

# Karolinska Institutet's action plan for environment and sustainable development 2026–2027

Ref no 1–894/2025

NOTE: This is a translation of the Swedish version (Karolinska Institutets handlingsplan för miljö och hållbar utveckling 2026–2027). The document has been translated with the assistance of Microsoft Copilot and subsequently reviewed for accuracy. In the event of any discrepancy between the versions, the Swedish version constitutes the official decision, and the Swedish wording will prevail.



**Karolinska  
Institutet**



## Karolinska Institutet's action plan for environment and sustainable development 2026–2027

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## Introduction

This action plan has been developed in accordance with the Ordinance (2009:907) on environmental management in government agencies. The ordinance requires Karolinska Institutet (KI) to establish and apply an environmental management system in which environmental objectives and an action plan to achieve them are central components.

The action plan shall specify the resources, timelines, and division of responsibilities required to achieve the environmental objectives. KI’s work to reduce its negative environmental impact—directly and indirectly caused by its activities—and how well the action plan has functioned shall be monitored annually.

## Purpose

The purpose of the action plan is to ensure the achievement of KI’s environmental objectives for the period 2025–2027 (ref. no. 1–503/2025).

## Goals and actions

In June 2025, the President established KI’s environmental objectives for the period 2025–2027 (ref. no. 1–503/2025). The actions to be taken to achieve these objectives, as well as the resources and timelines, are set out in this action plan.

**GOAL 1 (education): Students and doctoral students acquire adequate competencies and skills to promote environment, health, and sustainable development within planetary boundaries in their future professions.**

**Action 1:** Develop training and teaching materials to support teachers and supervisors in teaching about environment, health, and sustainable development within planetary boundaries and sustainable healthcare.

Responsible: Committee for higher education

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2026

**Action 2:** Integrate learning outcomes on environment, health, and sustainable development within planetary boundaries into first and second cycle programmes.

Responsible: Heads of department (Educational committee)

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2027

**Action 3:** Integrate environment, health, and sustainable development within planetary boundaries systematically and uniformly in doctoral education.

Responsible: Committee for doctoral education

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2027

**GOAL 2 (education): Students in programmes leading to a professional degree acquire the competencies and skills needed to promote sustainable healthcare.**

**Action 1:** Integrate learning outcomes on sustainable healthcare into programmes leading to a professional degree.

Responsible: Heads of department (Educational committee)

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2027

**GOAL 3 (research): Strengthen, communicate, and highlight research relevant to environment, health, and sustainable development within planetary boundaries.**

**Action 1:** Highlight research on environment, health, and sustainable development within planetary boundaries.

Responsible: University director

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2027

**Action 2:** Include environment, health, and sustainable development within planetary boundaries as an assessment criterion in research funding calls when relevant and feasible.

Responsible: Committee for research

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2027

**GOAL 4 (collaboration): Integrate environmental and sustainability perspectives into KI’s collaboration.**

**Action 1:** Carry out joint activities on sustainable healthcare in collaboration between KI and Region Stockholm.

Responsible: University director

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2027

**GOAL 5 (travel and meetings): Carbon emissions from business travel shall decrease continuously.**

**Action 1:** Develop and implement support for employees and managers aimed at reducing negative environmental impact from business travel in relation to travel bookings.

Responsible: University director

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2026

**Action 2:** Ensure and provide quality-assured data for carbon emissions from business travel and transport.

Responsible: University director

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2026

**GOAL 6 (energy and property): Electricity consumption shall decrease continuously.**

**Action 1:** Improve space utilization.

Responsible: University director

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2026

**Action 2:** Together with property owners, develop joint energy efficiency plans for KI’s operations.

Responsible: University director

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2026

**Action 3:** Ensure and provide quality-assured data for energy use in premises where KI conducts activities.

Responsible: University director

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2027

**GOAL 7 (procurement and purchasing): Environmental requirements shall be applied systematically, uniformly, and in a traceable manner in all procurements and purchases to minimise negative environmental impact.**

**Action 1:** Develop support and procedures for setting environmental requirements in KI’s procurement and purchasing. Ensure routines for follow-up of environmental requirements.

Responsible: University director

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2026

**Action 2:** Apply relevant environmental requirements in procurement and purchasing.

Responsible: University director, Heads of department (and equivalent managers)

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2026

**GOAL 8 (waste): Reduce resource use and waste generation and promote reuse.**

**Action 1:** Design and implement routines for waste management, waste prevention, and follow-up of waste statistics.

Responsible: University director, Heads of department (and equivalent managers)

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2026

**Action 2:** In all construction projects, consider the reuse of furniture, equipment, and inventories.

Responsible: University director

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2026

**GOAL 9 (chemicals): Reduce the use of environmentally and health-hazardous chemicals and reduce the amount of hazardous waste.**

**Action 1:** Continue phasing out and substituting hazardous chemicals.

Responsible: Heads of department (and equivalent managers)

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2027

**Action 2:** Follow up environmental and sustainability requirements in the existing chemicals contract (Laboratory reagents and kits, ref. no. 2–505/2023).

Responsible: University director

Resources: Within existing resources

To be completed by: 2026

## Implementation, annual follow-up, and reporting

For KI’s environmental work to be effective, systematic, and long-term, clarity regarding responsibilities and mandates, competence, and communication is required.

Department-specific materiality assessments should be carried out by departments, professional services (GVS), and other units. Based on these assessments, actions that best contribute to achieving KI’s environmental objectives should be prioritised.

GVS plays an important role in implementing the actions in this plan and creating conditions for departments to contribute to environmental work.

Annual follow-up of the action plan is reported to the President. Implementation of actions is also followed up during internal environmental audits.

KI reports the results of its environmental work annually to the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of Education, in accordance with the environmental management ordinance. The environmental management report includes KI’s significant environmental aspects, environmental objectives, and the measures taken during the previous year to achieve the objectives and reduce negative and increase positive environmental impact.