

# ***St Mary's University Environmental Policy***



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## **Statement**

The core mission of St Marys University (SMU) is the education of its students. One aspect of such education is the demonstration by its actions of the University's concern for, and protection of its immediate and local physical environment. SMU recognises its responsibility and duty to be a responsible steward of the environment. As such, SMU shall seek to reduce its use of natural resources, increase its use of renewable energy and resources. SMU shall also continue to consider, develop and promote other measures within key areas such as energy, waste management, recycling, transportation and purchasing that will enhance and or positively change the physical environment that we and our neighbours live in. As a result, the development of priorities and the implementation of decisions regarding energy production and use, the use and development of our grounds, facilities construction, modernisation, maintenance, transportation, and materials that we use, will be informed by the environmental impact they have.

The threat of climate change has pushed energy to the top of the agenda once again and global warming is an environmental issue we cannot hide from. With increasing amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere causing the global climate to change there is a potential to see wide-ranging economic and social consequences. The UK government has set targets to cut carbon emissions with an anticipated 50% being achievable through the increased efficiency of existing energy use.

## **Commitment**

St Mary's University is striving to reduce its impacts on the environment and aspires to be a leading 'green' University. One of our four Strategic Aims specified in our Corporate Plan is 'To manage our resources effectively and imaginatively to ensure a sustainable future and to provide maximum value for our students'. With education at the core of our mission, we aim to increase environmental awareness and promote the principles of sustainability in all our activities involving students, staff and the wider community.

We recognise the importance of managing the impact of our day-to-day operations on the environment, reducing environmental impacts and resource consumption. For example, we have a Carbon Management Plan which aims to significantly reduce carbon emissions by 2020 based on a 2005 baseline, a Sustainable Food Policy which commits to serving sustainable food on campus and to Fair Trade accreditation and a Travel Plan which is encouraging staff, students and visitors to use more sustainable modes of transport and reducing dependency on car use. We are working towards a more sustainable future and aim to integrate sustainability into all our operations, policies and strategies so that decisions are based on finding a balance between economic, social and environmental factors.

**The University is committed to the achievement of environmental good practice throughout our activities by:**

- Maintaining, and enhancing, the quality of the University's environment, not only for staff and students but for the wider community;
- Improving the health and wellbeing of our staff and students;
- Complying with, and where appropriate, exceeding, applicable legal and other requirements relevant to our operations;
- Preventing pollution whilst introducing Environmental Management systems to assist the drive towards continual environmental improvement.
- Seeking to integrate sustainability into our strategies, policies and operations so that decisions are based on finding a balance between economic, social and environmental factors;
- Actively progressing a Carbon Management Plan to deliver reduced carbon emissions from energy consumption by 2020 based on a 2005 baseline;
- Promoting the prudent use of natural resources and the minimisation of waste by both staff and students;

- Ensuring sustainable design, development and build in line with a new master campus development plan to provide and maintain world class research and teaching facilities.
- Ensuring campus infrastructure and facilities are upgraded and maintained to support future developments;
- Implementing a travel plan that encourages reduced dependency on car use and improves the transport options available to both staff and students;
- Maintaining biodiversity and enhancing the campus grounds;
- Working with the Higher Education sector, all relevant external authorities, environmental bodies and associations to keep up to date with latest developments and share best practice;
- Working with our Suppliers and Contractors to ensure the best use of natural resources and to minimise the environmental impact of their goods and supplies;
- Developing awareness of our staff and students of the impact they have on the environment and help them to minimise this impact;
- Working with the local community on social and environmental issues to enhance the local environment and be a good neighbour; and
- Communicating this Policy to the University community and beyond

The University will seek to:

- Maintain sufficient expertise to advise the University on its legal responsibilities and current best environmental practice and establishing a legal environmental register
- Reduce discharges, emissions, pollution and waste
- Minimise the use of energy, raw materials, and supplies and utilising resources more efficiently and sustainably
- Ensure that environmental impacts are minimised and resources used efficiently in the following areas:
- Building construction, design, maintenance and refurbishment
- Biodiversity and grounds maintenance
- Carbon management
- Food
- Procurement from contractors and suppliers
- Transport and travel
- Waste
- Water

- Continue with the provision of bespoke recycling bins across campus and further additional specialist recycling points for toners and battery disposal within the main campus library and maintain the interactive map on the University website <http://www.stmarys.ac.uk/about/corporate-socialresponsibility.htm>. Detailed Bin type and locations can also be seen in appendix A

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July 2016

St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

**Appendix A - Recycling Location Detail**

# St Mary's University Twickenham London



Recycling Points	
Ref	Type
1	Glass – Mixed Recycling / General
2	Mixed Recycling / General
3	Mixed Recycling / General
4	Mixed / General –Cardboard Baler
5	Glass – Mixed / General
6	Mixed Recycling / General
7	Mixed Recycling / General
8	Mixed Recycling / General
9	Mixed Recycling / General
10	Mixed Recycling / General
11	Mixed Recycling / General
12	Mixed Recycling / General
13	Mixed Recycling / General
14	Mixed Recycling / General
15	Mixed Recycling / General
16	Recycling and general Compactors
17	Mixed Recycling / General
18	Glass – Mixed Recycling / General

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