

Sustainability Policy

[QP1.42]

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1.0 Sustainability Policy

The most widely used definition for Sustainable development is:

"Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (The Brundtland Commission 1987).

This Sustainability Policy sets out the College's approach to achieving these aims.

Policy statement:

The College is committed to integrating sustainable development into everyday practice by minimising environmental impact wherever possible.

Over the medium term, we will develop all programmes to include 'sustainable practice' and will set a target date by which all students completing full-time programmes will be "sustainable practitioners".

Responsibility:

The corporate responsibility for this policy is shared by the entire College population, at every level and across all Directorates.

Sustainability will feature in the curriculum across the College.

Strategic aims appropriate to implementation of the Sustainability Policy will be a requirement of Executive and Support Directorate Strategic and Operational plans.

2.0 Aims

The College aims to meet its Environmental, Business, Legal, Economic and Social responsibilities by means of the following: .

targets will be set and reviewed by the Environment/Sustainability Management Steering Group who will monitor the success of the policy and provide an annual report for the consideration of the Principal's Group.

2.1 Environmental responsibility: -

2.1.1 Promoting energy efficiency and responsible energy management and use.

2.1.2 Promoting the responsible use of water.

2.1.3 Promoting waste minimisation and reduction of the environmental impact of waste to landfill through re-use and recycling activities.

- 2.1.4 Reducing atmospheric pollution by encouraging more sustainable travel alternatives.
- 2.1.5 Avoiding the unnecessary use of hazardous materials and processes and taking all reasonable steps to prevent damage to the environment where such materials are essential.
- 2.1.6 Taking all steps to ensure the refurbishment and new build of College buildings and structures is implemented in a sustainable way.
- 2.1.7 Integrating the principles of biodiversity in the Estates Strategy

2.2 Business, legal and economic responsibility –

- 2.2.1 Embedding sustainability within the College's core strategies and business processes.
- 2.2.2 Communicating and consulting on Sustainability performance through the relevant committees e.g. Health Safety and Welfare Committee, Environment and Sustainability Strategic and Steering groups and Principals Group.
- 2.2.3 Carrying out monitoring to ensure that the College complies with all current environmental legislation, regulation and other requirements.
- 2.2.4 Promoting an ethical approach to procurement.
- 2.2.5 Providing sufficient staffing and financial support to allow the implementation of the policy commitments.
- 2.2.6 Adopting a sustainable approach to the financial viability of the College by taking a long term view of the financial and social costs and benefits of any development.

2.3 Social Responsibility: -

- 2.3.1 Embedding sustainability within the College's core curriculum.
- 2.3.2 Providing information and training to staff and students on sustainable practice and related issues.
- 2.3.3 Fostering behavioural change by encouraging participation and consultation with staff and students on sustainable initiatives.
- 2.3.4 Working in partnership with the local community and authority towards sustainable improvements in the local area.
- 2.3.5 Working in partnership with the EAUC and other Colleges and Universities to develop and integrate the principles of sustainability within the Higher and Further Education sector.

3.0 Key Objectives of the Policy

- 3.1 To ensure that the College meets or exceeds all regulatory and legal requirements.
- 3.2 To achieve a minimum of BREEAM 'very good' standard in all new build projects.
- 3.3 To minimise consumption of energy and natural resources.
- 3.4 To ensure that procedures for the purchase and use of materials and energy take account of sustainable resources.
- 3.5 To encourage recycling of materials where practicable.
- 3.6 To take account of the impact of the College on the external environment.
- 3.7 To seek appropriate opportunities to incorporate environmental issues into the College curriculum.
- 3.8 To promote awareness of environmental issues within the College and the wider community.

4.0 Implementation and Evaluation

4.1 Governance of the Sustainability Policy

- 4.1.1 Performance will be overseen by Environment / Sustainability Strategic and Management Steering groups.
See Procedures for composition and remit of Groups.
- 4.1.2 The staff responsible for facilities management, purchasing, curriculum management and Health and Safety and Environment management in collaboration with external environmental organisations and support agencies.
- 4.1.3 All staff and students according to their role within the College and in accordance with their statutory obligations

4.2 Delivery

- 4.2.1 Production and implementation of detailed Carbon Management and Climate Change Action Plans. (CMP & CCAP)
- 4.2.2 Consultation and awareness raising in staff and students.
- 4.2.3 An ongoing process of environmental monitoring and review.
- 4.2.4 Provision of training for staff in key areas.
- 4.2.5 Application in all College Activities.

4.3 Monitoring and reporting against KPI

- 4.3.1 KPI will be set in carbon Management Plan (CMP) and Climate Change Action Plan. (CCAP)
- 4.3.2 Performance will be reviewed and reported to strategic group quarterly with annual report to PG and BOM.
- 4.3.3 CMP and CCAP will be published on College website and performance against KPI updated regularly.

4.4 Resources available to support the implementation of the Policy

- 4.4.1 Resources will be allocated according to the College Strategic Planning process.
- 4.4.2 Provision of training and awareness raising in staff and students

4.5 External Monitoring

The UCCCfS includes a commitment to report progress toward aims published in our Action Plan.

5.0 Justification

Universities & Colleges Climate commitment for Scotland.
The Climate Change Levy, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, WEEE Directive, Landfill taxation, Reduction of our Energy costs and Carbon emissions are all drivers of this Policy.

6.0 Link to Corporate Plan

'21st Century learning

- 6. Ensure that all vocational programmes include employability, learning to learn, sustainability, citizenship and enterprise as embedded elements.
- 12. Develop sustainability in the curriculum focussed on developing 'sustainable practice'.

'21st Century College'

- 3. Be proactive in improving our environmental performance based on responsibility and sustainability.
- 3.1 - 3.3 Devise, implement and develop Carbon Management Plan

4. Continue to develop a healthy working and learning environment that operates in a healthy and safe manner.

8.0 Exemptions

There are no exemptions.

9.0 Related Procedures

- ▶ Sustainability Procedures
- ▶ Carbon Management Plan
- ▶ Climate Change Action Plan