

Staff Induction – Sustainability

Introduction to environmental sustainability

Climate change is now affecting every country. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even tomorrow.

People are experiencing the significant impacts of climate change, which include changing weather patterns, rising sea level, and more extreme weather events such as floods and heatwaves.

GHG emissions from human activities are driving climate change and continue to rise – it is now at the highest levels in history.

Without action, the world's surface temperature is projected to rise over the 21st century and surpass 3°C this century.

To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at COP21 on 12/12/2015 – all countries agreed to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C and strive for 1.5°C.

Climate change is a global challenge – individuals and organizations can take action to reduce the pace of climate change.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

Since 2013, UWL has had an EMS against the EcoCampus standard to provide a framework for managing our environmental responsibilities efficiently in a way that is integrated into all our operations.

EcoCampus is a national EMS and award scheme for the HEI sector. The scheme allows universities to be recognized for addressing key issues of environmental sustainability, including carbon reduction.

UWL obtained EcoCampus Platinum Award (equivalent to ISO 14001) in December 2020.

The EMS Manual contains information about the Environmental Policy, objectives and targets, and procedures on how to undertake environmental-related tasks on campus. This includes procedures on energy, waste and water. All EMS documents can be found on [Sharepoint](#).



Environmental Policy

UWL's Environmental Policy shows our commitment to tackle climate change and continually improve environmental performance.

The Policy shows commitment to fulfil all compliance obligations, as well as (but not limited to):

- Prevent pollution and protect the environment by reducing all negative impacts on the environment

- Support teaching of sustainable development topics in the curriculum and raise awareness on sustainability

- Developing relevant strategies and monitoring performance

- Building sound environmental management system

The Policy is reviewed annually at the Environmental Review Board and signed by Vice-Chancellor.

The Policy can be found on the external sustainability webpage.

Achievements (so far!)

Delivered HEFCE 2019/20 carbon reduction target.

Declared Climate Emergency in 2020

Net zero carbon by 2030

ISO14001 certified 'Platinum EcoCampus'

Sustainable Restaurant Association & Peas Please Pledge

United Nations Academic Impact

Invested over £150m at our campuses

We need your support to do more!

Energy management on campus

All computers, monitors, TV screens and AV equipment can be shut down especially when you go for a short break.

Switch off personal printers at the socket.

Any shared or network printers can be switched off and ensure sleep modes are enabled.

Equipment left on standby can still consume energy so switch off at the socket.

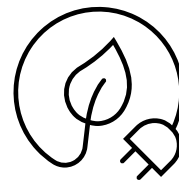
Switch off lights whenever you are the last to leave – never assume somebody else will do it.

Turn down thermostatic radiator.

When boiling the kettle, use only the water that you need.

Ensure all windows and doors are shut firmly.

Dress appropriately for the weather.



Waste management on campus

Minimise waste by bringing reusable cups, bottles and cutleries to campus.

Reuse items where possible. Think before you order – can the item be shared with other departments?

Put waste items in the correct bin:

Dry mixed recyclables goes in bin with green sign

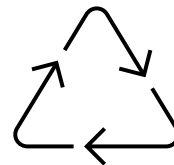
Food waste goes in bin with red sign

All other waste goes in bin with black/grey sign

Read our [Recycling Guide](#) and help us recycle more.

Think before you print.

Use the water fountains located across the campus to get access to free drinking water.



Water management on campus

Ensure taps are turned off.

Report any leaks to Facilities Helpdesk.

Never let water run to waste while waiting for the water to get cold – collect and use to water plants.

Avoid running the tap until the water runs cold every time you want a drink. Keep a reusable bottle of water in the fridge so you always have access to cool drinking water.

Only boil the amount of water you need to have a hot drink.



Sustainable food

UWL's Sustainable Food Policy can be found on the external sustainability webpage.

Membership with Sustainable Restaurant Association.

Membership with Peas Please Pledge.

All seafood is certified by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS)

All meat and poultry is certified by the Red Tractor standard.

Reduce your carbon footprint by choosing vegetarian or vegan option.

Buy Fairtrade.

Buy from local shops and suppliers.



Sustainable travel

Consider cycling for your next trip:

There is plenty of cycle storage and shower facilities across the campuses.

Staff can benefit from the Cycle2Work scheme for discounts on cycles.

Local council offers free cycle training – contact the Sustainability Team to find out more.

Have a look at our [cycling routes](#).

Walking distances between our West London campuses and train stations are minimal and is a joy to do during the warmer days. Have a look at our [walking routes](#).

For the winter days, consider using our [shuttle bus service](#) to travel between our West London campuses.

Consider switching to an electric car which produces up to 70% less carbon emissions than petrol cars.



Education for sustainable development (ESD)

Every subject and course is affected by sustainability.

ESD is an interdisciplinary approach to learning that covers the integrated social economic and environmental dimensions of the formal and informal curriculum.

ESD is a pedagogical approach that can help staff assist graduates who wish to develop the skills knowledge and experience to contribute to an environmentally and ethically responsible society and pursue a career that reflects those values.

UWL is committed to embedding sustainability into the curriculum.

The following guidance and tools is useful for academics to incorporate sustainability into teaching and research:

[QAA and Advance HE Guidance on ESD](#)

[EAUC's Future Fit Framework](#) and [EAUC's Guidance on Quality and Education for Sustainability in HE](#)



Next step

Join the UWL Sustainability Network.

Speak with your Head of School/Department to get updates from the Environmental Review Board meetings.

Lots of sustainability campaigns coming up – keep an eye out in Insider Magazine.

Volunteer and support the local community – contact the V Team.

Any questions?



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We've been building careers for decades