

Sustainability Policy

Introduction

LSE was founded in 1895 to create and share knowledge addressing major social challenges and to shape a better world. Our mission is to advance knowledge in social science and a range of related fields so as to inform public policy, economic decision-making, and social welfare both nationally and globally.

We educate around 11,900 students from 133 countries. We employ around 3,300 members of staff, and manage 30 campus buildings and 8 halls of residence across four London boroughs, as well as an 23 acre sports ground in Surrey.

LSE is committed to acting responsibly and sustainably, as set out in both LSE's 2020 Strategy and our Ethics Code. We do this by taking action in the following areas:

1. Operations and estate

Energy and carbon

- Minimise energy usage and carbon emissions from buildings and equipment.

Also see the LSE Energy Policy and Carbon Management Plan.

Ethical and sustainable supply chains

- Consider environmental and ethical factors throughout the lifecycle of the goods and services we buy, and ensure suppliers and contractors also work transparently towards our sustainability goals.

Also see the LSE Procurement Strategy and Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Built environment

- Design and construct new buildings and refurbishments that enhance the public realm whilst meet the highest standards of environmental sustainability, climate resilience and human wellbeing, throughout the lifecycle of the building.

Waste and recycling

- Follow the 'Reduce, Reduce, Recycle' waste hierarchy: Minimise waste; re-use or repair items where feasible; recycle as much possible of the remainder; send zero waste to landfill.

Green spaces

- Maintain green spaces to enhance biodiversity and community wellbeing.

Water

- Use water efficiently by installing water-efficient infrastructure and promoting waste-avoidance.

Transport

- Minimise emissions from business travel, contractors and deliveries, whilst providing facilities to enable students and staff to commute by low-carbon means.

Pollution

- Prevent pollution of land, air and water.

2. Partnerships and engagement

Collaboration

- Create a vibrant environment in which students, staff, and the wider community have the opportunity to individually and collectively collaborate with LSE on sustainability activities.

Communication and training

- Engage in dialogue with students, staff, and the wider community on sustainability issues, and provide opportunities to develop knowledge and skills for sustainability.

3. Education and research

Education

- Equip LSE graduates with an understanding of the environmental and social dimensions of being a responsible global citizen and leader.

Research

- Conduct world-leading research on environmental and social issues that remains at the forefront of academic inquiry, and which shapes public policy and debate.

4. Leadership and governance

Leadership

- Create an institutional culture that embeds sustainability into policy and systems across LSE, and embraces and promotes it throughout all levels and areas of the School.

Also see the *LSE 2020 Strategy* and the *LSE Ethics Code*.

Protecting the environment

- Continually improve LSE's environmental and energy performance by maintaining an ISO 14001 and 50001 certified Environmental Management System and Energy Management System. (These are internationally recognised standards that help organisations to strategically identify, monitor, manage and enhance their environmental and energy impacts.)

Socially responsible investment

- Include environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations in investment decisions. (See the LSE Socially Responsible Investment Policy.)

Compliance

- Fulfil and where possible exceed all regulatory and other compliance obligations.

Reporting

- Report publicly on performance against strategic environmental objectives.

"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."

Dame Minouche Shafik, 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

Review schedule

Review interval	Next review due by	Next review start
1 year	May 2020	Feb 2020

Version history

Version	Date	Approved by	Notes
1	15 May 2018 13 March 2018	Council ELG	

Contacts

Position	Name	Email	Notes
Head of Sustainability	Jon Emmett	j.emmett@lse.ac.uk	

Communications and Training

Will this document be publicised through Internal Communications?	Yes
Will training needs arise from this policy	Yes
If Yes, please give details: Sustainability training and engagement needs are mapped and delivered via the Sustainability Training Plan, which is periodically reviewed as part of LSE's ISO 14001 and 50001 certified Environmental and Energy Management System.	