



# **Guildhall School of Music and Drama Environmental Sustainability Policy**

This policy is of relevance to all users of the School's services

Version Number	Two
Approved on	11 April 2019
Approved by	Senior Management Team
Written by	Continual Improvement Manager - Sustainability
Last reviewed	March 2022

The Guildhall School of Music & Drama is one of the world's leading conservatoires and drama schools, offering distinctive programmes to musicians, actors, and production and performance artists in an inspiring environment which will enable its students to be worldclass; virtuosi in their field; adaptable, purposeful and responsible artists in society.

The Guildhall School recognises the impact that its operations and activities can have on the environment and is committed to reducing these impacts by setting and achieving clearly defined objectives and targets and developing frameworks to achieve continual improvement. We recognise that we have a leadership role to play and are continually developing our systems to reflect best practice.

The Guildhall School identifies with the definition of Sustainable Development as “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” as set out in the Brundtland Report for the United Nations World Commission of Environment and Development.

The Guildhall School is a department of the City of London Corporation, and works towards the City’s sustainability goals. We will continue to ensure linkage between the City and Guildhall School’s teams. Information on the [City of London's Sustainability Policies](#) can be found on their website.

## **Our impacts**

The primary environmental impacts generated by our estates and activities are: fossil fuel energy consumption, water consumption, waste generation, use of materials and resources, and staff, student and audience travel.

Given our reach to students and audiences and the nature of our open spaces we have the opportunity to generate positive environmental impact by:

- inspiring staff, audiences, visitors and the next generation of arts professionals to live and work more sustainably.
- sharing best practice with arts, education and other organisations.
- encouraging biodiversity in our open spaces.

## **Our commitments**

The Guildhall School is committed to:

- Meeting or exceeding the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and other compliance obligations.
- Ensuring minimal environmental impact from construction, refurbishment and maintenance activities.
- Promoting sustainable procurement and efficient use of materials and resources including energy, water, materials and other resources.
- Avoiding waste where possible and increasing reuse and recycling rates.
- Avoiding, where possible, the use of hazardous materials and products, and take all reasonable steps to protect the environment.

- Promoting environmental awareness among its employees, students, audiences, visiting companies and those working on our behalf and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner, and creating opportunities for them to take ownership of initiatives that support environmental and sustainable practices.
- Listening and responding to students concerns about environmental issues and supporting students in student led environmental activities.
- Communicating our environmental and sustainability commitments and practices to all relevant parties.
- Encouraging the use of sustainable forms of transport.
- Exploring ways of increasing biodiversity in its estate.

## **Sustainability Steering Group**

The Sustainability Steering Group comprises of members from both the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Barbican. Being neighbours within the same iconic listed Grade 2 Barbican estate, and sharing a number of integrated services and management responsibilities, the two organisations have developed a joint approach to managing sustainability, this being part of our alliance approach.

The Sustainability Steering Group's mission is to ensure that both organisations make ethical and environmentally sound decisions in all facets of the business and encourage others to do the same. The group exists to co-ordinate and communicate various initiatives including this policy and associated action plan.

The group meets six times per year and is made up of members of staff from both organisations and includes representation from the student body and senior management.

## **Communication**

Sustainability issues are communicated to staff and students through clear notices and guidance with developments highlighted in articles in the staff and student monthly ezines. Links to relevant policies will be published on the Guildhall School's website in order that prospective students have access to them before they apply. The Sustainability Steering Group will continue to advocate green issues, and will meet regularly to explore new initiatives along with more sustainable ways of working.

We will continue to communicate our green successes with staff, students, audiences, alumni and other interested parties. Sustainability will feature on our websites, which will include highlighting awards and other recognition for work achieved.

## **Our action plan**

In order to achieve our ambitions and continual improvement we will continue to develop and review our environmental sustainability action plan which sets out actions that are completed, ongoing and scheduled. Although it remains the case

that we are not starting from scratch with many successful initiatives undertaken and awards received to date.

## **Audit, monitoring, reporting and review**

Environmental impacts will be assessed and annual audit will be ensured by the Sustainability Steering Group which will inform the review process for the policy and action plan. Significant findings from audits will be reported to the Guildhall Schools Senior Management Team.

This policy and associated action plan will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Sustainability Steering Group who will report at least annually to the Guildhall School's Operations Board reporting into the Senior Management Team.

Review Date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Reviewed by:

Sustainability Steering Group