

Additional out of scope emissions

Out of scope emissions are reported for transparency, and now also to align with the voluntary Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework (SCEF) convened by the EAUC and developed by and for the higher education sector. Reduction targets will considered for these emissions in the year ahead.

Emissions (tCO ₂)	Baseline	Baseline	2022-23	2023-24	% change	% change
	year	tCO ₂			since last	since
					year	baseline
Employee	2011/12	2,138	3,047	2,479	-19%	16%
Commuting ¹						
Student	2011/12	2,202	3,774	5,234	39%	138%
Commuting ¹						
Student Home to	2021/22	16,582	16,582	9,517	-43%	n/a
University Travel ²						
Staff Home	2021/22	488	488	466	n/a	n/a
Working ³						
Student group	2023/24	701	n/a	701	n/a	n/a
travel						
Procurement ⁴	2011/12	26,682	49,489	51,013	3%	91%
Off-site Halls of	2008/09	5,581	1,585	1479	-7%	-51%
residence⁵						
Other buildings	2015/16	1,283	924	1153	25%	n/a
not UoR operated ⁶						
VOCs ⁷	2023/24	TBC	n/a	TBC		
Generator/temp	2023/24	TBC	n/a	83,025		
boiler fuel ⁷						
Land-related	2023/24	TBC	n/a	TBC		
emissions &						
livestock ⁸						
Investments ⁹ –	2023/24	4,950	n/a	4,950	n/a	n/a
scope 1 & 2						
Investments ⁹ –	2023/24	18,657		18,657	n/a	n/a
scope 3						
Pensions ¹⁰	2023/24	100,244	n/a	100,244		

¹Employee / student commuting figures are based on 2024 Travel Survey data.

² The University undertook a first estimate of these emissions in 2021/22. More recently, a new tool, developed by the University of Aberdeen and EAUC Scotland, was used for the calculation. The "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool" utilises student domicile data and university-specific travel assumptions to estimate the distance travelled from each country's capital to the institution, along with the associated emissions.

³ Staff Home Working estimated from 2024 Travel Survey responses on the assumption that staff were working at home on days when they did not work on campus. Greenhouse gas emission factors are those published by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (previously Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy), electricity plus heating.

⁴The procurement emissions data is provided from the SUPC, from which waste & water are removed to avoid double-counting.



⁵ Utilities supplies for offsite halls of residence are not under the University's supply arrangements, and the University therefore has no direct oversight of these emissions. However, we will publish this data provided by the halls operator, UPP, in the interests of transparency.

⁶ Prior to 2016, emissions for buildings not operated by the University were reported in the University's scope. Re-scoping an re-baselining took place in 2015/16 to address this. NB: the University does not pay utilities costs for staff accommodation (so no separate reporting is required in this regard).

⁷These emissions will be included within scope of the existing Net Zero target for 2030 going forward

⁸Covers farmland owned and operated by the University

⁹Invesments emissions are scope 3 emissions for the University, but are split here between the investments' scope 1 & 2 and scope 3 emissions. NB: bank holdings could not be disaggregated between scope 1 & 2 and scope 3 and are therefore all included as scope 1 & 2.

¹⁰There is significant debate about whether pensions should be viewed as a university's scope 3 emissions or beyond its carbon footprint. Indicative figures are presented here for transparency, but they are not viewed as being within the direct scope of influence for the University.