# SUSTAINABILITY
# POLICY STATEMENT

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| SLG Owner | Louise Jones |
| Manager | Mireille Digard |
| Department/Area | Sustainability |
| Date of Review | 14.10.2026 |
| Date of approval | |
| Approved by | Reviewed by SLG members. |
| Next Review date | 19.03.2028 |
| Date of EIA, if appropriate | 20.03.2025 |
| Status (delete as appropriate) | Intranet/Website |

*Note: The Sustainability Policy Statement will be review by Finance & Estates Committee on 26.11.26. Following the meeting, the approved Policy Statement will be uploaded to the college Intranet and website.*

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, students, visitors, contractors, and stakeholders engaged with Dudley College. It covers all aspects of our operations, including governance, curriculum, estates, partnerships, and external engagement.

## Introduction

Dudley College of Technology is committed to embedding sustainability across all aspects of our institution. We understand that sustainability encompasses three key dimensions: environmental, social, and economic. This policy outlines our commitment to these dimensions, ensuring that sustainability remains a core principle in our decision-making, teaching, operations, and engagement with our wider community. It aligns with national and international sustainability commitments, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and relevant UK environmental legislation.

This policy also serves as Dudley College's Environmental Policy under ISO 14001 and provides the framework for establishing, reviewing, and achieving environmental objectives and targets through the continual improvement of environmental performance.

## Principles and Commitments

This policy applies to all staff, students, visitors, contractors, and stakeholders engaged with Dudley College. It covers all aspects of our operations, including governance, curriculum, estates, partnerships, and external engagement.

Dudley College is committed to:

- Protecting the environment, including the prevention of pollution, the sustainable use of resources, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity where appropriate,
- Fulfilling our applicable compliance obligations, including environmental legislation, regulatory requirements, and voluntary commitments, to ensure effective environmental management across the College.
- Continually improving our Environmental Management System (EMS) to enhance environmental performance and support the achievement of our sustainability objectives.
- Reducing our environmental impact through the efficient use of energy, water and materials, minimising waste, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Promoting sustainability literacy, environmental awareness and responsible behaviours among staff, students, and stakeholders.
- Engaging with local, regional, national, and international partners to support sustainable development and maximise positive environmental outcomes.
- Supporting the principles and ambitions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through our teaching, operations, and community engagement activities.

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## Sustainability Strategy

Our sustainability strategy is organised around four key pillars, each aligned with specific SDGs:

## 1. Leadership and Governance

- **Overarching Aim:** To embed sustainability into the core of our leadership and governance structures, ensuring that all decisions and policies reflect our commitment to a sustainable future.

**Objectives & Targets**

- Ensure that strategic planning and decision-making are conducted through a sustainability lens.
- Ensure the Environmental Management System is maintained, monitored, and continually improved in line with ISO 14001 requirements.
- Ensure senior leadership accountability for sustainability outcomes.
- Integrate environmental management policies and practices into every level and area of the college operations.
- *Align with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).*

**Key Actions & Initiatives**

- The Sustainability Steering Group will oversee the monitoring and implementation of this policy.
- Sustainability reporting will be integrated into governance structures.
- Support the ISO14001 team by providing necessary resources and training.
- Monitor the existing climate risk management framework to identify and mitigate potential environmental risks, including those related to climate change impacts on the student population.
- Identify and train champions for sustainable development and create a sustainability working group.

**Responsibilities:** Senior leadership, Sustainability Manager.

## 2. Teaching, Learning, and Innovation

- **Overarching Aim:** To equip students and staff with sustainability knowledge, skills, and mindsets necessary to address global challenges.

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**Objectives & Targets**

- Embed sustainability across the curriculum.
- Provide sustainability-related CPD opportunities for staff.
- Ensure all staff are carbon ~~aware~~.
- 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.
- *Align with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).*

**Key Actions & Initiatives**

- Introduce sustainability themes into all programmes.
- Encourage interdisciplinary projects and research in sustainability.
- Implement carbon awareness training for all staff.
- Raise awareness of environmental issues amongst staff and students.

**Responsibilities:** Curriculum Leads, Professional Services Managers, Teaching Staff and the Sustainability Manager.

## 3. Estates and Operations

- **Overarching Aim:** To operate our campuses in an environmentally responsible manner, reducing our carbon footprint and promoting sustainable practices in all operations.

**Objectives & Targets**

- Reduce carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency.
- Enhance biodiversity, protect natural habitats where feasible and reduce waste.
- Promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in all college activities.
- Make efficient use of resources.
- Reuse and recycle equipment and materials where possible and dispose of waste in an environmentally sensitive manner.

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- Identify and manage environmental aspects that could adversely affect air, land, water, or ecosystems.
- Promote sustainable forms of transport.
- *Align with SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).*

**Key Actions & Initiatives**

- Implement energy and waste reduction strategies.
- Promote sustainable transport options for staff and students.

**Responsibilities:** Estates team, Procurement team, Sustainability Manager.

## 4. Partnerships and Engagement

- **Overarching Aim:** To build strong partnerships and engage with the community and industry to advance sustainability goals. We aim to create a broader impact by ensuring our initiatives both contribute to and benefit from the wider sustainability efforts around Dudley College.

**Objectives & Targets**

- Engage students, staff, and external partners in sustainability initiatives.
- Strengthen relationships with local organizations and industry leaders in sustainability.
- Promote sustainable procurement methods while persuading agencies and suppliers through our contracting policies to adopt an environmentally responsible approach.
- *Align with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).*

**Key Actions & Initiatives:**

- Support student-led sustainability projects.
- Work with local businesses and community groups on sustainability initiatives.
- Implement sustainable procurement practices by prioritising suppliers with strong environmental credentials.

**Responsibilities:** Students' Union, employer engagement team, Marketing team, Finance Team, Sustainability Manager.

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## 5. Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting

The Sustainability Steering Group oversees and monitors the sustainability policy, tracking progress against KPIs and providing annual reports to senior leadership. This group manages the sustainability project plan and its four strands, maintaining an action log for ongoing tasks.

The Sustainability Manager reports to the Finance and Estates Committee on the progress against the sustainability action plan and strategy.

Progress towards our sustainability goals will be reported via the college's Annual Strategic Impact Assessment, which is available on the college's website.

The College will periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the Environmental Management System and identify opportunities for continual improvement to enhance environmental performance

## 6. Legislation & Compliance

This policy ensures compliance with all relevant UK environmental legislation and sustainability-related regulations.

## 7. Responsibilities

The college's Senior Leadership team has overall responsibility for establishing a culture of sustainability. 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.

## 8. Review & Revision

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Sustainability Steering Group. In addition, it will be reviewed whenever changes to legislation relating to sustainability are enacted or earlier should it become necessary by the Sustainability Manager.

## 9.Supporting Documentation

The College will develop, maintain, and periodically review supporting strategies, action plans, procedures, and guidance necessary to implement this policy. Current approved documentation can be accessed via the College Policies & Procedures SharePoint site.

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