

# **Sustainability Policy**



***Current until:*** **September 2017**  
***Post holder responsible for review:*** **Vice Principal Resources**  
***Primary Distribution to:*** **SLT, CMT, Trade Union representatives**

## **1. STATEMENT**

The College recognises the need to act sustainably across all its operations. This means both legislative compliance, as well as the wider social responsibility, to minimise environmental impact and promote sustainability.

## **2. SCOPE**

This policy applies to all staff and students in the College including partners and stakeholders.

## **3. KEY POINTS**

- City College Plymouth accepts its obligation as an education provider to set a good example of sustainable practice by adopting as far as possible, recognised good practice across all its operations. This will be addressed as an on-going process recognising the need to prioritise and to work within available resources. In recognition of this commitment a cross-college Sustainability Working Group has been established.
- Members of the Sustainability Working Group will have active roles not only internally but also in the wider Further and Higher education sectors to support a broader drive towards a more sustainable future.
- Targets will be agreed each year under four main headings (Leadership and Governance, Teaching, Learning and Research, Partnership and Engagement, Estates and Operations). These priority areas are listed within the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) 'Learning in Future Environments' (LiFE) site. LiFE is a comprehensive performance improvement and benchmarking system developed specifically to help colleges and universities to manage, measure, improve and promote their social responsibility and sustainably performance.
- The College will establish systems that enable both staff and students to feel involved with the implementation of this policy statement.
- Management systems will be developed to identify and benchmark current performance to ensure continuous and measurable improvements are achieved.

- The College will reduce its carbon footprint in line with national targets with the possibility of introducing an externally audited Environmental Management System.
- The principles of sustainability will be promoted and embedded across all curriculum areas. This will help to achieve significant cultural change within the community, achieved by a cultural change within the College - by both staff and students.
- The College will continue being an active member of the Association of Colleges (AOC) by attending the South West Sustainability/ Buildings and Estates Managers Regional Meetings. Involvement with the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) will also continue.
- The College will identify and review its sustainable development priorities on an annual basis. This process will have the full commitment of the Senior Leadership Team.

#### 4. CONTEXT

The context was originally established by The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) strategy for sustainable development and the wider need for education to take the lead in establishing sustainable procedures and practices for protecting people and the environment.

This policy supports the standards and practices identified in the College Mission Statement, College Charter and Strategic Plans. It identifies the College's commitment to fulfilling the requirements of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and takes particular account of relevant legislation and Government ministries.

#### **Common Inspection Framework reference:**

Under Key Questions 5 'how effective are leadership and management in raising achievement and supporting all learners?' Inspectors are looking to evaluate 'how effectively and efficiently resources are deployed to achieve value for money'.

#### 5. SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

##### **Internal:**

- Property Strategy )
- Transport Strategy )
- Energy Strategy ) **Copies of these are available**
- Waste Management Strategy ) **on the Estates intranet page**
- Furniture Strategy )
- Fairtrade Policy )
- Strategic, Team and Quality Improvement Plans
- Equality and Diversity Policy

**External:**

- Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Strategy for Sustainable Development – September 2005
- Association of Colleges (AOC) and Environmental Association for Universities and College (EAUC) Further Education Colleges Sustainable Development Declaration

**Research:**

- LSIS Sector Reference Group on Sustainability, May 2011 – March 2012
- LSIS Reaching Forward Index, May – July 2011
- LSIS, Cut the Carbon Fund (space for alternative energy), 2011
- Embedding Sustainability into teaching, learning and curriculum in the learning and skills sector (LSIS, July 2013).

**6. IMPLEMENTATION**

This policy will be monitored by the 'Vice Principal – Resources' who will also be responsible for its creation, dissemination, implementation, review and evaluation. Its day to day operation will be controlled by the Sustainability Officer and overseen by the Head of Estates.

The processes involved will include:

- The policy will be reviewed every three years with the action plan being reviewed and amended yearly by the Sustainability Working Group.
- Changes in policy will be communicated to staff via College Senior Leadership Team, College Management Team and Staff Forum.
- The policy will be advertised externally on the College website and uploaded on the intranet and FE Moodle sites.
- Review meetings at all levels will include implementation of policies and procedures.
- Information and guidance for staff and students will be placed on the 'Action for Sustainability' teaching and learning portal 'Moodle'.
- Staff and student development activities including inductions, training days and participation in both internal and external events will be organised to raise awareness and increase knowledge and understanding on sustainability related topics.
- Programme Areas will be responsible for the implementation of curriculum related aspects of the policy.
- Programme Teams will be expected to reflect the policy's purpose and principles in their own strategies and implement where practical through courses.

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**Approving Body:** Senior Leadership Team

**Monitoring Officer:** Vice Principal - Resources

**Review & Evaluation Body:** Sustainability Working Group/ Senior Leadership Team

## **MONITORING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION**

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Sustainability Working Group which will then be reported to the Senior Leadership Team to review, support and promote.

Dates of review

Issue Date	March 2005
Last Review Date	September 2014
Next Review Date	August 2017