University of the Arts Energy & Water Policy 2020
Version 8 (Feb 2020)

The University of the Arts London Energy & Water Policy has been drafted in conjunction with complimentary strategies that promote environmental sustainability (http://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/sustainability-at-ual/sustainability-documentation/). The University re-launched its Carbon Management Plan in 2013 and the university achieved its goal of reducing carbon consumption by 22% by July 2016 (from the 2011/12 baseline). Consumption was reduced by 25%. The university now aims to reduce consumption by 43% by July 2020, from the same baseline. Attempts to reduce utility consumption are captured in the CMP, regularly referred to as Scope 1, 2 & 3 carbon emissions.

The University is committed to providing resources to meet these targets having established an Energy Performance Contract in 2013 and ring-fencing £1.3M for the retrofit of energy conservation measures across the University. Thus far installed measures include upgrading gas burners to two 1MW gas boilers (Chelsea College of Art & the London College of Communications), upgraded data centre cooling by way of three Rittal LCP inline DX 12KW units (London College of Communications) and the installation of high frequency lighting (Chelsea College of Art). These works total £400K and are on course to achieve a payback period of 5.5 years.

To ensure refurbishments and new-build projects are as energy efficient as possible, the University has drafted a ‘Design Brief for Sustainability’ that commits all refurbishments to SKA ‘gold’ and all new build schemes to BREEAM ‘outstanding’ in conjunction with a CIBSE Technical Manual 54 (Evaluating Operational Energy Performance of Buildings at the Design Stage) report to forecast future utility expenditure. The University delivered its first BREEAM ‘outstanding’ building in 2014 at Wimbledon College of Art, saving £236,000 in averted utility costs over a 25 year lifecycle.

The University created a bespoke ‘monitoring & targeting’ system to ensure utility consumption is proactively managed (the system was recognised for its effectiveness with a Green Apple Award in 2014). The system is called the ‘Carbon Dashboard’ and all consumption information is freely available to any member of staff, student or member of the public via www.ualcarbondashboard.com. The dashboard actively monitors 131 supply points covering electricity, gas and water consumption across all 14 academic sites and 3 residential sites. Using regression analysis and CUSUM calculations, the University is able to set reduction targets based on historical consumption whilst factoring proactive actions that have occurred to drive down utility use. The regression analyses are regularly reviewed so that targets are up to date. Each Facilities Manager receives a monthly energy consumption target, adjusted for changes in external temperatures to ensure the ambition is realistic.

The University continues to procure utilities via a flexible framework, appointing The Energy Consortium as its nominated Public Buying Organisation. The flexible framework continues to deliver excellent value-for-money, ensuring the university isn’t locked into uncompetitive
fixed contracts whilst protecting the University from upward spikes in the wholesale energy market. For the year 2014/15, the flexible framework has contributed to revenue saving of £800,000 against an original forecast for utility expenditure of £4.1M.

University of the Arts London is committed to make available all documentation related to energy consumption and targeting. UAL is also committed to making public any documentation and information regarding utility management and energy planning. University of the Arts London is fully committed to complying with all legal and regulatory requirements relating to energy use, consumption, and efficiency and utility management.

This policy and other related documents have been drafted by the University’s Head of Sustainability, a member of the Energy Institute and a Chartered Energy Manager with over 16 years of experience in Utility Management. The University is working towards independent verification of its energy management service and achieved ISO 50001 certification. UAL is committed to continually improve the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the energy management system and committed to continual energy performance improvement.

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