

# Sustainability Policy

## 2022 - 2023



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

It is important for Hopwood Hall College's environmental response to be a college-wide, interdepartmental and curriculum-based activity. Our socio-economic approach to environmental and sustainability matters is to be shared across all college departments, with the view to developing and fostering a healthier working environment.

By developing both our current and future strategic/ operational approach, we would aim to work towards achieving industry recognised accreditation (ISO14001 / EcoCampus) thus demonstrating our commitment to environmental sustainability.

## 2 SCOPE

Hopwood Hall College will seek to promote greater awareness of local, national and global environmental issues through its curriculum and endeavour to reduce the damaging environmental impact of its institutional practices

## 3 POLICY STATEMENT

This policy will not discriminate either directly or indirectly against any individual on grounds of sex, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age, disability, inclusion need, gender identity, socio-economic status or any other protected characteristic.

## **4 AIM**

### **4.1 College Ambition**

In line with the college's strategic intention number 4, 'Guardians of our environment', the college's ambition is to be:

- 4.1.1** Contributors to society's ambition of being net carbon zero.
- 4.1.2** Active in minimising our carbon footprint.
- 4.1.3** Protectors and conservators of our natural environment.
- 4.1.4** Providers of a curriculum that upskills and informs learners regarding the Green Agenda.
- 4.1.5** An organisation that empowers staff and learners' involvement in activities that have a positive impact on our environment.

### **4.2 Achieving our Ambition**

The college will achieve this by:

- 4.2.1** Minimizing consumption.
- 4.2.2** Encouraging recycling, with a noted reduction in single use plastics;
- 4.2.3** Using materials and equipment and developing practices and procedures which do not cause harm to the environment;
- 4.2.4** Continually improving the internal and external environment;
- 4.2.5** Promote an awareness and balanced understanding of environmental issues on taught courses through our academic curriculum and projects.
- 4.2.6** Initiating a constructive and continuing dialogue with local and national environmental agencies and groups;
- 4.2.7** Selecting agencies and suppliers with whom it deals, based upon their own, evidenced, positive environmental responsibility approach.
- 4.2.8** Investing in sustainable energy solutions and adopting sustainable construction methods.

## 5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A Climate Action Group has been set up to review a master action plan in order to address the key aims of the policy. There are 4 subgroups who will work on a particular aspect of the policy as follows:

- Curriculum Design
- Estate Sustainability
- Student Engagement & Awareness
- Travel & Transport

Each subgroup has an SLT lead as chair for the group and the following key themes of sustainability for each group:

### 5.1 Curriculum Design Subgroup

- 5.1.1 Course design.
- 5.1.2 Ensure sustainability & green agenda embedded across all curriculum area.
- 5.1.3 Awareness sessions to upskill our staff and learners regarding the Green Agenda

### 5.2 Estate Sustainability Subgroup

- 5.2.1 Emissions across both sites & address carbon footprint via energy considerations
- 5.2.2 Waste management
- 5.2.3 IT
- 5.2.4 Construction & Development
- 5.2.5 Purchasing & Consumables
- 5.2.6 Catering

### 5.3 Student Engagement & Awareness Subgroup

- 5.3.1 Coordination of cross college student awareness & activities
- 5.3.2 Natural environment & conservation
- 5.3.3 Student led projects
- 5.3.4 Eco campus and green flag
- 5.3.5 Communication of green agenda

### 5.4 Travel & Transport Subgroup

- 5.4.1** Consider alternative student travel options
- 5.4.2** Car sharing schemes
- 5.4.3** Promote alternative forms of travel including walking/cycling
- 5.4.4** Explore electrical charging points
- 5.4.5** Staff incentives including electrical car options to be considered
- 5.4.6** Promote healthier lifestyle to protect the natural environment.

An update from the subgroups will be provided to the main Climate Action Group and an update from this Group will be taken to the Finance & Employment Committee and Corporation on an annual basis.

## **6 PROCEDURE**

It is considered that the college should begin to implement this agenda, and be reviewed on an annual basis, via the following procedure:

### **6.1 Purchasing & Consumables**

- 6.1.1** To examine the purchasing policy and identify, where possible, improvements or efficiency gains.
- 6.1.2** To introduce environmental criteria to guide the procurement of all goods and equipment and ensure that these requirements are reflected in all standard contract conditions.
- 6.1.3** To research environmentally friendly alternatives to existing supplies.
- 6.1.4** To encourage the use of biodegradable cleaning materials.
- 6.1.5** To encourage the purchase and consumption of organic catering supplies.
- 6.1.6** To employ wherever appropriate, recycled paper.
- 6.1.7** To continually maintain and improve the internal and external environment of the college.

### **6.2 Energy**

- 6.2.1** By conserving energy in the college, through the use of electronic Building Management Systems (BMS).
- 6.2.2** To monitor consumption in key areas periodically, including use of electricity, gas, paper and other consumables.

### **6.3 Recycling & Waste Management**

- 6.3.1** To encourage recycling by providing a means of collecting waste products which can be recycled e.g. waste electrical & electronic equipment (WEEE), paper & cardboard, mixed recycling.
- 6.3.2** To employ materials and equipment, and to develop practices and procedures which minimise harm to the environment.
- 6.3.3** To improve the appearance of the college and provide improved means of litter and other non-recyclable waste disposal.

### **6.4 Catering**

- 6.4.1** To evaluate the facilities and practices within catering to ensure they contribute to the college policy of environmental responsibility.
- 6.4.2** To explore the prospects of providing the option of organically produced food in college refectories.

### **6.5 Transport**

- 6.5.1** To encourage alternative, environmentally responsible means of transport, including cycling by providing more facilities for the safe parking of cycles.

### **6.6 Construction & Development**

- 6.6.1** To undertake project and site development improvements in line with requirements as set by BREEAM / LEED environmental assessments / criteria.
- 6.6.2** To employ materials and building practices with proven limited / positive environmental impact in the pursuit of campus improvements.

## **6.7 Curriculum and Staff Development**

The following curriculum aims and objectives are to be considered:

- 6.7.1** To develop practical and personal skills which enable students to evaluate and address the environmental issues associated with both their work and their lifestyles;
- 6.7.2** To build upon existing teaching and learning systems currently employed in the college;
- 6.7.3** To implement the college's environmental policy through academic staff training by means of interdisciplinary workshops or departmental workshops;
- 6.7.4** To enhance existing procedures on course monitoring, evaluation and review;

## **6.8 External Links**

It is considered necessary to promote the college as an environmentally sound institution, and to expand the college's links with 'Business Partnership', environmentalists and local communities.



## 7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Climate Action Group will monitor the progress being made in each of the subgroups following and update from each of these subgroups. The master action plan will be reviewed at each meeting to consider progress.

An annual report will go to the Finance & Employment Committee and Corporation on progress made and activities progressed by the subgroups.

## 8 DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS POLICY

Sustainability Action Plan

## 9 DOCUMENT REVIEW INFORMATION

Policy Date: 8/12/2021

Policy Author: Jo Bentley

Date of SLT Sign Off: 8/12/2021

Equality Impact Assessment Completed? Yes

Equality Impact Assessment Date: 7/12/2021

Next Policy Review Date: November 2024