

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 be considered for these emissions in the year ahead.

Emissions (tCO ₂)	Baseline year	Baseline tCO ₂	2022-23	2023-24	% change since last year	% change since baseline
Employee Commuting¹	2011/12	2,138	3,047	2,479	-19%	16%
Student Commuting¹	2011/12	2,202	3,774	5,234	39%	138%
Student Home to University Travel²	2021/22	16,582	16,582	9,517	-43%	n/a
Staff Home Working³	2021/22	488	488	466	n/a	n/a
Student group travel	2023/24	701	n/a	701	n/a	n/a
Procurement⁴	2011/12	26,682	49,489	TBC		
Off-site Halls of residence⁵	2018/19	3,006	1,585	1479	-7%	-51%
Other buildings not UoR operated⁶	2015/16	1,283	924	1153	25%	n/a
VOCs⁷	2023/24	TBC	n/a	TBC		
Generator/temp boiler fuel⁷	2023/24	TBC	n/a	TBC		
Land-related emissions & livestock⁸	2023/24	TBC	n/a	TBC		
Investments⁹ – scope 1 & 2	2023/24	4,950	n/a	4,950	n/a	n/a
Investments⁹ – scope 3	2023/24	18,657		18,657	n/a	n/a
Pensions¹⁰	2023/24	100,244	n/a	100,244		

¹ Employee / 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.

⁴ The 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 and 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).

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

⁸ Covers farmland owned and operated by the University

⁹ Investments 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.

¹⁰ There 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.