

Waste and Resources Management Policy

Policy Category:	Sustainability
Subject:	Waste and Resources Management Policy
Approving Authority:	Real Estate Operations Board (REOB)
Responsible Officer:	Senior Vice President of Operations
Responsible Office:	Directorate of Estates & Facilities
Related Procedures:	Waste procedures Health & Safety procedures
Related College Policies:	Environmental Sustainability Policy Health and Safety Policy Statement Socially Responsible Procurement Policy
Effective Date:	11 March 2021
Supersedes:	1 June 2017
Next Review:	March 2024

I. Purpose and scope

King's College London recognises its legal and ethical responsibilities to protect and enhance the environment. The university has stated its overall commitment to good environmental practice in the Environmental Sustainability Policy, which outlines a set of agreed aims and deliverables for all aspects of sustainability, including waste management. King's College London's Strategic Vision 2029 includes a commitment to make the world a better place, to be partly achieved through working responsibly and ethically in the management of our estate and operations.

The purpose of this Waste and Resource Management Policy ("the Policy") is to promote good environmental practice throughout the university community. It outlines the university's commitments with regards to sustainable waste management and its ethical and legal responsibilities to manage waste that arises as a result of its operations in a manner that reduces negative impact on the environment and avoids causing harm to human health.

This Policy demonstrates the university's commitment to continual improvement and innovation in all aspects of waste and resource management with a renewed focus on waste minimisation and working with our suppliers to adopt the circular economy approach. This Policy confirms our ongoing commitment and contributions to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – particularly SDG 11, 12, 14 and 15: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Life Below Water, and Life on Land, respectively.

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This Policy applies to all wastes, including hazardous waste, arising from university activities and operations across King's. University activities undertaken in spaces and buildings of King's partners should adhere to the local operators' waste disposal procedures.

II. Definitions

Waste can be defined as:

"Any substance or object the holder discards, intends to discard or is required to discard".

The definitions applied when reporting waste management information are based on the standard industry definitions set out in the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations SI 2011/988.

III. Policy

1. Key commitments

The university is committed to:

- Compliance with waste legislation, statutory obligations, and codes of practice;
- Management of all waste materials in a way that minimises its impact on the environment and risk to public health, through the implementation and maintenance of an Environmental Management System accredited to ISO14001:2015;
- Following the principles of the waste hierarchy, which are to:
 - Prevent – avoid creating waste
 - Reduce – minimising the amount of waste produced
 - Reuse – repair, refurbish or relocate items
 - Recycle – promote segregation of waste to increase the quantity of waste recycled
 - Recovery – send non-recyclable waste to energy recovery
 - Dispose of – this will only be used as a last resort if all other options are exhausted;
- Eliminating disposable items, including single use plastic, where there is a clear case and a viable alternative exists;
- Collecting and analysing monthly data (amount of waste generated by site and disposal method), set waste improvement targets, and monitor and publicly report annual data and progress against our waste targets;
- Working with our suppliers, contractors and partners to ensure that the commitments in this policy are implemented across all areas of the university, including shared spaces with healthcare partners and buildings managed under PFI contract;
- Integrating the principles of whole life-cycle thinking and circular economy into operations and procurement decisions to minimise waste generated;
- Providing suitable training to staff involved in waste management to enable them to effectively implement the policy;
- Engaging with academic departments to promote and support teaching and research around sustainable waste and resource management;
- Developing a Waste and Resources Strategy and Action Plan to support the implementation of this Policy.

2. Roles and responsibilities

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- The ‘Council’ and President & Principal is responsible for the compliance with this Policy across the university.
- The Director of Estates & Facilities is responsible for the management of its compliance across the estate and for ensuring adequate resources are made available to deliver on its implementation.
- The Sustainability Team are responsible for the regular review and updating of this Policy and the accompanying Waste and Resource Strategy and Action Plan.
- Campus Operations Teams are responsible for the day-to-day management of waste generated at their respective campuses and for complying with any supporting procedures or guidance notes that support this Policy particularly the Waste and Resource Strategy and Action Plan.
- Waste contractors also have a responsibility to adhere to this Policy by supporting the operational management of waste at King’s.
- All stakeholders including staff, students, contractors, suppliers, business partners and visitors have a responsibility to adhere to this Policy.
- Our suppliers of outsourced services and suppliers of goods and equipment are expected to adhere to this Policy when carrying out activities on behalf of King’s.

3. Relevant legislation

The following legislation is relevant to this Policy:

- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016/1154
- Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 /894
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations SI 2013/3113
- Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice 2016
- Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009
- Retained Animal By-Products Regulations 2009

We will regularly review legislation to ensure compliance.

4. Monitoring

The effectiveness of, and compliance with this Policy is monitored by the Sustainability Team and is reported in the form of key performance indicators (KPIs).

Monitoring of progress against the Policy’s compliance and progress against the supporting Waste and Resources Strategy and Action Plan are reported via the Environmental Management System (EMS).

The Real Estate Operations Board (REOB) are informed of progress via the Director of Estates & Facilities on an annual basis.

The university Council and other stakeholders are updated on progress of this Policy via an annual environmental sustainability report, which is publicly available via the King’s website.