

Sustainable Printing



Reducing paper waste at LSE...

How we approach printing - and therefore paper waste - is an essential part of LSE's work towards a 'zero impact' campus. In this article, we will be exploring how we can embrace electronic communication, shared online platforms and document management systems to reduce the need for physical printing at LSE.

Printing with Purpose?

Being conscious of our paper waste is an important step in LSE's long-term plan to develop a culture of sustainability.

Before pressing print, taking a moment to evaluate the necessity of printing a document is the first step towards sustainable printing. Ask whether the document requires a physical presence or if a digital version would suffice?



Digitisation

The transition to a paperless environment is integral to managing our print waste. Utilising digital documents, electronic communication and LSE's cloud-based storage systems minimises the need for physical prints. This not only reduces our paper waste but is also a more efficient method of information sharing.

The Benefits of Digitisation:

- **Environmental Impact** - By the digital alternatives we can reduce our ecological footprint. Global paper production results in the destruction of over 30 million acres every year. By choosing not to print unless absolutely necessary, we actively contribute to minimising deforestation, reducing carbon emissions and align our actions with LSE's wider sustainability goals.
- **Cost** - Consider the costs associated with printing, including paper, ink, toner and the maintenance and upkeep of printing equipment. Digital alternatives not only save resources but are more cost-effective in the long run.
- **Longevity of Information** - Content is frequently changing. Digital formats allow for straightforward updates and revision - ensuring that information remains current without generating printed materials that may become obsolete.



The Drawbacks of Digitisation:

Unfortunately, digitisation is an imperfect solution and the drawbacks are important to consider:

- **Energy consumption** - The energy demands of data centres and electronics used in the digitisation processes are substantial.
- **E-Waste** - The rapid pace of technological advancements has resulted in shorter electronics lifespans and in recent years, we have seen a huge increase in volumes of electronic waste - see our video [here!](#)

Sometimes, printing is necessary...

Of course, sometimes printing is necessary! Our key aim is to strike a balance between the need for essential printed materials and our goal of minimising printed waste. We aim to encourage a thoughtful and pragmatic approach, continuously assessing whether printing is necessary or not. When there is a need to print, there are steps we can take to be more sustainable and efficient...

Duplex Printing

Duplex printing (or double-sided printing) is a great way to minimise waste and maximise efficiency. Switching our printer setting to duplex as the default is a great way to prioritise resource efficiency and more sustainable printing.



Recycle

Creating a sustainable printing cycle includes responsibly managing the end of a printed document's life. Ensure that all paper waste is correctly disposed of in one of LSE's designated paper recycling bins.

Sustainable Paper

Selecting recycled paper for your department's printers is a small but impactful measure to take towards sustainable printing. Recycled paper is now widely available!



Raising Awareness!

Education and awareness are essential components of the printing reduction campaign. Help LSE reduce our environmental impact by sharing this guide within your department, to other students and to other staff members!

Achieving #SustainableLSE is not a distant goal but rather a series of small, practical steps we can take to create an environmentally-friendly and positive university!

Encouraging Accountability and Reflection...

As an extension to this campaign, we are encouraging accountability and reflection. We will be supporting departments in sharing their own print data to enable further insight into how they might reduce their printed waste.