**Carbon management plan (2023-30)**

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| **Responsibility of**  | Environmental Operations Group  |
| **Initial approval date**  | July 2023  |
| **Reviewed** | June 2024 |
|  **Next review** | June 2025 |
| **Approved by**  | Vice-Chancellor Executive |

**Carbon management plan**

**1 Introduction**

1.1 The University of West London (UWL) has four campus sites in Ealing and Brentford, west London and an educational hub at Fountain House in Reading. Drama Studio London in Ealing, and Ruskin College, Oxford are also part of the UWL Group where the University supports carbon management initiatives.

1.2 The University teaches a variety of academic subjects across eleven academic schools. The day-to-day activities of staff and students have a major impact on the local community and environment, and therefore the University is a significant contributor to the local economy, especially in west London.

1.3 UWL has developed a Carbon Management Plan (CMP) and programme of initiatives designed specifically target carbon emissions with the goal of delivering significant reductions across the University’s portfolio.

1.4 The CMP is reviewed on an annual basis.

**2 Background**

2.1 The underlying need for this CMP is to deliver on the University’s carbon reduction targets and wider statutory obligations.

2.2 The Board of Governors (BoG) has endorsed the University Strategic Plan *Achievement 2023* which contains a clear commitment to “improve significantly environmental credentials” by 2023. The KPI set by the BoG to measure progress in achieving environmental sustainability was for the University to achieve the EcoCampus Gold Award by 2023.

2.3 The BoG also approved the adoption of relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relating to environmental sustainability to drive its sustainability agenda forward, including Climate Action. The University is committed to delivering relevant SDGs by 2030.

2.4 In 2020, the University declared a Climate Emergency and signed the United Nations Race to Zero campaign to commit to achieving net zero carbon by 2030.

**3 Carbon emissions baseline**

3.1 The carbon emissions baseline is for the academic year, 2021/22, which is between 1st August 2021 to 31st July 2022.

3.2 The total carbon emissions calculated during 2021/22 is 12,825 tCO2e. This figure includes all Scopes 1, 2 and 3 activities where data is available and covers electricity, fuel, natural gas, water, waste and travel. Table 1 below shows a detailed breakdown of the carbon emissions baseline.

**Table 8 Carbon emissions baseline (2021/22)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Scope** | **Source**  | **Carbon emissions (tCO2e)** |
| Scope 1 | Natural gas  | 555.37 |
| Scope 1 | Other fuels  | 4.565 |
| Scope 2 | Electricity  | 1,377.93 |
| Scope 3 | Water treatment  | 7.668 |
| Scope 3 | Water supply  | 4.2 |
| Scope 3 | Waste  | 3.221 |
| Scope 3 | Business travel  | 104 |
| Scope 3 | Employee commuting | 3166\* |
| Scope 3 | Downstream transportation (Student travel – commuting and international relocation) | 7602\* |
|  | **Total**  | **12,824.95** |

\* Estimate calculated from survey data

3.3 Work is currently underway to calculate emissions associated with our purchased goods and services, and capital goods expenditure, so that this can also be incorporated into our emissions baseline.

**4 Carbon reduction objectives**

4.1 UWL is committed to becoming a net zero carbon institution by 2030. This is for all Scopes 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions, and will be achieved by reducing our Scope 1 and 2 emissions by at least 90% by 2030.

4.2 The University has established Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) carbon reduction objectives. The SMART objectives can be found in Appendix 1.

4.3 External funding for carbon reduction projects is actively sought by the University. UWL spends approximately £1m annually on projects that improve estate infrastructure, student experience, and carbon performance.

**5 Monitoring and reporting**

5.1 Carbon management is overseen by the Environmental Operations Group (EOG), chaired by a member of the Vice Chancellor’s Executive (VCE). The Group is responsible for the delivery of the University’s net zero carbon by 2030 target. It is the role of the EOG to report to the VCE on progress.

5.2 The University utilises its ISO 14001 certified Environmental Management System (EMS) as a tool for monitoring environmental impact including carbon emissions. Annual progress reports detailing the University’s achievements, challenges, and areas for improvement are reviewed by the VCE. The progress report includes data on emissions, energy, waste, water and travel and other relevant milestones.

5.3 Progress towards achieving identified objectives is communicated to all staff and students through the EOG and Sustainability Management Board (SMB), the Insider Magazine and its Annual Sustainability Report which can be found on the external website[[1]](#footnote-2).

5.4 UWL’s carbon reduction performance can also be reviewed by the public at no additional cost through third-party sources such as the Higher Education Statistics Agency and People & Planet University League table.

**Appendix 1: Carbon reduction objectives**

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| **Area** | **Objective** | **Specific** | **Measurable** | **Achievable** | **Relevant** | **Time-Bound** | **Responsibility** |
| **Energy**  | Reduce energy-related carbon emissions. | Reduce absolute carbon emissions from energy by at least 90% by 2030. | Monitor and analyse energy consumption data regularly (annually as a minimum) through the ISO 14001 EMS to track progress towards the target. | Conduct energy audits to identify areas of high energy usage and implement energy efficiency technologies. | Reducing energy consumption will not only decrease carbon emissions but also lead to cost savings. | Achieve a 3% reduction in energy consumption within the first year and implement progressive reductions annually to meet the net zero carbon by 2030 target. | EOG – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Property Services – Executive Director of Property and Environment.IT – Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor and Chief Information Officer. |
| **Energy**  | Reduce energy-related carbon emissions. | Reduce market-based scope 2 emissions to net zero by 2030. | Analyse and report on the fuel mix of UWL’s electricity supplier to measure market-based emissions. | Engage energy supplier to understand their current fuel mix and transition to renewable sources. | Purchasing green electricity tariffs will decrease carbon emissions when scope 2 emissions are calculated using market-based methodology. | Gather data on current energy supplier’s fuel mix and conduct review of available green energy tariffs within the first year, and switch to 100% renewable energy by 2030. | EOG – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Property Services – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Procurement – Head of Procurement. |
| **Procurement** | Reduce procurement-related carbon emissions. | Reduce carbon emissions from procurement activities to net zero by 2030. | Measure and monitor progress through data on emissions associated with the procurement of good and services regularly (annually as a minimum) through the ISO 14001 EMS. | Conduct supplier audits to identify areas of high emissions and opportunities for improvement. | Addressing carbon emissions associated with procurement activities will result in reducing carbon emissions.  | Gather data on procurement carbon emissions within the first year, conduct supplier audits and achieve net zero carbon by 2030. | EOG – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Property Services – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Procurement – Group Chief Financial Officer. |
| **Travel** | Improve sustainable travel and transportation. | Reduce carbon emissions from travel and transportation to net zero by 2030. | Track commuting patterns, vehicle emissions, and transportation data on a regular basis (annually as a minimum) through the ISO 14001 EMS to monitor progress towards the target. | Encourage walking, cycling, the use of public transportation, and car sharing through awareness campaigns and infrastructure improvements.  | Reducing travel and transportation-related emissions will contribute to overall carbon reduction goals of the University. | Conduct travel surveys within the first year to identify improvement areas and achieve net zero carbon by 2030. | EOG – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Property Services – Executive Director of Property and Environment.SMB – Pro Vice-Chancellor (Business Development). |
| **Waste** | Enhance waste management and recycling. | Reduce carbon emissions from waste to net zero by 2030. | Regularly measure and monitor the amount of waste generated and treated (annually as a minimum) through the ISO 14001 EMS to track progress towards the target. | Improve reuse and recycling infrastructure, provide clear reuse and recycling guidelines and educate the University community about the importance of wate reduction, reuse and recycling. | Effective waste management and recycling will minimise the environmental impact of the University and reduce carbon emissions associated with waste disposal. | Conduct waste audits within the first year to identify improvement areas, implement recycling infrastructure improvements, and achieve net zero carbon by 2030. | EOG – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Property Services – Executive Director of Property and Environment. |
| **Water** | Reduce water-related carbon emissions. | Reduce carbon emissions from water to net zero by 2030. | Track water consumption and associated carbon emissions on a regular basis (annually as a minimum) through the ISO 14001 EMS to monitor progress towards the target. | Consider implementing water conservation practices, efficiency improvements and sustainable water management initiatives. | Reducing water-related emissions will contribute to overall carbon reduction goals of the University. | Conduct water audits to identify improvement areas and achieve net zero carbon by 2030. | EOG – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Property Services – Executive Director of Property and Environment. |
| **Food** | Reduce food-related carbon emissions. | Reduce carbon emissions from food related activities (sourcing, preparation, and consumption) to net zero by 2030. | Regularly measure and monitor the carbon emissions associated with food-related activities (annually as a minimum) through the ISO 14001 EMS to track progress towards the target. | Improve sourcing local and seasonal produce, reducing food waste, and implementing energy-efficient kitchen equipment. | Reducing food-related emissions will contribute to overall carbon reduction goals of the University. | Gather data on food-related emissions and achieve net zero carbon by 2030. | EOG – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Property Services – Executive Director of Property and Environment.London Geller College of Hospitality and Tourism (LGCHT) – Dean of LGCHT. |
| **Engagement** | Foster a culture of sustainability and awareness. | Increase awareness and engagement in sustainable practices among students, staff and visitors. | Conduct surveys and assessments to measure the level of awareness and behaviour change regarding sustainability. | Develop education programmes, workshops and campaigns to promote sustainable behaviours and highlight the importance of carbon reduction. | Creating a culture of sustainability will ensure long-term commitment and support for carbon management efforts. | Launch sustainability awareness campaigns within the first year, conduct surveys to measure awareness levels and behaviour change, and continuously adapt and improve engagement strategies based on feedback. | EOG – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Property Services – Executive Director of Property and Environment.Marketing and Communications – Director of Marketing, Recruitment and Communications. |

1. https://www.uwl.ac.uk/about-us/sustainability#Sustainabilitypolicies [↑](#footnote-ref-2)