



ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

2024/25

AMBITION
DELIVERED
TODAY





Welcome to our Annual Environmental and Social Governance Report which, in keeping with our environmental aspirations, we are publishing online.

Please let us know if you have any feedback on this report, or if you need any additional information.



Find out more tees.ac.uk/green



[EcoCampus](#) provides a structured framework to manage universities' sustainability performance in logical steps, in line with the international management system standard, ISO14001.

Teesside University is committed to retaining and improving our EcoCampus accreditation. The criteria for this prestigious award enables us to work in a consistent and pragmatic way towards ensuring that we manage our environmental obligations.

We are currently accredited at Gold level and we are committed to retaining this.

There are eleven areas considered within the EcoCampus management system and we have based this environmental report around these.

INTRODUCTION



Darren Vipond
Director, Campus Services

During this year the University has made significant strides in embedding its commitment to environmental and social governance across core business operations.

The publication of a new statement on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) has provided a highly visible commitment, demonstrating to the university community that the work underway to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals is truly welcome.

A review of the University's performance in reducing emissions has also resulted in new targets and a series of proposed initiatives, including further staff and student engagement to support positive behavior change.

And revisions to the TU Global strategy have ensured consideration of our ESG commitment, with thought given to ensuring sustainable partnerships and the environmental impact of our student mobility programmes.

We continue to support local community initiatives through our staff giving scheme, Be the Change.

Teesside University is proud to be a responsible and ethical employer which prioritises positive social impact. This report is a superb showcase of the significant work underway to deliver this commitment.

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Health and safety

Teesside University produces an annual health, safety and well-being report which is published online, and can be viewed by staff, students, and members of the public.

SUSTAINABILITY IN NUMBERS

100%

100% of electricity used by the University is from green sources

11

NEW TREES

planted as part of recent developments

A reduction of CO₂ emissions of

48.5%

against CO₂ peak emissions

THE UNIVERSITY USED

11,520,525 KWH OF GAS

12,624,316 KWH OF ELECTRICITY

65,967 M³ OF WATER

TOTAL SPEND ON UTILITIES

£4,449,932

7,500

CUBIC METRES

of water saved – enough to fill four Olympic-sized swimming pools

Staff and students donated over **100 tonnes** of items to the British Heart Foundation, diverting them from landfill. These donations helped avoid around **11,000 kg** of CO₂ emissions and raised more than **£70,000** to support the charity's vital work.

TO HELP REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE

OVER 80

drinking water refill locations are available across campus

80

EXTERNAL

cycle parking spaces on campus

219

COVERED

cycle parking spaces on campus

SEVEN SOLAR

PV arrays on campus generating a capacity of

170.44 KWP

OVER 174 TONNES OF CARDBOARD, PAPER, PLASTIC AND METAL RECYCLED

MORE THAN 175 TONNES OF GLASS RECYCLED SINCE 2018



ENERGY AND WATER

Our energy team produces a comprehensive energy report every month and annually. This is available to staff, students and the public on Green Tees.

Carbon

The University achieved a reduction of CO₂ emissions of 48.5% against CO₂ peak emissions.

Since 2008 the University has progressively added water leak detection systems to all major buildings across the campus. Up until the end of the 2024 financial year the systems saved circa 7,500 cubic meters of water.

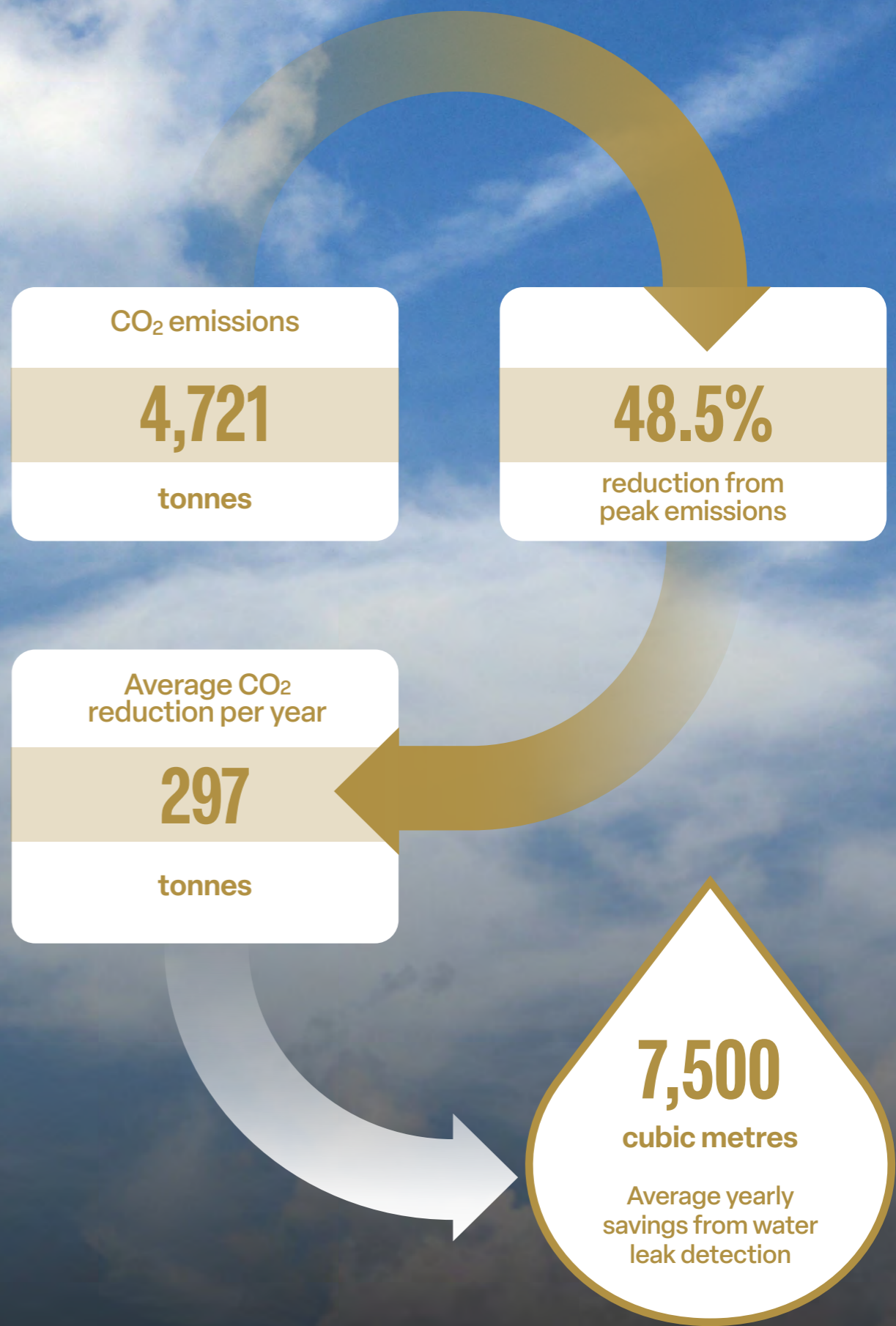
The water leakage systems have enabled the University to act upon and respond to water leaks in all manner of locations including faulty percussion taps, running taps and underground pipework leakage. A significant amount of water and budget has been saved. With an average cost of £3.48 per cubic metre, this equates to an annual saving of approximately £26,100.

Energy monitoring

The aim of the University's energy monitoring and targeting (M&T) system is to provide a greater understanding of how energy and water is consumed across campus. In particular, it identifies if there are signs of avoidable waste and highlights opportunities to reduce consumption.

M&T can be used to quantify the savings achieved through implementation of energy saving projects and campaigns and provide feedback to inform staff awareness campaigns. It will also help to improve budget profiling and to support benchmarking exercises.

This will be further supported by the recent upgrade of the building management system which controls the majority of heating, cooling, and ventilation systems in campus buildings, alongside the phased introduction of a building analytics system.



17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a call for action to secure the rights and well-being of everyone on a healthy, thriving planet. They are a collection of 17 global goals adopted by all United Nations Member States. They are designed to be a 'blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all'.

The SDGs recognise that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. Crucially they recognise that these actions must ensure that nobody is left behind.

The SDGs give focus to the University's ESG activity.

- 1. Curriculum development:** integration of SDGs into academic programmes and courses to educate students about sustainability challenges and solutions. This can include dedicated courses or modules focused on specific goals.
- 2. Research initiatives:** investment in research themes that address the SDGs, encouraging students to engage in projects that tackle local and global sustainability issues.
- 3. Campus operations:** implementation of sustainable practices on campus, such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable transportation to help reduce our impact on the local and wider environment.
- 4. Community engagement:** collaboration with local communities and organisations to address sustainability challenges.
- 5. Policy advocacy:** adoption and development of policies that align with the SDGs at local, national, and global levels, positioning the University as a leader in sustainability.
- 6. Awareness campaigns:** events, workshops, and campaigns to raise awareness of SDGs amongst the University and wider community.
- 7. Monitoring and reporting:** regular assessment and reporting on the University's progress towards achieving the SDGs and tracking of impact to inform future strategies.



RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT



OVER 120 TONNES
OF CARDBOARD, PAPER, PLASTIC
AND METAL RECYCLED

OVER 29 TONNES
OF METAL RECYCLED



MORE THAN 200 TONNES
OF GLASS
RECYCLED
SINCE 2018

Recycling just **ONE** plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a **60-WATT** light bulb for **THREE** hours.

What happens to recycling and waste generated at Teesside University?

Waste is segregated on site and disposed of in the waste streams (general, recycling, glass, food).

General waste is not sent to landfill. It is shredded and sent to Ferrybridge to be used as Refuse Derived Fuel in an energy from waste plant.

Dry mixed recycling is brought back to the transfer station and sorted into the commodities by a picking line.

All other waste streams – glass, metal, green waste – go to Biffa’s transfer station to be sorted and recycled.

Plastics are segregated very specifically along with other materials which are sent to the following:

Cardboard	Riverdale Gateshead
Mattresses	Allensway in York
WEEE	Gap Gateshead
General RDF	Enfinium Ferrybridge

Recycling is processed through Biffa’s material recovery facility.

HDPE	Biffa Polymers Redcar
PET	Biffa Polymers Seaham
Metals	EMR – locations nationwide including Hartlepool



SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

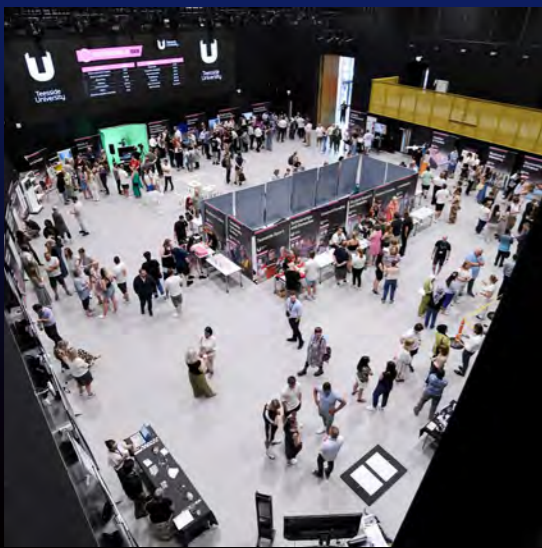
DIGITAL LIFE

Completed March 2025

As a hub for digital skills, immersive media, cloud technology, AI and cybersecurity, Digital Life powers the Tees Valley Investment Zone and supports the UK's ambition to lead in digital transformation. It is a key driver of regional growth and innovation, acting as a catalyst for co-development and applied research across sectors.

Built for the future, Digital Life has been designed to the highest environmental standards, targeting BREEAM Outstanding. The building operates without gas and delivers low-carbon performance, representing Teesside's commitment to a sustainable digital future. Energy consumption data will be published after 12 months of operation.

Social responsibility was a core principle embedded into the delivery of the project.



In Partnership with Wates Construction the project team achieved:

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) STATISTICS FOR DIGITAL LIFE

- > **20** local people employed
- > **3** employees (FTE) aged 18+ on contract who are rehabilitating or ex-offenders as a result of a recruitment programme
- > **57** staff hours spent on local school and college visits e.g. delivering career talks, curriculum support, literacy support, safety talks (including preparation time)
- > A total of **328** weeks of apprenticeship training have been delivered or committed to under the contract. These include apprenticeships at levels 2, 3, and 4+, either completed during the year or ongoing with support from the organisation until completion in future years.
- > **32** hours of support of work assistance provided to unemployed people through career mentoring, including mock interviews CV advice and career guidance
- > **32** weeks spent on meaningful work placements or re-employment courses 1-6 weeks student placements (unpaid)
- > **12** work placements held including **2** T level placements
- > over **£48,000** spent with VCSE within the supply chain
- > over **£14m** spent in local supply chain through the contract (40-mile radius)
- > **266** hours of volunteering time provided to support local community projects
- > **11** site visits for school children or local residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

EcoCampus

EcoCampus is a national environmental system award scheme for the higher education sector. The scheme allows Teesside University to be recognised for addressing key issues of environmental sustainability including carbon reduction. The University is currently accredited at gold level and we are committed to maintaining this and working towards platinum standard.

Policy

Teesside University's [environmental policy](#) is overseen by the Environmental and Social Governance Oversight Board and is reviewed biannually. It is published on our [Green Tees](#) website and is available to staff, students and the public.



PACK FOR GOOD CAMPAIGN

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION AND TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY

**OVER
£70,000
TOTAL RAISED**
from donations

**OVER
105 TONNES**
diverted from landfill
equivalent of over 11,000 kg
of CO₂ emissions.

**FUNDING
LIFE-SAVING
RESEARCH**
into heart and circulatory
diseases across the UK

How your donations make a difference...

Heart transplants. Clot busting drugs. Pacemakers. Breakthroughs born from visionary medical research. Research you fund with your donations.

Heart and circulatory diseases kill 1 in 4 people in the UK. They cause heartbreak on every street. But if research can invent machines to restart hearts, fix arteries in newborn babies, build tiny devices to correct heartbeats, and give someone a heart they weren't born with – imagine what's next.

We fund research into all heart and circulatory diseases and their risk factors. Heart attacks, heart failure, stroke, vascular dementia, diabetes and many more. All connected, all under our microscope. Our research is the promise of future prevention, cures and treatments.

Partnering with us in our Pack for Good campaign enables our shops to receive a regular supply of donations during the summer period, a time typically, when donations can be lower than in other seasons. By joining our Reuse Revolution you're helping to save items from landfill, preventing unnecessary waste and carbon emissions being released into the atmosphere whilst also helping to fund research into new treatments for heart disease, stroke, vascular dementia and diabetes.



SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Sustainable procurement

- > Our procurement strategy supports Teesside 2027 and helps us achieve our environmental and social objectives. The strategy ensures that the University's procurement activities are aligned with its values as set out in the corporate strategy in addition to helping us achieve wider social and environmental objectives including carbon reduction, ethical sourcing and support for local industry, students and employment.
- > **24%** of the university supply chain is from the local area and this equates to over **48%** of the overall expenditure.

Catering services

Our in-house catering team is dedicated to delivering a sustainable food service offering.

We ensure that all disposable and takeaway items are either recycled, recyclable, or compostable, aligning with our commitment to environmental responsibility.

We work closely with local suppliers who share our sustainability values and have robust environmental plans that align with the University's own sustainability goals.

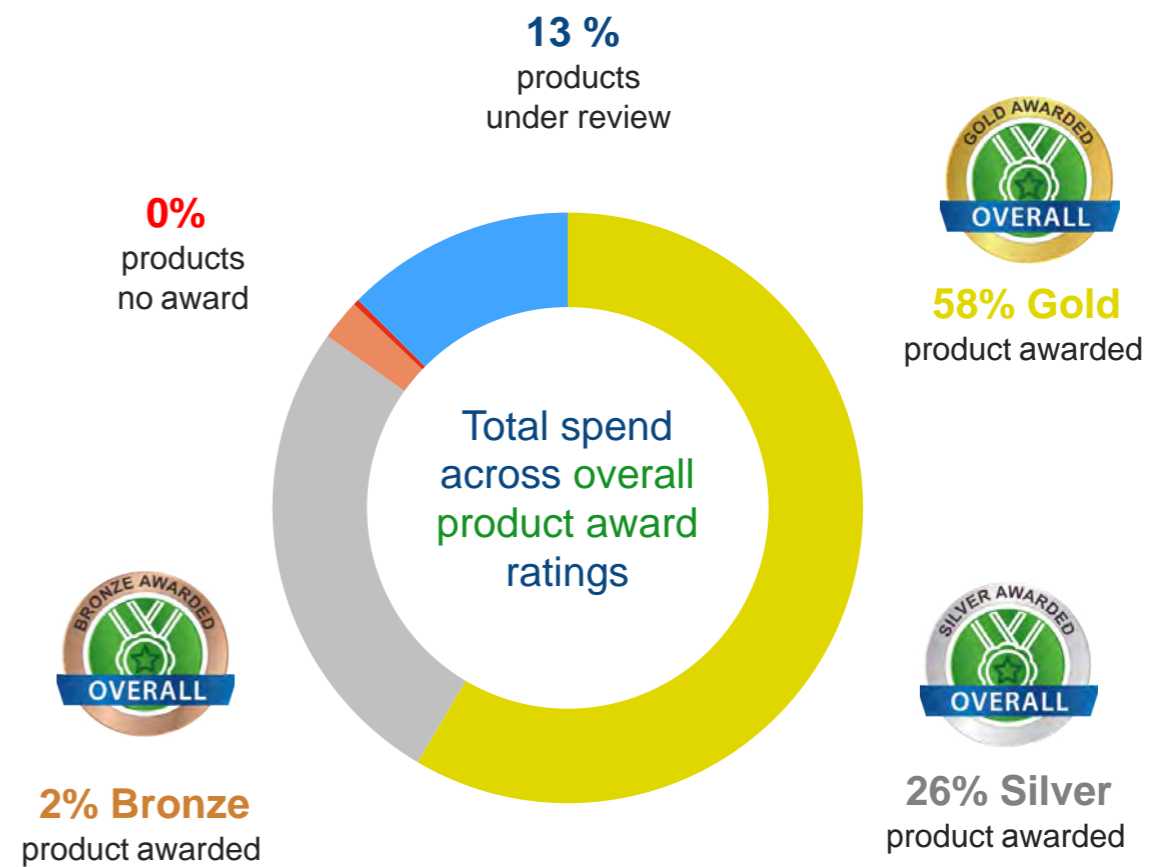
Key ingredients - including milk, bread, sandwiches, salads, and herbs - are sourced from within a 40-mile radius of the University, supporting local producers and reducing our carbon footprint.

To further enhance freshness and reduce waste, the team employs a just-in-time ordering system, ensuring ingredients are delivered as needed and used at their peak quality.



Housekeeping

In collaboration with our cleaning supply partner, we are committed to using environmentally responsible products that meet a high sustainability index. By optimising key sustainability attributes - including producer practices, production methods, packaging, and product composition - our supplier has developed a comprehensive index to guide and support informed customer choices. In 2024, over 50% of the University's cleaning products achieved the highest gold award standard, reflecting our dedication to sustainable cleaning solutions.



MIMA (MIDDLESBROUGH INSTITUTE OF MODERN ART)

MIMA (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art) connects art, people and ideas to empower creative lives and positively contribute to society. An international art gallery and accredited museum, MIMA commissions, collects and re-thinks modern and contemporary art - building and celebrating creativity.



Environmental advocacy and environmental thematic

MIMA has narrated and explored the natural environment and advocated for environmental responsibility and justice through a series of major exhibitions and public engagement events since 2019. Through collaborations they build cross-disciplinary knowledge and in 2022-23 MIMA invited ethnobotanist Dr Greg Kenicer to share reflections on artworks from his position of expertise on plant life and the health of the planet through the Deep Horizons exhibition and a walking tour of botany in Middlesbrough.

Supporting children and young people to engage with ecology

MIMA works with around 9,000 children and young people every year. Activities include free weekend and school holiday family programme, the Art Trolley, supporting children and their adults to engage with the natural world and understand the importance of biodiversity and climate responsibility.

An artist and a planet podcast

MIMA's podcast series supports creative practitioners and Teesside University's research community to share research in relation to natural and built environments. Six episodes to date featured biologists, environmental scientists, designers and artists on topics including earth-friendly fashion, legacies of chemicals production, extinction, biodiversity and creativity and nature recovery.



MIMA AND CLIMATE RESPONSIBILITY

Julie's Bicycle

MIMA closely monitors its environmental and carbon impact using the Julie's Bicycle programme which aims to reduce environmental impact and drive action across the arts and culture sector. The Arts Council England 2020-30 Strategy, Let's Create, is built around four investment principles, including environmental responsibility.

MIMA foregrounds sustainability in all project planning and builds the impact of materials and their reuse into planning and designing processes for temporary display structures to reduce waste and use resources efficiently.

With funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Arts Council England, MIMA is working with partners across Middlesbrough to enhance its building for the future. Within this, plans are underway for a new pavilion within MIMA's garden which will support local communities and students to engage with biodiversity and the natural world.

Partnerships

MIMA is a key partner in Natural Futures: a pilot programme with Tees Valley Nature Partnership, Natural England and Borderlands.

Borderlands

MIMA supports Borderlands, a Creative People and Places project for Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland that aims to support more people to choose, create and take part in brilliant creative experiences. The environment is one of Borderlands' key themes, encouraging communities to build creative engagement with physical and natural environments.

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL AND CYCLING

The University offers a range of options to staff to assist with using sustainable methods of transport to travel to the University. These green travel initiatives, which continue to be popular with staff, not only help to reduce the University’s carbon footprint but are also beneficial to staff from a wellbeing and cost saving perspective.

AROUND 50 STAFF ARE CURRENTLY SIGNED UP TO THESE INITIATIVES:

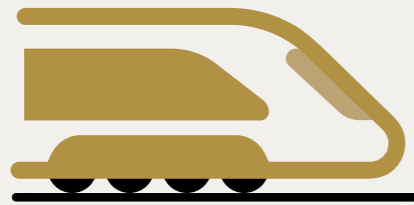
Cycle to work scheme

Since 2017, over 250 staff have obtained bicycles through this scheme.



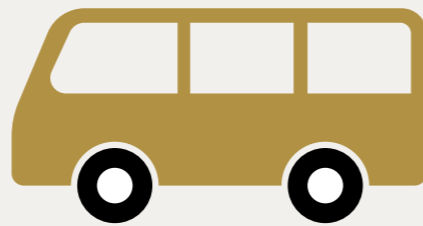
Train season tickets

Since 2017, over 135 staff have purchased season tickets through the partnership scheme with Northern Rail and Teesside University.



Bus season tickets

Since 2017, over 135 staff have purchased bus season tickets through the University’s dedicated loan scheme



Cycling at Teesside University

Following an extensive audit by Cycling UK, Teesside University continues to hold the highest possible accreditation of gold standard, as a cycle friendly employer.

CFE-UK (cycle friendly employer accreditation) is awarded to organisations that have exemplary cycle-friendly facilities. With partners in nine European countries, CFE- UK enables measurement against the only international standard for workplace cycling.

Cycling UK has championed the cause of cycling for more than 140 years. They promote all forms of cycling, protect the interests of existing and would-be cyclists, and inspire people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to discover the joys of cycling. As an independent, democratic and expert organisation, their activities reflect the commitment of members, volunteers and partners to make cycling mainstream, making a lasting difference to the lives of individuals and communities.

The University continues to make improvements to our facilities for student and staff cyclists. In recent months the University has added additional cycle storage with the opening of the new cycle store in the Tower car park providing 32 spaces.

Find out more about the facilities available for staff and student cyclists on campus: tees.ac.uk/cycling

Green car lease

In 2023 Teesside University signed up to the Tusker car benefit scheme which offers eligible staff the opportunity to lease a brand new electric or plug in hybrid car for a fixed monthly amount, offsetting some of the employee’s gross salary before tax. By offering financial savings to staff, the scheme makes sustainable, low carbon travel and commuting more accessible. 68 members of staff have signed up to the scheme to date.



Scope 3 emissions – business travel

Scope 3 emissions associated with business travel that is paid for by the University and undertaken by academic staff, support staff and students. For example, travel undertaken by academics to attend conferences or events.

Data relating to travel booked by staff members is collated centrally by the University’s travel team. This is then converted to carbon using the relevant Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy carbon conversion factors

In 2024-25 the University’s total carbon emissions from travel was 627 t CO₂ - down by 28% from the previous year.

Scope 3 carbon emissions - business travel					
t CO ₂ e	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Business travel - air	58	257	282	832	583
Business travel - rail	1	8	37	1	1
Business travel - grey fleet	38	55	25	28	29
Business travel - hire cars	4	20	17	16	14
Total scope 3	101	340	361	877	627



SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CURRICULUM

ENVIRONMENT IN THE CURRICULUM

[Applied Sustainability Professional Apprenticeship, Cert HE](#)

[Carbon Reduction Planning with a Healthcare Perspective, Non-accredited CPD](#)

[Change Management for Embedding Net Zero within Organisations, Non-accredited CPD](#)

[Electrical Power and Energy Systems, MSc](#)

[Electrical Power and Energy Systems \(with Advanced Practice\), MSc](#)

[Energy Engineering by Flexible Open Learning, HND](#)

[Energy Engineering by Flexible Open Learning, HND](#)

[Environmental Management, MSc](#)

[Environmental Management \(with Advanced Practice\), MSc](#)

[Deep Dive into Sustainability Topics, University Certificate in Professional Development](#)

[Fundamentals of Net Zero, Non-accredited CPD](#)

[Net Zero and Sustainability, Non-accredited CPD](#)

[Sustainability Business Specialist Apprenticeship \(integrated MSc Sustainability Leadership\), MSc](#)

[Sustainable Procurement, Non-accredited CPD](#)

[The Sustainable Leader, Non-accredited CPD](#)

UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA GREENMETRIC WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2023

For the eighth time Teesside University took part in the GreenMetric World University Rankings. It is the first and only university rankings in the world to measure each participation university's commitment in

developing an environmentally friendly infrastructure.

The rankings consider six indicators of each university (setting and infrastructure, energy and climate change, waste, water, transportation and education).



This year 1,476 universities in 95 countries participated, compared to the previous year when 1,182 universities in 84 countries took part. Universities Indonesia (UI) released the result of the UI Green Metric World University Rankings 2024 in December 2024.

This year Teesside University are ranked 641 out of 1,476 worldwide institutions. The new rankings will be published in December 2025.

The full results of the metric can be viewed [here](#).

PEOPLE AND PLANET UNIVERSITY LEAGUE 2024/25

People and Planet University League is the only comprehensive and independent league table of UK Universities ranked by environmental and ethical performance.

In 2024/25 149 Universities took part and Teesside was ranked 97th.

Full results can be viewed [here](#).



This publication is available in alternative formats on request.
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