INTRODUCTION

London is home to over forty higher education institutions across the capital. The diversity of London HE spans large research-intensive universities, modern vocationally-orientated institutions, small specialists and London ‘centres’. Their individual and cumulative environmental impacts are significant; utility consumption, waste generation and transport, and with their associated carbon emissions are just some of the issues we need to address urgently. External impacts are increasing, meaning we need to adapt to increasingly challenging climates and resource availabilities which are creating growing business continuity risks.

Students and staff expect HEIs and their leaders to take responsibility, and funders and student employers are increasingly seeking sustainability requirements. We recognise the great work that our institutions are already delivering improving opportunities for nature and wellbeing, making our estates sustainable and delivering sustainability-focused teaching and research amongst others.

As a community, London HEIs are home to over half a million staff and students. As leaders, we have a role in helping them understand how sustainability relates to their work, learning and future careers, where employers and society require sustainability literacy and skill sets to address issues of importance. The concentration of knowledge and expertise application that delivers sustainability means that collectively, London’s HEIs are a hugely important global powerhouse of sustainability education and research.

This pledge will help institutional leaders and their teams build on the sustainability work they are doing, and help develop opportunities to share best practice and to collaborate to maximise the value and potential sustainability can bring.
To identify a representative from your institution (Sustainability Lead) to sit on the London Higher Sustainability Network by January 2023 in order to help build a community of dedicated practitioners across London Higher’s member institutions.

Through the London Higher Sustainability Network, to commit to and provide data for a series of shared impact measurements, to be defined by a report commissioned by London Higher this academic year.

To share your institution’s current Sustainability Strategy with London Higher in order to create a better understanding of current practices and commitments across London HE.

To meet at least annually with your institution’s Sustainability Lead, to ensure sustainability potential relating to your institution is heard by senior leaders.

To participate wherever possible in initiatives (e.g. The London Food Pledge) and activities recommended through the London Higher Sustainability Network in order to drive collective change.

To commit to pan-London initiatives to tackle climate change through the GLA as anchor institutions within the capital, with wider local, national and international responsibilities.
SIGNATORIES

Anglia Ruskin University London
Bloomsbury Institute
Brunel University London
Goldsmiths, University of London
Imperial College London
London School of Economics and Political Science
London South Bank University
Middlesex University, London
Northumbria University London
Queen Mary University of London
Royal Holloway, University of London
Royal Veterinary College
SOAS University of London
St George’s, University of London
St Mary’s University, Twickenham
The Courtauld Institute of Art
The Institute of Cancer Research
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance
UCL
University of East London
University of Greenwich
University of London
University of Roehampton
University of the Arts London
University of West London
University of Westminster