

The Society and environmental sustainability

Learning through geography, whether from formal learning or experientially from travel, fieldwork or expeditions, helps us all to be more socially and environmentally sensitive, informed, and responsible citizens. And as evidenced throughout the pages on this website, the Society's activities contribute substantially to our understanding of the world, including on issues of environmental sustainability.

But the Society has its own direct responsibilities for sustainability which it takes seriously, working within the constraints of its available resources. The Society's response will constantly evolve, but the following are examples of some of the practical actions that we have been taking:

- Commissioned a Carbon Trust energy audit in 2006, raising energy conservation awareness amongst staff, and initiating a series of practical steps to reduce usage through better monitoring and control systems. The audit recognised the inherent difficulty of operating with energy efficiency in a heritage building, and commented favourably on the Society's leadership in defining the energy efficient new building extension
- From contract renewal at the start of 2008, taken electricity supplies (about one third of the Society's direct energy requirements, the balance from gas) from a climate change levy-free combined heat and power scheme
- Commenced a programme of low-energy light-bulb replacement where products suitable for each setting and fitting are available
- Committed to reducing resources used, and recycling or re-using materials where possible, in its own day to day operations, at its annual international conference and at other Society events. Third parties hiring the building are encouraged to follow the same commitment, and to use the Society's catering provider with its own commitment to the use of Fair Trade products and locally sourced supplies