



# Sustainability Report

2023 - 2024

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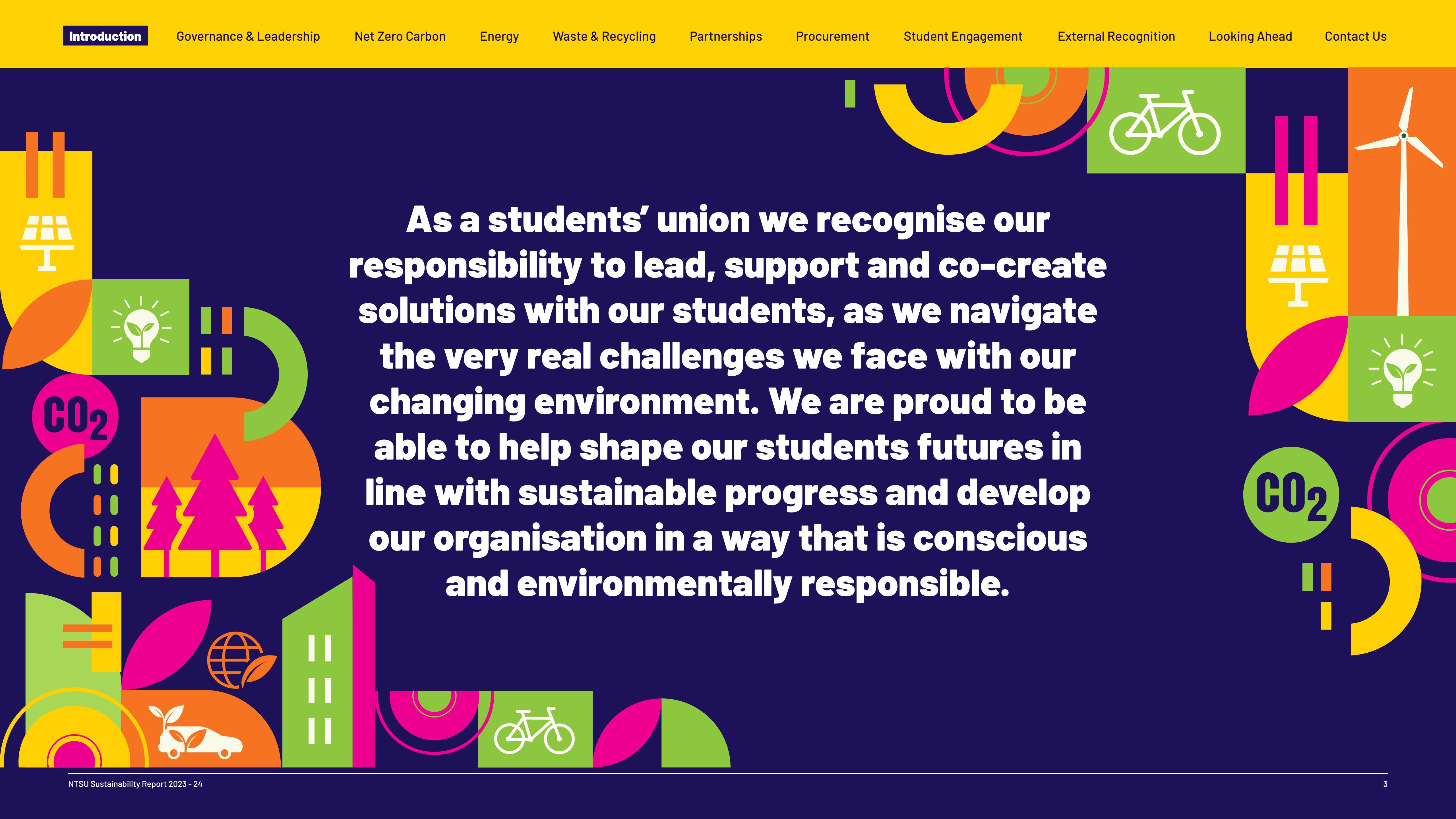
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**As a students' union we recognise our responsibility to lead, support and co-create solutions with our students, as we navigate the very real challenges we face with our changing environment. We are proud to be able to help shape our students futures in line with sustainable progress and develop our organisation in a way that is conscious and environmentally responsible.**

# 17 Sustainable Development Goals

We are taking steps by embedding sustainability into our strategies and policies, driven by the creation of our Sustainability Strategy.

The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals have played a fundamental role in aiding NTSU to build the foundations for sustainable development and we have aligned our aims and objectives with the goals.

Our ambition is to create a culture where sustainability plays an integral role in guiding our development, as well as our involvement and interaction with our students. We want to prioritise sustainability within our future strategies and policies, setting out targets to reduce our environmental footprint.





## A Message From Our CEO

"I am proud to present NTSU's first ever Sustainability Report. This marks a significant milestone in our journey to embed sustainability at the heart of everything we do.

Over the past year, we have taken positive steps towards delivering on our sustainability strategy as we reach the halfway point of our strategic cycle.

As this report reflects, we are setting baselines that will guide our progress for years to come. These foundations give us the opportunity to build momentum and accelerate change, ensuring that sustainability remains central to our decision-making and culture.

We are proud of where we are today, and even more excited about where we can and will go. Together with our students, staff, and partners, we will continue to push forward, innovate, and lead by example in creating a more sustainable future."

**Phil Kynaston**  
NTSU CEO  
2022 - Present

# Our Sustainability Journey So Far . . .

We are still at the start of our journey but always making progress.

## 2014 - 2021

Small levels of activity:  
some fairtrade activities,  
Green Impact Students Union  
submitted for 1 year

## 2022

Society sustainability training  
Recruitment for sustainability  
coordinator  
Sustainability strategy work began  
Signed up with EcoCampus to start  
the journey to ISO14001

## 2023

Calculated our baseline  
carbon footprint  
Established Sustainability  
Advisory Group  
Passed the Bronze and Silver audit  
for EcoCampus  
Achieved Excellent in GISU  
submission  
Final sustainability strategy  
designed and published

## 2024

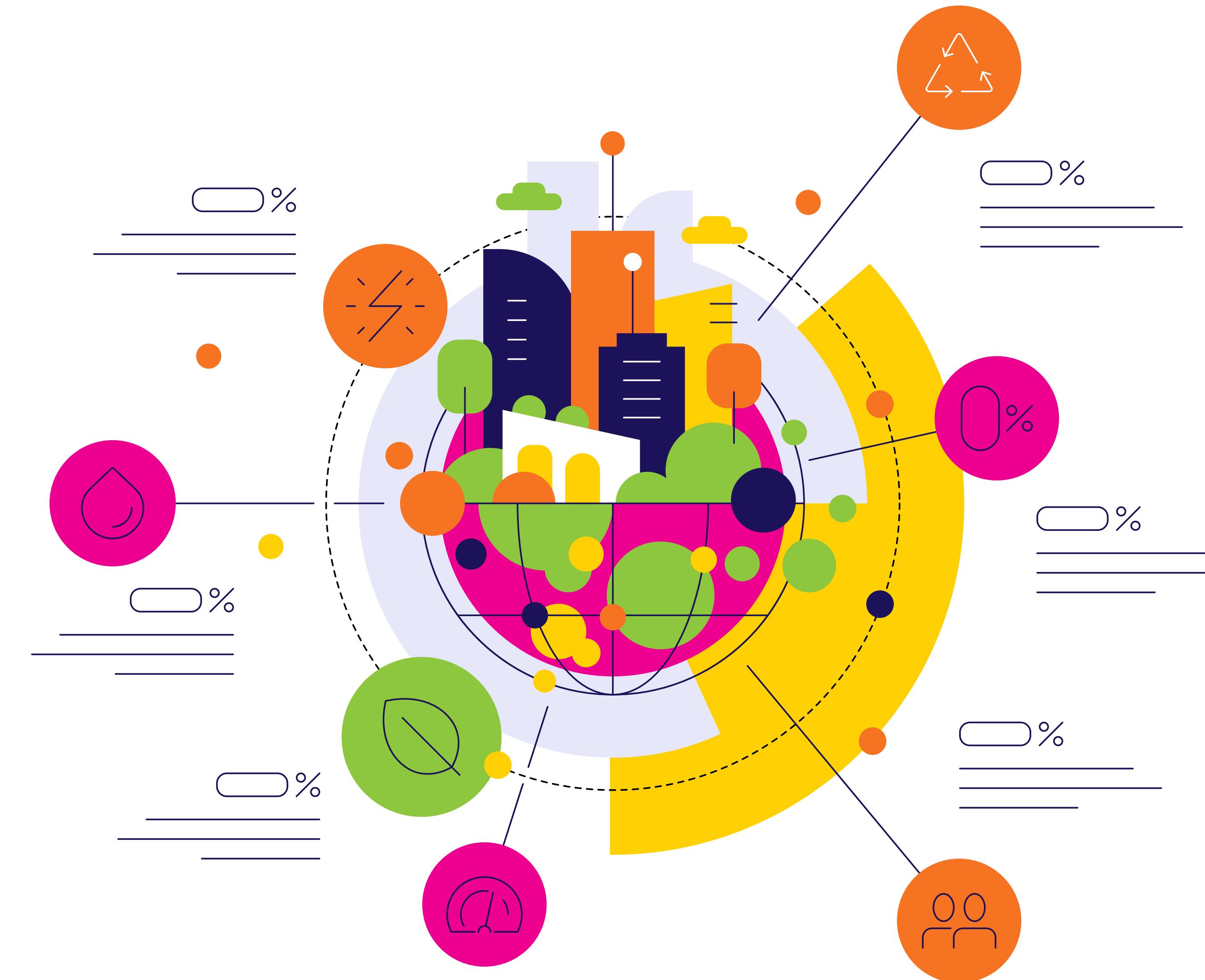
Received Excellent in GISU for  
second year running  
Continuing to calculate annual  
carbon footprint  
On the way to reaching Gold status  
with EcoCampus

# Sustainability Strategy

The development of our Sustainability Strategy with our members saw a big shift in our activity and progress. It has provided us with a clear vision and direction, enabling us to target all areas of NTSU adapting them in a way that's more conscious and beneficial to the environment.

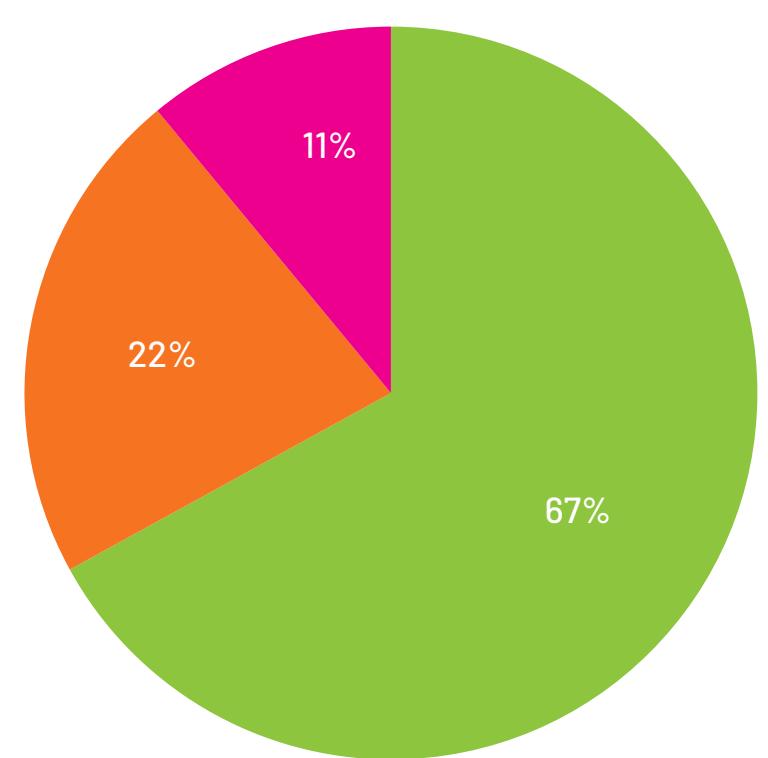
The creation of the sustainability strategy has helped us to navigate our development and ensure we encompass all functioning areas of the organisation, while keeping students at the heart of our progress.

The strategy reaches across 7 principal pillars which underpin the sustainable activity undertaken at NTSU. It was devised to guide our work alongside the organisational strategy and keep us accountable as a students' union.

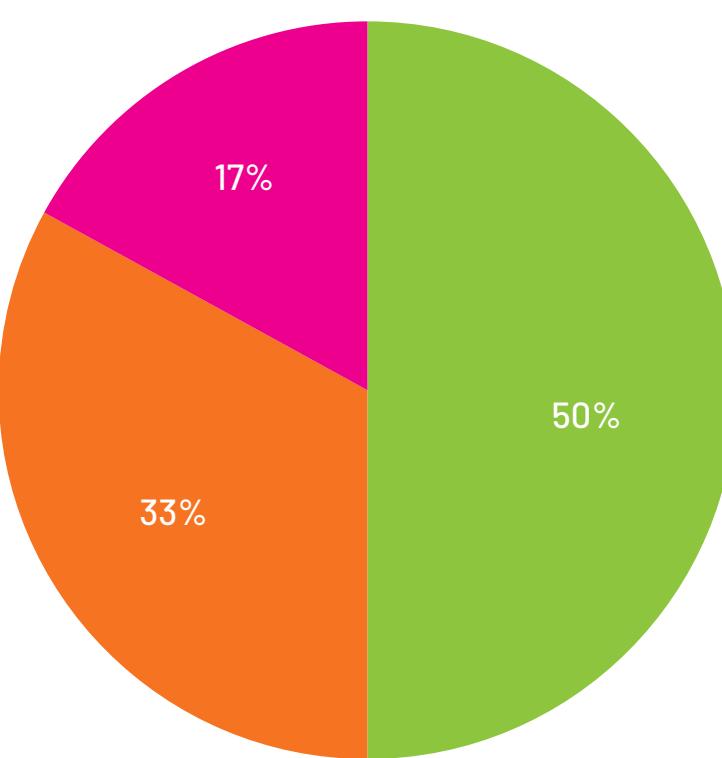


# Progress Of Each Pillar

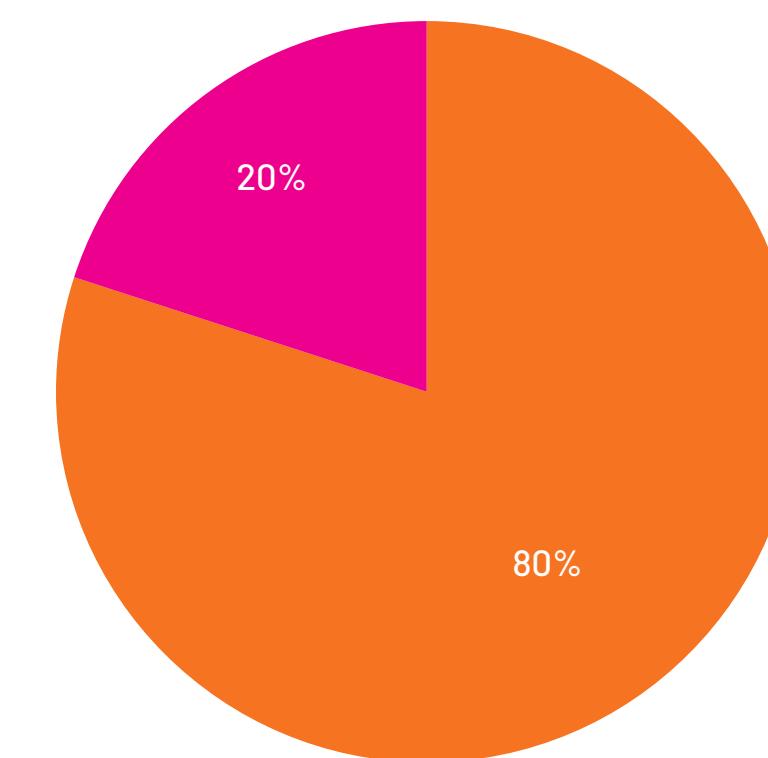
**Governance & Leadership**



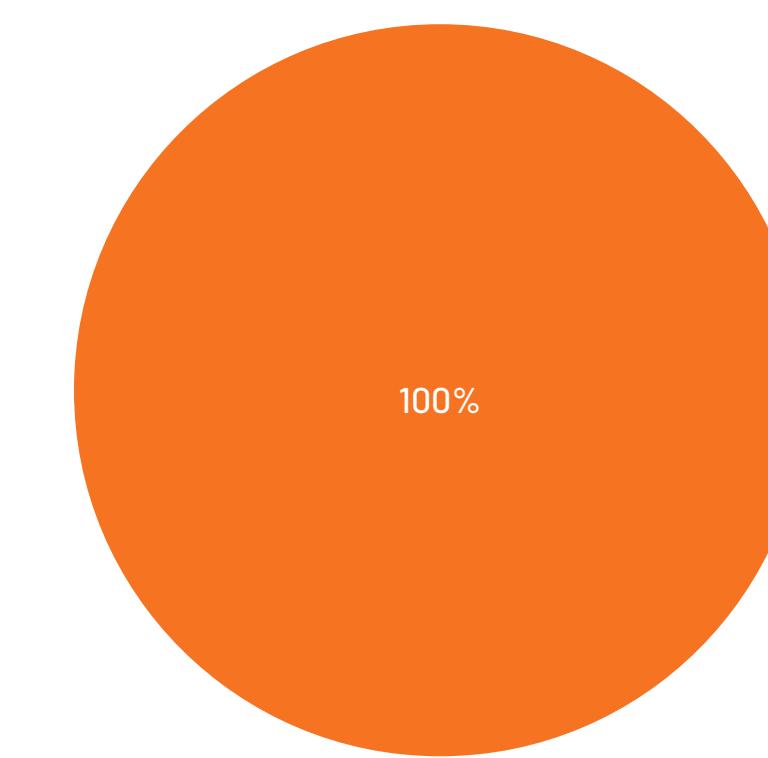
**Net Zero Carbon**



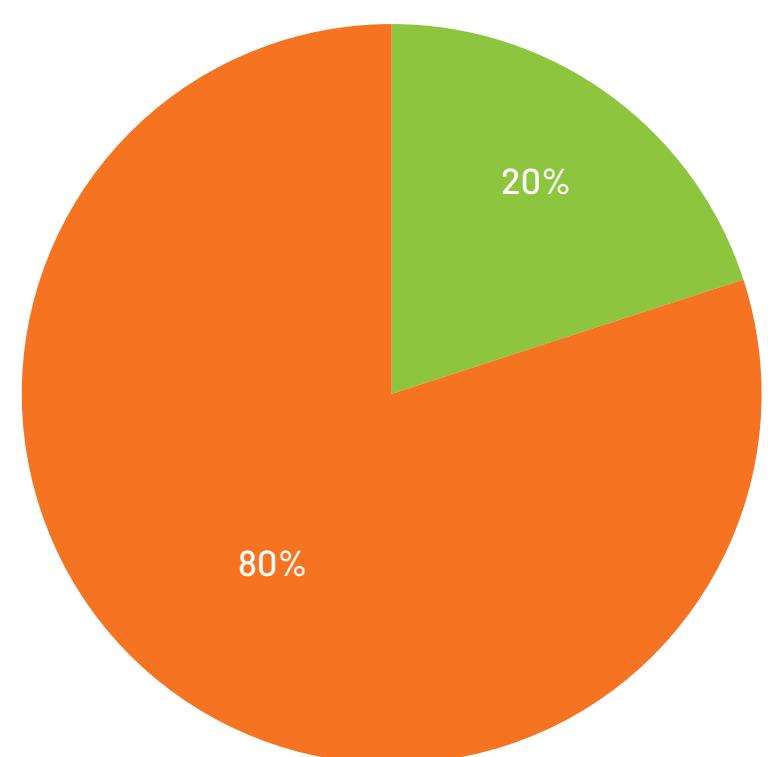
**Energy**



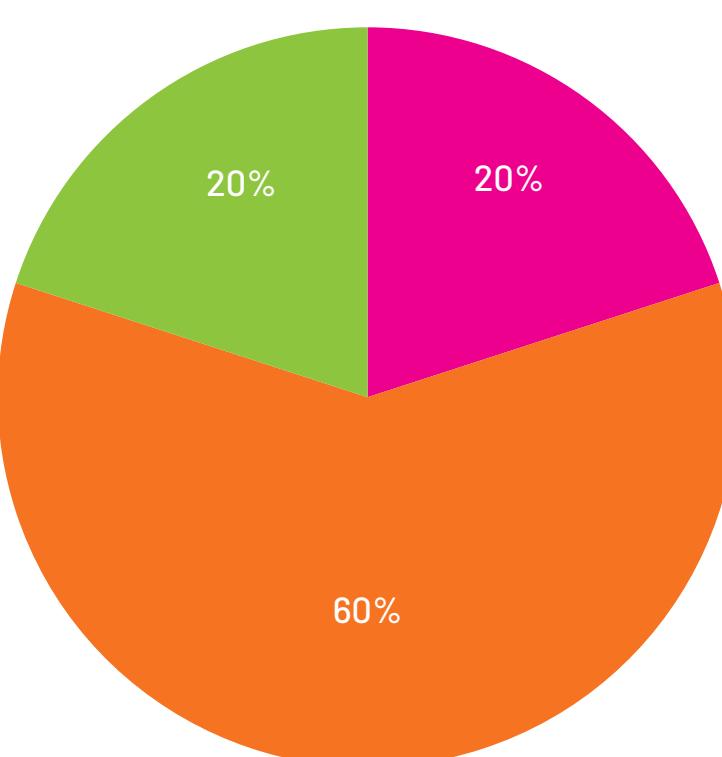
**Waste and Recycling**



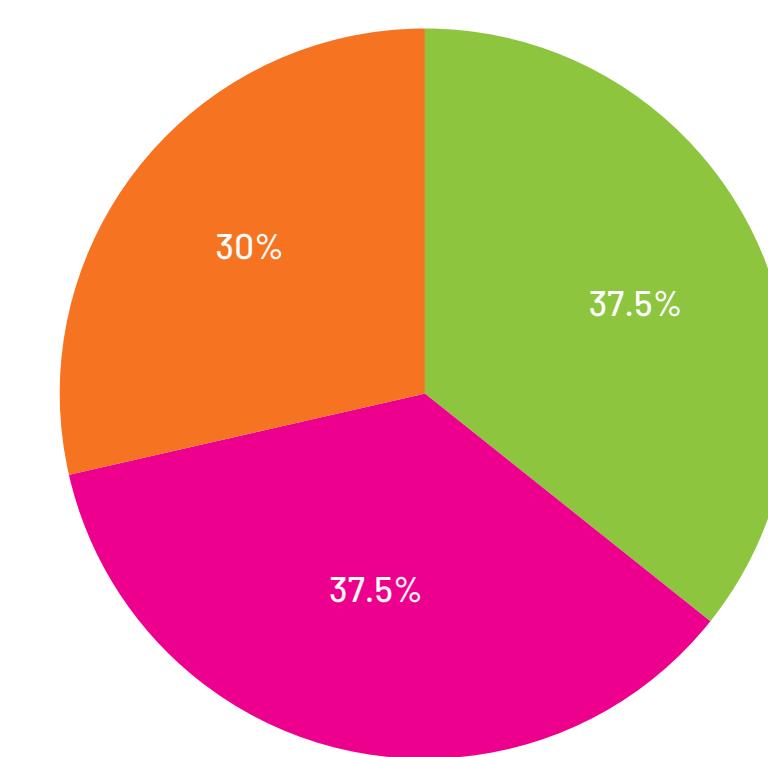
**Partnerships**



**Procurement**



**Student Engagement**



This year we have seen a larger uptake in activity which contributes to the aims and objectives of the strategy. You can see in the following pie charts the current status of each pillar of the strategy, looking at what we have already done, what we are in the process of doing, and what we have yet to make movements with.

It is positive to see that 5 out of the 7 pillars have at least 20% already completed, and 2 of the 7 have no outstanding (not started) sections.

■ Completed ■ In Progress ■ Not Started

# Our Key Statistics

**810 course reps trained through sustainability induction**

**SILVER status with EcoCampus on the journey to ISO14001**

**EXCELLENT rating with Green Impact Students' Union**

**1785 clicks on the sustainability page on the NTSU website**

**3 students on The Sustainability Advisory Group board**

**3rd year of calculating our carbon footprint**

**Creation of our 1st sustainable procurement strategy**

**Creation of our 1st waste report**

**97% of waste diverted from landfill**



# Governance and Leadership

As an organisation that exists for the benefit of students of Nottingham Trent University, when developing the sustainability strategy it was important to embed students in the governance and leadership of our work.

**Throughout our governance structures, sustainability has been included to ensure key decision makers consider the environment across all areas of the students' union.**

Student members make up over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Trustee Board, elected and selected by students this top level group are legally responsible for the governance of the organisation. They have received regular presentation, reports, and strategies on our sustainability progress steering our direction and allocating resources to the work. The Board have also created NTSU's first Environmental, Social, & Governance Committee, a sub committee of the Board, to undertake more detailed oversight of our progress.

Additional groups and committees created to ensure sustainability is being implemented and filtered through the organisation. The creation of the Management Review Committee allows for governance of our Environmental Management System (more detail in Section 9), and the Sustainability Advisory Group involves students in the sustainable governance of the organisation.



# The Sustainability Advisory Group (SAG)

Providing students with a space they can voice their ideas, opinion and concerns surrounding sustainability was a significant aim under governance and leadership. The Sustainability Advisory Group was created at the start of 2023 to allow for staff and student staff to come together to discuss sustainability at NTSU.



Since its creation, student staff members alongside a representative from each team in students' union come together to discuss how to improve NTSU's sustainable development. Through involving student staff it provides students who work in our services with a voice to make real changes to their spaces.

One of the key outcomes from SAG has been the replacement of the single use plastic banners, used by NTSU across campus, to the use of sock banners. These are made from recycled materials and slide on top of a reusable frame as opposed to regular plastic banners which are attached to the frame and once are no longer needed cannot be removed resulting in the entire banner and frame being binned. The sock banners save the frame from being wasted and have also then been reused for arts and crafts activities run by NTSU.

Another positive outcome was the collaboration across career staff teams and student staff during the waste audits. The waste audits can be a long and strenuous task and this year staff from across the organisation were approached during SAG and asked if anyone would be able to support. The response was very positive and allowed for a much smoother audit process; this demonstrated the positive collaborative work to come from the group.

# Training

Creating a workforce who are aware and understand the importance in engaging with sustainability is essential for positive development.

**This year sustainability inductions and training were introduced.**

All new staff members who join NTSU receive a sustainability induction from the Sustainability Officer. This runs through what sustainability is, why it is important, what it means in the context of NTSU, what NTSU are currently doing in line with our strategy, and what this means and looks like in their role. For existing staff, training has begun to be rolled out containing the same contents, making staff aware of why sustainability is relevant to their role.

In addition to induction and training, staff members have also attended Climate Fresk. Climate Fresk is an interactive training session that teaches individuals about the causes and effects of climate change, raising important conversations and eliciting questions and ideas regarding the environment. This provides staff with a more comprehensive understanding of climate change and why sustainability is important. So far, members of NTSU's Senior Management Team and the student Executive Officers have all attended this training, the aim is to have all staff complete this.

Overall, leading by example through offering training and education is essential to ensure the workforce is on board with sustainable development, and through having strategies and policies in place NTSU can ensure their governance is driven by sustainability.



# Net Zero Carbon

NTSU has a target of achieving net-zero carbon across all three scopes by 2040, as committed to in our sustainability strategy.

**We are at the start of our net-zero journey and are conscious to support global targets such as those set in the Paris Agreement, as well as considering our stakeholders and the environment in which we are situated and what their targets and aims are..**

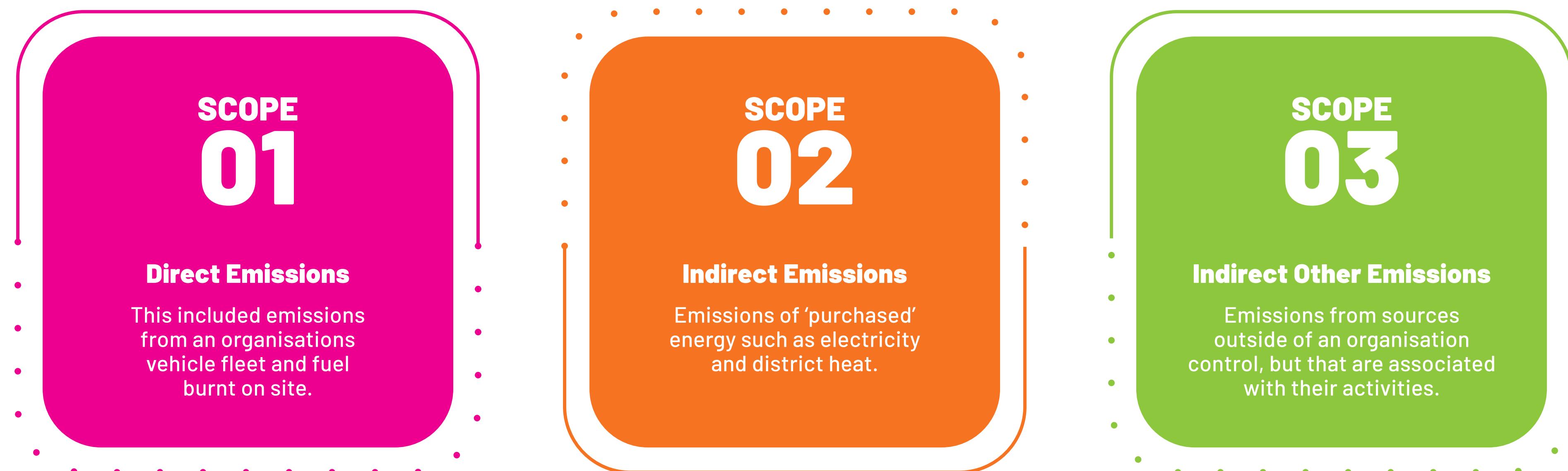
2023-24 is our third year of carbon reporting and represents a 'business as usual' year of operations, previous years were significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our carbon footprint is one way of expressing our awareness of our negative environmental impacts and demonstrating our commitment to improving on this. Each year we aim to improve the accuracy of our reporting and methodological processes, and in time create net-zero pathways to aid us in reaching our 2040 target.



# Our Footprint

Our total emissions for the 2023-24 academic year are 1850.62 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e).

NTSU report on all 3 emission scopes:



\*Unlike many other organisations, NTSU does not have a 'Scope 2'. Our buildings are leased from our partner organisations (NTU & UPP), so although we use energy and heat on a daily basis, we don't have direct control over the emissions sources, so these fall into our Scope 3.

# Our Baseline

As we continue to report on our footprint, we compare our current position to our baseline year which is 2021-22.

- Scopes 1+2
- Business travel
- Hotel stays
- Staff commuting
- Supply chain
- Upstream leased assets
- Waste
- Water
- Working 'Elsewhere'
- WTT & Distribution (Energy)

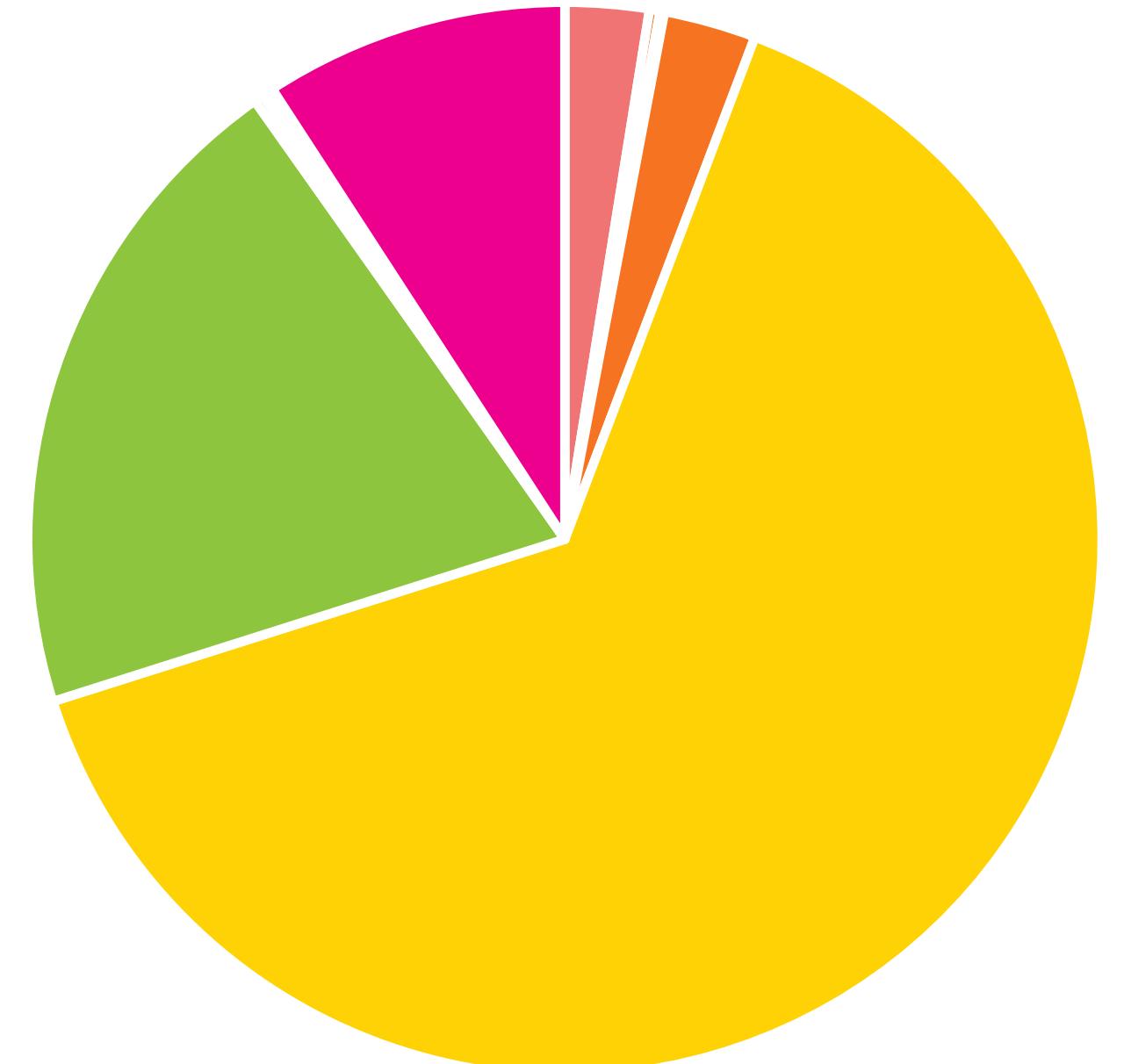


Figure 1. NTSUs Carbon Footprint (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)  
Baseline Year 2021-22

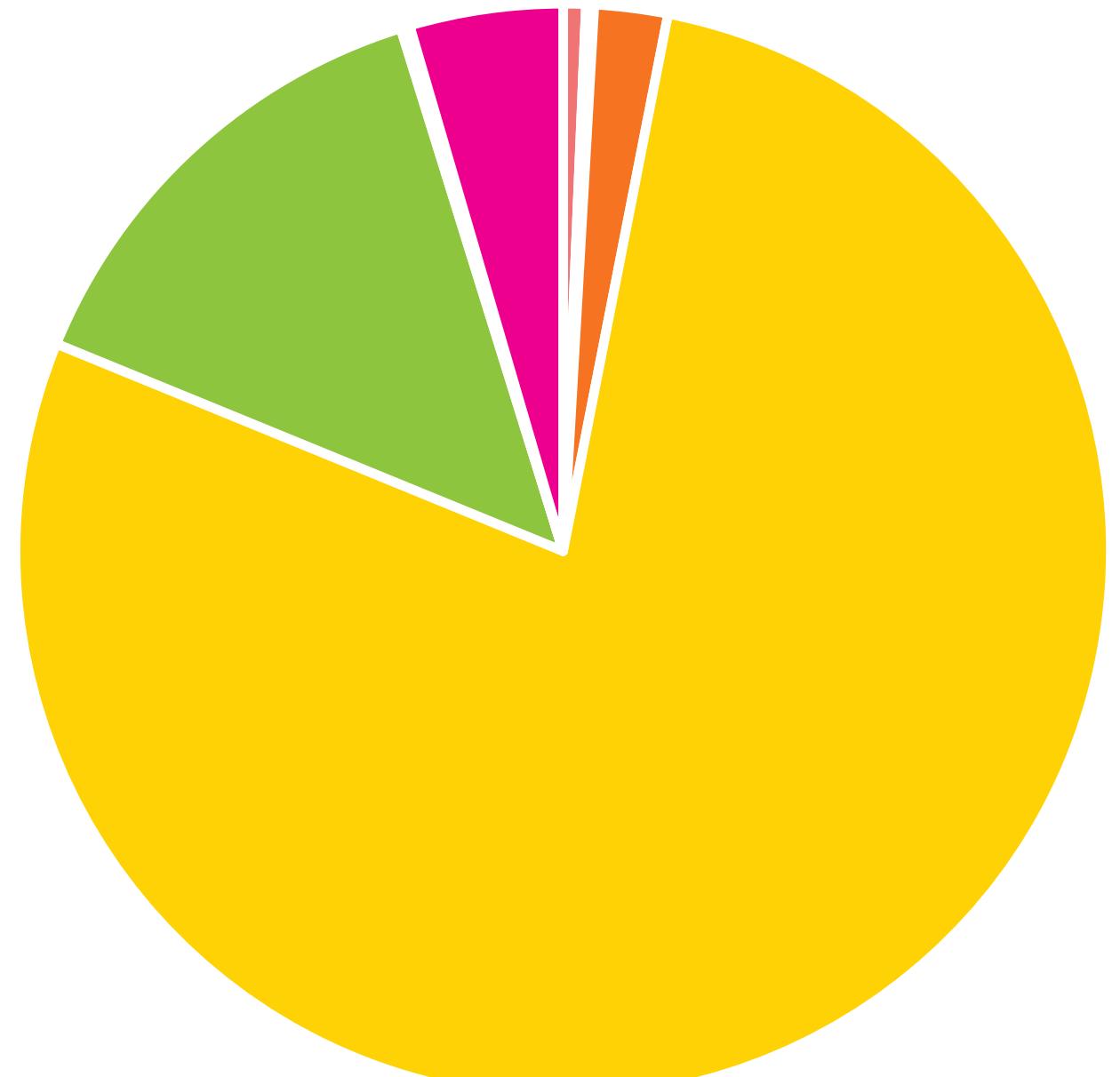


Figure 2. NTSUs Carbon Footprint (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)  
2023-24

**Our overall carbon footprint has increased by 62.5% from our baseline year, this is largely attributed to more activity due to the following:**

- Our baseline year was not a 'business as usual' working year as the effects of Covid19 were still being seen. Activity was much lower, and working from home much higher.
- As an organisation our business activity has increased due to higher demand from students, i.e. more events, more on campus activity, and therefore areas such as purchasing and supply chain have seen a large increase.
- There has been a 6 month gap in employment of the Sustainability Officer, therefore the capacity and resource for implementing reduction strategies has been limited.

# Scope 1 & 3

Our emissions are broken down to identify how each area is performing and target decarbonisation strategies.

Our Scope 1 emissions are formed of emissions from our fleet vehicles and refrigerants usage, and our absolute emissions for these were 12.29 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

Our Scope 3 emissions are formed of emissions from our business travel, hotel stays, staff commuting, supply chain, upstream leased assets, waste, water, working 'elsewhere', and well-to-tank and distribution. Our absolute emissions for these were 1838 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

Our supply chain continues to be our largest emission area and water was our lowest this year.

## Next Steps ...

As we continue with our commitment to reaching net-zero by 2040, we will be implementing net-zero pathways to tackle some of our large emission areas.

We will continue to integrate systems into our everyday operations to reduce our carbon output, and work with our staff, students, and stakeholders to continue to drive our target forward.

For a full report on our carbon footprint for 2023-24, please see our [carbon report](#).

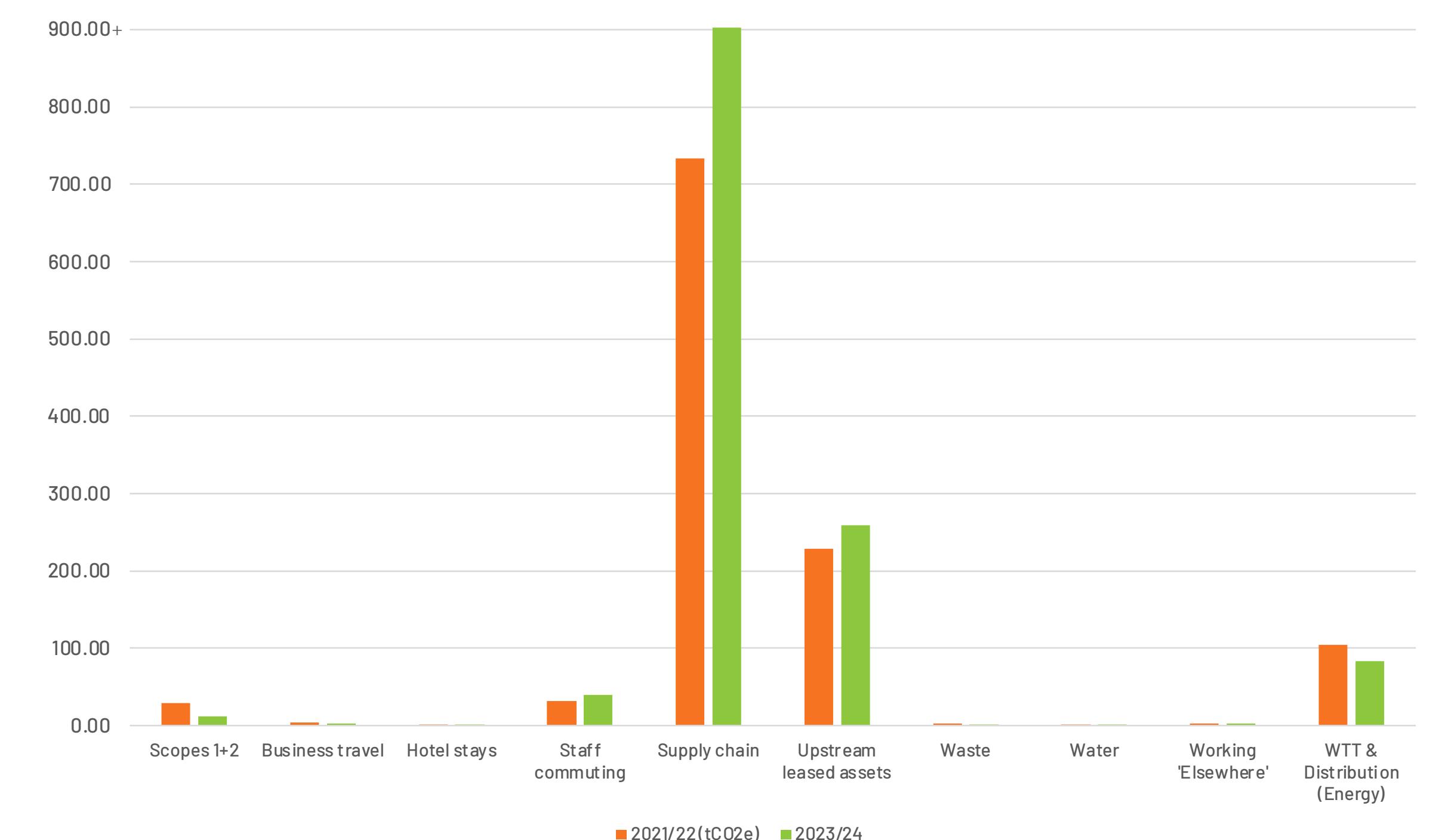
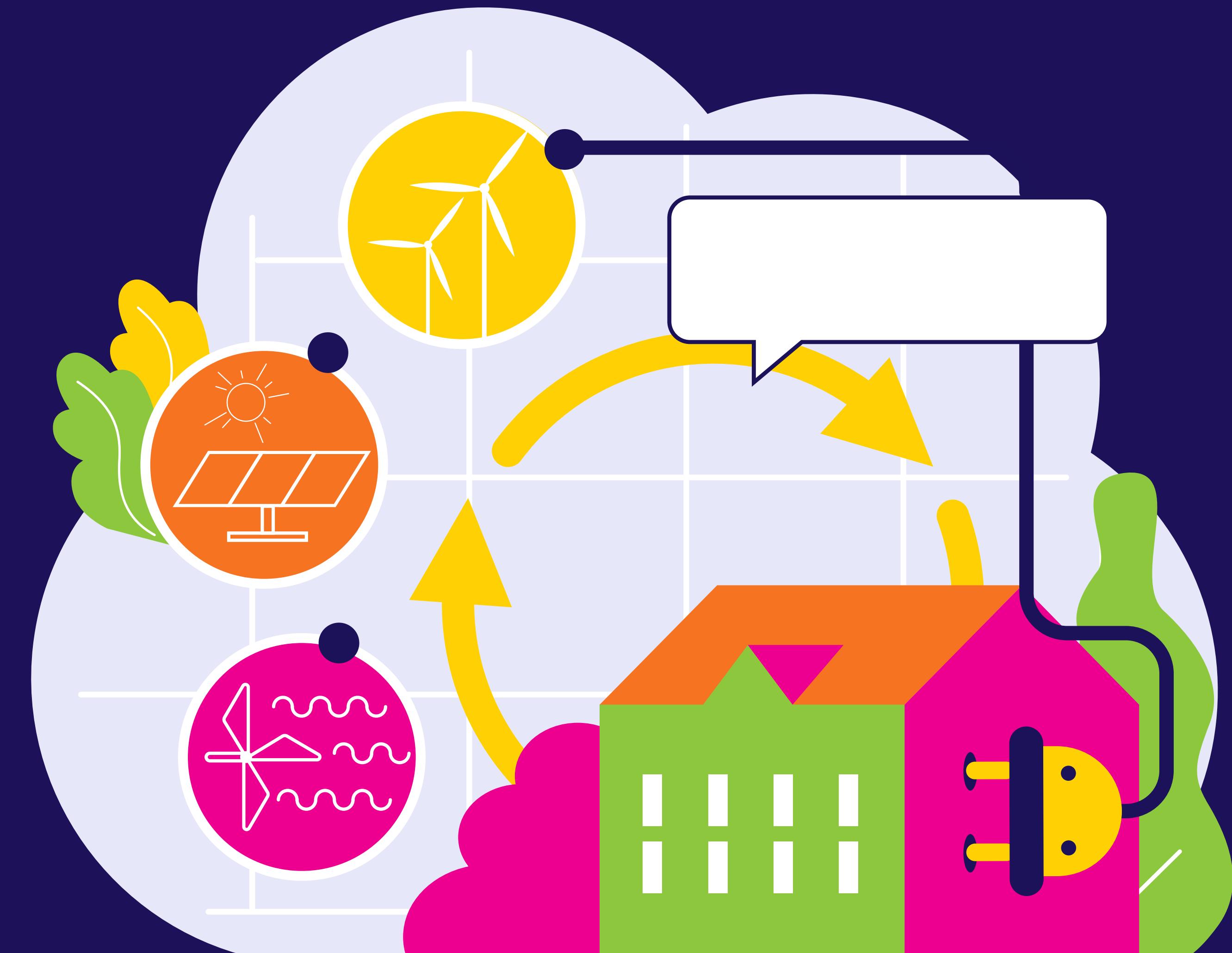


Figure 3. Carbon emissions per activity area for the baseline year (2021/22) and 2023/24

# Energy

Under NTSU's Sustainability Strategy, we are aiming to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy usage in NTSU spaces.

**As tenants of our buildings, we don't have direct control over our energy supplier, metering, or to make any changes, therefore much of our impact comes from lobbying NTU and UPP to make energy efficient alterations in the short and long term maintenance of our facilities.**



# This Years Progress

We have seen some small improvements that contribute towards our journey on reducing our energy usage.

This year has seen the replacement of lights across our spaces to energy efficient LED bulbs. This will directly impact our carbon output as LED lighting uses around 80% less electricity than incandescent bulbs. This has been a very positive step towards reducing our energy usage and increasing the efficiency.

With the creation of the procurement policy, energy efficiency of equipment was embedded to ensure the replacement of products considers the energy efficiency of the newly procured items in order to reduce running costs and create fewer emissions. This has allowed NTSU to start assessing the footprint of our suppliers and make steps towards a more energy efficient supply chain.

# What We Want To Do

We are at the start of our journey towards making NTSU more energy efficient, we continue to lobby our landlords and stakeholders to make more efficient decisions.

We will be increasing education for our members to ensure students and staff understand the significance of reducing our energy output.

We will also continue with conversations with UPP to arrange appropriate sub-metering for all NTSU spaces to provide us with accurate data on energy use.

# Waste And Recycling

NTSU activities take place over a wide variety of spaces that carry out a range of services for students and staff, this in turn creates multiple waste streams.

Our Sustainability Officer alongside the House Services and Compliance team continuously work to ensure as much waste is recycled or reused as possible whilst working with the organisation and the students to reduce the quantity.

Currently NTSU divert 97% of our waste from landfill, working in line with the principles of circularity, we are aiming to increase this to 100%.



# Importance

We work with our students, staff, landlord and waste collection service to reduce the quantity of waste we produce, divert waste from landfill, and recycle as much as possible.

**We recognise our responsibility and role we play in not only being conscious with our own waste production, but also in educating our students on what good waste disposal looks like, and offering tips for reducing their quantity of waste to begin with.**

With waste being one of the leading contributors to pollution and carbon production, it is essential that we as an organisation acknowledge our own contribution.

As a key pillar under our Sustainability Strategy we are committed to reducing our waste output.



# Waste Audits

As part of our commitment to reducing our quantity of waste, diverting as much from landfill as possible, and improving disposal and recycling habits amongst staff and students, we conduct regular waste audits to assess our position and progress.



Due to a gap in employment, this year the waste audits were completed in the final term.

**An audit was conducted for both the internal and external dry mixed recycling and general waste bins at all 3 of our campuses: City, Clifton an Brackenhurst. Following this came the creation of our first Waste Report, which will annually demonstrate and track our progress towards reducing our waste streams.**

The key findings from the waste audits highlighted areas we are performing well and some areas which require closer attention. Overall, there was a small amount of contamination found in both external and internal recycling bins, with food being the main issue. Staff spaces overall performed better than student spaces with smaller quantities of waste being produced and very little contamination. It was positive to see the bins were being used correctly in the majority of areas.

# Internal Bins Across Campus

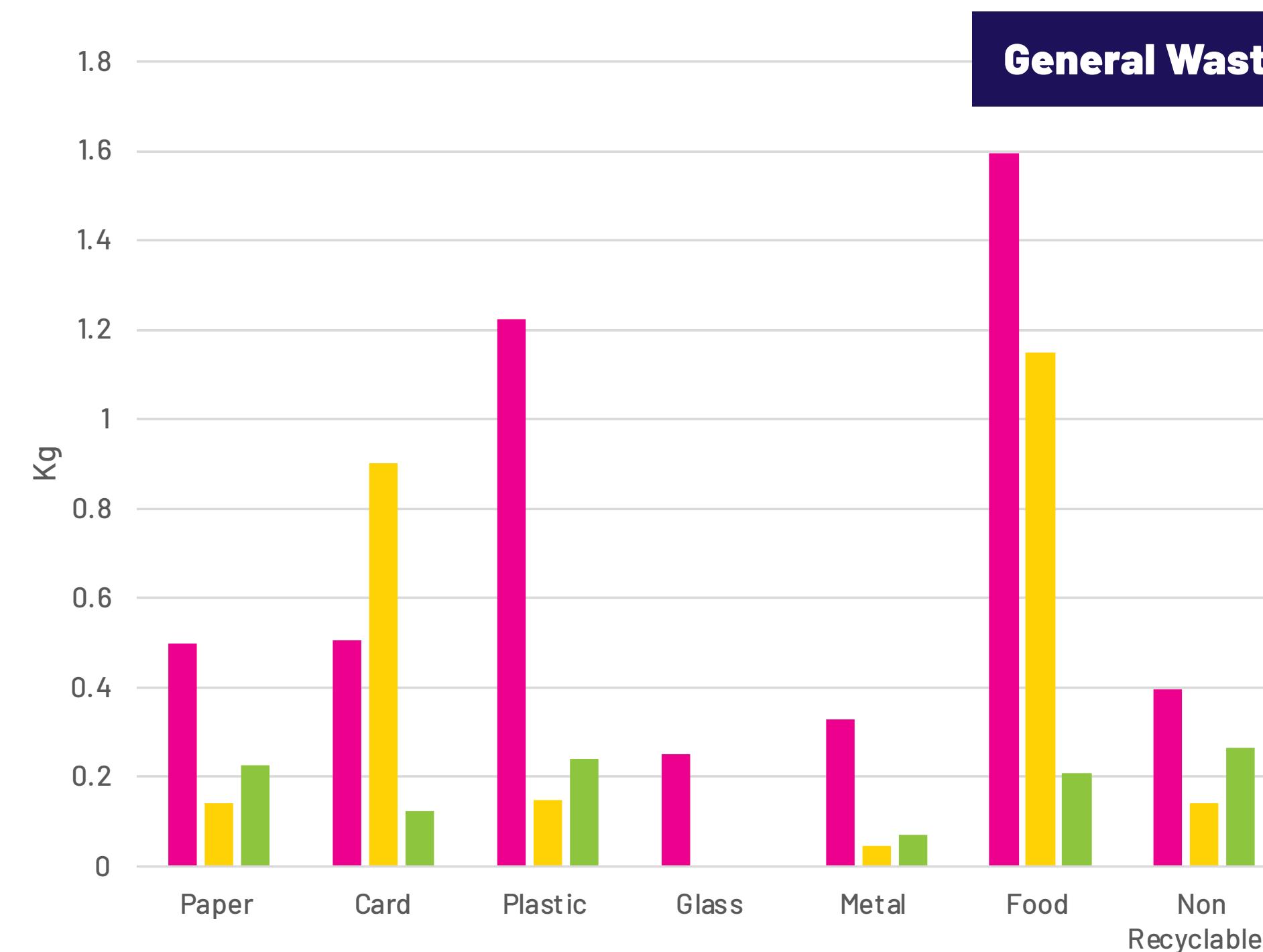


Figure 4. General waste composition for the internal bins at all 3 campuses

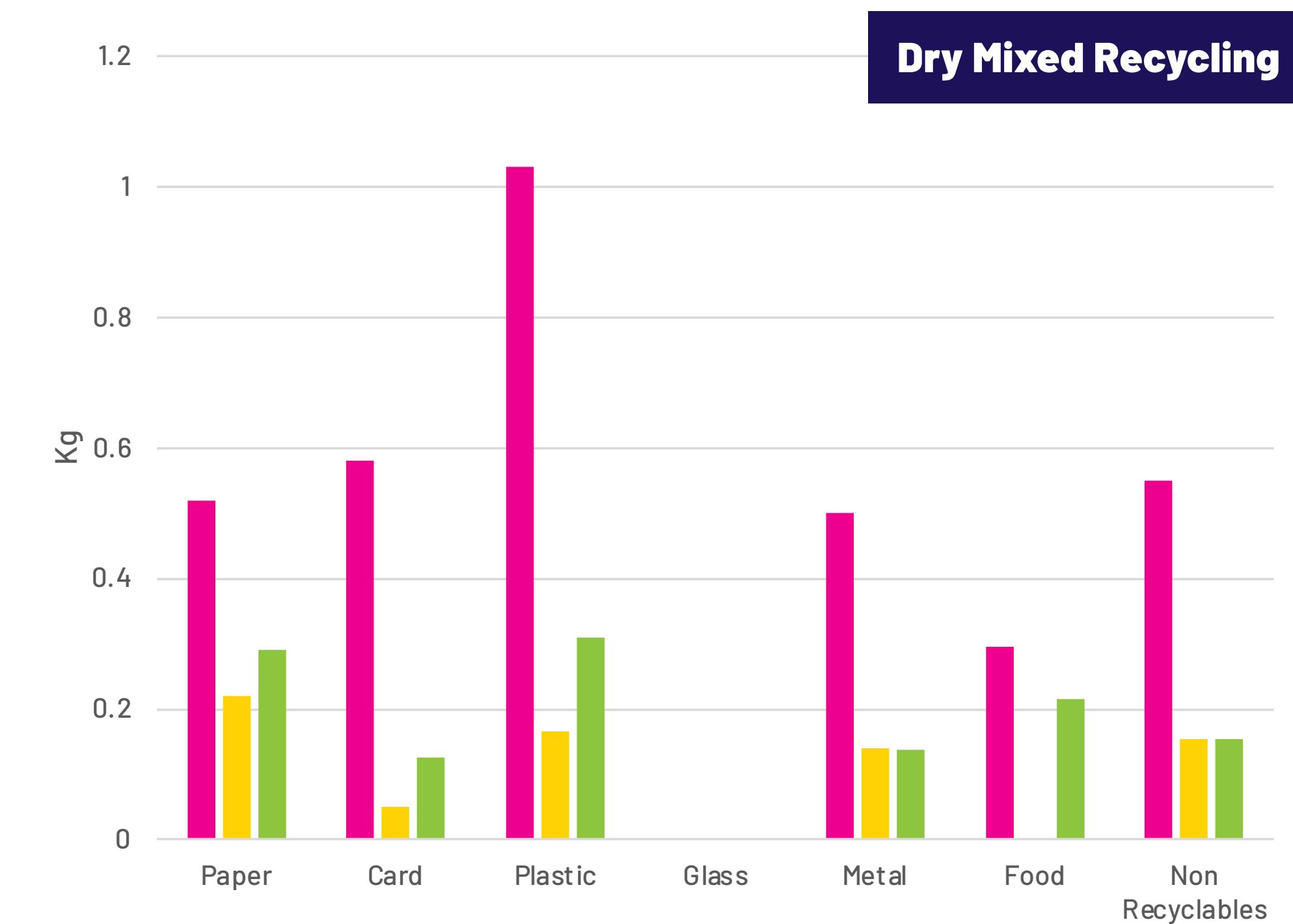


Figure 5. General waste composition for the internal bins at all 3 campuses

■ City Internal   ■ Brack Internal   ■ Clifton Internal

# External Bins Across Campus

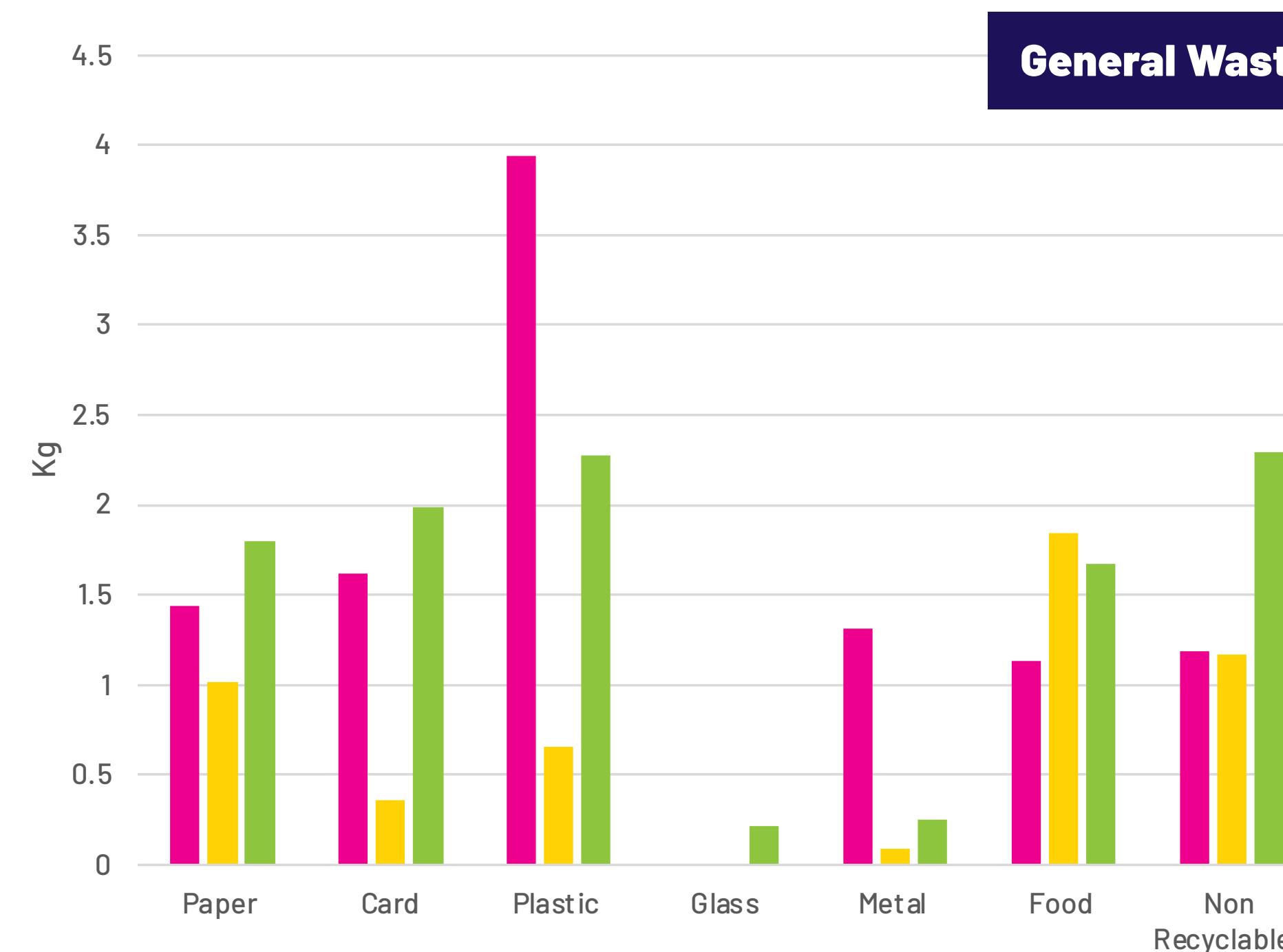


Figure 6. General waste composition for the external bins at all 3 campuses

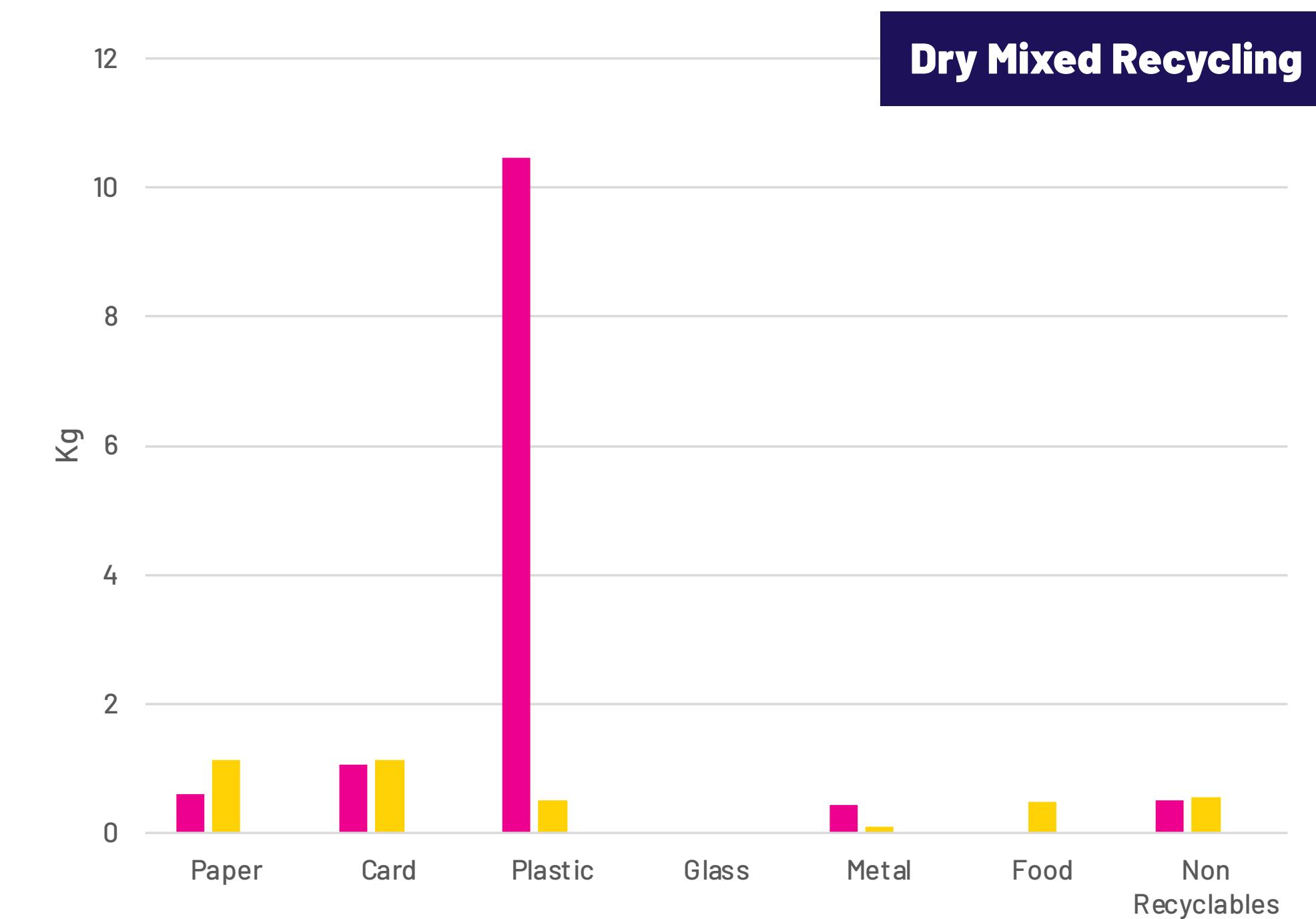


Figure 7. General waste composition for the external bins at all 3 campuses

■ City Internal   ■ Brack Internal   ■ Clifton Internal

# Areas Of Improvement

Following the results of our waste audit, we were able to identify where resources could be best placed to reduce our waste output and improve the composition.



The main issue found was the quantity of recyclable materials found in the general waste, this was a recurring finding across all campuses and both staff and student spaces.

A major finding at Clifton campus showed there was incorrect disposal of the internal bins, with bags of recyclable materials being found in the external general waste bins, highlighting incorrect segregations of waste.

Another prominent observation was the presence of coffee cups in the recycling bins, the majority coffee cups are currently non-recyclable. However, this was found to be due to unclear or incorrect signage on internal bins. New signage is now being rolled out across campuses to address this issue.

## The main recommendations made were:

- introducing food and liquid bins in catering spaces to reduce contamination of the recycling bin.
- New signage on all bins to make messaging clearer and consistent.
- A larger focus on education for staff and students surrounding waste disposal and recycling; in line with some of the campaigns NTSU will be running over the next academic year this will become a main focus.
- Finally, the better positioning of bins to avoid singular bins being used for all materials and for consistent messaging across all campuses.

# What Have We Done This Year

## New Bin Signage:



NTSU have worked with NTU to create campus wide consistent messaging and signage for all internal bins.

Having the same message shown across all campuses ensures students and staff have a clear understanding of how they should dispose of their waste.

## Reusable Coffee Cups:



NTSU introduced reusable cups in catering outlets and venue spaces at the Brackenhurst campus, allowing customers to purchase a reusable cup and receive a discount on hot drinks.

This initiative has reduced the number of single-use cups sold on campus, and following its success, NTSU now aims to introduce reusable cups at the City and Clifton campuses to further reduce single-use plastic consumption.

# Working With Our Stakeholders

As tenants, it is important that we work with and alongside our landlords and other interested parties.

**We continue to work with NTU and UPP ensuring consistency across our sites and collaborating on projects that help us to reduce our waste streams.**

We also work closely with our waste collection service provider to ensure we are doing everything we can.

This year some members of staff have visited the recycling facility in Nottingham to look at the processes and mechanisms from behind the scenes.

These activities are important to engage our workforce in the importance of correct disposal and segregation of waste.

NTSU will also be working with them during the next freshers period to audit the freshers fairs waste production to inform our strategy on reducing waste during the students' union's busiest time.



# Partnerships

Partnerships are an integral part of the students' unions work, they are essential in aiding us to operate as an organisation.

**It is important to work with our partners on sustainability to ensure they are engaged and on board to progress development further.**

Our partnerships with NTU, UPP, Nottingham City Council, and our students can alter the work we do; collaboration is essential to remain on the same page and enforce real change.



# Nottingham Trent University



**We have a strong relationship with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) as an organisation, and specifically with the Sustainability Team, often working and collaborating together to provide opportunities for students, make campus operations better, and improve the promotion of sustainable behaviour.**

NTU developed their University, Re-imagined Strategy with Embracing Sustainability being a central component. They have held ISO14001 certification for their Environmental Management System since 2012, received numerous awards and accolades for their sustainable performance and progress, and are currently ranked 2nd most sustainable university in the world in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings.

Our collaboration over the past year has seen joint stalls at the freshers and housing fairs, Give it a Go activities for students, and continued support with promoting the Bike Hub. As the partnership grows, more joint engagement strategies will be put in place to bridge NTU and NTSU together for the benefit of students.

# UPP

**UPP are responsible for a large proportion of the student accommodation at NTU, in addition to operating the facilities management provision at our City building, therefore they are an important partner and hold large influence on sustainable decisions.**

We continue to work together to make student halls more sustainable through lobbying for changes in energy, water providers and consumption, as well as increased signage for recycling within halls and better bin provisions.



# Nottingham City Council

**Being part of the community in Nottingham is important to NTSU and working to support NCC's strategies and goals allows for synergy and collaboration.**

Nottingham City Council are keen to engage with sustainable development and have set a net zero carbon target of 2028 in line with their carbon budget, it is positive to work within a community that acknowledges the importance and is aiming to make a difference.



# Our Students



**Our most important partnership lies with our members.**

Collaborating with students to ensure they are involved and engaged in our work is essential for our sustainable development.

Offering activities and opportunities for students increases understanding and also demonstrates what we are doing to develop sustainable initiatives and projects.

We aim to provide students with a platform to get engaged with sustainable activities and initiatives, such as through SAG and Give it a Go activities.

Presenting students with the opportunity to get involved at different levels and within the direct governance of the organisation ensures students thoughts, ideas, and opinions are heard and valued.

# Procurement

NTSU continues to work alongside partners in the NUS purchasing consortium to further embed sustainable practices across the sector.

This work is driven by the Sustainable Students' Union charter which NTSU are a founding member.

The members of the charter have agreed with NUS a number of goals with measurable KPI's which we meet regularly to discuss progress.



# Our Over-Arching Goals

## Collective Pressure For Change

Sustainable SU members aim to leverage their purchasing power to drive positive change and contribute to the advancement of sustainable practices within the wider marketplace and by exerting pressure on suppliers and leverage collective purchasing power to drive change.

## Looking At Wider Ethical Issues

We will make collective efforts to promote fair labour practices, minimize environmental impact, and uphold high standards of social responsibility in our procurement processes.

This means looking for supplier assurance that includes Net Zero commitments and a balanced score card approach on 7 key principles of Climate, Animals, Workers, Tax Conduct, Company ethos, agriculture and packaging.

## Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture

Members commit to progressively increasing the proportion of food and beverage products sourced from sustainable agricultural practices.

This target will involve a modelled agreement to source from a selected network of British Farms to reduce and eventually remove intensively farmed and ecologically damaging livestock and produce from the supply chain.

# Short-Term Targets

## Reduction of Single-Use Packaging

Members undertake to minimize the use of single-use packaging and implement a mandatory charge (of at least 30p per cup) for single-use cups within one year of joining the charter. This commitment aims to discourage the use of disposable items and promote the adoption of reusable alternatives, thereby reducing waste and environmental pollution.

## Sustainable Agriculture

As part of this commitment Sustainable SU members aspire to integrate organic products into their offerings. This commitment seeks to promote organic and biodynamic farming practices, which are inherently more environmentally sustainable than conventional methods.

In 2025, Members agree to provide representation to a working group to investigate ways to drive sustainable agriculture forward within the supply chain and member operations to determine robust, affordable and achievable targets.



# Medium-Term Targets

## Sourcing from NUS Services Assured Suppliers

In further commitment to sustainability, Sustainable SUs pledge to source where possible through a collective, unified supply chain. To enable supply chain transformation and optimise sustainable sourcing by prioritizing NUS-assured suppliers, Sustainable SUs will work together to develop processes on how we integrate, screen and prioritize suppliers on a range of criterion; building a future-proofed approach to ethical sourcing through a fully unified approach.

Ethical Consumer Research Association currently provides independent supplier reviews for NUS Services to consider.

## Better Sourcing Framework & Animal Welfare:

All animal protein supplied to Sustainable SUs must comply with the Better Sourcing Framework. This framework sets out a basic, better and best approach to animal welfare. Sustainable SUs' Animal Welfare Policy applies to all products sourced domestically and internationally. It is inclusive of all relevant species, including but not limited to beef, pork, lamb, poultry, dairy, fish, and laying hens.

## Clothing

Clothing is a high risk category for biodiversity loss, workers' rights violations, pollution and carbon intensity. Charter Members seek to ensure that the clothing they sell protects nature, respects workers' rights and that any supplier(s) they choose have no outstanding critical factors in the factories that supply them or in their own operations.

As part of Sustainable SUs' developing work in this area, organic and Fairtrade cotton products should form an increasing part of the ranges on offer. We plan to do some more work in this area in 2025 which will include looking a circularity, re-use and take back options. NUS Services is also looking at consolidating clothing suppliers to a maximum of 3.

## Measuring Recycling Rates

Volumes of waste and recycling can generally give a good indication of wider impact reductions. It is common to measure waste to landfill (for example) and to seek to manage this down. Sustainable SUs plan to explore this as part of its core commitments.

# Student Engagement

Being a students' union, our primary focus lies with providing a space and a community for our students to express themselves, have their voice heard, and get involved, therefore student engagement is a key element of our sustainability strategy.

**We want to inspire and encourage students to take action, championing them to induce change through activities and student led groups which provide them with an outlet for their ideas, concerns and suggestions.**

As well as ensuring the operational side of the organisation is running as sustainably as possible, it is important to us at NTSU that our students are involved and also have the opportunity to do so. Offering work that is meaningful and impactful to engage them in influencing sustainable progress is a key area of focus for NTSU.

Over the last year there have been numerous activities available to students to enable them in getting involved with sustainability. Whether this was through activities run by the sustainability officer, joint work with NTU, or through our Give it a Go scheme.



# Activities Over The Last Year

**7 students attended tree planting with GIAG**

**Ran a calculate your own carbon footprint stall at Mansfield campus**

**173 students answered a questionnaire on waste and recycling at the housing fair**

**357 students answered the SOS-UK Skills Survey giving feedback on how sustainability is embedded into the curriculum and the importance in career prospects**

**810 course reps trained in sustainability**

**433 students visted the sustainability stall at the freshers fair**

**21 student sustainability reps**

**26 students attended a focus group giving feedback on NTSU's environmental and social sustainability**

**10 students got involved with Buglife - wildlife seed planting at Brackenhurst campus**

**6 students got involved with the Dryden Herb Garden - weeding and clearing the area**

# External Recognition

Nottingham Trent Students' Union is recognised as a leader in the field of sustainability amongst students' unions.

**The following reflects our participation and impact in sustainability, demonstrating how we have received external recognition.**



# Green Impact Students' Union

This has been our second year being involved with Green Impact Students' Unions and are proud to say that we were awarded Excellent for the second year in a row.



**GISU is a framework which aids students' unions in building impactful projects and campaigns around climate justice and equality, curriculum reform, and health and wellbeing, whilst championing student voice and experience.**

We have previously been involved with GISU, back in 2014, and after deciding to take a break we rejoined in 2022. The work we are doing at NTSU always has the students at the forefront; GISU has allowed us to demonstrate how we engage and involve students in the sustainable pathways we are creating, so it is very rewarding to be recognised as being of excellent standard.

**"The work you've done is amazing and significant in the sector"**

**(Auditor Comment)**

# Green Impact Students' Union

**It is very important to us at NTSU that as we develop as an organisation, sustainability is embedded into our practices, as has been demonstrated thus far through this report.**

**"NTSU has clearly gone to great lengths to create programs based on student needs where the impact will be greatest, such as through their efforts to improve recycling rates"**

**(Auditor Comment)**

Responding to students' needs is a large part of this, ensuring that we are delivering in a way that supports our sustainable development incorporating the demands and expectations of our students.

We have worked with the framework to guide us in driving sustainable initiatives that are for students and student led.

## **Some of our activities ran in line with GISU include:**

- Student focus groups
- Course rep training
- Sustainability inductions for new starters
- Outstanding commitment to sustainability award at the student led teaching awards
- The initiation of a recycling campaign to inform students moving into new houses on how to recycle
- Mental health campaign
- Clothes swaps
- Promotion of NTU's allotment at Clifton campus
- Tree planting activities
- Crafternoons where recycled materials are used to create something new
- Introducing reusable cups at our Brackenhurst campus



# EcoCampus

In 2022 we started our journey towards gaining ISO14001 accreditation, aiming to get there with the help of the EcoCampus framework.

This year we have achieved Silver status, with just Gold and Platinum remaining before becoming the first students' union to be independently accredited with ISO14001.

## What Is ISO14001?

ISO14001 is an internationally recognised Environmental Management System, it provides a framework for organisations to design and implement their EMS to continually improve their environmental performance. An EMS is a system which integrates policy, procedures, and processes that help to control the activities, products, and processes that cause, or could cause, harm to the environment.

By implementing an EMS, NTSU are able to assess and evaluate the impact we are having on the environment and put the appropriate measures and precautions in place to mitigate this as much as possible.



# Our Journey So Far

Working with EcoCampus has provided a framework for developing our EMS in line with the requirements for ISO14001.

**It is a specialised programme for educational institutions which maps out the correct procedures for ensuring environmental risks and opportunities are considered within an organisation.**

There are 4 stages involved with EcoCampus: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum, and reaching Platinum comes with ISO14001 accreditation. We have achieved Silver and are on track to reach Gold by the end of 2024, each stage introduces new areas of an EMS which are required to build a system which falls in line with the components of ISO14001.

Some of the procedures already in place include: creating a risks and opportunities register acknowledging what areas of the organisation have an environmental impact, creating a roles and responsibilities catalogue to understand who in the organisation is held accountable for different areas of impact, and outlining the process for response to any events that may cause environmental harm, for example a cooking oil spillage.

# Next Steps . . .

As we enter into the next academic year we are aiming to reach the Gold Phase by the end of term one, and continue to work towards Platinum by the end of 2025.

As we work with EcoCampus we gain more knowledge and experience to ensure our EMS is of high standard and quality and incorporates all of the necessary components as an education institution to manage our environmental impact as much as possible.



# Looking Ahead

NTSU have started their journey towards creating an organisation that offers the spaces and has the culture to embrace and champion sustainability.

**The initiatives, procedures, and conversations over the past few years have built the foundations for NTSU to continue to grow their sustainable development.**

**Looking ahead to what the future holds for NTSU, sustainability has been embedded into strategy and policy to ensure all development moving forwards enhances the work being done.**



# Our Roadmap For The Following Years



# Students

Over the next academic year, focus will be placed on encouraging student led activity that allows students to get involved, have their voice heard, and contribute to the sustainable development of NTSU.

We aim to increase the collaboration between NTSU and societies and student groups to promote sustainability and increase student engagement.

Through running more campaigns such as recycling habits and awareness of the sustainable development goals, we continue to involve our students and elicit positive behaviour change.

# Developing NTSU

We recognise that NTSU has direct impacts on the environment; in a time that is becoming increasingly governed and controlled by public opinion in the face of climate change, depletion of resources, socio-economic inequalities, and habitat degradation, it is essential we continue to understand our impact and make the decision to minimise it as much as possible.

Our journey to ISO14001 certification will see the progression through the EcoCampus stages, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of our Environmental Management Systems, as well as better inform our governance structures to take the appropriate sustainable steps.

As we move into the next academic year, we continue to stay committed to reducing our negative environmental impact as much as possible, incorporating the processes of circularity, educating and engaging our students, and being considerate of our community and its environment.

## Get in Touch

### NTSU Sustainability Officer

For any queries relating to the report, NTSU's progress and activity, and any general questions, contact:

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