

## 1. Introduction and Purpose

To help Royal Holloway both mitigate against, and adapt to, the climate and biodiversity crises, this new environmental policy will embed environmental sustainability into absolutely everything we do – from how we maintain and develop our buildings and 135-acre parkland estate, to what food we serve in our outlets, and what we research and teach.

To support and guide this ambition, Environmental Sustainability is also one of three strategic enablers of RH2030s, and our inaugural Environmental Sustainability Strategy was launched in 2022.

## 2. Scope

This overarching 'capstone' policy applies to all colleagues across Professional Services and our academic schools, our Egham and Central London premises, and to all those related policies listed in Section 5.

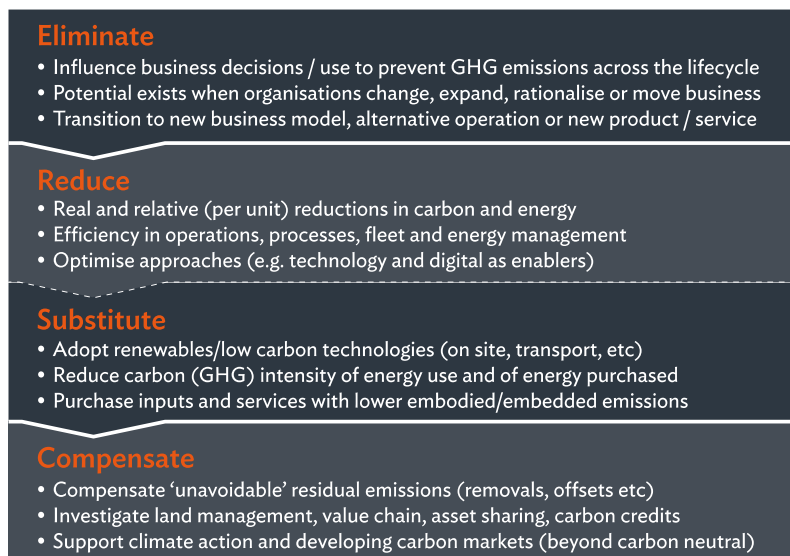
We will also encourage and support our students to follow our principles and ensure that our suppliers' own policies align with them whenever and wherever possible.

## 3. Policy Statement

To reduce our environmental footprint, increase biodiversity, and put environmental sustainability at the heart of our research and education, we are specifically committed to:

- Having in place an **Environmental Sustainability Action Plan or Strategy**, including net zero, waste and water commitments, and regularly monitoring and externally reporting our progress annually.
- Embedding the following **greenhouse gas management hierarchy** across all operations and activities and buying only zero carbon electricity.

### GREENHOUSE GAS MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY








Adapted version of the 2020 IEMA GHG Management Hierarchy

- Developing and delivering a long-term **estates decarbonisation plan** and installing no new gas boilers wherever this is possible.
- Reducing **water use** and our reliance on mains supply, buying and using only water efficient equipment, and detecting and fixing leaks as soon as possible.








- Minimising waste by applying the following **waste hierarchy** across all operations and activities and adopting a 'digital by default' approach to document management.

#### WASTE HIERARCHY

<b>Reduce</b> 	Using and buying less material (including packaging) in the first instance, and then choosing responsibly sourced re-usable products, over disposable alternatives, and using them for longer.
<b>Re-use</b> 	Maintaining, repairing and refurbishing materials, equipment and parts for the same or different uses.
<b>Recycle</b> 	Recovering waste by turning it into new products and materials.
<b>Recover</b> 	Recovering waste for fuels and direct energy production.
<b>Dispose</b> 	Discarding waste to landfill or burning it without energy recovery.

- The responsible stewardship of our estate and increasing **biodiversity** across our Living Campus.
- Minimizing use of **chemicals** and other hazardous materials, and putting controls in place to ensure responsible storage, disposal and spill management.
- Supporting **hybrid working** and **sustainable travel**, including the development of a Green Travel Plan and adoption of the following travel hierarchy.

#### TRAVEL HIERARCHY

 Digital communication
 Walking and wheeling
 Cycling
 Public transport
 EVs (incl. car sharing)
 Petrol and diesel vehicles (incl. car sharing)
 Fly

- Using established frameworks to promote sustainable resource management into all **procurement activities** and holding our suppliers to our own standards.
- Maintaining a sustainable approach to **investment** that prohibits investments in fossil fuel companies.
- Embedding environmental sustainability into our **teaching and research** – ensuring that all students and colleagues have access to relevant training and other engagement opportunities.
- Working only with **partners** that share our own environmental commitment and values.
- Complying with all **legal requirements** and other compliance obligations.

Exceptions to these commitments will be fully supported where any Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Health and Safety (H&S) adjustments require anything different.

#### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Head of Sustainability is the Operational Owner of this policy and will delegate day to day oversight and coordination through members of our Environmental Sustainability Working Group (ESWG).

Reporting to the Executive Board and University Council is through the ESG chair and deputy chair, and the University's Vice Chancellor and Principal and an Independent Council Member are also accountable for Environmental Sustainability at their respective tiers of governance.

## 5. Related Documents

This policy should help shape and be referenced by the following other policies:

- [Procurement policy](#)
- [Environmental, sustainable and healthy food policy](#)
- [Travel, subsistence and personal expenses policy](#)
- [Hybrid working \(pilot\)](#)
- [Information Technology purchasing policy](#)
- [Statement of investment policy](#)
- Space Management Policy (in development)

## 6. Document Control Information

Policy Owner	Stephen McAuliffe, Executive Director of Business and People Services
Operational Owner	Mark Berry, Head of Sustainability
Approving Body	Executive Board
Approved on	10 July 2024
To be reviewed before	February 2025

Version History		
Version (newest to oldest)	Date of approval	Summary of changes
1	10 July 2024	First version of policy.