

Our commitment to environmental sustainability

Microbiology research deepens our understanding of the global challenges we face – including the development of action and policies to combat the serious consequences of climate change.

At the Microbiology Society we are committed to reducing our environmental impact and supporting our members' vital research work to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as to promote a more sustainable future through knowledge exchange and action.

In January 2024, the Society convened an Environmental Impact Working Group of volunteer members who have created an action plan to reduce the environmental impact of the Society's operations, as well as outline how it will provide support for its members to do the same.

On the creation of the action plan, Working Group Chair José Bengoechea said: "I'm delighted to have chaired the Environmental Impact Working Group, harnessing the expertise of colleagues from different disciplines and representing the diversity of the Society membership. We have put together an action plan incorporating milestones and with measurable outcomes to create real impact. This plan shows the commitment of the Microbiology Society in reducing its environmental impact and supporting our members to do the same".

The plan's achievable and measurable actions to create impactful change include:

- Collaborating with other organisations to support members in accessing support with improving sustainability in their own institutions
- Increasing volume and visibility of sustainability related content in our journals and events programmes
- Considering sustainability as a priority when selecting third party suppliers
- Reducing office waste by extending increasing the proportion of recycled waste, extending the lifespan of our electronic devices, and employing more energy efficient operational procedures.

The Society is a long-term advocate for research which harnesses the power of microbes to provide solutions for environmental sustainability, including mitigating the impacts of [climate change](#), and it will support the formation of an Environmental Impact Network to build on the work of the Environmental Impact Working Group. This network will aim to:

- Promote the Society's sustainability-related activities
- Identify and act on opportunities to generate sustainability-related content for Society publications
- Raise the profile of members involved with sustainable practices and relevant research areas

- Identify and work with other organisations, where appropriate, to maximise the impact of the Society's efforts

The full Environmental Impact Action Plan is available to download. If you are interested in joining the Environmental Impact Network contact info@microbiologysociety.org.