

## Environmental Sustainability Policy

Queen Mary University of London is a Russell Group University and one of the UK's leading research-focused higher education institutions. We offer our students a stimulating, supportive and high-quality learning experience, and we have a strong vision, mission and values focused on "opening the doors of opportunity" and being the most inclusive research-intensive university in the world by 2030.

Current and emerging environmental changes are some of the greatest challenges society faces. We have a responsibility, not only to minimise the impact of our operations on the environment, but also, through our research, education and partnerships to enhance knowledge and maximise the societal and policy impacts of our research in this area, and, through our education, develop the agents and leaders of change for the future.

Our research on air pollution has impacted policy in the UK and overseas; our biologists have improved knowledge about how species adapt and survive as climates change and academics in our School of Politics and International Relations provide frequent expert commentary on the effects of political systems on environmental change that improves the quality of public and political discourse. This research feeds directly into our teaching. Students of law study climate change law and policy, our engineers, geographers, biologists and other scientists research mitigations. Every student at Queen Mary has the opportunity to undertake project work, and many work in multi-disciplinary teams on sustainability issues, under the leadership of our academic staff.

Sustainability is a theme in our partnerships globally, nationally and locally, and a designated strategic priority for the university's Global Policy Institute. The Institute's *Resilient Futures India Initiative* is a partnership with Indian academics, policy, society and industry leaders which aims to design durable solutions for enhancing lives and communities in contexts of uncertainty. We also have a strong sense of place in East London, and work closely with partners on sustainability issues. Our award-winning Legal Advice Centre provides free legal advice to the local community, and, through our medical school we work with partners to understand and improve public health and wellbeing. Our students lead a variety of additional projects that deliver improvements to the local environment.

Across our operations, we are committed to continue to improve our environmental performance (see our sustainability action plan for the operational details) through:

- Integrating the principles of sustainable development across our operations and our academic programmes
- Responding to adverse impacts of climate change through our operations, teaching, research and collaborations
- Reducing our carbon footprint and the environmental impacts of our operations
- Exploring and implementing ways to reduce environmental and public health impacts of our travel and transportation
- Implementing energy efficiency measures across our campuses as well as exploring all relevant sources of renewable and decentralised energy generation
- Embedding environmental sustainability and good corporate social responsibility specifications into all relevant aspects of our procurement and commissioning processes
- Integrating the principles and applications of sustainable food into our catering and conferencing services
- Embedding biodiversity enhancement and ecological conservation into all refurbishment and new build projects as well as our grounds management
- Reducing waste generated across our campuses and diverting all general wastes we generate away from landfill
- Using quantitative and qualitative indicators to monitor and report environmental performance to stakeholders
- Complying with all relevant environmental regulations and where feasible exceeding these standards
- Ensuring we have adequate resources to coordinate and support delivery of our sustainability objectives
- Embedding the principles of sustainable development and good environmental practices into our teaching, research and other academic activities
- Making this environmental sustainability policy readily available to staff, students and stakeholders
- Supporting the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across all aspects of our operations and academic programmes.

*Our environmental sustainability policy was developed under the oversight of our Sustainability Committee (with representation from the academic side, professional services and the Students' Union), and approved by our Senior Executive Team (SET). We will continue to report our progress against this policy and accompanying action plan via our governance structure.*



Professor Colin Bailey (President and Principal)



Lord Clement-Jones (Chair of Council)