

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 Institution

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

2590

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	m ²	26415.00	GIA HESA 18/19
Floor area	m ²	199298.00	NON-RES GIA HESA 18/19
Number of full-time students	number FTE	12510	FTE HESA 18/19

1e Overall budget of the body
Specify approximate £/annum for the report year.

Budget	Budget Comments
£228,494,000.00	The figure at 1e is taken from the Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19. The equivalent figure for 2019/20 will be available after the approval of our 2019/20 accounts at Court in December.

1f Report year
Specify the report year.

Report year	Report year comments
2018/20 (Academic year)	The staff FTE figure at 1c is also taken from the University's Annual Report for 2018/19. Other figures at 1d are taken from our 2018/19 HESA return.

1g Context
Provide a summary of the body's nature and functions that are relevant to climate change reporting.

The University of Aberdeen is a research-intensive, ancient University with two main academic campuses in Aberdeen LC, at Old Aberdeen and Foresterhill, and a residential campus at Hillhead. We also operate, in partnership with the Al-Faleh Group, an overseas campus in Doha, Qatar. The University has research interests, collaborative relationships, and student recruitment interests around the world.

PART 2 Governance, Management and Strategy

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 a new, long-term strategic plan in February 2020 entitled 'Aberdeen 2040'. 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 international, inclusive, & inter-disciplinary.

As part of an associated review of governance structures, sustainability issues are now overseen by the Sustainability Steering Group which is chaired by the Senior Vice-Principal. As well as the SVP, it includes representation from Professional Services sections (Estates & Facilities, Finance, Research & Innovation, People) as well as functional leads, students, trades union, and academic representatives.

SSG reports to the University's Policy & Resources Committee which in turn reports to the University Court.

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

The University's organisational structure is available at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/minutes-and-agendas-135.php>

https://www.abdn.ac.uk/using790u/staffnet/content/images/Governance_391_79.jpg

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 Sustainability Steering Group (SSG) was established in June 2020 (replacing a long-standing Advisory Group on Sustainability & Social Responsibility).

SSG is scheduled to meet regularly (usually quarterly) and will co-ordinate the development, implementation and review of all operational sustainability related commitments as outlined in the Aberdeen 2040 strategic plan. SSG reports directly to the University's Policy and Resources Committee (and on to Court).

As well as the Senior Vice-Principal, SSG includes the VPs for Student Recruitment, Research, International Partnerships, and Education, as well as senior representatives from Estates & Facilities, Finance, Planning, and Research & Innovation. Academic disciplines and the student voice are also well represented.

Functional responsibility for management of the Carbon Management Plan and the major strands of climate change action lie with our Directorate of Estates & Facilities (e.g. Waste, Transport, Water, Energy, Buildings).

Full details of the SSG are available at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/sustainability-steering-group.php>

-insert Diagram Here or Attach Files

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/document/Aberdeen2040-3h.pdf
Educate all our students and staff to be leaders in protecting the environment.	Aberdeen 2040	as above
Excel in research that addresses the climate emergency, enables energy transition and the preservation of biodiversity.	Aberdeen 2040	as above
Achieve net-zero carbon emissions before 2040.	Aberdeen 2040	as above

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.

Yes. During the summer of 2016 our current Carbon Management Plan (CMP) was introduced covering the period 2016-21 it replaced an earlier CMP (2009-2014) drafted in consultation with the Carbon Trust as part of the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland (UCCCS) process.

The 2016 CMP was drafted to reflect the format of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (PBCCD) reporting and provides a project-focused framework for action in the current five-year period. It was formally approved during 2016/17 and is available online at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/CMP-2016_2021-Final.pdf

Significant progress has been made against the targets in the plan. Our overall emissions reduction (i.e. across consistent aspects of Scopes 1, 2 & 3) from a baseline of 31520 tCO₂e in 2015/16 is down to 20,738 tCO₂e in 2019/20.

Notably, in 2020 - as part of the Aberdeen 2040 process - we have made a major, long-term commitment to make the University net-zero before 2040. During 2020/21 work is being undertaken, led by the Energy Team in Estates, to define and articulate our strategy for achieving net-zero. As part of that process we aim to rebaseline our emissions across our three local campuses as well as working with our Qatar partners to understand that site's emissions.

This process will take a comprehensive approach to Scope 3 emissions.

Full details will be available in 2021 but initial information can be found at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/strategy-and-governance/sustainability-environment-and-social-responsibility-102.php#panel1309>

Reflecting this net-zero commitment, we have also signed the Global Climate Letter and the One Planet Pledge in 2020.

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	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Business travel	Sustainable Travel Plan	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet	2018/22	
Staff travel	Sustainable Travel Plan	as above	2018/22	
Energy efficiency	Environmental Sustainability Policy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/ESR-Envsustan-policy.pdf	2019/22	Extant until next policy review (last reviewed Jan 2019).
Fleet transport	Sustainable Travel Plan	as above	2018/22	
ICT				
Renewable energy	Environmental Sustainability Policy	as above	2019/22	Extant until next policy review (last reviewed Jan 2019).
Sustainable/renewable heat	Environmental Sustainability Policy	as above	2019/22	Extant until next policy review (last reviewed Jan 2019).
Waste management	Environmental Sustainability Policy	as above	2019/22	Extant until next policy review (last reviewed Jan 2019).
Water and sewerage	Environmental Sustainability Policy	as above	2019/22	Extant until next policy review (last reviewed Jan 2019).

Land Use	Estates Strategy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/estates/documents/Estates-Strategy-2013-23%20Higher%20Resolution.pdf	2013/23	Development Frameworks for the two main campuses also apply.
Other	Environmental Sustainability Policy	as above	Estant until next policy review (last reviewed Jan 2019)	Buildings (New Build, Refurbishment & Extension)
Other	Net Zero Carbon Strategy	https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/documents/200918-NetZero-Slides.pdf	2040	Net Zero Strategy (Initial Slides)

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 supporting documentation for the sustainability commitments in our Aberdeen 2040 strategy identifies 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

Among the key sustainability themes that have emerged in subsequent discussion are: academic and operational contributions to the net-zero (carbon neutrality) 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. As part of the launch of Aberdeen 2040, we signed the SDG Accord and (in June 2020) submitted an initial report as part of that exercise.

Implementation and action plans are being developed under each of the headline commitments. In 2020/21 our main focus will be on the following initial sub-actions:

- Work with colleagues in the Directorate of People to embed sustainability responsibilities into staff Terms & Conditions, induction, core training and other key staffing policies.
- Develop a Business Travel policy that encourages sustainable modes and travel behaviours while recognising our internationalisation commitments.
- Develop a Sustainability Communications Plan, including development of an annual SDG report, to showcase the breadth of sustainability initiatives happening across our campuses.

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 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.

The CCAT tool was consulted upon as part of the development of our current Carbon Management Plan but was not used to conduct a formal assessment. The CPFF tool was used to inform the revised project-based format for our Carbon Management Plan.

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.

Although 2015/20 has been a challenging year, with the pandemic an inevitable focus for most colleagues, an institutional decision was taken to maintain impetus on the sustainability commitments articulated as part of our long-term institutional strategy 'Aberdeen 2040'. That strategy places sustainability at the heart of the institutional mission and has been accompanied by a fundamental reappraisal of the governance structures in place to support sustainability (see 2a and 2b above).

Since our 2018/19 submission, the University has embedded a net-zero emissions pledge into our 2040 strategy, with the aim of achieving that before 2040. We are currently working to outline an implementation plan to support that commitment, including working alongside other public bodies to share best practice and understanding how we address 'hard to tackle' Scope 3 emissions. In support of our net-zero commitment we have also signed up to the Global Climate Letter and the One Planet Pledge, and we welcome the work of the NUS/SOS-UK in collating information on how the sector is responding to net-zero.

As part of the launch of our Aberdeen 2040 strategy we signed the SDG Accord and submitted our first Sustainable Development Goals report as part of that exercise in June 2020. We intend to review how best to report against the SDGs as part of a communications plan (see 2f). Our impact against the UN's Sustainable Development Goals was again measured through the Times Higher Education (THE) 'Impact' rankings which will enter for a third time in 2020/21. We continue to see the SDGs as a vital framework against which to articulate our academic and operational contribution.

Our Centre for Energy Transition was established in 2020, with a governance structure, thematic focus, and academic champions put in place. The Centre aims to facilitate a genuine interdisciplinary effort across research and collaborations, including co-ordinating collaborative funding bids; offering courses on the fundamentals of energy transition; working with partners on skills development; and collaborating with international colleagues e.g. the Aberdeen-Curtin Alliance's work on interdisciplinary research.

In operational terms our primary focus remains the reduction of emissions associated with energy use and we are in the process of transitioning from a series of rolling five-year Carbon Management Plans to a long-term net-zero strategy. In the meantime, our 5 year Carbon Management Plan (to 2021) continues to produce encouraging results that have been articulated in this and previous submissions. Our five-year target for 30% emissions reduction was surpassed early and we continue to see reductions through improvements in how we manage energy use, improved efficiency, and reduced demand.

The University continues to report comprehensively on progress against emissions and climate change through the Public Bodies process and also plays an active part in the sector wide networks working collaboratively to share best practice, most notably through the EAUC.

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 with 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 estate and operations (a) (measured and reported in accordance with Scopes 1 & 2 and, to the extent applicable, selected Scope 3 in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (b)). If data is not available for any year from the start of the baseline year to the end of the report year, provide an explanation in the comments column.

(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 document entitled "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.

Reference year	Year	Year type	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Total	Units	Comments
Baseline Year	2015/16	Academic (September to August)	13,095	12,468	5,958	31,520	tCO ₂ e	
Year 1 carbon footprint	2016/17	Academic (September to August)	12,258	10,276	4,755	27,289	tCO ₂ e	
Year 2 carbon footprint	2017/18	Academic (September to August)	12,718	7,540	4,321	24,455	tCO ₂ e	
Year 3 carbon footprint	2018/19	Academic (September to August)	10,373	6,767	4,192	21,332	tCO ₂ e	
Year 4 carbon footprint	2019/20	Academic (September to August)	10,085	7,659	2,994	20,738	tCO ₂ e	
Year 5 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	
Year 6 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	
Year 7 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	
Year 8 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	
Year 9 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	
Year 10 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	
Year 11 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	
Year 12 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	
Year 13 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	
Year 14 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	
Year 15 carbon footprint	0						tCO ₂ e	

3b Breakdown of emissions sources

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, for any such category of emission source, it is not possible to provide a simple emission factor(s) leave the field for the emission factor blank and provide the total emissions for that category of emission source in the 'Emissions' column.

(a) Emission factors are published annually by the UK Government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Please select - Emission Factor Year		2020							
Emission source	Scope	Consumption data	Units	Emission factor	Units	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Comments	18/19 Factor	
Natural Gas	Scope 1	54,669,320	kWh	0.18387	kg CO ₂ e/kWh	10,052,048		0.19385	
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	10,203	litres	2.54603	kg CO ₂ e/litre	26,23		2.59411	
Petrol (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	3,244	litres	2.16904	kg CO ₂ e/litre	7,03		2.09504	
Grid Electricity (generation)	Scope 2	24,866,548	kWh	0.23314	kg CO ₂ e/kWh	5,820,701		0.2556	
Grid Electricity (transmission & distribution losses)	Scope 2	24,866,548	kWh	0.02005	kg CO ₂ e/kWh	500,579		0.0217	
Purchased Heat and Steam	Scope 2	10,283,727	kWh	0.17161	kg CO ₂ e/kWh	1,775,074		0.17465	
Purchased Heat and Steam	Scope 3	10,283,727	kWh	0.00908	kg CO ₂ e/kWh	93,376	Note: this matrix offers no option to add Heat & Steam TRD. We have added a line to allow us to record this separately and takes the factor from the official UK Gov list.	0.00927	
Gas oil kWh	Scope 2	236,704	kWh	0.25072	kg CO ₂ e/kWh	60,767		0.25076	
LPG kWh	Scope 2	9,866	kWh	0.21448	kg CO ₂ e/kWh	2,116		0.21447	
Water - Supply	Scope 3	262,819	m ³	0.34400	kg CO ₂ e/m ³	90,41	Note: we continue to have to caveat our water data. Our supply information continues to suffer from imprecise metering and this data represents the best assessment we have based on the data from our supplier.	0.344	
Water - Treatment	Scope 3	262,819	m ³	0.70903	kg CO ₂ e/m ³	186,08		0.708	
Domestic flight (average passenger)	Scope 3	4,486,576	passenger km	0.24430	kg CO ₂ e/passenger	363,17		0.24493	
Short-haul flights (average passenger)	Scope 3	3,466,194	passenger km	0.15553	kg CO ₂ e/passenger	539,10	Note: we have revised this factor as we believe there is a typo i.e. we have amended it from 0.15503 to 0.15553.	0.15532	
International flights (average passenger)	Scope 3	5,067,608	passenger km	0.18181	kg CO ₂ e/passenger	921,34		0.19562	
Rail (National rail)	Scope 3	892,716	passenger km	0.03694	kg CO ₂ e/passenger	32,98		0.04115	
Bus (local bus, not London)	Scope 3	99,683	passenger km	0.10312	kg CO ₂ e/passenger	10,28	Note: we have revised this factor to use DEFRA's 'average' bus factor not the non-London (or London) bus factors i.e. 0.10312 rather than 0.11950.	0.12076	
Ferry (average passenger)	Scope 3	27,912	passenger km	0.01874	kg CO ₂ e/passenger	0,52	Note: we have revised this factor, replacing 0.02183 with 0.01874 (which we believe to be the correct factor for Ferry - Foot Passenger).	0.11286	
Taxi (regular)	Scope 3	109,525	passenger km	0.14549	kg CO ₂ e/passenger	15,93		0.15018	

London Underground	Scope 3	28,540	passenger km	0.02750	kg CO2e/passenger	0.78		0.03084
Average Car - Unknown Fuel	Scope 3	3,068,113	km	0.17140	kg CO2e/km	181.07		0.1771
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 3	6,363	litres	2.54603	kg CO2e/litre	16.20		2.99411
Petrol (average biofuel blend)	Scope 3	10,657	litres	2.16802	kg CO2e/litre	23.10		2.20904
LPG litres	Scope 3	552	litres	1.55537	kg CO2e/litre	0.86		1.5226
Refuse Commercial / Industrial to Landfill	Scope 3		tonnes	458.12600	kgCO2e/tonne			69.7592
Organic Food & Drink Composting	Scope 3	39.06	tonnes	10.20400	kgCO2e/tonne	0.40		10.2039
Paper & Board (Mixed) Recycling	Scope 3	179.04	tonnes	21.31700	kgCO2e/tonne	3.82		21.3538
Mixed recycling	Scope 3	84.78	tonnes	21.31700	kg CO2e/tonne	1.81		21.354
Construction (Average) Recycling	Scope 3	0.22	tonnes	1.00900	kgCO2e/tonne	0.00		1.37
WEEE (Mixed) Recycling	Scope 3	5.87	tonnes	21.31700	kgCO2e/tonne	0.13		21.3538
Glass Recycling	Scope 3	5.48	tonnes	21.31700	kgCO2e/tonne	0.12		21.3538
Metal Cans (Mixed) & Metal Scrap Recycling	Scope 3	77.28	tonnes	21.31700	kgCO2e/tonne	0.58		21.3538
Refuse Municipal / Commercial / Industrial to Comb	Scope 3	292.65	tonnes	21.31700	kgCO2e/tonne	6.24		21.3538
Mixed recycling	Scope 3	40.06	tonnes	21.31700	kg CO2e/tonne	0.85	Note: we have used this category as there was no option for wood recycling.	21.354
Clinical Waste - Yellow Stream	Scope 3	18.60	tonnes	21.31700	Consensus factor	0.40	Note: we have used this category as a proxy for our clinical waste (incinerated for energy). As the sheet gave no factor for non-NHS sites, we have applied the combustion factor used elsewhere.	273
Refuse Municipal / Commercial / Industrial to Comb	Scope 3	2.50	tonnes	21.31700	kgCO2e/tonne	0.05	Note: we have used this category to cover chemical waste (recovery and disposal).	21.354
Organic Garden Waste Composting	Scope 3	7.32	tonnes	5.92800	kgCO2e/tonne	0.04	Note: with no option to choose Adbestos (Landfill) we have added a blank line and inserted the official conversion factor.	
		212.19	tonnes	10.20400	kgCO2e/tonne	2.17		10.2039
						20,738.4		

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.

Technology	Renewable Electricity		Renewable Heat		Comments
	Total consumed by the body (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	Total consumed by the body (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	

Targets

3d Organisational targets
List all of the body's targets of relevance to its climate change duties. Where applicable, overall carbon targets and any separate land use, energy efficiency, waste, water, information and communication technology, transport, travel and heat targets should be included.

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
Reduce water consumption 2% year-on-year	annual		annual % reduction	Water and sewerage	2015/16	150,462	M3		Not achieved.	Ongoing issues with water metering (current and historic) make it difficult to assess the validity of our water data. We will continue to review and target this as part of our shift to a net zero approach.
Reduce emissions 20% over the life of Carbon Management Plan 2015/21	absolute		total % reduction	Other (please specify in comments)	2015/16	31,520	tCO2e	2020/21	Achieved early.	Scope 1 & 2 + some Scope 3 emissions.
Net-zero emissions before 2040	absolute		tCO2e reduction	Other (please specify in comments)	2020/21		tCO2e	2039/40		This is a new commitment that remains under development in 2020/21. We will incorporate all Scope 1 & 2 emissions, with most Scope 3 emissions included, albeit likely to be treated in a slightly different way.

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 against an emissions source, enter "0".
If the body does not have any information for an emissions source, enter "Unknown".
If the body does not include the emissions source in its carbon footprint, enter "N/A".

Emissions source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO2e)	Comments
Electricity		
Natural gas		
Other heating fuels		
Waste		
Water and sewerage		
Travel		
Fleet transport		
Other 1 (specify in comments)		
Other 2 (specify in comments)		
Other 3 (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.

Project name	Funding source	First full year of CO2e 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 (tCO2e/annum)	Estimated costs savings (£/annum)	Behaviour Change	Comments

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 (tCO2e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes			
Service provision			
Staff numbers			
Other 1 (specify in comments)			
Other 2 (specify in comments)			
Other 3 (specify in comments)			
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".
If the organisation does not have any information for an emissions source, enter "Unknown".
If the organisation does not include the emissions source in its carbon footprint, enter "N/A".

Emissions source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO2e)	Comments
Electricity		
Natural gas		
Other heating fuels		
Waste		
Water and sewerage		
Travel		
Fleet Transport		
Other 1 (specify in comments)		
Other 2 (specify in comments)		
Other 3 (specify in comments)		
Total		

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 (tCO2e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes			
Service provision			
Staff numbers			
Other 1 (specify in comments)			
Other 2 (specify in comments)			
Other 3 (specify in comments)			
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 (tCO2e)	Comments
Total project savings since baseline year		

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.

Please note that, as a consequence of the challenges of 2020, but primarily the pandemic which has seen staff furloughed and operational activity onsite mobilised for several months, we have been unable to compile the more detailed project specific responses to much of this section that have formed part of previous iterations. We have, however, put considerable effort into developing our net-zero approach and to embedding a new strategic framework for sustainability (see Section 2) and will provide more comprehensive commentary in this section in our 20/21 report.

PART 4 Adaptation

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).

During 2020 we have begun the process of substantially revising our Estates Design Guide, with a major revision to its sustainability content. This will reinforce the need for detailed sustainability considerations on all capital projects (new build or refurbishment) including the climate resilience of those buildings.

In previous years we have made efforts to assess our climate risks, but have yet to formally embed this in Business Continuity practices. However, following a discussion at our Estates Committee in October 2020 (and recent incidences of campus flooding) this issue has again been highlighted as a priority.

Previous activity had seen an MSc student on the University's Environmental Partnership Management (EPM) programme work with the Estates section (summer 2017) to successfully complete a partnership thesis that established an initial approach to adaptation. A series of workshops were held with colleagues in Estates during which key climate change vulnerabilities across our campuses in and around Aberdeen were discussed, mapped and assessed. This process used as its starting point the guidance for Public Bodies in Scotland and aimed to provide key recommendations and an initial adaptation risk register around which the University could build its subsequent approach to adaptation. It's key focus was:

1. To examine climate change adaptation in the context of Scottish Public Bodies and the University of Aberdeen in particular.
2. To seek to understand the potential consequences of future climate specific to the University of Aberdeen.
3. To identify and prioritise ways to manage climate risks.
4. To provide recommendations for the implementation of practical climate adaptation measures.

The workshops identified 31 current climate issues spread across six campus locations and further sub-divided between four categories of 'issue' (buildings, people, grounds/green spaces, infrastructure). Additionally 20 potential future impacts were identified and summarised in a risk register.

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.

In 2020 we have introduced a new Sustainability Steering Group (chaired by the Senior Vice-Principal) that has been established explicitly to raise the profile of sustainability issues across the institution. Our response at 4a outlines the preferred model for embedding climate adaptation thinking, notably the intent to embed adaptation as part of the wider institutional discussion of resilience led by the University's Business Continuity committee and informed by the new SSG.

Our intention therefore, remains to work to embed adaptation as part of the wider institutional resilience framework, including as part of the project risk management of every refurb/new build.

We welcome the work that has been done by the EAUC and HEBCON in producing best practice guidance for the sector.

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.

Having engaged colleagues from across Estates in workshops, as part of our initial mapping of adaptation risks, it became clear that a number of important maintenance projects had taken forward 'adaptation measures' without, at the time, using that terminology (e.g. a number of roofing upgrade projects had seen guttering and pipework improved to increase the capacity of our buildings to cope with more incidences of extreme weather).

Our Estates Projects Team has taken advantage of training offered by the EAUC to better understand how to embed all forms of sustainability thinking into their day-to-day activities. This will be further enhanced by the revisions to the sustainability content of the Estates Design Guide.

Our Estates Committee has also (in October 2020) received papers outlining the increased incidence of extreme weather events on campus and the need for improved building resilience (and adaptive investment) to avoid disruption.

4d Where applicable, what progress has the body made in delivering the policies and proposals referenced N1, N2, N3, B1, B2, B3, S1, S2 and S3 in the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme(s) ("the Programme")?

If the body is listed in the Programme as a body responsible for the delivery of one or more policies and proposals under the objectives N1, N2, N3, B1, B2, B3, S1, S2 and S3, provide details of the progress made by the body in delivering each policy or proposal in the report year. If it is not responsible for delivering any policy or proposal under a particular objective enter "N/A" in the 'Delivery progress' column for that objective.

(a) This refers to the programme for adaptation to climate change laid before the Scottish Parliament under section 53(2) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (asp 12) which currently has effect. The most recent one is entitled "Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme" dated May 2014.

Objective	Objective reference	Theme	Policy / Proposal reference	Delivery progress made	Comments
Understand the effects of climate change and their impacts on the natural environment.	N1	Natural Environment			
Support a healthy and diverse natural environment with capacity to adapt.	N2	Natural Environment			
Sustain and enhance the benefits, goods and services that the natural environment provides.	N3	Natural Environment			
Understand the effects of climate change and their impacts on buildings and infrastructure networks.	B1	Buildings and infrastructure networks			
Provide the knowledge, skills and tools to manage climate change impacts on buildings and infrastructure.	B2	Buildings and infrastructure networks			
Increase the resilience of buildings and infrastructure networks to sustain and enhance the benefits and services provided.	B3	Buildings and infrastructure networks			
Understand the effects of climate change and their impacts on people, homes and communities.	S1	Society			
Increase the awareness of the impacts of climate change to enable people to adapt to future extreme weather events.	S2	Society			
Support our health services and emergency responders to enable them to respond effectively to the increased pressures associated with a changing climate.	S3	Society			

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).

At this stage we have no formal arrangement or timetable but our Estates Committee has now flagged the importance of this issue and the link to Business Continuity planning. Our intention remains to embed adaptation among the other key 'resilience' issues considered by these groups and, through initiatives like the revised Estates Design Guide, to formalise the expectation of Design Teams.

See also 4c - among the key recommendations of the work to date is the need to expand awareness of adaptation beyond Estates and, in due course to consider the wider 'adaptation' impacts that may apply to universities away from their campuses. In the first instance the main focus is, however, likely to remain on buildings and infrastructure issues.

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).

Please see 4c.

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.

Our adaptation priorities remain:

1. Continue to work in partnership e.g. with the EAUC, Adaptation Scotland and in regional bodies such as Aberdeen Adapts.
2. Raise awareness of adaptation to identify knowledge gaps and misconceptions (in particular among staff involved in estates and grounds).
3. Further identify adaptation risks by broadening the range of staff involved in adaptation workshops.
4. Embed adaptation as part of the institution's business continuity and resilience thinking.
5. Promote environmental sustainability more generally as part of the Aberdeen 2040 strategy.

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 adaptation.

Students from the MSc Environmental Partnership Management have been involved in helping establish a number of local adaptation initiatives e.g. in 2016 a student also helped to establish the Aberdeen Adapts programme (with Aberdeen City Council) and in 2017 we were delighted to welcome a student to adopt a 'living laboratory' approach to the University's initial foray into climate change adaptation thinking.

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 change duties.

In line with the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, the University of Aberdeen has developed it's Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2020/21 (which can be found on our website <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/procurement>) to assist our vision of procuring responsibly in terms of legal, moral, social, economic and environmental impact.

The University's Procurement Policies require that the Procurement team develop a contract strategy for all contracts above the value of £50,000. Within this strategy, the team is required to outline an approach to complying with the sustainable duty detailed in the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. This ensures our key objectives 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 revised Supply Chain Code of Conduct has been introduced this year (based on that championed by Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC)) and is issued at tendering stage. Suppliers are asked to make a clear declaration of support for the principles contained within this Code.

In relation to Environmental Compliance, suppliers commit to, as a minimum, complying with all local and national environmental laws, regulations and directives of the countries they are working in, manufacturing in or trading with, as applicable. To 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.

Also, a statement has been added this year to take account of Climate Emergency where suppliers acknowledge they have clear plans and actions in place across their operations to address this and to work towards their climate emissions being net zero by 2050 or earlier. Similarly, the APUC Sustain Supply Code of Conduct is issued to suppliers for all APUC Frameworks. Therefore, support for the principles within the Code are covered regardless of whether the University contract arises from a local agreement or from an APUC framework.

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 change duties.

The University acknowledges that its procurement activities have a significant impact on the environment, society and the economy. With the knowledge and learning achieved through the activities listed in 5a, the Procurement Team is focused on developing contract strategies that minimise or reduce negative impacts on the environment.

Our Procurement Policy & Procedures advises consideration of whole life costs (this includes determining the need for the goods/services, through to its 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 continues as a founding member of Electronics Watch. This allows the University access to all the benefits membership of this organisation brings, including access to reports and tools. Electronics Watch, an independent monitoring organisation working to achieve respect for labour rights in the global electronics industry through socially & environmentally responsible public purchasing in Europe. Electronics Watch work with civil society organisations in the countries where the factories are located to monitor working conditions.

The Procurement Team uses the APUC SUSTAIN tool for regulated procurements (i.e. procurements of £50k and over) where relevant and proportionate to the scope of the procurement. The portal is the core supply chain sustainability tool supporting HE and FE institutions and their suppliers in delivering a transparent, environmentally positive, ethical and socially responsible supply chain.

During this year, members of the Procurement Team participated in training opportunities provided by EAUC (The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education Scotland). A session of importance was on Sustainable Procurement - Understanding Scope 3 emissions.

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 University Procurement Team continues to work with suppliers & stakeholders on an Electronic Invoicing Project to reduce the volume of paper invoices coming into the University and to improve payment accuracy and timeliness. The project started 4 years ago when only 3% of invoices were received electronically at that time. We target suppliers with particularly high volumes of transactions and take the opportunity to consolidate invoices where possible. This has resulted in the figure increasing this year to 42% of invoices which are now received electronically.

We have a campus wide contract for Multi-Function Devices. The contract strategy for this project included the aim to reduce costs, equipment, energy and waste. We have a comprehensive copy and print management system in place which helps us achieve those aims.

The Procurement Team is investigating ways to better understand carbon emissions from University procurement. We aim to identify our main sources of emissions (outside of business travel, which we already capture). This work would not only benefit the University of Aberdeen but could help guide a sector-wide approach to capturing and reporting emissions from procurement.

As indicated above, Business Travel emissions have been captured and shared as part of our PBCCD emissions reporting since this reporting format was introduced. We continue to work with our travel agency to capture this data and improve its accuracy.

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 our Estates & Facilities Directorate.

Data was provided by the functional leads in the relevant areas, notably Energy, Waste, Transport & Procurement.

The information was reviewed and signed off by the Director of Estates & Facilities and was submitted to the University's Senior Management Team in mid November for formal endorsement, prior to submission.

6b Peer validation process

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

As part of a light-touch peer evaluation exercise, this submission has been shared with colleagues at Robert Gordon University, the James Hutton Institute, and Dundee University.

As in previous years, we have taken the opportunity to share our respective reports and to provide informal feedback.

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 our annual Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) return. The timing of the PBCCD return is slightly out of synch with some other key sector reporting exercises (e.g. notably the HESA process, which is the sector's key data submission and validation exercise, adheres to a spring reporting schedule).

The University's Annual Report (i.e. our annual financial statement and report) follows a timetable the culminates in approval of the University's annual accounts at a Court meeting in December.

Given these reporting schedules, some of the contextual responses here relate to 2018/19 and not to 2019/20. Updates can be made available early in 2021 if required.

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. Changes in the institutional committee structure in 2019/20 have seen sustainability issues given a more prominent position with the establishment of a new Sustainability Steering Group (with a direct reporting line into the University Court).

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.

We continue to review our submission, including those areas where there are gaps or where we acknowledge that our capacity is limited e.g. adaptation.

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:	Angus Donaldson
Role in the body:	Director of Estates & Facilities
Date:	20/11/2020

Recommended Reporting: Reporting on Wider Influence

Wider Impact and Influence on GHG Emissions

Q1) Historic Emissions (Local Authorities Only)

Please indicate emission amounts and unit of measurement (e.g. tCO₂e) and years. Please provide information on the following components using data from the links provided below. Please use (1) as the default unless targets and actions relate to (2).

(1) UK local and regional CO₂ emissions: **subset dataset** (emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities):

(2) UK local and regional CO₂ emissions: **full dataset**:

Local Authority:												Units	Comments	
DECC Dataset:														
Sector	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		
Total Emissions													ktCO ₂	
Industry and Commercial													ktCO ₂	
Domestic													ktCO ₂	
Transport total													ktCO ₂	
Per Capita													tCO ₂	
Waste													tCO ₂ e	
LULUCF Net Emissions													ktCO ₂	
Other (specify in 'Comments')													tCO ₂ e	

2a) Targets

Please detail your 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

2b) Does the organisation have an overall mission statement, strategies, plans or policies outlining ambition to influence emissions beyond your corporate boundaries? If so, please detail this in the box below.

n/a. Our commitments are articulated in our Carbon Management Plan and the recent Net-Zero commitment.

Q3) Policies and Actions to Reduce Emissions

Please detail any of the specific policies and actions which are underway to achieve your 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

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 your Climate Change Partnership, Communication 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
Education	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 e.g.	Research, Collaboration, Courses.	University of Aberdeen Research Centre established in 2020.
Partnership Working	Carbon Scenario Tool for Scotland's Cities	Participant	Edinburgh City Council	n/a	Various e.g. Universities, Local Authorities.	Various e.g. SSN.	Shared approach to civic carbon management.	
Partnership Working	Get About Partnership	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	Powering Aberdeen https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/powering-aberdeen	Participant	Aberdeen City Council	Various e.g. Chamber of Commerce.	Various e.g. RGU, NHS.	Various e.g. Energy Savings Trust, Nestrans)	Sustainable Energy Action Plan	
Partnership Working	Aberdeen Adapts https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/climate-change/adapting-climate-change	Participant	Aberdeen City Council	Various e.g. Chamber of Commerce.	Various e.g. RGU, NHS.	Various e.g. Energy Savings Trust, Nestrans)	Multi-sector workshops on adaptation.	
Partnership Working	North East Scotland Climate Change Partnership (NESCCP) 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, NHS, Fire Service, Local Authorities.	Various e.g. Energy Savings Trust, Nestrans)	Multi-sector declaration on mitigation and adaptation.	
Partnership Working	Aberdeen Fairtrade Steering Group http://fairworld.org.uk/fair-trade/aberdeenfairtrade-city-steering-group/	Participant	Aberdeen City Council	Various e.g. NorthLink, Co-op.	Various e.g. University, Aberdeen City.	Various e.g. churches, schools, charities.	Aberdeen City's Fairtrade status.	
Partnership Working	Environmental Association for Universities & Colleges (EAUC) + Scotland Branch http://www.eauc.org.uk/home	Participant	EAUC	Various e.g. Event Sponsors.	Various e.g. Universities & Colleges.	As necessary e.g. SSN, Sustrans etc.	CPD, TSNs, networking, tools.	
Education	Responsible Universities Group Scotland (RUGS)	Participant	Universities Scotland	n/a	Various, e.g. Scottish universities.	Various e.g. SSN, EAUC, APUC.	Reviewing what sustainability means for HE in Scotland.	
Partnership Working	Aurora Universities Network https://aurora-network.global/	Participant	n/a	n/a	Various e.g. European universities.	n/a	Sharing best practice on operational sustainability and build research synergy.	Multi-strand European partner network.

Education	Aberdeen Biodiversity Centre https://www.abdn.ac.uk/biodiversity/	Lead	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Schools outreach and public engagement.
Education	Public Engagement with Research https://www.abdn.ac.uk/engage/	Lead	n/a	Various e.g. sponsors.	Varies by event.	Varies by event.	Various programmes of research engagement e.g. public lectures, festivals, events.
Education	Cruickshank Botanic Garden https://www.abdn.ac.uk/botanic-garden/	Lead	Charitable Trust (administered by UoA)	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 Government	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.

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

Q6) Please use the text box below to detail further climate change related activity that is not noted elsewhere within this reporting template