
Sustainability & Climate Action Policy

Policy Statement

Sustainability & Climate Action is one of the three key themes that underpins everything we do - as stated in our Strategic Plan, *City of Bristol College - Transforming Lives Strategic Plan 2021/22-2025/26*ⁱ

We recognise the need to increase the scope and pace of work to respond to the global climate emergency. This policy sets out how CoBC will support Bristol's climate change ambitions and, through doing so, contribute to local, regional, national and international targets. This includes our commitment to signing up to the Bristol One City Climate Change Ask to declare our ambition to work towards becoming Net Zero by 2030ⁱⁱ.

Scope

This policy sets out our approach to sustainability & climate action across our College Estate, wider business operations and curriculum development. We will endeavour to exceed minimum standards in terms of regulatory requirements where we are able to do so and to embed sustainability as 'business as usual' activity.

Work in this area will be underpinned by the following assumptions:

1. **Data-driven and evidence based** to support ambitious but realistic targets and enable progress to be effectively measured
2. **Embedded across the organisation** through close working with staff and students
3. **Partnership Working** as the City's College to support Bristol's climate change ambitions and, through doing so, contribute to local, regional, national and international targets as part of best practice sharing.

Responsibilities

All staff and students can make a positive contribution to achieving our sustainability goals. We will continue to promote training and CPD for all staff in this area and support students through development of the curriculum and through other means such as tutorials, Student Union activities etc.

The policy is overseen by the Vice Principal, Corporate Services & External Relations working closely with the Director of Estates, Facilities and ICT, the Director of Quality & Curriculum Intervention, the Assistant Director of Finance and the Head of HR.

Curriculum elements will be overseen by the Vice Principal, Curriculum & Quality.

The Vice Principal, Corporate Services & External Relations chairs the internal sustainability group which has been set up to monitor the Sustainability & Climate Action Plan and which includes representation from the Corporation through the Governor link for this area.

Policy

This document sets out CoBC's ambitions in relation to Sustainability & Climate Action. Detail will be captured in relevant individual policies. Activity will include, but not be limited to, the following:

The Estate & ICT:

- **Energy Use** – Reduction of energy use and reliance on fossil fuels through the replacement of older technologies including replacing incandescent lighting with LED lighting; gas boilers with renewable heating systems and increased electricity production above our current photovoltaic solar generation systems to cover more centres. Continue to work with college users to further encourage sustainable practices such as turning off equipment that isn't in use and closing windows when leaving a room
- **Water** – Build on our existing rainwater harvesting systems during refurbishment and upgrades to buildings. Upon renewal, install facilities such as toilets and taps that are designed to use less water
- **Food** – Continue to work with suppliers and contractors to build on the achievements of recyclability of containers, further reduce plastic and to reduce the food miles of produce and consumables

- **ICT** - Continue to invest in ICT to replace older ICT equipment with newer more energy efficient options. Use of cloud services, where appropriate, to reduce the need for on premise equipment and its associated impact on environment.

Business Operations and Staff Development:

- **Travel** – continue to utilise ICT to reduce the need for journeys particularly between college sites. Continue to promote sustainable transport options and support staff to do so through changes to the travel policy.
- **Finance & Procurement** – consider sustainability through procurement procedures including throughout our supply chain. Keep under review potential investments including influence in relation to the pension funds.
- **Training & CPD** - to continue with training and CPD for existing staff with inclusion of sustainability goals in induction material for new staff.

Curriculum Strategy and support for students:

- **Promoting sustainability** – ensure that in vocational and academic curriculum all students at all levels have exposure to meaningful and centrally curated high-quality teaching and support materials that promote sustainability
- **Audit curriculum** - using Responsible Futures framework a team of teaching, support and management staff from across the college to audit the college’s curriculum, including hidden curriculum, against the Sustainable Development goals
- **Train and develop teachers’ current industry practice** – ensure that teaching staff have the skills and knowledge to incorporate sustainability into curriculum for all courses. Teaching staff are best placed to incorporate sustainability into their curriculum – for example, in methods of sustainable construction, or sustainable materials – and should be given the license to think creatively about how to educate students in these issues.
- **Raise awareness** – through student enrichment activities and other college wide initiatives the college will raise awareness of green issues and initiatives both on campus and in the wider local community

Linked policies (or Linked policies and procedures)

This policy is underpinned by the Sustainability & Climate Action Plan

- [Estates Strategy](#)
- [IT Guidance](#)
- [Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement](#)

Review frequency: 3 years.

Lead officer: Vice Principal Corporate Services & External Relations (VPCS&ER)

Senior Manager Responsible: VPCS&ER

<i>For completion by Governance Officer</i>	
Approved by:	Corporation
Date of approval:	July 2022
Date for Review:	July 2025
Lead Officer:	VPCS&ER
Senior Manager responsible:	VPCS&ER

ⁱ There are three key themes that underpin everything we do - working with partners to make a difference in the College, the City and beyond. The three themes are all interlinked and we will be mindful of the need to consider them as a whole rather than as individual strands.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.bristolonecity.com/climate-ask/>