



University of Essex



Sustainability Sub-Strategy Bitesize

Priority 8: Travel and Transport

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Introduction

Our Sustainability Sub-Strategy outlines our commitment to acting in response to the climate and ecological emergency, while supporting the University's mission of excellence in education and research, for the benefit of individuals and communities.

Priority 8: Travel and Transport

Our community's daily commute, business travel and our international students arriving from around the world, all contribute to our scope 3 emissions and environmental impact. Alternative methods of travel and technological alternatives will be promoted and facilitated with low emissions a priority. We will champion sustainable travel and transport to and from our campuses, contributing to the reduction of our indirect emissions.

Objective: Minimise the carbon and environmental impact of the University's travel and transport activities including commuting, business, and research travel and encourage greater use of sustainable forms of transport where travel is necessary.

- Through embracing agile working our community will be able to commute less if the business need allows and where commuting to work and study is essential, active and sustainable travel will be encouraged and supported.
- Alternative methods of business travel will be promoted and facilitated with low emissions and digital solutions prioritised.
- We will work with partners to improve local walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure, to reduce barriers to getting to and from our campuses. Assisting all our visitors to make a cleaner more active travel choice will assist our carbon reduction ambition and encourage a healthier community.
- Significant progress will be made in moving our vehicle fleet to electric and benefit will be gained from the visibility of the vehicles on our campuses, setting a precedent.

Key Performance Indicators

KPI 23: 20% reduction in parking permits issued from 2019 baseline and a 100% increase in proportion of EV/Hybrid vehicles being used for commuting by 2026

KPI 24: By 2026 a 5% increase in student and 11% increase in staff journeys by sustainable means (bus, train, bike, walk) from a 2019 travel survey baseline

KPI 25: 75% of University of Essex fleet vehicles to be electric by 2028

KPI 26: 30% reduction in business air travel from 2019 baseline (2,188 tCO₂e, 3,844 trips) by 2026

Action Plan

Type	Year	ID	Objectives and deliverables	Objective Owner
Priority 8			Travel and Transport	
Aim			Minimise the carbon and environmental impact of the University's travel and transport activities including commuting, business, and research travel and encourage greater use of sustainable forms of transport where travel is necessary	
Objective		SSS35	Reduce the proportion of unnecessary and unsustainable commuting to our campuses	
Deliverable	2024/25	SSS35.1	Modify the parking management system and parking pricing strategy to discourage use of polluting vehicles, dissuade local driving commuters and encourage travel only when necessary.	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2024/25	SSS35.2	Expand car sharing offering and introduce dedicated car sharing spaces and monitoring software	Transport Manager
Objective		SSS36	Increase the proportion of journeys to and between our campuses by sustainable transport	
Deliverable	2024/25	SSS36.1	Create and implement a business travel policy creating transparency around the emissions of each journey and mode of transport	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2024/25	SSS36.2	Offer preferential parking locations for electric, hybrid, car share vehicles	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2027/28	SSS36.3	Adjust parking charges to incentivise sustainable transport	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS36.4	Offer free sustainable transport initiatives to encourage greater take up	Transport Manager
Objective		SSS37	Increase student and staff journeys by active travel methods	
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS37.1	Introduce a free personal travel plan app and supply travel plan by default	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2023/24	SSS37.2	Increase provision of well lit, secure and green cycle storage on our campuses	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2027/28	SSS37.3	Increase provision of well lit, secure cycle paths through both new infrastructure and upgrading existing	Transport Manager

Type	Year	ID	Objectives and deliverables	Objective Owner
Deliverable	2026/27	SSS37.4	Increase offering and frequency of cycling services such as repairs and equipment.	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS37.5	Introduce a bike rental a scheme in conjunction with local authorities and partners	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2024/25	SSS37.6	Introduce a rewards scheme based on verified active travel	Transport Manager
Objective		SSS38	Build support for sustainable transport and increase education on the impacts of travel	
Deliverable	2025/26	SSS38.1	Install sufficient additional EV charging provision for our community to encourage EV take up	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2025/26	SSS38.2	Introduce EV charging provision for visitors	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2025/26	SSS38.3	Install sufficient additional EV charging provision for our fleet vehicles to provide required capacity	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS38.4	Ensure all travel related activities include emissions data	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2024/25	SSS38.5	Develop and implement an engagement plan/campaign to increase student and staff use of walking, cycling and buses to travel to and from campus	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2023/24	SSS38.6	Investigate opportunities around salary sacrifice for EV vehicles and report back on findings	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS38.7	Further develop relationships with local bus service providers and continue to maximise discounts for bus passes	Transport Manager
Objective		SSS39	Increase proportion of low emissions vehicles in the University's core vehicle fleet	
Deliverable	2024/25	SSS39.1	Develop and implement a plan to rationalise the number of vehicles in fleet	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2025/26	SSS39.2	Develop and implement a plan to significantly increase the proportion of electric or hybrid vehicles in the University fleet	Transport Manager
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS39.3	Create and implement a plan to increase EV charging provision for University vehicle fleet	Transport Manager
Objective		SSS40	Reduce carbon emissions and environmental impact of business and research air travel	

Type	Year	ID	Objectives and deliverables	Objective Owner
Deliverable	2023/24	SSS40.1	Create and implement a business travel policy to include a requirement for all journeys to be justified and have associated CO ₂ published at point of booking and claiming expense	Transport Manager