

Environmental Policy

Queen Mary University of London (Queen Mary) is one of the UK's leading research-focused higher education institutions. As a global university, with students from over 170 different nationalities studying with us, the university recognises its privileged position to contribute towards sustainable development through the positive impact of our education, research and engagement. Queen Mary also recognises that its activities and operations can have a significant impact on the environment and seeks to implement measures and controls to mitigate any potential negative impacts.

This policy covers all activities across our UK campuses, including those carried out by contractors and supports the university's strategic direction.

We have established the following commitments:

- Maintain and continuously improve our Environmental Management System in line with ISO 14001:2015 requirements to enhance our environmental performance and protect the environment, incorporating the necessary processes and controls to prevent environmental damage and pollution.
- Fulfil and where possible exceed our environmental compliance obligations and the standards to which we subscribe.
- Monitor and increase the integration with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across our operations, research and education programmes.
- Achieve carbon net zero by 2050 and continue supporting the Government's net zero ambitions by accelerating the net-positive contributions we make through education, research and engagement. Implement projects and initiatives to reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions, including delivery of the Energy and Carbon Reduction Plan, as well as exploring the installation of onsite renewables at the right stages of construction and refurbishment projects.
- Where possible, enhance biodiversity across the various campuses to provide good quality habitats for local wildlife and amenity spaces for students, staff and the local community and contribute to carbon sequestration.
- Deliver the commitments of the Sustainable Procurement Policy Statement and supporting procedures to promote environmental and social justice, ensuring that Queen Mary's procurement decisions consider relevant sustainability and social value criteria and requirements at the tender stage.
- Respond to adverse impacts of climate change through our operations, teaching, research, and collaborations to increase Queen Mary's resilience to climatic events and help other communities do the same.
- Continue to integrate the waste hierarchy into our waste management processes, exploring ways to adopt circular economy models, maximise segregation of recyclable and organic waste streams generated across our campuses, maintain a zero to landfill policy for non-hazardous waste, as well as ensure adequate segregation and treatment of hazardous waste.
- Communicate and implement the new Sustainable Travel Policy to promote adoption of climate conscious, efficient, and responsible travel choices among staff, students, and visitors. Monitor the impact of the policy during the first year of implementation and define a carbon reduction target.
- Work with the Projects team to incorporate sustainability considerations into the design and construction of buildings and interiors, including refurbishments.

A new 2025/26-2027/28 Sustainability Action Statement has now been approved by the Senior Executive Team and published on the website.

At the end of 2024, we became a signatory of the Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice. By signing this concordat, we recognise the need to change how we conduct research and innovation as well as promote wider solutions. We also agree to take shared action now and into the future to reduce and eliminate our own environmental impacts and emissions from research activities and transition to sustainable practices.

Our Environmental Policy has been developed under the oversight of the Sustainability Committee and approved by the VP for Policy and Strategic Partnerships. We will continue to report our progress against this policy via our governance structure.

Approved by:



Dr Philippa Lloyd
VP Policy and Strategic Partnerships (Chair of the Sustainability Committee)
12 August 2026



Please visit our Sustainability
website for more information.