

# **The British Museum**

## **Policy on Sustainable Development**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The British Museum recognises that its activities impact on society and on the environment at local, regional and global levels through the energy and water used, the waste it produces, the travel and work patterns it encourages amongst its staff and the products it buys.
- 1.2 The British Museum is committed to sustainable development throughout all the aspects of its operation, and to promote sustainability in its educational and research activities. It will encourage environmental and sustainable development best practice throughout the Museum community and will demonstrate its commitment to continual improvement and innovation in all aspects of environmental management and sustainable development. It will seek to achieve this by: the efficient and effective use of energy; through the elimination or reduction of any detrimental impact that its activities might have on the environment; and by the integration of sustainable development into its procurement activities.

### **2 Principles**

- 2.1 The British Museum will manage and control its environmental risks in a sustainable manner by complying with all relevant and applicable legislation and codes of practice, and will seek to operate within the Government's commitment to energy, sustainability and good environmental practice. The 'Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate' sets out key objectives and criteria on which sustainable development activities should focus.
- 2.2 The British Museum will endeavour to incorporate sustainable development issues into future policy decision making at all levels.
- 2.3 The British Museum will support and encourage conservation of energy, water and natural resources, and reduction in waste, through re-use and recycling where possible.
- 2.4 The British Museum will ensure that the risk of any potential harmful effects through any of its actions are minimised wherever practicable, thereby aiming to reduce the impact on the environment.
- 2.5 The procurement of goods and services which have the least environmental impact in terms of their production, delivery, installation, use and disposal will be considered by The British Museum wherever practical and appropriate. Contractors and suppliers will be encouraged to develop environmentally preferable goods and services, and to be aware of sustainability issues.
- 2.6 The British Museum will undertake to communicate its sustainable development policy to staff, and stakeholders, educate and motivate its employees and contractors to understand the principles of sustainable development, to operate in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, and to conserve resources wherever practicable.
- 2.7 The British Museum undertakes to identify sustainable development priorities and to develop plans to address them.

Approved by: The Trustees of the British Museum

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