

## **Press Release**

**For immediate release**

### **London Metropolitan University has been named as number one university for carbon reduction**

London Metropolitan University has been named top in the annual Brite Green carbon reduction report.

The University Carbon Report, published by sustainability consultancy Brite Green, shows universities in England have achieved their best year-on-year reduction in carbon emissions to date. Total emissions for English universities fell by 7 per cent in the 2015/16 academic year, in comparison to a 10 per cent reduction over the previous 10 years.

The report reveals that most universities fell by 7% in the 2015/16 academic year, in comparison to a 10% reduction over the previous 10 years. This is the sector's best year-on-year reduction in carbon emissions to date.

London Met's recognition comes after the University has seen a 57% decrease in carbon emission since 2005, topping other universities such as the University of Cumbria, who came second, and the School of Oriental and African Studies, who were placed third.

Rachel Ward, Sustainability Manager at London Met, said: "I am delighted that we have been named the leading university in this report. It comes after our efforts as an institution and shows that what we have implemented is working.

"I want to say a big thank you to not only the sustainability team, but also to the wider university. Everyone has played their part in helping us reach our targets.

"There is still a lot of work to be done, however, and I am looking forward to the next phase of our work."

Some of London Met's biggest achievements over the past year include installing bee hives on the roof to accommodate up to 80,000 bees, and subsequently produce their own honey, improving staff engagement with schemes such as Green Impact, and installing 221 solar panels which generate enough electricity to make 2.9m cups of tea a year.

Professor John Raftery, Vice-Chancellor at London Metropolitan University, said: "We believe universities have a duty to play a constructive role in reducing carbon emissions. Climate change and pollution are growing concerns, and we will continue to contribute solutions to these problems.

"There are many reasons why London Met excels in carbon reduction. One of the

key factors is that we are fortunate to have committed and innovative staff and students who have designed and led highly successful projects.”

“Universities across the country are demonstrating the benefits of implementing carbon management programmes, with some delivering incredible reductions” commented Darren Chadwick, Managing Partner at Brite Green.

“Sustainability is a key strategic issue for Universities and leading institutions recognise that it needs to be managed across all aspects of university life; from teaching and research to investment strategy and estates management.”

However, the report reveals that despite improved performance, the sector remains off track to meet its 2020 carbon reduction target of 43 per cent. If emissions continue to fall at the current rate, the sector is forecast to achieve only a 23 per cent reduction by 2020.

Key findings also show that each year more institutions are improving their individual performance, though the majority are still off track to meet their own targets. Of the 127 higher education institutions analysed, only 52 are projected to meet or exceed their 2020 targets.

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## **About London Metropolitan University**

London Metropolitan University has been providing education to people from all backgrounds since 1848, with the creation of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Working Men. Six schools teach cutting-edge, relevant courses across the arts, sciences, business, law and humanities. Accelerator – London Met’s specialist business incubator – helps graduates get their enterprises up and running and was named among the Top Five ‘Most Active’ accelerators in Europe in 2015, highlighting its contribution to London’s booming start-up industry.

London Met is home to world-leading academics who regularly give expert comment to the media. The University scored well in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, being ranked 4th in the country for Area Studies and performing strongly in Education and Social Studies.

The University is strongly focused on employability. In 2016, London Met recorded its highest ever graduate employment score, with 95% of all 2015/16 graduates in work or further study six months after graduation.

[londonmet.ac.uk/news](https://londonmet.ac.uk/news)

## **About Brite Green**

Brite Green is a sustainability strategy consultancy. We specialise in delivering enhanced commercial value through improved sustainability performance. We have extensive experience in the higher education sector including developing and revising carbon management plans, environmental management system support and audit, and supporting wider sustainability strategy development.

This is our fourth annual University Carbon Report. We analyse publicly available data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and HEFCE and carry out a data consultation process to ensure accuracy.

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