



# sustainability Report 2022

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# welcome

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Having joined Falmouth University in January 2022, this is my first Sustainability Report. This has been a year during which the consequences of climate change are harder than ever to ignore. There have been floods, fires, drought and record temperatures across the globe. This year, the United Nations warned us that it's now or never if we want to limit global warming to 1.5°C and that immediate and deep cuts to emissions must be made if we have a chance of saving the planet.

Despite this, there are glimmers of hope. Rapid advancements in technology and clean energy mean that there are more, and more affordable, low-carbon solutions. Climate awareness is growing and in response, individuals and businesses are adopting more sustainable practices.

Here at Falmouth, whether through the transformation of our estate infrastructure, or through the impact we can have through our supply chain, we are doing our bit to reduce our carbon emissions.

What's so tangible as you talk to staff and students across our university campuses is that the environment and climate change is top of their agenda. Our educated, empowered community is passionate about this issue, and they want to make change.

We believe that it is our moral imperative, as a Higher Education institution developing the next generation of leaders and explorers, that we equip them, through our teaching and learning, with everything they need to build a more sustainable future. That's why I'm so proud to see the activity in our academic departments, woven through with powerful and transformative thinking about ethical, environmental and social sustainability.

**PROFESSOR EMMA HUNT**  
**VICE-CHANCELLOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

# Being transparent about our progress

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The objectives of our annual Sustainability Report are twofold. Foremost, it is published to provide complete transparency around our climate and environmental activity. We want to be open about the progress we are making towards our 2030 sustainability targets. At a time when businesses and brands too readily ‘greenwash’ their work, we want to be honest.

This transparency in turn drives accountability. It helps us ask; “Are we meeting our goals, and if not, why not? Are we focussing on the right actions? What does our community think?” By asking these questions and, crucially, responding to the answers, we can remain on course to meet our targets in partnership with our people.

We were delighted this year to be recognised by the Green Gown Awards. During the reporting period, Falmouth was shortlisted in two categories: Reporting for Influence and Student Engagement, and at the time this report was published, we were announced as the winner of the Reporting for Influence award.

Against our targets, we have made good progress in some areas this year, while in others we have not advanced as quickly as we would have liked. We have not been able to embed sustainability learning outcomes in the way we anticipated, as our curriculum reform programme was reviewed as part of an institutional strategy refresh. Our waste levels have remained static against those from 2019/20 and recycling rates have ticked up by only 2% over the same period. This is disappointing. With teams diverted to the campus mitigations required as we managed the impact of the pandemic, resource limitations meant that some actions were stalled.

However, in very good news, we are steadily reducing our Scope 1 & 2 emissions and we have hit and exceeded our 2025 target of achieving a 50% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Against our 2005/06 baseline, through our actions, Penryn Campus emissions have been reduced by 53% and at Falmouth Campus they are down by 52%. Although we will have benefitted from some reduction of activity due to Covid-19, we are delighted with this result and hope to continue on this trajectory.

Of course, it is well understood that the earlier wins are the easier ones, but as we look ahead, Falmouth University is committed to working harder still to make sure we are net zero by 2040.

**PETER COX**  
**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**



# our position on the roadmap

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In 2020/21 we adopted the use of the EAUC Climate Action Roadmap as a useful tool to understand our current position and to map future actions.

In this second year, we have evolved our monitoring and reporting, and our understanding of what 'good' looks like. With commitment to honesty and transparency, we have downgraded three criteria down from green to amber, as we acknowledge that we can do more to really be 'best in class'; we are working on more deeply embedding sustainability in our governance arrangements, ensuring we are not only contributing to our local climate action network, but taking a lead in its work, and we are not only setting, but making sure that we are working towards the achievement of tough waste targets on campus.

We're pleased that work has started in several key areas and that therefore several criteria have moved from red to amber. Activity is now underway on developing a new business travel policy which will have sustainability and low carbon at its core and developing an agreement with Plant One Cornwall to plant 600 trees as part of the Forest for Cornwall.

— Educate —  
inspire  
enrich



# Climate Action Roadmap Activities by Area

	EMERGING			ESTABLISHED			LEADING		
LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE	Gather college views on sustainability	Establish sustainability committee	Hold workshop with leaders to set net zero target	Incorporate net zero ambitions in strategic plan and establish ring-fenced budget			Develop climate adaptation/ climate risk mgmt. approach	Incorporate sustainability into governance arrangements	Embed climate responsibility into staff development
TEACHING, LEARNING, RESEARCH		Deliver carbon literacy training to staff and students			Participate in Global Goals Teach In		Audit curriculum against SDGs using Responsible Futures framework		Train teaching staff to incorporate sustainability into curriculum for all courses
ESTATES & OPERATIONS	Ensure recycling/ signage is available in every building		Implement strategies to reduce energy use	Modify estates strategy in line with net zero target	Apply for Salix finance loan to improve energy efficiency/ reduce emissions	Set and implement targets to reduce waste on campus by 50-75%	Implement new travel policy to reduce long haul aviation travel	Implement renewable energy on a part of/ all of the estate	Expand travel policy to reduce emissions from commuting to/from campus
PARTNERSHIPS & ENGAGEMENT		Sign the Global Climate Letter	Negotiate with food suppliers for sustainable food options	Sign the SDG Accord	Establish climate action network with local council	Develop fossil fuel divestment plan	Work with local community/ council/ businesses to improve local biodiversity		Apply for Green Gown or AoC Beacon Award
DATA COLLECTION	Upskill on measuring emissions		Measure college carbon footprint using existing data	Develop and implement plan to measure Scope 3 emissions			Share carbon footprint data collection approach as model to other colleges		

● Yet to start ● In progress ● Complete

# Theme 1: Learning & Teaching

## Case Study:

**Pauline Blanchett, recipient of Falmouth University's Reporting Earth bursary, is commissioning female filmmakers in the Global South to share valuable stories about the climate crisis.**

She is handing the microphone over to voices who have been disproportionately excluded from conversations around the climate crisis. Through Her Eyes turns on its head the fact that communities who are most effected by climate change are not given the opportunity to share their experiences of it.

The project uses participatory methods to give women from Kazakhstan, the Philippines and Indonesia the skills and tools they need to tell their climate crisis stories.





## Goal 1

**To design our curriculum to include sustainability learning outcomes and assessment criteria in all courses.**

## Goal 2

**To embed sustainability related challenges and projects in our curriculum.**

## Goal 3

**To ensure our graduates will leave Falmouth University with a greater awareness of sustainability, and the difference they can, and must, make.**

This year saw the launch of the Falmouth Curriculum Ladder for Sustainability (FCL-S); a tool to enable us to embed sustainability effectively across our curriculum in a flexible, authentic, and discipline-specific way.

We were delighted that the FCL-S received industry recognition when it was showcased as part of COP26 Universities Network (now the UK Universities Climate Network) briefing materials.

As we re-frame our 2030 Strategy in light of the current higher education context and the economic and social realities post-pandemic, we are being more organic and agile in the implementation of our sustainable curriculum than we had originally proposed.

We had anticipated that this year, Sustainable Learning Outcomes (SLOs) would be embedded in half of our on campus undergraduate courses. We have not achieved this. However, as courses have gone through re-validation as part of our curriculum reform programme, sustainability has been a mandatory consideration. This has resulted in a steady and ongoing embedding of sustainability content throughout our undergraduate academic programmes. 25 courses have now been through this refresh and all other undergraduate degrees will follow suit.

Some courses have opted for wholesale adoption of the recommended institutional SLOs, while others have applied the FCL-S method pre-approvals to inform a more holistic implementation woven into our curricula.

The process of embedding sustainability in the curriculum has been supported by a process of engagement with academic teams by the Sustainability Team and the appointment of a 'Sustainability Champion', who has produced resources, including revised Sustainability Learning Outcomes, complementary Common Assessment Criteria, and a bespoke Level 4 'Sustainable Practise' Module.



## Goal 4

**To ensure our students have an understanding of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and apply them to business start-up principles**

For the second year in a row now, Falmouth was ranked in the Top 10 Institutions for 'students reached' in the Students Organising for Sustainability Sustainable Development Goals Teach In. We had a near threefold increase in academics taking part, and almost 27% of our students were reached (up from 12.9% last year).





## case study:

**In the Games Academy, across all its courses throughout all levels of undergraduate study, its Learning Outcomes now dictate that students must be able to demonstrate that they can “identify legal, social, ethical, professional and sustainability issues.”**

**Themes of sustainability are embedded throughout the curriculum in modules each study block, to ensure they are engaged with throughout the programme.**

For example, in BSc(Hons) Computer Science, in their first year, students explore where the energy-use of computing systems are being applied in creative contexts and how they can be made more environmentally sustainable from an energy-use perspective. In their second year, in the ‘collaboration’ module, students are challenged to undertake an ethically-informed, real-world experience in an industry or business environment and/or market. A written reflective piece directs them to analyse legal, social, ethical, professional, and sustainability issues with the project they conduct alongside their peers. In their final year, students are challenged to select research and development topics based on a fundamental purpose to advance human welfare and address real needs, in a variety of articulations. It also covers ethical approval processes and the thought-processes behind ethical reasoning.

## case study:

**In February 2022, Falmouth’s Fashion & Textiles Institute joined forces with leaders across the fashion industry to launch a new grassroots movement Fashion Declares.**

**The Fashion Declares movement’s mission is to accelerate change in one of the least sustainable sectors in the world. It aims to get 50,000 individuals to become members by signing the open letter, and in so doing pledging their support for five commitments that could transform the sector.**

**The five commitments are:**

- 1** Speaking out for urgent action to tackle the climate, ecological and social crisis
- 2** Delivering decarbonisation, restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity
- 3** Working for social justice and a just transition
- 4** Ensuring radical transparency and corporate governance
- 5** Adopting a regenerative fashion model





# Theme 2: Environment & Operations

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## Goal 1

### Achieve reductions in Scope 1 and 2 emissions in order to reach net zero by 2040

The actions we have taken this year have seen us reach and exceed our 2025 interim Scope 1 & 2 emissions targets on our path to net zero. Against a target of a 50% reduction against our 2005/06 baseline by 2025, we have this year achieved 53% on Penryn Campus and 52% on Falmouth Campus, based on gross internal area per meter squared.

Looking ahead, we are looking forward to seeing the impact of this year's significant investment, as part of our 20-year Zero-Carbon Pathway, in new initiatives that will contribute to further reductions in our carbon emissions.

This work was primarily focussed on three key projects.

Over the summer of 2022, work began on installing more than 1700 new solar panels on roofs across Penryn campus. Once complete, the newly installed solar panels will have a total capacity of 775 kW with an estimated 700,000 kWh per year generated. The University will see carbon savings of 149 tonnes CO<sup>2</sup> per year.

Lighting systems have been upgraded in AMATA so that 75% is now LED. New LED lighting was also installed in the Daphne Du Maurier building. These changes not only produce a 15% power saving for the building, they also improve light

quality. Along with similar upgrades in the Renewable Energy Laboratories owned by our Penryn Campus partners, the University of Exeter, it is estimated that the project will reduce total annual power consumption on by 40 MWh, which is equivalent to the amount of power typically consumed by twelve UK homes per year.

In April 2022, twelve electric vehicle charging points were installed on Penryn Campus in response to increased demand from our campus community.

“

***These EV chargers will help to make our campuses more sustainable while also offering greater choice to users. We encourage walking, cycling, or using public transport, but we recognise that this is not always practical in Cornwall and these new facilities will therefore support owners of more sustainable vehicles.***

Kevin Applegath, Energy Manager

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This year we were also delighted that through FX Plus, we were awarded a £196,000 Salix fund grant to develop a heat decarbonisation plan. This highly complex and detailed techno-economic assessment produced a set of recommendations for our Falmouth and Penryn campuses. These proposals are undergoing a critical review before further steps are taken towards a detailed design for implementation after 2025.

## Goal 2

### Achieve reductions in Scope 3 emissions, including those from the supply chain, to reach net zero by 2050

Scope 3 emissions account for most of our emissions profile and this is therefore a crucial area to be tackled. Our analysis suggests that approximately 93% of our Scope 3 emissions are from procured goods and services, with only 7% from travel.

#### Procurement

Fascinatingly, our analysis shows that 40% of our procurement emissions are attributable to IT equipment, because the manufacture and transport of electrical goods is far more carbon intensive (24,855 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per tonne of IT equipment) than food and catering (3,701 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per tonne of food and drink). This information allows us to take targeted action in future years.

In October 2021, we undertook a gap analysis with an external specialist, Action Sustainability, to compare our procurement sustainability policy against the ISO 20400 Sustainable Procurement standard. We were pleased that this exercise showed that we have a strongly 'established' program embedded across all areas of procurement.

The work with Action Sustainability supported an update to our Responsible Procurement Policy, which now takes a triple bottom line approach, focussing on people, planet and profit. Two new new scoring brackets have been added to tender applications, looking at potential suppliers' carbon reduction ambitions

and delivery over the tendering period, and social value policies and initiatives on themes such as apprenticeships and equality, diversity and inclusion. These changes mean that a total of 20% of scoring criteria is allocated to sustainability considerations, ensuring procurement not only supports our carbon and environmental targets, but also social, community and local economic factors too.

This year we have also continued the rollout of our NetPositive tool, increasing the number of suppliers who have completed the questionnaires, enabling them to develop company action plans.

**67%**  
in 2020/21, to  
**84%**  
this year



#### Catering, retail and hospitality

We have taken important steps that set our intent on reducing our carbon impact through our commercial operations. September 2021 saw the opening of the Sustainability Café. Built using sustainable material choices, including Forest Stewardship Council certified timber, and furniture fabric made from up-cycled, discarded ocean plastic, the venue uses zero single-use plastic bottles or disposable cups and its food and drink offer is focussed on being meat-free and locally sourced.

We have also launched a zero-waste refill section in the Penryn Campus shop, supporting our students to reduce their consumption of unnecessary packaging. The shop is also trialling services with Too Good To Go which redirects unwanted food surplus to the local community, rather than it going to general waste.

## Travel

This year, work got underway on the development of both a Five-Year Sustainable Travel Plan and a new Business Travel Policy with a strong focus on decarbonisation and sustainability. Informed by consultation with our campus community and local partners, when published, these documents will provide a strong framework within which we will be able to decarbonise travel methods to and from campus while improving the student and staff experience.

We are delighted that this year, initiatives by external partners opened up sustainable travel options for more of our staff and students. In Spring 2021, Transport for Cornwall introduced a series of measures aimed at encouraging more people to travel by public transport, including an 'Any bus, any route' ticket, Town Zone day passes and a reduction in fares for all under-19s.

We also worked with Cornwall Council and Beryl Bikes to secure the siting of

# 10 e-bikes on Penryn Campus

as part of a larger roll-out of 50 bikes at 21 stations across Falmouth and Penryn.



## Waste and recycling

We can make the most impact when we have the knowledge that will allow us to make targeted and intelligent changes.

Therefore, in June 2021 we worked with external experts, Sitemark, to complete a campus waste audit. It was good to see in the results that our recycling rate of 49.75% is significantly higher than the regional average benchmark (41%) and the sector average benchmark (46%). However, the audit also highlighted challenges, for example, our recycling disposal costs are much higher than the sector norm; demonstrating the challenges of being in a peripheral region with fewer recycling options.

The audit has equipped us with information that will help us establish new solutions to support environmental compliance and to identify more sustainable management alternatives. It will also help inform our new Five-Year Waste & Recycling Management Plan.

In April, we launched a pilot project to improve the way we process food waste from our halls of residence. The Facilities team teamed up with Cornwall Waste Solutions for this trial, diverting unwanted food from general waste to anaerobic digestion facilities, where it can be turned into electricity, fuel and fertiliser.

About 80 student residents in 12 flats in Glasney View were involved, with food caddies in each kitchen and waste bins close to the blocks. The project had a positive impact, with good student engagement and successful logistics. We've now rolled out the initiative across all our on-campus halls of residence.





## Goal 3

### Improve, meet and exceed environmental legislative and regulatory requirements

This year we established a new Environmental Compliance working group that has begun working on a delivery plan that will ensure that our campus estate operations and academic activities are compliant with environmental legislation. Particular progress has been made this year in developing our processes to ensure that our waste management meets the required regulatory standards.

## Goal 4

### Maximise the biodiversity of campuses to boost regeneration and carbon sequestration

This year, together with our campus partners, the university of Exeter, we commissioned two new ecological surveys that will enable us to benchmark habitat values across Penryn Campus.

An ecological assessment by conservation specialist company, Plan for Ecology, will allow us to identify areas of rich biodiversity as well as potential areas for improvement and will support an upcoming five-year biodiversity strategy that will be published alongside a new Campus Masterplan.

An i-Tree survey, which will be delivered in 2022/2023 academic year, will provide us with the data about the various tree species across Penryn campus and their ecological benefits.

Penryn Campus gardens and grounds recognised by the

## international Green Flag Award Scheme

for the sixth year in a row.

## Happy hedgehogS!

We went from bronze to a silver, upgrading our award from the Hedgehog Friendly Campus program through new practices and training for our grounds team and student led initiatives.

## Every Flower counts!

We joined in with a national survey, counting the number of flowers in several square-meter quadrants across Penryn Campus then inputting the results into the Plantlife website. The survey identified enough nectar sugar to

Support  
**112,521**  
bees per day

This was a decrease on last year, perhaps because of the record high temperatures in the summer.

# Theme 3: People & Behaviour

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## Goal 1

**To ensure staff and students at Falmouth University have a greater awareness of sustainability and the impact we individually and collectively can have on the environment.**

## Goal 2

**To drive measurable change in the behaviours of staff and students at Falmouth University in all aspects of their lives at home and at work.**

This year's Sustainability Week was a great opportunity to work with the passionate members of the Students' Union and external partners to engage more of our campus community in issues relating to sustainability. 36 events were run across the week and included:

- A Cycle to Uni Day, delivered in partnership with Sustrans, offering free bike servicing, discounted accessories and local cycling route info
- Sessions provided by the SU EcoSoc, such as moth trapping, hedgehog counts, pond dipping and bug hunts
- Foraging walks, hosted by one of our university Chaplains

- Sustainable T-shirt printing workshop
- Film screenings and talks by guest speakers
- Bin rummages
- A conservation volunteering session organised by the Grounds Team

Throughout the year we've continued delivering sessions that bring together our staff and students to discuss, explore and learn about sustainability and the lifestyle changes they can make to help address sustainability. Overall, a further 25 sustainability-themed events were delivered by the university Sustainability team in collaboration with FX Plus and the Students' Union.

These included a first-of-its kind eco-anxiety training course delivered for members of staff across the University, the Students' Union and FXPlus, in partnership with 'Force of Nature'. The session was aimed at equipping attendees with the tools, knowledge and resources to address eco-anxiety effectively in themselves, as well as that experienced by young people in their communities.

Four further eco-anxiety drop-ins & workshops and seven carbon footprint workshops were delivered last year.



# The data: Year-on-year comparisons

## TRACKING OUR PROGRESS

Policy Theme	Goal Within Theme	Data	AY18/19	AY19/20	AY20/21	AY21/22	Trend / Status
Theme 1: Learning & Teaching	Goal 1	Courses with SLOs	-	-	-	25	Yellow
	Goal 2	Sustainability related Challenges in the curriculum	-	-	-	-	Red
	Goal 4	Ranking in the Teach In for total percent of students engaged	-	12th of 24	7th of 48	10th of 134	Green
Theme 2: Environment & Operations	Goal 1	Percentage reduction in total scope 1 & 2 emissions per m <sup>2</sup> compared to the 2005/06 baseline	Est 42%	Est 45%	PC* 47% FC** 44%	PC 53% FC 52%	Green
	Goal 1	Penryn Campus total Scope 1 & 2 emissions per m <sup>2</sup>	0.0541 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup>	0.0513 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup>	0.04951 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup>	0.04438 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup>	Green
	Goal 1	Falmouth Campus total Scope 1 & 2 emissions per m <sup>2</sup>	0.0307 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup>	0.0298 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup>	0.0384 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup>	0.0328 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>2</sup>	Green
	Goal 1	Total Scope 1 & 2 emissions	2,930 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	2,812 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	2,799 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	2,355 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	Green
	Goal 2	Total Scope 3 emissions	-	7,748 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	4,707 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	Analysis takes place in January during HESA reporting	Green

PC\* = Penryn Campus FC\*\* = Falmouth Campus



Policy Theme	Goal Within Theme	Data	AY18/19	AY19/20	AY20/21	AY21/22	Trend / Status
Theme 2: Environment & Operations	Goal 2	Proportion of total supply chain that is local (Cornwall & Devon based companies)	42%	36%	54%	37%	Red
	Goal 2	Proportion of food and drink suppliers that are local (Cornwall and Devon-based companies)	74%	70%	55%	54%	Red
	Goal 2	Total waste generated	562 tonnes	483 tonnes	390 tonnes	482 tonnes	Red
	Goal 2	Total recycling	231 tonnes	196 tonnes	66 tonnes	182 tonnes	Green
	Goal 2	Average recycling rate	36%	36%	19%	38%	Green
	Goal 2	Total food waste	9 tonnes	16 tonnes	7.2 tonnes	13 tonnes	Green
	Goal 4	Estimated number of bees supported by the wildflower areas across Penryn Campus, per day	-	163,050	146,065	112,512	Red
Theme 3: People & Behaviour		Total number of engagement events	-	24	49	61	Green

**FALMOUTH**  
UNIVERSITY



Green Gown  
*Awards*