

# AT A GLANCE

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR OPERATIONS

Autumn 2024 to Summer 2026

Our University strategy, **RH2030s**, commits us to being one of London's most sustainable universities. Our Environmental Sustainability Plan for Operations will help us to achieve this ambition, specifically our objectives to:



## 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e to 6,530 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)
- 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)



## 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<sup>3</sup> to 209,048 m<sup>3</sup>)



## 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 44% to a minimum of 49%)



## 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)



## 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 recognition of our progress, and creating opportunities for students and colleagues to collaborate and share best practice.