Sustainability Sub-Strategy Bitesize

Priority 7: Waste and Recycling

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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 7: Waste and Recycling

Waste produced on our campuses comes from a wide range of sources, due to the diverse nature of our activities. Progress has been made in providing recycling facilities in our main campus and accommodation buildings, working alongside our waste contractor to ensure materials removed from campus are processed correctly. Average recycling rates in 2019 reached 37% per month, ranging month-on-month between 22% and 44%.

Objective: To increase the proportion of recyclable material collected on campus, alongside an overall decline in waste production, delivered through improved facilities and behaviour change.

- Through education and providing new and innovative ways of recycling both in academic and accommodation areas, our community will find it easier and simpler to recycle, creating opportunities to cut waste, reduce admin and reduce the cost of general waste being processed.

- Our procurement of goods and services and acknowledgment of full product life cycles will be considered and will significantly contribute to the reduction of waste and the appropriate use of resource in the delivery of excellence in education and research.

- In meeting our communities' expectations, the use of plastics will be reduced and single use plastics eliminated wherever possible, introducing reusable or recyclable alternatives.

- We will continue to meet and exceed the requirements of the waste Duty of Care code of practice.

Key Performance Indicators

KPI 19: By 2026 total waste reduced by 5% (measured in tonnes) year-on-year from a 2019 baseline

KPI 20: General food waste audit across all areas and food waste trial undertaken in accommodation areas by 2023

KPI 21: By 2024 single use plastics will not be used by events or marketing materials

KPI 22: Average annual recycling reaches 50% by 2026

Action Plan

Type	Year	ID	Objectives and deliverables	Objective Owner
Priority 7			**Waste and Recycling**	
Aim			**To increase the proportion of recyclable material collected on campus, alongside an overall decline in waste production, delivered through improved facilities and behaviour change**	
Objective		**SSS29**	**To reduce the amount and impact of waste produced on our campuses, in accordance with the waste hierarchy**	
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS29.1	Development of a central point for the collation of waste data from all sources across our campuses	Circular Economy Manager
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS29.2	Review opportunities for internal reuse of items and introduce mechanism to facilitate this	Circular Economy Manager
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS29.3	Maintain continuity of compliance with national guidance and legislation on waste management, working with suppliers to monitor progress.	Contracts Manager (Soft FM)
Objective		**SSS30**	**To increase the proportion of on-site recycling, including food**	
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS30.1	Review existing provision and develop waste and recycling infrastructure across academic and accommodation areas where necessary	Circular Economy Manager
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS30.2	Assess opportunity to introduce food waste collection for accommodation areas and develop a trial to test feasibility	Soft FM
Deliverable	2023/24	SSS30.3	Develop and implement a plan to increase food recycling across our campuses, including food outlets and communal areas	Soft FM
Objective		**SSS31**	**Increase education and information to improve waste reduction and recycling**	
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS31.1	Develop an online, searchable tool to be embedded on the website/student and staff directories	Circular Economy Manager
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS31.2	Develop and implement waste and recycling communication campaign	Circular Economy Manager
Objective		**SSS32**	**Utilise our procurement processes to limit unnecessary use of resources**	

Type	Year	ID	Objectives and deliverables	Objective Owner
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS32.1	Take-back requirements are set out in tenders and data is recorded throughout the contract (where applicable)	CPU
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS32.2	Policy and guidance are set out to support contract managers in expectations for resource efficiency	Circular Economy Manager
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS32.3	Environmentally efficient options, where applicable, are set as the standard in order to encourage users to choose these as the norm	Circular Economy Manager
Objective		**SSS33**	**To eliminate single use plastics, in preference for reusable or recyclable alternatives**	
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS33.1	Review of existing single plastics use to identify opportunities	Circular Economy Manager
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS33.2	Develop and implement a 'Plastics Policy' setting out approach to plastics and single use plastics for all outlets and external catering and events	Circular Economy Manager
Deliverable	2022/23	SSS33.3	Develop and implement a system and associated campaign to reduce use of single use plastic water bottles and coffee cups	Circular Economy Manager
Objective		**SSS34**	**Continue to meet and exceed the requirements of the waste Duty of Care code of practice**	
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS34.1	Serviceable WEEE items from accommodation are donated via the BHF Pack for Good campaign	Soft FM
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS34.2	Recording and monitoring of WEEE recycling from ITS, CSEE in line with broader collation from contract managers	Circular Economy Manager
Deliverable	2021/22	SSS34.3	Suppliers/contractors to provide clarity on treatment and disposal of materials removed from campus; this information will be available via Sustainability report	Circular Economy Manager