



SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The University of Roehampton recognises its responsibilities to be both socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. As an educational institution, the University will ensure that its staff and student community are encouraged to understand sustainability and their roles as global citizens. It will steward its built and natural environments through continued application of Environmental Management System principles. The University also recognises that its business activities and supply chain both have wide-reaching impacts on sustainability agenda; therefore, it will strive to continuously improve its awareness and positivity of impact through its activities, wherever achievable.
- 1.2. The purpose of this policy is to set clear commitments to economic, environmental and social sustainability, identify the priority themes, and ensure there is a consistent and clear approach to embedding sustainability agenda across the organisation.

2. Scope of Policy

- 2.1. The University aligns its sustainability agenda with the United Nations definition of sustainability: “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” To achieve commitments, transparently and consistently, the scope of commitments will be organised and communicated with the following approach:
- 2.2. The University will create a strategy to address its responsibilities, including the following Sustainability Themes:
 - 2.2.1. the Biodiversity of its campuses, and supported communal and academic use of natural spaces on site;
 - 2.2.2. the Communications & Engagement plan for sustainability agenda, ensuring all members of the community, and interest groups, are engaged and represented in goals and actions;
 - 2.2.3. the Net Zero & Energy strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and associated energy consumption;
 - 2.2.4. a Circular Economy & Facilities plan that addresses the social, environmental and economic impacts of both procurement activities & the operation of facilities;

- 2.2.5. a Food strategy that ensures sustainable delivery of the university's catering arrangements and consideration of food education and onsite growing;
 - 2.2.6. a Travel & Transport plan to address the commuting requirements of its university community, as well as business travel arrangements and the enabling of low/no-carbon travel options; and
 - 2.2.7. a Training & Education plan to ensure that staff training and student education are both delivered with embedded sustainability principles.
- 2.3. To ensure that University efforts remain aligned to global sustainability issues, the University will identify relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and support these through its own agenda.

3. Responsibilities & Governance

- 3.1. To ensure a transparent and consistent approach is achieved, the University will maintain a Sustainability Committee (SC), whose goal it will be to review, advise and consult the wider University on development of sustainable values in all its activities. As a Subcommittee of the University's Executive Board (UEB,) the SC will be required to provide quarterly reports to UEB.
- 3.2. As and when required, the SC may recommend the creation of specialised groups, to support specific work themes and projects.
- 3.3. Continual improvement of the University's sustainability strategies will be achieved through the Plan-Do-Check-Act methodology. Policy, strategy and action plans will be regularly reviewed by the SC; where dedicated working groups are established, these working groups will be required to regularly review and report back to the SC.

4. Sustainability Themes

4.1. Biodiversity



4.1.1. The University's Biodiversity approach will be to identify and support the environmental and social benefits of the continued stewardship and restoration of biodiversity in the University's campuses. To do this, the University will seek to:

- 4.1.1.1. Identify the variety and health of habitats across its campuses.
- 4.1.1.2. Structure a conservation and biodiversity plan for existing habitats and any developments of the campus spaces, in compliance with UK legislation.
- 4.1.1.3. Identify, and where possible support, ways in which the University's efforts can support local biodiversity and the benefits of natural spaces for the local community.

4.2. Communications & Engagement



4.2.1. The University will continuously develop its Communications & Engagement approach, to ensure that the staff & student community, its partners and the local community are informed and engaged in the University's wider sustainability agenda.

4.2.2. The Communications & Engagement objectives will be to:

- 4.2.2.1. **Raise Awareness** – Ensure all stakeholders are informed about sustainability issues and the University's initiatives through effective multi-channel communication.
- 4.2.2.2. **Educate and Inspire Action** – Provide engaging, accessible resources and opportunities that encourage behavioural change and sustainable practices, e.g. campus-wide sustainability pledges and education campaigns.
- 4.2.2.3. **Foster Collaboration** – Strengthen partnerships within the University and with external organisations, enabling knowledge exchange and collective action.
- 4.2.2.4. **Monitor and Evaluate** – Establish clear metrics to assess and improve engagement activities and the sustainability literacy of its community.

- 4.2.3. To ensure responsive communication with both the internal and wider community, the University will:
- 4.2.3.1. Annually publish a Sustainability Report, disclosing its greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting and Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework principles.
 - 4.2.3.2. Maintain a Stakeholder Register for all areas of its Sustainability Strategy, to ensure all parties are informed and engaged to participate in relevant areas of the University's sustainability efforts.
 - 4.2.3.3. Conduct annual Staff and Student Sustainability Surveys, to measure fluency, engagement and feedback on work themes and university performance.

4.3. **Net Zero & Energy**



- 4.3.1. The University will continuously develop a Net Zero & Energy strategy, to:
- 4.3.1.1. Identify its estimated greenhouse gas emissions and assess the most ambitious and achievable options to reduce these.
 - 4.3.1.2. Establish a roadmap for reaching net zero emissions, both in its direct emissions (Scopes 1 & 2) and wider business emissions (Scope 3.)
 - 4.3.1.3. Ensure that the University maintains a transparent approach to reducing its energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, in accordance with best practice, and to maximise staff and student understanding of their own impact and role in combating climate change.
- 4.3.2. To drive its Net Zero planning in a financially sustainable manner, the University will:
- 4.3.2.1. investigate and review opportunities for further built environment efficiency and decarbonisation projects and, where possible, prioritise delivery of those projects that offer combined financial and carbon savings.
 - 4.3.2.2. Seek to regularly improve its specification for projects in the built environment, in alignment with identified best practice and sustainable construction methods.

4.4. Circular Economy & Facilities



- 4.4.1. The University procures diverse goods and services and recognises that this supply chain also has social, environmental and economic impacts. To address this, the University will continuously develop a Circular Economy & Facilities approach, to:
- 4.4.1.1. Identify the environmental and social responsibilities of the University which overlap with its management of procurement, waste and cleaning of facilities across its campuses.
 - 4.4.1.2. Link these responsibilities to the wider context of the local community, the Higher Education sector and the wider UK setting.
 - 4.4.1.3. Link procurement of goods and services with the waste and disposal of goods, to ensure that decision-making is made holistically, designing waste out of the organisation, upstream.
 - 4.4.1.4. Create an achievable Action Plan that encourages the University and its suppliers to tackle these responsibilities ambitiously.
 - 4.4.1.5. Outline the level of oversight that the University will put in place to ensure that this Action Plan is pursued, reviewed and improved upon.

4.5. Food



- 4.5.1. The University will ensure that achievable, best-practice sustainable principles are followed in its catering provision. To achieve this, the University will:
- 4.5.1.1. Align its catering practices with best practices, as identified by selected third-party standards.
 - 4.5.1.2. Communicate and practice supply chain efficiency, food waste avoidance, and enable access to affordable food choice - in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2, 12 and 13.
 - 4.5.1.3. Together with its catering partner, promote informed choices and clear information about the social and environmental impacts of food and its supply chains.
- 4.5.2. The University and Student Union will work together to:
- 4.5.2.1. Promote local and onsite food, food-growing events and engagement opportunities, through the University's allotments and the SU's polytunnel and community growing spaces.
 - 4.5.2.2. Promote access to plant-based, vegan and vegetarian options in SU and University catering outlets.

- 4.5.3. To support informed choices and the transparency of its efforts, the University will annually report the estimated carbon footprint of its catering and efforts to improve the sustainability of catered food.
- 4.5.4. The University will ensure that its policy commitments to Sustainable Food are communicated and reflected in the practices of any catering performed on behalf of the University by third parties.

4.6. **Travel & Transport**



- 4.6.1. The University will support the commuting and travel requirements of students and staff, encourage active and sustainable travel modes and seek measures to reduce the carbon footprint of university business and commuter travel, where possible. The University will:
 - 4.6.1.1. Regularly review the travel modes of staff and students, to understand the forms of travel taken to its campuses and report the resultant greenhouse gas emissions.
 - 4.6.1.2. Measure the carbon footprint of commuting and business travel and publish this information as part of the annual Sustainability Report.
 - 4.6.1.3. Promote sustainable and active travel methods, for travel to and from its campuses.
 - 4.6.1.4. Consider the impact of business travel and, where appropriate, encourage use of remote solutions (e.g. online meetings) and prioritisation of using lower carbon footprint travel modes.



4.7. **Training & Education**

- 4.7.1. The University will promote Sustainable Development principles in the delivery of its teaching to students, by committing that:
 - 4.7.1.1. Sustainability principles are embedded in teaching through formal inclusion in its course validation framework.
 - 4.7.1.2. Academic staff are enabled to deliver embedded sustainability principles in all courses, through provision of training and support.
 - 4.7.1.3. The delivery, impact and relevance of sustainable development principles in course content is regularly reviewed.
- 4.7.2. The University will support staff by ensuring:
 - 4.7.2.1. Sustainability policy and strategy for the university is included in the Staff Induction Process, for all staff.
 - 4.7.2.2. Staff are provided with access to training on equality, diversity, inclusion and the challenging of unconscious biases.
 - 4.7.2.3. Staff are encouraged, by their line managers, to participate in further e-learning sustainability courses, made available through the staff training programme.