



# **Environmental Sustainability Policy**

## 1. Introduction

The Royal Academy of Engineering is a charity delivering public benefit from engineering excellence and technology innovation. We are also a National Academy providing progressive leadership for engineering and technology in the UK and beyond. Our Fellowship is drawn from the worlds of industry, enterprise, and research, many of whom are at the front line of the sustainability challenge.

The Academy acknowledges its responsibility and commitment to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment as an intrinsic part of its ambition to harness the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and inclusive economy that works for everyone.

The Academy also recognises the importance of using its influence to raise awareness of environmental issues alongside improving its own sustainability performance as an organisation. The Academy's overarching goal in its Strategic Plan 2020-2025 is to harness the power of engineering to build a sustainable society and inclusive economy that works for everyone. A sustainable society is one in which development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Engineers have a vital role to play in creating systems and solutions to address the climate crisis and support more sustainable use and management of natural resources. As a charity and the UK's National Academy for engineering and technology, we have an obligation to lead by example and ensure we are applying best practice to minimise our environmental impact and improve the sustainability of our activities.

This environmental and sustainability policy is approved by the Academy's Board of Trustees. The policy provides the framework for the Academy to improve our own sustainability performance by setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets through an associated action plan.

The Academy is committed to:

- I. Developing an Environmental Sustainability Action Plan and establishing a robust and sustainable management framework for delivery of the plan.

This includes:

- a) providing adequate and appropriate resources and support, and
  - b) measuring, communicating, and reporting our progress in reducing our environmental impact to internal and external stakeholders through our Annual Report and other communications.
- II. Making a series of targeted changes to Academy activities identified in our Environmental and Sustainability Action Plan. This includes a review of policy and practices applied to procurement of materials, equipment, utilities, and services, and waste management.
  - III. Making appropriate systemic changes across Academy activities, including building improvement in our environmental performance into both corporate decision-making and individual behaviours. This involves proactive reduction of our carbon emissions, and awareness-raising campaigns across our staff, Fellowship, and beneficiaries to promote personal action and responsibility.

**IV.** Learning from innovative engineering practices developed within our networks of Fellows and

beneficiaries, and sharing learning with partners, considering this an essential part of our charitable mission to promote engineering excellence in the service of society.

## **2. Policy review and communication**

This policy is communicated to all persons working for or on behalf of the Academy and is made publicly available on the Academy website. This policy was approved by the Trustee Board in March 2020.