

Sustainability and Environment Policy



1. Introduction

St Mary's University is a growing University set in an attractive South West London suburb. We recognise our responsibilities to the environment and the impact of our actions on our students, staff, local and wider community. We are committed to meeting and developing our environmental obligations and raising the profile of sustainability across our students, staff and stakeholders.

2. Responsibilities

We expect our staff, students, contractors and visitors to comply with this policy and environmental legislation. We will work towards minimising environmental impact and embracing existing and new sustainability measures.

3. Environmental actions

We will aim to improve our environmental performance through the development of individual strategic objectives covering several key areas set out below. These areas include not only physical factors such as waste and water but also socio-economic factors such as employment conditions and access to education.

a) Carbon, energy and water

We will work towards reducing our water and energy consumption and carbon emissions through upgrading existing systems and investing in new systems where appropriate. This will be backed up by regular monitoring, measuring and reporting on energy and water consumption on an on-going basis and an update of our existing Carbon Management Plan.

b) Waste management

We will minimise waste through the efficient use recycling opportunities and use of recyclable products and materials. We will continue to promote correct separation of waste and minimise contamination in the recyclable waste stream through engagement with our students, staff and contractors.

c) Supply chain

We will ensure that sustainability is an embedded part of our procurement process including the ability to recycle and re-use as well as sustainable food sources. Suppliers bidding for major contracts will need to demonstrate that they have established sustainability standards.

d) Biodiversity

The ecological value of our natural assets will be promoted and protected. Students and staff will be supported in using these assets as a learning resource.

e) People

We will ensure that our staff are paid a fair wage and have the opportunity to be involved in the promotion of sustainability within the University and to volunteer and enhance their skills with sustainability projects. Where appropriate, sustainability awareness will be integrated into academic teaching. We will ensure that appropriate internal resources are used to manage and implement this policy and strategic objectives.

f) Transport

We will promote and facilitate sustainable modes of travel including walking, cycling, travelling by public transport and car sharing and explore options for reducing the need to travel. We will maintain our Green Travel Plan.

4. Policy management and review

This policy will be managed and implemented by the Chief Operating Officer, the Director of Estates and Campus Services and other Directors as required through a series of separate strategic objectives. The Chief Operating Officer will provide an annual report on the University's performance against its objectives which will be reviewed by the Finance and Resources Committee.

5. Policy availability

This policy will be freely available on our website within dedicated sustainability pages and will be communicated to staff and students. Contractors and businesses working for and with the University will be made aware of the policy and strategic objectives and asked to comply wherever appropriate.

Anthony McClaran, Vice-Chancellor

Last updated: 1st June 2023

Next update: 1st June 2024