



## **SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

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## **Environmental and Sustainability Policy Statement**

Dudley College of Technology is committed to sustainable development and will aim to protect and contribute positively to the environment. We will develop in a way that meets the needs of the present without diminishing the opportunities of those in the future. We will take account of future generations, future employers and employees and consider what impact our actions now will have on their ability to manage, live and thrive.

Our development will be informed and guided using the principles measures and targets outlined in the college sustainability and net zero commitment statement. (Highlight as a reference link). We will use the association of colleges Net Zero Roadmap to monitor our progress in achieving Net Zero.

Dudley College of Technology will seek to promote an awareness of corporate social responsibility through its practices. As a major user of physical, natural and human resources the college aims to ensure that its operations are conducted in sustainable ways, and we will set environmental objectives and develop appropriate systems to monitor and improve performance. As a responsible and committed institution, the college will encourage the support of all staff and students, in addition to working with external agencies, to progress environmental initiatives and share best practice. Through this we will protect the environment, including preventing any pollution and fulfil our compliance obligations.

In making a commitment to achieving sustainability and operating within a framework that includes economic, environmental, and social factors, the college aims to incorporate the principles of environmental sustainability into all aspects of institutional planning and operations.

The college is therefore committed to the following aims:

- Integrate environmental management policies and practices into every level and every area of the college operations.
- Promote the protection of the environment and minimise the impact of its activities on the local regional and global environment.
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and take such additional environmental protection measures as it considers necessary.
- Promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in all college activities.
- Continue to work towards maintaining ISO14001 accreditation for our Environmental Management System.
- Make efficient use of resources.
- Reuse and recycle equipment and materials where possible and dispose of waste in an environmentally sensitive manner.

- Promote sustainable procurement methods whilst seeking to persuade agencies and suppliers through its contracting policies to adopt an environmentally responsible approach to themselves.
- Continually improve its internal and external environment.
- Promote sustainable forms of transport.
- Promote awareness and balanced understanding of environmental issues on taught courses throughout the curriculum.
- Develop curriculum content to address environmental issues and promote sustainable practice as appropriate.

The Senior Leadership Group have the overall and final responsibility for the Environmental Policy and are responsible for the co-ordination, implementation, and monitoring of the policy throughout the college using ISO 14001:2015 as the framework for maintaining and reviewing policy.

Management throughout the organisation are responsible for the communication of the policy and promoting active participation at all levels, whilst ensuring that activities under their control conform to the legal requirements and that good environmental standards are achieved and maintained.

Employees have the responsibility to actively support the company to ensure the effective implementation and maintenance of the policy.

This policy is available to all interested parties upon request.



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**Neil Thomas**  
**Chief Executive Officer/Principal**

01.02.23

**Date**

## **OBJECTIVES**

In order to achieve these aims the college will seek and address the following:

### **Purchasing**

- To examine the colleges purchasing policy and identify, where possible, improvements or efficiency gains.
- To introduce environmental criteria to guide the procurement of all goods and equipment and ensure that these requirements are reflected in all standard contracts conditions.
- To research environmentally-friendly alternatives to existing supplies.
- To switch to biodegradable materials and substances wherever possible.
- To encourage the purchase and consumption of organic catering supplies.
- To employ wherever appropriate recycled paper.

### **Waste Management and Recycling**

- To employ materials and equipment and to develop practices and procedures to minimise harm to the environment. This will include disposal of all special wastes.
- To keep an inventory of all special wastes throughout the college together with the approved method of disposal.
- To ensure that emissions and discharges are controlled to avoid negative environmental impact.
- To encourage recycling by providing a means of collecting waste products which can be recycled eg aluminium cans, paper and glass.
- Look to reuse any item before disposal.

### **Energy and Consumables**

- Conserving energy in the college using the college Building Management Systems (BMS).
- To investigate and adopt the use of more carbon friendly systems such as alternative energy sources for heating and power.
- To monitor consumption in key areas periodically, including use of electricity, heating fuel, paper and other consumables.
- To investigate and adopt the acquisition of energy from sustainable sources and renewable technologies wherever practical.

- Maintain a water conservation programme to reduce the amount used.

### **Building Environment and Capital Development**

- Maintain, develop and operate the entire college estate in a sustainable manner.
- To continually maintain and improve the internal and external environment of the college.
- To continue to use its best endeavours to improve the existing estate by the introduction of energy efficiency measures such as lighting and heating controls and the replacement of inefficient building elements such as single glazed windows and ensure that all capital development minimises the embedded and emitted carbon and ensures the lowest possible impact on the environment.

### **Biodiversity**

- Protect the natural and built environment in and around the college by ensuring its actions have minimal negative impact.
- Pursue soft and hard landscaping of the campus that complements ecology and enhances biodiversity.

### **Catering**

- To evaluate the facilities and practices of the contractors providing refectory facilities to ensure they contribute to the college policy on the environment.
- To explore the prospects of providing the option of organically-produced food in college refectories.
- To review the disposal of food waste.

### **Transport**

- To encourage alternative, environmentally responsible means of transport.
- To draw up College Travel Plans.
- Minimise the environmental impact of college vehicles and investigate alternative environmentally friendly fuel sources for new vehicles.

### **Curriculum and Staff Development**

- Carry out an audit of the curriculum to identify existing 'green' areas and map opportunities for greening the curriculum.
- To develop a citizenship module which enables students to evaluate and address the environmental issues associated with both their work and lifestyles.

- Identify opportunities to develop new areas of study in environmental studies.
- To build upon existing curriculum opportunities currently employed in the college to highlight environmental concerns.
- Develop partnerships for delivery of environmental awareness training with employers, schools, and voluntary sector organisations.
- Refine existing quality monitoring and review procedures to include environmental criteria.
- Identify opportunities to develop staff skills and awareness in new sustainable initiatives and advancements in both, operational management of the college and the development and delivery of training and skills to students.

### **External Links**

- Promote the college as an environmentally sound institution.
- Build and expand the college's links with local, regional and national businesses, environmentalists and agencies.
- Ensure that all students, staff and visitors are aware of all on-going environmental work so that they can make informed decisions to reduce their own environmental impact.

### **General**

- Identify and train champions for sustainable development and create a sustainability working group.
- Raise awareness of environmental issues amongst staff and students.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The college management team is designated with overall responsibility for the achievement of the college's aim to be sustainable.

However, the environment is the responsibility of all who work and learn at the college and all staff and students should recognise their potential contribution to the achievement of a sustainable college.

### **MONITORING & IMPLEMENTATION**

Monitoring of the progress towards the college's sustainability policy will be completed by the college Health Safety and Environmental Committee. The committee includes representatives from all areas of the college including staff with responsibility for teaching and learning, estates management, finance, quality, student support and health and safety. It will also include student representation.

They will be responsible for producing and monitoring an annual development plan, notifying any actions required to relevant staff. The plan will be incorporated into the college operational development plan, which is further monitored by the college Senior Management Team Leadership Group and performance reports submitted to the college Corporation.

This working group will compile an annual report on the progress which will be available to all interested parties.

### **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or whenever a change to legislation relating to sustainability is enacted or earlier should it become necessary by the Executive Director of Estates and Capital Projects.

### **The following Associated Documents can be requested**

- Disposal of Confidential Waste
- SS007 – Waste Management
- Sustainability & Net Zero Commitment Statement