

The
Sheffield
College

POLICY

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Document administration

Policy family	Sustainability	
ELT owner	Deputy Chief Executive	
SLT lead	Director of Estates and Environmental Sustainability	
Department	Estates and Environmental Sustainability	
Final approving body	Executive Leadership Team	
Approval date	10 September 2024	
Review frequency	Annual	
Next reapproval date	10 September 2025	
Equality impact assessment	Completion date: 13 September 2024	EQIA not required <input type="checkbox"/>
Publication	Staff intranet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	External website <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Version control log

Date	Version No	Summary of changes	Reviewed by (SLT lead)
10 th Sep 2024	1.0	• New policy replacing the previous environmental policy	

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1. Purpose

1.1: The purpose of this policy is to set out The Sheffield College approach to Environmental Sustainability.

1.2: The Sheffield College recognises that its activities have an effect on the environment through its routine operations, infrastructure development and educational activities. The college acknowledges that it has a responsibility to seek to reduce negative impacts on the environment, and should take every opportunity to do so, exercising proper control over all its activities, the use of energy and natural resources, the recycling and management of waste streams and using its influence on both its own and the wider community.

We must also ensure we meet our obligations under the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, published in April 2022, and the College's Financial Regulations and Financial Delegation (V4) governing the spending of public money.

1.3: In January 2022, the college published its Environmental Sustainability Strategy which set out the following vision statement:

"Through changes to our culture, estate and activities we will demonstrate our commitment to becoming a Net Zero Carbon organisation by 2040 with the milestone of being Carbon Neutral by 2030."

1.4: In November 2023, the college launched the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, which sets out how our strategic objectives will be met.

2. Scope, aims and objectives

2.1: The policy applies to all college activities and all members of the college community - staff, students, visitors and subsidiary organisations.

2.2: Our objectives are set out under the 5 themes of our Environmental Sustainability Action Plan:

Theme 1: Leadership and Governance

To develop and embed effective leadership and governance processes that ensure environmental sustainability considerations are part of all strategic decision-making, and promote a culture of collective responsibility for sustainability action.

Theme 2: Estates and Operations

To decarbonise our estate and operations in line with our target to be a Net Zero organisation by 2040, building resilience to climate change impacts, including sustainable management of capital projects, utilities, waste, transport, IT, procurement, food outlets and campus biodiversity.

Theme 3: Teaching and Learning

To embed education for sustainable development across the whole curriculum, by empowering teaching staff and enabling students to make informed choices in their work and wider roles in society.

Theme 4: Partnerships and Engagement

To fully engage with our stakeholders to develop and deliver our sustainability actions, and play a full part in our wider community, city and regional sustainability networks.

Theme 5: Data Collection and Reporting

To hold robust and comprehensive quantitative and qualitative management information on activity and performance relating to each theme in the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, enabling effective internal, external and statutory reporting on progress.

2.3: Our Environmental Sustainability Action Plan sets out short, medium and long-term actions to meet our objectives. We are committed to a whole college approach to achieving our objectives, addressing Campus, Curriculum, Culture and Community to embed environmental sustainability across the organisation.

3. Responsibilities

3.1: It is everyone's responsibility to consider the environmental impacts of the activities they are carrying out as part of their college role, and take actions to reduce them where possible.

3.2: The Environmental Sustainability Board will be responsible for reviewing the policy on a regular basis at least annually, and, alongside the Environmental Sustainability Working Group, for developing plans for implementing the policy.

3.3: The policy and associated action plans will be considered and approved by The Executive Leadership Team, who will also monitor progress against agreed KPIs.