

CARING FOR THE RCM ENVIRONMENT

An Introduction



Meet the team

Aida Berhamovic, Director of Estates

Aida's role as Director of Estates is to oversee the development and implementation of RCM's Environmental Strategy across the estate. This includes delivering the Carbon Management Plan and working with external partners such as the Carbon Trust to identify carbon reduction opportunities in line with the government targets. The Director of Estates reports regularly to Council on environmental matters and initiatives.

Rachel Harris, Director of Finance

As the Director of Finance (DF), Rachel ensures that sustainability maintains a top priority for the RCM's Council and Directorate in their stewardship of the college. The DF regularly reviews RCM's policies and strategy to ensure sustainability is embedded in all aspects of RCM's activities and in its capacity as a leading institution in the Higher Education sector.

You can contact Aida and Rachel through their assistant, Jodie O'Callaghan on 0207 591 4729 or

Jodie.ocallaghan@rcm.ac.uk

James Leighton, Health and Safety Manager

James leads the RCM's drive towards achieving the highest possible standards of environmental excellence and sustainability. In his role as Health and Safety manager he actively engages with staff and students to help meet the targets set in the College's environmental policies and promote sustainability in all aspects of the RCM experience. This includes building upon the RCM's ISO 14001 and BREEAM accreditations, the highest standards of environmental excellence in the industry/available to institutions.

You can contact James on 0207 591 4754 or james.leighton@rcm.ac.uk

Joel Wilson, Student Union President

As a member of the RCM Council, the Student Union President plays an essential role in driving RCM's environmental agenda and promoting its policies among the student body. Joel sits at all regular meetings of Council and the boards of major projects to advise on sustainable practise and provide input from the student perspective. This guarantees sustained student input in all environmental matters affecting the College and is a key aspect of our Community Involvement Policy and engagement strategy.

You can contact Joel on 0207 591 4350 or su.president@rcm.ac.uk

Sustainability and the RCM

How it works

RCM's Council are the body responsible for setting the College's Estates Strategy and Environmental Sustainability Policy. Council meets termly to review and monitor performance to ensure the College is doing all that it can to retain its ISO 14001 accreditation and to meet the 34% reduction in carbon emissions hoped to be achieved by 2019/20 in line with government policy. Central to these targets are the RCM's Carbon Management Plan and Environmental Action Plan, both of which outline in detail the steps being taken to reduce the RCM's carbon footprint and continually improve upon the level of sustainability achieved. The Estates and Project teams play a large role in this effort through developing the buildings and making systems more energy efficient, however, the onus to provide eco-friendly solutions pervades all aspects of the RCM's work right through from procurement to HR policy. Environmental issues are also discussed regularly at the termly meetings with UNISON. External auditors visit twice a year to evaluate our progress on all sides and we strive to implement the advice and recommendations of their reports.

All policies, plans and reports are available on the College's website in the Environmental Policy section.

What we have achieved

In 2013, RCM issued a Green Education Declaration reaffirming its commitment to a sustainable and low carbon future and our dedication to achieving a positive environmental, social and economic impact from our activities. Last year was a successful year in which we continued to implement our carbon management plan with following key targets:

- minimise negative environmental impacts through sustainable procurement and reducing our carbon footprint, by reducing paper use and ensuring all waste streams are 100% recyclable;
- ensure regulatory compliance through an effective cycle of audits and assessments;
- support our core purpose by embedding sustainability across all aspects of RCM including teaching, research, composition and performance;
- encourage positive impacts and incentives through collaborations and partnerships;
- promote environmental initiatives via communications with internal and external stakeholders;
- provide sufficient resource to ensure staff, students and visitors have the skill and knowledge to meet their responsibilities set out in the RCM's environmental standards; and
- maintain an effective management system by ensuring our core objectives are a priority at governance level.

Having been ISO14001: 2015 accredited for several years, we continue to achieve efficiencies across our campus and place importance on reducing our environmental impact going forward. A range of initiatives enabled us to reach our targets including:

- continued delivery of a campus wide LED replacement programme- more than 1,000 LEDs helped us save 160,000 kWh;
- drive towards sustainable catering operations including a reward initiatives such as introducing a discount when a drink was purchased using a reusable mug and a reward scheme for anyone who brought their own Tupperware to purchase hot food;
- our catering outlets sold more than 19,000 hot drink purchases using a reusable mug with 50% of hot drink purchases made using reusable mugs;
- all single-use plastic cutlery has been replaced with metal reusable cutlery;
- RCM worked closely with the Students' Union to support students initiatives that reduced their environmental impact, such as creation of an allotment at Prince Consort Village (the RCM's halls of residence);
- continued to install double glazing throughout RCM to reduce heat loss;
- new waterless urinals which helped us save 270,00 litres of water per year;

- continuing to review our building management system and upgrading our software and hardware to improve efficiencies;
- worked closely with GilbertAsh in the construction of our More Music building development, under the Considerate Contractor's Scheme and achieved a BREEAM rating of Very Good for our new building development;
- encouraged sustainable practices such as recycling demolished brickwork for reuse on site whilst successfully managing the impact of noise from the construction; ensuring that suppliers providing services in RCM pay a minimum of London Living wage to staff working at RCM.

How can I help?

Staff and student participation is at the heart of ensuring that the College's environment is nurtured and is key to the RCM's Community Involvement Policy and Engagement Strategy. Regular Environmental E-newsletters are published to keep staff and students abreast of all the ways we are improving sustainability throughout the College and also to inform about engagement schemes. Of course, the little things often help to make the biggest difference and all staff and students are encouraged to:

- Cycle, walk, or use public transport to and from work
- Speak to student rep / line manager with any queries or ideas regarding sustainability
- Not to print unnecessarily
- To turn off devices when not in use
- To make use of the College's recycling facilities
- Read the information regarding sustainability included in the staff and student induction packs
- Attend a 'Director's Surgery' where the door is open to discuss environmental issues with the College's Director.

If you would like to know about sustainability and the RCM or would like to find out more ways of getting involved don't hesitate to contact a member of the team.

Aida Berhamovic

Director of Estates

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