emission Neighbourhoods: Not achieved
- At least 75% of King’s directly controlled fleet to be net zero/low emission vehicles (excluding sports grounds off-road vehicles): Not achieved
- Increase number of bicycle parking spaces across the estate: Not achieved

Biodiversity

- Implement at least 60% of the agreed 2018-20 opportunities identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan: Not achieved

Training and Awareness

- Minimum 90% of eligible Estates & Facilities staff to complete Fit For King’s sustainability module within 12 months of induction: Progress towards target
- Offer at least 600 hours of student engagement opportunities: Achieved

- Minimum of 60 Staff Sustainability Champion teams completing Bronze, Silver or Gold level: Achieved

Waste and Resource Use

- Achieve 70% recycling of total non-hazardous office and residential waste by July 2020:
Progress towards target
- Reduce total annual operational waste produced by the university (excluding construction):
Achieved

2020-21 Sustainability targets

Environmental Management:

- Maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) to the standard of ISO 14001:2015
- Achieve reportable environmental pollution incident rate of zero

Water:

- Reduce consumption of water by 2% each year over the 2013-2021 period (cubic metres per total FTE - staff and student)

Waste and Resources:

- Achieve 70% recycling by weight of total non-hazardous office and residential waste by July 2021
- Reduce total annual operational waste produced by the university (excluding construction) from 2017/18 academic year

Carbon and Energy:

- Achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2025
- Reduce energy emissions by at least 50% by 2025, from a 2018-19 baseline

Food:

- Achieve SRA Rating of three stars for King's Food

Supply Chain:

- Create Fairtrade Action Plan 2020-22 to maintain Fairtrade University status
- Increase number of social enterprises in our supply chain
- Consider provisions of the Social Value Act in procurement processes

Partnership and Community Engagement:

- Engage with at least one local community project which promotes and improves the environment
- Take an active role in sector sustainability networks such as LUEG, LEAN, EAUC

Clean Air and Transport:

- Implement at least 2 clean air initiatives recommended by Business Low Emission Neighbourhoods
- At least 75% of King's directly-controlled fleet to be zero/low emission vehicles (excluding sports ground off-road vehicles and King's Food static food/ drink vehicles)
- Increase number of bicycle parking spaces across the estate
- Reduce air travel emissions by 10% per year from 2018-19

Construction & Refurbishment:

- BREEAM assessments carried out on all new buildings / major refurbishments as required by planning

- New builds to achieve minimum "Excellent"
 - Major Refurbishments to achieve "Very Good"
- All large-scale fit-out projects to apply King's Sustainability Guidance (Capital Projects Brief) and Checklist, or complete SKA assessment

Biodiversity:

- Implement at least 75% of the agreed 2018-20 opportunities identified in Biodiversity Action Plan

Engagement:

- Minimum 90% of eligible E&F staff to complete Fit For Kings sustainability module within 12 months from induction
- Achieve at least 600 hours student engagement opportunities
- Achieve minimum of 60 Staff Sustainability Champion teams completing bronze, silver or gold level

Environmental Management



Targets:

- Maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) to the standard of ISO14001:2015: Achieved
- Achieve a reportable environmental pollution incident rate of zero: Achieved

Policy:

Our overarching King's Environmental Sustainability Policy sets out our overarching commitments to sustainability, including our commitment to set sustainability targets, providing opportunities for students and staff to get involved, and setting out responsibilities for sustainability at all levels of the university governance structure. The new policy was published in December 2019, and now incorporates our commitment to delivering the UN SDGs.

Progress:

In addition to publishing our new Environmental Sustainability Policy, our Environmental Management System (EMS) was re-certified to the ISO14001:2015 standard. Due to the closure of our campus in Spring 2020, document reviews were conducted online in the Spring, and the site visits were carried out in November 2020, confirming our re-certification. The EMS covers all operations of Estates & Facilities, and ensures everyone within the directorate has the knowledge and skills to carry out their roles in a sustainable way, and that we have the policies and procedures in place to enable them to do so.

Service at King's

'Service' is the term King's adopted in our Strategic Vision 2029 to describe our commitment to society beyond the traditional roles of education and research. Environmental sustainability forms part of our definition of what Service means to King's, and the Vice-President & Vice-Principal (Service) provides senior leadership on Service initiatives.



In 2020, King's was ranked 9th in the world for its societal impact in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking. The ranking uses the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for measuring universities' social impact. In particular, King's was recognised for our work with local, national and international partners, ranking fourth in the world for Goal 17, 'Partnerships for the Goals'.

Throughout 2019-20, the Service Team have implemented and supported initiatives across King's, including becoming the first 'Refugees Welcome University', and increasing 'Service Time' - paid time which staff can use to volunteer - from one to three days per year. More information on Service initiatives and our impact on society can be found in the [Service Annual Report](#).

Spotlight on: Divestment

Policy:

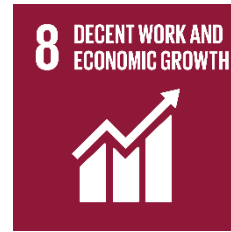
The King's College London Ethical Investment Policy commits King's to make no direct investments in tobacco, and to divest from all fossil fuels by the end of 2022. In addition, King's aims to invest 40% of its funds in investments with socially responsible benefits by 2025.

The King's endowment is invested in funds that are reviewed to ensure they meet the requirements of our Ethical Investment Policy. This is overseen by the Investment Sub-Committee of the university's Finance Committee, who allocate our assets and select appropriate investment managers.

Progress:

King's has made consistent progress on divestment since committing to full divestment in 2017. By July 2020, our exposure to fossil fuels was 0.9%, a significant decrease from 7.3% in July 2017.

In Spring 2021, King's made the announcement that it has fully divested from all fossil fuels, almost two years ahead of its end of 2022 target. Alongside this, King's also confirmed it currently held 35% of its funds in investment funds with a 'green tilt'. These funds do not only exclude fossil fuels, but seek to actively invest in low carbon, sustainable companies.



Carbon and Energy

Targets:

- Reduce absolute CO₂e emissions to achieve a 43% reduction in scope 1 and 2 carbon footprint from a 2005-06 baseline: Achieved
- Achieve Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2025: Progress towards target



Policy:

We are committed to reducing our carbon emissions through our Environmental Sustainability Policy, and have developed an Energy and Carbon Management Policy to support this. We have targeted a 43% reduction in scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions compared to our 2005-06 baseline by 2020, and have set the ambitious target to be net zero carbon by 2025.

Progress:

We have exceeded our 2020 carbon reduction target, reducing our carbon emissions by 53% compared to our 2005-06 baseline. While the closure of our campuses had an impact on our energy use, we were on track to achieve our target in 2019-20 already, having achieved a 41% reduction in 2018-19.

This achievement comes despite significant growth of the university, illustrating that we have successfully decoupled our growth from growing carbon emissions. Using Salix funds, we have carried out energy efficiency projects across campuses. We also engaged with students and staff to reduce energy consumption through schemes such as Sustainability Champions, and the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) in particular. We have also ensured that refurbishment and construction projects include energy efficiency measures by applying BREEAM or SKA assessments to projects.

We are also continuously improving our energy sourcing. Our directly purchased electricity is from UK wind power, and has been since late 2017. In 2019-20, we signed a Power Purchase Agreement. Through the agreement, signed with several other UK universities and TEC (The Energy Consortium), we source part of our electricity directly from four wind farms in Scotland and Wales. Some of our electricity supply remains non-renewable. This is in areas where we do not directly source our electricity, such as embedded spaces within NHS Trusts. We will continue engaging with our partners to increase the use of renewables. When using a market-based methodology for calculating our emissions, which takes into account our purchasing of renewables, we reduced our scope 1 and 2 emissions by 68% from our 2005-06 baseline.

Challenges and opportunities: After achieving our 43% carbon reduction target, we are now looking towards our net zero carbon by 2025 target. In 2020-21, we formed the King's Climate Action Network (King's CAN), an interdisciplinary network open to all students and staff, with the aim to co-create our new Climate Action Strategy. Through this approach, we will give everyone in the King's community the opportunity to actively contribute and shape our strategy over the next years. The Climate Action Strategy will follow the structure laid out by the Swedish Climate Framework

for Higher Education Institutions, covering thirteen key impact areas. The impact areas will be reflected in the seven sub-groups of the King's CAN, which will be:

- Zero Carbon Estate
- Procurement & Waste
- Students & Education
- Community & Engagement
- Responsible Investment
- Travel
- Zero Carbon Research

With this, we aim to go beyond reducing our scope 1 and 2 emissions, and set out steps to reduce our scope 3 emissions, as well as maximise the positive impacts we can have through our core activities of education, research and service.

We have also received funding under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, which will support our efforts to reduce emissions from our campuses. Through this funding, we will develop a Heat Decarbonisation Plan to reduce our heating emissions. As most of our electricity is renewable, gas and heat will be the leading sources of King's emissions, and it is essential to decarbonise in this area. The Heat Decarbonisation Plan will be published in autumn 2021, alongside the wider Climate Action Strategy. We will also implement a series of Building Management System upgrades to improve our control over energy use in buildings, and enable us to be more energy efficient.

Scope	Emissions source	Location-based 2019/20 emissions	Total location-based	Market-based 2019/20 emissions	Total market-based
1	Gas	8,938	Total scope 1: 9,052	8,938	Total scope 1: 9,052
1	Gas Oil	2		2	
1	Diesel (generators)	5		5	
1	Diesel (vehicles)	6		6	
1	Red diesel (vehicles)	17		17	
1	Fluorinated gas	84		84	
2	Electricity	13,533	Total scope 2: 15,560	5,649	Total scope 2: 7,676
2	Heat	2,027		2,027	
3	Supply Chain	141,354	Total scope 3: 157,006	141,354	Total scope 3: 155,212
3	Business Travel – air	4,787		4,787	
3	Business Travel – other	31		31	
3	Water supply and treatment	681		681	
3	Electricity transmission and distribution	1,164		486	
3	Waste management	43		43	
3	Third party residences	3,161		3,045	
3	Staff and student Commuting	5,439		5,439	
3	Homeworking	348		348	
	Total scopes 1, 2		24,612		16,728
	Total scopes 1, 2, 3		181,618		172,939

2019-20 CO₂e emissions (tonnes)

Spotlight on: Scope 3 carbon emissions



Alongside our scope 1 and 2 reduction target, we have been measuring, reporting and setting targets against our scope 3 emissions. Scope 3 emissions are indirect carbon emissions, resulting from activities outside our direct control. These include areas like our supply chain, business travel and waste management.

We are committed to measuring, reporting and reducing our scope 3 emissions, and are working with teams across the university to take action on these areas. For many, we have also set specific reduction targets to track our progress. For others, where emissions may be difficult to estimate, we will be setting out actions and targets in our Climate Action Strategy. While the scope of the net zero

carbon by 2025 target will be decided as part of the King's CAN and development of the strategy, we aim for it to include many scope 3 emissions, and set out actions and/or future targets for all.

While we currently do not measure scope 3 emissions from student travel to and from King's at the start and end of term due to a lack of data, we estimate that this could be up to 40,000 tonnes of CO₂e per year. Due to this significant impact, we plan to consult with students on how, and whether, King's should include this in its target, and how we could reduce emissions without negatively affecting our students' experience.

We currently measure scope 3 emissions in 8 categories:

Scope 3 category	Target/Actions
Supply chain	While no formal reduction target has been set, we are continuously working on improving our data quality, and move from estimating emissions based on spend to accurate reporting by working with suppliers.
Business Travel	We measure and report on both air and land-based business travel. As part of the sustainable travel group set up in 2019-20, we have set a 10% annual reduction target for business air travel emissions from a 2018-19 baseline.
Staff and student commuting	The vast majority of King's students and staff travel to campus by public transport or by cycling/walking. We aim to continue to support this by providing cycling facilities and support, and are setting up an Active Travel Group working on improvements.
Third party residences	While some of our residences are directly managed by King's, we also have a set of residences managed by third party providers, including the University of London. We measure and report on emissions from these residences as part of our scope 3 footprint.
Electricity transmission & distribution	These emissions are linked to our scope 2 electricity emissions, and account for losses during transmission and distribution of energy. As they are proportional to our electricity usage, we will reduce these emissions through energy efficiency and the purchasing of renewable electricity.
Water supply & treatment	We have set the target to reduce our water consumption by 2% every year from 2013 to 2020, which in turn will reduce our emissions associated with supply and treatment of water.

Staff homeworking	Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many university staff members have shifted to work from home from March 2020 onwards. While this likely reduced campus emissions, we recognise that these emissions may occur elsewhere now, and have accounted for this in our 2019-20 scope 3 footprint.
Waste management	We have set a target to recycle 70% of our waste in 2019-20, and measure our progress towards this. We will also publish a new Waste and Resource Management Strategy in 2021, which will set targets to reduce waste instead of only improving recycling rates.

Waste and Recycling

Targets:

- Achieve 70% recycling of total non-hazardous office and residential waste by July 2020: Progress towards target
- Reduce total annual operational waste produced by the university (excluding construction): Achieved



Policy:

The university's Waste Management Policy sets out our commitments and objectives regarding sustainable management of waste at King's. We are committed to following the waste hierarchy of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', prioritising the reduction of waste, and reuse of items, over recycling and generating energy from waste. We are also committed to sending zero non-hazardous waste to landfill.

Progress:

In 2019-20, our annual recycling rate was 64%. While this means we did not achieve our target of recycling 70% of waste, we still made progress on improving waste management across King's.

Due to the closure of our campuses in March 2020, waste was significantly reduced in 2019-20. Waste produced at our campuses dropped from over 150 tonnes in February 2020 to just 18 tonnes in April 2020.

Challenges and opportunities:

We expect waste on campus to remain low throughout 2020-21, as most teaching remains online, and many staff continue to work from home. Over the academic year, we will be working on a new Waste and Resources Strategy, which will set out how we aim to reduce waste over future years by embedding circular economy principles into our operations, and working closely with the Procurement team. We will also review our Waste Management Policy, which was published in 2017, to align it with our aims around waste reduction.

Figure 1: 2019-20 recycling rate against the 70% target

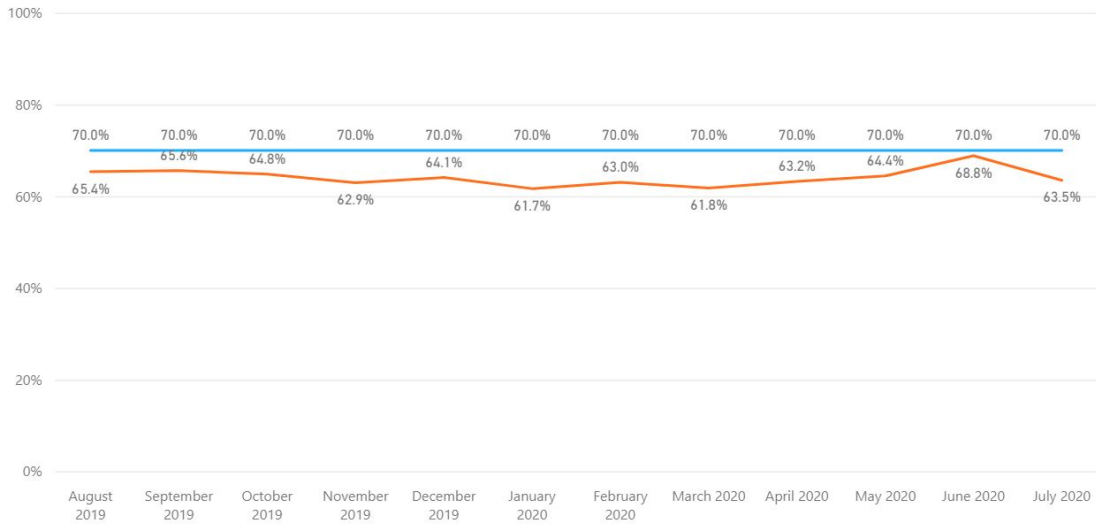


Figure 2: Total operational waste per month (kg)

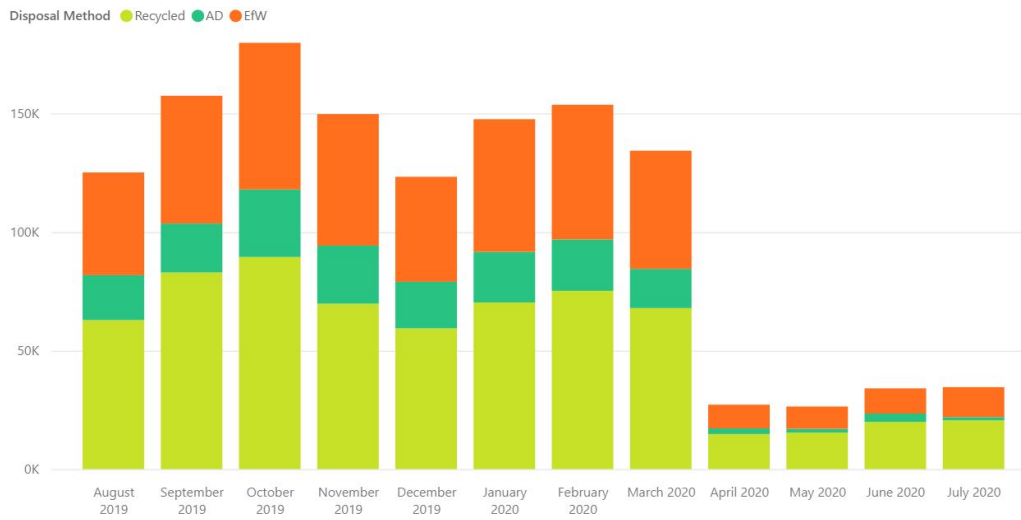
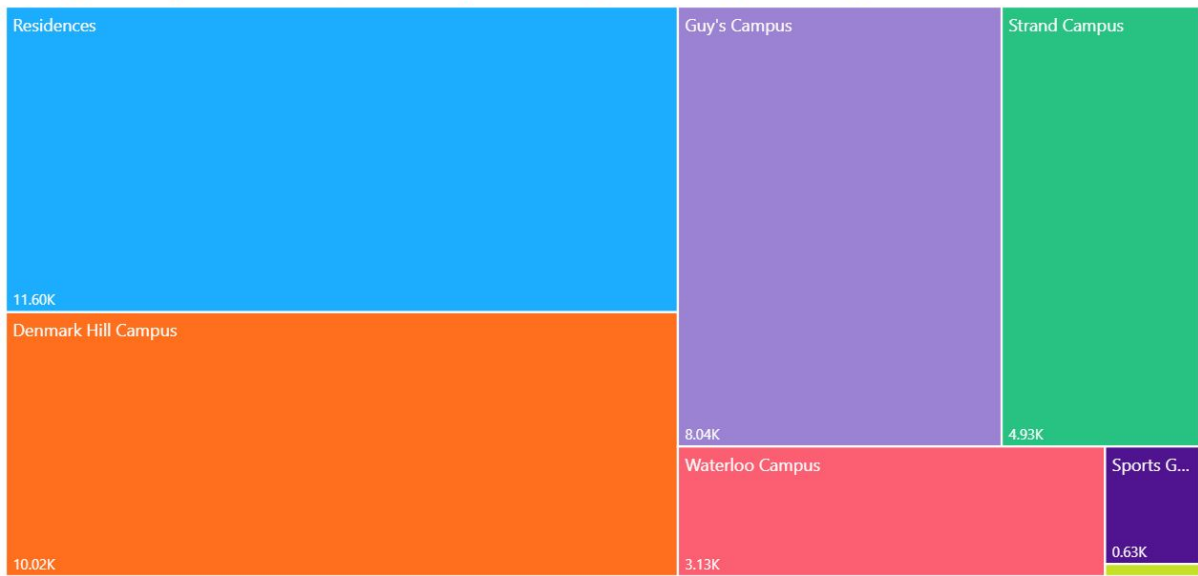


Figure 3: Total operational waste per campus (kg) in 2019-20

Campus ● Residences ● Denmark Hill Campus ● Guy's Campus ● Strand Campus ● Waterloo Campus ● Sports Ground ● Cornwall



Sustainable Food

Target:

- Achieve SRA Rating of at least two stars for King's Food: Achieved

Policy:

The King's Sustainable Food Policy follows the Sustainable Restaurant Association's 'Food Made Good' framework, and aims to make improvements in sourcing, society and environment. King's is committed to reporting to the Food Made Good framework, which allows us to benchmark our sustainability efforts, and track progress on our improvements year on year.

Progress:

In its 2019 Food Made Good rating, King's achieved two stars from the SRA. We increased our score from 59% to 68% compared to 2018, scoring particularly highly in treating staff fairly (80%), valuing natural resources (79%), and supporting global farmers (73%).

Students and staff have continued to engage with our food policies and practices through the Fairtrade and Sustainable Food Steering Group. After the closure of campuses and shift to working from home, group meetings were moved online, continuing conversations about food sustainability and maintaining sustainability initiatives.

The Sustainability Projects Fund, funded through the 20p levy on disposable coffee cups, opened for the first time in 2019-20, allowing students and staff to submit projects. We received a wide range of proposals covering all areas of campus sustainability. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of campuses during the final pitching process, projects had to be placed on hold. We are looking forward to revisiting them, and restarting the fund once we return to campus.

Challenges and opportunities:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, King's Food outlets were closed or had reduced opening times throughout the 2020-21 academic year. The Fairtrade and Sustainable Food Steering Group continued to meet online, discussing challenges around keeping the use of single-use plastic and packaging low while also meeting safety standards. During the pandemic, King's Food continued to provide services to students self-isolating in our halls of residence, delivering food packages and hot meals.



Fairtrade

Target:

- Achieve Fairtrade University status: Achieved

Policy:

King's and KCLSU approved a joint Fairtrade Policy in 2017, committing the university to supporting, promoting and using Fairtrade goods. This includes running our Fairtrade and Sustainable Food Steering Group, offering Fairtrade products as standard, and running events such as Fairtrade Fortnight to highlight the importance of paying a fair price to farmers around the world.

Progress:

We have signed up to the NUS and Fairtrade Foundation's new Fairtrade University programme in 2018, with our first audit due in May 2020.

As part of this, we created a Fairtrade Action Plan, which set out our plans for Fairtrade over two years. These included the criteria we completed for the previous award, such as our Steering Group, selling Fairtrade as standard in some product categories, and promoting the importance of Fairtrade. With the new programme and action plan, we focused on continuous improvement of our activities. This included improving reporting of our Fairtrade sales, bringing Fairtrade into categories like fruit juice, and supporting student societies running events on ethical trade.

All coffee and tea served at King's Food is Fairtrade, and between August 2019 and February 2020 the team served nearly 250,000 cups of Fairtrade coffee and over 55,000 cups of Fairtrade tea in cafés, as well as over 450,000 cups of Fairtrade coffee and tea at hospitality events. In addition to our hot drinks, most snack items are Fairtrade, such as muffins, cookies and flapjacks. King's Food increasingly produce their own baked goods in house, using Fairtrade raw ingredients such as Fairtrade sugar and cocoa. The quantity of Fairtrade items used in this way is difficult to quantify, but a new procurement system will allow King's to measure and report on this going forward.

We also know that Fairtrade is important to our students, and have included questions on Fairtrade and sustainable food in a 2019 survey all students in King's Residences completed before moving in. From this survey, we found that 61% of the nearly 6,000 students surveyed think buying Fairtrade makes a difference. Buying Fairtrade products was also one of the top 5 actions students said they personally support to ensure their food is sourced sustainably, with 38% of respondents saying they buy Fairtrade products. This is compared to 87% who reduce the amount of food they waste, 45% who buy locally produced food, and 39% who eat less meat or buy organic food.

As we moved all activities online in March 2020, our audit for our Fairtrade University accreditation took place through a video call between student auditors, the sustainability team and the King's Food team. We achieved accreditation, and earned one star in addition to completing all mandatory criteria. Following our audit, we started preparing a new Fairtrade Action Plan to be approved in early 2020/21, targeting two stars.



Challenges and Opportunities:

Our 2020-22 Fairtrade Action Plan was approved by the Fairtrade and Sustainable Food Steering group, and is available on the Sustainability webpages. We also reviewed our Fairtrade Policy, which was originally approved in 2017. The new policy aligns our commitments with the new Fairtrade University programme, going beyond the five criteria set out in the original award. Due to the closure of our campuses, our Fairtrade sales for 2019-20 were lower than in the previous year, and many of the activities planned in the 2020-22 Fairtrade Action Plan had to be adjusted due to ongoing restrictions. For example, it was not possible to hold Fairtrade Fortnight events at our outlets, and we had to run events online instead. However, we plan to review our Action Plan and activities ahead of 2021-22 to ensure we can still make a difference, and provide opportunities for students to get involved in Fairtrade.

Spotlight on: Supply chain

King's published its Socially Responsible Procurement Policy in March 2019, setting out our commitments and aims for a more sustainable supply chain, ensuring our Service Strategy is reflected in how we procure goods and services for King's.

It outlines a set of objectives, such as expecting suppliers to demonstrate inclusivity and diversity, have demonstrable practices that are beneficial to the welfare and wellbeing of staff, and to follow our Environmental Sustainability Policy when carrying out contracts. It also highlights our commitment to local boroughs in particular, promoting the use of local businesses and small and medium enterprises. It also aims to increase the number of social enterprises in our supply chain, and consider provisions of the Social Value Act in procurement processes. More information on the Policy, as well as examples of how it is being implemented already, is available in the annual Service Report 2019-20.

We will support the Procurement team in the implementation of this strategy by including procurement as a key impact area in our Climate Action Strategy, and by working with our networks of staff across the university to share these objectives.

Targets:

- Increase number of social enterprises in our supply chain
- Consider provisions of the Social Value Act in procurement processes



Engagement: Students & Education

Target:

- Offer at least 600 hours of student engagement opportunities: Achieved



Policy:

Our Environmental Sustainability Policy commits us to provide opportunities for students and staff to actively engage with sustainability at King's, and to provide students the opportunity to embed sustainability and sustainable development into their education.

The King's Education Strategy also sets out six strategic goals for education at King's. One of these is embedding civic engagement and service learning across King's. This reaffirms our commitment to making the world a better place, linked to the [Service Strategy](#) and our [Strategic Vision 2029](#).

Progress:

Despite the move to working and studying from home in Spring 2020, students and staff engaged with sustainability projects throughout the academic year.

In Welcome Week, our team delivered a range of sessions for students, including an introductory 'Sustainability 101' session, and a seminar on sustainability in the home for students not living at King's Residences. We also engaged with students at both the KCLSU Welcome Fair and the King's Welcome Hubs at various campuses, sharing information on our sustainability initiatives and how to get involved. In total, we provided 1260 hours of student engagement opportunities, from offering volunteering experience to running events.

In 2019-20, students also had the opportunity to get involved in the Champions scheme at a wider scale. As part of our Sustainability Champions Assistants (SCA) scheme, we organised sustainability training for interested student volunteers, and paired them with a Sustainability Champions team. This gave them the opportunity to learn about embedding sustainability into a university department, and support a team with carrying out actions. In total, 53 students got involved in the Sustainability Champions scheme, either as SCAs or by auditing teams.

To support students' education for sustainable development, we have supported the development of the Department of Geography's 'Sustainability in Practice' module, a new interdisciplinary module focused on problem based learning which was launched in the first term of 2020-21. As part of this, the Sustainability team provides a range of sustainability questions and problems faced by King's. Students then work on creating solutions, taking a 'Living Lab' approach, and present them to the Sustainability and other relevant teams.

We also provide a list of potential sustainability dissertation topics on our website, offering to provide King's sustainability data and access to key stakeholders to research sustainability issues.

In 2016-17, we carried out an extensive audit of sustainability education at King's, mapping our curriculum against the 17 UN SDGs. A summary of this is available in our 2016-17 Environmental Sustainability Report.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Due to Covid-19, all Sustainability activities were moved online in March 2020. Since then, we have developed a range of online resources for students to continue engaging with the work of our team. During Welcome Week 2020/21, we delivered even more sessions than in previous years to give as many students as possible the opportunity to find out about sustainability. We ran an online Sustainability month, set up regular online meetings to connect sustainability-related student societies, and have created an internal video channel where students can watch recordings of all our events and workshops.

We have also set up the King's Climate Action Network, which enables students to shape the new King's Climate Action Strategy. While it has been a challenge to move these activities online, it has enabled more students to engage with our team, and we will evaluate which activities may benefit from being online in the future.

Within the King's Climate Action Network, we have also set up a group focused on Students & Education, discussing how to embed climate into education at King's. This includes mapping our climate education, a report of which is available on the [King's sustainability webpages](#).



Engagement: Staff

Targets:

- Minimum 90% of eligible Estates & Facilities staff to complete Fit For King's sustainability module within 12 months of induction: Progress towards target
- Minimum of 60 Staff Sustainability Champion teams completing Bronze, Silver or Gold level: Achieved



Policy:

Our Environmental Sustainability Policy commits us to provide opportunities for students and staff to actively engage with sustainability at King's, and to provide students the opportunity to embed sustainability and sustainable development into their education.

Progress

Our Sustainability Champions programme celebrated its annual re-launch in October, introducing yet more staff into the scheme. As part of the scheme, staff embed sustainability into their offices and activities, and work towards Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. Following a pilot in 2018-19, all laboratory teams moved to the new Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) in 2019-20. This year, the audits were carried out remotely, with students trained by NUS online, and auditing our Champions via Teams.

70 Teams achieved Awards in 2019-20:

21 achieved Bronze

11 achieved Silver

4 achieved Working Towards Gold

34 achieved Gold, surpassing last year's 30 Gold winners

We have also engaged with new staff from across the university to introduce them to sustainability. We have taken part in Welcome to King's sessions organised by Organisational Development. These are open to all new staff, and designed to give them an overview of the university. We used this opportunity to let staff know about our sustainability initiatives and how to get involved. Within Estates & Facilities, the Fit For King's programme introduces all new staff to sustainability through both an induction and a separate sustainability workshop. Our Environmental Sustainability Policy is also included in the Human Resources induction checklist for new staff, to ensure they can familiarise themselves with the sustainability responsibilities they may have in their role.

Challenges and Opportunities

Despite having to move programmes online in March 2020, staff continued to engage with our activities. We held a virtual celebration for our Sustainability Champions in October 2021, and continue to run the Sustainability Champions programme online.

Currently, 77% of Estates & Facilities staff have completed the Fit For King's Sustainability module. While this falls short of our 90% target, we will continue to work with the Fit For King's team to improve the module. As the Fit For King's programme has been adapted to be delivered online, the Sustainability module has now also been made available as an online workshop.

Over the 2020-21 academic year we will engage staff in our King's Climate Action Network, and give them the opportunity to actively shape our Climate Action Strategy.

Sustainable Transport & Travel:

Targets:

- Implement at least two clean air initiatives recommended by Business Low Emission Neighbourhoods: Not achieved
- At least 75% of King's directly controlled fleet to be net zero/low emission vehicles (excluding sports grounds off-road vehicles): Not achieved
- Increase number of bicycle parking spaces across the estate: Not achieved



Policy:

Travel covers two important areas of sustainability at King's: traveling to, from and between our campuses regularly, and business travel.

We are committed to supporting more sustainable commuting by providing access to secure bike storage, cycling facilities, and offer a cycle to work scheme for staff.

More sustainable business travel practices are embedded into the new King's Travel Policy, which allows for more expensive land-based travel over flights, therefore no longer prioritising cost over sustainability.

Progress:

In 2019-20, a sustainable travel group was set up to review how we can make business travel more sustainable. Travel is an essential part of university activities: staff travel to carry out world-class research, to present their research at academic conferences, and to create international networks benefitting society. However, air travel is a significant source of carbon emissions at King's, accounting for over 8,000 tonnes of CO₂e in 2018-19. The group was led by the Vice Principal for Service, and made up of representatives from sustainability, academics, IT, HR, the College Secretariat and procurement. It suggested a set of recommendations to reduce air travel emissions at King's, including:

- Allowing more expensive land-based travel instead of flights
- Setting an air travel emissions reduction target of 10% per year
- Reporting air travel emissions at faculty level, including providing private reports to staff with highest air travel emissions
- Ensuring promotion criteria allow for international recognition to be based on digital engagement
- Improving IT infrastructure and staff training to reduce the need for travel

The recommendations were presented to Academic Board and approved by the university, and the new Travel Policy was published.

To enable more sustainable travel to and between campuses, we have 1,171 bike parking spaces available across our campuses. Information on where they are located is readily available to both students and staff on the university intranet, alongside information on how to gain access to them. From our Travel Survey we learned that cyclists would like to see further improvements to facilities such as showers, lockers and drying spaces made to our campuses, and we continue to work on our facilities.

King's Walks is an online resource providing walking maps between campuses, highlighting points of interest along the routes to encourage more students and staff to walk.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Our air travel work was paused when business travel stopped due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While travel remains restricted in 2020-21, we have set up a sub-group for travel as part of the King's Climate Action Network, with the aim to re-start travel more sustainably.

We have also created an Active Travel group to make cycling and walking more attractive commuting options. The group has been looking at improving facilities, as well as setting up a bike buddies scheme to build confidence in students and staff wishing to cycle in London.

Biodiversity

Target:

- Implement at least 60% of the agreed 2018-20 opportunities identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan: Not achieved

Policy:

Our Biodiversity Action Plan sets out a number of actions and objectives for each campus, with the aim of improving biodiversity and green spaces. We have also set a target to complete at least 60% of the actions planned for 2018-20.

Progress:

We did not achieve our target to complete 60% of 2018-20 actions, with many being affected by budgetary constraints or the closure of campuses in March 2020, making it more challenging to carry out projects over the spring and summer 2020. However, we aimed to promote the importance of biodiversity, and held events for students and staff wishing to learn more about biodiversity. As part of our Sustainability Champions programme, we held a Lunch & Learn on biodiversity. During Sustainability Week 2020, we held a tree art workshop, encouraging students and staff to take time out during their day to reflect on the importance of nature, which ended with planting a tree in the Memorial Garden at Guy's Campus.

We have also supported the creation of the King's Community Garden by providing a growing space at Guy's Campus. Set up by Oli Austen, a Senior Lab Technician and Sustainability Champion, the garden is open to all students and staff. While gardening sessions had to stop during lockdown, a Teams page was created to share updates and progress on both the garden at King's, and from staff growing vegetables and herbs at home. More information on the King's Community Garden is available [here](#).

Challenges and opportunities:

Once students and staff return to our campuses, we aim to revisit the actions of the Biodiversity Action Plan that are yet to be completed. We are also inviting student participation in our biodiversity work, and have put forward a project proposal on measuring biodiversity impact as part of the Sustainability in Practice module run by the Department of Geography.



Water

Target:

- Reduce consumption of water by 2% each year over the 2013-20 period (cubic metres per total FTE – staff and student): Not achieved



Policy:

Our Environmental Sustainability Policy we commit to increasing water efficiency across our campuses through design and maintenance of our estate. Water efficiency is part of our Sustainability Guidance for Capital Projects, which requires construction and refurbishment projects to reduce water usage by integrating efficient equipment and fittings, and to consider grey water systems like rainwater collection and water recycling.

Progress and challenges:

In 2019-20, we saw a significant increase in water consumption compared to the previous year, with our water consumption increasing by 95%. Our 2018-19 report noted that the lower water consumption during this year was likely due to inaccurate billing, and water consumption figures have fluctuated in recent years. Similarly, water consumption figures in 2019-20 largely relied on estimates from our water supplier rather than on accurate data from water meters. Over the next year, we will set out actions to ensure we can more accurately measure our water consumption, and track our progress against targets.

Spotlight on: Residences

King's directly managed four student residences in 2019-20: Great Dover Street Apartments, Stamford Street Apartments, Wolfson House, and Champion Hill (closed in January 2020). In addition, King's works with a range of third-party providers.



The King's Residences team has developed an extensive student engagement programme through King's ResiLife, which is available to students in all residences, both those managed by King's and those managed by third-party providers. As part of this, King's Residences launched the Sustainable Living Community (SLC) in 2019-20. SLCs are communities for students living in the same residence, who would like to explore and learn about sustainability together. We created two SLCs in 2019-20: a Vegan Lifestyle community at Champion Hill, and a Zero-Waste Community at Wolfson House. These residences were chosen due to Champion Hill's gardening space for students, and Wolfson House's proximity to the Students' Union's zero waste store. Students applied to live in one of the communities when applying for their accommodation, and were supported throughout the year by regular events and activities. These included a Welcome meal, regular catch ups, litter picks and sustainability-themed trips such as to food markets and recycling plants. More than 200 students expressed interest in joining the SLCs in their first year, with 13 students being selected to take part. In addition to this, Over 420 students living in King's Residences joined the SLC mailing list to learn more about the wider engagement programme open to all residents.

Alongside this, the ResiLife team organised SDG-themed months, offering events and monthly challenges for all students in Residences. Many of these were organised by the Community Facilitators, a group of paid students who help create communities at each residence.

2019-20 Emissions from Residences: emissions source	Scope	tonnes CO ₂ e
Gas	1	549
Electricity	2	1,063
Water supply	3	103
Water treatment	3	211
Waste	3	5
Third-party Residences	3	3,161
Total scope 1 and 2 emissions from King's-managed residences		1,930
Total scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions from all residences		7,022

Residential and non-residential emissions 2019-20 (tonnes CO ₂ e)	
University scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions	24,611.90
University scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions	181,618.09
Residential emissions as % of total (scope 1 and 2)	8%
Residential emissions as % of total (scope 1, 2 and 3)	4%

Partnership and community engagement

Target:

- Engage with at least one local community project which promotes and improves the environment: Achieved

In our King's Strategic Vision 2029, we set out our ambition to be a civic university at the heart of London, and an international community that

serves the world. We aim to create partnerships with organisations and communities around us, and to support sustainability and the environment by doing so.

In the last year, we engaged with local organisations and Westminster City Council on the pedestrianisation of the Aldwych. This ambitious plan will create a pedestrianised area outside our Strand Campus, and students and staff have been [invited to share](#) their vision for this space. The project will begin in the summer of 2021, and King's will work with the council and our cultural neighbours to develop a programme of activities for the space.

The King's Sustainability team also engages with wider sustainability networks, such as the EAUC (The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education) and LUEG (London Universities Environmental Group), sharing our experiences and working with the sector to become more sustainable. For example, we are engaging with a group of universities to review the current calculation tool used to estimate supply chain emissions, with the aim of updating it to improve our calculation methodology.



Construction and refurbishment

Target:

- BREEAM assessment carried out on all new buildings/major refurbishments as required by planning:
 - o New builds to achieve minimum “Excellent”
 - o major Refurbishments to achieve “Very Good”: Progress towards target
- All large-scale fit-out projects to apply King’s Sustainability Guidelines and Checklist, or complete SKA assessment: Progress towards target



Policy:

Our Environmental Sustainability Policy commits us to manage construction, refurbishment and post-completion occupancy of our buildings to reduce environmental impact and enhance the wellbeing of building users. Our Sustainability Guidelines further set out our commitments to sustainable construction and refurbishment, ensuring sustainability is embedded in all stages of projects.

Progress:

Over the last years, we worked with the Capital Projects team and Project Managers to embed sustainability into construction and refurbishment projects. We carried out no BREEAM assessments during 2019-20, this was due to our guideline of only carrying out BREEAM assessments for projects valued at over £1m. However, we are now carrying out SKA assessments for construction and refurbishment works that do not meet this threshold. In 2019-20, we received SKA Gold for the refurbishment of the Macadam Building on Strand Campus, which was carried out in four phases. Two further projects at our Denmark Hill and Guy’s campuses were in progress during 2019-20, and completed their SKA assessment in 2021. They received SKA Silver (IoPPN, Denmark Hill) and Gold (Guy’s Tower, Guy’s Campus).

Challenges and opportunities:

While some construction projects are currently on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will continue to seek BREEAM and SKA accreditations for our construction and refurbishment projects. Including those on hold, five future projects target BREEAM assessments, while four target SKA assessment.

We will also include construction and refurbishment in our Climate Action Strategy, and will work with students and staff in the Zero Carbon Estate sub-group of the King’s CAN to set targets and recommendations.

Stay in touch

We welcome your thoughts on the sustainability agenda at King's. If you have any comments, or would like to get involved with sustainability at King's, please get in touch with us at sustainability@kcl.ac.uk

Opportunities to get involved in our strategy and activities can be found at kcl.ac.uk/sustainability