



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

2019/20 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT REPORT



FOREWORD

2019/20 has been a challenging year for us all and the devastating effects of Covid-19 have been felt globally. The pandemic has impacted on our environmental performance; there have been negative effects, but also positive, with a reduction in waste and carbon emissions from travel.

Despite the pandemic, the University has continued to push forward with its environmental commitments, including its new Environmental Plan 2020-25. The Plan outlines how we will embed sustainability in our processes, reduce the impacts of our operations, and grow a green culture within the University and beyond.

Our commitment to environmental sustainability is reflected in the University's new 2025 Strategy, ensuring we work with our students to create sustainable futures.

While we will feel the effect of the pandemic for a while to come, we will look at the opportunities to build back better. We will continue to put environmental sustainability at the heart of what we do at the University and agree our own zero carbon targets in 2021 as well as continuing to support the zero carbon agenda for Birmingham and the region.

Professor Philip Plowden
Vice Chancellor



CONTENTS

1.	Introduction and headline figures from 2019/20	p 3
2.	ISO 14001:2015 accreditation	p 4
3.	Energy Consumption	p 5
4.	Water	p 6
5.	Waste	p 7
6.	Transport	p 10
7.	Procurement	p 12
8.	Construction	p 13
9.	Biodiversity	p 14
10.	Catering	p 15
11.	Embedding sustainability into the curriculum	p 16
12.	Engagement, communications and training	p 17

1. INTRODUCTION AND HEADLINE FIGURES FROM 2019/20

This report outlines Birmingham City University's (BCU) environmental work and progress made over 2019/20. Covid-19 has caused many of the planned environmental sustainability initiatives to be put on hold, such as travel plan refresh and energy efficiency projects, however we will continue in earnest to get these initiatives back on track during 2020/21.

The University continues to support local, regional and global efforts to protect the future of the planet and is working to align with the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We are members of Birmingham City Council's R20 (Route to Zero) Taskforce, supporting the zero carbon agenda through projects and research we are developing.

In this report, we demonstrate how our actions and performance reflect the aims of the SDGs, which have been indicated at the start of each section.

Throughout 2019/20, our Environmental Plan 2020-25 was developed, which achieved sign off in February 2020. Reporting will reflect the Environmental Plan structure from 2020/21 onwards.

1.1 Summary of progress

ASPECT	TARGET	STATUS	2019/20 PROGRESS
ISO 14001:2015	Continue to manage, maintain and continually improve our ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System	Achieved	Successful audits and maintained ISO 14001:2015 accreditation.
Energy	Reduce our carbon emissions by 43% by 2020-21 from a 2005/06 baseline	Off track for final year	We have achieved a 47% reduction in our carbon emissions over 2019/20 through a combination of improved energy management and from closing buildings in lockdown. Due to the ventilation strategy deployed to re-open our buildings, consumption will increase in our buildings. We are on track to achieve a 42% reduction by 2020/21, however this is dependent on building management in Covid-19 conditions.
Water	Reduce water consumption by 1% year-on-year by 2019/2020	Achieved	Water consumption decreased by 34% compared to 2018/19. This is mainly due to the pandemic and decreased demand.
Waste	Zero non-hazardous waste to landfill	Achieved	Waste is reused and recycled, and where this is not feasible sent to energy from waste.
	Reduce waste 1% year-on-year to 2019/20	Achieved	A 36% reduction in waste was achieved in 2019/20.
	Achieve a recycling rate of 35%	Not achieved	A recycling rate of 31% was achieved in 2019/20, a marked improvement on 23% in 2018/19.
Transport	Implement the actions from the 2018-2020 Sustainable Travel Plans in line with the timetable specified in these documents.	Partially achieved	The majority of Travel Plan actions were successfully delivered. Travel Plans were due to be updated in summer 2020 however these were delayed due to Covid-19.
Procurement	Maintain Level 4 of the Flexible Framework for Sustainable Procurement	Achieved	Maintained Level 4.
Biodiversity	Appoint a specialist to conduct an ecological survey of BCU sites to create a baseline and inform further work to conserve and promote biodiversity. Plant 1000+ native bulbs and species across BCU sites to attract birds and insects throughout 2019/20.	Partially achieved	Unable to undertake ecological surveys of our sites in spring 2020 due to Covid-19. This is now proposed for spring 2021. Bulbs planted and a further compost bin installed at City South.
Catering	Deliver targets and initiatives outlined in the Sustainable Catering Policy	Partially achieved	Bronze Food For Life accreditation has been maintained. A new two-year Sustainable Catering Policy is being approved to cover the final two years of the contract.
Curriculum	Receive SEDA accreditation and launch the new 'Embedding Sustainability into the Curriculum' course for academic and professional services staff by March 2020. Embed sustainability into the Periodic Review process for its start in January 2020. Support the use of BCU environmental data and sites in the use of student assessments and projects throughout 2019/20.	Achieved	Achieved SEDA accreditation for the 'Embedding Sustainability into the Curriculum' and recently completed the pilot run. Sustainability has been integrated into the Periodic Review of our curriculum and Course Approval Process and work is underway to support delivery.
Engagement, Communications and Training	Hold a University Green Week with a target to engage 300 students. Run a community engagement activity, such as a canal litter pick, linking up with local universities and businesses during 2019/20 Deliver at least one environmental communication per month throughout 2019/20, through the implementation of the Environmental Communications Plan.	Partially achieved	Events and communications delivered. New environmental training developed and delivered to over 30 members of staff. Unable to run the community litter pick event due to lockdown.

2. ISO 14001:2015 ACCREDITATION



Target: Continue to manage, maintain and continually improve our ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System

Status: Achieved

In February 2020, BCU's Environmental Management System (EMS) underwent its ISO 14001:2015 recertification audit and we were successful in retaining our accreditation.

Four Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) were identified, and no non-conformities, which was a great result for the University. The four OFIs were linked to:

- Improving recycling bin provision in the Millennium Point workshop and reviewing the waste documentation management process
- Reviewing energy management and temperature control in some rooms in Millennium Point
- Rethink how we review and keep EMS documented information
- Update the NQA ISO 14001 logos that we use

Due to Covid, our internal environmental audit programme was cut short over spring and summer 2020, however the audits that were conducted identified and led to a number of improvements across our sites including:

- Improved waste management, document control and pollution prevention at Heneage Street
- Improved storage of paints and labelling of containers, and the addition of glass recycling at the School of Art
- Increase in spill kit provision at Millennium Point
- Improved chemical storage and spill kit provision at University Locks
- Improved bin signage and spill kit provision at City South Campus
- Improved chemical and waste management at the School of Jewellery

Going forward:

- Develop a Covid-adaptable internal audit programme for 2020/21
- Expand online environmental training provision
- Coordinate peer audit for December 2020
- External surveillance audit undertaken in February 2021



3. ENERGY CONSUMPTION



Target: Reduce our carbon emissions by 43% by 2020/21 from a 2005/06 baseline

Status: Off track for final year

Progress update:

As Figure 1 shows, 2019/20 has seen BCU achieve a 47% reduction in carbon emissions against the HEFCE 43% reduction target.

Electricity and gas consumption during Q3 and Q4 of this period was reduced greatly due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, these savings are likely to be short-lived during 2020/21, again due to the pandemic. As ventilation rates have had to be increased both electricity and gas consumption will increase so it is unlikely that we will maintain the current level of reductions. However, all utilities will continue to be closely monitored during this time and steps are being taken to prove a normal operating strategy can be safely delivered.

Salix projects that were due to be delivered during this period had to be delayed due to the pandemic. These projects and others will be delivered by September 2021. An application for the recently announced BEIS energy efficiency grant money is being made to fund these projects.

During this period a deep dive into operations at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire were undertaken and a number of improvements are being undertaken to the operating strategy of building services. These should deliver significant energy savings. Prior to the pandemic, a 17% reduction in electricity consumption was realised compared to the previous year from amending time scheduling. Once all the actions have been delivered and savings calculated this work will be communicated to staff and students through Tiger Today.

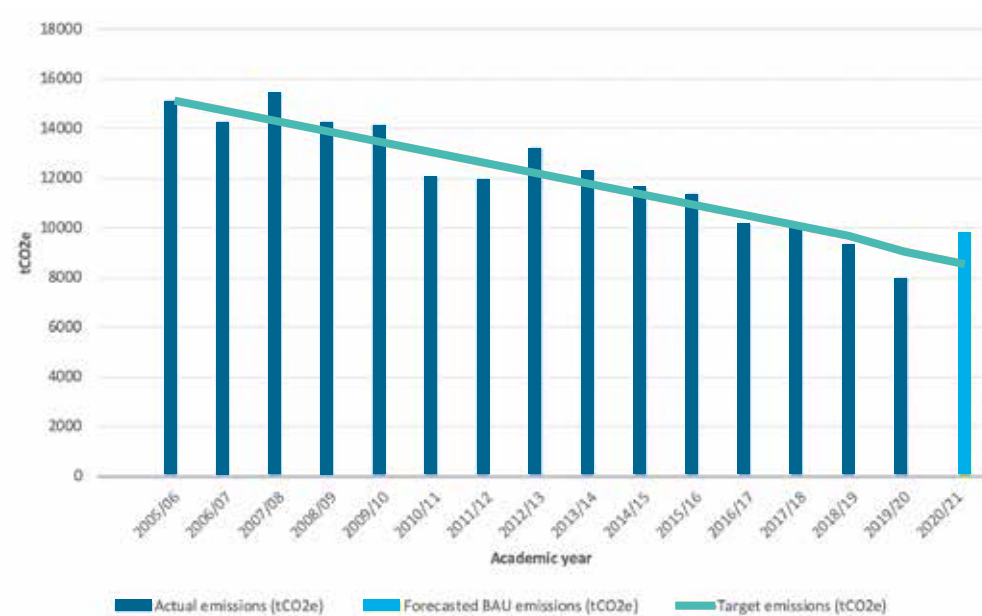
Going forward:

- The Energy Strategy, with associated ambitious zero carbon targets, is being consulted on with an aim for University sign off by November 2021.
- A large amount of grant funding for further energy efficiency projects will be applied for in late 2020. The programme will include further LED retrofit and increasing the amount of solar generation across the estate.
- Building audits will continue to identify areas for further improvement in operating our buildings.



Figure 1:

Scope 1 & 2 carbon emissions – actual reductions against targets by academic year.



4. WATER



Target: Reduce water consumption by 1% year on year by 2019/2020

Status: Achieved

Progress update:

Figure 2 shows water consumption has decreased 34% during 2019/20 compared to the previous year. This is mainly due to the pandemic and decreased demand.

It should be noted that last year's figure has been amended to agree with the figure submitted to HESA in early 2020. Several meters have been upgraded and data loggers installed during 2019/20, which means that water consumption data is becoming more accurate.

Our Energy Manager has worked in partnership with colleagues to develop a water action plan to support the ongoing reduction in consumption.

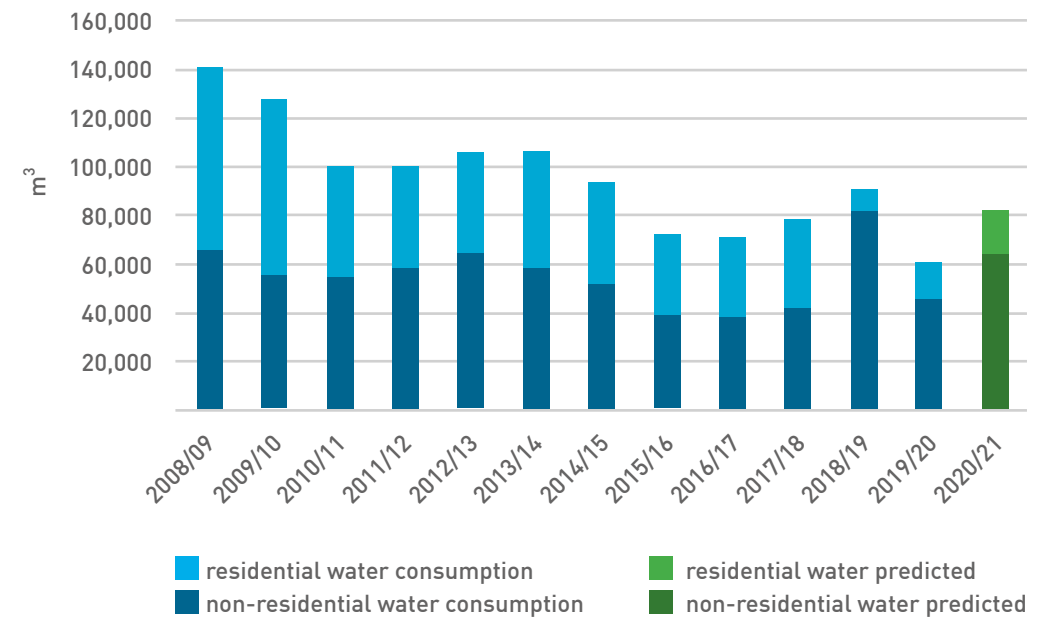
Going forward:

- Continue to improve data collection methods by installing further data loggers.
- Work closely with a third party company to identify areas of improvement.
- Install low flow and low water consumption sanitary ware in all new buildings and refurbishments.



Figure 2:

Water consumption split by non-residential and residential consumption over the last 11 years.



5. WASTE

Target:

- Reduce waste by 1% from 2018/19
- Achieve a 35% recycling rate

Status: Partially achieved

Progress update:

There was a 36% decrease in waste generated, which meant the 1% waste reduction target was achieved. A recycling rate of 31% was achieved for 2019/20, which meant the 35% recycling rate target was not realised. However it should be noted that the recycling rate has seen a significant increase from 23% in 2018/19.

A big proportion of the reduction in waste is due to Covid-19 and the subsequent decrease of students and staff of site. However, on comparing data prior to lockdown from September to March it can be found that the University was performing better in both waste reduction and increasing recycling from 2018/19 to 2019/20 (see Table 1).

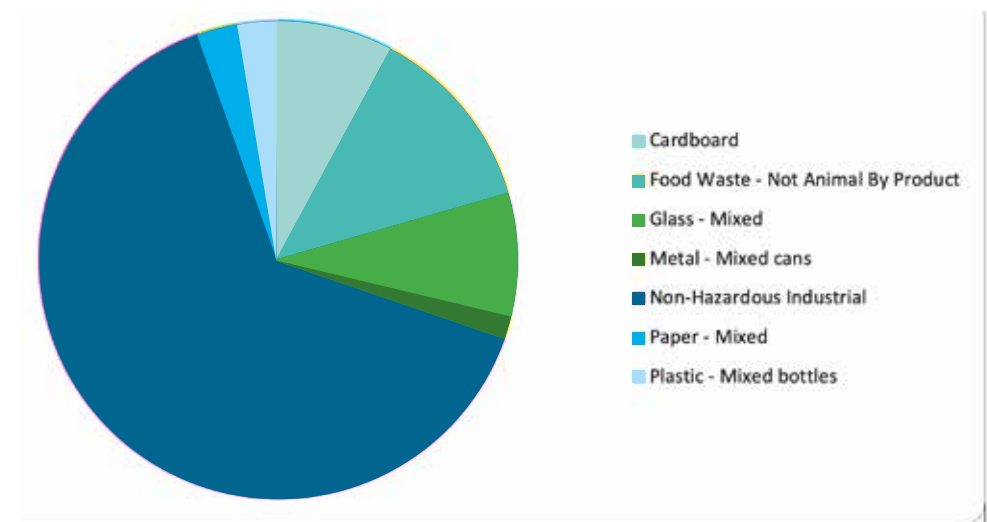
The pie chart in Figure 3 provides a visual of the split of waste produced by the University by category.

Actions 2019/20	Achieved
Develop a waste management strategy for BCU identifying targets (annual reduction and recycling increase) and an associated action plan (both short term and long term).	Partially Achieved
Set up and run the Waste Task Group, to review and manage resource use, waste and recycling at BCU	Partially Achieved
Carry out two staff/student engagement days with our waste contractor to promote recycling in 2019/20.	Yes
Roll out food waste caddies in the staff and student kitchen areas by July 2020.	Yes
Review waste data monthly and conduct waste audits on a weekly basis and, where possible, implement initiatives to reduce overall waste and increase recycling.	Yes
Review furniture recycling and the opportunity of implementing a scheme at BCU.	No

Table 1: Comparison of waste data from September to March for 2018/19 and 2019/20 for academic and accommodation buildings

	Academic buildings 2018/19	Academic buildings 2019/20	Difference [%]	Accommodation 2018/19	Accommodation 2019/20	Difference [%]
Energy recovery (t)	352.8	176.1	-50%	46.8	45.9	-2%
Recycling (t)	87.5	102.1	+17%	16.2	19.2	+19%

Figure 3: Pie chart showing breakdown of waste by category



5.1 UNIVERSITY WASTE

University waste production reduced by 38% from 2018/19 to 2019/20. Covid-19 has had a big impact on waste generation for the University, and the closure of our sites during lockdown led to a significant reduction in waste (see Figure 4).

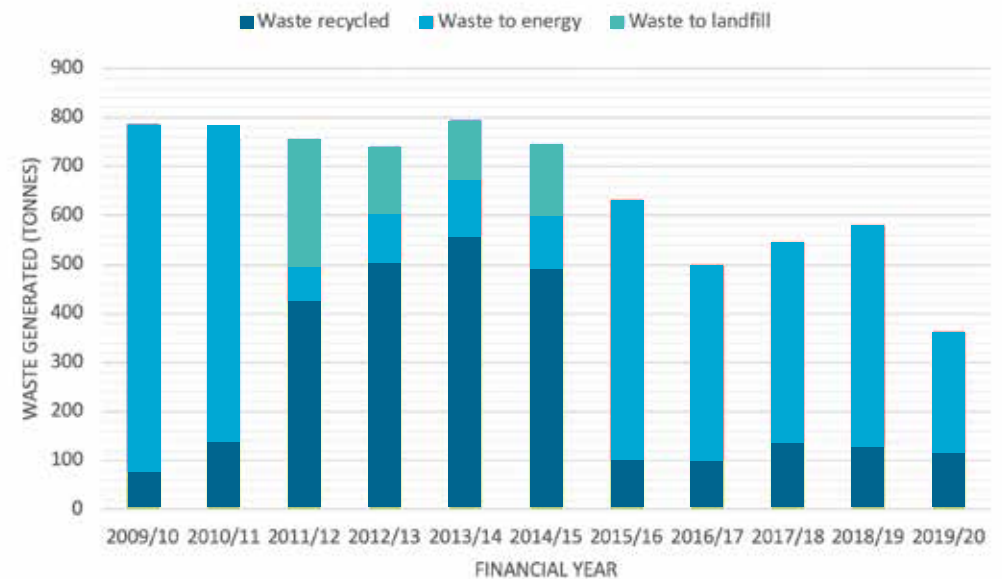
The rate of recycling saw a significant increase from 23% in 2018/19 to 31% in 2019/20.

Throughout 2019/20 schemes have been underway to reduce the amount of waste we generate as a University and increase the levels of recycling including:

- Waste audits conducted of our sites to identify areas for improvement
- Food caddy roll out to staff and student kitchen areas
- Confidential waste paper bins rolled out
- Review of waste strategy and positioning of bins
- Increased recycling facilities in our buildings as identified through our internal audits

Our waste contractor and Facilities staff attended a number of events run in 2019/20 to engage students and staff on how to reduce waste and recycle correctly on site. Events attended include 2019 Fresher's Event, Go Green Week and an Environmental Champions meeting.

Figure 4: University waste production



5.2 ACCOMMODATION WASTE

Our University owned halls, University Locks, saw some positive results regarding reducing waste and increasing recycling. There was a 23.8% reduction in waste generated on site in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19, a reduction of 23 tonnes (see Figure 5). The proportion of waste recycled increased from 25% in 2018/19 to 29% in 2019/20.

University Locks has undertaken a number of positive schemes to reduce waste including:

- Continued our partnership with the British Heart Foundation with 130 bags of donations in 2019.
- Improved management of the refuse areas in the building.
- Continuing our partnership with TFR Group to recycle mattresses from University Locks. 25 mattresses were collected in 2019/20. TFR breaks down the mattress into its component parts and achieves a recycling rate on 92%.
- Installation of a battery recycling bin.

Going forward:

- Launch of Waste Task Group to further reduce waste and increase recycling
- Finalisation of the Waste Strategy in 2020/21
- Launch coffee cup recycling trial
- Establish a baseline for reporting going forward
- Review of waste signage
- Trial reverse vending
- Further review and improvement of recycling facilities across our sites
- Identify initiatives to further reduce food waste

Figure 5: Accommodation waste production



6. TRANSPORT



Target:

Target 2019/20	Achieved
Implement the actions from the 2018-2020 Sustainable Travel Plans in line with the timetable specified in these documents.	Partially achieved
Conduct the next staff and student travel survey in Spring 2020 and commence the refresh of the University Travel Plans.	No
Run the University Brompton bike scheme.	Yes
Promote a reduction in car use through the design and Masterplanning work at our City Centre and City South Campus developments.	Yes
Input in the development of the new IT strategy to encourage energy efficient solutions that reduce the need for business travel.	No
By July 2020, review any existing international travel policy at BCU for VCO sign off, with a view to reducing associated emissions.	No
By July 2020, review and agree approach for future electric vehicle charging point provision	Partially achieved
Provide information on journey planning to students, staff and potential students through specific travel events and at key events such as Welcome Event and Go Green Week during 2019/20.	Yes

Status: Partially achieved

Progress update:

Covid-19 has had a huge impact on the transport agenda globally. We were due to launch our travel survey on 30 March 2020, however the UK went into lockdown the week before and this meant that the survey was put on hold. The travel survey is under review with management as to the most appropriate time to run this and refresh the University's travel plans.

Work was conducted by TPS Ltd instead on developing some new travel guides for BCU and review student and staff commuting, which will be used to shape the next travel plans we develop.

A short Covid-related travel survey was run in August 2020 and the findings from this are being used to roll out travel projects and communications to staff and students.

We have continued to work with regional travel providers and respond to consultations, such as the Birmingham Transport Plan, to ensure the travel needs of our students and staff are recognised and inform transport strategy and public transport provision.



6. TRANSPORT



Business travel - air and rail:

The impact of Covid-19 on University travel is shown in our flight and rail data, see Figures 6 and 7.

2019/20 has seen a 52% reduction in air miles compared to 2018/19, and a 55% reduction in flight carbon emissions due to reduced travel from COVID-19 restrictions. This equates to a reduction of 1,414 tonnes of CO₂e.

Like air travel, Figure 7 shows rail business travel has also seen a reduction of 49% in mileage and carbon emissions from 2018/19. This equates to a reduction of 16 tonnes of CO₂e.

Work will be done to review lessons learnt from Covid-19, for example where we can run events and meetings online, and reduce our business travel carbon emissions going forward.

IT Department: Supporting the environmental agenda

Our IT department have deployed collaboration platforms, Microsoft Teams, and others supported to enable remote working during Covid-19. This has enabled staff, students and partnering organisations and associates not to travel to attend meetings and lectures; and the associated environmental savings and wellbeing benefits. This has been essential in the current climate.

They have also supported moving from desktop to mobile devices where practical to improve mobility and choice of location to work from, benefitting user-choice and autonomy. Further improvements to remote access and helpdesk facilities for secure off-site connectivity and support have been made too.

Going forward:

- Implement actions from the Covid-19 travel survey findings and feedback
- Review and refresh BCU's travel plans, subject to management review and sign off
- Work with local partners and travel providers to identify opportunities to influence the regional travel agenda

Figure 6: BCU business travel air mileage and carbon emissions

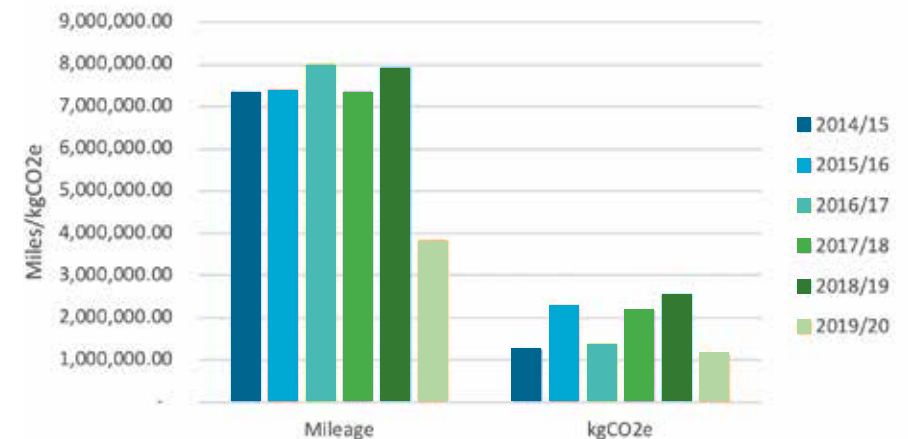
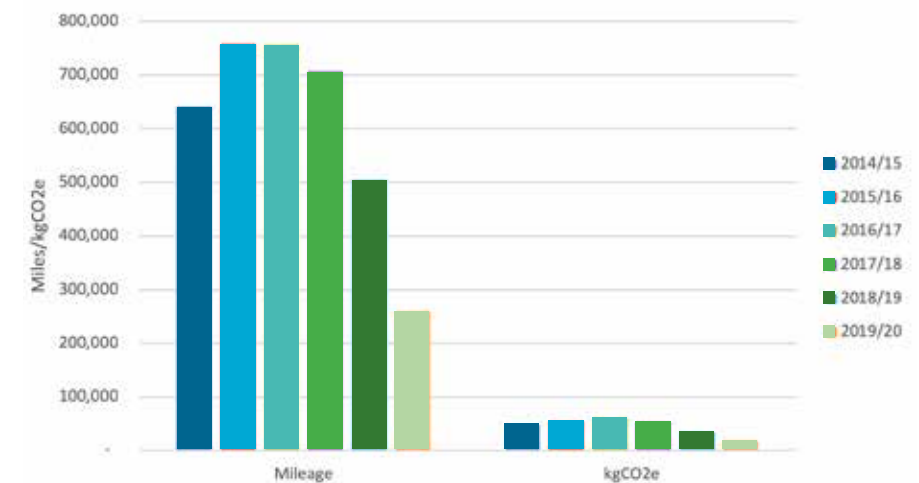
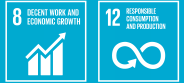


Figure 7: BCU business travel rail mileage and carbon emissions



7. PROCUREMENT



Target: Maintain Level 4 of the Flexible Framework for Sustainable Procurement

Status: Achieved

Progress update:

Following the Covid-19 crisis and new category managers starting across the team, overarching category specific strategies were put on hold for 12 months while emergency procurement work was undertaken. These will be completed in 2020/21. However individual procurement strategies were completed for all activity undertaken by the Procurement Team.

Sustainability was embedded into the strategies of procurements above the OJEU threshold £189k Goods and Services, £4.7m Works Contracts throughout 2019/20 including Strategic Media and Marketing Services, Temporary and Permanent Agency Staff, Legal Services, Soft FM Services, Water and Sewerage Services, and Paper. This included requirements to sign up to the NETpositive sustainability toolkit and to produce sustainability action plans.

The University's involvement in the NETpositive Supplier toolkit was extended for another year to continue our supplier engagement with sustainability. This will be explored further in 2020/21 including ways to engage suppliers and capture performance.

The Environmental Manager undertook sustainable procurement training with the Procurement Team in January 2020. This covered what sustainable procurement is and the approach BCU is taking.

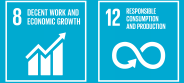
Our main contracts have a sustainability plan in place, however there is further work to be developed to put a robust contract management approach and monitoring system in place. This will be developed throughout 2020/21.

Going forward:

- Integration of sustainability into the overall Procurement Strategy and develop high level sustainability outputs for each Category Strategy.
- Review and develop an approach to capturing scope 3 carbon emission data from purchasing.
- Undertake a range of sustainable procurement training for 2020/21.
- Ensure Sustainable Impact Assessments are completed for procurements over £60k.
- Use the NETpositive Futures Toolkit to engage our contractors and suppliers on sustainability.
- Develop a tracker to review progress against KPIs for the top 20 spend contractors.



8. CONSTRUCTION



Target: Achieve at least BREEAM Excellent for new builds

Status: On track

Progress update:

Construction on BCU's STEAMhouse 2 project is underway. The project will see Birmingham's derelict Belmont Works restored to become STEAMhouse's permanent home. STEAMhouse is a centre for innovation and creation, combining STEM with the arts to bring inventors and businesses together to develop new ideas and products. The project also involves a new build, which will provide additional facilities and spaces for SMEs as well as a new home for the University's School of Computing. The project continues to work towards a BREEAM Excellent rating.

A new student residential and academic project was being developed for our City South Campus, which incorporated a target of BREEAM Excellent, however this project has been put on hold due to the pandemic.

BCU is developing plans to become one of the anchor tenants at the Alexander Stadium after the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The design plans are in its early stages and the Environment Team is working to embed sustainability requirements within the proposals.

Embodied carbon refers to the CO2 emitted in producing materials and is estimated from the energy used to extract and transport raw materials and emissions from manufacturing processes. The calculation for buildings can also include the building processes, fixtures and fittings inside, as well as deconstruction and disposal at end of life. A significant proportion of a buildings lifetime carbon is embedded in its fabric and systems and this is something we are reviewing in future capital projects.

We will be asking the main building contractors on new builds/refurbishments to work to the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) TM65 calculation of embodied carbon methodology for building services (e.g. mechanical and electrical systems), as well as embodied carbon of construction materials, which will be estimated at the design stage.

Going forward:

- Continue to work towards BREEAM Excellent for STEAMhouse 2.
- Develop the sustainability brief for the Alexander Stadium project.
- Develop a strong sustainability brief and requirements for any other refurbishment or new build projects that arise.



9. BIODIVERSITY



Target:

Target 2019/20	Target Achieved
Appoint a specialist to conduct an ecological survey of BCU sites to create a baseline and inform further work to conserve and promote biodiversity	No
Plant 1000+ native bulbs and species across BCU sites to attract birds and insects throughout 2019/20	Yes
Install one further compost bin at City South by end of July 2020	Yes
Support the SU Earth Society and staff in using the allotment at City South and develop food growing spaces at other sites throughout 2019/20	Yes
Add another rooftop beehive during the summer of 2020. Encourage involvement from staff and students, planting of bee-loving plants and the development of student projects linked to the beehives	Yes
Identify opportunities to include habitat in new builds in conjunction with the Projects Team	Yes

Status: Partially achieved

Progress update:

The Grounds Maintenance Team have continued to deliver their service in a way to maintain and enhance biodiversity across our sites. Over 2019/20 the Team has:

- Planted 10 trees in November 2019 including Silver Birch, Malus, Pear, Bird Cherry and Mountain Ash
- Planted around 100 whips, which included Hazel, Hawthorn and Holly
- Relocated the allotment at City South Campus
- Built a large compost bin at City South Campus to create compost from leaves collected across our sites

Due to the pandemic, further progress has been limited and no further bird feeders or nest boxes have been installed.

A second beehive was installed on the roof between Millennium Point and Parkside Buildings in our City Centre Campus in spring 2020. As part of Go Green Week, students helped to make frames for the bees to use to hold their honeycomb.

An ecological survey was due to be undertaken over spring/summer 2020 to create a baseline of our sites, however due to Covid-19 this was not possible. Conditions permitting, this will be conducted in spring 2021, with a Biodiversity Action Plan created based on the findings to protect and further increase biodiversity across the University estate.

Going forward:

- Conduct ecological surveys of our sites.
- Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for the University.
- Plant 1000+ native bulbs across our sites.
- Achieve bronze in the Hedgehog Friendly Campus scheme.
- Continue to plant native species across our sites.



10. CATERING



Target:

Target 2019/20	Target Achieved
Review the Silver Food for Life catering accreditation and implement measures where feasible by July 2020.	No
Reduce food waste from the previous year and increase recycling through food weighing and monitoring, and reviewing bins and signage.	Yes
Identify opportunities to further reduce waste generated through the catering contract in 2019/20, including use of disposable cutlery, containers and cups, and use of glass for meetings.	Yes
Develop the consultation process for the catering tender which will commence in August 2020, integrating the environmental agenda as a key consideration.	Commencement in 2021
Introduce further plant based recipes throughout 2019/20	Yes

Status: Partially achieved

Progress update:

The accreditation to the bronze Food for Life catering award has been maintained by our catering contractor, BaxterStorey. Silver accreditation will be considered when the pandemic has passed.

Further initiatives have been implemented throughout 2019/20 to reduce waste through our catering contract:

- Eco 2 Go reusable food containers were launched across our sites in November 2019 to encourage staff and students to reuse a container when taking food away instead of using a disposable one.
- Reusable cups are sold at our catering outlets and a discount given for using one for hot drinks.
- Toolbox talks given to catering staff to reduce food waste and save energy in the kitchens
- Facilities Management has engaged with catering staff through waste audits to reduce contamination and improve recycling.

Due to the pandemic, disposable items such as plates and cups have been used to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. When we are able to, work will continue in earnest to reduce disposables and waste from our catering.

BaxterStorey has continued to support environmental events at the University, such as Go Green Week and Fairtrade Fortnight, details of which are covered in section 11 of this report.

Going forward:

- Develop a new Sustainable Catering Policy for 2020-22 to cover the period until the new catering contract is in place.
- Identify further opportunities to reduce waste through the contract.
- Introduce further plant based recipes throughout 2020/21.
- Develop ideas for sustainability content of the catering contract tender process in August 2021.



11. EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CURRICULUM



Target:

Target 2019/20	Target Achieved
Receive SEDA accreditation and launch the new 'Embedding Sustainability into the Curriculum' course for academic and professional services staff by March 2020.	Yes
Embed sustainability into the Periodic Review process for its start in January 2020.	Yes
Support the use of BCU environmental data and sites in the use of student assessments and projects throughout 2019/20.	Yes

Status: Achieved

Progress update:

Periodic Review:

The Business School went through the Periodic Review process in 2019/20. The Environmental Manager and Senior Teaching Fellow presented to the School about sustainability in the curriculum, and a mapping exercise was undertaken to see where the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were being covered in the curriculum. 105 of 210 modules were mapped against the SDGs to identify where they were covered in the curriculum. Work and engagement will continue with the School to further embed sustainability.

Embedding Sustainability into the Curriculum' course:

We achieved SEDA (Staff and Educational Development Association) accreditation for the University's new 'Embedding Sustainability into the Curriculum' course. The course, the first SEDA accredited course of its kind, has been developed in partnership with the Environmental Manager and Senior Education Developer to support staff in making sustainability enhancements to the University's curriculum. Education for sustainable development is essential for ensuring our graduates leave BCU equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding to address sustainability challenges and opportunities now and in the future.

A pilot of the course was run online over summer 2020 for a cohort of 15 colleagues from across our four faculties and Quality Assurance. Assignments for the course were due in November 2020 and will be used as case studies to promote a range of ways that sustainability can be embedded into the curriculum.

Going forward:

- Complete the pilot run of the 'Embedding Sustainability into the Curriculum' course and make any minor modifications.
- Recruit a further cohort to run the 'Embedding Sustainability into the Curriculum' course.
- Support and encourage the next Schools undertaking the Periodic Review in embedding sustainability.



12. ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAINING



Target:

Target 2019/20	Target Achieved
To hold a University Green Week in November 2019 linked to Graduate+ week with a target to engage 300 students.	Yes
Run a community engagement activity, such as a canal litter pick, linking up with local universities and businesses during 2019/20	No
Raise awareness of sustainability issues across the University delivering at least one environmental communication per month throughout 2019/20, through the implementation of the Environmental Communications Plan.	Yes
Develop a new suite of environmental training courses and deliver to at least 30 key staff throughout 2019/20 in line with demand.	Yes
Embed and support the newly established Earth Society	Yes
Continue to embed the SU Environmental Committee throughout 2019/20, working with the Environmental Team to identify key impacts and actions to reduce these.	Yes

Status: Partially achieved

Progress update:

Engagement and Communication:

BCU supported the Big Climate Fightback in November 2019 with a Tree Planting Event on campus. Over 20 trees were planted across our City Centre and City South campuses.

During Go Green Week in November 2019, 1,130 students and staff were engaged through a range of workshops and interactive stalls and talks. Staff and students put beehive frames together, which have now been used to make an additional beehive for the roof between Millennium Point and Parkside Buildings.

Environmental activities were also included in Graduate+ Week, which took place in March 2020. Activities included workshops with the Botanical Gardens, vegetarian food tasting, and creating your own natural beauty and body care products. Approximately 100 students and staff were engaged as part of these activities. Unfortunately numbers were lower due to Covid-19.

Our Environmental Champions network continues to grow, with nearly 70 members of staff from across the University.

Our 2021/22 prospectus went to print in January 2020 with a target to be carbon neutral. 50.55 tonnes of CO2 were offset through ClimateCare supporting projects that make a difference to people's lives as well as protecting the environment. Further to this, our Print Team are working with our paper supplier to implement a carbon capture programme, planting trees based on the weight of paper purchased.

BCU is also working with partners in the city to support the environment agenda.

STEAMhouse is an innovation centre BCU created in partnership with Eastside Projects, set up to support Birmingham businesses and start-ups to develop ideas, skills, products and services. They ran a Green Recovery STEAM challenge over the summer in 2020. The challenge was to identify how to find ways for businesses, and the networks that represent them, to collaborate and act on climate change issues in a post-Covid world. The challenge brought together stakeholders from across the region collaboratively to identify the problem and develop ideas and solutions, and draft an action plan.

BCU is a member of Birmingham City Council's R20 (Route to Zero) Taskforce, set up to develop, deliver and support an action plan for Birmingham to work towards its target of becoming zero carbon by 2030. The University has been involved with inputting in the action plan, identifying where our work, curriculum and research is supporting the zero carbon agenda. BCU has been actively involved with shaping and inputting in the Communications subgroup of the Taskforce, identifying stakeholders and developing key messaging.



12. ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAINING



Training:

The Environment Team delivered interactive spills response training in November 2019 to Security, Facilities and Technicians. Colleagues were trained in groups on the University's spill response process in an interactive session, supporting our emergency response procedure.

Further environmental training was delivered to colleagues and students over the course of 2019/20, including:

- Environmental awareness training to the student School Reps
- Sustainable procurement training with the Procurement Team
- Internal auditor training for Environmental Champions
- Waste recycling training to the Students' Union
- Managing environmental compliance training online to key members of staff involved with the University's ISO 14001 EMS

A new online Environmental Awareness training module for staff was launched in June 2020. The training is mandatory for all new starters, and will be rolled out to existing staff members too as a commitment in our Environmental Plan and 2025 Strategy.

Going forward:

- Development of a new environmental communications strategy.
- Delivery of environmental events and training in a Covid-19 safe manner.
- Monthly environmental communications to students and staff.



KEY

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

