

Sustainability Policy

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For the attention of:

All staff, students, visitors and people using the services of the College (e.g. catering or employed through agencies, contractors or subcontractors)

Produced by:

Deputy CEO

Approved by:

Board of Governors

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European Union
European
Social Fund



Our Mission

Inspire ambition and make a positive difference to lives through learning.

Our Values

Learners First - placing the learner at the heart of all we do

Community - working collaboratively to achieve

Empowering - enabling all in a caring environment to achieve their full potential

Excellence - a culture of creativity, high expectations, ambition and aspiration

Diversity - celebrating diversity and inclusivity as a key to our success

Integrity - honesty, openness and trust at the heart of College life

Respect - showing fairness, courtesy and mutual respect

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The idea 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.
- 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 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.
- 1.5 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 effect 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 This policy applies to all sub-contractors engaged in the European Social Fund Project.

2. Key Aims

- 2.1 Legal and Best Practice
 - 2.1.1 Set best practice standards and commit to a process of continual environmental improvement by setting and achieving clearly defined sustainable development objectives and targets.
 - 2.1.2 Meet or surpass requirements of all relevant environmental legislation and take such additional environmental protection 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 Establish a Cross College Working Group to oversee the implementation of this policy and associated plans.
 - 2.1.5 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.
 - 2.1.6 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.
- 2.2.2 Embed the principles of sustainability in the design of new buildings and refurbishment schemes and building systems.
- 2.2.3 Ensure that the management of existing buildings minimises the environmental impact of the energy consumed and maintain the College's estate in an environmentally sensitive way.

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 Create an ethos of environmental responsibility with staff and students as well as in the management of the estate and encourage staff and student initiatives 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 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 activity 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 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). ie a registered waste collector.

3. Monitoring & Review

3.1 The implementation and effectiveness of the Sustainability Policy will be monitored by the Working Group. An Annual Sustainability Report will be presented to the Resources Committee and the Corporation.

Current sub-contractors in the ESF Project are:

- West Berkshire Training Consortium
- Newbury College
- Bracknell and Wokingham College
- TESS – Training Event Solutions
- Berkshire College of Agriculture
- Alan Hester Associates
- Cosntruction Skills People