SUSTAINABILITY POLICY 2026

OUR SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT - Roehampton Venues are committed to making a positive environmental impact and contributing to a sustainable future through the delivery of sustainable events. We are committed to the management of our environmental impacts and aim to embed sustainability across all our activities and operations. We aim to reduce our environmental impacts from waste, energy, water, transport, emission to air, and releases to land.

How we achieve these goals:

1. Recognised Standards & Governance

- **Accreditation:** We hold the **Gold 'Green Meetings' Accreditation** and commit to annual reviews to ensure continuous development.
- **Strategic Planning:** Our journey is guided by a formal **Green Action Plan** and a sustainable procurement policy that balances social, economic, and environmental benefits.

2. Energy & Infrastructure

- **Carbon Strategy:** We commit to using **100% renewable energy**, bolstered by our own on-site solar panels and a university-wide carbon reduction plan.
- **Sustainable Build:** Our purpose-built conference centre is **BREEAM certified**, featuring natural ventilation, high-performance building fabric, and specialist water-saving systems.
- **Clean Travel:** We actively promote public transport and invest in infrastructure for cycling, e-bikes, and electric vehicles.

3. Conscious Catering & Waste

- **Ethical Sourcing:** We provide affordable, healthy food featuring **Fairtrade products**, free-range eggs/poultry, and MSC-certified fish.
- **Circular Economy:** We prioritize reusable service ware and plant-based compostables. All food waste is processed via an **on-site biodigester** to create compost for our grounds. We have a sustainable procurement policy and are working towards only working with accredited suppliers across our venues.

4. Client & Community Engagement

- **Event Partnerships:** We provide clients with "green reminders" and social media toolkits, using post-event feedback to further refine our environmental impact.
- **Social Enterprise:** We support community-focused projects like **The Hive Café**, our on-campus ethical coffee shop.
- **Culture & Research:** Promote environmentally sustainable activities and behaviours across the campus with staff, students, and visitors. Make a positive contribution to environmental sustainability, such as conservation, ecology, and biodiversity, through our research and knowledge exchange.

5. Health & Wellbeing

- **Holistic Support:** The mental and physical health of our staff, students, and guests is paramount, with dedicated guidance and access to wellbeing resources readily available across the organization.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

At Roehampton Venues we establish, implement, and maintain procedures to identify and evaluate the significance of sustainable development issues (including risks and opportunities), associated with event and venue related activities. This includes those relating to relevant supply chain elements.

We recognize we have an environmental and social responsibility for the physical environment and for the people and communities with whom we work. We therefore strive to ensure our business practices are as ethically, socially, and environmentally acceptable as possible, so we minimise our environmental impact and develop our working relationships in an ethical way. We understand the importance of operating in a sustainable manner, and we are committed to ensuring our company is doing as much as it can to achieve this.

Our sustainable development principles include stewardship and inclusivity. We have formally reviewed our business activities, set key objectives, and identified areas where improvements can be made. We have also set ourselves realistic targets so we can minimise our environmental impacts and improve our management of sustainability issues.

Our key objectives are to:

• Maximise the efficient use of raw materials, energy and water and minimise the amount of waste generated from our business activities to minimise/prevent harmful emissions resulting from our activities.
• Reuse and/or recycle all glass, paper, cardboard, and plastic.
• Recycle or compost all suitable food waste, vegware packaging and oils.
• Plan travel for staff, suppliers, and guests to minimise air emissions.
• Source local produce and sustainable fish. We carefully consider suppliers who share our values, to always offer the best, and most sustainable product we can use for our guests.
• Reduce our overall carbon footprint across the University.
• Comply with all legislation and aim for best practice in all areas including London living wage
• Engage and support the local community

Our vision is embraced throughout the university – from our management team to our event staff – we are all actively involved in the implementation of our system. We have regular discussions with our staff, suppliers, and customers to get feedback which will assist us in improving our performance. We recognise our employees are key to ensuring our objectives are achieved and full training is given on the practices which must be adopted for us to do this. We believe everyone has a duty of care to the environment and encourage these aspirations amongst our staff, suppliers, and clients.

Our sustainability policy is reviewed and updated annually, but also in response to new technology, new ideas, customer requirements or legal requirements. We recognise improving our company is an ongoing process and we continually monitor our progress and regularly review our practices to ensure we stay on track to achieving our objectives.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIONS

People: Community, Culture & Ethical Choices

At our core, we foster a culture of conscious consumption and community support. As a **certified Fairtrade University**, we exclusively serve Fairtrade tea and coffee, and our catering partner, Elior, prioritizes seasonal British produce to minimize food miles. We take "local sourcing" literally— keeping **campus chickens** that provide eggs for **The Hive Café**, our on-site social enterprise. Where students and staff directly shape policy via the Environmental Network. Our commitment extends to social welfare through **Community fridges** that redistribute surplus food to students and partnerships with suppliers like Lavender Green, who donate floral displays to local charities. A massive part of our ESG ethos is the encouragement of a culture to support sustainable choices a way we accomplish this is via our "Green Week" at Roehampton:

- One of our outlets fully vegetarian and vegan for the week to show the variety of sustainable food options outside of our standard food habits
- Promoting "Too Good to Go" - to reduce our catering waste and support students to find healthy food in affordable way
- Proving Fairtrade products across our catering outlets
- We are slowly increasing the use of keep cups across our campus – saving an average of 525 cups from landfill per month.

The University helps to encourage sustainable and ethically sourced food and drink by:

- Encouraging locally sourced food on menus, reducing food miles. Allowing space for sustainable food projects e.g. old orchard, growing spaces.
- ***"Food for Life Soil Association" completed*** by Elior Catering for March 2026.
- Providing drinking water for all staff, students and visitors.
- Promoting use of free-range eggs and MSC certified fish.
- Selling fairtrade certified products in catering outlets and participating in fairtrade fortnight.
- Sustainable Engagement - Throughout the year, we participate in engagement weeks such as fairtrade fortnight, Planet Go Green week and Environmental week! Other sustainability campaigns include, Love Food Hate Waste, Meat free Mondays and walk to work week. We run competitions throughout the academic year to encourage students to save energy and reduce waste. Students and staff also have the opportunity to help shape and influence environmental policy by joining the environmental network which meets at least once a term.
- Cycle Parking and Showers - There are a total of 504 cycle parking spaces across campus, including storage near Elm Grove at Digby Stuart College. Shower facilities are available at all colleges for staff who cycle or run to work. A Cycle to Work Scheme is available as a staff benefit through HR.

Places: Sustainable Infrastructure, Energy & Carbon Reduction

We manage our historic and modern spaces with future-proof technology. Our **BREEAM 'Very Good'** rated facilities, including the Elm Grove Conference Centre and Library, utilize passive design, natural ventilation, and solar PV arrays to minimize their footprint. Refurbishments at the Mary Seacole Centre and David Bell Building have replaced single glazing with high-performance insulation and **Low-E double glazing**. The new Dorothy Buchanan Engineering building named after one of Britains first professional female engineers has opened in 2025 – state-of-the-art facility focusing on green skills, featuring workshops, digital labs, and design studios to address the UK's net-zero goals, housing new engineering, architecture, and built environment courses. The university has undertaken several key projects as part of our Carbon Reduction Plan – including the introduction of 508 m^2 of solar electricity panels installed (2% of our electricity demand). Over 14,000 luminaires replacements to low-energy low-maintenance quality LED with motion and daylight controls (majority of all 60 buildings converted). Each project typically reduces electricity used for lighting by 80% and 1,875m of heating pipework insulated to name a few this has greatly impacted the carbon emissions of the University all these projects and relating impacts can be found in our Carbon Reduction Report Summary:

Highlights from the report are:

- In the last 15 years the University has invested £3.6M in 62 projects with 5 to 10 years payback to reduce utilities usage, associated costs and carbon emissions.
- Thanks to our 'invest to save' projects, the equivalent of 1028 tonnes of CO2 per annum (at current carbon factors) is not released into the atmosphere. This is equivalent to driving a petrol car around the UK's coastline over 1,500 times each year! (Based on 2024 DEFRA emissions factors).
- These projects save the equivalent of powering and heating 313 UK homes, every single year (5000 MWh/year).
- Energy Management is saving the business over £1M per annum in current utilities costs.
- Thanks to our flexible energy purchasing strategy, adopted in 2014, the University has been 'shielded' from the worst of the energy prices crisis: without this strategy, UoR would have been impacted by an additional £6.5M in the 2020-23 period, just to pay for electricity and gas. Back in 2015-18 when wholesale gas prices were at an all times low, this variables prices strategy saved the business over £0.5M, the equivalent of 1year of gas at the time!

Planet: Waste & Biodiversity

Our waste strategy is anchored by an **on-site industrial bio-digester**, which transforms food waste and compostable "Vegware" into nutrient-rich granules for our gardens. We further close the loop by converting used cooking oil into biofuel via Olleco and eliminating single-use plastics in favour of reusables. Effective waste management is crucial to our sustainability efforts at Roehampton. The waste management landscape at the University includes a range of activities, including waste generation, internal transportation and storage, and collection for disposal. Our waste contractor, Suez, manages the collection of all general waste (refuse) from our campus. Rather than being sent to landfill, all general waste is directed to energy recovery facilities where it is combusted to generate electricity and heat. This approach significantly reduces the greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste disposal and supports the transition to more sustainable waste management practices. To put this into perspective, during the 2023/24 academic year, emissions from the disposal of our general waste totalled 2,377 $kgCO^2e$. If all our general waste had been sent to landfill instead of being combusted for energy recovery, those emissions would have been 192,903 $kgCO^2e$ – over 80 times higher. This highlights the significant environmental benefits of diverting waste from landfill and choosing more sustainable disposal methods. The Facilities Team and our Cleaning Contractor, Apleona, handle waste coordination as part of the Estates and Campus Services Division.

Nature and Biodiversity – We are committed to the protection and conservation of biodiversity and are lucky to have a considerable range of species and habitats across our campus. Within our 24 hectares of land our habitats include an old and new orchard, three artificial lakes and an acid grassland. We also have a badger set, beehives and a cave like habitat which supports one of the largest species of spider found in the UK: the European cave spider. Our proximity to Richmond Park, a National Nature Reserve and Wimbledon Common puts us in the middle of an important network of ecological corridors e.g., hedgerows, roadside verges. Previous work has identified the scope and importance of biodiversity on our site and can be seen in the Universities 2016-2020 Biodiversity Action Plan. The key aims of this action plan were to:

- Encourage the promotion of staff and student awareness of the importance of biodiversity.
- Seek to support relevant projects and programmes that will conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity.
- Engage as appropriate with the local community, businesses and organisations on biodiversity enhancing projects.
- Encourage groups and individuals to consider the impacts on biodiversity in relation to purchasing, investments and developments.
- Ensure that biodiversity is not reduced following on campus developments, and where that is not possible make its best endeavours to ensure compensating additional biodiversity elsewhere.
- Comply with relevant biodiversity legislation.

We are happy to hear any suggestions of how we can improve our commitments to sustainability. If you have any questions or suggestions, please get in touch directly at conferences@roehampton.ac.uk