

University of Westminster: Sustainability Policy

The University of Westminster has a long and distinctive history, established as the UK’s first polytechnic in 1838 we have always held a unique place in the heart of London; respectful and aware of the impact we have on our environment and local, national and international communities. We are committed to being a sustainable and socially responsible university and as such we recognise that our activities have potential to positively and negatively impact the local, national and global environment. We are committed to managing and reducing our environmental impacts and developing our operation in a sustainable manner, adopting best practice and putting sustainable-thinking at the forefront of our decision making processes.

We need to respond to the challenges we face globally around issues such as climate change, food, good health and well-being, procurement, equality, sustainable cities and communities, water and energy security. As a response to this, the University is working towards ensuring that sustainable development is fully embraced by our students and colleagues; is enshrined within all aspects of strategy, planning and activities, with resources available to ensure operational implementation and cultural change when required.

We will map our programmes against the global UN Sustainable Development Goals to identify progress. As a University, we have an important role to play in the achievement of these goals and recognise that we will benefit from engaging with them. As part of this commitment, the University will use the global goals as a framework to allow us to effectively combine and report on our progress. We are committed to annually reporting our achievements against these goals and participating in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings to help monitor and benchmark our performance.



Sustainability Framework:

We are committed to embedding sustainability across all our University sites and in all the work we do. Developing, supporting and promoting environmental activities and events, engaging internal and external communities through initiatives which engender lasting change. To this end, we have developed a framework which encompasses all of our activities into three core areas:

- 1. Sustainable Campus and Environmental Management:** We will ensure sustainability is considered across all University sites and in all the work we do by embedding Environmental Management into the University’s decision-making processes. We will cultivate a built environment

which prioritises sustainable development in site enhancement, design and operation - leading to improved environmental performance across our estate.

2. **Curriculum and Research:** We will ensure that the SDGs and sustainability are considered as part of our curriculum and through our Research Communities. Links to the SDGs will be identified and opportunities for further embedding these in curriculum and research at Westminster will be explored.

3. **Partnerships and People:** We will empower and engage our students, colleagues and local community to become active citizens for sustainability – developing and promoting environmental initiatives and events to help the University achieve our sustainability objectives and positively impact on the wellbeing of all communities.

We will ensure that effective partnerships are in place with our suppliers to reflect our sustainability goals in the products and services we procure.

Our Objectives

1. Reduce carbon emissions and develop programmes to monitor, measure and report on scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions.
2. Revise and update the University Carbon Management Plan to account for alignment with UK Government 2050 carbon targets.
3. Promote and account for sustainability in current estate management and future planning, building, refurbishment and use.
4. Consider and account for the social, ethical and environmental impact of procurement and purchasing.
5. Comply fully with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and agreements.
6. Implement the Waste Hierarchy, focusing on waste reduction, reuse and recycling.
7. Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport.
8. Protect and enhance biodiversity across the University estate.
9. Develop engagement and behaviour change programmes to allow colleagues, students, our local community and all stakeholders to engage with the University on sustainability and share relevant environmental knowledge, skills and experience to meet sustainability goals.
10. Embed a continually improving Environmental Management System (EMS) in line with Ecocampus, maintaining a Gold level award as a minimum requirement.
11. Promote the SDGs as part of the curriculum, embedding sustainability principles in teaching and learning outcomes.
12. Monitor and develop links between the SDGs and research activities at the University.
13. Annually report on all activities and initiatives that align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Sustainability Strategy

The University of Westminster's Sustainability Policy will be reviewed annually and in conjunction with our Sustainability Strategy. This details in greater depth: our objectives; key performance indicators; key projects; action plans and documents the steps we will take to develop and implement a sustainability programme which is embedded across the University and supports our purpose, mission, values and vision.



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January 2021