



ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Author: Deputy Principal

Review date: August 2022

1 **Introduction**

This policy document details the commitment of Harlow College to energy savings and a sustainable environment.

2 **Purpose**

This policy sets out Harlow College's approach to sustainability.

The College seeks to embed sustainability and good environmental practice in to everything it does, whilst ensuring value for money via sustainable procurement.

The College considers its students are potential future ambassadors, leaders and advocates of Sustainability and as one of the largest employers in Harlow, the College recognises it has a significant contributory impact on the environment and economy.

3 **Scope**

It is the intention that this policy should be published on the Qube and made known to all staff. Where possible all staff should endeavour to apply its aims to all aspects of the College's operation and its delivery of the curriculum and associated services. Environmental issues impact on all activities of the College, and is contained in further policies concerning: accommodation strategy (including new build specifications), space utilisation and maintenance of the site; catering; energy management; use and recycling of paper and materials; health & safety and waste management; purchasing strategies and contractual arrangements; curriculum delivery; relationships and partnerships with others in the local community; transport, green travel arrangements.

The Scope of the Policy encompasses everyone in the College community – students, staff and covers its involvement with local, regional and national partners and suppliers of goods and services.

4 **Definition**

- Security of the environment, economy and society for present and future generations
- Awareness of human actions that threaten the natural environment
- Enabling people wherever they are to live satisfying lives without harming the planet
- Living and earning with the understanding that all aspects of life are connected
- Understanding that social and environmental well-being are both essential if we are to lead healthy and peaceful lives

5 **Policy Statement**

It is the policy of Harlow College to work towards a sustainable environment. In doing this the College will aspire to model awareness and understanding of local, national and global environmental issues and, through its own practices, strive to conserve, sustain and improve the environment.

The college will achieve this by:

- 5.1 Setting targets for improvements in energy savings and classroom utilisation to minimise its use of energy and scarce resources through good practice, prudent maintenance and use of energy efficient resources.
- 5.2 Removing material from the waste cycle that can viably be recycled and make use of re-cycled materials where practicable.
- 5.3 Reduce the use of single use plastic wherever possible.
- 5.4 Using materials and equipment that minimise harm to the environment, and avoiding use of non-renewable resources where feasible.
- 5.5 Continually improving and maintaining the environment both within the College and, where appropriate, externally.
- 5.6 Minimising pollution by ensuring all College vehicles are regularly serviced and maintained and that their emissions are checked.
- 5.7 Reducing the use of paper by double-sided copying and use of electronic mail and the virtual learning environment and other technology as far as practicable.
- 5.8 Including environmental and energy management issues in staff induction and development and ensuring that all staff are aware of the need to endeavour to apply in practice the aims of the environmental policy, particularly related to energy savings.
- 5.9 Committing funds to environmental improvements within the College, within budgetary constraints.
- 5.10 Ensuring contractors and suppliers to the College have similar environmental aims and commitment.
- 5.11 Including environmental issues in curriculum delivery where appropriate.
- 5.12 Linking with other organisations in the local community in dialogue and partnership to encourage and contribute to good environmental practice.

- 5.13 Ensuring compliance with any legal requirements and local planning requirements concerning the environment, and working towards meeting government initiatives for a sustainable environment.
- 5.14 Encourage the users of the college to seek environmentally acceptable economies in use of transport, ie car share, park and ride, public transport or cycle to work.

6 **Monitoring of Policy**

The Deputy Principal will be responsible for ensuring that reports are presented to the College Executive as part of the review of College performance.

The Campus Operations Team will support and monitor the implementation of this policy reporting to the Health, Safety and Environment Committee.

TRACKING and REFERENCE INFORMATION

Date Approved: 29 August 2019

Review Date: August 2022

Author/Responsibility: Deputy Principal

Equality Impact Assessment: TBA

List of related policies, procedures and other documents:

Complaints: If you wish to submit a complaint about the application of this policy or the procedure of it, please send your request in accordance with the provisions of the Grievance Procedure.

Monitoring: The application of this policy and associated procedure will be monitored by the Deputy Principal.

Easy reading: To receive this policy/procedure in a different format, please contact HR Services