



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



# Social Responsibility and Sustainability

Report 2014/2015



**Social Responsibility  
and Sustainability**

# Foreword



As a global and world leading university, Edinburgh seeks to benefit society through the research it conducts, and the students who learn here and whose lives are influenced here.

In addition, as a large organisation with hundreds of buildings, thousands of students and staff, with supply chains reaching across the world, the University impacts people and nature through the way in which it operates and undertakes its work. Making sure that impact is a positive one is important to us.

High quality and impactful programmes continue to catalyse action and collaboration across campus and support our Social Responsibility and Sustainability Strategy.

In line with our commitments to responsible investment, our review resulted in a change of fossil fuel investment policy and a decision to divest from three of the world's biggest coal and tar sands companies.

The University continues to build its relationship with the city by being an active partner of the Edinburgh Festivals, making academic research accessible to the local public and policy makers, supporting local social enterprises and through the volunteering efforts of its staff and students.

This report illustrates the continued progress made by staff and students in 2015 to make a more socially responsible and sustainable university.

**Dave Gorman**  
Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability



### About us

Launched in April 2014, the Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability supports the University to ensure that our learning and teaching, research and operations are socially responsible.



We're saving paper by printing only the highlights.

Read the full report at [www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/report](http://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/report)

“A commitment to social responsibility has long been part of the University’s ethos, appearing formally in our Strategic Plan since 2004.

We take a whole institution approach recognising this includes: existing sustainability and carbon initiatives; sustainable procurement, fair trade and supply chain issues; responsible investment issues; embedding social responsibility and sustainability issues in the learning, teaching and research of the University; access to education and widening participation issues; fair employer and equalities and diversity issues; and community and public engagement

**Professor Charlie Jeffery**  
Senior Vice Principal



# £2 billion

Gross value added to the Scottish economy in 2013/14, supporting more than 31,000 jobs - mostly in Edinburgh.

Source: BIGGAR Economics

This year, the Scottish Fair Trade Forum gave the University a Special Recognition Award to celebrate our commitment to fair trade.



The University became the first in Scotland to be recognised by the Sustainable Restaurant Association (SRA), gaining a two-star ‘excellent’ accreditation in 2015.

# 31%

Growth in female staff at highest pay grade; male staff increased by 17%.

# 57%

Proportion of Edinburgh Festivals tickets hosted in University buildings.

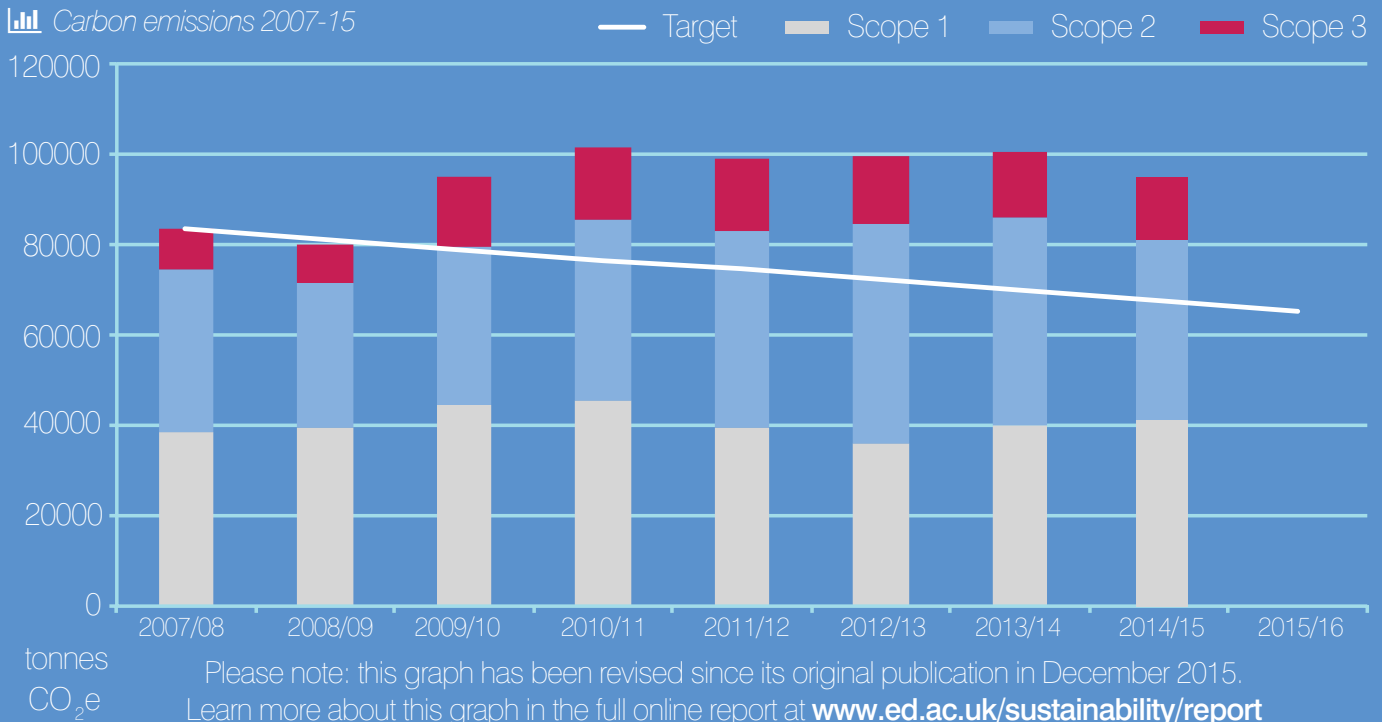
# 100%

Proportion of fund managers we work with who are signatories of to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment.

# Climate change, energy and utilities

The University accepts its responsibility to ensure it takes forward action on climate change by reducing its direct emissions, and influencing carbon emissions from its indirect operations.

Carbon emissions 2007-15



University key performance indicators

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> per £m turnover	124	139	127	131	136	124	122	112	100
Tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> per 1000m <sup>2</sup> GIA	99	110	114	126	131	107	111	107	101

£6.8m

Value of bursaries awarded to 2,600 students from the lowest income groups in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2014/15, the most generous in the UK.

1st

University in Scotland to receive an institution wide Athena SWAN silver award.

58%

Procurement influenced spend with small or medium sized enterprises.

2 million

People signed up to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), across all courses, with participants from nearly every country. The Learning for Sustainability MOOC launched in June 2015.

100%

New buildings rated at least BREEAM excellent, or very good for refurbishments.

16

University-managed beehives on our campuses.

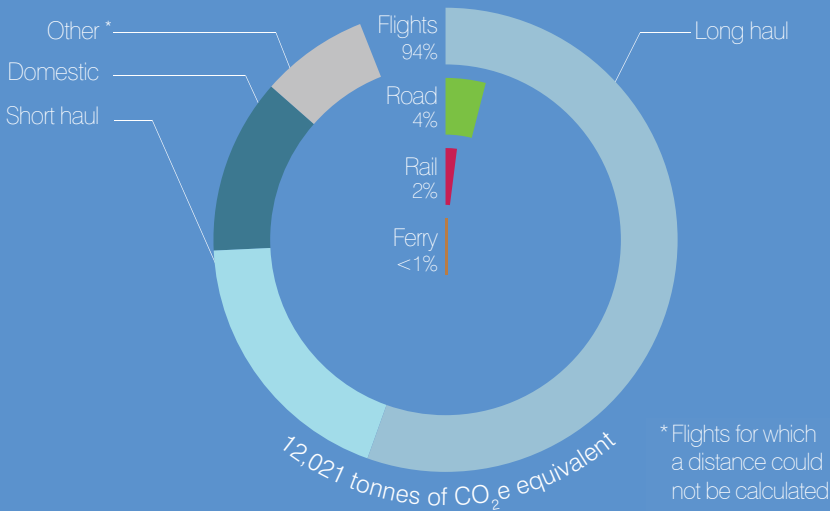
10

Sustainability Awards given to teams who worked to make their labs safer and more sustainable.

# Travel

An Integrated Transport Strategy 2015-20 is in development, which will facilitate sustainable & active travel between parts of the University and promote more sustainable business travel.

**Business travel emissions 2014-15**



You can read the full report online at [www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/report](http://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/report) and it can be made available in alternative formats on request.



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[www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability)

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Electric bikes available for use by staff at several University locations.

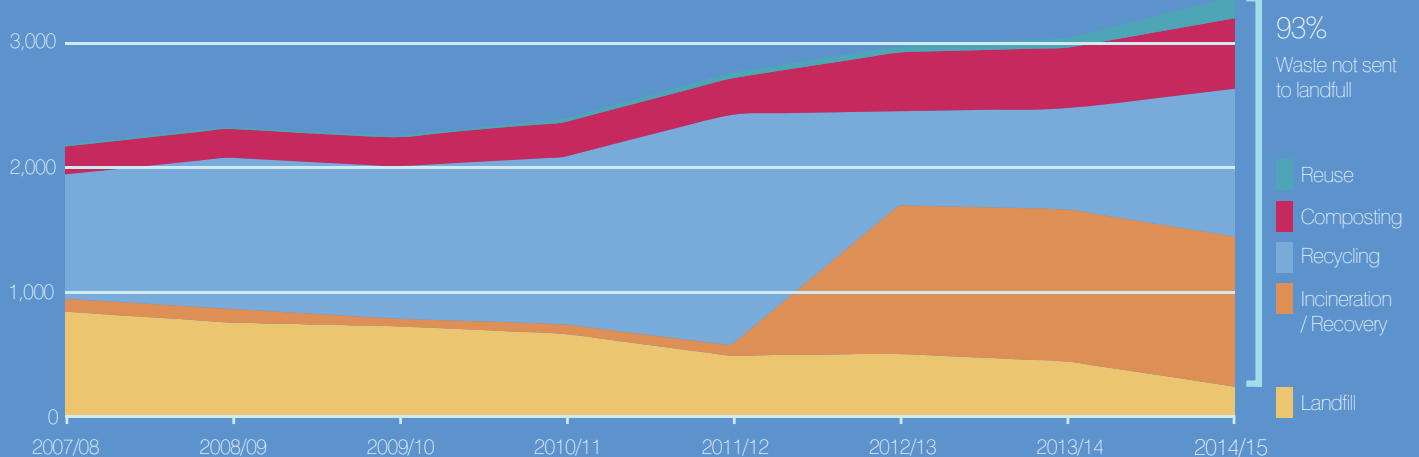
50

Bikes available through the Unicycle bike hire scheme for students, with EUSA.

# Resource efficiency

Landfill waste has fallen by 47% and recycling has significantly improved, including for food waste.

**Waste in tonnes by disposal method 2007-15 (academic estate only)**



4

Departments working on circular economy research for Zero Waste Scotland.

4

Reuse partnerships established with charities and local organisations.

100

Tonnes of items donated to charity, contributing to a 140% increase in reuse against last year.