

**AMBITION
DELIVERED
TODAY**



News & Updates

We regularly keep our University community up to date with sustainability news and updates, here's a selection of these updates:

27th August 2024



Join our Community of Practice

We are proud to launch a new series of events focused on community engagement.

Led by the Impact and Engagement team, Community of Practice will invite colleagues, postgraduate students and guest speakers to come together and exchange ideas on public and community engagement, fostering networking and collaboration across the University.

The first session, Focus on Policy Engagement, will take place on Monday 9 September, 12.00pm – 3.00pm, in The Curve, T1.10. For more details, and to register your place, visit the [online form](#) by Monday 2 September.

[Book your place](#)

2nd July 2024



Cycle mechanic visit

As part of a free service for staff and students, in partnership with Middlesbrough Sustainable Active Travel Hub, a cycle mechanic will visit campus to make minor adjustments and repairs and provide advice on setting up cycles to improve efficiency and posture.

The mechanic will be available at the Themis cycle store (below the Themis building, entrance near the Amazon locker/ Clarendon Waterhouse building) at the following dates and times:

- Thursday 18 July - 10.00 am – 3.00pm
- Thursday 15 August – 10.00am – 3.00pm
- Thursday 19 September – 10.00am – 3.00pm

There's no need to book an appointment, just turn up on the day with your bike.

For more information, contact [Richard Cuthbert](#).

Campus cycle facilities

Get planting

Alley Pals Middlesbrough is leading a free planting workshop in the Library on Saturday 6 July, between 10.00am and 12.00 noon.

Try your hand at planting seeds and learn about the important role this has in supporting local wildlife.



More information

28th May 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE
UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE TEAM

SPECIAL UPDATE

University Maintains EcoCampus Gold Standard

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to confirm that the [University's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability](#) has been awarded [EcoCampus Gold](#).

The EcoCampus scheme evaluates our environmental management, in line with the international management system standard ISO14001, alongside staff and student engagement and the overall corporate commitment to sustainability.

In the most recent audit, **Teesside's approach continues to be recognised as gold standard**. This is clear evidence of the importance the University places on ensuring it operates and develops in a sustainable manner.

Through our campus masterplan, we have invested over £300m in developing a modern, vibrant and future-proofed university estate. Sustainability has been a core component of these projects, with all new builds achieving the **BREEAM excellent** sustainability standard and delivering a 10% biodiversity net gain across campus.

All energy used across campus is from green sources, and the University has also delivered a reduction of 49.2% in CO2 emissions and maintained a zero waste to landfill commitment.

We have also maintained a clear focus on delivering social value throughout the campus masterplan, embedding sustainable procurement practices, sourcing local labour and materials and creating new employment opportunities through the supply chain.

At Teesside, we ensure our commitment to sustainability goes beyond green initiatives and consider our wider operations as an ethical and responsible business. A newly formed Environmental and Social Governance Oversight Board is driving forward the cross-institutional activity required to deliver this wider social impact.

The latest [Environmental and Social Governance Report](#) shows the significant progress made against these goals.

We aim to further enhance our sustainable and socially responsible practices, and everyone across Team Teesside has a role to play in achieving this.

You can help manage the University's environmental impact by recycling, reducing energy consumption, or choosing reusable products. Through considering social impact when appointing suppliers, or signing up to our employee giving scheme, [Be the Change](#), you can also help generate positive impact for the communities we serve.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the University's green commitment and the action you are taking that will help us progress towards a more sustainable future.

Best wishes,

Malcolm Page
Chief Operating Officer



Teesside University
T: 01642 342275 | E: communications@tees.ac.uk



7th May 2024



Tusker webinar

To learn about our environmentally friendly employee Car Benefit Scheme, join a [webinar](#) on Wednesday 22 May, from 1.00pm-1.30pm. Log on to the [Car Benefit Scheme website](#) and save a quote before Thursday 30 May for a chance to win a £100 Amazon voucher.

[Register for the webinar](#)

23rd April 2024

Have a clear-out and help the British Heart Foundation

Colleagues are invited to join in with our end-of-term donation campaign in support of the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

The charity is encouraging colleagues and students to have a clear-out and donate the clothes, shoes, books, DVDs, bags, and small electrical items they no longer need at the end of the academic year.

Temporary BHF donation points will be set up at various locations around campus from Monday 29 April, including the **Centuria building**, **Themis building**, **Cornell Quarter**, **Middlesbrough Tower**, and **Students' Union building**. Items can be placed in the donation boxes loosely, or in bags.

There are also permanent donation points situated at Woodlands and Parkside East halls of residence.

[About the British Heart Foundation](#)



26th March 2024



Researching shopping habits and needs

An Eco-Shop, or social supermarket, operated by Middlesbrough Environment City is to be set up in the Students' Union building.

Professor Amelia Lake, from the School of Health & Life Sciences, and Dr Helen Moore, from the School of Social Sciences, Humanities & Law, plan to evaluate the initiative and examine the food security status and shopping habits of both colleagues and students.

Please complete a short online survey as part of this study to support their research.

[Complete the survey](#)



Keeping our Living Wall looking good

Important maintenance work to spruce up our Living Wall installation in Campus Heart is underway to ensure it's looking its best for Summer Graduation in July.

This will involve replacing the irrigation system over the coming months.

[Learn more](#)

12th March 2024

Free bicycle repairs

Does your bicycle need some minor adjustments or repairs? If so, bring it along to the Themis building cycle store on Thursday 28 March, 18 April, or 16 May, 10.00am-3.00pm, and our cycle mechanic will be happy to help.

[More details](#)



12th December 2023



Switch off at Christmas

Please unplug non-essential equipment before the Christmas break to help our University save energy. Some printers and personal computers should not be fully switched off so please contact your local IT Support Team if you need advice.

Don't miss out

14th November 2023



Team Teesside festive celebrations and charity appeal

Join us as we get into the festive spirit and celebrate the end of another successful year on Thursday 7 December, 4.00pm-7.00pm, in the Student Life building.

There'll be a [Christmas mosaic workshop](#) (limited spaces so booking is required), a festive marketplace selling a range of handmade cards, gifts and decorations, and a carol concert by VOX Choir to enjoy whilst you tuck into a mince pie around the Christmas tree.

We're also calling on colleagues and students to come together and help others by donating essential items to our Team Teesside Festive Appeal.

The campaign combines our annual Volun-tees and HelpTU British Heart Foundation (BHF) initiatives and helps local people who may be facing financial challenges at this time of year. Items required include dried and tinned foods, preserves, tea, coffee, biscuits, toiletries, cleaning products, and clothes, shoes, accessories, books, and small electricals.

Donations need to be in by 30 November, so please visit the [Team Teesside festive celebrations](#) page to find where your nearest drop off point is located.

Join in the fun

17th October 2023

Win a HelpTU water bottle and reduce plastic waste



Did you know that global plastic consumption has quadrupled over the past 30 years, but only 9% of plastic waste is recycled?

That's why we're encouraging colleagues and students to [Help TU Help the Planet](#) and switch to reusables to help save energy and reduce plastic waste.

We want to promote sustainability and become a net zero institution by 2030. To help achieve this, we're asking all members of our Team Teesside community to ditch plastic drinks bottles and switch to refillable alternatives.

There are [more than 25 drinking water refill locations](#) across campus, so why not top up today, save money, and help the environment?

Fancy the chance to win a brand-new refillable water bottle? We are giving bottles away to the first 50 colleagues who [send an email to the Help TU team](#) with their top three tips for being environmentally friendly in the workplace.

[Win a water bottle](#)

3rd October 2023

Free bicycle repairs on campus



Does your bicycle need some maintenance or minor repairs? If so, bring it to campus and a trained bicycle mechanic will take a look at it, and make minor adjustments and repairs, free of charge.

The mechanic will be available between 10.00am-3.00pm on the following Thursdays: 5 October, 2 November, 30 November, and 25 January. There's no

need to book an appointment, just come along to the Cycle Store located below the Themis West (formerly Clarendon) building.

This free service is provided in partnership with Middlesbrough Sustainable Active Travel Hub, to help colleagues and students keep their bicycles in safe working order.

For more information contact [Richard Cuthbert](#), Environmental Officer.

[Cycling facilities on campus](#)

30th October 2023

Recycling – find out how we manage our waste

Colleagues and students are invited to learn more about how our campus waste and recycling is managed, and how you can make a difference to our recycling rates.

Our recycling provider, Biffa Waste Services, will deliver a short presentation on Wednesday 11 October, 1.00pm-1.45pm, in The Curve (T2.01). There's no need to book.

Teesside University aims to become a net zero institution by 2030, and we all have a part to play in achieving that goal. As part of our efforts to achieve this, 127 tonnes (32%) of the waste collected from our University was successfully recycled in 2021.

Please come along and find out how you can us reduce waste still further.

[Read more](#)



30th June 2023

SPECIAL UPDATE

New centre to deliver net zero ambitions

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to confirm that our Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre (NZIIC) is now complete.

The £13.1m NZIIC, based at the nearby Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park, will play a key role in the delivery of net zero ambitions for the region and will be a national centre of excellence for net zero technologies, creating hundreds more clean energy jobs and aligning the University's expertise with industry need and Government priorities.

With funding from the Tees Valley Combined Authority and the European Regional Development Fund and delivered by Robertsons Construction, the development has already received a prestigious **Environmental Award at the North East Industry Cluster (NEPIC) annual awards**.



A number of measures, including a zero-waste initiative, living roof and recyclable materials, were implemented to ensure the build achieved its net zero target. The NZIIC also received the BREAAAM Outstanding Award for building techniques that reduce the impact on the environment during construction and operation.

Teesside University is committed to becoming a net zero institution by 2030 and the NZIIC will help us to initiate change to address the climate emergency through industry partnerships, skills development, research and innovation. A number of innovative projects are already underway, including developing new processes to create recycled workwear and replacing non-renewable plastics with sustainable alternatives throughout the supply chain.

The NZIIC is also involved in an £11m Research England-funded project to support hydrogen innovation in the Tees Valley, and is engaged with multiple industry partners on a global scale to support its work.

There is substantial collaboration with **partners in South Africa to support hydrogen research** and a transatlantic centre of excellence for decarbonisation has been set up with the University of Illinois in the United States.

Our NZIIC is also set to play a leading role in the region, shaping and creating a cleaner and greener future and helping businesses achieve their net zero ambitions through pioneering



research and state-of-the-art facilities. Our fully equipped specialist Decarbonisation, Circular Economy, Intelligent Energy and Digital Modelling & Simulation labs identify commercial opportunities to reduce environmental impact and bring them to fruition.

We are incredibly proud about the future ambitions of the NZIIC and we are confident it will place Teesside firmly at the heart of the UK's green industrial revolution.

Our campus transformation would not be possible without the dedication, determination and commitment demonstrated by every member of Team Teesside. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in our ongoing campus developments - your hard work is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,
Malcolm Page
Chief Operating Officer.



Teesside University

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27th June 2023

Professorial lecture: Land-based solutions and pathways for net zero

Please join us for the last in our current series of professorial lectures, presented by Professor Diana Feliciano, Teesside University International Business School.



The session, titled 'Land-based solutions and policy pathways for net zero', will explore the UK's plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and the barriers and opportunities presented by the land use sector.

Professor Feliciano will also discuss the urgent need for all sectors, including agriculture, to transform if we are to achieve these net zero targets.

The lecture will take place on Wednesday 5 July, 5.30pm-6.30pm, in the Stephenson Lecture Theatre, and booking is required.

[Book your place](#)

13th June 2023

We need your Help TU make a difference

As part of our commitment to becoming a net zero institution by 2030, we need colleagues to step up to the challenge of reducing energy consumption at work.



We can all play a part in achieving our goal by taking responsibility for our own on-campus energy usage, and the **Help TU** team have provided a handy guide with hints and suggestions that could make a big difference.

The advice includes information on saving energy, water consumption, sustainable procurement practices, recycling, and transport options. Please take a look and consider what you can do to help us make our University more environmentally friendly.

[Read the guide](#)

16th May 2023

Support our heartfelt appeal



As part of our commitment to sustainability and supporting our communities, colleagues are invited to get involved with our end-of-term donation campaign in aid of the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

The charity is encouraging colleagues and students to have a clear out and donate the clothes, shoes, books, DVDs, bags, and small electrical items they no longer need.

Temporary BHF donation points have been set up at various locations around campus, including the Centuria building, Clarendon building, Cornell Quarter, Middlesbrough Tower, the Printworks, and Students' Union building. Items can be placed in the donation boxes loosely, or in bags.

There are also permanent donation points situated at Woodlands and Parkside East halls of residence.

[About the British Heart Foundation](#)

4th April 2023

Environmental accolade for our new NZIIC building

Our new Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre (NZIIC) has scooped a prestigious Corporate Environmental Award.

The £13.1m NZIIC received recognition at this year's annual North East Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC) Annual Awards, with the building set to play a key role in the region, shaping and creating a cleaner and greener future.



The University will donate the £2,000 prize money to Macmillan Academy in Middlesbrough to support a school science initiative aimed at inspiring the scientists of the future.

In another success for our University, student Amy Summerton, BEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering, was named as a winner in the Young Achiever category.

[About the awards](#)

Woodlands Halls improvements will reduce our environmental impacts



Our commitment to becoming a net zero institution by 2030 has received a boost in the form of an £875k grant to make our Woodlands Halls student residences more energy efficient.

The funding has been awarded as part of a £1.8bn Government initiative to improve the energy efficiency of homes and public buildings across England.

The money will be used to replace the existing gas heating systems with air source heat pumps and electric boilers. Cavity wall and loft insulation, and double glazing, will also be installed to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings.

These changes will complement our sustainability strategy by reducing our environmental impact and support our efforts to create a net zero campus.

[Read more](#)

Greenhouse gas expert appointed to national committee

Congratulations to Dr Humbul Suleman, Senior Lecturer in Chemical Engineering, who has been appointed as an executive committee member of the CO2RE Future Leaders Network.



CO2RE is the UK's first and only national research hub on greenhouse gas removal, and the network is jointly monitored by the University of Oxford, Imperial College London, University College London and four other Russell Group institutions.

The Future Leaders Network will bring early career practitioners together to help build long-term UK Greenhouse Gas Removal (GGR) capacity and capability, by providing a platform for skills development and skills sharing.

[More about CO2RE](#)

Thinking of going green?



Are you thinking about buying a new electric car? If so, why not take a look at our new Car Benefit Scheme and discover the options and potential savings available to eligible Teesside colleagues?

The scheme offers the chance to **lease a brand-new electric or plug-in hybrid car**

for a fixed monthly amount by offsetting some of your gross salary before tax.

To view the range of cars available and obtain a quote, visit the **Teesside Advantage Extra (Vivup)** benefits portal, and select the Car Benefits Scheme to create a Tusker account and log in. Please contact our **Employee Engagement** team if you have any questions.

[Find out more](#)

22nd March 2023

Free bicycle repairs

Does your bicycle need some maintenance or minor repairs? If so, bring it to campus and a trained bicycle mechanic will take a look at it, and make minor adjustments and repairs, free of charge.



Our mechanic will be available on Tuesday 4 April, Thursday 4 May, and Wednesday 7 June, between 10.00am-3.00pm. There's no need to book an appointment, just come along to the Cycle Store located below the Clarendon building.

This service is provided in partnership with Middlesbrough Sustainable Active Travel Hub, to help colleagues and students keep their bicycles in safe working order. For more information, contact **Richard Cuthbert**, Environmental Officer.

[Cycling facilities on campus](#)

7th March 2023

Working towards a sustainable future



Our University's vision is to embed sustainable development in everything we do, and we have already made considerable progress towards realising many of our goals and objectives.

The achievements of colleagues and students, as well as our commitment to improving the efficiency of our built environment, and our wider efforts to improve our environmental sustainability, are a source of pride for our University.

Our **Annual Environmental Report 2021-2022** highlights some of the impressive steps we've taken to improve our sustainability and protect our environment.

- 100% of the electricity used by our University is from renewable sources.
- We planted 16 new trees as part of our campus developments.
- We achieved a 40.1% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions against peak levels.
- We saved 6,100 cubic litres of water – enough to fill three Olympic-sized swimming pools.

However, much remains to be done to enable us to achieve our goal of becoming a Net Zero institution by 2030, so please continue to **Help TU** to help our environment.

[Read our annual report](#)

24th January 2023

Save money on a green car (and other colours too)

Colleagues can now take advantage of our new Car Benefit Scheme. The scheme allows eligible employees to **lease a brand-new electric or plug-in hybrid car** for a fixed monthly amount by offsetting some of your gross salary before tax.



To view the range of cars available and obtain a quote, visit the **Teesside Advantage Extra (Vivup)** benefits portal, and select the Car Benefits Scheme to create a Tusker account and log in.

We're hosting a webinar to explain how the scheme works on Friday 27 January, 12.00pm-1.00pm. **Booking is required.** Please contact our **Employee Engagement** team if you have any questions.

[Find out more](#)

Get around for £2



A new Government scheme has been introduced to encourage bus passengers to **'Get Around for £2'** from January to March this year.

The initiative aims to help families, commuters and other passengers save money this winter, by capping single bus

fares on **many popular routes**. With average single local bus tickets costing £2.80, passengers will save almost a third of the ticket price per journey.

Colleagues are encouraged to take advantage of these savings to reduce the cost of getting to and from work, and to **help the environment by using public transport** in preference to private vehicles.

In addition, the University offers a range of employee travel discounts and arrangements, including interest-free loans to buy annual bus season tickets. For more information, please contact our **Employee Engagement** team.

[Check your route](#)

Thank you Team Teesside



Thank you to everyone who supported our Team Teesside Festive Appeal last month. Your kind donations have helped young people and families in need, across the Tees Valley, during the cost-of-living crisis.

Donations to our Volun-tees campaign were up by 50% compared to last year,

thanks to colleagues who brought in food essentials, toiletries, toys, warm clothing, and more, to support FoodCycle, A Way Out, and Depaul UK.

Colleagues also donated an incredible 49 bags of second-hand clothes and other items to support the British Heart Foundation, which could raise almost £700 when sold, and help fund lifesaving research into heart and circulatory diseases.

Your support is a great example of what Team Teesside is all about and shows what we can achieve when we pull together.

[More about Volun-tees](#)

18th January 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE
UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE TEAM

SPECIAL UPDATE

Join our new green Car Benefit Scheme today

Dear Colleagues,

As part of our University's commitment to supporting colleagues, reducing carbon emissions, and encouraging sustainable travel, I am pleased to announce the launch of our new, comprehensive Car Benefit Scheme for Teesside University employees.

We have teamed up with CPC Drive, in partnership with the award-winning, carbon neutral vehicle provider Tusker, to bring you an inclusive salary sacrifice motoring offer through our benefits and rewards package.

It could save you money if you are considering changing your car this year, and by switching to an alternatively fuelled vehicle (AFV) you will be helping the environment at the same time.



We will be hosting a webinar to explain how the scheme works on Friday 27 January and you can **register to attend** today. Please see below for details.

How does it work?

Our new scheme allows eligible colleagues to **lease a brand-new electric or plug-in hybrid car for a fixed monthly amount** by offsetting some of your gross salary before it gets taxed.

Simply choose the car you want and once it has been delivered, a fixed monthly amount will be deducted from your gross salary before income tax and National Insurance (NI).



The package comes complete with comprehensive motor insurance, road tax, replacement tyres, routine servicing and MOTs, maintenance and repairs, RAC European breakdown cover, and more.

You can take advantage of fleet discounts on a wide range of electric and plug-in hybrid cars, and there is no deposit and credit checks are not required.

Please note you will be liable for **Benefit in Kind (BiK) tax** as the car is a benefit provided by the University. Benefit in Kind tax for electric vehicles is 2% until April 2025, meaning you can make tax and NI savings on electric cars (BiK varies for hybrid cars based on CO2 emissions).

The scheme offers savings on **a wide range of makes and models of electric and plug-in hybrid cars** from all the leading manufacturers. You can design a car to your preferred specification, or you can choose a pre-specified, in-stock model for a quicker delivery timeframe.

To view the range of cars available and obtain a quote, **visit the Teesside Advantage Extra (Vivup) benefits portal**, and select the Car Benefits Scheme to create a Tusker account and log in.

How much does it cost?

The amount you pay will depend on a number of factors including your salary point, car type, mileage, postcode, existing salary sacrifice schemes, pension contributions, and other variables.

It is important to note that as this is a salary sacrifice scheme, there will be an impact on your pension for those in pension schemes as a result of reduced contribution to your pension during the period you access the scheme. Therefore, you should take this into account as part of your wider decision making on whether to access the scheme.

Please visit the Car Benefit Scheme website to request a quote based on your personal circumstances.

Reducing our environmental impacts

We are determined to become a net zero institution by 2030 to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of both our University and our planet.

Electric cars are better for the environment as they emit fewer greenhouse gases and air pollutants than petrol or diesel cars, both in terms of the manufacturing process and energy consumption.

Register for our webinar to find out more

You can find out more about our new Car Benefit Scheme by attending our launch event webinar on Friday 27 January, 12.00pm-1.00pm. **Booking is required so please register now.**

Alternatively, please **visit our Unity page** for more information or contact our **Employee Engagement** team if you have any questions.

Book now for the webinar

**Best wishes,
Malcolm Page
Chief Operating Officer.**



14th December 2022

**MESSAGE FROM THE
UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE TEAM**

SPECIAL UPDATE

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle - help us achieve net zero

Dear Colleagues,

Teesside is determined to become a net zero institution by 2030, and we all have a part to play in achieving that goal.

One way to minimise our impact on the environment is to **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle** on a daily basis.

Last year, our University generated 402 tonnes of waste materials – the equivalent of 33 double decker buses' worth of rubbish.

Waste is unavoidable in the workplace, but it is up to us to decide how we deal with it, and we can choose to handle it responsibly.



Managing our waste responsibly

Net zero is the national commitment to ensuring the UK's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions become equal to, or less than, the emissions the UK removes from the environment through a combination of emission reduction and removal.

As part of our efforts to achieve net zero at an institutional level, 127 tonnes (32%) of the waste collected from the University by our waste contractor was successfully recycled in 2021. That figure comprised 18 tonnes of glass, 28 tonnes of metal, and 81 tonnes of mixed recycling.

Reducing, reusing, and recycling cuts down the amount of waste, reduces the amount of energy and natural resources needed to produce new products, and avoids additional greenhouse gas emissions caused through transportation. It also helps to protect fragile ecosystems and wildlife, locally and internationally.

The following examples demonstrate some of **the power of recycling**.

- One recycled tin can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours.
- Producing aluminium from old cans and foil uses 95% less energy than making them from new.
- One recycled plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for three hours.
- Making paper from recycled pulp uses 40% less energy than making it from virgin wood fibres.
- One recycled glass bottle saves enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes.

We are proud of our efforts to date, but we know there is more to do. That is why we are calling on all colleagues to step up and take responsibility for reducing the amount of waste we produce.

How you can help

Simple everyday changes can make a real difference to the amount of waste our University produces.

Reduce

Use less water, electricity, or gas whenever possible by switching off electrical devices, or turning off taps and radiators, when not in use. Printing less is another quick win – it reduces the number of trees cut down for pulp, and less energy is used to make and transport paper. If you do have to print, then please choose double-sided and black and white whenever possible.

Reuse

Choosing reusable products, or extending an item's useful life, or repurposing something for an alternative use, means that fewer new products are required, and costs are reduced. For example, bringing a **refillable water bottle** to work, or using a ceramic mug instead of disposable plastic cups, will help to significantly reduce waste.

Recycle

Please remember to sort your office waste into the appropriate rubbish bins around campus every day to avoid contamination. Waste contractors charge less to collect recyclable waste than general rubbish so by separating out paper, card, plastic, tins, and metal and other similar items you'll be helping the environment and keeping our University's costs down too.

We also provide British Heart Foundation donation stations for second-hand items at Woodlands and Parkside East, and we have battery bins in our main reception areas to recycle some of the 600 million batteries that are thrown away every year in the UK.

Competition time

There are lots of ways to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle at work and we would love to hear your ideas about how to reduce our University's environmental impacts and running costs.

Please send your suggestions to the **Help TU** team by Monday 9 January 2023 to be entered into a prize draw to Win a £25 Love2shop Gift Card. **Terms and conditions** apply. A selection of the best ideas will be published on the **Help TU webpage**.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to helping our environment and making Teesside a net zero University by 2030.

Best wishes,

Malcolm Page

Chief Operating Officer.



**Communications and
Development**

Teesside University

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6th December 2022

Free bicycle maintenance and repairs

Does your bicycle need some maintenance or minor repairs? If so, bring it to campus on Tuesday 13 December or Thursday 12 January, 10.00am-3.00pm (both days), and you can have it fixed, free of charge.



A bicycle mechanic will be on hand to make minor adjustments and repairs, and to provide advice on how to set up your bike to improve efficiency, safety and posture.

The University is providing this service to help colleagues and students keep their bicycles in safe working order, in partnership with Middlesbrough Sustainable Active Travel Hub.

There's no need to book an appointment, just come along to the Cycle Store located below the Clarendon building. For more information contact **Richard Cuthbert**, Environmental Officer.

[Cycling facilities on campus](#)

The Centre for Digital Trade and Innovation



Our University is a founding partner of the **Centre for Digital Trade and Innovation (C4DTI)**, a Teesside-based International Chamber of Commerce initiative, supported by the Tees Valley Combined Authority, to deliver benefits locally, nationally, and on a global stage.

The aim of the C4DTI is to make trade cheaper, faster, and more sustainable through digitalisation, becoming the UK champion of interoperable ecosystems. It will achieve this through legal assistance, pilots, training, and research.

[More about C4DTI](#)

Seal snaps wanted, to aid conservation



The Tees Seal Photo ID Project (TSPID) is a new citizen science initiative giving members of the public the opportunity to get involved in important conservation research.

The project will allow researchers to understand and monitor seal populations in the Tees and surrounding areas, and colleagues are invited to get involved and help this important work.

You can help by taking photographs of any seals you see in the local area to add to the project's existing catalogue of 132 local animals.

The pictures will enable researchers to identify individual animals and monitor them over time, by observing the unique patterns on each seal's fur.

For more information, or to submit your photographs, please contact environmental science PhD student **Freya Pellie**. Please include the date and location your photos were taken in your email.

[More about the project](#)

22nd November 2022

Help TU reduce paper waste



Net zero is the commitment to ensuring the UK's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions become equal to, or less than, the emissions the UK removes from the environment through a combination of emission reduction and removal.

We are determined to become a net zero institution by 2030, and one way we can all help to achieve this is by printing less at work.

Eliminating paper waste reduces the number of trees cut down for pulp, and less energy is used to make and transport paper.

Please try not to print unless you have to, and if you do then please choose double-sided and black and white whenever possible.

[Help TU](#)

Net Zero accolade



Professor Michael Short, Professor of Control Engineering and Systems Informatics in the School of Computing, Engineering & Digital Technology, has been named as one of the 50 most influential people working within the Net Zero agenda within the UK.

The inaugural **Net Zero 50 List 2022**, launched by Digital Leaders, brings together the top 50 individuals, organisations, initiatives, products, and services helping us reach Net Zero in the UK.

Professor Short has been nominated for his work with the **Centre for Sustainable Engineering** which focuses on the design, development, and enhancement of engineering systems, processes, and products that are efficient and sustainable without compromising the natural environment.

Votes are now being cast for the favourite member of the list. To vote for Professor Short visit the link below.

[Vote now](#)

Urgent action required - fire safety

Colleagues are reminded that the use of toasters, kettles, microwaves, and other similar electrical items in **non-designated areas** on campus is strictly prohibited.

This is to ensure the safety of all members of our University community.



Last month, an electrical fire occurred in one of our buildings due to a faulty kettle that had run dry (see image). Our Security team were on hand to deal with the incident, which could have been much worse.

Such electrical items are subject to Portable Appliance Testing (PAT), and may only be used in specialist kitchens, kitchenettes, catering facilities, tea points, and specified teaching spaces.

A list of approved campus locations can be found in the Fire Safety section of the [Health and Safety Unity page](#).

Please ensure that all such electrical items are removed from non-designated areas by Friday 11 November at the latest.

If you have any questions, please contact the [Health and Safety](#) team.

[Read our Fire Safety Policy](#)

Children's books wanted

A startling statistic published by the National Literacy Trust suggests almost **one in five children in England do not own a book of their own**.

This figure is likely to increase due to the cost-of-living crisis, with 51% of parents now saying **books are too expensive**.



Encouraging children to pick up a book is vital, as reading is proven to help them do better at school and makes them happier, healthier, more empathetic, and creative.

That's why our University is working in partnership with Wates Group to collect second-hand books to donate to local children's hospital wards and to improve literacy in our area.

If your children have books they no longer read or need, please bring them to work and donate them by dropping them into the red post box on the BIOS hoardings, between The Curve and Olympia.

[Read more](#)

Queen's Green Canopy

Our Campus Services team has planted 16 trees across three locations this year, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

The aim of the initiative was to create a living legacy by planting more than one million trees across the nation in honour of Her Late Majesty.



Queen Elizabeth planted the first tree in the grounds of Windsor Castle to mark the launch of the project in March 2021.

Eleven Birch, four Cherry, and one Aspen tree have been planted near Woodlands Halls of Residence, the Centuria Building, and in King Edward's Square.

[Read more](#)

11th October 2022

Teesside to lead £11m hydrogen innovation project

Teesside and Durham universities are working together on a ground-breaking £11m project to support hydrogen innovation in the Tees Valley.



The funding includes £4.8m from the Research England Development (RED) Fund, part of UK Research and Innovation - the single, largest research grant our University has ever received.

The Teesside-led, four-year project, titled Growing Teesside's Hydrogen Economy and Catalysing a Just Transition to Net Zero ('Collaborations in Research'), will accelerate decarbonisation and the use of hydrogen.

Our University has been at the forefront of the regional effort to establish a hydrogen economy for the past twenty years, and the eagerly awaited opening of our £16.4m Net Zero Industrial Innovation Centre (NZIIC) will further boost innovation in this area.

[Find out more](#)

Action required - removal of portable heaters



As the winter season approaches, colleagues are advised that the use of portable heating devices on campus is not permitted.

This is to ensure the safety of our University community, minimise our environmental impact in line with our

commitment to net zero, and reduce energy costs.

We are aware that some heaters brought to campus have not been PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) checked and could cause an electrical fire if they malfunction. These items should be removed from University buildings as soon as possible.

In addition, University-owned portable heaters should be returned to Campus Services to help us manage our energy usage centrally. Please **submit a work request** and arrange for any such items to be collected.

Portable heaters affect the energy efficiency of our heating and cooling systems, and they are expensive to operate. We estimate that the use of portable heaters on campus costs the University around £200,000 per year.

Please ensure that all portable heaters have been removed from your work area by **Friday 28 October** at the latest.

If you have any concerns about the temperature in your work area, please contact Campus Services so issues can be investigated and resolved.

[Contact Campus Services](#)

Travel smarter and save money

As the cost of living continues to rise, now is the perfect time to explore our range of sustainable travel offers.

The University offers several travel discounts and provides facilities for alternative arrangements, to help reduce personal transport costs and protect our environment, including:



- **Buses:** interest-free loans for the purchase of annual bus season tickets
- **Car Share:** split the cost of driving by sharing your journey with colleagues
- **Cycle to Work:** our scheme can save you money when buying a new bicycle
- **Trains:** pay for your rail season ticket monthly from your salary and save money

What's more, by switching to a more environmentally friendly form of transport, you'll be supporting our goal of becoming a net zero institution by 2030.

[Claim your travel discounts](#)

27th September 2022

Changing behaviours to tackle rising energy costs

Our University's electricity costs have doubled and gas prices have trebled over the past year, so we've introduced a range of energy saving initiatives to save money and achieve our goal of becoming a net zero institution by 2030.



We can all play a part in reducing our workplace energy consumption, by taking responsibility for our own on-campus energy usage.

For example, please unplug all non-essential electrical equipment when not in use, and especially before you go home at night. Devices such as phone and laptop chargers, screens, kettles, and microwaves consume energy even when they're in standby mode.

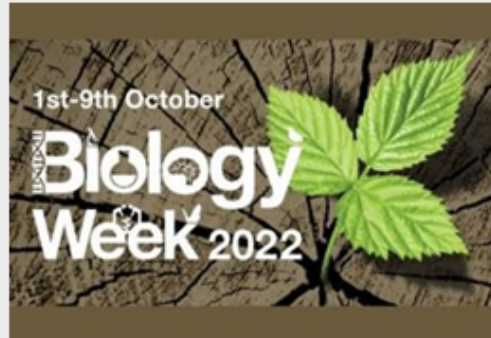
Always 'think before you print' and remember to switch off lights in empty rooms as not all of our buildings have motion-sensing lighting systems.

Please step up to the challenge and take personal responsibility to help sustain our University's long-term success.

Stand by for action

Calling all BioBakers

Colleagues from the School of Health & Life Sciences would like to invite you to sign up for a special BioBake competition, to help celebrate **Biology Week** (Saturday 1 - Sunday 9 October).



Biology Week is a national event to showcase all aspects of the biosciences and engage everyone, from children to professional biologists, in an exciting mix of fun, scientific activities.

BioBake is a bake-off competition for all colleagues - simply bake a homemade cake (or other baked goods) inspired by the theme of biology for your chance to win a copy of 'How Baking Works: Exploring the Fundamentals of Baking Science' by Paula Figoni.

The book explains the principles and science that make baking work, including every chemical reaction, essential ingredient, and technique, and reveals the complex mysteries of bread loaves, pastries, and everything in between.

It costs £2 to take part, with proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support. Please **register in advance** by Wednesday 5 October, 5.00pm.

Submissions can be dropped off with your entry money in the foyer of the Centuria building on Friday 7 October, 10.00am-11.00am. **Terms and conditions** apply.

Ready, Set, BioBake!



22nd September 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE
UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE TEAM

SPECIAL UPDATE

Don't just stand by as energy costs rise - get involved

Dear Colleagues,

As you will be aware, global energy costs are increasing significantly and creating financial pressures for individuals, families, and organisations alike.

In the past year alone, our University's electricity costs have doubled and gas prices have trebled.

We have already introduced a wide range of energy saving initiatives and made significant investments in technology, both to save money and help us become a low carbon organisation.

What our University is doing

We are determined to become a net zero institution by 2030, meaning that our total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will become equal to, or less than, the reduction in emissions we are able to achieve. This is critical to the long-term sustainability of both our University and our environment.

In particular, our new £13.1m **Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre** will play a key role in the delivery of net zero ambitions for the region and the UK.

We have installed photovoltaic (PV) arrays (solar panels) to generate electricity on the roofs of four of our buildings - the Curve, Student Life, National Horizons Centre, and the Cornell Quarter student accommodation block.

Other energy-saving developments have included installing new loft insulation in the Victoria Building and upgrading the electric heat pump system in the Printworks.

Looking ahead, we also expect **our new £35m central science and medical building**, BIOS, to be powered entirely by electric heat pump systems and PV arrays, completely removing our reliance on gas to heat the building.

What we need you to do

We can all play a part in reducing our workplace energy consumption to help mitigate the impact of these cost increases.

We need everyone to take responsibility for their own on-campus energy consumption, and that will require us all to review and change our daily behaviours in numerous small ways.

For example, please unplug all non-essential electrical equipment when not in use, and especially before you go home at night.

That doesn't just mean turning machines off, it means physically unplugging them from wall sockets as devices such as phone and laptop chargers, screens, kettles, and microwaves consume energy even when they're in standby mode.

However please note that some printers and certain types of personal computer should not be switched off fully. If in doubt, please contact the **IT Helpdesk** for guidance.

You should also always 'think before you print' and remember to switch off lights in empty rooms as not all of our buildings have motion-sensing lighting systems.

These changes may seem small when viewed in isolation, but the aggregate effect of all of our efforts will quickly amount to substantial energy reduction and vital cost savings for our University.

Please step up to the challenge and take personal responsibility for helping to sustain our University's long-term success.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best wishes,
Malcolm Page
Chief Operating Officer.



Communications and
Development

Teesside University

T: 01642 342275 | E: communications@tees.ac.uk



20th September 2022

Leading the transition to a net zero economy

Dear Colleagues,

Building work is progressing rapidly on the site of our new £13.1m Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre (NZIIC), located at the expanding Tees Valley Net Zero Innovation Hub in Middlesbrough.

Net zero is the commitment to ensuring the UK's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions become equal to, or less than, the emissions the UK removes from the environment through a combination of emission reduction and removal.

We are determined to become a net zero institution by 2030, and our new NZIIC will support the UK's drive for clean energy and sustainability and position our region at the heart of the green industrial revolution.

An integral part of our Campus Masterplan, the project is part-funded by the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority and the European Regional Development Fund.





What is the NZIIC?

The NZIIC will play a vital role in helping to achieve our net zero ambitions, by providing an industry-focused research, development and innovation offering for the Tees Valley and beyond.

A hub for industrial decarbonisation and a national centre of excellence for net zero technologies, the centre will position Teesside

firmly at the heart of the UK's green industrial revolution, providing a focus for major investment.

The NZIIC will grow national net zero capabilities and opportunities, and create hundreds of clean energy jobs on Teesside, upon its completion in April 2023.

[Take a virtual tour of the NZIIC](#)

NZIIC objectives

The Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre will specialise in the circular economy, hydrogen and decarbonisation, industrial systems and intelligent energy, and digital modelling and simulation.

It will specifically support the development and commercialisation of new low-carbon technologies and demonstrate the value of clean technology to encourage the shift away from fossil fuels.

The centre will enable small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to embrace the transition to a net zero economy, and support them to turn innovative ideas into viable products and services.

This support will include technical workshops and dissemination events, expert advice on product development, and access to specialised equipment.





New Director appointed

The NZIIC will be led by a new Director, Gari Harris, who joins the University from his most recent industrial research role heading-up British Steel's global research and development projects.

Gari's overarching objective will be to ensure the Net Zero Industry Innovation Centre becomes a successful stakeholder in the net zero project, working across sectors to aid in the delivery of net zero for the Tees Valley.

He will aim to deliver innovative collaborations and projects for the region, and work closely with our current partners, including the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), to achieve the NZIIC's goals.

Discussing his appointment, Gari said: 'I am excited to be taking-up this new role at a time where Teesside is becoming the go-to place for net zero innovation.

'For instance, our region has been selected as one of the first two carbon capture, usage, and storage clusters to be taken forward by the UK government, with the aim of removing almost 50% of the UK's total industrial cluster CO2 emissions.

'The area has an unparalleled and diverse mix of low-carbon projects in hydrogen production and use, carbon capture, valorising waste, and smart energy through digital innovation.

'NZIIC will help establish the Teesside region as a globally competitive, climate-friendly hub for industry research and innovation.'

Training and support

Working with the NZIIC, businesses will also be able to access academic expertise through Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs), internships, apprenticeships, and further graduate opportunities.

The NZIIC will also offer short courses and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for ambitious industry professionals.

The team has already helped develop the **Kellas Midstream Clean Energy Scholarship** programme, offering sponsorships to individuals who wish to study master's degrees in Sustainable Engineering Systems and Sustainable Energy and Clean Technology.



Sustainable travel savings

Colleagues are encouraged to explore our range of sustainable travel offers, reduce personal transport costs and help the environment.

The University offers several travel discounts and provides facilities for alternative arrangements. These include:



- **Buses:** interest-free loans for the purchase of annual bus season tickets
- **Car Share:** split the cost of driving by sharing your journey with colleagues
- **Cycle to Work:** save money and spread the cost of buying a new bicycle; there are also dedicated facilities for cyclists on campus
- **Train fares:** save money and pay for your season ticket monthly from your salary

What's more, fewer car parking spaces will be available on campus in the coming months due to our ongoing estates developments, so now is a great time to consider different ways of getting to work.

[Save now](#)

It's time to save water



Did you know that a ten-minute shower uses around 90 litres of water (almost 160 pints), or that 27% of water used in the home is in the shower?

That's why Campus Services is launching a new initiative as part of its Help TU, Help the Planet campaign, to encourage

students in University accommodation to reduce their water consumption from September.

Four-minute shower timers will be installed in student bathrooms on campus to encourage people to use less water, save energy, and reduce CO2 emissions.

Colleagues can also request a free shower timer by contacting [Richard Cuthbert](#), Environmental Officer, and [Northumbrian Water](#) also offers customers a free water saving kit.

[Water saving tips](#)

24th May 2022

Time for a clear out?



Colleagues are invited to join in with the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) end-of-term clear out campaign.

The charity is encouraging students to have a clear out and donate the clothes, shoes, books, DVDs, bags, and small electrical items they no longer need at the

end of the academic year, enabling BHF to recycle goods that might otherwise be wasted.

Temporary BHF donation points have been set up at various locations around campus, including the Centuria building, Clarendon Building, Middlesbrough Tower, the Printworks, and Students' Union building.

Items should be placed in a bag before being dropped into the donation points. There are also permanent donation points situated at Woodlands and Parkside East Halls of Residence.

[Support the BHF](#)

10th May 2022

Help reduce our energy costs



Global gas and electricity costs are increasing, and we all have a part to play in reducing our energy consumption.

As an institution we have invested in technology and initiatives to reduce our costs and become a low carbon organisation.

Please think and act carefully to help us achieve our targets. In particular, always unplug non-essential equipment, as some devices consume energy even when they're not in use.

Known as '**vampire devices**', these can include phone and laptop chargers, screens, monitors, kettles, microwaves, and coffee makers.

Always shut down personal computers, switch off lights in empty rooms, and 'think before you print'. However please note that some printers and certain types of personal computer should not be switched off fully. If in doubt, please contact the **IT Helpdesk** for guidance.

[Read our latest Energy Report](#)

15th March 2022

Improved shower and changing facilities

Colleagues who cycle, run, or walk to work can now take advantage of our newly refurbished on-campus showers and changing rooms.

These facilities can be accessed through the double doors on the ground floor of the Clarendon building.



Cycling offers many benefits including regular exercise, the chance to spend time outdoors, and lower commuting costs, plus it's better for the environment too.

Teesside colleagues can also take advantage of a government-backed **Cycle to Work** scheme, which allows you to purchase bikes and equipment tax free, and typically save around a third of the costs.

For more information, please contact **Richard Cuthbert**, Environmental Officer.

[Facilities for cyclists](#)

1st February 2022

How do you travel to work?

As part of our campus masterplan, Teesside is keen to identify and promote ways to encourage a range of sustainable transport options through a new green travel plan.



To do this, we'd like to understand your travel needs and preferences so please complete our short survey.

The survey is anonymous, but you can choose to submit your University email address to enter a prize draw to win one of two £50 Amazon gift vouchers.

[Take our survey](#)

14th December 2021

Fancy a new bike for Christmas?



Would you like a new bike for Christmas? If so, why not sign up to our University **Cycle to Work** scheme? It's a great way to purchase bikes and equipment tax-free, and you could save around a third of the costs.

Cycling to work offers many benefits including regular exercise, the chance to spend time outdoors, and lower commuting costs, plus it's better for the environment too.

We also provide **excellent facilities for cyclists** on campus, including secure storage facilities, lockers, and showers.

You can also join a webinar hosted by our Cycle to Work provider on Wednesday 19 January, 11.00am-11.30am, to find out more about the scheme.

Please contact **Richard Cuthbert**, Environmental Officer, for more information about cycling at Teesside.

[Join the webinar on Weds 19 January](#)

5th October 2021

Teesside wins employer cycling gold

Our University has been awarded Gold standard status by Cycling UK for our efforts to become a Cycle Friendly Employer (CFE-UK).

The CFE-UK accreditation sets the international standard for workplace cycling and recognises organisations that have exemplary cycle-friendly facilities.



At Teesside, colleagues can take advantage of our **Cycle to Work** scheme, and access **excellent cycling facilities**, including secure storage facilities, lockers, and showers.

Why not pedal to work and enjoy the benefits of cycling, including regular exercise, the chance to spend time outdoors, and lower commuting costs?

For more information, please contact **Richard Cuthbert**, Environmental Officer.

[Cycling at Teesside](#)