Environmental Sustainability Policy

Responsible Senior Manager:	Interim Deputy Principal (Finance and Facilities)
Effective Date:	November 2025
Related Policies:	
Approved By:	Finance and Estates Committee *
Next Review Date:	October 2026

* Under delegated powers

European Union
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1. Purpose

Environmental sustainability and climate change are probably the greatest issues facing humankind in the twenty-first century: they are a major focus for HSDC's teaching activities and a key responsibility for all staff, students and governors of the College.

The Environmental Sustainability Policy aims to integrate carbon and environmental management into all College processes and to maximise the influence of the College in reducing its carbon footprint by education and action.

HSDC (comprising campuses at Havant, South Downs and Alton), its Governors, Staff and Learners accept our responsibility for taking care of the local, national and global environment.

As a result, we are committed to:

- Working towards a 2040 Net Zero carbon target.
- Being a 'Leading' College within the Further Education Sector as defined by the FE Climate Action Roadmap[1]
- The responsible use of resources, minimising any negative impact on the environment.
- Setting up Student & Staff Facing Environmental Sustainability Group

The Environmental Sustainability Committee is accountable for ensuring the Policy is implemented.

Implementation of carbon net zero will be embedded in all new decisions / operations and activities and incrementally embedded into existing processes, contracts and tenders on renewal.

All staff have a responsibility to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

[1] The Climate Commission and Nous Group Climate Action Roadmap for Further Education in partnership with the Association of Colleges – https://www.eauc.org.uk/fe_roadmap

2. Policy Aims

HSDC requires its Governors, Staff, Learners, Partners and Suppliers to:

1. Respect, embrace, and actively support the College agenda for carbon net zero and environmental net gain outcomes across all our operations and activities.
2. Proactively act in ways that support environmental net gain and promote all actions that mitigate the climate emergency, raising awareness and recognising positive action, whether it be teaching, learning or other College activity.
3. Demonstrate commitment to managing, minimising and mitigating the impacts from operations, activities, teaching and learning.
4. Seek to minimise the environmental impact through environment and climate emergency conscious decision-making including choice of products, partners and suppliers.
5. Evaluate our performance and transparently report on decisions, outcomes and actions on all aspects of the Policy; providing commentary and explanations and holding ourselves to account.
6. Comply and demonstrate compliance with all relevant legislation as a minimum, and where possible go beyond it.
7. Demonstrate commitment to continuous improvement and monitoring of our environmental performance, open and transparent reporting, supporting greater recognition of the benefits of environmental change and ensure that outcomes do not create a detriment to any group with protected characteristics within our community.
8. Monitoring our annual Carbon Footprint and actively reducing it every year.
9. Report on our carbon output through HSDC's Financial Statements and other reports to stakeholders.

This Policy is directly aligned to HSDC's Drive to 25 Strategic Aim 4.

D25 Strategic Aim 4: We will be recognised as the learning heart of our communities meeting the needs of all our students whilst ensuring ethical practices and responding to our environmental responsibility.

3. Objectives

To achieve these aims HSDC has the following objectives:

1. To be an Emerging College by September 2022

- ***Leadership and Governance***
  - Gather College views on sustainability
  - Establish Sustainability Committee
  - Commission a carbon audit of current college activities
  - Hold workshop with leaders to set net zero targets
  - Raise awareness in the College community of our commitment to sustainability through implementation of high-profile measures on campus
- ***Teaching and Learning***
  - Deliver Carbon Literacy training to staff and students
- ***Estates and Operations***
  - Ensure recycling signage is available in every building
  - Implement the College's Travel to Learn policy
- ***Partnerships and Engagement***
  - Sign the Global Climate Letter
  - Negotiate with food suppliers for sustainable food options
- ***Data Collection***
  - Upskill on measuring emissions
  - Calculate college carbon footprint using existing data

2. To be an Established College by September 2023

- ***Leadership and Governance***
  - Incorporate net zero ambitions in strategic plan and establish ring-fenced budget
  - Incorporate sustainability into governance arrangements
- ***Teaching and Learning***
  - Participate in Global Goals Teach-in
- ***Estates and Operations***
  - Modify estates strategy in line with net zero targets
  - Apply for relevant funding / investment to improve energy efficiency / reduce emissions
  - Set and implement targets to reduce waste on campus by 50%-75%
  - Continue to implement the College's Travel to Learn policy
- ***Partnerships and Engagement***
  - Sign the SDG Accord

- Establish climate action network with Local Council
- Develop fossil fuel divestment plan

- ***Data Collection***
  - Develop and implement plan to measure Scope 3 emissions

3. To be a Leading College by September 2024

- ***Leadership and Governance***
  - Develop climate adaptation / climate risk management
  - Embed climate responsibility into staff development
- ***Teaching and Learning***
  - Audit curriculum against SDGs using Responsible Futures framework
  - Train teaching staff to incorporate sustainability into curriculum for all courses
- ***Estates and Operations***
  - Implement renewable energy on a part or / all the estate
  - Expand Travel policy to reduce emissions from commuting to / from campuses
- ***Partnerships and Engagement***
  - Work with local community / council / business to improve local biodiversity

4. Responsibilities

All College Stakeholders have a responsibility for positive action to progress the College's Environmental Sustainability Policy.

Finance and Estates Committee

- Receives and considers the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Committee meetings.
- Receives an annual report from the Deputy Principal (Finance and Facilities) which outlines progress towards the College's Carbon targets.
- Reviews investment proposals related to Carbon reducing infrastructure changes.

Environmental Sustainability Committee

Brings together the whole college community to monitor and review the College's actions towards achieving Environmental Sustainability and Carbon reduction targets.

Principal

The Principal has overall responsibility for environmental affairs of the College but delegates day to day responsibility to the Deputy Principal (Finance and Facilities).

Deputy Principal (Finance and Facilities)

The Deputy Principal is responsible for

- Chairing the College's Environmental Sustainability Committee.
- The enactment, encouragement and review of the policy through the College's Environmental Sustainability Committee and with the Executive Team.
- Developing the College's Environmental Action Plan and monitoring progress towards its achievement and reporting to ESC and F&E Committee.
- The promotion of the policy to staff and students and other College stakeholders.
- Ensuring relevant legislation and other requirements are met.
- Ensuring that relevant actions and strategies are implemented to achieve the aims set out in the policy and that these are reported to all relevant parties.

Managers

- Integrate Environmental and Sustainability principles into the College's operational procedures and educational activities, under the guidance of the Deputy Principal (Finance and Facilities), the Environmental Sustainability Committee and the Executive Team.
- Implement strategies that lead to reduced use of resources, less energy consumption and increased recycling of waste.

Director of Facilities

The Director of Facilities is responsible for

- Improving the way the College manages its environment by way of several related strategies College Waste Strategy, College energy procurement and management strategy, the College carbon reduction strategy, Catering Contract etc.
- Identify training requirements for Estates Team to ensure they are aware of their legislative responsibilities ensuring compliance and to deliver a continuous environmental improvement.

All Staff and Students

Everyone within the College community must comply with the requirements of the Environmental Sustainability Policy and actively seek to minimise any harmful environmental impact and vigorously support the College in its management of the environment by taking actions that reduce the use of resources and the production of carbon.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Finance and Estates Committee.