

University of Greenwich Sustainability Policy

The University of Greenwich has over 20,000 students and over 1,500 staff based across three campuses: Avery Hill and Greenwich in London and Medway in Kent. In recent years it has made significant progress in improving its sustainability performance and is recognised, from the awards it has won.

Sustainability can be applied to deliver outcomes in all of our six corporate strategic objectives and supports all of our University values. Our role in teaching and research means we should educate future decision-makers and apply academic study to help solve many of the sustainability issues society faces. We also need to operate in ways that ensure we meet our economic and social responsibilities whilst protecting the natural systems upon which the institution ultimately depends. Climate change amongst many other major challenges can only be addressed by organisations such as ours taking the actions needed to reduce and eliminate these impacts.

Our decisions and actions will work to deliver sustainable outcomes. As a result, the University is committed to:

- Maintain or exceed compliance with all relevant UK legislation and regulations, and other relevant internal and external compliance obligations. We will retain our ISO 14001 certification and achieve its objectives and targets.
- Review all of our activities and operations, in order to identify, understand and evaluate all the direct and indirect environmental aspects and impacts. We will then prioritise action to address them.
- Ensure continuous improvement by establishing procedures and associated sustainability performance targets that are reviewed and externally reported annually. As a minimum we will report progress on our carbon, water, waste and recycling targets.
- Protect the environment by reducing resource use and preventing pollution by reducing and eliminating sources of pollution and developing appropriate control mechanisms.
- Work with partners and organisations that can help us achieve more sustainable outcomes ourselves and in collaborations.
- Ensure that sustainable development is fully understood by staff and students and is enshrined within all aspects of strategy, planning and activities with resources available to enable such.
- Continually improve our sustainability management system to enhance environmental performance.

In order to implement this policy the University undertook a baseline review of sustainability and has determined the following set of key sustainability impacts and associated objectives:

- **Education and Research for Sustainable Development:** Actively encourage and support the teaching of and research into sustainable development in the University supporting staff to embed principles of sustainable learning and teaching practice in curriculum development and delivery.

- **Energy and carbon:** Reduce energy use and to further explore the possibilities of less carbon intensive energy sources, either through the direct purchase of renewable energy or through an increased use of onsite renewables.
- **Waste and natural resources:** Prevent pollution by reducing harmful emissions and discharges and to promote the 'zero waste' principle (rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle) in order to minimise the environmental impact of the use of natural resources and waste disposal.
- **Procurement:** Implement the University's Sustainable Procurement Policy that supports the purchase of more sustainable products and services from responsible contractors and suppliers.
- **Food:** Work with catering contractors to ensure our Sustainable Food Policy is met and the University's Fairtrade accreditation is maintained.
- **Water:** Reduce water use and establish a utilities monitoring and targeting system.
- **Transport:** Minimise harmful emissions arising from business travel, commuting and deliveries by implementing the University-wide Green Travel Plan.
- **Construction and Refurbishment:** Incorporate the principles of sustainable development into all new build and refurbishment projects, integrate climate mitigation and adaptation measures where appropriate and feasible and ensure we maximise space utility and user needs.
- **Cultural and Natural Heritage:** Protect and conserve the heritage buildings occupied by the University and implement our Biodiversity Policy that actively protects and enhances wildlife on campus.
- **Community Involvement:** Build partnerships and take part in networks to share experience and knowledge of sustainability with the affiliated Student Unions and broader community and lead the debate on sustainability issues.
- **Staff and Student Wellbeing:** Use sustainable development activities to provide opportunities for positive stakeholder engagement.
- **Training, Awareness and Communication:** Increase the awareness and understanding of sustainable development and its practical application amongst all staff and students, through learning opportunities and training.

The University of Greenwich Sustainability Policy is fully supported by the Vice-Chancellor's Group and the Sustainability Management Board who have ultimate responsibility for setting and reviewing sustainability objectives and targets of the University. All staff, students, visitors, contractors and relevant external stakeholders share this responsibility. This policy is reviewed annually by the Vice-Chancellor.



Professor Jane Harrington

Vice Chancellor

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