

Waste Management Plan

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1) Introduction

This Waste Management Plan to 2028 contributes to one of the eight interconnecting themes within the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2026-2028 which is the overarching document which sets out the University's core sustainability ambition, principles and commitments. The Strategy commits the University to:

Reduce resource consumption and waste generation, and improve resource efficiency

This Plan details our waste disposal journey from operational waste from a baseline of 2005-2006; and sets out the actions required to progress our sustainable waste management practices. Note, this does not include construction waste, general skip waste data or clinical waste.

The carbon emissions associated with waste are presented within our Carbon Reduction Plan.

2) Strategic Objectives

This Plan is aligned to the University's Strategic Plan, Estates Strategy and Environmental Sustainability Strategy, the relevant agreed targets are:

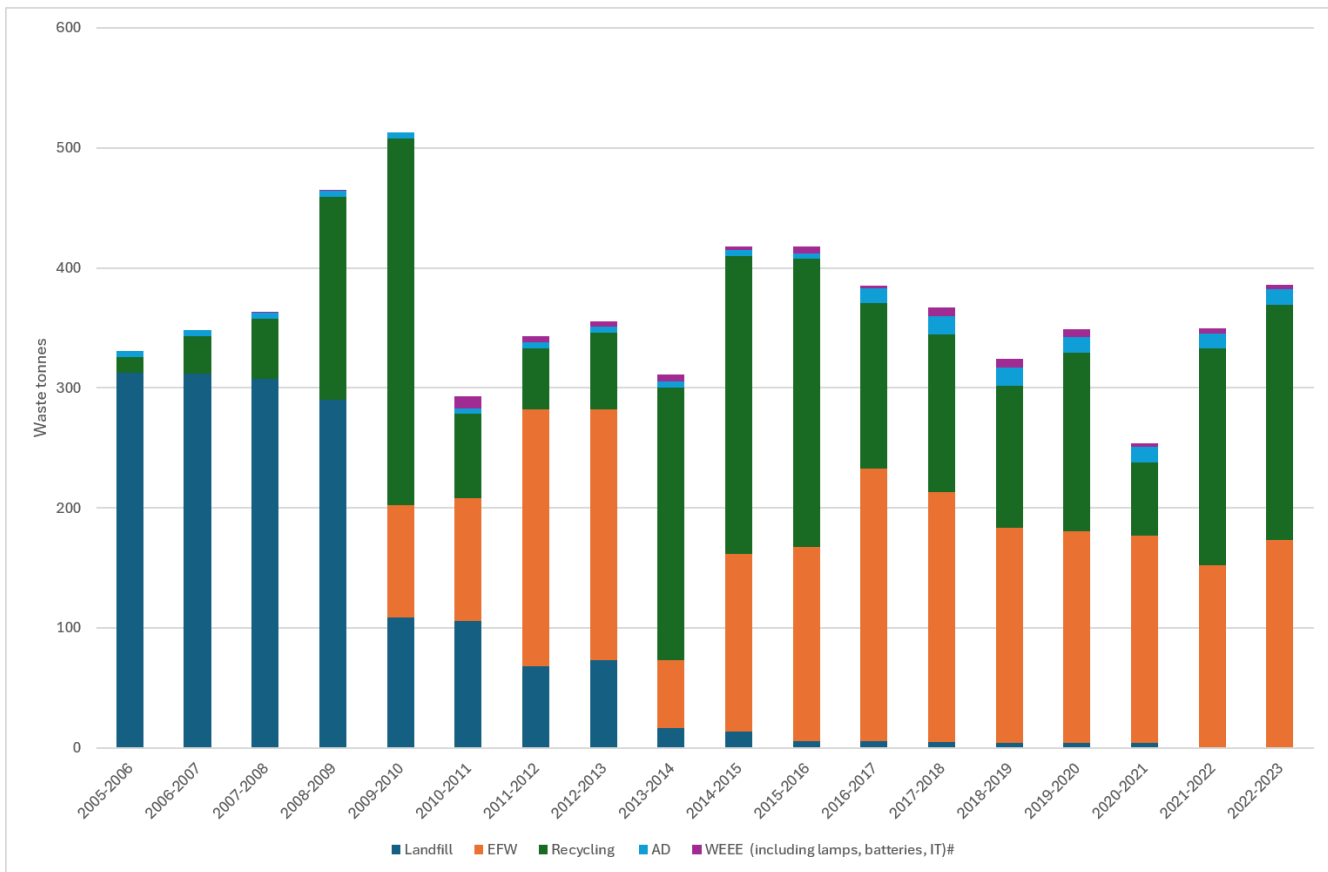
- Collecting, analysing and monitoring all material Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions and deliver sustainable reductions progressing towards Net Zero
- Achieving Net Zero Scope 3 emissions by 2050; and reviewing this target following the establishment of a robust baseline
- Ensure we are financially sustainable, by amongst other things:
 - Ensuring our campuses and sites are well maintained and developed and used to support our strategic priorities creatively and effectively
 - Streamlining and implementing better processes and systems to improve effectiveness

Implementation of sustainable waste management practices will enable costs (both financial and resources) to be reduced by using resources more efficiently; preventing and minimising waste and increasing recycling through prioritising the waste hierarchy; and increasing engagement.

3) Progress so far (2005-2006 to 2022-2023)

We have collected waste disposal data since 2005-2006 (excluding construction and general skip data) and have been continuously working to both improve the data quantity and quality.

In 2005-2006 the tonnage produced was 331 tonnes with 94% of the waste going to landfill, 4% recycled (when we recycled only paper and glass) and 2% sent to anaerobic digestion. Fast forward to 2022-2023 where we sent 45% to Energy from Waste (EFW), recycled 51%, sent 3% to anaerobic digestion and 3% was WEEE (including lamps, batteries, white goods, and IT equipment).



In this period, there has been much change:

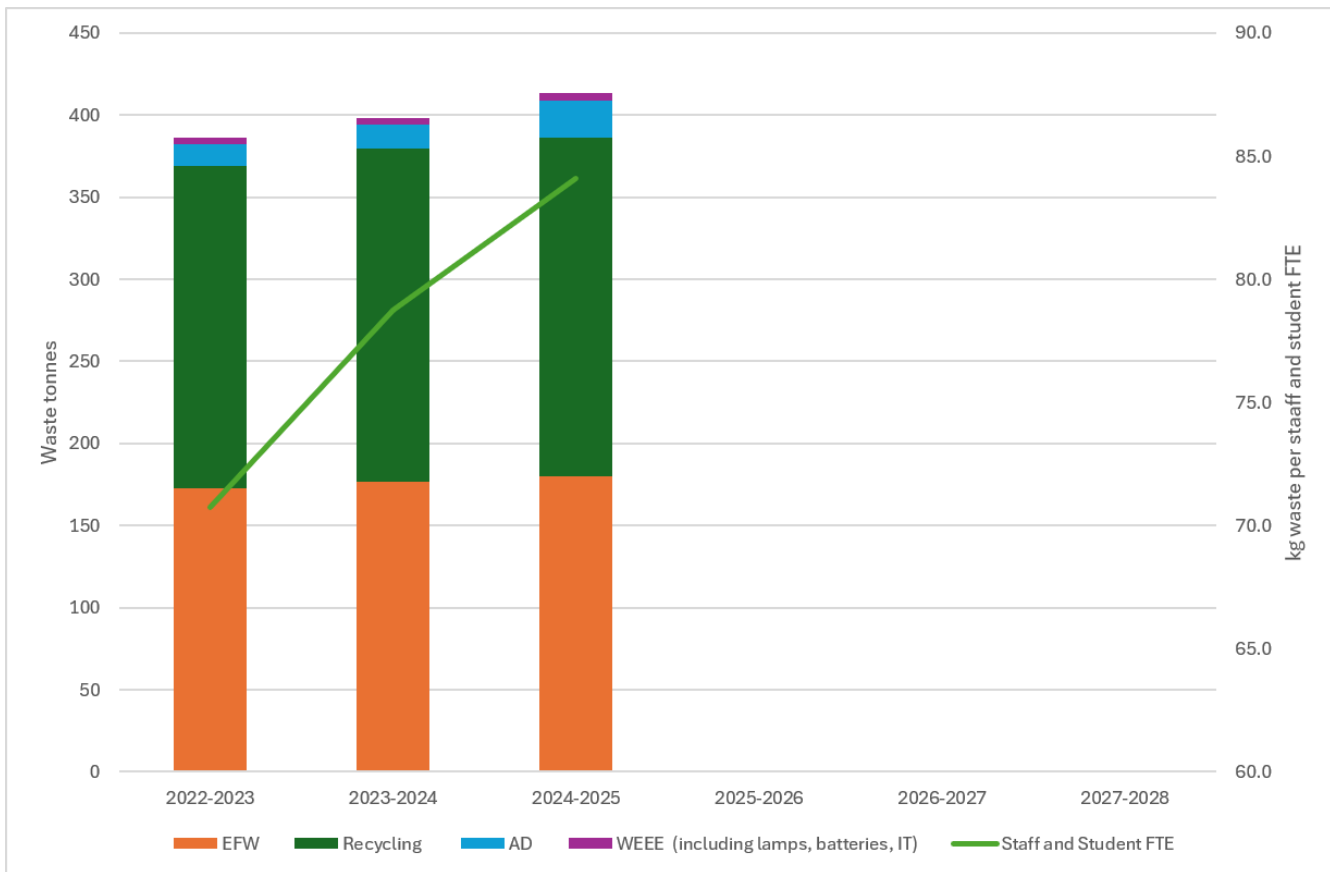
- GIA of the estate has increased by nearly 12,500m²
- The number of materials collected has increased from just paper and glass in 2005-2006 to paper, paper sent for confidential shredding, cardboard, plastics, cans, and glass in 2022-23
- The amount of waste sent to landfill has reduced to zero and is instead sent to EFW
- We undertook a significant investment of recycling bins, with non-residential buildings having bins with four waste streams (general waste, paper and card, plastics and cans) and residential and catering areas separating their waste into general waste and dry mixed recycling (DMR).
- Procurement frameworks are used to procure the waste disposal contractors. Before 2019 the University procured its waste disposal contracts in a group with the University of Liverpool (lead), Liverpool John Moores and the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts
- Since 2019, a requirement of our waste disposal contracts is to send zero waste to landfill
- Throughout the years, the waste disposal contractors have changed and with this the disposal route and level of reporting accuracy (i.e. whether the data is an accurate weight or estimated based on the size of bin and material). However, since September 2019 we have had the same waste disposal contractor, so have higher levels of comparability

Despite our successes of removing waste sent to landfill and increasing recycling materials and rates there is still much that can be done.

4) Progress so far (2022-2023 to 2027-2028)

A 2022-2023 to 2027-2028 reporting period has been chosen to align with the University's Strategic Plan, and the Environmental Sustainability Strategy aim to have a complete Scope 3 baseline by 2027-2028.

Total waste tonnage has increased from 386 tonnes to 413 tonnes with 39-40% of the waste being generated from residential buildings. The tonnages of EFW, Recycling and food waste have all increased, whilst WEEE has stayed static. The waste created per staff and student FTE has also increased from 70.8kg to 84.1kg which may have been influenced by an increasing waste tonnage (7.1%) and a decreasing staff and student FTE (9.9%).



Simpler Recycling Regulations were introduced to remove food waste from the general waste stream (caddies were introduced across campus in summer 2025) and to standardise the materials which can be recycled. This has led to the increase in AD and recycling in 2024-2025; however, we have not seen an equivalent decrease in EFW. This may highlight the predominantly estimated nature of the waste tonnages (as all materials, except for AD, are a mixture of accurate and estimated weights) and emphasise the need for a physical audit to ensure we have the correct number of bins in the right location so as to minimise the impact of the estimated weights.

5) How will we get there?

The production of waste is unavoidable, however, we can influence the way and amount that we purchase items and subsequently dispose of it. We will prioritise the waste hierarchy i.e. reduce, reuse, recycle, recovery and dispose. The Environmental Sustainability Action Plan sets out the various actions (shown below) required to progress towards achieving the aims.

Objective	Action	KPI	Completion deadline
Maintain 100% of non-recyclable waste being sent to EFW	- Continue to send 100% of non-recyclable waste to EFW	- Waste to Energy from Waste % & tonnage	Ongoing
Improve data collection to ensure accurate reporting	- Work with contractors & other departments to increase accurate data reporting	- % of accurate weights provided	
Audit current waste arisings to understand what actions are required	- Schedule audits with waste contractors to determine if number & location of bins are appropriate		2026/2027
	- Conduct compositional audits and identify potential improvements and feed into awareness campaigns		
Baseline Scope 3 emissions from construction waste	- Work with contractors to provide data to calculate scope 3 emissions from waste	- Construction waste recycled/re-	2027/2028

		used % & tonnage	
Develop reduction targets & KPIs	- Create reduction targets	- Waste tonnage per FTE - Recycling tonnage per FTE - % recycled	2027/2028
	- Monitor identified KPIs & add to if necessary		
	- Develop a Waste Management Plan		
Increase reuse, recycling & sustainable materials management	- Improve bin signage to improve awareness	- Waste tonnage per FTE - Recycling tonnage per FTE - % recycled	2026/2027
	- Work with contractors to promote what can & cannot be recycled		
	- Develop a waste management plan		
Prevent pollution by reducing harmful waste, emissions & discharges	- Create a plan to measure, monitor & reduce pollution		2027/2028

6) Delivery, monitoring, reporting and review

Delivery of this Plan will be supported by robust monitoring, transparent reporting and the development of ambitious, inspiring and targeted action plans, standards and guidance. Actions will be prioritised based on impact feasibility, affordability and alignment with strategic risk.

The targets, progress against actions and KPIs will be monitored, reported and reviewed in line with the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Carbon Reduction Plan.

Waste Management is co-ordinated by the Sustainability Manager and Estates Services Manager. The Sustainability Manager will maintain compliance with the Higher Education Statistics Agency's Estates Management Record and other regulatory reporting.

This Plan covers the period 2026-2028 and will be fully refreshed aligned to the next University Strategic planning cycle.