

Additional out of scope emissions

Out of scope emissions are reported for transparency, and now align with the voluntary Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework (SCEF) convened by the EAUC and developed by and for the higher education sector. For consistency in reporting going forward, all scope 3 emissions will be measured against a 2023/24 baseline. Reduction targets will set for these emissions in the year ahead.

To be added to scope of current Net Zero 2030 target

Emissions (tCO ₂)	Baseline year	Baseline tCO ₂	2022/23	2023/24	% change since last year	% change since baseline
Student group travel	2023/24	701	n/a	701	n/a	n/a
Generator/temp boiler fuel ¹	2023/24	TBC	n/a	83	n/a	n/a

To be included within scope of 2035 and 2040 Net Zero targets

Emissions (tCO ₂)	Baseline year	Baseline tCO ₂	2022/23	2023/24	% change since last year	% change since baseline
Land & livestock ¹	2023/24	6,764	n/a	6,764	n/a	n/a
VOCs ²	2023/24	42	n/a	42	n/a	n/a
Purchased goods & services ⁹	2011/12	25,858	48,932	48,618	-1%	88%
Capital goods ⁹	2011/12	4,796	527	2,395	354%	-50%
Hotels ¹¹	2023/24	440	n/a	440	n/a	n/a
Employee commuting ⁶	2011/12	2,138	3,047	2,479	-19%	16%
Staff home working ⁸	2021/22	488	488	466	-5%	-5%
Student commuting ⁶	2011/12	2,202	3,774	5,234	39%	138%
Student start/end term travel ⁷	2021/22	16,582	16,582	9,517	-43%	-43%
Off-site Halls of residence ³	2008/09	5,581	1,585	1,500	-5%	-73%
Other buildings not UoR operated ⁴	2023/24	2,408	n/a	2,408	n/a	n/a
Land leased for tenants own buildings ⁵	2023/24	1,601	n/a	1,601	n/a	n/a
Investments ¹⁰	2023/24	4,950	n/a	4,950	n/a	n/a

Out of scope emissions reported for information

Emissions (tCO ₂)	Baseline year	Baseline tCO ₂	2022/23	2023/24	% change since last year	% change since baseline
Pensions ¹²	2023/24	100,244	n/a	100,244		

Reported scope 3 emissions now cover all 15 categories of emissions in line with the International Greenhouse Gas Protocol. The University has no Upstream Leased Assets.

¹Covers campus grounds and farmland owned and operated by the University

²Applying rules of thumb to a range of identified VOC-emitting products

³Utilities supplies for offsite halls of residence are not under the University's supply arrangements, but this data is published in the interests of transparency.

⁴Prior to 2016, emissions for buildings fed from University supplies but 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. In 2023/24, emissions from buildings not fed from University supplies have also been included for the first time. NB: the University does not pay utilities costs for staff accommodation (so no separate reporting is required in this regard).

⁵These figures are currently estimated and will be improved over time through annual sustainability questionnaires to tenants

⁶Employee / student commuting figures are based on 2024 Travel Survey data.

⁷The University undertook a first estimate of these emissions in 2021/22. For 2023/24 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.

⁸Staff 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.

⁹Based on data provided by SUPC using the HESCET tool, which includes Upstream Transportation and Distribution emissions. Waste, water and hotels are removed to avoid double-counting. Capital goods (construction) will vary significantly year-on-year.

¹⁰Scope 1 & 2 emissions relating to investments. NB: bank holdings could not be disaggregated between scope 1 & 2 and scope 3 and are therefore all included as scope 1 & 2.

¹¹Based on data provided by SUPC using the HESCET tool on purchased goods and services

¹²Indicative figures are presented here for transparency, but they are not currently viewed as being within the University's own scope 1 – 3 carbon footprint.