

University of Greenwich Sustainability Policy

The University of Greenwich has almost 30,000 students and over 2,500 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, for the awards it has won and is proud to have a Sustainability Strategic Action Plan (SSAP) that integrates sustainability into our core areas of work.

The SSAP sets out the Priorities and targets it will achieve by 2030 supporting our corporate strategy 'This is Our Time' and underpins the vision of 'Education Without Boundaries'. Our role in teaching and research means we will educate future decision-makers and apply academic study to help solve many of the sustainability issues society faces. We will 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. This is reflected in our net zero ambitions.

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 (Environmental Management System) 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. We will annually report on our progress in delivering this policy including reporting on key metrics including carbon, water, waste and recycling
- Protect the environment by reducing resource use and preventing pollution through the development of appropriate control mechanisms. Collaborate with external partners that are aligned to our objectives to enhance our sustainable performance. 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.

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, decarbonise our estate and fleet, purchase zero carbon electricity and seek to increase use of onsite renewables.
- **Waste and natural resources:** Prevent pollution by reducing harmful emissions and discharges and to promote circular economy thinking in order to minimise the environmental impact of the use of natural resources and waste disposal, as

described within our Waste Action Plan

- **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 and Fairtrade accreditation is maintained.
- **Water:** Reduce water use and maintain 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 Ecosystems Services Policy and Action Plan 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 Greenwich Students' Union 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 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 Executive and has been approved by the Sustainability Management Committee which has responsibility for setting and reviewing Sustainability Policy objectives and targets of the university. All staff, students, visitors, contractors and relevant external stakeholders share this responsibility. This policy is reviewed annually.

Approved by the Sustainability Management Committee 27/11/2024

Professor Jane Harrington

Vice Chancellor and CEO, University of Greenwich

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1.1	November 2024	Head of Strategic Sustainability	Amends to context of the Policy, amends to wording of requirements and deletion of superfluous requirements.