

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Policy Category:	General
Subject:	King's commitment to environmental sustainability
Approving Authority:	SLT
Responsible Officer:	Senior Vice-President (Operations)
Responsible Office:	Estates & Facilities
Related Procedures:	
Related College Policies:	Waste and Resources Management Policy Energy & Carbon Management Policy Heat Decarbonisation Plan Sustainable Food Policy Climate & Sustainability Action Plan Service Strategy 2018-23 Socially Responsible Procurement Policy Sustainable Business Travel Policy & Procedures Ethical Investment Policy Fairtrade Policy
Effective Date:	17 July 2024
Supersedes:	5 December 2019
Next Review:	July 2027

I. Purpose & Scope

This policy reaffirms King's commitment to environmental sustainability. It applies to all University activities and to all members of the King's community as well as contractors, business partners and relevant external stakeholders.

King's recognises that its activities can have a significant impact on the local and global environments. The University aims to not only minimise the negative environmental impacts arising from activities, but to also maximise the positive impact through research, teaching and operations.

This policy is central to the University's delivery of King's Strategy 2026 and Vision 2029, as well as the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan. King's mission is to 'make the world a better place' through addressing global challenges such as environmental sustainability, and recognition that living within our planetary boundaries is one of our key challenges. As a signatory to the global Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges, King's is continuing to make a difference through our supply chain and investments, by reassessing our operations and by engaging our community in behaviour change. It is through this collective approach we will achieve our Net zero operations targets.

II. Policy

1. Commitment

The University is committed to:

- Protecting and enhancing the environment to prevent habitat and biodiversity loss, combat climate change and prevent the pollution of land, water and air.
- Complying with and, where appropriate exceeding relevant environmental legislation, regulatory requirements and other standards.
- Maintaining and continually improving the ISO14001 certified Environmental Management System (EMS) to enhance environmental performance. This includes implementing policies and procedures to identify and address significant environmental impacts and carrying out regular audits.
- Allocating responsibilities and adequate resources for the implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring the Environmental Sustainability Policy is available to all students, staff and interested parties.
- Incorporating relevant sustainability criteria into procurement documentation to ensure suppliers meet the University's objectives when delivering services, goods and construction works.
- Providing opportunities for staff and students to actively engage with the University's work on environmental sustainability.
- Providing training and giving students the opportunity learn about sustainability and sustainable development in both their formal and informal education.
- Supporting the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The relevant SDGs to this policy are:

Goal 4: Quality Education

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Goal 13: Climate Action

Goal 14: Life below Water

Goal 15: Life on Land

- Setting environmental sustainability targets against the following objectives, which will be reviewed, and progress reported on annually:
 - **Carbon and Energy:** Maximise energy efficiency and reduce absolute greenhouse gas emissions (in line with climate science for keeping global temperature increase to a 1.5°C scenario).
 - **Water:** Increase water efficiency across the estate through design and maintenance of the estate as well as monitoring overall consumption
 - **Waste and Resource Use:** Promote responsible consumption and minimise the amount of waste produced by embedding the circular economy in our operations. Maximise reuse and recycling where generation of waste cannot be prevented.
 - **Biodiversity:** Maintain, expand and enhance the green spaces across our estate to purposely support urban biodiversity and wildlife as well as health and wellbeing.
 - **Clean Air:** Contribute to reducing air pollution and mitigating the impact of poor air quality around our campuses.

- **Construction and refurbishment:** Manage construction, refurbishment and post-completion occupancy of our buildings to reduce environmental impact and enhance wellbeing of building users.
- **Partnership and community engagement:** Collaborate with other internal and external agencies to promote knowledge sharing, community engagement, and to accelerate achievement of local, regional, national and global goals.
- **Training and Awareness:** Raise awareness of sustainability within the King's community, provide training and volunteering opportunities to develop skills and knowledge.

2. *Roles and Responsibilities*

While all senior leaders have responsibility for implementing this policy in their areas of control, the Vice Chancellor & President has delegated responsibility at SLT level to the Director of Estates & Facilities for reporting on the Environmental Sustainability Policy.

The Environmental Sustainability Policy is overseen by the Real Estate Operations Board (REOB) and responsibility for the governance sits with the Sustainability team within Estates & Facilities.

Estates & Facilities are responsible for operating an accredited ISO14001 Environmental Management System with further roles and responsibilities within this detailed in various EMS documentation.

Oversight of the Environmental Management System is reported on by the Estates & Facilities Sustainability Team at termly meetings.

3. *Reporting*

Annual progress against the policy and related strategic actions are reported to the University's Senior Leadership Team via the Director of Estates & Facilities and the production of an annual Environmental Sustainability Report. Progress is also monitored through an annual review of the Climate & Sustainability Action Plan, as well as periodic reporting to the King's Climate & Sustainability Steering Group, Net Zero Operations Working Group and Net Zero Operations Forum.

4. *Review*

The policy is reviewed every three years at a minimum.