# Sustainability Sub-Strategy Bitesize

## Priority 6: Water Management

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# Introduction

Our Sustainability Sub-Strategy outlines out 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 6: Water Management

Essex is one of the driest counties in the UK, amplifying our need to ensure that we are using water resources as efficiently as possible. Fresh water is a precious resource, and it takes energy to distribute it. It is incorrectly considered by many to be freely available and while the carbon content per litre is low the volume used is high. There are also associated costs of accessing water, from purification to disposal and transportation.

As there is no alternative to water, reducing and making efficient use of it will be vital. Physical improvement works will take place, while educating our community to reduce the equivalent of 80 Olympic-sized swimming pools of water we use each year will achieve significant progress.

**Objective: To stabilise, and where possible reduce water consumption across the estate during a period of growth, focusing on waste avoidance and increasing rain/grey water use.**

- Through proactive leak detection, improvements to our water outlets and use of rain/grey water systems, we will create the physical infrastructure required to minimise water use and limit the increase in water usage.

- Through educating, encouraging and working with our community, we will equip them to be active contributors in the efficient use of water.

## Key Performance Indicators

KPI 18: Average annual consumption to be no more than 2019 levels (average allows for seasonal variations) by 2026

# Action Plan

| Type | Year | ID | Objectives and deliverables | Objective Owner |
|------|------|-----|------------------------------|------------------|
| **Priority 6** | | | **Water Management** | |
| **Aim** | | | **To stabilise, and where possible reduce water consumption across the estate during a period of growth, focusing on waste avoidance and increasing rain/grey water use** | |
| **Objective** | | **SSS26** | **Implement water efficiency measures** | |
| Deliverable | 2021/22 | SSS26.1 | Audit water use infrastructure, to include cold water storage, shower and tap flow regulators, occupancy sensors, pipe insulation | M&CD, Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction |
| Deliverable | 2022/23 | SSS26.2 | Create and implement a 'Water Management Plan' for water reducing measures, to include catering and Bioscience, cold water storage, shower and tap flow regulators, occupancy sensors, pipe insulation | Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction |
| Deliverable | 2023/24 | SSS26.3 | Create a 'Water Management Policy/Standard' prescribing water efficiency measures for renovation and replacement works over and above Building Regulations | Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction |
| Deliverable | 2021/22 | SSS26.4 | Create and implement a proactive plan to review all water outlets for leaks and faults | M&CD |
| Deliverable | 2022/23 | SSS26.5 | Specify soft landscaping that requires low water consumption during landscaping works | Grounds Manager |
| **Objective** | | **SSS27** | **To increase the proportion of rain/grey water used** | |
| Deliverable | 2024/25 | SSS27.1 | Create and implement a 'new build' design standards for grey water reuse | Director of M&CD |
| Deliverable | 2024/25 | SSS27.2 | Introduce grey water harvesting infrastructure for use by the Grounds team for watering of green spaces | Grounds Manager |
| **Objective** | | **SSS28** | **Educate community on water saving actions across our campuses** | |
| Deliverable | 2025/26 | SSS28.1 | Achieve Carbon Trust Standard for reducing water year on year | Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction, M&CD |

| Type | Year | ID | Objectives and deliverables | Objective Owner |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Deliverable | 2024/25 | SSS28.2 | Undertake an audit of all sections, departments and faculties to better understand their water use and how we can successfully engage and educate our community | Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction |
| Deliverable | 2023/24 | SSS28.3 | Create and implement an engagement and communication plan to educate our community with calls to action | Sustainability Manager |