ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR OPERATIONS

Autumn 2024 to Summer 2026

ABOUT THE PLAN

Our University strategy, **RH2030s**, commits us to being one of London's most sustainable universities.

To help realise this ambition, we're embedding environmental sustainability across all our operations – from how we maintain and develop our buildings and 135-acre parkland estate, to what food we serve in our outlets, and how we manage the use of AI and other future technologies.

We have developed our Environmental Sustainability Plan for Operations to guide this vital work over the next two years, specifically our RH2030s objectives to:

- Achieve net zero
- Continue waste reduction
- Improve water efficiency
- Increase biodiversity and climate resilience across our campus

For each of these four objectives, we've identified a set of two-year measures of success (based on a 2023/24 baseline) and specific actions that we will continue to monitor the progress of.

We have also identified a number of broader targets and actions to support our delivery, boost our reputation, and empower our students, staff and wider community to be environmental gamechangers.

The plan will exist alongside the University's Education, Research and Global Partnership Strategic Action Plans (SAPs), which will guide our academic objectives for environmental sustainability.

ACHIEVE NET ZERO

We are committed to achieving net zero for our scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions – a crucial part of our response to the climate emergency. Whilst our electricity supply is now from zero carbon sources, boosted by five solar panel arrays, we have a large estate to decarbonise and reaching net zero is going to be a long-term commitment.

Over the next two years we will develop a new science-aligned Carbon Reduction Plan that meets or exceeds UK government targets. We will also continue to reduce our emissions and the overall amount of power we use, by making parts of our estate more energy efficient and reducing our travel footprint.

2-year measures of success

- Reduce our scope 1 and 2 location-based emissions by a minimum of 5% (from 6,874 tonnes CO2e to 6,530 tonnes CO2e)
- Reduce the amount of grid-purchased energy we use each year, per person, by a minimum of 10% (from 2.58 MWh to 2.32 MWh)
- Increase the renewable energy production capacity on campus by a minimum of 25% (from 105.4 kW to 131.75 kW)

How we'll do this

#	Actions	Lead Team
1a	Develop a Decarbonisation Planning Tool for the estate and use it to review our net zero targets and inform a new science-aligned Carbon Reduction Plan	Sustainability
1b	Begin delivering a series of decarbonisation projects, likely including the conversion of at least one building to heat pumps and the installation of at least one new large solar panel array within the two years of this plan	Estates
1c	Launch and begin delivering a long-term Green Travel Plan, including for business, research and teaching travel, student and staff commuting, and all associated international activities	Estates
1d	Complete a review of the Building Management System (BMS) and implement any recommendations	Estates
1e	Begin carbon labelling all food and drink prepared across our outlets and display information at point of sale	Commercial Services
1f	Complete a review of temperature-controlled-environment running temperatures	IT Services
1g	Identify all high energy use areas (including commercial kitchens and labs) and develop specific procedures with the responsible teams to reduce associated emissions	Sustainability

CONTINUE WASTE REDUCTION

We send zero waste to landfill and our Environmental Policy commits us to applying the waste management hierarchy throughout all of our operations, teaching and research. To further reduce the overall amount of waste we generate, whilst improving our recycling rate, over the next two years we will target specific waste streams and sources that are typically hard to recycle. Work to improve our campus's circular economy, including household items bought by students in our halls of residence, will also intensify.

2-year measures of success

- Reduce the total amount of waste we produce each year by a minimum of 5% (from 728.40 tonnes to 692.03 tonnes)
- Reduce the amount of non-industrial waste we produce each year per person by a minimum of 5% (from 41.21 kg to a maximum of 39.15 kg)
- Increase our overall recycling rate by 5% (from 37% to a minimum of 42%)

How we'll do this

#	Actions	Lead Team
2a	Establish recycling facilities for all non-standard recurring items and materials found on campus	Estates
2b	Begin recycling all our non-invasive green waste on site	Estates
2c	Introduce a new process for collecting and re-using belongings left in halls post-departure	Commercial Services
2d	Introduce reusable takeaway container schemes across our catering outlets	Commercial Services
2e	Introduce a maximum number of managed IT devices per staff member (with a minimum life expectancy)	IT Services
2f	Increase printing controls to support our 'digital by default' approach	IT Services
2g	Identify all high waste production areas (including commercial kitchens and labs) and develop specific procedures with the responsible teams to better embed the waste hierarchy	Sustainability

IMPROVE WATER EFFICIENCY

We are committed to improving water efficiency across our halls of residence, catering outlets, laboratories and sports facilities. Over the next two years, we will also explore the seasonal abstraction of groundwater for irrigation and introduce new procedures across our high-use areas.

2-year measures of success

- Reduce our annual water consumption by a minimum of 5% (from 220,051m^3 to 209,048 m^3)

How we'll do this

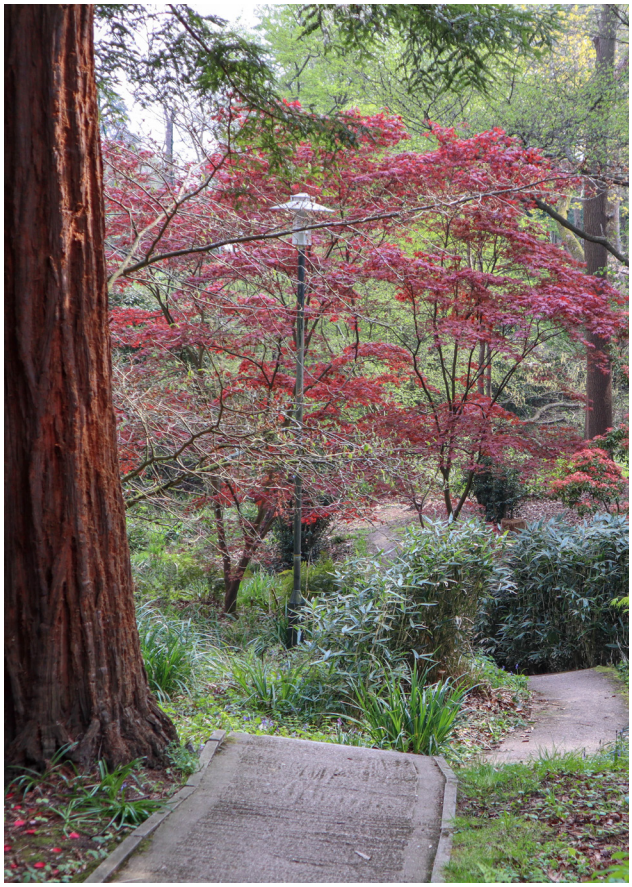
#	Actions	Lead Team
3a	Begin using our own water resources to irrigate Nobles Fields grass pitches	Estates
3b	Transition to a fully metered and single supplier water source	Estates
3c	Identify all high water use areas (including commercial kitchens and labs) and develop specific procedures with the responsible teams to reduce consumption	Sustainability

INCREASE BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE ON CAMPUS

Through our Living Campus initiative, we are committed to championing campus biodiversity and promoting academic and collaborative engagement opportunities across the natural campus. The issuance of new guidance will also improve the resilience of all parts of the University and its grounds to the worsening impact of climate change, including wetter winters and hotter, dryer summers.

2-year measures of success

- Support biodiversity through an observed net improvement in habitat quality across our estate (based on a Summer 2023 habitat survey baseline)
- Increase academic engagement with our Living Campus (based on 2024 user research results)



How we'll do this

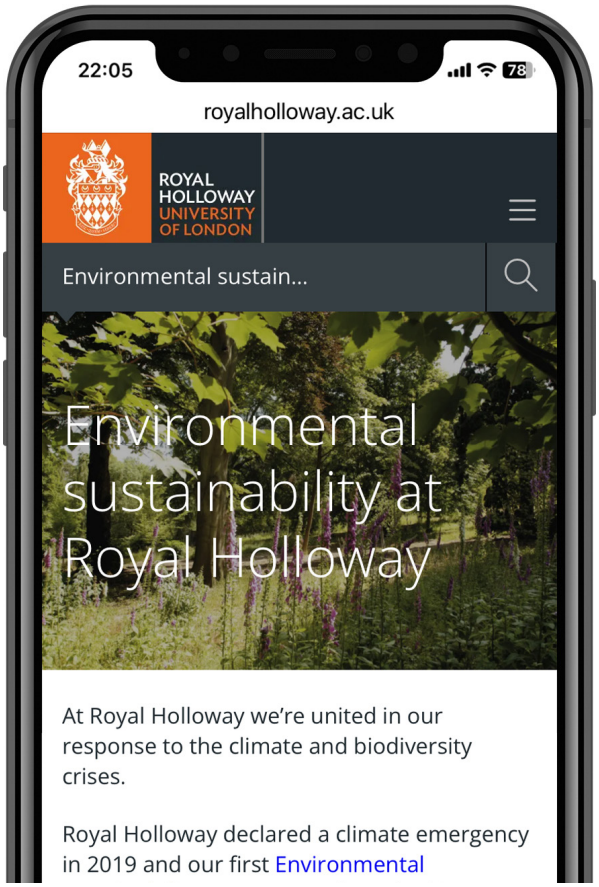
#	Actions	Lead Team
4a	Go beyond the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements of all new planning applications, drawing on initiatives that are in addition to our routine land management activities	Estates
4b	Develop a Biodiversity Management Plan that sets both short and long-term targets, identifies the agreed management approaches to all our main habitats types, and considers future opportunities related to biodiversity net gain (BNG)	Estates
4c	Complete a second habitat survey in Summer 2026	Estates
4d	Complete and, where appropriate, begin acting on Living Campus user research, including greater promotion and sharing more information with academic colleagues	Estates
4e	Launch an annual programme of engagement events, including a headline spring campaign	Estates
4f	Develop new guidance for embedding climate change resilience across our operations and the estate	Sustainability

SUPPORTING OUR DELIVERY

Everyone at Royal Holloway, including our students, colleagues, partners and suppliers, has a role to play in reducing our environmental footprint and maximising our positive impact. Over the next two years, we will empower our stakeholders by providing bespoke environmental training, improving awareness and professional recognitional of our progress, and creating opportunities for students and colleagues to collaborate and share best practice.

2-year measures of success

- Achieve a minimum of a 2:1 class rating on the People and Planet university league table
- 100% of permanent staff to have received environmental sustainability training
- Be a Silver Carbon Literate Organisation



How we'll do this

#	Actions	Lead Team
5a	Rollout bespoke Environmental Sustainability e-learning for staff and students	Sustainability
5b	Grow the Sustainability Programme Team, including the recruitment of a new Energy and Environment Manager	Sustainability
5c	Review the University's Environmental Policy and include an Equality Impact Assessment	Sustainability
5d	Deliver a comprehensive communications and engagement campaign to help increase awareness and improve colleagues' and students' sustainable behaviours	Sustainability
5e	Launch a new staff sustainability network and work with the Students' Union to boost student voice and engagement	Sustainability
5f	Add further sustainability guidance to the procurement policy and embed the University's Environmental Policy across all procurement and contract management activities	Sustainability / Procurement
5g	Start reporting our energy use, emissions, waste production and water use alongside our annual financial statements	Finance
5h	Achieve and maintain ISO 14001 accreditation for our Environmental Management System (EMS)	Estates
5i	Gain and retain the Nature Positive Universities pledge and Fairtrade and LEAF accreditations	Various