

GENERAL POLICY: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This policy is annually reviewed to ensure compliance with current regulations.

Approved/reviewed by	
Approved by: Chief Operating Officer Reviewed by: Head of Estates	
Date of next review	Nov 2024

This policy and procedure is subject to The Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following Protected Characteristics: Age, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex, Sexual orientation and Disability

1. Document Control

1.1. Document Details

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1.3. Distribution

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INTRODUCTION

The policy has been produced to endorse the College's commitment to promote environmental issues as a fundamental element of its activities and to demonstrate its commitment to continual improvement in environmental practices. The College recognises that it can contribute towards the conservation and protection of the environment and has resolved to improve its own environmental practices and to promote awareness of environmental responsibilities among staff and students. This is to be achieved through the following policy aims and objectives.

AIMS

1. To improve awareness and understanding of environmental issues and sustainable development in the College.
2. To encourage all staff and students to be active participants in environmental initiatives.
3. To improve the way the College manages its own environment.
4. To promote sustainable citizenship and ecological awareness through sustainable development education within the curriculum and to promote opportunities for linking sustainable development agendas in the curriculum to the 'greening' of College operations.
5. To work with the local community, public and private sector organisations and take a lead role in improving and protecting the local environment and promoting sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES

All objectives are subject to practical and financial considerations and will be secondary to our fulfilling learner needs and key education functions.

1. Environmental Awareness

- a) To promote the concept of sustainable development and individual accountability amongst staff and students.
- b) To conserve resources through a college-wide education programme.
- c) To identify and promote opportunities for staff training in environmental matters.
- d) To organise and/or support environmental awareness-raising events.

2. Environmental Initiatives

- a) To establish environmental management procedures for activities that affect the College's impact on the environment.
- b) To encourage staff suggestions on ways to improve practices which impact on the environment.

- c) To identify specific responsibilities within job descriptions and contracts, which will support the College's Environmental Policy.

3. Environmental Management

a) Energy and Water

- To conserve energy by progressively improving heating and lighting systems and investing in insulation and energy efficient equipment.
- To conserve water by gradually installing water saving devices as and where appropriate.
- To encourage, where possible, the use of alternative energy and water resources.

b) Buildings and Grounds

To ensure that all building work undertaken has the concept of environmental responsibility as a central issue within the working brief.

c) Pollution

- To reduce and where practicable prevent pollution by avoiding the unnecessary use of hazardous materials/processes.
- To take steps to prevent damage to public or ecological health where such materials are in essential use.
- To use best current practice for handling hazardous waste.

d) Waste Management

- To encourage a change in the perception of waste within the College community.
- To minimise waste and discourage litter, graffiti and noise pollution.
- To dispose of its waste using a registered waste collector
- To observe and comply with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations (and in particular, to ensure that WEEE is not mixed with general waste and is disposed of legally).

e) Recycling

- To provide, wherever cost effective and practicable, means of collecting waste products which can be recycled.
- To encourage staff and students' responsible and active use of recycling opportunities through the segregation of waste.

f) Purchasing and Contracts

- To support local markets, ethical, fair trade and socially responsible initiatives.
- To include sustainable requirements in new contracts.

- To encourage the use of timber from sustainably managed sources.
- Develop an awareness of where animal based and tested products are used and to minimise this where possible.

g) Transport

- To encourage the reduction in the number of staff and students driving to the College.
- To promote the use of public transport, when safe to do so.
- To work with local transport initiatives to develop a Green Travel Plan for the College.
- To move all College vehicles to non- fossil fuel alternatives

h) Facilities

To consider sharing facilities with local community agencies and groups to make best use of resources.

4. Environmental Education

- a) To support proposals from a wide range of educational bodies concerning the need to integrate a sustainable development agenda across the curriculum.
- b) To review sustainable development education initiatives in the College.
- c) To develop up-to-date sustainable development education resources.
- d) To identify and promote opportunities for furthering sustainable development and environmental research and activities for staff and students.
- e) To encourage and acknowledge student projects and initiatives.

5. Networking

- a) To develop a dialogue with local and national environmental agencies and groups to promote institutional greening.
- b) To establish environmental links with other community organisations.
- c) To establish links with other appropriate organisations that help promote a sustainability agenda, both in college and in the local community.
- d) To identify organisations, companies and publishers which provide environmental information and/or advice on good practice.