



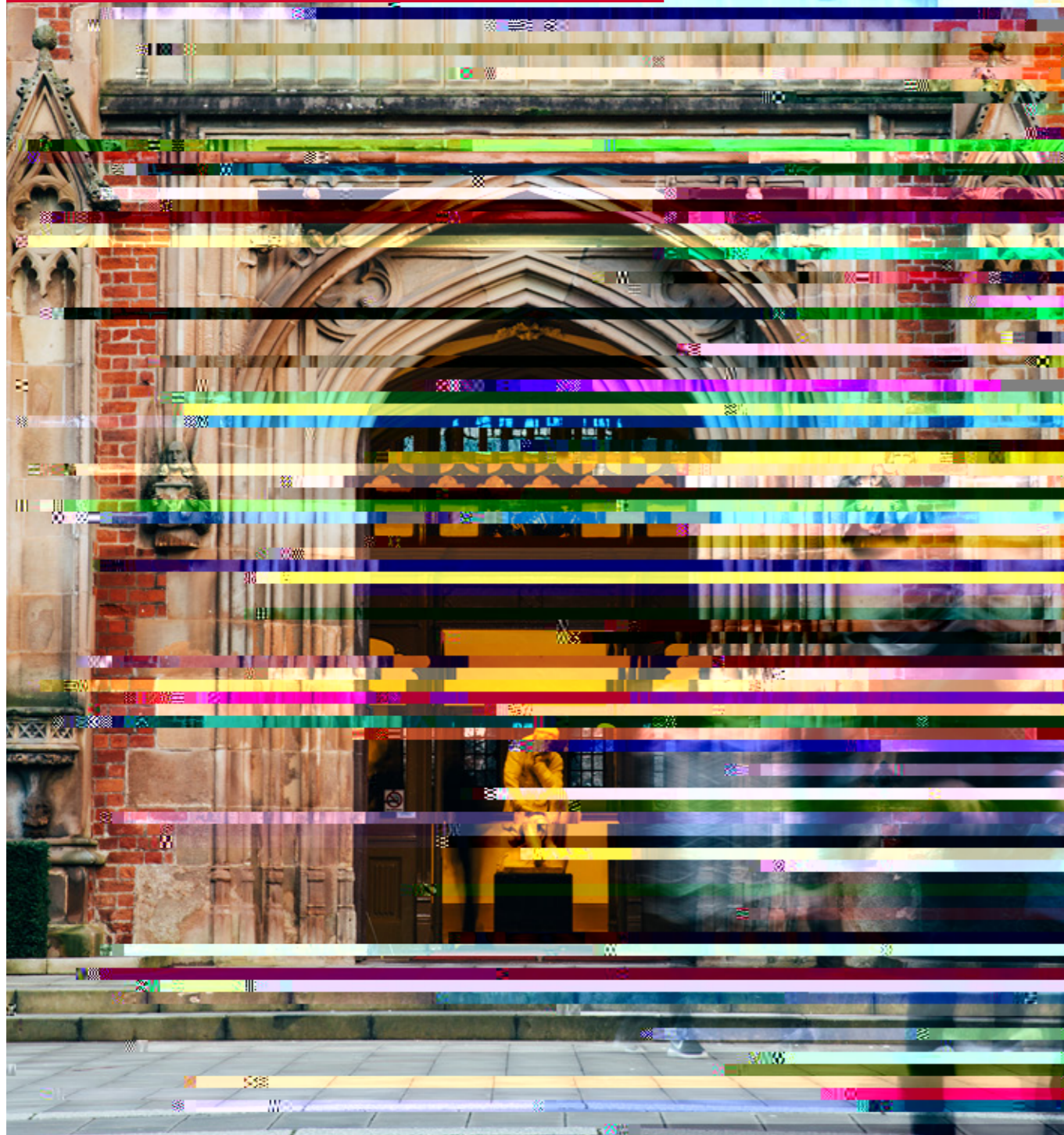
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# ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2022 23



VICE-CHANCELLOR S FORWARD  
SUSTAINABILITY IN NUMBERS

VICE  
CHANCELLOR S  
FORE W



# SUSTAINABILITY IN NUMBERS 2022 23

10

ELECTRIC VEHICLE  
CHARGING POINTS  
INSTALLED

115

VOLUNTEERING  
COLLABORATIONS  
WITH EXTERNAL  
ORGANISATIONS

27,000

1,530

WASTE DIVERTED  
FROM LANDFILL

94%

82% STUDENTS  
AND 55% STAFF  
USED SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSPORT TO GET  
TO CAMPUS

113

STUDENTS VOLUNTEERED FOR THE  
HOMEWORK CLUBS INITIATIVE

423 STUDENTS TOOK  
PART IN CARBON  
LITERACY TRAINING

Queen's University Belfast is committed to social and civic responsibility and to supporting economic growth in an environmentally sustainable way both locally and globally.

# BEING SUSTAINABLE AT QUEEN'S



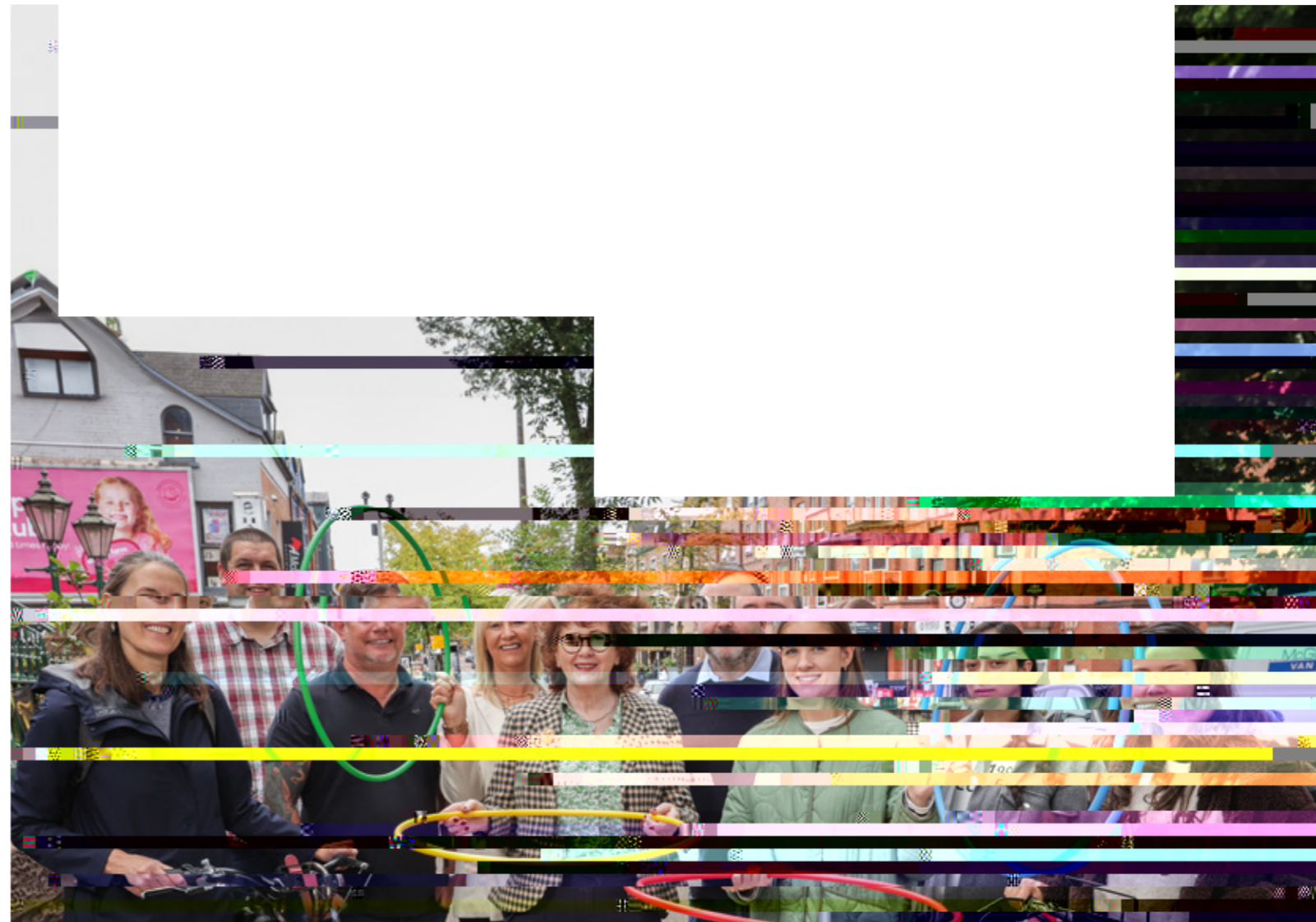
Image: Green Flag Awards, Summer 2023

Our first annual sustainability report captures a range of exceptional activities that have occurred within Queen's university campus and beyond with our key stakeholders and partners.

It is through research, education, events, initiatives, and projects that Queen's University is achieving the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These Goals provide a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, both now and into the future.

## KEY REPORT THEMES

- Research and Sustainable Solutions
- Sustainability in our Education
- Sustainability in Campus Activities
- Outreach and Partnership
- Engaging our University
- Community on Sustainability




## A PATHWAY TO OUR RENEWABLE FUTURE

### 9 INDISTRY, INNOVATION & infrastructure

The Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE) is an industry-led sustainable energy research centre that is bridging the gap between industry needs and academic research.

The publication of 'A Pathway to our Renewable Future' report has showcased that Northern Ireland has the potential to be an international leader in sustainable energy by building on regional innovation, with its inherent strengths in manufacturing, renewables, agriculture, education, and community development.

Research by CASE into anaerobic digestion, community energy systems, biomethane, wind, wave, tidal and gas power systems has enabled them to create a pathway to generating sustainable energy that also achieves inclusive and green growth.

 'A Pathway to our Renewable Future' sets out a series of recommendations for Northern Ireland, including calling for a 'whole of government approach' in order to change how we do things, address the challenges ahead and maximise the economic benefits for society.



Professor David Rooney,  
School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering





## 02

## GREENING OUR FUTURE CHEMISTS



## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

The School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering has developed a Green Chemistry module which provides students with context and active learning that enables them to design routes to chemicals products in a way that minimises the use of hazardous materials and the creation of toxic products and waste. In doing so, it incorporates green chemistry principles into all chemical synthesis methods to create solutions and materials for society in a clean and sustainable way.

The module includes workshops that bring together support services, alumni and local industry to empower students to tackle real-world problems in a holistic manner, whilst gaining subject-specific, employability skills and experience in group work, presentation and self-reflection.

## BUILDING A CARBON LITERATE COMMUNITY

### 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

In partnership with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Carbon Literacy Training has been rolled out across campus. The course provides staff and students with certified training on carbon literacy and climate action, with over 900 members of our community becoming carbon literate. The interactive training provides staff and students with an understanding of climate change science and the climate impacts of our everyday actions. It encourages people to map their own carbon footprint and the motivation to reduce personal and organisational carbon emissions.

**//** In 2022, the School of Natural and Built Environment was the first school within the University to introduce mandatory Carbon Literacy Training to all our Level One students, as a result of the school declaring a climate emergency. Training equips our students with the information they need to address key environmental challenges in their careers, and personal lives.



Dr Will Megarry,  
School of Natural and Built Environment



Image: Queen's University Belfast Annual Student Summit, January 2023





### QUEEN'S 2GOCUP INITIATIVE

Campus Food and Drink launched their new waste reduction initiative alongside the Agreement 25 Conference in 2023, which was hosted to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. The 2GoCup initiative provides all large-scale events within Queen's University Campus with reusable cups rather than disposable cups.

Launching their 2GoCup initiative within the Agreement 25 Conference prevented the use of over 10,000 disposable cups.

### SOURCING OUR WATER SUSTAINABLY



REMOVAL OF 556  
DESKTOP PRINTERS



## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY CLEANS UP THE STREETS OF SOUTH BELFAST

In 2022-23, the University hosted its annual autumn and spring litter picks. The University worked in collaboration with Live Here Love Here, Orchardville charity and European Week for Waste Reduction campaign. This is the 10th year that students and staff have taken to the streets to support a cleaner environment.

**//** The litter-pick events are important to our Queen's community, as it is a way for staff and students to give back to our local community, whilst having a positive impact on our local environment. We are lucky to have staff, students and community members who want to get involved and act in any way they can to better our planet, which is very much in keeping with Queen's commitments to sustainability.



Jonny Baxter,  
Students' Union



Sara Lynch,  
Estates Directorate

Sara Lynch,  
Estates Directorate



### TACKLING THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS



In 2022 a support package of £7.69 million was created for students and staff facing the cost of living crisis. This included the creation of The Pantry, a food re-fill station which has helped alleviate financial pressures for students. A first year Psychology student who visited the Pantry said, "I save around 30% off my weekly shop when I use the Pantry a couple of times a week – this is a great initiative."

The Pantry has also created more employment opportunities within the Students' Union. A final year Linguistics student commented: "I work in the Pantry so not only does it provide me with income, I also get my pasta and herbs every week!"

### RECOGNISING OUR HISTORY VIA THE AGREEMENT 25 CONFERENCE



The focus of the world was on Belfast as global political leaders past and present arrived in Belfast to mark the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement in April 2023. Former President of the United States, President Bill Clinton, and the Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast, Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton, were among the global leaders who took part in the conference.

### RESILIENCE AT QUEEN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week 2023, a selection of personalities and experts from the worlds of academia, sport, business and the media visited Queen's. Hosted at the Queen's Film Theatre by BBC Radio's Cate Conway, panel members shared their experiences of learning to deal with anxiety and pressure from the boxing ring to the boardroom. Paralympian Gold Medallist Dr Michael McKillop, Kaffee O business owner and Transplant Games World Record holder Orla Smyth, retired Belfast Giants player Kevin Raine, former professional boxer Jamie Conlon, Chief Executive of Action Mental Health David Babington, and Dr Karen Galway, Senior Lecturer in Mental Health in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Queen's, all spoke on their experiences of building a resilient mindset.

### QUEEN'S ACCOMMODATION ALLOTMENT AND GARDENS

The Residential Life Team, in collaboration with the Green at Queen's Student Society, established an allotment and community garden within Queen's largest accommodation site, Elms Village. Since its launch, the allotment has expanded to include 13 raised beds, a range of RSPB approved pollinator plants, a polytunnel, and an orchard comprised of apple, plum, and cherry trees. In 2022-23, our student allotment and garden continued to thrive with the Residential Life Team hosting a range of events, aimed at providing a wellbeing space for students to socialise within while establishing an understanding of where their food comes from and how to grow their own.



## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

2022 23 2021 22 2018 19

Total Scope 1 & 2 Location-based carbon emissions - energy and fuel use (tCO e)	19,448	20,503	21,631
Total Scope 1 and 2 Market-based carbon emissions - energy and fuel use (tCO e)	13,967	16,387	21,631
Carbon emissions from water use (tCO e) <sup>2</sup>	34	20	74
Total Scope 1 & 2 Location-based carbon emissions per FTE staff and student (tCO e / FTE)	0.780	0.822	0.971
Total Scope 1 & 2 Market-based carbon emissions per FTE staff and student (tCO e / FTE)	0.560	0.657	0.971
Total Scope 1 & 2 Location-based carbon emissions per total income (tCO e / £0000)	41.64	46.81	59.26
Total Scope 1 & 2 Market-based carbon emissions per total income (tCO e / £0000)	30.30	41.28	59.26
Scope 3 emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	73,167	69,169	81,962
Total water consumption (m <sup>3</sup> )	194,805	131,907	215,067
Waste diverted from landfill (%)	94.64	90.71	92.16
External Awards for Sustainability Initiatives	5	2	1
Modal split for commuting staff by single occupancy car journey (%)	44.0	30.6	30.6
Modal split for commuting staff by sustainable travel (%)	55.0	64.8	64.8
Modal split for commuting student by single occupancy car journey (%)	17.0	13.0	13.0
Modal split for commuting students by sustainable travel (%)	82.0	85.0	85.0
Number of staff and students who have completed Carbon Literacy Training	557	340	0

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[@greenatqueens](https://www.instagram.com/greenatqueens)