

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

West Dean (including KLC School of Design) is a unique place of learning and landscape with a remarkable story and heritage. Edward James' vision for the Foundation was to provide a “safe haven for arts, crafts and supporting a sustainable community”. In the 21st century with the urgent challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and inequality, this purpose has a new resonance.

Sustainability at West Dean and KLC School of Design means managing our environmental and social footprint across all our activities, while we operate the Foundation and ensure its financial viability. This informs what we do and how we do it. We see it as “Doing the Right Thing”.

Our Vision 2030 Development Plan defines our strategic priorities. We have integrated our sustainability commitments into this and the “3 Ps” of the College’s Craft Philosophy: Practice, Place and People:

- **PRACTICE**

Providing world-class research, teaching and exhibition facilities through the professional development of our staff, our partnerships, and new national, international, and online practice hubs.

- **PLACE**

Maximising our unique sense of place by bringing together creativity, nature and wellbeing and becoming an exemplar of sustainability across our estate, house, landscape and collection.

- **PEOPLE**




Connecting a diverse estate with a shared ethos across staff and student bodies.

We are delivering on this Policy through our Sustainability Roadmap Action Plan which has seven pillars of action to support continuous improvement objectives over the next five years based on science, policy and best practice. These are based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) relevant to our activities as illustrated. The SDGs are the blueprint foundations for sustainability best practice






with seven, as below, most relevant to the Foundation. These are supplemented with more detailed policy, legal and best practice guidance across our sustainability impact areas. Our key targets under each SDG pillar of action are summarised below.

PRACTICE: EDUCATION, CURATION, GARDENS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education – Grow our curriculum further on sustainable design, materials & processes to take a leadership position. Move consideration of sustainability from the exceptional to the ordinary for Craft, Art and Design across our gardens and curriculum, conservation, arts, Green Building & Interiors. • Gardens – Formalise sustainability in planning garden installations. • Influence positive change through integrating topics such as climate change, biodiversity loss or EDI through exhibitions, garden installations and public campaigns.
PLACE: ENVIRONMENT	
<p>Environmental management of our footprint across all activities and operations with a core focus on climate change, protecting biodiversity and water quality, sustainable farming, heritage, sustainable products and the shift to a circular economy.</p>	
	<p>Landscape, Future Farming, Biodiversity, Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, buffer, expand and connect the characteristic habitats found at West Dean, whilst maintaining a strong productive, farmed landscape that enhances natural capital, mitigates against climate change, is nature positive with Biodiversity Net Gain. • Update the Estate Plan and implement the Landscape Spatial Strategy to conserve, enhance and create a mosaic of habitats derived from the underlying chalk grassland, woodland, wood pasture and parkland, and chalk valley grasslands/meadows. • Introduce environmentally sensitive farming and a mix of land uses (local food production, viticulture, grassland, woodland and nature recovery) that enable the Estate to adapt to climate change through expansion, greater connectivity and buffering to improve habitat resilience.
	<p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be part of the solution on climate change by reducing our energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. • By 2023, set a Scope 1 & 2 GHG Emissions reduction target with annual Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting. Measure Scope 3 emissions, engage stakeholders on reductions in hotspots such as tenant electricity, farmer fertilizer use (Nitrous Oxides) and student flights.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, be certified Climate Neutral through reductions and credible carbon offsets aligned with our landscape, sustainable farming and forestry actions to grow grassland and woodland creation. • Switch all West Dean and KLC School of Design electricity tariffs to 100% renewable electricity only (including for tenants). • Integrate energy efficiency and green building technology into ongoing building development and retrofits. • Shift to low or zero carbon fueled estate fleet such as Electric and install the charging infrastructure. Develop a sustainable transport plan for the estate that considers travel by staff, students and visitors and improving access to public transport.
	Waste, Circular, Sustainable Products & Procurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2024, grow sustainable and local products produced, procured and sold including food, beverage, timber and value-add products. • By 2024 be "Zero Waste to Landfill" across West Dean and KLC School of Design. Eliminate Single Use Plastics and shift to low impact packaging with composting or recovery. • Align events management with ISO2021 Sustainable Events standard.
	Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce water consumption in all locations and prevent ground and surface water pollution on our Estate through: • Agree a water saving plan with reduction targets for hotspots. • Integrate water saving infrastructure and technologies in new and retrofit buildings. • Maintain due diligence of Estate boreholes (currently unused) to protect groundwater. • River Lavant – Engage with Southern Water to prevent local pollution incidents. • Engage with tenant farmers to raise awareness and reduce use of nitrous oxide containing fertilizers on land for climate change and water quality benefits.
	PEOPLE: SOCIAL Equality, Inclusion, Diversity, Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align with Athena Swan Charter for EDI in High Education. • By latest end 2023, set EDI & accessibility targets for staff, students, and visitors. • Rethinking the collection – Building on our “Whose Heritage” project tackling restitution in the collections history, grow accessibility across age and demographics. • Nominate EDIA ambassadors to support achieving our targets.



	<p>Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As educators, designers, and landowners, we see ourselves as a living laboratory, learning in action and convenor of neighbouring stakeholders to fast-track sustainability learnings.• To scale positive change quicker, we will convene an Estate Landscape Group of neighbouring landowners, foresters, farmers, and local policy leads.• To upskill and engage our staff and students are doing activating Champions, doing training, and have joined Sustainability in Conservation.
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GOVERNANCE AND TRAINING

Our commitment to delivering on these objectives is from the top down. We have established our Sustainability Committee of key decision makers, led by our Estates Director and accountable to our Executive Leadership Team to prioritise the delivery of the Plan. To upskill and engage our staff and students are doing activating Champions and doing training.

Inspired by our founder, Edward James, sustainability is in our DNA as stewards of traditional practices and conservation. We are ideally positioned to respond creatively to the environmental and social crisis. Through culture – our education, collection, and gardens - we have the power to influence positive change and contribute to a thriving planet. We aim to use this power to catalyse awareness and action in our staff, students, and visitors. We will work with our neighbours and partners to drive change at scale. We are committed to nurturing the talent and conserving the skills required for a more equitable and sustainable future into the long term.