



Environmental Sustainability Strategy

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Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Statement of Principle

Climate change and ecological destruction are some of the biggest challenges of our time. Colleges, like all institutions, have a responsibility to address them; and to meet the UK government's target to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

The Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education was established in November 2019. Its goal is to develop a strategic, sector-wide approach to tackle the climate emergency. The Commission engaged Nous Group (a management consulting firm specialising in education) to support them to develop a 'road map' for further education colleges to reach the net-zero target.

East Coast College is committed to the principles of sustainability and minimising the adverse impact of its activities on the environment. This sustainability policy has been produced to endorse this commitment and to guide College staff and students in the desired environmental practice and to promote this commitment to sustainability to all stakeholders.

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs"

Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future

East Coast College recognises the need to act sustainably across all its operations and accepts its obligation as an education provider to set a good example of sustainability. It will endeavour to:

- manage its operations in ways that are environmentally sustainable and
- ensure that all staff and students are aware of and support best practice procedures.

1 Objectives

The College aims to be regarded as an example of good practice in the delivery of the sustainability agenda in Further Education. Through its focus on sustainability, the College will:

- Promote sustainability to achieve enthusiasm and commitment from staff, students and partners
- Provide all students with the opportunity to explore aspects of sustainability across all areas of the curriculum
- Achieve measurable reductions to its carbon footprint.

2 Delivery of Sustainability

East Coast College's Sustainability Policy will be delivered across eight key functions, illustrating the range of activities and their inter-dependence. To achieve this, it will:

- Adopt recognised good practice relating to sustainable development across all of its operations, and comply with all applicable legal requirements.
- Develop and regularly review sustainability targets against appropriate benchmarks.
- Raise awareness of sustainability issues among learners through related curriculum and enrichment activities, and among staff and visitors.
- Build links with local industry partners who demonstrate and support sustainable practices to further support curriculum and work experience opportunities for students.
- Encourage sustainable travel by staff, learners and partners.
- Promote the conservation of material resources to reduce environmental impact, and purchase from sustainable sources including local (or near local) suppliers wherever possible and within the College's Procurement Policy.
- Maintain effective waste management procedures that reduce the use of landfill by recycling opportunities.
- Monitor energy consumption.
- Follow sustainable construction principles in all new building developments and refurbishments of existing buildings.
- Develop a Sustainability Guide with learners and staff, and ensure that information on the College's progress towards meeting sustainability targets is made available to students and staff.
- Monitor the implementation of this policy through the Health, Safety and Safeguarding Board which will promote the policy to members across the College
- Commit to the Association of Colleges (AoC) development works within curriculum and wider college development
- Explore opportunities to help us achieve our sustainability aims offered by EAUC and the Carbon Trust, such as the Carbon Trust Standard
- Work with external partners and the community in promoting and implementing sustainable practices.

Implementation

3 Environmental Management

The College will:

- promote sound environmental management by communicating procedures, guidelines and regulations via induction, staff training programmes and tutorials.
- encourage and facilitate feedback and suggestions on ensuring good practice via the network of operational groups and team meetings across College.
- develop a management system based on a sound understanding of current performance and the adoption of realistic targets to improve performance

4 Waste Reduction

The College will:

- Maintain and extend its sustainable resource management practices based on 'reduce, reuse, recycle' principles
- re-use and recycle materials wherever practicable
- continue to reduce the amount of waste being disposed of in landfill sites, by ensuring different types of waste are segregated
- measure and monitor waste
- develop working practices with the target to reduce waste and prevent pollution
- comply with legislation and meet the requirements of waste regulators

5 Water

The College will:

- make efficient and responsible use of water, including creating opportunities for water re-use and rain-water harvesting

6 Carbon Management

The College will:

- implement working practices to ensure the efficient use of energy
- ensure the uptake of low-carbon technology in buildings and equipment
- improve the Energy Performance of buildings

7 Transport

The College will:

- implement sustainable transport practices across all activities, as indicated in the College Travel Plan and Transport Policy
- encourage the use of public transport, walking, cycling and vehicle sharing, where appropriate

8 Ethical and Sustainable Procurement

The College will:

- promote the use of sustainable resources whenever practicable
- promote lifecycle thinking in the procurement of goods and services
- maintain its central purchasing strategies to ensure efficient and sustainable purchasing practices

9 The College Estate

The College will:

- ensure that new build and refurbishment works meet sector and BREEAM standards for sustainability
- promote a responsibility culture to improve the internal and external environment of the College
- promote the efficient use of all buildings and facilities to meet sector standards for space utilisation
- manage the College estate to enhance biodiversity wherever possible

10 Education for Sustainable Development

The College will:

- develop links with local and national groups which encourage education for sustainable development
- endeavour to embed education for sustainable development into all curriculum areas
- encourage students to participate actively in environmental projects, locally and globally

- promote learning that includes sustainability and citizenship
- all planned activities will aim to meet at least one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

11 KPIs

- Reduce electricity consumption by 5% by end of 2025/6
- Reduce gas consumption by 5% by end of 2025/6
- 95% of cleaning consumables are environmentally friendly
- Reduce wastage in canteen facility by 5%
- Move to owning only electric vehicles by 2025/6
- Review all supply chain and switch to local suppliers
- Reduce paper consumption by at least 5% each year
- Compost 100% food waste in canteen and college restaurant
- Reduce transport carbon emissions by 20%
- 100% of students have access to related sustainability learning

12 Monitoring

A report on the implementation of the Policy will be presented periodically to the Sustainability Working Group, Senior Leadership Group and College Corporation.

13 Key Words

Sustainable Development Goals



- **Climate change** – Changes in the large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns and average temperatures. For more information on climate change and what causes it, visit the Met Office web page.
- **Climate emergency** – The situation in which urgent action is needed to reduce or halt climate change to avoid catastrophic environmental damage, and its effects on people and communities.

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- **Carbon footprint** – The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of an individual, organisation or community. 'Carbon' is used as shorthand to also include other greenhouse gases (e.g. methane and nitrous oxide) which cause climate change
- **Net-zero** – Achieving an overall balance between emissions produced and taken out of the atmosphere.
- **Biodiversity** – The variety of life on Earth in all its form and interactions. Biodiversity on earth is being lost at an alarming rate. The loss of species and natural systems threatens the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe.
- **Environmental sustainability** – Maintaining or 'sustaining' the environment by protecting natural resources and preventing damage through climate change.
- **Scope 1, 2 and 3** – Scope 1, 2, and 3 are different categories of emissions. Scope 1 emissions are those directly under a college's control (e.g. from cars owned by the college). Scope 2 are indirect emissions (meaning the college does not directly control them) from electricity purchased by the college. Scope 3 emissions are all other indirect emissions from activities of the college, including travel to and from college, emissions from waste and water, and emissions from investments. Scope 3 is usually the largest category of emissions.

14 Key Actions 2020/21

The College aims to adopt the AoC Climate action road map. This was adopted by College Corporation in September 2020. The College commits to the following actions:

Leadership and Governance

- Gather college views on sustainability
- Establish Sustainability Committee
- Hold workshops with leaders to set net-zero target
- Incorporate net-zero ambitions in strategic plan and establish ring-fenced budget
- Develop climate change adaption/climate risk management approach
- Incorporate sustainability into governance arrangements
- Embed climate responsibility into staff development

Teaching, learning, research

- Deliver carbon literacy training to staff and students
- Participate in Global Goals Teach in
- Audit curriculum against SDGs using Responsible Futures framework
- Train teaching staff to incorporate sustainability into curriculum for all courses

Estates and operations

- Ensure recycling/signage is available in every building
- Implement strategies to reduce energy use
- Modify estates strategy in line with net-zero target
- Apply for Salix finance loan to improve energy efficiency/reduce emissions
- Set and implement targets to reduce waste on campus by 50-75%
- Implement new travel policy to reduce long-haul aviation travel

- Implement renewable energy on a part of/all of the estate
- Expand travel policy to reduce emissions from commuting to/from campus

Partnerships and engagement

- Sign the Global Climate Letter
- Negotiate with food suppliers for sustainable food options
- Sign the SDG Accord
- Establish climate action network with local council
- Develop fossil fuel divestment plan
- Work with local community/council/businesses to improve local biodiversity
- Apply for Green Gown or AoC Beacon Award

Data collection

- Upskill on measuring emissions
- Measure college carbon footprint using existing data
- Develop and implement plan to measure Scope 3 emissions
- Share carbon footprint data collection approach as model to other colleges