

Approved by Council
25 March 2010

WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Goldsmiths believes that it has a strong responsibility to reduce the amount of waste produced throughout the campus, as well as ensuring the waste we do produce is reused or recycled as much as possible.

The Government's Waste Strategy for England 2007 recognises the important role waste reduction can have in moving towards sustainable consumption and production, and away from dangerous climate change.

At present most of England's waste, including a large element of valuable raw materials ends up in landfill.

Goldsmiths College has stated its overall commitment to the environment through its Environmental And Sustainability Policy Statement (ESPS). This document expands on that policy as it relates to the reduction of waste and promotion of recycling. This document is to be read in conjunction with the ESPS.

Aims

- Reduce excess packaging delivered to the campus.
- Reuse packaging within the campus where possible.
- Separate waste into recyclable and non-recyclable items.
- Set up recycling contracts to ensure the minimum amounts as possible of our waste go to landfill.
- Instigate a campus wide composting scheme to take garden and kitchen waste.
- Work with in-house and sub-contracted trades and services to ensure waste is reduced and recycling increases.

Targets

We aim to reduce our waste going to landfill by 50% by 2012.

Monitoring Achievement

Through regular waste audits carried out in conjunction with our waste collection contractor, we will aim to monitor and track our progress in reducing waste going to landfill as well monitor and track the amounts we send for recycling.

Actions

We will involve our waste collection contractors in our discussions to ensure they are fully aware of our waste to landfill reduction commitments.

We will work with them on obtaining our goals, and we will work hard to overcome any obstacles. We will work together within Goldsmiths to spread the message about recycling, to ensure everyone is aware of this policy and how they can help to attain our target.

We also acknowledge that because we are a higher education college, we have a transient population. This means we will have to continue to spread the message on a regular basis, and we look to the Student Union and Halls to help us achieve this.

Future Ambitions

- We acknowledge that zero waste is not an achievable or realistic target at present. We will continue to reduce our waste and increase our recycling.
- We will move away from composting and towards a scheme enabling us to capture biogas from the breakdown of organic matter and use this gas to fuel our own on-site power generation.