

Environmental Management Policy

To help Middlesex University realise its mission to serve and thrive in a complex world, this environmental policy embeds environmental management and sustainability into our operations. The university is committed to contribute positively to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and sector-wide expectations and norms.

It provides a framework that supports the University's Strategy 2031, the EcoCampus Environmental Management System, and our reporting obligations under ISO 14001. The priorities of this policy have been designed to complement other related policy areas such as the UN-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), Health and Safety, Modern Slavery, Ethical Finance, Sustainable Procurement and Research Ethics and Integrity.

Our commitments apply to all University operations, including the Hendon campus, leased spaces, partner facilities, and future developments. Our aim is to place sustainability at the centre of our operations and act as a champion of environmental stewardship.

To achieve all of the above, the University will:

Student, Staff and Community Participation

1. Ensure that the organisation's environmental sustainability ambitions are effectively embedded into strategic decision-making processes.
2. Ensure all students develop a foundational awareness of sustainability, climate action and resource stewardship through education and learning, apprenticeships and placements, research opportunities and on-campus engagement.
3. Equip all staff with opportunities to acquire knowledge and further training necessary to deliver sustainability through their roles and responsibilities, encouraging the sharing of best practice.
4. Strengthen an inclusive and accessible culture of sustainability through initiatives, behavioural campaigns and collaborative projects across academic and professional departments. This should allow everyone to contribute to our environmental sustainability efforts as a university and ensure that no groups or individuals are disadvantaged or excluded.
5. Communicate the university's environmental performance transparently through annual reporting, accessible dashboards, and targeted engagement campaigns.
6. Invite regular feedback from staff, students and partners/stakeholders to support continuous improvements to the University's environmental performance.

Research and Influence

7. Ensure that research and innovation that we undertake is practiced in an environmentally sustainable way while still delivering the best outcomes.
8. Advocate for embedding environmentally sustainable practices in the research and innovation activities we co-produce or collaboratively undertake with partners.
9. Support sustainability-centred research and knowledge exchange, encouraging interdisciplinary work that addresses global challenges, including climate change, energy transition, biodiversity and circular economy practices.
10. Work with business, local authorities, industry partners and the wider community to apply and refine research findings and accelerate sustainable innovation.
11. Promote Middlesex University's role in environmental thought leadership through academic outputs, civic engagement and sector collaboration, including the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC), the London Universities Environment Group (LUEG) and SDG frameworks.
12. Report headline data on environmental impact and performance on an annual basis, making the ISO14001 report available on our website.

Energy & Carbon Management

13. Continually reduce carbon emissions associated with Scope 1 and 2 activities, using **FY2014/15 as the baseline year** for carbon and energy performance.
14. Improve energy efficiency across the Hendon campus through investment in smart controls, low-carbon technologies, LED upgrades, heating optimisation and building energy management systems.
15. Expand metering coverage and integrate real-time data monitoring to support accurate reporting, forecasting and targeted interventions in energy consumption.
16. Reduce carbon emissions in energy intensive spaces such as laboratories by identifying energy efficient standard operating procedures.

Water

17. Reduce water consumption and improve water efficiency through leak detection, high-efficiency fixtures, and behaviour change initiatives.
18. Strengthen water metering and ensure consumption is monitored, measured and assessed regularly to support performance management.

Waste, Resources & the Circular Economy

19. Ensure resources are used efficiently, prioritising circular economy principles of reduce, reuse, repair and recycle.
20. Manage waste responsibly to minimise environmental impact and ensure compliance with statutory obligations.
21. Promote and facilitate effective waste segregation and reduce reliance on landfill.

Our Natural Environment

22. Protect and enhance biodiversity across the campus estate, ensuring that all development or operational activities promotes responsible stewardship.
23. Increase community engagement with the natural environment to foster wellbeing, environmental understanding, and responsible stewardship.
24. Minimise pollution and ensure compliance with relevant environmental regulations, emergency planning requirements, and air-quality standards.

Travel & Transport

25. Promote active, shared and low-carbon travel modes including walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicle usage.
26. Monitor commuting and business travel emissions and implement measures to reduce dependence on private cars and high-carbon transport.
27. Develop and publish a green travel plan that adopts a travel hierarchy.

Compliance, Governance and Estate Development

28. Comply with all legal and regulatory environmental requirements, agreements, accreditations, and obligations under EcoCampus, ISO 14001.
29. Continually improve the Environmental & Energy Management System to strengthen performance, reduce risk and enhance environmental outcomes.
30. Ensure sufficient resources, investment and governance structures exist to deliver this Policy and to oversee progress, including the Sustainability Steering Group chaired at Executive level.
31. Embed sustainability principles in the design, construction, refurbishment and maintenance of all buildings, ensuring energy and water efficiency, climate resilience, and low-carbon materials.

Responsible Procurement

32. Promote sustainable procurement practices that prioritise ethical sourcing, reduced environmental impact, lifecycle costing, reporting obligations, and compliance with modern slavery and other relevant legislation.
33. Ensure sustainability considerations are embedded into procurement and contract management processes across the University.
34. Recognise the environmental impacts associated with the construction and manufacture of new infrastructure and maximise use of existing infrastructure where this is feasible and is robustly assessed as an environmentally sustainable approach.

Roles and responsibilities

The environmental management policy is the responsibility of the senior responsible officer for environmental sustainability who has the responsibility to report to UET and Board of Governors.

Middlesex University
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