Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties 2025 Template

PART 1 Profile of Reporting Body

1a **Name of reporting body**

Provide the name of the listed body (the "body") which prepared this report.

University of Aberdeen

1b **Type of body**

Select from the options below

Educational Institutions

1c **Highest number of full-time equivalent staff in the body during the report year**

2502

1d **Metrics used by the body**

Specify the metrics that the body uses to assess its performance in relation to climate change and sustainability.

Metric	Units	Value	Comments
Floor area	m2	267984.57	HESA 2023-2024 Data - GIA
Floor area	m2	201867.56	HESA 2023-2024 Data - Non-Residential
Number of full-time equivalent students	number FTS	13202	Data used to calculate student relocation and commuting emissions
Please select from drop down box			
Please select from drop down box			
Please select from drop down box			
Please select from drop down box			
Please select from drop down box			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			
Other (please specify in comments)			

1e **Overall budget of the body**

Specify approximate £/annum for the report year.

Budget	Budget Comments
£261,306,000	The figure at 1e is taken from the Annual Report and Accounts 2023/2024. The equivalent figure for 2024/2025 will be available after the approval of our 2024/2025 Annual Report and Accounts at Court in late 2025

1f **Report type**

Please select the appropriate reporting period to ensure that the correct set of emissions factors is auto-populated in Q3b.

Reporting type	Report year comments
Academic	1st August 2024 - 31st July 2025

1g **Context**

Provide a summary of the body's role and functions that are relevant to climate change reporting.

The University of Aberdeen is Scotland’s third oldest university, founded in 1495, and the UK’s fifth, with a diverse community of more than 130 nationalities, with 13,000 students and 3,400 staff.

A research-intensive University, we have two main academic campuses in Aberdeen; the Kings College Campus in Old Aberdeen and Foresterhill, our medical campus, located within the NHS Grampian Royal Infirmary site. We have a residential campus at Hillhead within the city, and a number of teaching and reserach satelite sites stretching up to the top of the Scottish mainland.

The University has research interests, collaborative relationships, and student recruitment interests around the world, through this, we also work in partnership with the Al-Faleh Group (AFG) in Doha, Qatar where we deliver teaching in buildings owned and operated by the Al-Faleh Group.

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PART 2 Governance, Management and Strategy

Governance and management

2a How is climate change governed in the body?

Provide a summary of the roles performed by the body's governance bodies and members in relation to climate change. If any of the body's activities in relation to climate change sit outside its own governance arrangements (in relation to, for example, land use, adaptation, transport, business travel, waste, information and communication technology, procurement or behaviour change), identify these activities and the governance arrangements. Provide a diagram / chart to outline the governance structure within the body.

The University launched its Aberdeen 2040 strategy in February 2020. That strategy provides the high-level framework within which all institutional priorities are considered. It has four main thematic strands, one of which is sustainability (the others are inclusive, interdisciplinary, and international).

As part of the associated governance structures, all sustainability related issues are overseen by a Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) which is chaired by the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Alongside the COO, the SDC includes nominated representatives from among the cadre of Vice-Principals and Deans with responsibility for areas including Research, Education and Global Engagement.

There is also representation from Schools (e.g. 2x Head of School representatives) and Professional Services directorates (i.e., Digital & Information Services, Estates & Facilities, Finance, Planning, and Research & Innovation), other academic leaders (including elected Senators and a representative from the Interdisciplinary Centres), a trades union representative, and representation from the student body.

Full details of the remit and composition of the SDC are available at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/sustainable-development-committee.php

SDC reports via the University's Senior Management Team and from there as required through the University committee structure e.g., to Court. The current organisational committee structure can be found at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/minutes-and-agendas-135.php

Management of compliance elements (e.g., waste management and emissions) is overseen by our Directorate of Estates & Facilities.

2b How is climate change action managed and embedded in the body?

Provide a summary of how decision-making in relation to climate change action by the body is managed and how responsibility is allocated to the body's senior staff, departmental heads etc. If any such decision-making sits outside the body's own governance arrangements (in relation to, for example, land use, adaptation, transport, business travel, waste, information and communication technology, procurement or behaviour change), identify how this is managed and how responsibility is allocated outside the body. Provide a diagram to show how responsibility is allocated to the body's senior staff, departmental heads etc.

The Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) was established following the launch of the Aberdeen 2040 strategy (initially as the Sustainability Steering Group). It replaced a long-standing Advisory Group on Sustainability & Social Responsibility.

SDC meets regularly (usually quarterly) and co-ordinates the development, implementation and review of all operational sustainability related commitments as outlined in the Aberdeen 2040 strategic plan. SDC reports via the University's Senior Management Team as required through the University committee structure e.g., to Court.

Among its duties, it reviews implementation plans linked to Aberdeen 2040, such as the Net Zero Strategy, oversees Environmental Sustainability risks from the University Risk Register and the Strategic Risk Register, and sets the direction for our sustainability commitments. During 2024/25, SDC has overseen the development of both the University's Net Zero Strategy (December 2024) and, more recently (August 2025) taken ownership of the University's first detailed climate resilience strategy (i.e. climate change adaptation – see Section 4 below) and associated action plan and climate risk assessment.

Details of who attends SDC are at 2a above, but it should be noted that academic disciplines and the student voice are well represented.

Functional responsibility for management of our sustainability, adaptation, and net-zero planning lies with our Directorate of Estates & Facilities (e.g., Waste, Transport, Water, Energy, Buildings, Net Zero).

Sub-groups and boards are established as required. Currently we have the following:
- A Sustainable Heating Programme Board (chaired by the Vice-Principal for Regional Engagement) looking into the options for decarbonisation of our heat networks in Old Aberdeen – this is in the process of being replaced by an Estate & Energy Infrastructure Decarbonisation Programme Board.
- A Sustainability Operations sub-group (chaired by the Head of Sustainability) where operational sustainability matters and associated policies, data, and metrics can be discussed in detail by those responsible for the collation, monitoring and reporting of these issues.
- An Offsetting Working Group (chaired by the Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Environment and Biodiversity) which has recently completed the development of an interim offsetting policy and grant carbon credit procedure. The working group is now on hiatus while it awaits the findings and recommendations from a student thesis from the MSc Sustainable Transitions programme.

Full details of the SDC are available at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/sustainable-development-committee.php

Strategy

2c Does the body have specific climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives in its corporate plan or similar document?

Provide a brief summary of objectives if they exist.

Wording of objective	Name of document	Document Link
Encourage everyone within our community to work and live sustainably, recognising the importance of our time, energy and resilience.	Aberdeen 2040	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/2040/documents/Aberdeen2040-EN.pdf
Educate all our students and staff to be leaders in protecting the environment.	Aberdeen 2040	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/2040/documents/Aberdeen2040-EN.pdf
Excel in research that addresses the climate emergency, enables energy transition and the preservation of	Aberdeen 2040	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/2040/documents/Aberdeen2040-EN.pdf
Achieve net-zero carbon emissions before 2040.	Aberdeen 2040	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/2040/documents/Aberdeen2040-EN.pdf

2d Does the body have a climate change plan or strategy?

If yes, provide the name of any such document and details of where a copy of the document may be obtained or accessed.

In historic terms, the University's most recent 5-year Carbon Management Plan (CMP) covered the period 2016 - 2021. It was drafted to reflect the format of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (PBCCD) reporting and provided a project-focussed framework for action in that five-year period. It was formally approved during 2016/17 and remains available online at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/CMP-2016_2021-Final.pdf

In 2020, as part of the Aberdeen 2040 process, we made a long-term commitment to make the University net-zero before 2040. Our Net Zero Strategy, published in December 2024, articulates, for the first time, the anticipated scale of what we will need to do to decarbonise our operations and the changes required to all aspects of University life. With a whole institution approach at its core, the strategy contains reduction targets for all three scopes, in alignment with guidance from the Science Based Targets Initiative, with a focus on what emissions we can control and eliminate, and those we need to actively seek to positively influence.

A critical part of this strategy has been the development of decarbonisation pathways which reflect on the actions necessary to reduce or eliminate emissions associated with eleven key emissions themes: Decarbonised Heat, Low Carbon Energy Generation and Storage, Digital Sustainability, Biodiversity, Sustainable Labs, Green Fleet, Sustainable Procurement, Behaviour Change and Empowerment, Decarbonised Construction & Maintenance, Sustainable Business Travel, Minimised Waste. The pathways themselves have been developed and aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will assist the University in recognising the breadth of activity required to support delivery of Net Zero.

As part of the development of the Strategy we took the opportunity to share with senior colleagues the results of the "Cost of Net Zero Calculator" (a tool created by EAUC, AUDE & BUFDG). This tool provides universities with a high-level estimate of the likely cost of delivering net zero. This information raised awareness of the anticipated scale of long-term funding needed and has helped to initiate conversations about innovative funding options e.g. the development of strategic, long-term delivery partnerships.

The full net zero strategy and an executive summary can be found here: https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/net-zero/

During the 2024/2025 academic year, the University's first formally articulated approach to climate change adaptation and to the associated risk assessment of our campuses and activities was developed. Utilising EAUC Scotland's "Climate Risk Assessment" template, we have also assessed the current and future climate related risks in alignment with Adaptation Scotland guidance. This has resulted in development of an inaugural climate resilience strategy and linked action plan that builds upon an initial climate change risk assessment.
The strategy includes a reflection on observed changes to our climate over previous decades, a summary of regional 2050 climate projections, an overview of the impact climate change has had on the University's estate and operations, a summary of the actions we have identified that will improve our resilience, and details on progress monitoring procedures.

As our climate is changing rapidly, and the climate science is constantly evolving to match the pace of change, this strategy, risk assessment and action plan will be dynamic documents that evolve as our understanding of climate change adaptation matures. The climate change risk assessment is to be reviewed on a bi-annual basis to facilitate any amendments required to the strategy, action plan, or risk assessment.

Additional information can be found in the Adaptation section of this report. The full climate resilience strategy will be published in December 2025 and will be available on the University's sustainability web pages.

When the updated Public Bodies guidance is issued by Scottish Government, the University will update its net zero and adaptation strategies to reflect the expectations set out.

Reflecting on the wider net-zero commitment, we signed the Global Climate Letter (aka Race to Zero) in 2020 and, in September 2021, committed to divestment from fossil fuels by 2025. Following that decision, our investment exposure to fossil fuels has steadily dropped from 2.38% in May 2021 to 0.2% as of 31st October 2024. Further details of the divestment process are available at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/fossil-fuel-divestment.php

2e Does the body have any plans or strategies covering the following areas that include climate change?

Provide the name of any such document and the timeframe covered.

Topic area	Name of document	Link	Time period covered	Comments
Adaptation	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	To be available on the Sustainability webpages from December 2025	5 year action plan	Developed in 2024/25. Approved in October 2025 (SMT).
Business travel	Sustainable Business Travel Guiding Principles	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/sustainable-business-travel/		
Staff Travel	Sustainable Travel Plan	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/Sustainable_Travel_Plan.pdf	Initial targets set for 2025.	This is overdue for a review.
Energy efficiency	Environmental Sustainability Policy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/media/site/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/2024-SDC-Policy-EnvironmentalSustainability-Final.pdf	2018 - 2022	
Fleet transport	Environmental Sustainability Policy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/media/site/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/2024-SDC-Policy-EnvironmentalSustainability-Final.pdf	Next review due 2026/2027	
ICT	n/a	n/a	Next review due 2026/2027	
Renewable energy	Environmental Sustainability Policy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/media/site/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/2024-SDC-Policy-EnvironmentalSustainability-Final.pdf	n/a	
Sustainable/renewable heat	Environmental Sustainability Policy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/media/site/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/2024-SDC-Policy-EnvironmentalSustainability-Final.pdf	Next review due 2026/2027	
Waste management	Environmental Sustainability Policy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/media/site/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/2024-SDC-Policy-EnvironmentalSustainability-Final.pdf	Next review due 2026/2027	
Water and sewerage	Environmental Sustainability Policy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/media/site/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/2024-SDC-Policy-EnvironmentalSustainability-Final.pdf	Next review due 2026/2027	
Land Use	Environmental Sustainability Policy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/media/site/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/2024-Sustainability-BiodiversityPolicy-FINAL.pdf	Next review due 2026/2027	
Other (please specify in comments)	Environmental Sustainability Policy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/media/site/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/2024-SDC-Policy-EnvironmentalSustainability-Final.pdf	Next review date	Sustainable Buildings (New Build, Refurbishment & Extension)
Other (please specify in comments)	Net Zero Strategy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/net-zero/	Next review due 2026/2027	Approved in December 2024 (Court).
Please select from drop down box				

2f What are the body's top 5 priorities for climate change governance, management and strategy for the year ahead?

Provide a brief summary of the body's areas and activities of focus for the year ahead.

The sustainability commitments in our Aberdeen 2040 strategy identify the following five headline commitments that cover environmental and financial sustainability:

- Encourage everyone within our community to work and live sustainably, recognising the importance of our time, energy and resilience.
- Educate all our students and staff to be leaders in protecting the environment.
- Excel in research that addresses the climate emergency, enables energy transition and the preservation of biodiversity.
- Achieve net zero carbon emissions before 2040.
- Generate resources for investment in education and research year on year, so that we can continue to develop the people, ideas and actions that help us to fulfil our purpose.

Progress against these commitments is tracked annually as part of our institutional Annual Report & Accounts, with regular review of associated metrics and actions at SDC.

Among the key sustainability themes that have emerged in subsequent discussion are:
- academic and operational contributions to the net-zero debate;
- sustainability literacy;
- the role of the University in leading the energy transition;
- the role and importance of the Sustainable Development Goals in articulating institutional impact;
- and the impact of business travel and related emissions.

In 2025/26 our main focus will be on the following sub-actions:
- The establishment of programme boards and groups to lead in the progression of the decarbonisation pathways from the Net Zero strategy.
- Successful ensuring that a first tranche of laboratories secure Laboratories Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) accreditation.
- Embedding of the adaptation strategy and progression through the activities detailed in the action plan.
- Update of our Design Guidance for construction and refurbishment projects, to embed sustainability/Net Zero/Adaptation where appropriate (utilising insights from a successful 2025 summer internship on this topic).
- Continued reporting against the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Launch of a student sustainability e-learning module and linked sustainability literacy test, and embedding as part of the sustainability component of the University's MySkills framework.
- Working with AUSA (our Students' Union) to help them develop their sustainability initiatives, including their Net Zero Strategy.
- Establishing a new operational relationship (i.e. appointing a new Charge Point Operator) for our small fleet of onsite electric vehicle charging stations.

2g Has the body used the Climate Change Assessment Tool (a) or equivalent tool to self-assess its capability / performance?

If yes, please provide details of the key findings and resultant action taken.

(a) This refers to the tool developed by Resource Efficient Scotland for self-assessing an organisation's capability / performance in relation to climate change.

We utilised the tool comprehensively for the first time as part of the 2024/25 PBCCD reflection and reporting process. The assessment tool highlighted positive progress in the governance, emissions and adaptation categories, in addition to the identification of potential enhancements in the behaviour and procurement categories. These outcomes and suggested actions were consistent with our own assessment of priority actions and ongoing initiatives and projects.

Additionally, we have undertaken our first review of the Leaders' Climate Emergency Checklist, developed by SSN. The results further highlighting the areas of focus detailed in Question 2f.

Further information

2h **Supporting information and best practice**

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to governance, management and strategy.

As the global impacts of climate change become ever more apparent, the sustainability commitments within our Aberdeen 2040 strategy and the associated actions we have identified, remain as critical as ever. As part of our wider net zero journey, we have continued to revise our approach to emissions reporting. For 2024/25 we have enhanced our PBCCD reporting further by improving the reporting methodology for a number of emissions categories.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) continue to inform our wider sustainability discussions and help us to reflect on the impact of our research, teaching and operational activities. Our fifth annual SDG Report will be produced in autumn 2025 and will include SDG relevant stories from all corners of the University

These institution-wide efforts have also been recognised in sustainability league tables. The most recent rankings have seen us consolidate our position in the Top 100 of both the Times Higher Education Impact ranking (=84th and 14th in the UK) and the QS Sustainability ranking (=83rd and 25th in the UK). While both rankings saw dips from the all-time highs of 2024 (where both had been Top 50), this performance represents consolidation in the face of rapid growth in both rankings, with several hundred new participants featuring globally.

The collation and online publication of a comprehensive range of emissions data via our user-friendly Sustainability Dashboard (an online PowerBI platform) has contributed to the expectation that we enhance transparency of our emissions reporting by making our emissions data widely and comprehensively available to staff, student and public audiences. This reporting innovation was recognised with a Highly Commended award in the 'Reporting with Influence' category at the 2024 Green Gown Awards. Likewise, our development of a Student Relocation Emissions Calculator has generated extensive positive sector feedback and been adopted as a best-practice methodology for both the Scottish Government PBCCD and SCEF emissions guidance. An 'Innovation' award from HESPA in early 2024 was followed by a Highly Commended award in the 'Creating Impact' category at the 2024 Green Gown Awards and a shortlisting for 'Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership' at the 2024 Times Higher Awards.

The University has joined the internationally recognised Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) scheme to embed sustainability practices in laboratories across academic disciplines. Initial engagement with Medical School colleagues will see initial accreditations confirmed in late 2025 and, moving forward, this will be rolled out with other Schools.

Following the successful launch of our staff sustainability e-learning module, our Sustainability team has worked to develop a student equivalent alongside a simple ‘test; that can be used to gauge sustainability literacy. This work builds on and contributes to the work of academic, curriculum and careers colleagues who, in 2023/24 launched a new graduate attributes framework under the heading MySkills. This places active, global citizenship and sustainability alongside career readiness, teamworking and personal resilience as part of a framework of 18 key graduate attributes that our students will be encouraged to track and monitor during their time with us.

Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties 2025 Template

PART 3 Corporate Emissions, Targets and Project Data

Emissions

3a **Emissions from the start of the year which the body uses as a baseline (for its carbon footprint) to the end of the report year**

Complete the following table using the greenhouse gas emissions total for the body calculated on the same basis as for its annual carbon footprint / management reporting or, where applicable, its sustainability reporting. Include greenhouse gas emissions from the body's
(a) No information is required on the effect of the body on emissions which are not from its estate and operations.
(b) This refers to "The greenhouse gas protocol. A corporate accounting and reporting standard (revised edition)", World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland / World Resources Institute, Washington DC, USA (2004), ISBN: 1-56973-568-9.

Select appropriate baseline year. Total emissions for the latest year should equal total emissions in Q3b.

Reference year	Year	Year type	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Total	Units	Comments
Baseline Year	2015	Academic	13,332.30	11,318.85	6,869.02	31,520.17	tCO_2e	Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged
Year 1 carbon footprint	2016	Academic	13,017.94	9,433.94	5,536.67	27,988.56	tCO_2e	Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged
Year 2 carbon footprint	2017	Academic	12,641.01	6,731.87	5,082.14	24,455.02	tCO_2e	Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged
Year 3 carbon footprint	2018	Academic	10,436.37	6,050.09	4,845.30	21,331.76	tCO_2e	Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged
Year 4 carbon footprint	2019	Academic	10,148.20	7,595.78	2,994.38	20,738.36	tCO_2e	Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged. COVID-19 impact from March 2020
Year 5 carbon footprint	2020	Academic	10,353.71	5,307.60	1,330.57	16,991.88	tCO_2e	Adjustment of scope sources to correct historic errors. Total university emissions remain unchanged. COVID-19 impact for full reporting year
Year 6 carbon footprint	2021	Academic	10,200.14	3,594.97	36,668.26	50,463.37	tCO_2e	**Update of Reporting Boundaries** Inclusion of Procurement related Scope 3 emissions has resulted in a significant increase in Scope 3 emissions. The reporting boundaries used in previous years would have resulted in a total emissions profile of 15,620 tCO2e for 21/22 which represents a like-for-like reduction of 8.07% on 20/21. **Update of NHS Grid Electricity Methodology** An update to the way we calculate Grid Electricity consumption procured through the NHS for our Foresterhill site has identified a historic over-reporting. Addressing this for this year has resulted in a reduction of 911.5 tCO2e in Scope 2 emissions compared to that which we would have declared had the previous methodology been applied.
Year 7 carbon footprint	2022	Academic	9,701.24	4,157.35	50,535.86	64,394.45	tCO_2e	**Update of Reporting Boundaries** Inclusion of Student Relocation, Well-to-Tank, and Staff Commuting related Scope 3 emissions has resulted in a significant increase in Scope 3 emissions. The reporting boundaries used in previous years would have resulted in a total emissions profile of 45,290.2 tCO2e for 22/23 which represents a like-for-like reduction of 10.25% on 21/22.
Year 8 carbon footprint	2023	Academic	8,759.99	4,024.30	55,027.15	67,811.44	tCO_2e	**Update of Reporting Boundaries** Inclusion of Student Commuting, Hotel Stays (both Scope 3) and F-Gases (Scope 1), has added several new categories of emissions to our portfolio. These new sources have resulted in a minor (5.3%) increase in our overall emissions total. Had we used the same reporting boundaries as in 22/23, it would have resulted in a total emissions profile of 63,984 tCO2e for 23/24 which represents a like-for-like reduction of 0.64% on 22/23.
Year 9 carbon footprint	2024	Academic	8,445.19	3,361.04	41,700.85	53,507.07	tCO_2e	**Update of Student Relocation Methodology** An update to the way we calculate relocation emissions of Home (Scottish) students. We have developed a calculation tool which uses the outward code of their home postcodes to calculate travel distance instead of assuming all students travel from Edinburgh. This has resulted in a reduction of 150tCO2e of Scope 3 emissions compared to what we would have declared has the previous methodology been applied.

3b **Breakdown of emissions sources** **Please do not delete rows or columns anywhere in this template. It is password protected to prevent corruption. Empty rows in tables can be hidden and panes can be frozen to enable scrolling in larger tables.**

Complete the following table with the breakdown of emission sources from the body's most recent carbon footprint (greenhouse gas inventory); this should correspond to the last entry in the table in 3(a) above. Use the 'Comments' column to explain what is included within each category of emission source entered in the first column. If there is no
(a) Emissions factors are published annually by the UK Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Emission Factor Year 2025

You can filter emission sources by "type" in column C to enable quicker selection of emission source in column D. See the list in the Emissions Tab.

Please only use "Other" (row 131) if there is no relevant emission source in the dropdown list or consumption emissions have been derived from e.g. a survey or non-standard methodology. Extra rows can be added by sending the template to ccreporting@ed.ac.uk.

Emission Type	Emission source	Scope	Consumption data	Units	Emission factor	Units	Emissions (tCO_2e)	Comments	
Fuels	Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	14,644	litres	2.57082	kg CO2e/litres	37.64763	Fleet vehicles Data gathered from fuel cards	
Fuels	Petrol (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	1,858	litres	2.06916	kg CO2e/litres	3.84547	Fleet vehicles Data gathered from fuel cards	
Fuels	Natural gas	Scope 1	44,133,881	kWh	0.18296	kg CO2e/kWh	8074.73493	HH data from invoices This figure includes the natural gas consumed for heat generation (boilers) and by a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engine on the Old Aberdeen Campus which generates 40.9% of the campus' electricity demand. The reduction in consumption compared to the previous year is due to a number of completed projects and M&T programmes, and also due to the CHP engine being offline more often due to the reduced campus electricity demand not meeting the minimum load level.	
Fuels	Gas oil	Scope 1					0.00000	Grounds Team usage No consumption to report	Please state in comments if this value is 0 because no emissions exist or if emissions likely exist, but are unknown
Fuels	Gas oil	Scope 1	232,447	kWh	0.25650	kg CO2e/kWh	59.62272	Consumed for heat generation. Increase due to improved data collection procedures.	
Fuels	LPG	Scope 1	10,833	kWh	0.21450	kg CO2e/kWh	2.32368	Consumed for heat generation	
Refrigerants	R410A	Scope 1	78	kg	1924.00000	kg CO2e/kg	149.93732	F-gases	
Refrigerants	HFC-32	Scope 1	10	kg	677.00000	kg CO2e/kg	6.49920	F-gases	
Refrigerants	R407C	Scope 1	7	kg	1624.00000	kg CO2e/kg	11.36800	F-gases	
Refrigerants	R404A	Scope 1	11	kg	3943.00000	kg CO2e/kg	43.25471	F-gases	
Electricity	Electricity: UK	Scope 2	11,797,746	kWh	0.17700	kg CO2e/kWh	2088.20108	Includes the following: - Half Hourly Grid Electricity* - Non Half Hourly Grid Electricity* - Grid Electricity purchased from NHS at the Foresterhill Campus. The reduction in consumption compared to the previous year is due to a number of completed projects and M&T programmes. Note that the electricity supplied to us by the NHS on our Foresterhill site consists of a combination of Grid Electricity and electricity generated by the NHS' own on-site CHP. In previous years we have simply declared all electricity used on the Foresterhill site, but this failed to take account of the fact that we were also procuring steam from the NHS CHP to heat our buildings. To address this, the monthly ratio between grid and CHP electricity has been used to calculate the actual grid consumption of the University. The emissions resulting from CHP generated electricity are effectively accounted for under the 'steam' emissions factor as we also procure steam from the NHS CHP. This eliminates a double counting of these emissions.	
Heat and steam	District heat and steam	Scope 2	7,261,306	kWh	0.17529	kg CO2e/kWh	1272.83434	Steam consumed on the Foresterhill Medical Campus, purchased from NHS Grampian through their CHP District Heating Network located on site. A small portion of the steam consumed is generated by a biomass boiler.	
Electricity	Transmission and distribution - Electricity: UK	Scope 3	11,797,746	kWh	0.01853	kg CO2e/kWh	218.61224		
Heat and steam	Transmission and distribution - district heat & steam, 5% loss	Scope 3	7,261,306	kWh	0.00945	kg CO2e/kWh	68.61934		
Water	Water supply	Scope 3	165,431	cubic metres	0.08000	kg CO2e/cubic metres	13.23448	Based off of internal meter reads	
Water	Water treatment	Scope 3	157,619	cubic metres	0.17000	kg CO2e/cubic metres	26.79522	As waste water is not metered, volume assumed to be 95% of water supplied to the University.	
Homeworking	Homeworking (office equipment + heating)	Scope 3	1,329,110	FTE Working Hour	0.33378	kg CO2e/FTE Working Hour	443.63048	Using WFH practice data gathered as part of a recent University staff travel survey and based on annualised FTE hour estimates of 2,509 for academic and academic related staff, and 937 for support staff.	
Transport - car	Average car - Unknown	Scope 3	837,586	km	0.16725	kg CO2e/km	140.08631	Student Relocation Emissions International and non-scottish UK student linked relocation emissions were calculated using the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool - Simple" tool. Scottish student linked relocation emissions were calculated using postcode data and a new calculation tool developed by the University of Aberdeen.	
Transport - public	National rail	Scope 3	534,548	passenger.km	0.03546	kg CO2e/passenger.km	18.95507	Student Relocation Emissions International and non-scottish UK student linked relocation emissions were calculated using the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool - Simple" tool. Scottish student linked relocation emissions were calculated using postcode data and a new calculation tool developed by the University of Aberdeen.	
Transport - public	Coach	Scope 3	354,660	passenger.km	0.02776	kg CO2e/passenger.km	9.84537	Student Relocation Emissions International and non-scottish UK student linked relocation emissions were calculated using the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool - Simple" tool. Scottish student linked relocation emissions were calculated using postcode data and a new calculation tool developed by the University of Aberdeen.	
Transport - public	Average local bus	Scope 3	50,841	passenger.km	0.10385	kg CO2e/passenger.km	5.27981	Student Relocation Emissions International and non-scottish UK student linked relocation emissions were calculated using the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool - Simple" tool. Scottish student linked relocation emissions were calculated using postcode data and a new calculation tool developed by the University of Aberdeen.	
Transport - public	Regular taxi	Scope 3	23,104	passenger.km	0.14861	kg CO2e/passenger.km	3.43347	Student Relocation Emissions International and non-scottish UK student linked relocation emissions were calculated using the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool - Simple" tool. Scottish student linked relocation emissions were calculated using postcode data and a new calculation tool developed by the University of Aberdeen.	

Transport - public	Ferry - Average (all passenger)	Scope 3	25,797	passenger.km	0.11270	kg CO2e/passenger.km	2.90733	Student Relocation Emissions International and non-scottish UK student linked relocation emissions were calculated using the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool - Simple" tool. Scottish student linked relocation emissions were calculated using postcode data and a new calculation tool developed by the University of Aberdeen.
Transport - public	Flights - Domestic, to/from UK - Average passenger	Scope 3	5,758,532	passenger.km	0.22928	kg CO2e/passenger.km	1320.31618	Student Relocation Emissions International and non-scottish UK student linked relocation emissions were calculated using the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool - Simple" tool. Scottish student linked relocation emissions were calculated using postcode data and a new calculation tool developed by the University of Aberdeen.
Transport - public	Flights - Short-haul, to/from UK - Economy class	Scope 3	1,570,374	passenger.km	0.12576	kg CO2e/passenger.km	197.49027	Student Relocation Emissions International and non-scottish UK student linked relocation emissions were calculated using the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool - Simple" tool. Scottish student linked relocation emissions were calculated using postcode data and a new calculation tool developed by the University of Aberdeen.
Transport - public	Flights - Long-haul, to/from UK - Economy class	Scope 3	39,083,338	passenger.km	0.11704	kg CO2e/passenger.km	4574.31382	Student Relocation Emissions International and non-scottish UK student linked relocation emissions were calculated using the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool - Simple" tool. Scottish student linked relocation emissions were calculated using postcode data and a new calculation tool developed by the University of Aberdeen.
Transport - car	Average car - Unknown	Scope 3	10,614,581	km	0.16725	kg CO2e/km	1775.28870	Staff Commuting Car (Driver) Calculation methodology uses travel habit results of 2022/2023 travel survey and 2024/2025 staff headcount. The response rate of 37.3% was deemed acceptable for use in extrapolation, using the Commuting Survey Guidance and Tool from EAUC Scotland.
Transport - car	Average car - Unknown	Scope 3	262,338	km	0.16725	kg CO2e/km	43.87596	Staff Commuting Car (Passenger - with someone who drops you off and returns home) Calculation methodology uses travel habit results of 2022/2023 travel survey and 2024/2025 staff headcount. The response rate of 37.3% was deemed acceptable for use in extrapolation, using the Commuting Survey Guidance and Tool from EAUC Scotland.
Transport - public	Local bus (not London)	Scope 3	1,133,853	passenger.km	0.12525	kg CO2e/passenger.km	142.01511	Staff Commuting Bus Calculation methodology uses travel habit results of 2022/2023 travel survey and 2024/2025 staff headcount. The response rate of 37.3% was deemed acceptable for use in extrapolation, using the Commuting Survey Guidance and Tool from EAUC Scotland.
Transport - car	Motorbike - Average	Scope 3	18,288	km	0.11367	kg CO2e/km	2.07879	Staff Commuting Motorcycle/Moped Calculation methodology uses travel habit results of 2022/2023 travel survey and 2024/2025 staff headcount. The response rate of 37.3% was deemed acceptable for use in extrapolation, using the Commuting Survey Guidance and Tool from EAUC Scotland.
Transport - public	National rail	Scope 3	1,078,359	passenger.km	0.03546	kg CO2e/passenger.km	38.23860	Staff Commuting Train Calculation methodology uses travel habit results of 2022/2023 travel survey and 2024/2025 staff headcount. The response rate of 37.3% was deemed acceptable for use in extrapolation, using the Commuting Survey Guidance and Tool from EAUC Scotland.
Transport - car	Average car - Unknown	Scope 3	12,116,090	km	0.16725	kg CO2e/km	2026.41604	Student Commuting Car (Driver) Calculation methodology uses travel habit results of 2022/2023 travel survey and 2024/2025 student headcount. The response rate of 6.4% was deemed acceptable for use in extrapolation, using the Commuting Survey Guidance and Tool from EAUC Scotland.
Transport - car	Average car - Unknown	Scope 3	710,655	km	0.16725	kg CO2e/km	118.85709	Student Commuting Car (Passenger - with someone who drops you off and returns home) Calculation methodology uses travel habit results of 2022/2023 travel survey and 2024/2025 student headcount. The response rate of 6.4% was deemed acceptable for use in extrapolation, using the Commuting Survey Guidance and Tool from EAUC Scotland.
Transport - public	Local bus (not London)	Scope 3	7,476,443	passenger.km	0.12525	kg CO2e/passenger.km	936.42449	Student Commuting Bus Calculation methodology uses travel habit results of 2022/2023 travel survey and 2024/2025 student headcount. The response rate of 6.4% was deemed acceptable for use in extrapolation, using the Commuting Survey Guidance and Tool from EAUC Scotland.
Transport - car	Motorbike - Average	Scope 3	8,738	km	0.11367	kg CO2e/km	0.99320	Student Commuting Motorcycle/Moped Calculation methodology uses travel habit results of 2022/2023 travel survey and 2024/2025 student headcount. The response rate of 6.4% was deemed acceptable for use in extrapolation, using the Commuting Survey Guidance and Tool from EAUC Scotland.
Transport - public	National rail	Scope 3	1,398,010	passenger.km	0.03546	kg CO2e/passenger.km	49.57345	Student Commuting Train Calculation methodology uses travel habit results of 2022/2023 travel survey and 2024/2025 student headcount. The response rate of 6.4% was deemed acceptable for use in extrapolation, using the Commuting Survey Guidance and Tool from EAUC Scotland.
Transport - public	Flights - Domestic, to/from UK - Average passenger	Scope 3	676,327	passenger.km	0.22928	kg CO2e/passenger.km	155.06829	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Transport - public	Flights - Short-haul, to/from UK - Average passenger	Scope 3	4,102,394	passenger.km	0.12786	kg CO2e/passenger.km	524.53207	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Transport - public	Flights - International, to/from non-UK - Average passenger	Scope 3	641,012	passenger.km	0.14253	kg CO2e/passenger.km	91.36344	Business Travel Data from University finance system Covers international and long-haul flights (average passenger)
Transport - public	Flights - Domestic, to/from UK - Average passenger	Scope 3	700,500	passenger.km	0.22928	kg CO2e/passenger.km	160.61060	Business Travel Data from University travel provider
Transport - public	Flights - Short-haul, to/from UK - Average passenger	Scope 3	744,688	passenger.km	0.12786	kg CO2e/passenger.km	95.21584	Business Travel Data from University travel provider
Transport - public	Flights - Long-haul, to/from UK - Average passenger	Scope 3	3,864,636	passenger.km	0.15282	kg CO2e/passenger.km	590.59360	Business Travel Data from University travel provider
Transport - public	Flights - International, to/from non-UK - Average passenger	Scope 3	3,009,362	passenger.km	0.14253	kg CO2e/passenger.km	428.92442	Business Travel Data from University travel provider
Transport - public	National rail	Scope 3	1,048,490	passenger.km	0.03546	kg CO2e/passenger.km	37.17944	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Transport - public	National rail	Scope 3	358,521	passenger.km	0.03546	kg CO2e/passenger.km	12.71316	Business Travel Data from University travel provider

Transport - public	London Underground	Scope 3	29,183	passenger.km	0.02780	kg CO2e/passenger.km	0.81129	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Transport - public	Local bus (not London)	Scope 3	93,200	passenger.km	0.12525	kg CO2e/passenger.km	11.67324	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Transport - public	Local bus (not London)	Scope 3	36,082	passenger.km	0.12525	kg CO2e/passenger.km	4.51924	Business Travel University shuttle bus
Transport - public	Regular taxi	Scope 3	75,394	passenger.km	0.14861	kg CO2e/passenger.km	11.20426	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Transport - public	Ferry - Average (all passenger)	Scope 3	29,595	passenger.km	0.11270	kg CO2e/passenger.km	3.33541	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Transport - car	Average car - Unknown	Scope 3	723,555	km	0.16725	kg CO2e/km	121.01465	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Transport - car	Average car - Unknown	Scope 3	193,010	km	0.16725	kg CO2e/km	32.28091	Business Travel Car rental
Fuels	Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 3	7,534	litres	2.57082	kg CO2e/litres	19.36884	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Fuels	Petrol (average biofuel blend)	Scope 3	16,808	litres	2.06916	kg CO2e/litres	34.77830	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Fuels	LPG	Scope 3	57	litres	1.55713	kg CO2e/litres	0.08801	Business Travel Data from University finance system
Waste	Paper and board: paper - Recycled	Scope 3	79	tonnes	4.68568	kg CO2e/tonnes	0.36963	Waste Paper - Recycle
Waste	Glass - Recycled	Scope 3	3	tonnes	4.68568	kg CO2e/tonnes	0.01535	Waste Glass - Recyle
Waste	Metal: mixed cans - Recycled	Scope 3	13	tonnes	4.68568	kg CO2e/tonnes	0.06204	Waste Metal - Recyle
Waste	Wood - Recycled	Scope 3	32	tonnes	4.68568	kg CO2e/tonnes	0.15079	Waste Wood - Recycle
Waste	Organic: garden waste - Composting	Scope 3	192	tonnes	8.98311	kg CO2e/tonnes	1.72206	Waste Green - Recycle
Waste	Organic: food and drink waste - Composting	Scope 3	14	tonnes	8.98311	kg CO2e/tonnes	0.12985	Waste Food - Recyle
Waste	Commercial and industrial waste - Combustion	Scope 3	12	tonnes	4.68568	kg CO2e/tonnes	0.05568	Waste General Waste - Energy from Waste It should be noted that the University pays a premium for our EfW contractor to remove recyclable materials from the waste we send. Typically, the contractor's waste transfer station achieves a % proportion of circa 93% - 97% of general waste that is recycled. As such, we have removed 93% of the waste tonnage from this category and put it into a seperate Dry Mixed Recyclate stream for carbon accounting purposes.
Waste	Mixed dry recyclates - Recycled	Scope 3	158	tonnes	4.68568	kg CO2e/tonnes	0.73969	Waste Dry Mixed Recyclate - Recycle The University pays a premium for our Energy from Waste contractor to remove recyclable materials from the waste we send. Typically, the contractor's waste transfer station achieves a % proportion of circa 93% - 97% of general waste that is recycled. We have assumed that 93% of the waste sent to the EfW stream is redirected to the Dry Mixed Recyclate stream.
Waste	WEEE - mixed - Recycled	Scope 3	9	tonnes	4.68568	kg CO2e/tonnes	0.04229	Waste WEEE - Recycled No data is available due to service provider being unable to provide requested information. It is estimated that 14 tonnes of WEEE waste would have been recycled or re-used.
Waste	Mixed dry recyclates - Recycled	Scope 3	83	tonnes	4.68568	kg CO2e/tonnes	0.39006	Waste Dry Mixed Recyclate - Recycle
Transport - public	International rail	Scope 3	9,339	passenger.km	0.00446	kg CO2e/passenger.km	0.04165	Business Travel Data from University travel provider
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 1	55	kg	573.0000000	kgCO2e/kg	31.515	F-Gases - R513A
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 1	15	kg	1674.0000000	kgCO2e/kg	24.440	F-Gases - R407f
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					42.256	Hotel Stays Data sourced from travel provider Emission factors from UK Gov 1,028 bookings - representing 52.05% of total bookings
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					493.376	Hotel Stays Data sourced from expenses data. kgCO2e/£ Spent Emission factor extrapolated from travel provider spend and emissions data.
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	14,644	Litres	0.6110100	kgCO2e/litre	8.948	Well-to-Tank Emissions Diesel (Fleet Vehicles - Scope 1)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	1,858	Litres	0.5809400	kgCO2e/litre	1.080	Well-to-Tank Emissions Petrol (Fleet Vehicles - Scope 1)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	44,133,881	kWh	0.0302100	kgCO2e/kWh	1,333.285	Well-to-Tank Emissions Natural Gas (Scope 1)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	-		0.6266500		-	Well-to-Tank Emissions Gas oil (Grounds - Scope 1) - Note - no consumption in reporting year
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	232,447	kWh	0.0591300	kgCO2e/kWh	13.745	Well-to-Tank Emissions Gas oil (Heating - Scope 1)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	10,833	kWh	0.0254800	kgCO2e/kWh	0.276	Well-to-Tank Emissions LPG (Heating - Scope 1)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	11,797,746	kWh	0.0459000	kgCO2e/kWh	541.517	Well-to-Tank Emissions Grid Electricity (Generation - Scope 2)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	7,261,306	kWh	0.0334100	kgCO2e/kWh	242.600	Well-to-Tank Emissions Purchased Heat and Steam (Generation - Scope 2)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	11,797,746	kWh	0.0039700	kgCO2e/kWh	46.837	Well-to-Tank Emissions Transmission & Distribution (Grid Electricity - Scope 3)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	7,261,306	kWh	0.0017600	kgCO2e/kWh	12.780	Well-to-Tank Emissions Transmission & Distribution (Purchased Heat and Steam - Scope 3)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					368.220	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - Construction (APUC E3SCCON)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					1,459.162	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - Other procurement (APUC E3SCOTH)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					2,476.427	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - Other manufactured products (APUC E3SCMP)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					2,770.985	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - Medical and precision instruments (APUC E3SCMPI)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					4,650.395	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - Business services (APUC E3SCBS)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					11,030.816	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - ICT (APUC E3SCICT)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					454.505	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - Paper products (APUC E3SCPP)

Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					56.043	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - Waste and water (APUC E3SCWW)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					511.794	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - Manufactured fuels, chemicals, and gases (APUC E3SCMFCG)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					517.287	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - Food and catering (APUC E3SCFC)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3					151.951	Please note these emissions are calculated from the University's 2024/2025 procurement activity through the HESCET tool. Procurement - Unclassified (APUC E3SCUNC)
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	8	Tonnes	4.6856800	kgCO2e/tonne	0.038	Waste Chemical - Energy from Waste
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	20	Tonnes	4.6856800	kgCO2e/tonne	0.096	Waste Clinical - Energy from Waste
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	31	Tonnes	4.6856800	kgCO2e/tonne	0.146	Waste Other Recyclates - Recycle
Other	Other (please specify in comments)	Scope 3	2	Tonnes	4.6856800	kgCO2e/tonne	0.011	Waste Sanitary - Energy from Waste
						Total Emissions	53,507.075	

3c **Generation, consumption and export of renewable energy**

Provide a summary of the body's annual renewable generation (if any), and whether it is used or exported by the body.

	Renewable Electricty		Renewable Heat		
Technology	**Total consumed by the body (kWh)**	**Total exported (kWh)**	**Total consumed by the body (kWh)**	**Total exported (kWh)**	**Comments**
Solar PV	136,970	-			Solar PV is installed on the following buildings: - Science Teaching Hub - Sir Duncan Rice Library - Hillhead Student Village
Solar thermal			710	-	Rocking Horse Nursery (Passive House Design)
Air Source Heat Pump			4,839	-	Rocking Horse Nursery (Passive House Design)
Ground Source Heat Pump				-	1 system installed but no metering currently available
Please select from drop down box					

Targets

3d **Organisational targets**

List all of the body's targets of relevance to its climate change duties. Where applicable, targets for reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases, overall carbon targets and any separate land use, energy efficiency, waste, water, information and communication

Name of target	**Type of target**	**Target**	**Units**	**Boundary/scope of target**	**Year used as baseline**	**Baseline figure**	**Units of baseline**	**Target completion year**	**Progress against target**	**Comments**
2040 Net Zero Emissions Target - Overarching	Percentage	100	total % reduction	All emissions	2015	32,949	tCO2e	2039/40	53.28% reduction	On target
Business Travel reduction of 40% on 2018/19 figures by 2025	Percentage	40	total % reduction	Staff travel	2018	4,166	tCO2e	2025/26	43.94% reduction	Achieved
Reduce water consumption 2% year-on-year	Annual	2	total % reduction	Water and sewerage	2015	150,462	M3		9.9% increase	Not achieved - Increase due to leaks in district heating networks
2040 Net Zero Emissions Target - Scope 1	Percentage	100	total % reduction	Scope 1	2022	9,890	tCO2e	2039/40	14.9% reduction	Achieved
2040 Net Zero Emissions Target - Scope 2	Percentage	100	total % reduction	Scope 2	2022	4,157	tCO2e	2039/40	19.2% reduction	Achieved
2040 Net Zero Emissions Target - Scope 3	Percentage	55	total % reduction	Other (please specify in comments)	2022	3,761	tCO2e	2039/40	3.07% reduction	Not achieved - Target reduction was 3.44%
	Please select from drop down box		Please select from drop down box	Please select from drop down box	Please select from drop down box		Please select from drop down box	Please select from drop down box		

3da **How will the body align its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering its emission reduction targets?**

Provide any relevant supporting information.

We acknowledge that the financial cost of achieving Net Zero before 2040 will be significant. The current financial position and funding climate facing the University sector nationwide makes the identification of funding to take forward net zero delivery even more challenging.

In this context we acknowledge the work co-ordinated by AUDE (Association of University Directors of Estates) during 2023, and the further update in 2024, on the likely cost of net-zero to the HE and FE sectors. This work has provided institutions with a tool to estimate the scale of investment required to achieve net-zero and we are using this tool to support dialogue on how best to embed net-zero investment into long-term financial planning. In Aberdeen's case that tool estimated the direct cost of achieving net zero at £80M. In practice, we anticipate that once professional fees, contingencies, local market conditions and various other factors are considered, this will likely be well in excess of £100M. As a result, it is expected that innovative approaches to funding the delivery of net zero will need to be sought. External funding sources including from loans, grants, and partnering arrangements (e.g. where capital investment is provided in return for extended power and/or heat purchase agreements) will likely be required to supplement any internal capital allocation that can be made.

The past two years have been challenging for our capital programme, and this has led us to adopt a different approach to long-term capital planning. This new approach has aimed to capture all aspects of campus investment as part of an integrated approach to capital planning, acknowledging the need for net zero investment but also the breadth of other strategic, operational, and statutory investments required across our campuses. The current three year-capital plan includes £4m of explicitly net zero related projects (linked to the repurposing of an SFC loan - see below) while several of the other capital projects or long-term capital programmes have sustainability or net zero as a critical component. These include projects ranging from the replacement of ageing transformers, the replacement or refurbishment of our main CHP engine that comes to the end of its current warranty in 2027. It also includes the embedding of sustainability enhancements as part of wider building upgrades e.g. where we are undertaking RAAC repairs, ensuring that we take that opportunity to improve lighting, insulation, and other sustainability enhancements.

As indicated above, the University has, with permission from the Scottish Funding Council, repurposed an existing but as yet unutilised £4M loan for a program of Net Zero focussed upgrades. The projects that we now aim to take forward with this funding are critical net zero enabling works on our Old Aberdeen campus and include: transformer upgrades, connecting buildings with stand-alone gas-fired heating to our main heat distribution network, extensive heat centre upgrades to improve heat efficiency, and the installation of a thermal buffer vessel to improve the overall performance of the network.

We also continue to maintain an extensive register of potential net zero projects, including a variety of different fabric upgrade proposals, identifying the anticipated costs and benefits of those projects where those can be determined.

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3db **How will the body publish, or otherwise make available, it's progress towards achieving its emissions reduction targets?**

Provide any other relevant supporting information, including links to published reports.

Internally the University reports its progress towards its targets to the Sustainable Development Committee and monitors KPIs related to the twenty headline commitments embedded as part of our of Aberdeen 2040 strategy (including Commitment 19 - Net Zero). Progress against these KPIs is tracked annually as part of the institutional Annual Report and Accounts.

As part of the University's commitment to providing transparent sustainability and emissions related reporting, an online Sustainability Dashboard (utilising Power BI functionality) has been developed and made available online. The dashboard provides open access to a breakdown of all our emissions data, including to historic data, and addresses all three emissions Scopes as well as providing granular data on, for example, energy related emissions for each building. The Sustainability Dashboard was Highly Commended in the 'Reporting with Influence' category at the 2024 UK Green Gown Awards. The dashboard is available to staff, students, and the public in an effort to improve the understanding and transparency of our emissions profile, and to chart our progress towards Net Zero (see https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/net-zero.php).

Additionally, as and when capacity permits, we will seek to reintroduce the practice of producing stand-alone annual Energy, Emissions, and Travel & Waste reports. The intention will be to share these internally and make them available externally via the University website to offer more detailed narrative perspectives on emissions and other operational performance (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/around-campus-159.php).

In the meantime, we continue to utilise the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duty exercise to detail our progress towards Net Zero, making this analysis available alongside the Power BI dashboard for public review. We will continue to engage fully in opportunities to discuss progress in HE sector forums e.g. via the EAUC, participating in sector-level discussion of Net Zero and sharing in the development and dissemination of best practice and policy (such as our lead role in developing the student travel emissions initiative in 2023).

Projects and changes

3e **Estimated total annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the report year**

If no projects were implemented for an emissions source, enter "0".

Emissions source	**Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO_2e)**	**Comments**
Electricity		33 locations had PIR sensors installed to ensure heating was only activated when the space is in use. Savings are difficult to quantify. Please note that annual renovations/upgrades across the University will also have included measures that reduced energy use but the details of these are not always possible to fully capture.
Natural gas		33 locations had PIR sensors installed to ensure heating was only activated when the space is in use. Savings are difficult to quantify. Please note that annual renovations/upgrades across the University will also have included measures that reduced energy use but the details of these are not always possible to fully capture.
Other heating fuels		33 locations had PIR sensors installed to ensure heating was only activated when the space is in use. Savings are difficult to quantify. Please note that annual renovations/upgrades across the University will also have included measures that reduced energy use but the details of these are not always possible to fully capture.
Waste	-	
Water and sewerage	-	
Travel	-	
Fleet transport	-	
Other (please specify in comments)	-	
Total	-	

3f **Detail the top 10 carbon reduction projects to be carried out by the body in the report year**

Provide details of the 10 projects which are estimated to achieve the highest carbon savings during report year. Under "First full year of savings" enter the reporting period.

Project name	Funding source	First full year of CO_2e savings	Are these savings figures estimated or actual?	Capital cost (£)	Operational cost (£/annum)	Project lifetime (years)	Primary fuel/emission source saved	Estimated carbon savings per year (tCO_2e/annum)	Estimated costs savings (£/annum)	Behaviour Change	Comments
PIR Installation Programme	Internal	2025/2026	Estimated				Natural gas			Please select from dropdown box	33 locations had PIR sensors installed to ensure heating was only activated when the space is in use. Savings are difficult to quantify.
PIR Installation Programme	Internal	2025/2026	Estimated				Electricity: UK			Please select from dropdown box	33 locations had PIR sensors installed to ensure heating was only activated when the space is in use. Savings are difficult to quantify.
PIR Installation Programme	Internal	2025/2026	Estimated				District heat and steam			Please select from dropdown box	33 locations had PIR sensors installed to ensure heating was only activated when the space is in use. Savings are difficult to quantify.
			Please select from drop down box				Please select from drop down box			Please select from dropdown box	

3g **Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors (not reported elsewhere in this form) in the report year**

If the emissions increased or decreased due to any such factor in the report year, provide an estimate of the amount and direction

Emissions source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO_2e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes		Please select from drop down box	Unknown impacts of other upgrade/maintenance projects
Service provision		Please select from drop down box	
Staff numbers		Please select from drop down box	Unknown impact of reduction in staff numbers
Other (please specify in comments)		Please select from drop down box	
Total		-	

3h **Anticipated annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the year ahead**

If no projects are expected to be implemented against an emissions source, enter "0".

Emissions source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO_2e)	Comments
Electricity	346	1 Project Please note that annual renovations/upgrades across the University will also include measures that reduced energy use or improve energy efficiency but the detail may not always be quantifiable.
Natural gas	-	
Other heating fuels	-	
Waste	-	
Water and sewerage	-	
Travel		Anticipated reduction in emissions resulting from the switch to a "no carbon" local bus service between campuses as per latest contract.
Fleet Transport	-	
Other (please specify in comments)	880	Emission Source: CHP Heat 2 Projects Savings from projects to be undertaken on the Old Aberdeen Campus where 21.7% of the heat demand is met by a natural gas fired CHP engine and 78.3% is from gas fired boilers. The annual Carbon Conversion Factor has been calculated (based on BEIS Natural Gas and Grid Electricity Factors) to be specific to this site: 0.2479kgCO2e/kWh. Please note that annual renovations/upgrades across the University will also include measures that reduced energy use or improve energy efficiency but the detail may not always be quantifiable.
Please select from drop down box	86	Emission Source: CHP Electricity 2 Projects Savings from projects to be undertaken on the Old Aberdeen Campus where 42.5% of the electricity demand is met by a natural gas fired CHP engine and 57.5% is from the Grid. The annual Carbon Conversion Factor has been calculated (based on BEIS Natural Gas and Grid Electricity Factors) to be specific to this site: 0.3347kgCO2e/kWh. Please note that annual renovations/upgrades across the University will also include measures that reduced energy use or improve energy efficiency but the detail may not always be quantifiable.
Total	**1,312**	

3i **Estimated decrease or increase in emissions from other sources in the year ahead**

If the body's corporate emissions are likely to increase or decrease for any other reason in the year ahead, provide an estimate of the amount and direction.

Emissions source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO_2e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes		Please select from drop down box	Unknown impacts of other upgrade/maintenance projects
Service provision		Please select from drop down box	N/A
Staff numbers		Please select from drop down box	N/A
Other (please specify in comments)		Please select from drop down box	N/A
Total		-	

3j **Total carbon reduction project savings since the start of the year which the body used as a baseline for its carbon footprint**

If the body has data available, estimate the total emissions savings made from projects since the start of that year ("the baseline year").

Total savings	Total estimated emissions savings (tCO_2e)	Comments
Total project savings since baseline year	5,826	Baseline year of 2015/16 Estimated savings from 141 completed projects. This does not include Monitoring & Targeting regimes or behaviour change campaigns.

Further information

3k **Supporting information and best practice**

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to corporate emissions, targets and projects.

Offsetting:
The University has developed its first offsetting policy and research grant carbon credit purchasing mechanism. The policy aligns with the expectations set out by Scottish Government that we should invest in the decarbonisation of our estate before investing heavily in offsetting/sequestering. The purchasing mechanism is exclusively to assist research staff with complying with grant funder offsetting requirements i.e. at this stage exclusively associated with Wellcome Trust grants but adaptable should other funders follow Wellcome in requiring this. A travel carbons emissions calculator and offsetting budget builder was created for academic and technical staff to budget for this carbon, along with learning materials for all staff.

Update to Emissions Calculation Methodology – Energy from Waste/Recycling:
The University's main waste contracts ensure that, alongside collecting our pre-segregated dry-mixed recyclate, our general waste contractor removes recyclable materials from any general waste we send them. Typically, the contractor's waste transfer station manages to recover 93% - 97% of general waste for recycling. Until this year we have reported that 100% of general waste went in to the Energy from Waste stream (generally around 1/3 of our total waste produced). However, in line with the practice of many other institutions and having sought clarification on the practice, we have adjusted our emissions calculation methodology to reflect the fact that waste that we have previously assumed was sent to the Energy from Waste stream is reclassified as having been redirected to the Dry Mixed Recyclate stream, with the proportion determined by figures reported by our waste contractor.

Update to Emissions Calculation Methodology – Student Relocation:
Home (Scottish) students account for the largest proportion of our students and the current student relocation emissions calculation methodology had followed the model of our international calculator i.e. for simplicity, averaging the data out by assuming that all students travel to the University from the national capital. To improve the accuracy of the emissions calculation, the University has developed a postcode-based emissions methodology for Scottish regions that significantly improves the quality of data for this group of emissions. Given the complexity of other data sets we do not currently have plans to develop more granular methods for international students and continue to believe that the methodology is robust and reflects a proportionate approach to calculating these emissons.

Net Zero Strategy:
The University's Net Zero Strategy was launched in December 2024. Containing 11 decarbonisation pathways, the strategy sets out the scale of the decarbonisation challenge and the anticipated investments and changes required to achieve a whole institution shift towards net zero.

Rainwater Harvesting:
The University has a handful of rainwater harvesting systems across its campuses. Unfortunately, these are all experiencing operational difficulties and have not been prioritised for repair. As such, no rainwater harvesting data was compiled for 2024/2025.

Public Sector Report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties 2025 Template

PART 4 Adaptation - please do not include information in this part on measures that solely reduce emissions with no implications for climate adaptation. These are climate mitigation measure

Assessing and managing risk

4a **Has the body assessed current and future climate-related risks?**
If yes, provide a reference or link to any such risk assessment(s). **Please report assessments of current risk separate from future risk assessments, where feasible.**

As part of the development of our first Climate Resilience Strategy in 2024/25, we assessed the current and future climate related risks using Adaptation Scotland guidance and EAUC Scotland's "Climate Risk Assessment" template to ensure we were effectively and accurately contributing in accordance with the Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-2029 (SNAP3).

Region specific data from the following sources was used to enable accurate analysis of the anticipated future impact of climate change on our local environment:
- Met Office's UK Climate Projections: https://ukclimateprojections-ui.metoffice.gov.uk/ui/home
- EAUC Scotland's Climate risk profiles for Scottish college and university campuses: https://www.eauc.org.uk/climate_risk_profiles_for_scottish_college_and_

The foundations of our climate resilience strategy and related climate change risk assessment and action plan were informed by University of Aberdeen students as part of two undergraduate projects 1x internship and 1x MSc thesis.

Workshops were run with teams from Estates & Facilities to understand the climate impact on our estate and operations, and also to better understand the potential consequences of anticipated changes. These workshops also provided a learning experience for staff who would not typically have the opportunity to discuss climate action or inform institutional policy quite so directly.

Separate meetings with the University's Business Continuity, Wellbeing, and Counselling Teams enabled analysis of the impact on staff and student health and wellbeing, in addition to the wider impact of e.g., transport infrastructure, on our teaching and research operations.

This process identified current and future (2050) risks which were similar in consequence but with increased frequency likelihood for 2050. These include:
- Increased heatwave frequency and the consequential impacts on building user comfort, staff/student health and wellbeing, and on our greenspaces.
- Surface water flooding and the consequential impacts on our playing fields, greenspaces, staff/student health and wellbeing, internal and external travel infrastructure.
- Reduced summer rainfall and the consequential impacts on our playing fields, staff/student health and wellbeing, and greenspaces.
- Increased annual rainfall and the consequential impact on overall operations and staff/student health and wellbeing.
- Increased wind speeds and the consequential impacts on our greenspaces, staff/student health and wellbeing, and built estate.

A full summary of our current and anticipated risks, and the subsequent consequences, can be found in our Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which will be published in December 2025 and will be available on the University's sustainability web pages.

4b **What arrangements does the body have in place to manage climate-related risks?**
Provide details of any climate change adaptation strategies, action plans and risk management procedures, and any climate change adaptation policies which apply across the body.

The University has a selection of systems in place to manage climate risks, including: flexible working and working from home capabilities, active watering of trees during the summer, adjustment of working patterns for grounds staff during the summer, regular gutter and roof maintenance and clearing, maintenance of sandbag stores and submersible pumps. More details can be found in our Adaptation Strategy.

Following development of the climate change risk assessment, we moved to develop a climate change adaptation strategy and associated initial action plan. A copy of the strategy will be available on the University's sustainability web pages in December 2025.

The strategy includes a reflection on observed changes to our climate over previous decades, a summary of regional 2050 climate projections, an overview of the impact climate change has had on the University's estate and operations, a summary of the actions we have identified that will improve our resilience, and details on progress monitoring procedures.
As our climate is changing rapidly, and the climate science is constantly evolving to match the pace of change, this strategy, risk assessment and action plan will be dynamic documents that evolve as our understanding of climate change adaptation matures. The climate change risk assessment is to be reviewed on a bi-annual basis to facilitate any amendments required to the strategy, action plan, or risk assessment.

The action plan contains numerous identified actions that the University will need to explore over the next five years to improve its climate change resilience. The climate resilience action plan covers activities such as:

- Establishing the required governance and embedding climate risk and adaptation in the institutional risk register.
- Updating the Estates design guide to include adaptation alongside mitigation.
- Engaging with other regional public bodies to foster collaboration opportunities and activities.
- Reviewing the safety and operating procedures to ensure climate risk are included.
- Enhancing health and wellbeing services to include climate anxiety.
- Protecting and enhancing our greenspaces.
- Engaging with the supply chain.
- Analysing the financial impact of climate change.

The strategy and action plan has been developed to actively contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:
- SDG 3 Good Health & Wellbeing
- SDG 4 Quality Education
- SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 15 Life on Land
- SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Taking action

4c **What action has the body taken to adapt to climate change?**
Include details of work to increase awareness of the need to adapt to climate change and build the capacity of staff and stakeholders to assess risk and implement action. The body may wish to make reference to the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme ("the Programme").

The University of Aberdeen has developed its first comprehensive climate change adaption strategy and action plan during the 2024/25 academic year. As part of this process, the University undertook a climate change risk assessment through a series of workshops and conversations with teams across the University.

As part of these activities, learning moments were embedded to establish and enhance the understanding of climate change adaptation, how climate change currently impacts and will impact us in the future, and what we can do to ensure our estate and operations are resilient.

As part of the analysis process, actions and procedures already in place which enhance the University's climate resilience were identified and included as control activities in the risk assessment. These include the following:

- Working from home infrastructure to ensure learning, teaching, working, and research can continue with minimal disruption during extreme weather events such as storms, flooding, etc.
- Maintenance of sandbag stores for buildings with known flooding issues.
- Year-round active tree monitoring programme, with both internal teams and contractors, to identify at risk trees during heat waves, storms, and flooding.
- Active watering of trees during heatwaves to reduce the risk of limb drop.
- Alterations to working practices for grounds teams during the summer to avoid peak temperatures.

During summer 2025, the Sustainability team employed a student intern to take forward a project to update the Estates & Facilities Design Guide to include information and expectations with regards to adaptation, mitigation and biodiversity.

The activities undertaken during the 2024/25 academic year, have allowed us to reflect on and observe positive progress in our self-assessment as part of the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Capability Framework. Prior to work being undertaken the University sat at the 'starting' stage in all four categories of this analytical tool, but work undertaken this year has seen those self-assessment grades shift to a mix of 'intermediate' and 'advanced'.

4d **Where applicable, what contribution has the body made to helping deliver the Programme?**
Provide any other relevant supporting information

The University is part of the following local authority led adaptation groups:

- Climate Ready Aberdeenshire (Aberdeenshire Council)
- Aberdeen Net Zero & Adaptation Board (Aberdeen City Council)

The University was also a key part of the original Aberdeen Adapts civic stakeholder group, led by Aberdeen City Council, that helped to develop and frame the civic approach to climate change adaptation. Students from the University undertaking MSc partnership thesis projects also helped to frame this initiative.

We are part of a civic stakeholder group that is working to develop a city-wide heat network strategy. While discussions remain at a relatively early stages, there is scope for this process to see a city-wide heat network emerge that could see various independent heat networks across Aberdeen joined together. This has the potential to increase the resilience of the University's own heat network, as well as contributing to a wider civic agenda that incudes reducing fuel poverty and providing heat to community housing.

The actions detailed in Question C actively contribute to the Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3).

Review, monitoring and evaluation

4e **What arrangements does the body have in place to review current and future climate risks?**
Provide details of arrangements to review current and future climate risks, for example, what timescales are in place to review the climate change risk assessments referred to in Question 4(a) and adaptation strategies, action plans, procedures and policies in Question 4(b).

As part of the development of a climate change adaptation strategy, it has been confirmed that a high-level climate change adaptation related risk will be reflected on the University Risk Register, with all Environmental Sustainability risks reviewed by the Sustainable Development Committee and managed by the Sustainability team in Estates & Facilities. This is in addition to the retention of the bespoke climate risk assessment drafted as part of the strategy development process.

As detailed in our Climate Resilience Strategy (Section 5: Tracking and Reporting Our Progress), the strategy, risk assessment and action plan will be reviewed by the Sustainable Development Committee on a two-year cycle, with any required updates to the identified risks, consequences, and in place or potential mitigation activities being reviewed and approved by relevant teams before being sent to the Sustainable Development Committee.

The review process will be based on the most recent regional science and data and will draw on sectoral best practice from sources such as the EAUC, PSCAN, Adaptation Scotland, and AUDE. If new guidance, tools, or climate science is released during any two-year cycle, the University will look to amend and incorporate this as required.

4f **What arrangements does the body have in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of the adaptation actions?**
Please provide details of monitoring and evaluation criteria and adaptation indicators used to assess the effectiveness of actions detailed under Question 4(c) and Question 4(d).

A key component of Adaptation is ensuring that progress, positive or negative, is consistently and transparently monitored and reported in a suitable format. As with all aspects of sustainability, best practice is constantly changing to reflect the most up to date science. As a result, our Climate Change Adaptation strategy and related risk register and action plan is a live document that will be reviewed and updated as part of an established reporting cycle.

As detailed in our Climate Resilience Strategy (Section 5: Tracking and Reporting Our Progress), the strategy, risk assessment and action plan will be reviewed by the Sustainable Development Committee on a two-year cycle, with progress against the Adaptation Scotland Capability Framework tracked and updated using the "Public Sector Adaptation Capability Framework Benchmarking Tool".

Activities undertaken during the 2024/25 academic year, have progressed the University from the initial phases of the "starting" maturity stage in all four categories of the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Capability Framework to the following:
- Understanding the Challenge: Completed "Intermediate" and progressing through "Advanced".
- Organisational Culture and Resources: Progressing through "Intermediate".
- Strategy, Implementation and Monitoring: Finalising "Intermediate" and progressing through "Advanced".
- Working Together: Progressing through "Intermediate".

Progress on the adaptation action plan will be included in the annual internal reporting that is passed through the Sustainable Development Committee to senior leadership as part of the University's risk processes and its Aberdeen 2040 Strategy progress tracking cycle.

Activities and progress will be reported externally through the University's statutory annual report to the Scottish Government under the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties.

Future priorities for adaptation

4g **What are the body's top 5 climate change adaptation priorities for the year ahead?**
Provide a summary of the areas and activities of focus for the year ahead.

1. Finalise the Sustainable Design Guide which includes adaptation
2. Strengthen and continue to grow partnerships for adaptation action at local and national (Scottish and UK) levels
3. Engage with teams across the University e.g., Digital/IT, Finance to enhance risk assessments and action plans
4. Develop an adaptation section on the University's sustainability webpages to improve awareness and knowledge for staff, students, and the public.
5. Continue to encourage colleagues e.g., through our staff training e-module, to recognise the difference between climate change adaptation (e.g. climate resilience) and climate change mitigation (e.g. net zero actions)

Further information

4h **Supporting information and best practice**
Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to adaption.

The University of Aberdeen has been an active member of the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network (PSCAN) in 2024/25. Through this network, the University has connected and engaged with regional organisations, such as Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian, to ensure our ambitions also align with theirs.

The connections and learnings from the network have directly fed into the development of our Climate Change Adaptation strategy, climate risk assessment, and action plan.

The activities undertaken during 2024/25 have seen the University make progress in the maturity of its response under the four categories of self-assessment as part of the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Capability Framework:

- Understanding the Challenge: Completed "Intermediate" and progressing through "Advanced".
- Organisational Culture and Resources: Progressing through "Intermediate".
- Strategy, Implementation and Monitoring: Finalising "Intermediate" and progressing through "Advanced".
- Working Together: Progressing through "Intermediate".

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PART 5 Procurement

5a How have procurement policies contributed to compliance with climate change duties?

Provide information relating to how the procurement policies of the body have contributed to its compliance with climate changes duties.

In line with the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act, the University of Aberdeen has implemented a Procurement Strategy and Action Plan. This can be found on our website (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/procurement) and is aligned with the Aberdeen 2040 Strategic Plan and the University's strategic goals to assist our vision of procuring in an environmentally, socially, ethically and economically responsible manner.

The University's Procurement Policies require that a Procurement Project Strategy is developed for all procurements with a total value of £50,000+ excl. VAT. The Strategy requires the Procurement Lead to outline the approach to comply with the sustainable duty detailed in the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. It covers; carbon emissions relevant to the procurement, community benefits, fair work practices, methods of invoicing & payments etc. This ensures our key objectives, i.e. to embed sound ethical, social and environmental policies within the University's function and compliance with relevant legislation in the performance of the sustainable procurement duty are achieved.

For all Regulated Procurements (i.e., value of £50K and over), a Supply Chain Code of Conduct (based on that championed by Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges [APUC]) is issued to potential suppliers at tendering stage. Suppliers are asked to make a clear declaration of support for the principles contained within this Code. This code requires suppliers commit to the following, as a minimum, with regards to environmental compliance:

- Complying with all local and national environmental laws, regulations and directives of the countries they are working in, manufacturing in or trading with.
- Actively avoid causing environmental damage and/or negative environmental impact through manufacture and supply of the goods or services and disposal of supply chain waste.
- Have a business plan in place, and be acting on it, to minimise their environmental impact year on year and adopting or working towards internationally recognised environmental standards and/or behaviour.
- Encourage the development and use of environmentally friendly technologies, promote positive environmental practices (such as reducing carbon emissions, minimising waste and improving water efficiency, reduced pollution levels and technological improvements) through their activities wherever possible.

The Procurement team ensure that they keep up to date with developments in relation to sustainable procurement and related climate emergency actions being rolled out across the sector. The team have undertaken training on evaluation criteria which includes the use of assessing whole life costs and sustainable outcomes. Members of the Team have also undertaken sustainability focussed training, including the ScotGov Climate Literacy modules.

5b How has procurement activity contributed to compliance with climate change duties?

Provide information relating to how procurement activity by the body has contributed to its compliance with climate changes duties.

The University of Aberdeen acknowledges that its procurement activities have a significant impact on the environment, society and the economy. Procurement not only delivers value for money but sets the tone for ethical business and responsible dealings with our commercial partners.

The Procurement team develop contract strategies that minimise or reduce negative impacts on the environment. We consider risks and benefits, ensure compliance and best practice across our own procurement operations and into our supply chains, working in conjunction with colleagues to identify and implement ways of contributing towards the University's Net Zero ambitions, as well as maintaining a focus on the delivery of Community Benefits, Waste Management, and Diversity, Equality & Inclusion.

Additionally, the Sustainability team works with the Procurement team to develop Net Zero and Sustainability focussed tender questions for purchases over £50k, in addition to producing some accessible "climate friendly procurement" guidance for smaller purchases to enable the University to be more confident in the sustainability credentials of those we procure goods and services from. This is in particular targeted at laboratory purchasing, consistently one of our biggest categories of procurement

Our Procurement Policy & Procedures advises consideration of whole life costs (this includes determining the need for the goods/services, through to their eventual disposal and replacement), environmental and social impacts in assessment of value for money. We follow the Scottish Government Procurement Journey and the Sustainable Procurement Duty outlined in the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 which requires that institutions must think about how they can improve the social, environmental and economic well-being in every regulated procurement exercise undertaken.

The University of Aberdeen is a founding and continuing member of Electronics Watch. Electronics Watch is an independent, not-for-profit organisation who monitor labour standards and the environmental and social impact of making, running and disposing of electronic equipment. They help protect the rights and safety of electronics workers around the world, and to achieve goals for socially responsible and sustainable procurement. They strive to improve worker conditions in ITC hardware supply chains used by public procurers. Regular reports are provided to Electronics Watch with ICT data to enable them to approach appropriate suppliers and/or brands to request sub tier supply chain disclosure.

The University has a subscription to the Eco Vadis assessment platform which provides analysis of the supplier's sustainability credentials & how well the company has integrated the principles of sustainability into their business. The tool helps to analyse the organisation's operations and its supply chain to prioritise high risk categories and suppliers across a range of issues including environmental, ethical, and sustainable procurement. Assessment of the University's suppliers and their supply chains through the use of a comprehensive, results-oriented methodology enables the University to identify risks and to raise awareness of the range of issues that arise when buying goods and services.

Further information

5c Supporting information and best practice

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to procurement.

The Procurement team and the Net Zero & Emissions Manager have worked closely on a number of specific procurement processes, to develop and embed sustainability related procurement tender questions and to establish a best practice bank of possible questions. These questions are now applied by the Procurement Lead when developing appropriate procurement project strategies. It is intended to standardise these Sustainability/Net Zero focused tender questions and encourage a wider focus amonb buyers and the supply chain on Net Zero requirements.

The procurement tenders we have worked on collaboratively this year include:

- Inter-Campus Transport
- Main contractor framework
- Painting framework 2025
- Small vehicles maintenance framework 2025
- Gutter and roof cleaning framework 2025
- Access and scaffold service framework 2025
- Electrical and data maintenance framework 2025
- HVAC and plumbing maintenance framework 2025
- External Print and Associated Services
- Tree surveys framework 2025

As part of the development of the Net Zero Strategy a "Sustainable Procurement" decarbonisation pathway has been developed through collaboration between the Sustainability and Procurement teams. The pathway focuses on creating internal guidance and training to encourage staff to develop more sustainable habits, improving the flexibility of procurement and finance systems to encourage circular economy practices, and improving supply chain engagement.

The development of a "Climate Friendly Procurement" guide was undertaken as a key piece of work in support of the procurement pathway but also as part of the suite of materials enabling the 'green labs' pathway from the Net Zero Strategy, and as part of our engagement with the Laboratory Efficiencies Assessment Framework (LEAF).

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PART 6 Validation and Declaration

6a Internal validation process

Briefly describe the body's internal validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

The co-ordination of these submissions is undertaken by the Sustainability team in the Estates & Facilities Directorate.

Data to support the submission was provided by functional leads in various operational areas, notably Energy, Waste, Transport, HR, Finance, Maintenance, and Procurement.

The information was reviewed by the Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) on 22nd October 2025 and endorsed for onward consideration by the University's Senior Management Team (SMT). SMT in turn provided, by circulation, formal approval for submission in line with the reporting deadline.

6b Peer validation process

Briefly describe the body's peer validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

The University took part in the EAUC facilitated group PBCCD Peer Review Process on 6th November 2024.

This is always a useful exercise and helps us identify reporting practices by other Universities and Colleges that we could incorporate and also contribute to best practice guidance development.

6c External validation process

Briefly describe the body's external validation process, if any, of the data or information contained within this report.

Elements of the data submitted as part of this exercise are also submitted as part of other key reporting frameworks, including our Annual Report and Accounts, our Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Funding Council, our Sustainable Development Goals Report, and the annual Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) return.

The timing of the PBCCD return is out of synch with some of these key reporting exercises, notably the HESA process (which is the sector's key data submission and validation exercise and adheres to a spring reporting schedule), and the finalisation of our Annual Report and Accounts which culminates in approval at a Court meeting in December.

Given these reporting schedules, some of the contextual responses here relate to 2023/2024 data and not to 2024/2025. Updates can be made available early in 2026 if required. All emissions data is, however, based on reporting and assumptions for 2024/2025.

6d No Validation Process

If any information provided in this report has not been validated, identify the information in question and explain why it has not been validated.

We are committed to the provision of timely and accurate data as part of this exercise, and we continue to review our submission.

We continue to assess how best to validate future submissions, with a particular focus on how that can be achieved given the restricted submission timescale for those of us reporting on the basis of an academic year.

6e Declaration

I confirm that the information in this report is accurate and provides a fair representation of the body's performance in relation to climate change.

Name:	Fraser Bell
Role in the body:	Chief Operating Officer
Date:	30/11/2025 **Date in format (dd/mm/yyyy)**

Recommended Reporting: Reporting on Wider Influence

Wider Impact and Influence on GHG Emissions

Q1) Historic Emissions (Local Authorities Only)

Please indicate emissions and unit of measurement (e.g. tCO_2e) and years. Please populate data by selecting from the drop-down lists. Use (1) as the default unless targets and actions relate to (2).

Please note : territorial emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O) are provided, but not fluorinated gases, which are included in the UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions statistics. Statistics were provided only for carbon dioxide emissions, prior to publication of the 2005 to 2020 dataset in 2022.

(1) UK local and regional CO2e emissions: **subset dataset** (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities):
(2) UK local and regional CO2e emissions: **full dataset**:

https://data.gov.uk/dataset/723c243d-2f1a-4d27-8b61-cdb93e5b10ff/emissions-of-carbon-dioxide-for-local-authority-areas

Local Authority:(Please State)	Please select from drop down box
DESNZ Dataset:(full or sub-set)	Please select from drop down box

Source	Sector	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Units	Comments
DESNZ Sectors	Total Emissions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ktCO2e	
	Industry and Commercial													ktCO2e	
	Domestic													ktCO2e	
	Transport total													ktCO2e	
	Per Capita													ktCO2e	
Other Sectors	Please select from drop down box													Please select from drop down box	
	Please select from drop down box													Please select from drop down box	
	Please select from drop down box													Please select from drop down box	
	Please select from drop down box													Please select from drop down box	
	Please select from drop down box													Please select from drop down box	
	Please select from drop down box													Please select from drop down box	
	Please select from drop down box													Please select from drop down box	

2a) Targets
Please detail any wider influence targets

Sector	Description	Type of Target (units)	Baseline value	Start year	Target	Target/End year	Saving in latest year measured	Latest Year Measured	Comments
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2b) Does the body have an overall mission statement, strategies, plans or policies outlining ambition to influence emissions beyond its corporate boundary?

Q3) Policies and Actions to Reduce Emissions
Please detail specific policies and actions underway to achieve emission reduction targets

Sector	Start year for policy/action implementation	Year that the policy/action will be fully implemented	Annual CO_2 saving once fully implemented (tCO_2)	Latest Year measured	Saving in latest year measured (tCO_2)	Status	Metric/indicators for monitoring progress	Delivery Role	During project/policy design and implementation, has ISM or an equivalent behaviour change tool been used?	Please give further details of this behaviour change activity.	Value of Investment (£)	Ongoing Costs (£/year)	Primary Funding Source for Implementation of Policy/Action	Comments
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Please provide any detail on data sources or limitations relating to the information provided in Table 3

Q4) Partnership Working, Communications and Capacity Building
Please detail climate change partnerships, communications or capacity building initiatives below.

Key Action Type	Description	Organisation's project role	Lead Organisation (if not reporting organisation)	Private Partners	Public Partners	3rd Sector Partners	Outputs	Comments
Partnership Working	UOA: Centre for Energy Transition - https://www.abdn.ac.uk/energy/	Lead	n/a	Various e.g. Energy Sector	Various e.g. Local Authorities, Govt Agencies	Various Third Sector Groups e.g. Aberdeen Climate Action.	Research, Collaboration, CPD.	University of Aberdeen research centre established in 2020.
Partnership Working	Get About Partnership - https://www.getabout.org.uk/	Participant	NESTRANS	n/a	Various e.g. RGU, Local Authorities, NHS	Various e.g. Energy Savings Trust, Nestrans.	Behaviour change initiatives, collaborative projects.	
Partnership Working	ACC: Powering Aberdeen - https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/powering-aberdeen	Participant	Aberdeen City	Various e.g. Chamber of Commerce	Various e.g. RGU, NHS	Various e.g. Energy Savings Trust, Nestrans.	Sustainable Energy Action Plan	
Partnership Working	ACC: Aberdeen Adapts - https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/climate-change/adapting-climate-change	Participant	Aberdeen City	Various e.g. Chamber of Commerce	Various e.g. RGU, Local Authorities, NHS	Various e.g. Energy Savings Trust, Nestrans.	Multi-sector workshops on adaptation.	
Partnership Working	North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership - https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/climate-change	Participant	Revolving	Various e.g. Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses	Various e.g. RGU, Local Authorities, NHS	Various e.g. Energy Savings Trust, Nestrans.	Multi-sector declaration on mitigation and adaptation.	
Partnership Working	Aberdeen Fairtrade Steering Group - http://afairerworld.org.uk/fair-trade/aberdeenfairtrade-city-steering-group/	Participant	Aberdeen City	Various e.g. NorthLink, Coop	Various e.g. Aberdeen City, University	Various e.g. churches, schools, local charities.	Securing Aberdeen City's Fairtrade status.	
Partnership Working	Environmental Association for Universities & Colleges + Scotland Branch - http://www.eauc.org.uk/home	Participant	EAUC	Various Corporate Sponsors	Various e.g. universities & Colleges	As required e.g. SSN, SUSTRANS.	CPD, TSNs, networking, tools.	
Partnership Working	Universities Scotland Working Groups: Responsible Universities Group Scotland (RUGS)	Participant	Universities Scotland	n/a	Various e.g. Scottish universities	Various .g. SSN, EAUC, APUC.	Working Grup reviewing what sustainability means for HE in Scotland.	
Partnership Working	Universities Scotland Working Groups	Participant	Universities Scotland	n/a	Various e.g. Scottish universities	Various .g. SSN, EAUC, APUC.	Working Group looking at business travel issues in HE in Scotland	
Partnership Working	UOA: Centre for Environment & Biodiversity	Lead	n/a	Yes. Varies by event and research theme.	Yes. Varies by event and research theme.	Yes. Varies by event and research theme.	Research, Collaboration, CPD.	University of Aberdeen research centre established in 2021.
Communications	UOA: Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre - https://www.abdn.ac.uk/biodiversity/	Lead	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Schools outreach and public engagement.	
Communications	UOA: Public Engagement with Research - https://www.abdn.ac.uk/engage/	Lead	n/a	Various e.g. Event Sponsors	Varies by event	Varies by event	Various programmes of research engagement e.g. public lectures, festivals, events.	
Communications	UOA: Cruickshank Botanic Gardens - https://www.abdn.ac.uk/botanic-garden/	Lead	Charitable Trust	n/a	n/a	Cruickshank Charitable Trust	Promotion of plant biodiversity, public outreach, green space.	
Partnership Working	LHEES - Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy	Participant	Scottish Govt	Various organisations and business in a defined geographic area.	Various organisations and business in a defined geographic area.	Various organisations and business in a defined geographic area.	Heating and energy efficiency strategy.	
Communications	UOA: Climate and Sustainability Assemblies - https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/sustainable/around-campus-159.php#panel2932	Lead	n/a	n/a	Yes, Varies by event	Yes. Varies by event	Various e.g. policy developments, action plans, focussed working groups.	The outcomes from the 2022/2023 programme of assemblies have led to the development of the University's innaugural biodiversity policy and action plan and the involvement of the University in the LEAF programme for sustainable labs.
Capacity Building (ie. staff training and development initiatives)	UOA (with EAUC/SFC): Development of the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool" - https://www.eauc.org.uk/the_domestic_and_international_student_relocati	Lead	n/a	n/a	EAUC	n/a	Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator Tool	The University has, in collaboration with EAUC Scotland, developed the "Domestic and International Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator" tool. This tool is based on initial work on a "Student Travel to Study Emissions Calculation Tool", developed by Estrid Jonsson, a University of Aberdeen intern in the Estates & Facilities Sustainability team. Her internship project was established to fill a gap in the University's emissions profile, with no formal methodology available in the sector to calculate these emissions. Her successful project enabled the University to calculate these emissions for the first time, enhancing our emissions reporting and contributing to our sustainability commitments. The tool went on to be developed for circulation within the sector as a best practice methodology for calculating these emissions. See full details at https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/public_bodies_climate_change_duties_reporting_t The tool was enhanced again by the Net Zero and Emissions Manager at the University in 2023/2024 to provide increased flexibility surrounding international and "local" students, in addition to the inclusion of GPS data for improved distance data. The tool was referenced as the sector standard calculation tool in the draft PBCCD update from the Scottish Government. This tool won the 2024 HESPA Innovation Award, recieved a highly commended award in the 2024 Green Gown "Creating Impact" category, and was a finalist in the 2024 THE Awards "Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership" category.
Capacity Building (ie. staff training and development initiatives)	UoA: Intern/InternPlus schemes	Lead	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	In 2023/2024, a joint internship with Aberdeen City Council was launched, with a focus on supporting biodiversity initiatives across both organisations.	The Sustainability team regularly engages with the University's Intern/InternPlus schemes to establish internships exclusive to UoA students. These projects provide the interns with valuable experience in sustainability roles hile providing the Sustainability team with valuable additional capacity.
Partnership Working	Aberdeen City: NetZero Aberdeen	Participant	Aberdeen City	Various e.g. Energy Sector	Various e.g. Universities	Various e.g. NESTRANS	Net Zero strategy framework for the City of Aberdeen	
Capacity Building (ie. staff training and development initiatives)	UoA: Staff Sustainability E-Learning module	Lead	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Creation on a custom e-learning module on sustainability at the University for staff.	This module has been developed to frame what sustainability means to the University of Aberdeen, what challenges are involved, what we have committed to achieving, and how staff can support our journey and ambitions.
Please select from drop down box		Please select from drop down box						

Other Notable Reportable Activity

Q5) Please detail key actions relating to Food and Drink, Biodiversity, Water, Procurement and Resource Use in the table below

Key Action Type	Key Action Description	Organisation's Project Role	Impacts	Comments
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Q6) Please provide information on any other climate change-related activity that is not noted elsewhere in the template