



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH



Social Responsibility and Sustainability

Report 2016/2017



Social Responsibility
and Sustainability

Foreword



One year ago, we were delighted when the University, in recognition of the seriousness of the climate change challenge, agreed the ambitious goal to become carbon neutral by 2040.

Since launching the Climate Strategy, the University has stepped up its efforts on climate change by creating the Sustainable Campus Fund and has moved £60 million of its endowment funds to support the transition to a low carbon economy.

The last year has also seen the University make significant progress across wider social responsibility and sustainability areas. A new Modern Slavery Statement was published, a Good Food Policy was developed and the University signed the Social Impact Pledge.

A lot of progress has been made towards making Edinburgh a socially responsible and sustainable university, however we know there is much more to do. We look forward to working with our staff and students over the next year on this shared ambition

Dave Gorman
Director of Social
Responsibility and
Sustainability



About us

Launched in April 2014, the Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability supports the University to ensure that our learning and teaching, research and operations are socially responsible.

The University's definition of Social Responsibility & Sustainability includes:

- Climate change
- Sustainable estates
- Sustainable procurement, fair trade and supply chains
- Responsible investment
- Social responsibility & sustainability in learning & teaching
- Fair employer and equality & diversity issues
- Widening participation
- Community engagement
- Public engagement



We're saving paper by printing only the highlights.

Read the full report at
[www.ed.ac.uk/
sustainability/report](http://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/report)



SDGs

www.edin.ac/SDGs

The University and Students' Association have signed the Sustainable Development Goals Accord. As part of this commitment the University will highlight projects and initiatives that directly contribute to each of the Goals. This will be done annually through this report.

3

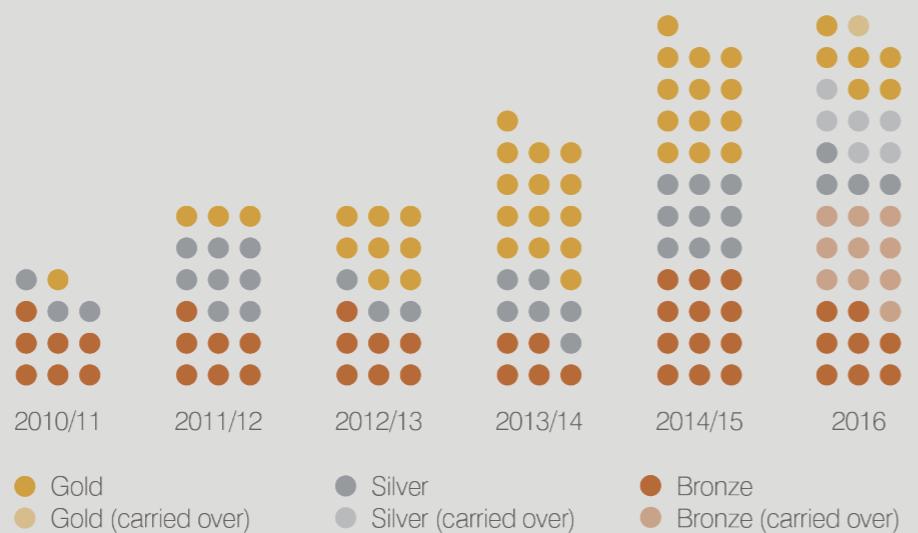
pledges made by the University for 2016/17 – boosting literacy and numeracy in primary school children, boosting student social enterprise, and growing the Digital Ambassadors programme. In October 2016, the University was one of the first in Scotland to sign the Social Impact Pledge.

£35m

invested in the new Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security, with the aim of continuing to provide world leading research to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of agri-food systems.

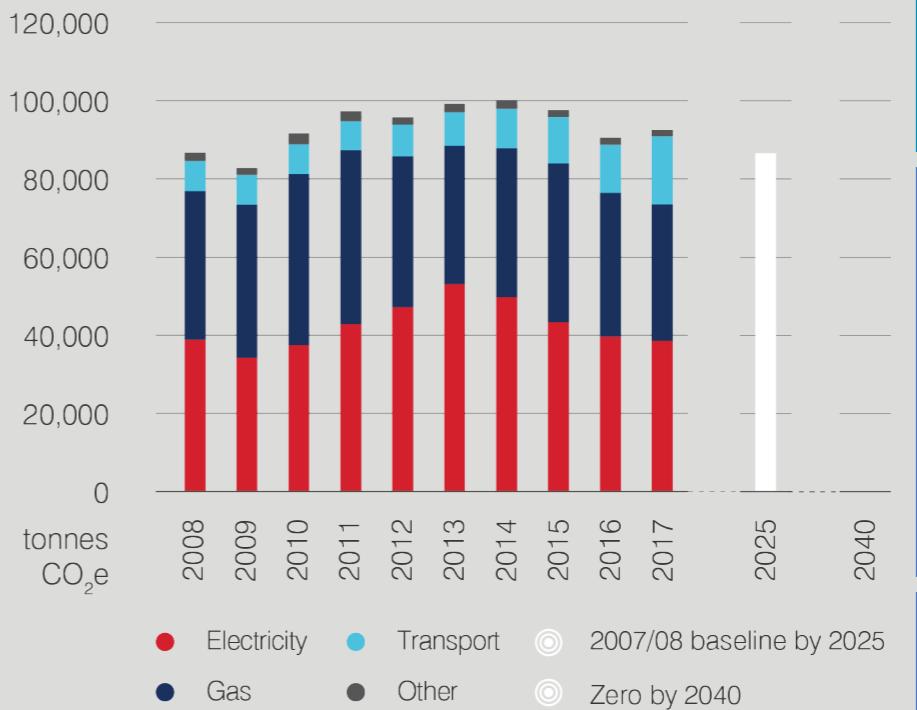


The colours in the corners of the boxes correspond to the SDGs



The Sustainability Awards recognise staff and students who make a difference and contribute towards the University becoming more socially responsible and sustainable.

Carbon footprint



£60m

of University investments committed to being moved into businesses that directly benefit the environment. The money will be invested in two dedicated funds that support a cleaner, more sustainable and climate-friendly future.

Edinburgh
University
Students'
Association



Zero by
2040

The University has committed to become a net zero carbon university by 2040.

70%
of students engaged in societies and volunteering

49,463

hours volunteered through the Volunteering Service

Living
Wage
Scotland



1st

University Modern Slavery statement sets out our commitment to protect and respect human rights and have a zero tolerance approach to slavery and human trafficking in all its forms

200

full postgraduate and undergraduate scholarships will provide to students from Africa with great academic and leadership potential but few educational opportunities. In partnership with the Mastercard Foundation.

£250,000

financial savings and carbon efficiencies of over 1,200 tonnes of CO₂e will be delivered by the Sustainable Campus Fund's first year. 27 projects are supported.

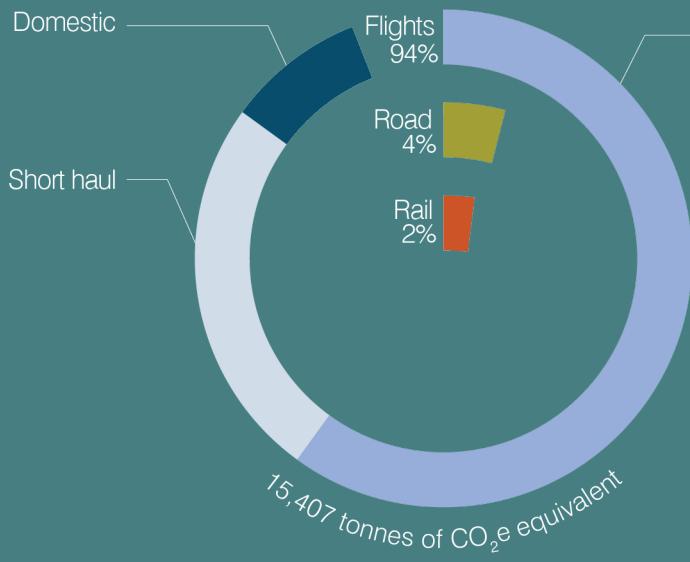
1st

credit bearing online course on sustainability and social responsibility available to all students launched this year

Living wage commitment strengthened, extending the benefit to regular contractors as well as its employees

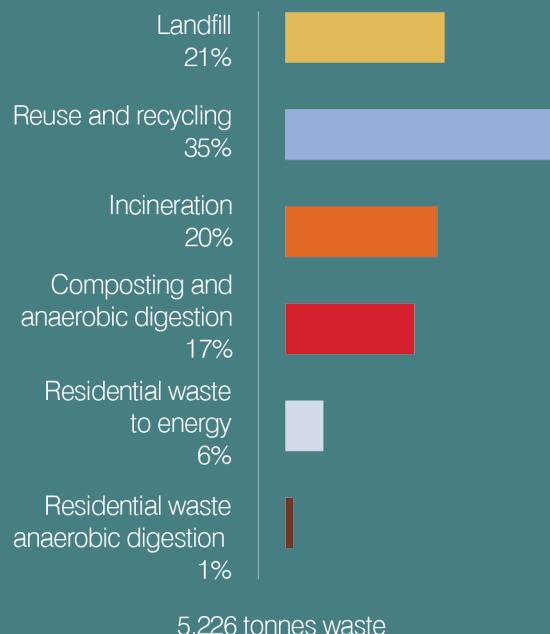
Business travel 2016/17

Business travel data does not include hotel stays or staff and student commuting



Waste and recycling 2016/17

Waste data includes both the University's academic and residential estate.



93%

of students involved in European funded project on university social responsibility said their involvement exceeded their expectations. Edinburgh is one of three universities involved in the international project.

£1.5m

committed to being invested in social enterprise with Big Issue Invest.

5

key areas in University's first Good Food Policy - Sourcing, Provision, Practice, Research Learning & Teaching and Leadership & Culture. Approved in August 2016.

120+

students from more disadvantaged backgrounds supported by our new activities and sports participation grant from 2016.

1st

college for the study of low-carbon technology opened in 2017 in a partnership involving world-leading experts from the UK.

You can read the full report online at www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/report and it can be made available in alternative formats on request.



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www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability

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