



CoDH environmental sustainability policy

CoDH sustainability policy – August 2019

This sustainability policy has been developed to help guide the Council's approach to environmental sustainability in line with accepted good practice.

Mission statement and core values

The Council of Deans of Health represents the UK's university faculties engaged in education and research for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. Operating as a multi-professional organisation at the heart of policy and political debate, we aim to lead policy at national and UK level, promoting the essential contribution of our members to health and social care.

The Council is moving towards independence and will need to review all its governance and operational policy when a new body is established. The Charity Commission encourages all charities to commit to a sustainable development philosophy.

Key environmental and social impacts of the organisation

UK travel

The Council is a UK-wide organisation and necessarily engages in business travel across the UK. The staff team is based in central London but staff travel frequently to meetings in Wales and Scotland and also visit members across the UK. About two journeys a year are made to Northern Ireland. Most staff travel is by train with some domestic air travel. Over a five-month period in 2018/19 carbon emissions from flights and train travel for staff and executive team members averaged 1,565kg of CO₂ emissions a month (1.54 tonnes).

The Council meets the cost of members' travel to Council executive team meetings. Members come from across the UK for these meetings, usually by train but in some cases, and from Northern Ireland, by air.

Events and catering

The Council runs meetings and events throughout the year including several large conferences for 100+ delegates including meals and overnight stays.

Energy and water use

The Council has three rooms and a kitchen in Woburn House which it leases from CVCP. The policies of CVCP and Universities UK determine much of the energy and water use impact of the Council.

The Council has 10 desk-top computers, a number of laptops and mobile phones and a printer.

Office supplies procurement

The Council purchases its own office supplies and refreshments for the kitchen.

How the Council plans to reduce its environmental impact

UK travel

We will seek to ensure that any business travel undertaken is worthwhile and where possible choose the travel option with least environmental impact. We will consider using electronic meeting tools such as Skype where this is practical and ensure all staff know how to use these tools and understand associated costs and benefits.

We will calculate the carbon emissions of staff business travel every six months and offset these emissions through <https://climatecare.org>.

All staff use public transport to reach work, or cycle to work. Cycle parking is available onsite.

Where possible staff will walk to central London meetings that are less than a 30-minute walk from the office.

Events and catering

Meetings with in-house catering are covered by UUK's catering policy, which stipulates that all products should be ethically sourced. UUK works with providers to ensure this. UUK does not use any single use plastics and only disposes of paper napkins.

When we hold external events we will ask caterers and suppliers about their sustainability policies and seek to ensure that menus are chosen to have a lower impact on the environment.

Office supplies procurement and use

We will avoid single use plastic packaging where possible. The Council's kitchen is equipped with glasses and crockery, which are used by Council staff. The Council also has some reusable travel mugs for takeaway coffees.

We have reviewed our procurement of office supplies and switched wherever possible to more sustainable options including recycled paper. We will aim to do business with companies with sustainable policies and good employment practices.

We will seek to avoid unnecessary printing.

The Council has reduced its milk order to match weekly use.

Energy and water use

Universities UK is developing its sustainability policies but has already put in place many positive measures including:

- Recycling throughout the building. The Council has access to paper recycling, mixed recycling and a food waste bin
- UUK is sourcing sustainability policies from suppliers to ensure they fit with the organisation's ethos
- Since October 2018 Woburn House has sourced all of its electricity from green sources. This will remain the case for at least the next three years
- UUK plans to improve heating and cooling within the building during 2019-20 to improve efficiency.
- Almost all lighting is now LED.
- Secondary glazing has been installed throughout a lot of the building.
- UUK has engaged a new cleaning provider which will use greener products and methods to reduce water usage.

Aims for 2019/20

Continuous change and taking forward our sustainability plan

The Council aims to continue to reduce its environmental impact over the coming year. We will:

- Promote responsibility for the environment within the organisation and communicate this policy to staff and members
- Seek to reduce energy use and the use of other resources
- Minimise waste through reduction, re-use and recycling
- Review communication tools, travel use and policies to minimise carbon emissions and offset carbon emissions from our measurable business travel

Policy renewal date

Policy to be reviewed in October 2020.

For more information contact:

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