



Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Key Information	
Policy Reference Number	CCSW - ENVSUS
ELT Post Responsible for Update and Monitoring	Deputy Principal and Deputy CEO
Published on Website	Yes
Date approved by ELT	12 September 2023
Date Approved by Governor's Committee (if applicable)	28 September 2023
Date of Next Policy Review	25 September 2026

1. Scope

- 1.1 Cheshire College South & West recognises the effect its operations, activities and development have on the environment and acknowledges the responsibility it has to limit these effects in order to maintain the environment for future generations. The College therefore seeks to establish a culture in all departments to protect and improve the environment and reduce any negative effect of its operations, activities or development. The UK Government amended the Climate Change Act in 2019, which commits the UK to become a net zero carbon country by 2050. A Climate Emergency has been declared by several Local Authorities, including the two local authorities; Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) and Cheshire East that the College locates.
- 1.2 This policy will not discriminate either directly or indirectly against any individual on the grounds of gender, race, ethnicity or nationality, sexual orientation, marital status, religion or belief, age, disability, socio-economic status or any other personal characteristic.

2. Definition

- 2.1 The Environmental and Sustainability Policy is a statement by the College of its intentions and principles in relation to its overall environmental performance, which provides a framework for action and for the setting of its environmental and sustainable objectives and targets. Sustainable development must address environmental, economic and social factors and the interrelationships between them.

3. Purpose

- 3.1 The purpose of the Environmental and Sustainability Policy is to:
- (a) assure learners and staff of the College commitment to implement responsible environmental management in an economical and efficient manner;
 - (b) reduce incidents which might harm the environment and for which the College may be in contradiction of its legal requirements;
 - (c) reduce the consumption of raw materials and energy;
 - (d) help to provide a better environment for future generations; and
 - (e) maintain and develop the business in a sustainable manner.
- 3.2 The College commits to the following environmental and sustainability aims:
- (a) reducing waste to landfill;
 - (b) reducing effect on local ecology and biodiversity;
 - (c) reducing the environmental effects of transport;
 - (d) reducing pollution;
 - (e) being responsible for the effect of the College supply chain;
 - (f) reducing energy and CO₂ emission; and
 - (g) reducing water consumption.

4. College Net Zero Carbon Response

- 4.1 The UK has mandated a target of Net Zero Carbon by 2050, Cheshire East and CWaC has set their target to be reached by 2045. In addition, the more recently published (*April 2022*) DfE policy paper Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services system outlines that educational establishment emissions will need to be significantly reduced by 2032.
- 4.2 To ensure the College remains focussed in responding to this challenge a Carbon Management Plan has been adopted, which provides recommendations and carbon reduction targets for the short, medium and long term. These targets will be reviewed annually to assess progress and measure impact.
- 4.3 The Carbon Management Plan is embedded within the College Estates Strategy and is owned by the Director of Estates to ensure that it permeates through all decision making and aspects of estate review and renewal.

5. College Responsibility

- 5.1 The College commits to improve awareness of environmental matters through:
- (a) appropriate training for staff and estates management;
 - (b) adoption of 'Best Practice' in its operations; and
 - (c) seeking opportunities to develop environmental awareness in learners, through academic programmes and Campus awareness initiatives.
- 5.2 The College will seek to continually review, improve, and develop its Environmental and Sustainability Policy and will commit to work with external partners and bodies to actively seek and secure Government funding to implement, where appropriate, decarbonisation and energy consumption reduction schemes.
- 5.3 The College is a signatory of the 'Race to Zero', demonstrating its commitment to the further education sector's net zero agenda.
- 5.4 The College will ensure its Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) is available on an annual basis in line with guidance.
- 5.5 The College will seek to train its employees and learners and other users in environmental issues and the environmental effects of its operations.
- 5.6 Sustainability will be incorporated into the College's health and safety management and in its formal governance structure.
- 5.7 The overall aim is to promote sustainability throughout the College, its employees, learners and supply chain. To achieve this the College will:
- (a) build sustainability into decision making processes throughout the College;
 - (b) build relationships with its stakeholders to both support its core values and meet its objectives;
 - (c) review, as appropriate, the policy to ensure it remains relevant to the College and its stakeholders; and
 - (d) monitor the carbon reduction plan annually to track progress, relevance and risk.