



Cardiff  
Metropolitan  
University

Prifysgol  
Metropolitan  
Caerdydd

# Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment

## POLICY COVERSHEET

### Key Details

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<i>Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment Policy</i>
<b>DATE APPROVED</b>	<i>7<sup>th</sup> May 2025</i>
<b>APPROVING BODY</b>	<i>Academic Board</i>
<b>VERSION</b>	<i>1</i>
<b>PREVIOUS REVIEW DATES</b>	<i>New</i>
<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE</b>	<i>March 2027</i>
<b>OUTCOME OF EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	<i>* No major change</i>
<b>RELATED POLICIES / PROCEDURES / GUIDANCE</b>	<i>Sustainability Strategy Sustainability Engagement Strategy Carbon Management Plan 2024 – 2030 Thermal Comfort Policy Ethical Supply Chains Policy Sustainable Procurement Policy Waste Management Policy Water Management Policy Biodiversity Policy Sustainability targets and Carbon management focus Travel Plan</i>
<b>IMPLEMENTATION DATE</b>	<i>May 2025</i>
<b>POLICY OWNER (JOB TITLE)</b>	<i>Head of Strategic Projects, Assistant Director of Estates and Environment</i>
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### Version Control

<b>VERSION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>REASON FOR CHANGE</b>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>May 2025</i>	<i>First version</i>

## Policy Hub

For further information on policies:

- 1 You can go to the Secretariat pages on InSite at <https://outlookuwicac.sharepoint.com/sites/Secretariat>;
- 2 You can go to the Policy Hub at [cardiffmet.ac.uk/about/policyhub](http://cardiffmet.ac.uk/about/policyhub); or
- 3 Contact [policies@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:policies@cardiffmet.ac.uk).

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# Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment Policy

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

Cardiff Metropolitan University recognises the importance of the role it has to play in the protection of our natural environment, locally, regionally and globally in the promotion principles of sustainability across all its activities, including construction and refurbishment.

### 1.2 Scope

- 1.2.1 The aim of this Policy is to reduce the environmental impact of our construction and refurbishment projects. This policy relates to construction activity including new build, refurbishments and maintenance projects which result in an environmental impact.
- 1.2.2 All impacts are to be measured and recorded as part of the University ISO 14001 accreditation defined Sustainability targets and carbon management focus.
- 1.2.3 The University is based on two Campus' - Llandaff for teaching and Cyncoed for teaching and residential: Plas Gwyn residential halls and staff offices - Alexander House and WJEC.
- 1.2.4 This Policy supports Sustainable Development Goal numbers 6; 7; 9; 11; 12; and 13.



### 1.3 Definitions

- 1.3.1 **Sustainable Development Goals SDG's** - The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals that were established in 2015 by the United Nations (UN). The goals are intended to create a more sustainable and equitable world by addressing global challenges.
- 1.3.2 **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** is a law that aims to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. The act's purpose is to ensure that actions meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 1.3.3 **ISO 14001** The University activities have an impact on the environment, and we are committed to continual improvement of our Environmental

Management System (EMS) and to exceed the requirements of ISO 14001. This is supported by the publication and reporting of smart objectives and priorities to deliver the EMS, Sustainability Strategy and Carbon Management Plan with sustainability themed policies.

- 1.3.4 **Carbon Net Zero** refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) that the University produces and the amount that's removed from the atmosphere. It can be achieved through a combination of emission reduction and emission removal.
- 1.3.5 **SKA rating** – A valuable tool for benchmarking and certifying greener office fit out projects in the UK. The rating system helps measure sustainability across factors like energy and water use, CO2 emissions, materials, waste and pollution. It works by assigning either a bronze, silver or gold certification level based on performance against over 100 good practice measures.

## 2 Policy

- 2.1 In line with the Well-being of the Future Generations Act (2015), Cardiff Metropolitan recognises a wide definition of sustainability, based on engaging in development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 2.2 We understand that our activities have an impact on the environment, and we are committed to continual improvement of our Environmental Management System and to exceed the requirements of ISO 14001.
- 2.3 We are committed to embedding the relevant goals into our business and academic process, as indicated Sustainable Development Goal numbers 6; 7; 9; 11; 12; and 13 are particularly relevant to this Policy.
- 2.4 Strategy 2030, the University's strategic plan, places sustainability firmly at its heart by identifying 'Low Carbon Futures' as a strategic priority. The University will achieve its goal of becoming Net Zero Carbon for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 2030; and in parallel will progress the reduction of its Scope 3 emissions by 30% by 2030 with the aim of achieving Net Zero Carbon for Scope 3 emissions by 2040.
- 2.5 Tools and methodologies for the assessment of environmental impacts have been trialled by the University for selected refurbishment and fit out projects. These include application of the SKA Rating fit-out benchmark system which has resulted in bronze and silver certification by external qualified assessors. The use of latest tools and good practice measures will be continually reviewed and implemented to support the EMS and carbon reduction targets set by the University. These consider latest best practice guidance and methodology for reporting and recording carbon reduction and environmental impacts for refurbishment and decarbonisation projects, works, and improvements.

- 2.6 The University is committed to implementing decarbonisation methods and technology across the estate. This includes improvement programmes including the phased replacement of existing infrastructure with more efficient renewable methods to reduce carbon including Solar / PV, BESS, LED lighting, Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) and other pilot projects involving DC low voltage installations for lighting and power throughout buildings. Other measures to reduce environmental impacts include energy, travel and transport, materials, waste, ecology, biodiversity, pollution, and wellbeing.
- 2.7 The adopted methods will improve resource efficiency, reduce running costs, and support net zero carbon. All stages and processes in the design and refurbishment, construction and operation of buildings can contribute towards sustainability improvements and the University will adopt steps for delivering construction and refurbishment projects to reduce environmental impacts. The University recognises it will not always be possible to follow all steps for smaller works and improvements, however the key themes and priorities will be followed.
- 2.8 The University is committed to ensuring that all construction, refurbishment works and improvements align with best practices for sustainability. By adopting this policy, we aim to reduce our environmental impact, promote resource conservation, and enhance the long-term sustainability of our built environment.

### 3 Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1 Through management of the Capital Programme, key progress is reported firstly to the Climate Action Working Group and then to the Environment, Estates and Sustainability Committee.
- 3.2 Consideration is given on how best our construction and refurbishment programmes can best deliver the University's targets for carbon emissions, waste reduction, sustainable travel, water efficiency and biodiversity gain.

### 4 Related Policies and Procedures

- 4.1 Carbon Management Plan 2024 – 2030
- 4.2 Sustainability Strategy
- 4.3 Sustainability Engagement Strategy
- 4.4 Thermal Comfort Policy
- 4.5 Ethical Supply Chains Policy
- 4.6 Sustainable Procurement Policy
- 4.7 Waste Management Policy
- 4.8 Water Management Policy
- 4.9 Biodiversity Policy

#### 4.10 Travel Plan

#### 4.11 Sustainability targets and Carbon management focus.

### 5 Review and Approval

5.1.1 The policy owner will provide updates of the Policy and associated Sustainability targets and carbon management focus to the Climate Action Working Group initially and then to the University's Environment, Estates and Sustainability Committee.