

Environmental Policy 2023

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest leading academic institutions and is involved in world-class original research which contributes significantly to solving the environmental sustainability challenges faced by society. With an annual turnover in excess of £1.47 billion (2020), a community of over 24,000 students and over 12,000 members of staff, the University also recognises the need to manage its operations on a sustainable basis. Cambridge is the first university in the world to announce a science-based carbon reduction target, committing the University to reducing its scope 1 and 2 emissions to absolute zero by 2048, with an aspiration to be a decade ahead of its decarbonisation pathway at all times and to reach zero-carbon by 2038.

This Environmental Policy applies to all aspects of the University's estate and operations and to a range of stakeholders including employees, students, visitors, suppliers, and others who are involved in the management of the University's estate and operations including sub-contractors. The Policy (along with the Environmental Sustainability Vision, Policy and Strategy) provides a framework for setting environmental objectives for the University estate and operations.

The University of Cambridge commits to managing its estate and operations to ensure that it:

- minimises its carbon impact;
- protects and enhances the natural environment by limiting negative impacts and, where possible, by having positive direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity and natural ecosystems so that the University's operational performance in this area matches its aspirations to be a global research leader;
- minimises waste by actively managing waste through elimination (redesign), reduction, reuse and recycling;
- conserves water through efficient use and management of infrastructure;
- embeds sustainable and ethical approaches in the University's procurement systems by positively influencing the sustainability performance of suppliers and the environmental sustainability credentials of the goods and services that it purchases;
- reduces the environmental sustainability impacts of its construction and refurbishment projects;
- positively influences the environmental sustainability performance of suppliers and the environmental sustainability credentials of the goods and services that we purchase;
- provides viable and accessible sustainable travel options for staff and students for travel to work, travel at work and travel for work which results in a reduction of carbon emissions;
- provides guidance and training to staff as required to ensure they are aware of and understand the potential environmental impacts of their areas of activity, and are informed, empowered and supported to take action to prevent or minimise these impacts;
- protects the environment through prevention of pollution and work to reduce emissions and discharges to air, land and water;
- fully complies with its environmental legal obligations and other requirements;
- continually improves the EMS to enhance environmental performance;

This Policy will be reviewed annually as part of a 'Management Review' process¹ and made accessible to the public and all interested parties including students and staff of the University. The Policy will be implemented through the University's Environmental Management System.

Approved by the University Council on 15/06/2023

¹ This process is part of the requirements for compliance with the Environmental Management Standard ISO14001.