

University of Cambridge

Environmental Policy

The mission of the University of Cambridge is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence. One of the University's core values is to have concern for sustainability and its relationship with the environment.

The University is committed to undertaking its academic and operational activities in an environmentally responsible way. We are a signatory to the Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice and have adopted a number of [commitments relating to the environmental performance](#) of our estate and supply chain. The University has established environmental management processes to implement these commitments effectively and drive continual improvement.

This Environmental Policy applies to all aspects of the University's operational estate, and academic and operational activities carried out across our operational estate. It is relevant to a range of stakeholders including employees, students, visitors, suppliers, and others who are involved in the management of the University's operational estates including sub-contractors. The Policy provides a framework for establishing environmental objectives and integrating environmental considerations into the University's decision-making processes.

The University of Cambridge commits to managing its operational estate and estate-related operations to ensure:

- Environmental aspects, impacts, risks and opportunities associated with the operational estate are identified and managed effectively taking a life-cycle perspective where the University can control or influence activities.
- Climate risks are considered and appropriate adaptation measures are adopted to address these and strengthen resilience of the University's operational estate and related operations.
- Climate impacts are mitigated through sustainable resource use, exploring alternatives to fossil fuel-based energy sources and carbon reduction across the operational estate and estate-related operations.
- The natural environment is protected and enhanced through actions that limit negative impacts and, where possible, deliver positive direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

- Waste is minimised through active management that facilitates reduction, reuse and recycling.
- Water is conserved through efficient use and management of infrastructure.
- Sustainable and ethical practices are embedded into the University's procurement activities through proactive supplier engagement and the promotion of sustainable goods and services.
- The environmental sustainability impacts of the University's building construction and refurbishment projects are reduced.
- Staff and students have access to sustainable, accessible and safe transport options for travel to work, travel at work and travel for work.
- Staff have access to guidance and training to ensure they are aware of and understand the potential environmental impacts of their areas of activity, and are informed, empowered and supported to take action to prevent or minimise these impacts.
- The environment is protected through the prevention of pollution and by minimising emissions and discharges to air, land and water.
- Full compliance with environmental legislation and other requirements relevant to the University.
- Continual improvement in the environmental performance of the University through the development and utilisation of effective environmental management processes.

This Policy will be reviewed periodically, and as a minimum every three years, to ensure it remains appropriate to the University's purpose, context, strategic direction, and environmental risks and opportunities.

The Policy will be implemented through the University's environmental management processes and made accessible to all persons working for or on behalf of the University and made publicly the available.

Approved by the University Council on 11 June 2026.

[The University Council](#) is the principal executive and policy-making body of the University.