



LSHTM Environmental Sustainability Policy

Document Type	Policy
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Approved by	Executive Team
Approval date	5/10/2022 Reviewed: 5/10/2023 26/03/2024 18/06/2024
Next Review date	5/10/2024
Version	1.4
Amendments	Addition of section on HESA. Update of links and Power B.I platform provider (2023) Update of links and specification of reporting period (2024)
Related Policies & Procedures	Travel Policy , Procurement Policy , Waste Management Policy and Guidance , Space Temperature Heating Guidance , Sustainable Laboratories Guidance , Energy and Carbon Management Plan

1. SCOPE

1.1 The scope of LSHTM's **Environmental Sustainability Policy** applies to all LSHTM activities in London and the MRC Units in The Gambia and Uganda.

2. PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

As a global health institution, LSHTM's mission to improve health worldwide is inextricably linked to the health of the environment. As such, by tackling the threat of environmental degradation and climate change, LSHTM will be staying true to its [mission and values](#). Therefore, the aim of this policy is to ensure that LSHTM grows and develops in an ethical and sustainable way, and that a continuous environmental improvement and a zero-carbon culture is embedded in the business model, values and culture of the institution. This is also reinforced by LSHTM's commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030. This policy will be reported on and reviewed annually in Sustainability Action Committee (SAC) meetings.

3. POLICY

To this end, LSHTM are committed to achieving best practice standards and leadership in the higher education sector commensurate to the urgency of the climate crisis, and will:

3.1.1 Reduce emissions-related energy use in key operations including but not limited to ITS, catering and heating and cooling.



- 3.1.2 Reduce emissions related to business travel and commuting, support more sustainable modes of travel and implement systems to reduce demand/need for travel.
- 3.1.3 Reduce supply chain-related emissions for goods and services and adopt more sustainable purchasing practices.
- 3.1.4 Procure electricity from renewable sources only and equipment with the highest energy efficiency ratings. Install renewable energy for on-site use where possible.
- 3.1.5 Manage our property portfolio in a low-carbon manner that maximises resource efficiency and reduces environmental impacts, adopting sustainable refurbishment and standards and achieving minimum [SKA](#) silver rating for refurbishments and [BREEAM](#) Excellent for new builds.
- 3.1.6 Improve sustainability of catering activities by providing balanced, ethical and seasonal lower carbon menu options and ensuring operations minimise waste production, increase reuse and recycling and consume less energy and water.
- 3.1.7 Reduce waste production by adopting zero waste strategies, reducing packaging from source, promoting a reuse culture and zero waste to landfill through correctly implementing the waste hierarchy Duty of Care.
- 3.1.8 Divest from fossil fuels and non-ethical investments and increase investment portfolio supporting renewable technologies and ethical causes.
- 3.1.9 Promote environmental responsibility and climate change awareness among the LSHTM community, external partners and stakeholders, sharing best practice and encouraging collaboration.
- 3.1.10 Support and promote initiatives that enhance sustainability in academia.
- 3.1.11 Support and encourage initiatives that protect biodiversity and prevent pollution of our water, air and land ecosystems.
- 3.1.12 Comply fully with all environmental legislation, regulations and agreements, and monitor and minimise environmental risks through effective implementation of our Environmental Management System (EMS).

4. POLICY DELIVERY STRATEGY

Following are the strategies that underpin the different components of this policy:

- i. [LSHTM Energy and Carbon Management Plan \(ECMP\)](#) – this plan contains analysis of LSHTM's carbon footprint and lays out pathways to achieve its net-zero emissions target by 2030.
- ii. [Heat Decarbonisation Plan \(HDP\)](#) – the HDP is an offshoot of the ECMP and provides insights into the options available for decarbonising LSHTM's heating and cooling requirement along with milestones by deploying specific low-to-zero-carbon technology interventions.
- iii. [Sustainable Climate Impact Fund \(SCIF\)](#) – the SCIF is set up to facilitate community-based projects and initiatives which would improve the health and wellbeing of communities in Low to Medium Income Countries (LMIC) where LSHTM operates. These are targeted projects also designed to reduce, ameliorate and avoid



the effects of climate change thereby constituting avoided carbon emissions which can be used to offset LSHTM's unavoidable residual emissions. This, together with the ECMP and HDP are the key components of LSHTM's Net-Zero Strategy.

- iv. **[Communications and Engagement activities](#)** – behaviour and culture change are important components of LSHTM's sustainability objectives. Effective and wide-ranging comms and engagement programmes are key to this, not just for the LSHTM community but also its external partners and stakeholders. This is achieved through a variety of media, e.g. newsletters, face-to-face & virtual meetings, inductions and training programmes. Groups such as Sustainability Representatives also share information with their teams and departments.
- v. **[ISO 14001 Environmental Management System \(EMS\)](#)** - LSHTM is certified to the ISO 14001 EMS global standards; this commits the School to continuous environmental improvement, compliance to environmental legal requirements, pollution prevention and environmental protection. The ISO 14001 EMS certification is externally audited on an annual basis and all the above stated are also audited as part of this process. This therefore provides third party scrutiny and assurance for our policy actions, in addition to the environmental protection and legal compliance elements.
- vi. **[Targeted Policies and Procedures](#)** – below are the current list of relevant policies and procedures which provide the guardrails of how the LSHTM community are expected to interact with the sustainability policy:
 - [Travel Policy](#)
 - [Procurement policy](#)
 - [Waste management guidance procedure](#)
 - [Space temperature heating guidance](#)
 - [Sustainable construction and refurbishment standards \(coming soon\)](#)
 - [Sustainable Food Guide](#)

5. MONITORING AND REPORTING

LSHTM will measure policy performance against the various environmental aspects with the objective to reduce adverse impacts. Having an effective monitoring and reporting regime is fundamental to good environmental management. LSHTM are currently able to measure environmental aspects such as electricity, heat, gas, water, waste and business travel. The benchmarking includes emissions & kWh per m² space; emissions per number of staff & students; and emissions per capital income.

The following are some of the tools and reporting frameworks used by LSHTM:



- i. **Optimised (Power B.I.)** – this is the online dashboard where all LSHTM utility consumption can be accessed and visualised. This includes all Scope 1 & 2 emissions (electricity, gas & heat) as well as some Scope 3 emissions (water, waste and business travel). Reports from Optimised are produced and reported to management, relevant committees and staff and student groups.
- ii. **HESA** – this is compulsory annual reporting which allows LSHTM to benchmark itself against other Higher Education institutions and to track it's own progress using the archive of data collected through past HESA reporting. It is an opportunity to gather key data which can help inform sustainability activities over the next year.
- iii. **SECR (Environment and Sustainability Report)** – this is a good practice UK regulatory requirement and reporting framework carried out on an annual basis. Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions are reported as part of this framework along with other sustainability initiatives.
- iv. **ISO 14001 EMS** – this is an annual third-party environmental audit that verifies compliance against the ISO 14001 standards. This audit encompasses all environmental aspects and related impacts relevant to LSHTM, both measurable and non-measurable.

6. POLICY GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Sustainability Policy is owned by the LSHTM Executive Team (ET) and overseen by the Sustainability Action Committee (SAC). Where necessary working groups can be created to execute specific aspects of the policy. Progress against policy is reported annually to the ET. Policy is also updated accordingly.

- i. **Executive Team** – Top management responsible for decision making and running of the institution including setting and reviewing the environmental sustainability objectives.
- ii. **Sustainability Action Committee (SAC)** – Steering committee responsible for implementing the ECMP and net-zero emissions target, chaired by the COO, made up of department heads, senior academic staff, early-career researchers and student representatives. Chairs are appointed to lead key subgroups into which other members and relevant staff provide input. The subgroups include Travel, Procurement, Waste & Water, ITS, Catering, Sustainable Labs, Comms & Engagement and Estates Infrastructure.
- iii. **Working Groups** – Working groups are set up to help execute specific aspects of the Sustainability Policy once identified by the SAC committee.



- iv. **Sustainability Reps** – these are LSHTM staff and students wishing to help influence, change and embed sustainability policies and practices within their respective departments and teams.

- v. **Labs Sustainability group** – lab users, researchers and lab managers meet regularly to discuss and implement measures and initiatives that would help to reduce the environmental impact of laboratory research operations.