

Student and staff sustainability behaviours surveys 2021-22

1; Student sustainability behaviours survey 2021-22

Student survey highlights

- Continued low response rate.
- Overall, over 80% of students responding were committed to sustainability.
- Continued good awareness of efforts to promote the SDGs and increasing awareness of efforts to reduce GHG emissions.
- However, students' awareness of the university's other sustainability measures declined, possibly due to continuing changes in time spent on-campus and variable engagement with online campaign and promotional materials.
- Some post-Covid impacts on the percentage students adopting sustainability behaviours and consumption practices, with a drop in some areas such as cup reuse.

Responses from students to the survey were only marginally higher than last year's 'Covid-19 year' (n= 137) reflecting continuing study disruption over the survey period from November 2021 to March 2022 due to the Omicron variant (December/January) and continuing challenges in engagement with surveys sent via email.

Similarly to last year's survey, the majority of the respondents were full time undergraduate home students and were female and aged under 25.

Sustainability awareness and sustainability behaviours amongst students

The survey asked about students' awareness of the university's sustainability measures, the sustainability measures within their student residence and also their own personal sustainability behaviours.

Issue	% very or somewhat aware 2020-21	% very or somewhat aware 2021-22	% rating efforts good or very good 2020-21	% rating efforts good or very good 2021-22
Conservation of energy	64	56	72	46
Bus	58	44	52	36
Cycling	74	63	69	47
Car share	59	46	48	35
Recycling	81	74	80	58
Sustainable food	60	62	63	49
GHG emissions	53	56	55	43
Biodiversity	57	48	67	43
SDGs	49	47	55	44

Overall, over 80% of students responding remained committed to sustainability, although fewer indicated they were very committed (21% compared to 35%) and slightly fewer indicated they were somewhat committed (62% compared to 66%). Pleasingly, awareness of the university's efforts to promote the SDGs remained broadly the same and awareness of efforts to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions increased slightly, highlighting the positive impact of promotions such as the SDG Teach-in and our work on energy and zero-carbon. Equally, awareness of efforts to promote sustainable food remained broadly similar, indicating continued impact of campaigns such as SU-

eatable. However, disappointingly, there was a decline in student awareness of other sustainability measures such as energy conservation and promoting public transport and cycling, perhaps reflecting continued disrupted patterns of on campus study and variable engagement with online campaigns and promotions. This reduced awareness also had an impact of students' rating of the university's efforts, with fewer rating efforts either good or very good and more saying efforts were 'fair'. Reductions in ratings for promotion of energy conservation may relate to advice to keep windows open during the winter due to continued Covid advice.

In terms of household recycling and energy efficiency measures, compared to last year, an even higher proportion of students (93%) had a recycling bin in their current student residence, but far fewer had a compost bin (29%) or recycling information posters (44%), perhaps reflecting the fact that under a third of respondents lived in student halls where these things are available. Slightly fewer had programmable thermostats (55%) and compact fluorescent light bulbs or LED light bulbs (41%), and a similar low number had water saving items (22%). Slightly more had energy saving systems such as solar panels compared to last year (11%) and a significantly higher proportion had indoor light motion sensors (46%), again perhaps reflecting a return to shared student accommodation and halls where these are available.

In terms of students' sustainability behaviours in energy and resource consumption, in comparison to last year's survey, a slightly lower proportion (74%) said they always turned lights off when leaving a room and a similar (57%) switched off electrical devices when not in use. Compared to last year, a similar number said they would always set their thermostat to 21 degrees or lower during cool or cold weather (34%), would always operate a washing machine only when they had a full load of clothes (72%). Compared to last year, a slightly lower percentage would always limit the time they had in the shower (26%), would always use a reusable water bottle, coffee cup, travel mug, etc. (69%), would always print double sided to save paper (36%) and would always check the recycling labels on products before deciding which bins they should be deposited in (51%). This indicates some changes in behaviour post-Covid, such as in cup reuse.

In terms of sustainable consumption practices, in comparison to last year, a lower proportion said they either sometimes or always shopped for items with minimal packaging (61% compared to 70% the previous year), and a slightly lower number donated unwanted items to charitable organisations, etc. (51% compared to 57%) or had purchased something second-hand from a charity shop or from an online site (56% compared to 60%). Slightly fewer had also repaired a broken item or visited a local Repair Café (44% compared to 50%). These changes again perhaps reflect the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on behaviours and habits and campaigning around these and it is clear this has had an impact in checking the upward trend in recent years in the development of sustainable consumption practices.

A lower proportion always went for a walk/looked at nature to relax or feel better (49% compared to 61%), slowing a decline in behaviours developed during lockdown and a return to proportions undertaking this activity before lockdown restrictions.

2; Staff sustainability behaviours survey 2021-22

Staff survey highlights

- Higher response rate
- Overall, staff continue to be overwhelmingly committed to sustainability, with 98% either very or somewhat committed.
- Continued good awareness of efforts to promote the SDGs and increasingly high awareness of efforts to reduce GHG emissions and increase biodiversity on campus.
- Some reduction in awareness of efforts to promote public transport, cycling and car share and reductions in those rating promotion as either good or very good.
- Staff adoption sustainability behaviours and consumption practices has remained stable, but with some increases in the adoption of energy efficiency measures and sustainable consumption practices, notably reuse and repair.

Responses from staff to the survey were excellent, with 502 responses, almost double last years number (269) and also an increase on the year prior to that (374). Similarly to last year's survey, the majority of the respondents were female, a full-time employee of the university for over three years and aged over 35.

Sustainability awareness and sustainability behaviours amongst staff

The survey asked about staff awareness of the university's sustainability measures, the sustainability measures within their home, and also their sustainability behaviours.

Issue	% very or somewhat aware 2020-21	% very or somewhat aware 2021-22	% rating efforts good or very good 2020-21	% rating efforts good or very good 2021-22
Conservation of energy	80	84	64	60
Bus	75	67	56	42
Cycling	85	81	71	59
Car share	80	70	57	39
Recycling	91	89	77	70
Sustainable food	69	69	58	53
GHG emissions	61	74	53	54
Biodiversity	63	75	57	67
SDGs	62	63	52	48

Overall, staff continued to be overwhelmingly committed to sustainability, with similar high percentages to last year being either very committed (41%) or somewhat committed (57%). Pleasingly, awareness of the university's efforts to promote the SDGs remained broadly the same and awareness of efforts to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and to improve campus biodiversity increased significantly, highlighting the positive impact of promotions such as the SDG Teach-in, our work on energy and zero-carbon and the work on wildflower planting and wildlife on campus. Equally, awareness of efforts to promote sustainable food remained broadly similar, indicating continued impact of campaigns such as SU-eatable. However, disappointingly, there was some decline in staff awareness of efforts to promote public transport, cycling and car share and reductions in those rating promotion of these as either good or very good. This may reflect continuing impacts, post-Covid, of changed work and travel patterns, reflected within the wider city

and region with reduced public transport use and low cycling take up. There is clearly work to do here in terms of how the university promotes alternatives to the car.

In terms of household recycling and energy efficiency measures, similar to last year, all staff (100%) had a recycling bin at home, but fewer had a compost bin (56%). More had programmable thermostats (91%) and compact fluorescent light bulbs or LED light bulbs (92%), but slightly less had water saving items (35%), and fewer had energy saving systems such as solar panels (7%) or indoor light motion sensors (16%), although the percentage having these had increased slightly from last year, apart from having energy saving systems such as solar panels.

In terms of staff sustainability behaviours in energy and resource consumption, in comparison to last years' survey, a similar proportion (83%) said they always turned lights off when leaving a room and switched off electrical devices when not in use (59%). A high proportion (77%) said they would always set their thermostat to 21 degrees or lower during cool or cold weather and would always operate a washing machine only when they had a full load of clothes (84%), but a lower percentage (46%) would always limit the time they had in the shower although an increasing percentage on the previous year (38%). Compared to last year, a similar percentage would always use a reusable water bottle, coffee cup, travel mug, etc. (69%), would always print double sided to save paper (also 69%) and would check the recycling labels on products before deciding which bins they should be deposited in (66%).

In terms of sustainable consumption practices, in comparison to last year, a similar proportion said they always shopped for items with minimal packaging (31%), or always purchased something second-hand from a charity shop or from an online site (25%). A higher proportion always donated unwanted items to charitable organisations, etc. (51% compared to 42%) or always repaired a broken item or visited a local Repair Café (27% compared to 20%). These increases perhaps reflects the return to charity shop donations post-Covid restrictions and the increasing local promotion of services such as Worcester's repair café.

A similar proportion always went for a walk/looked at nature to relax or feel better (69% compared to 71%), a continuation of behaviours developed during lockdown and a similar percentage (23%) often used the university mile.

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