

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT

Goldsmiths believes that an understanding of sustainability in terms of environmental, social and economic matters is fundamental to holistic learning, and acknowledges that protection of its environment is an integral part of good and sustainable institutional practice. It recognises that the College can contribute towards environmental protection and conservation by improving its own environmental practices and promoting awareness of both corporate and individual responsibility to all students and staff. It has resolved to achieve a continual improvement in how it measures and minimises its own environmental impacts.

Aims

- Increase the awareness and involvement of College staff and students through formal and informal projects and opportunities.
- Reduce consumption and costs whilst satisfying the Goldsmith's needs for energy and water.
- Reduce the environmental impact of the College through better management of its material resources.
- Integrating environmental and sustainable principles into the College's operational procedures and promoting best practice at every level.
- Continually improving our environmental performance wherever practicable.

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the following Action Plans and Strategies:

- Education for Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan
- Carbon Management Strategy and Action Plan
- Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment Strategy and Action Plan
- Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan
- Sustainable Procurement Strategy and Action Plan
- Student and Staff Green Travel Plans
- Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Community Involvement Strategy and Action Plan

Objectives

Education Awareness and Community Involvement

- 1 Provide opportunities through its curricula for all students to develop the understanding and ability to take action to create more sustainable futures.
- 2 Improve and increase awareness of corporate and individual environmental responsibilities amongst staff and students to encourage good housekeeping measures and sustainable lifestyles.
- 3 Enrol, support and provide training for departmental carbon champions.
- 4 Emphasise the need for interdisciplinary sustainable development research.
- 5 Work with the Students' Union, London Universities Environmental Group (LUEG), the Environmental Association of Universities & Colleges (EAUC) plus other regional and national partners.
- 6 Build partnerships with local community organisations to progress environmental principles and actions.

Energy & Water

- 7 Reduce its carbon footprint through prudent use of energy, use of energy-efficient technologies and by switching to renewable alternatives proven to reduce carbon emissions.
- 8 Implement cost-effective energy and water conservation measures that will reduce consumption.
- 9 Undertake regular energy and water audits.

Waste Management

- 10 Implement policies and actions to minimise waste created and ensure reuse, recycling and composting opportunities are maximised before responsible disposal.
- 11 Provide regularly updated information to encourage reuse and recycling.
- 12 Conduct regular waste audits.
- 13 Minimise the production and environmental impact of toxic chemicals and other hazardous waste.

Built and Natural Environment

- 14 Refurbish and develop Goldsmiths' Estate using sustainable construction principles and low carbon technologies, minimising environmental impacts and enhancing local environments.
- 15 Preserve and protect natural habitats and biodiversity on Goldsmiths land.
- 16 Maintain campus open spaces, gardens and sports grounds using environmentally sound methods and materials.

Noise

- 17 Actively seek to maintain all noise within national guidelines and to reduce levels, as far as is practical, to a minimum.

Procurement

- 18 Promote purchasing and contracts which give preference to those products and services that cause least harm to the environment, including low carbon goods.
- 19 Support College and Student Union catering, that promotes Fairtrade Foundation Accreditation, healthy-eating and organic options, local sourcing, minimum/re-use/recycling packaging.
- 20 Continue to develop an Ethical Investment Policy.

Transport

- 21 Encourage staff and students to use of modes of transport that minimise greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts particularly when travelling on Goldsmiths business.

General

- 22 Maintain an environmental management structure via the Estates Committee and Environment & Sustainability Sub-Committee.
- 23 Publish and review tri-annually the Environment & Sustainability Policy.
- 24 Implement and regularly review environmental management procedures.
- 25 Monitor environmental performance by setting targets and benchmarks.
- 26 Avoid unnecessary use of environmentally-damaging goods and processes.
- 27 Achieve compliance with the requirements of all relevant legislation.

Targets

- (i) To reduce carbon dioxide emissions from 6,597 tonnes in 2006/7 by 10% by 2010 and 15% by 2011;
- (ii) to reduce water consumption per square meter by 5% by 2010 compared to 2007
- (iii) to reduce waste going to landfill by 5% by 2010 based on 2009 tonnages

Approved by Council
1 December 2009