

Environment and Sustainability Policy

1. Policy statement

West Herts College Group is committed to the principles of sustainability and minimising the adverse impact of its activities on the environment. This sustainability policy has been produced to endorse this commitment, guide decision-making, influence the actions of employees and students, and to ensure appropriate engagement with external stakeholders.

West Herts College Group recognises that its operations can contribute towards the conservation and protection of the environment. As a consequence, the College is committed to continuous improvements in environmental performance and to the minimisation of waste and pollution.

Environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice will be regarded as setting the minimum standards of environmental performance and the College will aim to exceed these benchmarks where feasible.

West Herts College Group seeks to embed the principles of sustainability by:

- Developing the College curriculum to drive green skills
- Delivering and maintaining modern College buildings
- Investing in green solutions

Aims

The College aims to contribute towards the conservation and protection of the environment by:

- Improving awareness and understanding of environmental issues and sustainable development throughout the College
- Improving how the College manages its own environment
- Improving its work with the local community, public and private sector organisations
- Improving energy performance and reducing the carbon footprint of the estate
- Integrating environmental and sustainable principles into the College's operational procedures and promote best practice at every level

The College will achieve this by:

- Committing to educating students and employees about sustainability, its impact, and its consequences
- Seeking measurable reduction to its carbon footprint where feasible
- Complying with all applicable legal requirements and benchmarks

- Establishing a procurement policy to minimise the social, economic, and environmental impact of our procurement choices and maximising the use of the college resources
- Embedding sustainability into the strategic planning process

In addition, the College will:

The College estate

- Ensure that College business is conducted in a manner that improves energy efficiency and seeks to eliminate waste
- Embed the principles of sustainability in the design of new buildings and building systems
- Include sustainability and environmental impact as criteria when assessing potential contractors
- Strive to achieve Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) very good as a minimum within all capital projects
- Ensure that the management of existing buildings minimises the environmental impact of the energy consumed
- Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport by encouraging staff and students to healthier and more active modes of travel
- Promote the use of recycling strategies to increase the proportion of recycled waste each year
- Maximise Building Management Systems (BMS) to ensure that systems are operating at maximum efficiency

The College curriculum:

- Promote sustainable citizenship and ecological awareness through the College's 'whole-person' curriculum and extra-curriculum offer
- Provide all students with opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge of sustainability issues through sustainability related curriculum and qualifications
- Provide the skills solutions for students, businesses, and communities to create a low carbon economy

College Investment

- Sustainability solutions will be considered as part of all key College decision making at all levels of the organisation, taking account of other College strategic objectives and affordability.

If you would like an advice or further information regarding this policy and its content, please contact the College on 01923 812148

| Date of Issue | Authorised by |
|----------------------|----------------------|
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