

LSE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1. Introduction

The purpose of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is to increase understanding of a complex and changing world through excellent teaching and research in the social sciences by promoting its work to policy makers and practitioners in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Founded in 1895, LSE adopted the motto *rerum cognoscere causas* – to understand the causes of things.

The LSE educates around 10,000 students from 140 countries. It employs around 2,700 members of staff, and manages 28 campus buildings and 8 halls of residence across four London boroughs, as well as an 11 acre sports ground in Surrey.

2. Policy aims

The School seeks to support the leaders and citizens of the future to responsibly shape the world in which we live, by creating an institutional culture which collectively works to continually improve the LSE's environmental and social impacts, and deliver environmental enhancements where possible.

This is facilitated by a commitment to maintain ISO 14001 registration, and driven to achieve the following aims.

1. Mitigate against climate change by reducing the School's carbon footprint.
2. Reduce the School's use of natural resources, and its ecological footprint.
3. Prevent pollution from emissions and discharges, and the physical degradation of ecosystems.
4. Comply with all applicable environmental legislation, and other requirements to which the School subscribes.
5. Provide leadership in the field of sustainability.
6. Create a vibrant community in which staff, students and visitors have the opportunity to individually and collectively support the School in protecting the environment.

3. Policy objectives

1. Energy and carbon

- Reduce consumption and increase energy efficiency in buildings and equipment in order to reduce the School's carbon footprint.

2. Waste and resources

- Use the zero-waste 'rethink-reduce-reuse-recycle' hierarchy in waste and resource management.

3. Water

- Minimise water consumption, by promoting positive behaviours and installing water-efficient infrastructure.

4. Construction and refurbishment

- Reduce consumption of new materials, and increase the reuse and recycling of materials.
- Create built environments that meet the highest environmental standards, by incorporating environmental criteria into material and contract specifications to reduce environmental impacts over the whole life cycle of LSE buildings.

5. Procurement

- Require contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers to meet or exceed all relevant environmental legislation and regulations and work to improve the environmental performance of the School.

- Consider the environmental and social sustainability of all products and services procured, including whole-life costing.

6. Emissions and discharges

- Prevent pollution, and reduce emissions and discharges from buildings and equipment.

7. Transport

- Encourage the reduction of emissions arising from commuting, business travel and deliveries.

8. Biodiversity and urban landscapes

- Monitor, maintain and enhance biodiversity and habitats on the School estate.

9. Education for sustainable development

- Research: Shape public policy on environmental and social issues and ensure that the LSE remains at the forefront of academic investigation and public debate in these areas through the work of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, the Centre for Environmental Policy and Governance, the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy and the Department of Geography and Environment.
- Teaching and Learning: Ensure that LSE graduates have a full understanding of the environmental and social dimensions of leadership.
- Training and Guidance: Ensure that staff, students and visitors can access information to support their development as responsible global citizens.

10. Community Involvement

- Communicate with interested parties on the Environmental Policy including contacts in the immediate neighbourhood, the regional, national and global community. This includes but is not limited to the education, business, media, and alumni communities.

11. Income and investment

- Maintain ethical investment processes and the consideration of social, environmental and governance factors in investment decisions.

“Universities are uniquely placed to address climate change and environmental justice. LSE exemplifies this through world-leading research, teaching new generations of global citizens, and combining these with improving its own sustainability performance.”

Professor Craig Calhoun, Director of LSE

“LSE is a global leader in sustainability, not just in terms of its teaching and research on climate change and other environmental issues, but also as a community, a large employer and a business. There has been great progress in raising awareness of environmental impacts among both staff and students, and how best to minimise these. LSE will continue to make improvements in its performance and be an example of best practice that other universities will emulate.”

Professor Lord Stern of Brentford, IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government, Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

Approved by Council on 26th April 2016