

Water Efficiency Plan – Implementation Document

This is the Implementation Document for GCU's Water Efficiency Plan 2023 (approved by GCU's University Planning & Resourcing Group on 11th May 2023). It is a working document and will be updated as and when required. Changes will be documented in the Change Log included after the table with the proposed measures. The University's Head of Operational Sustainability has ownership of this document and all enquiries should be sent to (in the first instance) sustainability@gcu.ac.uk.

Ref.: WEP_M	Interventions	Theme	Delivery/Rationale	Target(s)	Outputs(s) (2029-2030)	Delivery Partners	Additional Resources	Progress Status
01	Appoint Energy Performance Manager.	Monitoring	The capacity for proactively managing water (and energy use) (a) promptly identifying and (b) rectifying wastage is limited in E&FM. A dedicated role will provide this capacity, which will include developing and managing water (and energy) saving projects.	[1] Energy Performance Manager in post by July 2023.	[a] Role in place.	Estates	Staffing costs approved as part of the 2022-23 Work Force Planning round.	Role approved – currently recruiting.
02	Sub-metering Plan	Monitoring Insights	With automatic meters at supply points, the University has limited visibility about where, when and how water is consumed across its Estate. Submetering will provide a more granular understanding of water consumption and allow the University to adopt a more evidence-based approach to improving water efficiency.	[2] Building submeters by July 2025 [3] Submeter C. Court by July 2026 [4] High user (within buildings) sub-metered by July 2026. [5] London properties sub-metered by July 2026.	[a] Water use balance for the University and its Estate	Estates	[2] Incorporated into the existing metering project. [3] estimated £8,000 one off. [4] £5,000 per year. [5] £5,000 per property every 5 years.	[2] In progress. [3-5] Not started.
03	Bench-marking	Monitoring Insights	Metrics help contextualise water consumption at GCU. Currently GCU has a good baseline for water use at the Campus. It would be beneficial (from an efficiency perspective) to develop comparable benchmarks for C. Court and London properties.	[6] Caledonian Court baseline established by July 2027. [7] London baseline developed by July 2028	[a] Water use metrics published and reviewed quarterly.	Sustainability	None.	Benchmark for Campus in place. Not started for other locations.
04	Minimise risk of water pollution	Monitoring	Establish and review controls to minimise the risk of water pollution from our operations (e.g. effectiveness of EMS Operational Control Procedures).	[8] Review effectiveness of Operational Control Procedures for Water and Hazardous Substances.	[a] No reported incidents of water pollution from campus operations.	Sustainability	None	EMS procedures in place.
05	Water Saving Interventions	Efficiency	Identify a pipeline of water savings interventions to reduce overall water consumption across GCU's Estate. Examples (not exhaustive: window washing regime, pressure testing, leak monitoring programme, process changes.	[9] List of water saving projects (first by Dec 2023).	[a] Funded water saving interventions.	Estates	£10-15,000 per year.	Considering flow restrictors and new taps. Measuring building pressure. Trialling sensors.
06	Water Saving Specification for Refurbs	Planning Efficiency	Develop an outline specification for saving water in different spaces (e.g. pantries, DSR, toilets and labs).	[10] Water saving specification for refurbishing different spaces by Dec 2023	[a] Water saving (refurb) specification document.	Estates	None	Investigating flow restrictors.

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07	Water Saving Specification for New Builds	Planning Efficiency	Develop an outline specification for saving water in new builds (potentially to build on specification for refurbishments by including grey/rain water harvesting).	[11] Water saving specification for new builds by Dec 2024.	[a] Water saving (new build) specification document.	Estates	None	No new builds planned. Will revisit if this changes.
08	Easy Water Loss Reporting	Monitoring Efficiency	Develop a simple method for dripping taps/leaking cisterns to be reported by anyone in the University. Currently, these issues would need to be reported through the helpdesk. Explore potential for a QR code/tinyurl (with a room number) to a form reporting mechanism.	[12] Create and pilot QR code to form in 2 buildings by May 2023. [13] Refine and deploy across the whole estate by September 2023.	[a] QR code to form	Estates	£1000 for student placement to generate and fix room specific QR codes.	Not started
09	Repair SLA	Efficiency	During 2022 there were 151 'plumber' incidents reported to E&FM's helpdesk, of which about 30% would be associated with freshwater leaks. It is important that these are promptly repaired to prevent damage and loss (financial).	[14] Agree SLA for repairing faulty water equipment by May 2023	[a] Water loss repaired to SLA	Estates	None	Not started
10	Student Projects	Insights Monitoring	Harness student expertise through projects (class/honours) to identify opportunities for saving water on campus.	[15] Annual water saving student projects.	[a] Report	Schools	£200 per project. Assume 2 per year.	2022-23 two MSc dissertations completed.
11	Water Management Framework	Planning	To ensure consistency/transparency of how water resources are managed at the University, explore merits of aligning water management systems with ISO 46001:2019 (Water efficiency management systems). This proposal draws on the benefits of operating with a mature environmental management system.	[16] Understand merits of aligning to ISO 46001 by July 2024	[a] decision on merits to align with ISO 46001	Estates	None	Not started
12	Climate Adaptation	Planning	Climate change models predict an increase in the intensity of rainfall events in the West of Scotland. Increased surface run-off is likely to place Glasgow's surface water drainage and sewerage systems under strain. There may be opportunities to use the University's grounds to attenuate surface water peaks during intense rainfall events (and linking to the University's Biodiversity and Master Plans).	[17] Incorporate rainfall/peak surface water attenuation measures into the University's Master Plan.	[a] Water attenuation measures incorporated into GCU's refreshed Master Plan.	Estates	None.	Not started.
13	Reporting	Monitoring	Report: annually (as part of GHG reporting cycle); and biennial overview of WEP activity and impact.	[18] Annual water consumption figures (PBCCD) reports (by Nov 2023) [19] Biennial report on activity and impact of WEP from Nov 2024.	[a] PBCCD Reporting data. [b] report	estates	None	[a] in place. [b] Not started.

Change Log

Date	Changes & Updates
21/5/2024	Updated. Changes highlighted.
5/1/2024	Updated. Changes highlighted.

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21/4/2023	Feedback from COO & Deputy VC Operations.
31/3/2023	Feedback from H. of Asset Management incorporated.
15/3/2023	Document Created.

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