

Cardiff University – Carbon Management Plan

July 2025

Introduction

Our Carbon Management Plan is a key element of our [Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#): Sustainable Futures. It outlines our approach to achieving Carbon Net Zero (Scope 1 and 2) and quantifies the emissions associated with Scope 3, enabling us to develop a future plan for reducing those emissions.

Net Zero Target and Baseline

Cardiff University has a target to reach Net Zero carbon Scope 1 and 2 by 2030 and Scope 3 by 2050. We have been reporting our energy data to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) since 2005/06, and since 2014/15 for fleet data. Our Scope 1, 2 and 3 baseline emissions and the associated carbon emission reductions are provided in Table 1 below:

Category	Scope	Baseline year	Baseline emissions (tCO ₂ e)	2023/24 emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Change in tCO ₂ e since baseline
Gas	1	2005/06	13,212	14,005	+6%
Electricity	2	2005/06	18,583	11,098	-40%
F-gases and anaesthetic gases	1	2021/22	506	198	-61%
Fleet	1	2014/15	91	68	-25%
Fuel- and energy-related activities	3	2021/22	5,991	5,967	-0%
Purchased goods and services	3	2022/23	125,544	125,438	-0%
Business Travel	3	2022/23	2,996	3,071	+3%
Staff commuting	3	2022/23	3,299	3,121	-5%
Homeworking	3	2021/22	543	803	+48%
UK Student Travel & International Student Travel	3	2022/23	1,950	1,842	-6%
Waste	3	2021/22	73	51	-30%
Water	3	2021/22	130	79	-39%

Table 1. Emissions changes per category since the baseline year

In addition to the University targets set above, our [Environmental Sustainability Action Plan](#) specifies the annual actions and targets for each area of sustainability. This document delineates commitments, performance indicators, and defined

responsibilities. It is reviewed and updated annually to remain responsive to new evidence, risks, and changing circumstances.

Budget and Delivery Responsibility

Over the last year, £35m has been allocated to Net Zero Scope 1 and 2 projects through internal funding and loan applications. A Net Zero implementation plan is currently being drafted to identify the long-term funding required to achieve our targets.

The delivery of Net Zero projects is the responsibility of the Estates Department. The Net Zero Programme Manager develops and reviews the Net Zero Programme, working closely with the Estates Capital and Maintenance teams to ensure its delivery. The Director of Estates has strategic oversight of the Net Zero Programme.

Monitoring

Progress is monitored at both strategic and operational levels. Our carbon footprint dashboard enables us to monitor Scope 1 and 2 emissions on a monthly basis, allowing us to evaluate the performance of local interventions. The frequency of Scope 3 data varies by category, ranging from monthly to annual, and a rolling 12-month Scope 3 footprint is calculated each quarter. An annual footprint is finalised after each academic year to monitor progress at the university level and confirm our general trend. Any deviations from our expected progress will be investigated and challenged.

Document Approved by:



Anita Edson (Director of Estates)

Date: 04/08/2025