OUR PERFORMANCE IN THE SECTOR

The University of Leeds benchmarks its sustainability performance against the UK’s 24 leading research universities in the Russell Group. It’s important to gauge our performance in relation to the wider sector. We don’t exist in isolation, and we’re always looking for ways to collaborate and create wider impact.

Source: HESA Estates Management Record 16/17

Campus energy consumption per staff and student (full-time equivalent) 2016/17

Compared to our peer group we have made improvements in our campus energy consumption per FTE. We are now below the Russell Group median.

Waste mass per student and staff (full-time equivalent) 2016/17

This year has seen improvements in our comparative waste performance. This is due to waste initiatives and changes in construction activity. Last year we were sat 10th against our peers.

Modal split for sustainable commuting by staff 2016/17

We have seen an increase in our staff using sustainable travel modes. As a result this year we have gone further above the Russell Group median.

Modal split for sustainable commuting by students 2016/17

This year we have maintained our position in relation to student commuting modes. We continue to perform above the median.
The People and Planet Green League ranks UK Universities on their environmental and social justice performance. We are pleased to continue to improve our performance in the Green League, improving our overall placing to 16th but also to rank 2nd in the Russell Group.

The University should be commended on an impressive overall achievement. It has exceeded many of its own targets on increasing positive impacts, such as the number of student hours spent on sustainability initiatives (3,985 against target 1,120), and the number of modules relating to sustainability (244 against target 163), whilst also achieving significant decreases in its negative impacts, including a reduction in the total waste generated (1,544 tonnes against a target of 1,618 tonnes) and a reduction in carbon emissions (44,899 tonnes against a target of 48,479 tonnes).

It is very reassuring to see the University investing so much time and effort in student and staff engagement relating to sustainability. From their staff training programme that reached 1,500 people, delivering short talks on sustainability to thousands of new students, and including of sustainability as an optional discovery module that any student can take, there is a genuine commitment to participation. The institution is showing valuable leadership for the higher education sector through initiatives like their student sustainability research summit, their Living Lab programme, and their student sustainability architects roles, all of which are novel and impactful in terms education for sustainable development.

I encourage the University to continue to invest in engaging and empowering students and staff on sustainability, as we know from our research that allowing people to own a problem helps secure their investment in the solution. This year, we have seen some improvement in comparison to our peers. We are moving closer to the median of the Russell Group.

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