We are constantly looking for ways to reduce our consumption of materials, carbon emissions and minimise waste. The University has recently gained the Gold EcoCampus award. This was in recognition of our commitment to behavioural change, to reducing carbon emissions by 35% by 2015/16 and to making our campuses as eco-friendly as possible.

As an institution with a global reputation for sustainability and climate change research, we need to ensure good environmental practices permeate all that we do. This includes everything from building new facilities through recycling our waste to the everyday behaviour of staff and students.

To avoid the food waste we produce going to landfill, we send it to a local anaerobic digestion plant where it is used to generate electricity. We purchase 100% of our electricity from assured green and renewable energy sources.

We have successfully bid for over £750,000 of funding to help run projects that are reducing our carbon footprint, from insulation projects to more sensitive building management systems. However, ultimately, it is people that make the difference.

The University of Reading has some of the most beautiful university settings in the UK with many listed buildings. The main Whiteknights campus was once part of the Marquis of Blandford’s estate and some of his planting legacy remains. Greenlands on the River Thames dates back to the early-nineteenth century. Our London Road campus was the original home for the University, gifted to us in 1904. The Grounds and Maintenance Teams look after these historic landscapes, ensuring a beautiful environment in which to work and study.

We recycled over 53% of our waste last year which is well above the national target of 30%. We have also won awards for our methods of processing green waste, 99% of which is recycled through composting.

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‘The Whiteknights campus recently won a Green Flag Award for one of the best open spaces in the country.’

‘We are very proud that the University has been awarded Fairtrade status.’

We have over 250 environmental champions who help drive improved performance at a local level across the University. They helped to reduce electricity consumption among staff and students by 8.4% through the Switch Off campaign, for example.

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Building for a better future

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