

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Reference Number: COL01

Version: 3

Page(s):	5	
Approved SMT Date:	06/02/2025	
Last Review Date:	06/02/2025	
Review Frequency:	Biennial	
Next Review Date:	28/02/2027	
Originator title:	Deputy Principal, Curriculum Development	
Author:	Deputy Principal, Curriculum Development	
Equality Impact Assessment Date:	Click here to enter a date.	
Associated Policy:	None	

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Purpose

This policy sets out the College's aspirations to support the national initiative to be carbon neutral by 2050. The College will achieve this aim by seeking ways to reduce the organisation's own carbon footprint and by educating and training the communities that we serve including staff, students, and the local and regional population.

Key objectives

- To reduce the College's carbon footprint and be carbon neutral by 2050
- To play a leading role in the community in educating staff, students and partners in environmental sustainability and energy and resource efficiency

Background

The Corporation has confirmed a desire to improve the College's green credentials and reduce its carbon footprint. By way of a declaration, it has signed up to the United Nations Environment Programme and Environmental Association for Universities & Colleges (EAUC)'s "Race to Net Zero" which is a global initiative for a zero-carbon world and the College has publicly declared that it will reach net zero by 2050.

The Corporation has established an Environmental and Sustainability Group (E&SG) with both staff and student membership which stimulates, oversees and encourages the rest of the College and wider community to participate in reducing the College's environmental impact. From a governance perspective, the Skills, Enterprise & Sustainability Committee oversees progress for the College from both an environmental and sustainability perspective.

Ultimately the Corporation of the College will drive forward the agenda for reducing the carbon impact of the College.

Intent and aspirations

This policy is intended to set out the aspirations of the College in relation to the national net zero target set for 2050 and to present the measures the College is taking, and the strategy it is following in pursuance of these aims. This policy will also outline how progress will be measured.

The development of a sustainability action plan to work towards carbon neutral operations forms part of the operational goals within the strategic plan. This objective also sets the task of

ensuring that students are aware of the actions they should take within their own lives and career paths to live and work sustainably.

The College has an aspiration to achieve the status of “Leading” as set out in the AoC and EAUC [FE Colleges Climate Action Roadmap \(CCAR\)](#) which at present is being used as a strategy to work towards carbon neutral operations and raising awareness amongst the College and wider communities.

The College uses the CCAR as a guide to improve the green performance of the College. Progress against this is overseen by the Skills, Enterprise and Sustainability Committee and is shared with the E&SG as it addresses areas relevant to its work. The CCAR sets out a number of actions and milestones which are grouped under 3 categories as follows:

1. Emerging
2. Established
3. Leading

Although not entirely linear, progress is generally made in the numerical order above. The College has almost completed stage 1 with some elements of 2 and 3 already addressed and aspires to achieve Leading status by 2027.

Skills, Enterprise and Sustainability Committee

This committee of the Corporation has responsibility, inter alia, for the CRC’s environmental and sustainability policy and the pursuance of targets agreed by the College in order to make the required progress towards Net Zero carbon impact and the CCAR.

The committee has split its areas of focus into three separate areas of operation as follows:

- A Green College – concerned with the operations of the College
- Green Skills – embedding sustainability into the curriculum
- Skills for Green industries – addressing skills needs for Green industries

College Environmental and Sustainability Group

The College's Environmental and Sustainability Group (E&SG) is an executive forum chaired by the Director of Curriculum (Study Programmes and Employability). The group has three distinct and discrete focus groups and meets as a plenary forum and in three focus groups throughout the year. In total there are five meetings per academic year. The three discrete groups meet separately in order to focus on the priorities they have set themselves. The subsequent meeting of the entire E&SG, monitors progress and reports back by and to the focus groups. The three strands of focus for the group, which stem from the three areas identified by the Skills, Enterprise and Sustainability Committee, are as follows:

- College Operations (A Green College)
- Student Awareness and Engagement (Green Skills)
- Education and Training (Skills for Green Industries)

Resourcing

In the absence of specific funding for the delivery of green skills within the existing curriculum funding model, the College will seek funding in order to support the development of green skills within the curriculum. Whilst seeking funding, the College will incorporate green skills in curriculum wherever possible but without adding additional cost to delivery. It will also demonstrate its environmental responsibility through encouraging suppliers and contractors to meet the same standards of environmental sustainability, where this is practicable. It is noted that the absence of funding may make some solutions more difficult to implement.

The College has already been successful in gaining funding from the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority in support of the delivery of green skills in motor vehicle, and will deliver collaboratively with other providers, as part of the Regional Strategic Development Fund (SDF), the range of training in green skills available within the region.

From 2022-23 onwards, subject to annual budget constraints the College will support resourcing for environmental and sustainability activity. Where possible, external funding will continue to be sought and secured for projects that will aid the College's progress in this area.

Monitoring

Key performance indicators will be developed with reference to the Climate Change Roadmap. The Skills, Enterprise and Sustainability Committee will receive an annual report that will set out progress against College objectives and key performance indicators. In due course, this report will include targets on energy and carbon impacts which will also be reported in the College's Annual Report and Financial Statements.

Document history

Date	Issue number	Change/Comments	Date Approved	Approved by
19/10/2022	1	New policy	19/10/2022	SMT
8/12/2022	2	Policy amended to include objectives and monitoring	13/12/2022	Corporation
06/02/2025	3	Biennial Review	31/03/2025	Corporation



Contact Us
enquiry@camre.ac.uk