

Sustainability Policy

For the attention of: All Staff, Students, Visitors & users of college services (e.g. catering or agency workers, contractors and subcontractors)

Produced by: Director of Estates

Approved by: SLT/Board of Governors

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**WINDSOR
FOREST
COLLEGES GROUP**

Vision, Purpose & Values

Our Vision

Our students will be recognised locally & nationally for their positive impact on the communities and industries in which they choose to work.

Our Purpose

To inspire our students to gain the skills, knowledge and behaviours they need to be resilient and thrive in an ever-changing world.

Our Values

Excellence: A culture of creativity, high expectations, ambition and aspiration

Respect: Showing fairness, courtesy and mutual respect to each other and our environment

Integrity: Honesty, openness and trust at the heart of College life

Diversity: Celebrating diversity and inclusivity as a key to our success

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1. **Introduction**

- 1.1. The premise of sustainability is concerned with "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"
- 1.2. Sustainability is a key strategic priority for The Windsor Forest Colleges Group. Staff and students are encouraged to play their part in creating a healthy and environmentally friendly culture. The Windsor Forest Colleges Group is committed to the principles of sustainability. This sustainability policy has been produced to endorse this commitment, guide College staff and students on required environmental practices and promote this commitment to sustainability to all stakeholders.
- 1.3. This policy sets out The Windsor Forest Colleges Group's aims for aiding sustainable development. The College is committed to implementing actions to deliver the aims set out below. These actions will promote and embed sustainable development in all aspects of the College's activities.
- 1.4. The College is committed to minimising its environmental impact, respecting the environment, and promoting and embedding sustainable development in all aspects of the College's activities. The College recognises that its operations have an impact on the local, regional and global environment and that it can contribute towards the conservation and protection of the environment. As a result, the College is committed to continuous improvements in environmental performance and the minimisation of waste and pollution.
- 1.5. This policy applies to all members of the College community including staff, students, governors and contractors and is a guide to required environmental practice at the College for all.

2. **Purpose**

- 2.1. Legal and Best Practice Environmental Objectives
 - 2.1.1. Set best practice standards and commit to a process of continual improvement by setting and achieving clearly defined sustainable development objectives and targets including carbon reduction SMART goals.
 - 2.1.2. Meet or surpass the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation and take such additional measures as is considered necessary.
 - 2.1.3. Promote awareness of all legislative, economic, technical and market developments that assist progress towards sustainability.

- 2.1.4. Manage responsibly the social, environmental and economic impacts of all College policies and practices and assess potential improvements within the College's decision-making processes.
- 2.1.5. Aim for eventual accreditation to a nationally or internationally recognised environmental management standard as a benchmark of good environmental practice.

2.2. Buildings and Estates

- 2.2.1. Ensure that college business is conducted in a manner that improves energy efficiency and seeks to eliminate waste. Energy consumption is monitored and managed to minimise consumption.
- 2.2.2. Endeavour to purchase 100% renewable electricity
- 2.2.3. Enact a long term energy plan to increase self-sufficiency in renewable energy production across the college group.
- 2.2.4. Embed the principles of sustainability in the design of new buildings, refurbishment schemes and building systems.
- 2.2.5. Maintain the College's estate in a sensitive manner that seeks to maximise our environmental potential in addition to reducing our impact.

2.3. Local Community and College-Wide

- 2.3.1. Investigate and develop ways of raising the environmental consciousness of the whole College and external community.
- 2.3.2. All members of the College community to take positive action to promote continual environmental improvement and incorporate informed sustainability perspectives within their work.
- 2.3.3. Raise awareness of environmental challenges and sustainable practices with staff and students as well as in the management of the estate and encourage staff and student participation to improve environmental performance.
- 2.3.4. Build partnerships and create local information and learning networks for sharing experiences and knowledge of sustainability issues.
- 2.3.5. Collaborate with third-party services and suppliers to measure and reduce any negative environmental impact of business practice.

2.3.6. Ensure that this policy and all reports and reviews of environmental performance are communicated to all staff and students and are available to other key stakeholders.

2.4. Transport

2.4.1. To promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport by encouraging staff and students to walk, cycle, use public transport and car share.

2.5. Waste Management

2.5.1. Minimise waste generation in all College activities to reduce landfill waste and encourage repair, reuse and recycling ahead of the responsible disposal of surplus materials.

2.5.2. Reduce the waste of natural resources and promote sustainable development through tendering and purchasing procedures.

2.5.3. Regulate all waste production and disposal and discourage litter, graffiti and noise pollution.

2.5.4. Reduce and where applicable prevent pollution by avoiding the unnecessary use of hazardous materials and processes and take steps to prevent damage to either public or ecological health where such materials are in essential use.

2.5.5. TWFCG and all sub-contractors will observe and comply with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations.

2.6. Supply and Use of Consumables

2.6.1. Develop procurement procedures to ensure social, ethical and environmental criteria are integrated into programmes.

2.6.2. Manage, conserve and maximise the efficient use of energy, water and materials.

2.6.3. Continually increase the use of renewable resources and recycling.

2.6.4. Examine ways of reducing the environmental impact of the College's use of consumables, energy and water.

2.6.5. Prioritise contracts with companies that have clear and comprehensive environmental policies. These will usually include statements on re-use and recycling, transport commitments, the use of local companies and sources of supply where possible, energy reduction commitments, etc.

- 2.6.6. wherever possible the College will use local companies for its purchases, contracts, etc. in order to reduce the impact of transport on the environment.
- 2.6.7. Wherever possible provide recycling bins and use a recycling company to collect all recyclable streams (e.g. plastic and cans) i.e. a registered waste collector.

3. Monitoring and Review

The implementation and effectiveness of the Sustainability Policy will be monitored by the Sustainability Leadership Group.