



Sustainability Policy

Ref: P10

Document control

Version	Date	Author(s)	Notes on Revisions
1.0	17/05/12	Steve Walkden	
2.0	08/11/16	Debbie Vagg	Changes due to dissolution of Sustainability Group in 2015 and revised targets

Owner	SMT Lead	Author	Frequency of review	Next review date	Approval Committee	Next approval Committee Date	Date of last EIA
DV	LF	DV	X 2 years	July 2018	Resources Committee	24/11/16	18/11/16

**1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

1.1 This policy sets out South Devon College’s approach to sustainability.

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

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

1.4 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.

**2. COMMITMENT**

2.1 South Devon College is committed to continue embedding sustainability in Education. In responding to global economic and social challenges, our Sustainability Policy engages with students, staff and partners, and we will continue to engage with interested parties to further improve it.

2.2 College Strategic Aim, Key Objectives and operating plans will target improvement including sustainability.

2.3 Key projects and target impacts will be determined annually

2.4 Projects and plans will be determined through consultation with stakeholders and interested partners

2.5 Projects and action plans will be monitored by the Sustainability Group and reporting will be through the Health & Safety Committee to the Governing Body

2.6 Accommodation projects will consider sustainability fully within the planning and design processes.

### **3. DEFINITION**

Sustainability includes:

- 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.

### **4. MONITORING OF POLICY**

The Property Services department will support and monitor the implementation of this policy reporting to the Health and Safety Committee.

### **5. THE COLLEGE'S SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES include:**

- a) Developing sustainability learning and skills
- b) Explaining and promoting the “what”, “why” and “how” of sustainability and developing professional skills and leadership to support sustainable solutions.
- c) Improving physical and mental well-being.
- d) Supporting healthy, balanced lifestyles; a healthy workplace; clean, safe and green environments.
- e) Supporting the green agenda in the local community.
- f) Reducing inequalities in access to learning opportunities
- g) Being ‘resource wise’
- h) Reducing consumption of resources and adopt energy, water and resource efficiency in the College’s campuses and buildings; encouraging the adoption of similar principle at home.
- i) Adopting renewable energy sources where efficient to do so
- j) Minimise waste and prevent pollution; encouraging ‘zero to landfill’.
- k) Supporting a low carbon approach to innovation, enterprise and economic development.
- l) Reducing high carbon travel.
- m) Using and promoting low carbon access/travel eg. walking & cycling, mobile services, audio-conferencing, online facilities.
- n) Using locally and ethically sourced goods and services.
- o) Protecting and enhancing our natural resources and biodiversity, culture and heritage
- p) Celebrating diversity and distinctiveness.
- q) Taking a long term approach and considering ‘life costs’
- r) Taking into account the needs of future generations including mitigating and adapting to climate change.

## 6. WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

The College has identified a number of positive interventions including:

1. Adopt the '5 R's approach: to REDUCE unnecessary consumption and waste creation, REUSE resource where possible rather than acquiring unnecessarily, RECYCLE waste and other materials, REINVENT other organisations' policies, adapting whatever is best practice to support the sustainable agenda, REALISE new projects and initiatives and refurbish existing campus developments in line with sustainable best practice.
2. Working to identify Sustainability initiatives at least termly
3. Set and meet annual targets to reduce energy consumption
4. Ensure all waste produced is minimized and adopt a 'zero to landfill' policy within the College's operations
5. Review all curriculum areas to ensure the principles of sustainability are embedded in teaching programs and reinforced in teaching practices
6. Retain Fair Trade accreditation and seek re-accreditation annually.
7. Choose eco/lean burn engines with reduced environmental impacts when leasing or purchasing vehicles.
8. Adopt bio friendly cleaning products and reduce the use of plastic bin liners
9. Continue to actively promote a Green Travel strategy. Encouraging cycling, walking, car sharing and the use of public transport.
10. Work with others where possible to continue to bring down the cost of public transport for students.
11. Continue to implement a Carbon Management Plan and revise targets downwards each year. (The College achieved a reduction in carbon emissions of 30% in the 5 years since 2010).
12. Reduce the number of toner cartridges and fluorescent light tubes used including completing the installation of LED lighting.
13. Update the sustainability web page every year
14. Consider ways to reduce travel between campuses and Out-Centres.
15. Raise awareness of green issues on campus and in the wider local community.
16. Ensure any new building works meet BREEAM Very Good standards or similar and ensure 'Excellent' cost effectiveness.
17. Embed sustainability as a key determinant in decisions on the selection of suppliers, services and products.
18. Work to expand the influence of the principles identified through the development of the South West Energy Centre