Manchester Metropolitan University

Leadership in Sustainability Report

2024/25

Contents

About this report

The 2024/25 Sustainability Report outlines our progress in delivering the ambitions of the Leadership in Sustainability Strategy 2022–2026. It reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in embedding sustainability across all areas of university life.

In this report, we:

- Summarise our key achievements from the 2024/25 academic year
- Report on our performance against strategic Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Present our Scope 1, 2, and 3 carbon emissions data
- Highlight progress in implementing our Carbon Management Plan for Scope 1 and 2 emissions
- Disclose our financial investments

Assurance and verification

Scope

NQA Certification Ltd (NQA) has independently verified Manchester Metropolitan University's Sustainability Report for 2024/25. The verification covers data, information, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) relating to the University's sustainability performance between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025.

The KPIs reflect progress towards the aims and objectives set out in the Leadership in Sustainability Strategy 2022–2026.

Level of assurance and methodology

NQA applied a limited level of assurance, designed to confirm that the data and information presented are accurate, reliable, and comparable.

As part of the ISO 14001:2015 certification process, NQA reviewed Manchester Met's approach to compiling key information in the report. This included:

- Assessing systems and processes for collecting, collating, and reporting sustainability data
- Reviewing relevant documentation
- Interviewing personnel responsible for data preparation
- Authenticating a representative sample of KPI data

Independence

NQA had no involvement in calculating, compiling, or developing the Leadership in Sustainability Report. All verification activities were conducted independently of Manchester Met.

R. Walsh

Richard Walsh MIEMA, CEnv Principal Assessor Energy and Environment

Supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030. With 17 interconnected goals, they provide a shared blueprint for sustainable development across the world.

We recognise our responsibility and opportunity to contribute meaningfully to these goals through our teaching, research, campus operations, and partnerships. Our Leadership in Sustainability Strategy 2022–2026 is aligned with all 17 UN SDGs, ensuring that sustainability is embedded across every aspect of university life.

Leadership in Sustainability Strategy theme	SDGs supported
Leadership in sustainability	**4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17**
Academic innovation and impact	**1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17**
Sustainable campus and practices	**6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17**
Engagement and partnerships	**17**

In 2025, the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, which assesses higher education institutions on the quality of their contribution to the UN SDGs, placed us in the top 8% of institutions worldwide. We also maintained our membership of the United Nations Academic Impact Initiative (a global network of institutions working with the UN in support of the SDGs).

Statement from the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor

At Manchester Metropolitan University, we see sustainability not just as a responsibility, but as an opportunity to lead transformative change. Our ambition is clear: to create a university that sets the standard for climate action and social responsibility, inspiring others across the sector and beyond.

This year, we have taken bold steps toward that vision. We have cut our Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions by 39% since 2018/19, maintained a first class award position in the People and Planet University League, and embedded sustainability into 87% of our courses to empower students with the knowledge and skills to shape a better world. At the time of writing this report, the University has just achieved first place in the People and Planet University League 2025/26, our fourth time at the top of the ranking and a milestone that reflects our unwavering commitment to sustainability leadership.

Our pioneering Carbon Literacy programme continues to lead the sector, receiving a prestigious Advance HE Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence and, along with other key stakeholders, we launched our vision for a Manchester-based Hydrogen Technology Electrolysis and Cell Hub, signalling our commitment to driving innovation for a low-carbon future.

These achievements are only possible because of the creativity, dedication, and collaboration of our colleagues and partners. Our journey is far from over and I am excited for the bold steps we will take next to ensure Manchester Met remains at the forefront of global sustainability leadership.

Professor Steve Rothberg
Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Chair of the Sustainability Strategy Group

Our 2024/25 highlights

12 years in top 5
of People and Planet University League

39% cut in Scope 1 and 2
emissions since 2018/19

87.1%
of courses embed Education for Sustainable Development

82.8%
of students equipped with sustainability skills and knowledge

Ranked in global top 8%
in the THE Impact Rankings 2025

14.9%
reduction in water use since 2021/22

Certified to ISO 14001:2015 international standard for Environmental Management

Proud member of United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)

2,816
students and staff trained in Carbon Literacy this year

Appointed Vice-Chair for the UNAI SDG Hub for Responsible Production and Consumption

3,728
Carbon Literacy certifications achieved[1]

Driving sustainable research as a Concordat signatory[2]

Launched vision for new UK Hydrogen Technology Hub

Enabled 250 schools to build Climate Action Plans

1 Since 2012
2 Concordat for Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice

Performance summary

To track our progress against the objectives set out in the Leadership in Sustainability Strategy, we developed 16 KPIs supported by 22 specific targets. These KPIs help us monitor performance across key areas of sustainability and guide continuous improvement.

Each KPI is assessed and categorised using the following status indicators:

- Exceeded
- Achieved
- Progressing
- Off target with active recovery plan
- Off target

A detailed breakdown of our performance against each KPI is available in the Strategic Performance Metrics section (from 15), providing transparency and accountability in how we measure success and identify areas for further action.

Key Performance Indicator	2024/25	Target	Status
People and Planet University League	1st place	Top 3 annually	Achieved
Environmental management system	Certified	Certified annually	Achieved
Responsible Futures accreditation	Accredited	Accredited biennially	Achieved
Students gaining relevant skills and knowledge	82.8%	90% by 2026/27	Progressing
Education for Sustainable Development embedded in all courses	87.1% of courses	100% by 2026/27	Progressing
Climate change education embedded in all courses	33.7% of courses	100% by 2026/27	Progressing
United Nations Academic Impact membership	Membership	Membership annually	Achieved

Key Performance Indicator	2024/25	Target	Status
Carbon reduction (Scope 1 and 2)	39% reduction	-44% reduction by 25/26	Progressing
Carbon reduction (Scope 3)	70,927 tCO_2e	Net Zero before 2038	Progressing
New building sustainability ratings	Dalton building on track to achieve BREEAM Excellent	BREEAM Excellent	Achieved
Refurbished building sustainability ratings	Grosvenor West refurbishment: on track to achieve SKA Silver rating	SKA Silver rating	Achieved
Sustainability building targets	On track to achieve >80% of in scope targets at planning and construction stages	At least 80% targets	Progressing
Conversion projects to biodiverse habitats	Dalton public realm	100m2 converted annually	Achieved
Sustainable food targets	40%	80% targets by 2026/27	Progressing
Business travel policy	Policy live and monitored	Develop and maintain compliance by 2026/27	Achieved
Reuse and recycling	45.5% reused and recycled	60% by 2026/27	Off target with active recovery plan
Water reduction	-14.9% reduction	-10% by 2026/27	Exceeded
Sustainability as key criterion in tendered projects	100%	100% by 26/27	Achieved
Modern slavery compliance amongst suppliers	100%	100% by 2023	Achieved
Ethical investment policy	Compliant	Maintain compliance	Achieved
Climate change adaptation risks	Identified likelihood and severity of flooding and heat stress	Identify risks by 2026/27	Progressing
Co-created sustainability projects	Total projects delivered: 12 • 5 projects (24/25) • 4 projects (23/24) • 3 projects (22/23)	10 projects delivered by 2026/27	Exceeded

Leadership in sustainability and climate change

Through our Leadership in Sustainability strategy, we aim to make Manchester Met a beacon of sustainable development practice, making a positive difference to our society, the environment, and the economy through our education, research, partnerships, and campus.

Every year for the past 12 years, we have achieved a top five ranking in the People and Planet University League, which assesses all UK universities on their environmental and ethical performance. In this independent assessment, we achieved 100% scores for our environmental policy and strategy, auditing and management, staff engagement and HR practices.

In 2025, the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which assesses higher education institutions on the quality of their contribution to the UN SDGs, placed us in the top 8% of institutions worldwide out of 2,526 participating universities.

Academic innovation and impact: in education

One of the things that characterises our approach is the way we commit to embedding Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) across all our courses, which is part of the remit of Liz Price MBE, Professor of Environmental Education and Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sustainability.

Empowering change agents for sustainability

We have committed to embed ESD and climate change education into all our taught courses by 2026/27 and are making good progress towards this goal.

A significant new initiative in 2024/25 was the launch of an e-learning tool and related resources to help faculties and departments across the University to embed ESD into their respective programmes. This was accompanied by a series of in-person workshops to help get the main messages across – and show that, often, ESD is about the reframing of existing learning and teaching.

Around 380 colleagues attended the workshops, while some 60 participated in the e-learning. And, during the year, the number of programmes including ESD increased from 48% to 87% and more than a third of our programmes now include climate change education.

More recognition for our pioneering Carbon Literacy programmes

Our sector-leading approach to sustainability was highlighted in the 2025 Advance HE Teaching Excellence Awards, which celebrate the exceptional contributions of individuals and teams who teach or support student learning across UK higher education.

Our pioneering Carbon Literacy programme received a Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence. Recognised for its innovation and impact, the programme is driving meaningful change in response to the global climate crisis, equipping students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to take informed climate action in their personal, academic and professional lives.

We also made further progress with the delivery of our Carbon Literacy initiatives. During the year, a further 2,800 students participated in training, and 705 Carbon Literacy certifications were awarded.

Sustainability training also played a role in our transnational educational partnerships. For example, our teams delivered Climate Change Challenge training to students from the British University in Egypt as part of their preparation for a COP Climate Change Conference simulation.

Academic innovation and impact: in research

Through our research and knowledge exchange, we aim to tackle many of the grand challenges of our time. Leading Sustainability is one of our five research missions, which sees us investigate areas such as the circular economy, cleaner fuels, and how to protect vulnerable wildlife and environments.

Producing research with environmental impact

Examples from 2024/25 include:

- **An £8.4m innovation project to support sustainable farming** – we are leading an international project, the Palus Demo project, aimed at transforming farming on peatlands through sustainable practices. This focuses on paludiculture, a method of sustainable farming and forestry on re-wetted peatlands that reduces carbon emissions and supports biodiversity. We are establishing demonstration sites and developing business models to support farmers in adopting sustainable land use practices.
- **Advancing climate science through global collaboration** – several of our researchers, led by Professor David Lee, received the prestigious Haagen-Smit Prize to recognise their contribution to climate and air quality research. With over 800 citations, their work has significantly influenced both academic understanding and policy development, helping shape informed discussions around the environmental impact of air travel.

We also want to ensure that all our research is carried out in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way. To demonstrate our commitment, we signed up to the Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice, a new voluntary initiative co-created by the UK research and innovation sector.

Launching the Institute for Children's Futures

In November 2024, we launched our new Institute for Children's Futures (ICF) – an interdisciplinary Institute committed to improving children's and young people's lives, rights and opportunities through research, policy, and practice.

It unifies our research strengths related to children and young people, and champions interdisciplinary collaboration between academics, professional services, policy makers, practitioners and service providers.

Bringing together 100 researchers from across the University, plus members from across the world, the ICF is pursuing three research workstreams that reflect its strategic priorities: children's voices and participation, what makes a child-friendly city, and internationalisation.

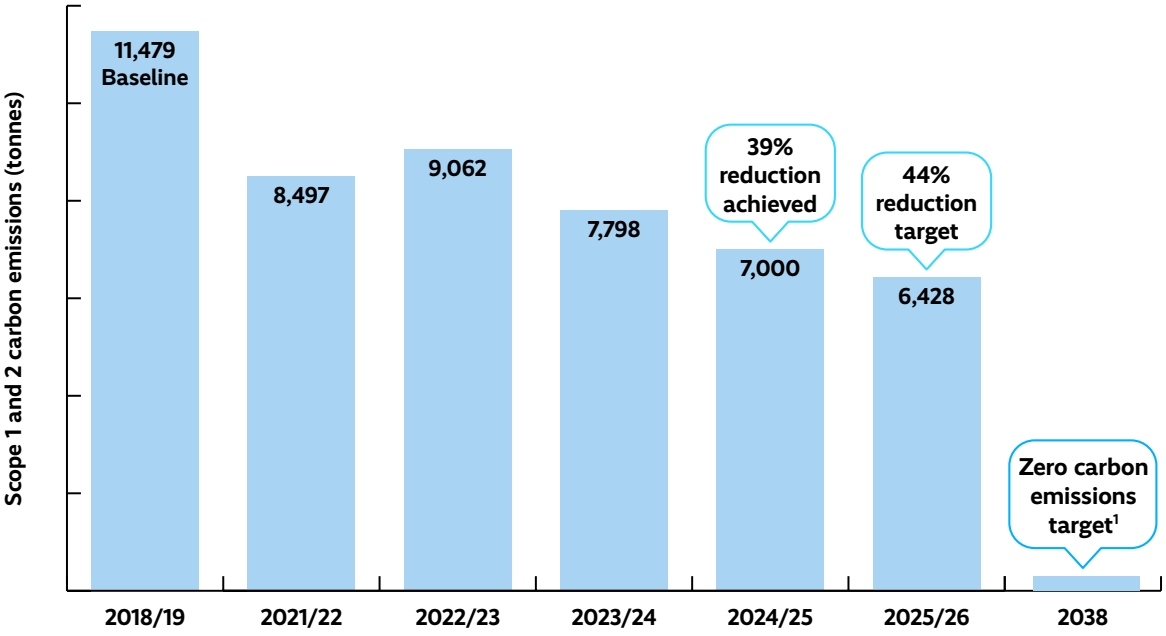
A sustainable campus and practices

A clear and ambitious plan to address our direct emissions.

For 2024/25 our scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions were 7,000 tonnes.

This means we have successfully reduced these emissions by 39% (against our 2018/19 baseline). It also means we are on track to achieve our 44% reduction target by 2025/26 – the commitment we made in our Road to 2030 strategy. Our current Carbon Management Plan to 2025/26 is the first of three plans that set the trajectory for scope 1 and 2 emissions reductions and outlines what we must do to achieve our 2038 zero-carbon commitment.

Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions



More progress in understanding and addressing our indirect emissions

Most of our carbon emissions are scope 3 emissions, nearly 90% in 2024/25, and arise from activities we are indirectly responsible for, such as the goods and services we buy and the ways our staff and students travel to the University.

In 2024/25, we continued to work with a third-party consultant to improve our understanding of our scope 3 emissions, enhance the quality of our reporting, and agree a pathway for emissions reduction. We also identified four priority areas to address supply chain emissions (namely, IT and digital, campus development, teaching and scientific equipment, and capital goods) and began the process of engaging with our largest suppliers in these areas to outline our objectives and understand their respective decarbonisation plans.

Looking ahead, we intend to further enhance the accuracy of our scope 3 reporting by gradually shifting from spend-based data to activity-based data.

1 Refer to the glossary on page 23 for our definition of zero carbon.

Assessing climate risks on campus

In collaboration with specialists across the university, we conducted a comprehensive study to evaluate the direct physical impacts of climate change on our campus, focusing on the likelihood and severity factors of flooding and heat stress, now and in the future. This assessment provides a strong evidence base for understanding climate-related vulnerabilities and delivers critical insights to inform data-driven strategic decisions.

The findings will help shape our campus development masterplan and operational strategies, ensuring resilience is embedded into the heart of our future planning, and was featured in the Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE) Climate Change and Adaptation and Resilience Guides for the UK Higher Education sector.

A disciplined approach to environmental management across our operations

In January 2025, following an independent assessment, we successfully maintained our certification to the international environmental management standard, ISO 14001:2015. This meant we also maintained our EcoCampus Platinum certification – a programme that recognises higher education institutions for the effectiveness of their environmental management systems.

Sustainable construction for sustainable fashion

As we continue to develop and update our campus, environmental sustainability is a central consideration. A highlight from 2024/25 was the completion of our new £3.8m Robotics Living Lab (RoLL) which includes several low-carbon construction techniques – such as a UK-grown Douglas Fir frame and straw-insulated wall panels.

Part of the Manchester Fashion Institute, RoLL explores more sustainable approaches for fashion manufacturing. As Susan Postlethwaite, Professor of Fashion says: "The lab will support new research in collaboration with small businesses to bring back fashion manufacturing to the UK, using new technologies to develop innovative, new, carbon-neutral and sustainable approaches to high-value, low-volume production."

Implementing a wide-ranging programme of energy efficiency initiatives

Our progress towards decarbonisation has been largely driven by a wide-ranging programme of energy efficiency, demand reduction and energy generation initiatives.

An important milestone for 2024/25 was the completion of a two-year, £7.2m project to upgrade the Birley Energy Centre and replace its existing gas-fired boilers with state-of-the-art electric ground source heat pumps. As this facility provides heating and hot water to more than 1,000 students and the Brooks Building and has traditionally accounted for more than a quarter of our gas use, this was a significant achievement – moving us towards the complete electrification of the Birley Campus.

In addition, new arrays of solar panels were installed on two of our halls of residence, and we are close to completing the migration to energy-efficient LED lighting across the entire estate. Following a successful pilot, we continued to integrate meteorological data into our campus-wide building management systems. This means our primary heating and cooling systems can now be triggered by predicted weather patterns, which helps prevent overheating and avoids the need for remedial cooling. During 2024/25, the system was activated on almost 100 occasions, significantly reducing energy consumption and emissions.

Other initiatives include further upgrades to our building management systems and related software, to further improve our responsive building control capabilities. Following a successful pilot, we also switched over to a new custom-designed sensor-controlled air curtain heating system at the entrance to the Lowry Building, which is 90% more energy efficient than the previous system and will be incorporated into all new builds moving forwards.

A new, award-winning garden

As part of our work to enhance biodiversity across our campus, a new addition for 2024/25 was the relocation of an award-winning show garden from the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park to the Brooks Building on the University campus. Called Chained to Tech, it symbolises the tension between digital overload and emotional wellness, and will serve as a tranquil space for research, education, and community wellbeing.

Engagement and partnerships

Regionally, nationally, and internationally, we aim to work with partners to amplify our impact and bring about tangible environmental benefits. Indicative developments in 2024/25 included:

- The September 2024 launch of the Climate Ambassadors scheme, formed by the UK government and backed by £2million of funding, with Manchester Metropolitan selected as the regional hub for the North West. Through a series of events, we helped more than 250 education settings – from early years to further education – to develop climate action plans.
- Our Carbon Literacy specialists delivered certified training on behalf of several partners, including Natural Resources Wales, Salford City Council, and the Co-op Foundation. We also delivered a bespoke, sustainability focused, executive education programme to a major global bank, supporting the implementation of its own, organisation-wide, sustainability strategy.
- In April 2025, we launched our vision to develop the Hydrogen Technology Electrolysis and Cell Hub (HYTECH), a new national hub for hydrogen that will bring together world-leading academics and experts with extensive labs and facilities at a scale that does not currently exist in the UK. We lead the project, working in partnership with the University of Manchester, The Royce Institute, University of Salford, and National Physical Laboratories together with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Other partnerships include: the Greater Manchester Civic University Green Skills Working Group which Manchester Metropolitan is co-chairing; Greening the city through creativity, part of the Manchester Flower Festival, where students worked with social enterprise Sow The City to transform city spaces into vibrant micro-gardens; and the Big Sustainable Innovation Challenge, an experiential learning opportunity to co-create sustainable solutions with real-world impact, co-organised with Ulster University, University of Liverpool, and Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht Berlin, in partnership with The Royal & Ancient Golf Club at St Andrews.

Measuring our progress

To track our progress against the objectives set out in the Leadership in Sustainability Strategy, we developed 16 KPIs supported by 22 specific targets. These KPIs help us monitor performance across key areas of sustainability and guide continuous improvement. We also highlight which of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals our strategic priorities and activities contribute towards.

Each KPI is assessed and categorised using the following status indicators:

- Exceeded
- Achieved
- Progressing
- Off target with active recovery plan
- Off target

Leadership in Sustainability

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17.

Issue	Metric	Target	2024/25 performance	2023/24 performance	Assessment of progress
Environmental and ethical performance	People and Planet University League ranking	Maintain top three position	1st place	2nd place	Achieved[1]
Environmental management	ISO 14001:2015 certification	Maintain certification	Certified	Certified	Achieved
Institutional approach to embedding sustainability and social responsibility	Responsible Futures Accreditation	Accreditation achieved	Accredited	Accredited in 2024	Achieved

Academic innovation and impact

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.

Issue	Metric		Target	2024/25 performance	2023/24 performance	Assessment of progress
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	Students satisfied they have opportunities to gain sustainable development skills and knowledge[2]		At least 90%	82.8%	81.2%	Progressing
	Inclusion of ESD and climate change education in courses[3]	ESD	100%	87.1%	47.9%	Progressing
		Climate change	100%	33.7%	36.1%	

1 We ranked 1st in the 2025/26 University League, based mainly on our 2024/25 performance. In the 2024/25 League, we placed 5th.
2 Data source: University annual enrolment surveys (returning student responses)
3 Data source: ESD and climate change annual audit completed by Strategic Planning, Curriculum Services and Academic Departments

Sustainable campus and practices

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.

Issue	Metric	Target	2024/25 performance	2023/24 performance	Assessment of progress
Carbon reduction	Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions	44% reduction by 2025/26, and zero carbon before 2038	-39% 7,000 tCO_2e	-32.1%[1] 7,798 tCO_2e	Progressing
	Scope 3 carbon emissions	Net zero before 2038	70,927 tCO_2e	89,671 tCO_2e	Progressing
Sustainable buildings	BREEAM rating new buildings	Excellent rating (with aspiration of outstanding)	Dalton building[2]: on track to achieve Excellent rating	Dalton building complete: on track to achieve Excellent rating	Achieved[3]
	SKA rating for major refurbishment projects[4]	Silver rating (with aspiration of gold)	Grosvenor West: on track to achieve Silver rating	Grosvenor West refurbishment complete: on track for SKA Silver rating	Achieved[5]
	Sustainability tracker for new building and major refurbishment projects	At least 80% targets achieved	On track to achieve >80% of in scope targets at planning and construction stages[6]	No relevant building projects in reporting year	Progressing
Biodiversity value	Amenity grass converted to biodiverse habitat	100^{2}m annually	Dalton public realm[7]	All Saints Park redevelopment: wildflower habitats[8] and 16 semi-mature trees planted	Achieved
Sustainable food	Sustainable Food Policy targets	80% targets achieved by 2026/27	40%	Policy reviewed[9]	Progressing
Reuse and recycling	Reuse and recycling rate[10]	60% by 2026/27	45.5%	43.4%	Off target with active recovery plan

1 Against 2018/19 baseline year

2 The Dalton building design was agreed before the development of the BREEAM Excellent metric in the Leadership in Sustainability Strategy (2022-2026)

3 Pending the receipt of BREEAM Excellent certificate

4 A major refurbishment project is defined as a project with a total expenditure value above £3 million

5 Pending issuance of SKA Silver certificate

6 As at RIBA stage 3 Library and All Saints West projects

7 Dalton public realm soft landscaping delivered an increase of on-site net habitat units (1.09 hectares equivalent to 10,900m2). The public realm includes the creation of amenity grassland, trees and ground level planting including a range of shrubs and groundcover species. Reported in 2024/25, following the defects liability period ending June 2025.

8 576m^2 wildflower turf planted

9 Sustainable Food Policy reviewed and approved Jan 2025

10 Excluding wastes from building and refurbishment projects

Issue	Metric	Target	2024/25 performance	2023/24 performance	Assessment of progress
Sustainable travel	Business Travel Policy	Develop and maintain	Policy live and monitored	Policy developed and undergoing approval	Achieved
Water efficiency	Water consumption (m^3) per m^2	10% reduction (0.49 water m^3/m^2) by 2026/27	-14.9%[1] 0.463 m^3/m^2	-19.4% 0.439m^3/m^2	Exceeded
Sustainable procurement	Tendered projects over £50k[2] include environmental sustainability and social value as key contract criteria	100% by 2026/27	100%	In development	Achieved
	Tier 1 supply chain partners[3] compliant with Modern Slavery Act (where applicable) and identify risks for modern slavery in their own supply chains	100% by 2023, onwards to 2026	100% contracted large and enterprise organisations compliant	100% contracted large and enterprise organisations compliant	Achieved
Ethical investment	Ethical investment policy	Full compliance annually	Compliant	Compliant	Achieved
Climate change adaptation and resilience	Climate change business risks	Identify risks by 2026/27	Identified likelihood and severity of flooding and heat stress	In development	Progressing

Engagement and partnerships

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals contributed towards: 17.

Issue	Metric	Target	2024/25 performance	2023/24 performance	Assessment of progress
United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)	Member of UNAI	Maintain membership	Member	Member	Achieved
Community Involvement	Projects co-created with local community	10 projects by 2026/27	Total projects delivered: 12 • 5 projects (24/25) • 4 projects (23/24) • 3 projects (22/23)	4 projects delivered	Exceeded

1 Against 2021/22 baseline year

2 Procurement thresholds for tendered projects changed from £30k to £50k in July 2024 to align procurement threshold values across the university.

3 Defined as suppliers with a turnover of >£36m where the University has a spend >£100,000 in the reporting year 2023/24

Carbon Emissions Reporting

We continue to align our carbon emissions reporting with the Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework developed by the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC), alongside the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Value Chain Accounting and Reporting Standard for Scope 3 emissions. This ensures consistency, transparency, and comparability in how we measure and report our environmental impact.

For Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions, we indicate our current reporting level using the EAUC's three-tiered accuracy scale:

- Level 1: Basic methodology with lower accuracy
- Level 2: Intermediate methodology with medium accuracy
- Level 3: Advanced methodology with best-in-class accuracy

These levels help explain the reliability of our data and guide future improvements in measurement and reporting.

Our baseline year for Scope 1 and 2 emissions is 2018/19. For Scope 3 emissions, the baseline year is 2022/23 unless otherwise specified. These baselines support our long-term carbon reduction targets and inform our Carbon Management Plan (Scope 1 and 2).

Total Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Emission source	Reporting level	Baseline (tCO_2e)	2024/25 (tCO_2e)	Change on baseline	
				tCO_2e	Percentage change
Total Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions	Level 3	11,479	7,000	-4,479	39%

Scope 1: Direct GHG emissions

Emission source	Reporting level	Baseline (tCO_2e)	2024/25 (tCO_2e)	Change on baseline		Material (Y/N)	Reason for exclusion
				tCO_2e	Percentage change		
Natural gas	Level 3	4,664	3,370	-1,294	-27.8%	Y	
Fleet (owned and leased)	Level 3	24	26	+2	+8%	Y	
Refrigerants and f-gas	Level 3	113	338	+225	+199%	Y	
Other Fuels	Not reported	0	0	0	0	N	Insignificant (<1% of total emissions)
TOTAL SCOPE 1		**4,801**	**3,734**	**-1,067**	**-22.2%**		

Scope 2: Indirect GHG emissions

Emission source	Reporting level	Baseline (tCO_2e)	2024/25 (tCO_2e)	Change on baseline		Material (Y/N)	Reason for exclusion
				tCO_2e	Percentage change		
Purchased electricity[1]	Level 3	6,678	3,266	-3,412	-51.1%	Y	
TOTAL SCOPE 2		**6,678**	**3,266**	**-3,412**	**-51.1%**		

1 Including purchased electricity consumed by the University

Carbon emissions intensity

The University reduced its Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions in absolute terms by 39% by the end of the academic year 2024/25, against its baseline year of 2018/19.

We also provide carbon intensity metrics – the amount of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of activity or output. The table below shows carbon per area of space (square metres). These intensity metrics are helpful because we can assess our performance on carbon emissions independently of the effects of changes in the size of the university. This is pertinent because of the growth of the university in recent years.

Carbon emissions intensity data	Baseline (2018/19)	2024/25	Change on baseline	
			Absolute	Percentage change
Carbon emissions intensity (Scope 1 and 2) per GIA (m^2)	0.042	0.023	0.019	-45.2% less carbon emissions per m^2

Scope 3: Other indirect GHG emissions

GHG emissions category	Emission source	Reporting level	2022/23 baseline year	2024/25 (tCO_2e)	Change on baseline	Material (Y/N)	Reason for exclusion
1	Purchased goods and services (including scope 3 emissions from mains water supplied)	Level 1	52,076	46,567	-10.6%	Y	
2	Capital goods	-	-	-		Currently reported in category 1	
3	Fuel and energy –related activities not included in Scope 1 or Scope 2 • Upstream emissions of purchased fuels	Level 3	710	557	-21.5%	Y	
3	Fuel and energy – related activities not included in Scope 1 or Scope 2 • Upstream emissions of purchased electricity	Level 3	1,100	920	-16.4%	Y	
3	Fuel and energy – related activities not included in Scope 1 or Scope 2 • Transmission and distribution losses	Level 3	395	342	-13.5%	Y	
4	Upstream transportation and distribution	-	-	-		HESCET[1] utilised for category 1 supply chain	
5	Waste generated in operations and waste water treatment	Waste – level 3 & 2 Water – level 2	70	31 • Waste: 7 • Waste water: 24	-56.1%	Y	
6	Business travel	Air travel: level 3	1,455	1,934	+32.9%	Y	
		Land and sea: level 1	150	117	-21.8%		

1 Higher Education Supply Chain Emissions Tool utilised, therefore reported category 4 upstream transportation and distribution emissions is not required in line with the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework

Scope 3: Other indirect GHG emissions (continued)

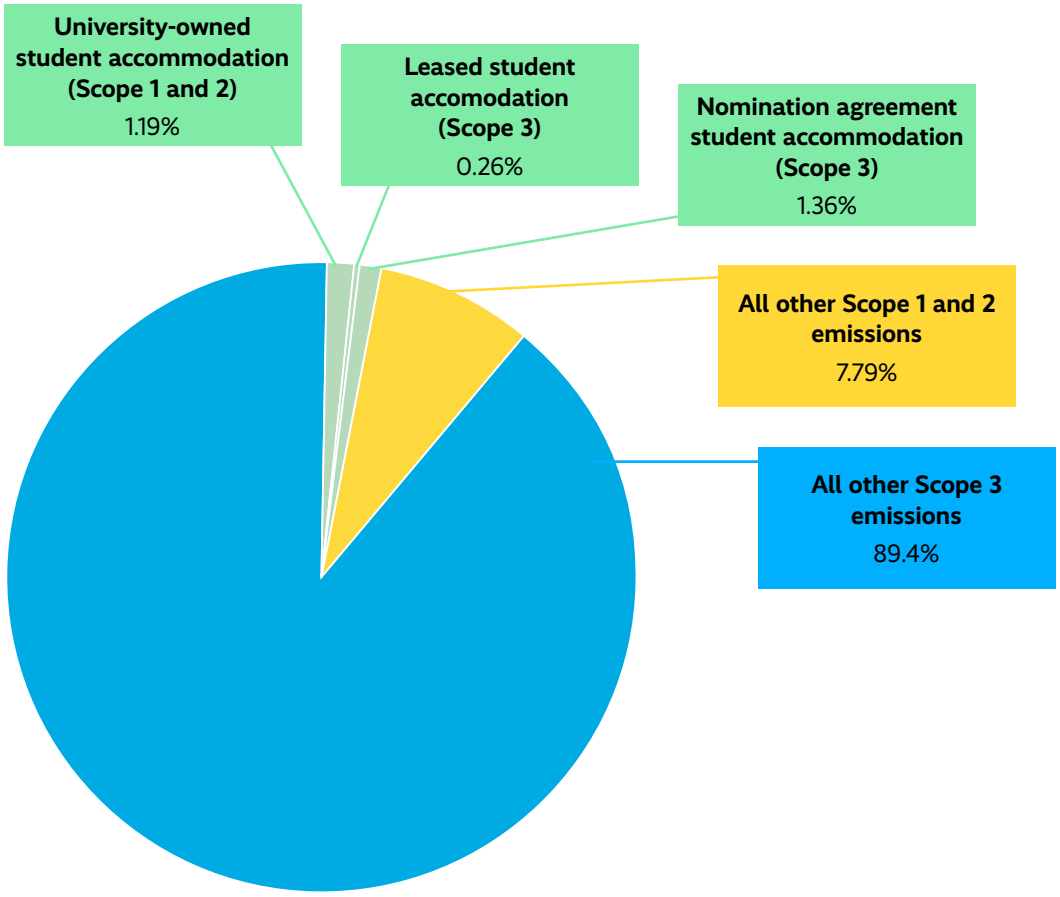
GHG emissions category	Emission source	Reporting level	2022/23 baseline year	2024/25 (tCO_2e)	Change on baseline	Material (Y/N)	Reason for exclusion
6	Business travel • Hotels (Travel Management Company only)	Level 3	88	115	+31.2%	Y	
7	Employee commuting • Transportation of employees	Level 3	2,171	2,171	No change[1]	Y	
7	Employee commuting • Homeworking	-	Not reported	Not reported		Y	Methodology in development
8	Upstream leased assets • Student accommodation	Energy consumption – Level 3	380	200	-47.3%	Y	
8	Upstream leased assets • Referral and nomination agreement student accommodation	Energy consumption – Level 3	1,013	1,060	+4.6%	Y	
9	Downstream transportation and distribution • Student commuting	Level 3	10,274	7,707	-25%	Y	
9	Downstream transportation and distribution • Student travel home – UK students	Level 3	1,293	1,135	-12.2%	Y	
9	Downstream transportation and distribution • Student travel home – Overseas students	Level 3	10,641	7,969	-25.1%	Y	
10	Processing of sold products	-	-	-		N	Not relevant
11	Use of sold products	-	-	-		N	Not significant
12	End of life treatment of sold products	-	-	-		N	Not significant
13	Downstream leased assets	Energy consumption – Level 3	125	103	-17.4%	Y	
14	Franchises	-	-	-		N	Not relevant
15	Investments	-	-	-		Y	Not reported
TOTAL SCOPE 3			**81,939**	**70,927**	**-13.4%**		

1 No change due to data source being from the Employee Travel Survey 2023

Carbon emissions and student accommodation

Carbon emissions resulting from student accommodation facilities are significant and are considered as part of our carbon reduction plans. We report on emissions from university-owned and leased accomodation, and from student accomodation where the University has a nomination agreement.

Our total carbon emissions from student accommodation[1] for the reporting year 2024/25 were 2,187 tCO_2e and accounted for approximately 2.8%[2] of the University's total carbon footprint.



1 Excluding privately rented homes or rooms
2 Figure rounded to one decimal place

Data and information

The data and information presented in this report cover the 2024/25 academic year (1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025), unless otherwise stated. Progress against the performance metrics outlined in our Leadership in Sustainability Strategy is measured using baseline years specified alongside each indicator.

In some cases, previously reported data have been updated to reflect improved methodologies or corrections. Where adjustments have been made, we provide clear explanations to ensure transparency and accuracy in our reporting.

Institutional data

Number of FTE staff	4,257
Number of FTE students	35,842
Number of campuses	1
Total floor area (total GIA m^2)	300,951[1]
Income (£)	459,634,000

Our approach to treasury management and ethical investment

At Manchester Met, we are committed to investing our funds responsibly, taking into account ethical, environmental, social, and corporate governance considerations. In line with our Leadership in Sustainability Strategy, we aim to place all short-term investments and endowments with financial institutions whose values align with our own.

We do not intentionally invest directly (or through collective funds) in:

- fossil fuel companies
- arms companies
- corporations complicit in the violation of international law
- organisations with high exposure to activities or substances which are potentially injurious to health (including alcohol and tobacco).

We do not invest directly in organisations that lack policies to manage and significantly reduce the risk of serious environmental harm. This approach reflects our broader commitment to supporting global environmental protection and sustainability.

To ensure transparency, we publish an annual list of our investments on the University's ethical investment webpages.

Modern slavery

The University provides clear direction on its approach to the removal of modern slavery in our business and supply chains through our modern slavery act policy.

Our procurement strategy and processes identify the standards and principles we require our suppliers to commit to and evidence as part of our supplier selection process.

Achievements from 2024/25 include:

- Renewing membership of Slave Free Alliance (part of Hope for Justice).
- Maintaining active membership with Electronics Watch.
- Delivering an introduction to modern slavery to over 90 colleagues.
- Further developing our internal modern slavery resources and information.
- Completing an internal audit of our compliance with the Modern Slavery Act.
- Developing a Modern Slavery Supplier Code of Conduct with the Slave Free Alliance, to be adopted by our suppliers where they don't have their own statement or policy.

Further information can be found in our Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Annual Statement.

1 Based on the preliminary HESA EMR data return for 2024/25 (November 2025)

Glossary

BREEAM
The Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method is an established method of assessing, rating and certifying the sustainability of buildings.

Carbon emissions
Carbon is referred to throughout this report as the carbon dioxide equivalent unless otherwise stated.

Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e)
A standard unit for measuring and comparing carbon footprints. Each greenhouse gas has a different global warming potential (GWP) and persists for a different length of time in the atmosphere. CO_2e expresses the impact of different greenhouse gases (GHGs) in terms of the amount of CO_2 that would have the equivalent GWP.

Fugitive emissions
Unintentional leaks of gases or vapours from equipment, pipelines, or storage systems, such as fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases).

Greenhouse Gas (GHG)
Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, for example, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. These gases differ in how long they stay in the atmosphere and how strongly they impact it.

Gross Internal Area (GIA)
Total floor area contained within the external walls of a building, including all internal spaces.

ISO 14001:2015
The international standard that specifies requirements for an effective environmental management system (EMS). It provides a framework an organisation can follow rather than establishing environmental performance requirements.

kWp
Solar panel systems are rated in kilowatts peak (kWp), which is the rate at which they generate energy at peak performance, such as on a sunny day in the afternoon.

Net zero carbon
Manchester Met is working towards net zero carbon for Scope 3 carbon and carbon equivalent emissions before 2038. We will implement actions to avoid and reduce emissions before investing in high-quality offsets for remaining emissions.

Scope 1, 2, 3 emissions
Our greenhouse gas emissions are classified in three ways:

- Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the university, such as burning natural gas to generate steam for heating and cooling.
- Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy, such as consuming electricity from a utility provider.
- Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions (not included in Scope 2) that occur in our value chain of the reporting organisation.

SKA Rating
An environmental assessment method, benchmark and standard for non-domestic refurbishment projects.

Zero carbon
Manchester Met is working towards zero carbon for Scope 1 and 2 carbon and carbon equivalent emissions before 2038, as defined by the Tyndall Centre's proposed science-based targets and definition of zero-carbon for Manchester ('Playing our full part').

Contact us

Thanks to the commitment of our staff, students, neighbours and partners, we've made tremendous progress in reaching so many of our goals. We aim to be even bolder in future. If you would like to find out more or share your thoughts and ideas, we would love to hear from you.

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We are committed to ensuring that all our materials are accessible. This information is available in a range of formats, such as large print, on request via brand@mmu.ac.uk