

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY
2021/24**

Version 4

Responsible post holder	Chief Financial Officer
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Index	Page
1.0 Introduction	5
2.0 Policy Details	5
3.0 Generally	7
4.0 Review Period	7

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILTY POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This policy responds to the statement of intent published by the London and South East Education Group and the wider legislative and regulatory context, together with the emerging central Government focus and initiatives.
- 1.2 This policy concerns the effect London South East Colleges (LSEC) activities and related activities have on the macro and micro environment.
- 1.3 LSEC acknowledges that it can made a positive contribution towards environmental sustainability through its approach, operations and behaviours.
- 1.4 LSEC commits to reduce its environmental impact in all relevant activities through taking appropriate actions, change and investment opportunities.
- 1.5 The College also commits to signing the Global Climate change letter for FE and HE institutions.
- 1.6. The College will hold an annual sustainability conference and will report annually oin carbon emissions and progress.
- 1.7 The College commits to doubling the amount of social value it generates through the National TOMs Theme: Environment, decarbonising and Safeguarding our World from 2021/22 to 2026/27.

2. POLICY DETAILS

- 2.1 We will comply with all statutory requirements and commit to making a positive measurable impact, year on year, beyond our statutory obligation through (in priority order):

Being **lean**: Using less energy

Being **clean**: Supply energy efficiently

Being **green**: Use renewable energy

Measurable impact will also be derived through utilising the TOMs framework which includes a Theme that calculates the College's commitment to *Environment: Decarbonising and Safeguarding our World*. Appropriate measures will be identified for the College to establish as KPIs, with total social value targets set and adjusted each year.

- 2.2 The College will follow the Climate Action Roadmap published by the Climate Commission for FE Colleges, as appropriate to its particular circumstances for an 'Emerging College'.
- 2.3 Our commitment will focus on reasonable positive change in the following areas:
 - a) LSEC will allocate resources and will apply/bid for further funds where appropriate to deliver the targets set out. The overall initiative will be led by the Group Director of Estates on behalf of the Group Executive leadership team.

- b) A lead sustainability champion will be appointed from the curriculum leadership team to lead a continuous programme to promote to staff and students/learners an awareness and understanding on their individual impact and how they can contribute through a collective responsibility from their behaviours.
- c) The lead sustainability champion will lead on developing and delivering appropriate environmental learning by embedding sustainability within the curriculum and ensure learners are aware of concepts, embrace ethical stewardship and encouraged in increase environmental awareness and sustainable, healthy life-styles through our curriculum.
- d) A number of other sustainability champions will be appointed from the staff, student base together with governors in order to create a network of champions to share and act on views.
- e) Consulting with staff and students to develop a Sustainability Strategy for the College, and actively continue to engage with students through student council, student unions, and the career advantage to embed this agenda.
- f) Embed the green economy in our curriculum and maximise realistic work experience opportunities and realise / lever green economy partnerships with employers to seek advice support and lever green sponsorships to further this agenda.
- g) The College will work in collaboration with local initiatives and aligned organisations to make a positive impact locally (beyond the LSEC education estate) to contribute to a positive impact on lives and communities.
- h) Embedding additional TOMs Framework measures, that lead to a reduction in carbon emissions and the safeguarding of the natural environment, into our annual Social Value Reports.

2.6 The Group Director of Estates will lead a continuous a programme of works that will make a positive impact on the following to meet our targets through:

- a) Reducing the demand for energy through improvements in our built environment such as increased thermal performance; reduced demand for cooling; and improved efficient building services solutions and optimised operation;
- b) Ensuring newly constructed buildings in our LSEC estate have a long lasting positive environmental impact beyond our statutory minimum levels;
- c) Ensuring relevant capital reinvestment / refurbishment and component renewals projects include a profile of the energy and related carbon savings to inform investment and
- d) Developing a waste management plan, reducing waste generation and maximising recycling
- e) Development of a water management plan, to reduce water consumption
- f) A healthy eating initiative and catering procurement, reduce the environmental impact through local fresh food
- g) A refreshed approach to our external landscaping and ground maintenance, minimise the use of chemicals/pesticides/insecticides and artificial fertilisers

- h) Investment and a refreshed approach to transport and staff travel, reduce the impact our transport and related work travel has on the environment
 - i) Replacement of existing College motor vehicles with those that are fully electric / hybrid.
- 2.7 The Group Director of Finance will lead on establishing a revised procurement policy and organisational approach to include value criteria in the procurement where practical to do so. This will mainly be through using our supply chain and bulk purchasing to include sustainable criteria/requirements and other impactful approaches to reduce our impact on the environment through purchasing.
- 2.8 The Group Executive and leadership team will lead on embedding environmental sustainability into our strategy, operating principles, procedures and operational delivery plans
- 2.9 We will work towards obtaining ISO14001 accreditation by December 2022 in order to evidence the significant change and systematic policy driven approach and commitments to environmental sustainability. As part of our accreditation and commitment we will monitor our actual performance and produce an annual report, against the criteria and targets set.
- 2.10 The College will establish a governance framework to shape, define, lead and deliver this policy and our ISO14001 accreditation.
- 2.11 The College recognises that it cannot meet both its own targets and those of Government from its own resources. Therefore, it will allocate resources and apply for external funding when available in order to work towards achieving the following targets (when compared to the average from 2017/18 and 2018/19):
- a) NET ZERO Carbon by 2050 across our operations (aligned to current Gov't targets at August 2020);
 - b) A 50% reduction of NET ZERO Carbon by 2035 across our operations (aligned to current Gov't targets at August 2020);
 - c) A 30% reduction in our energy consumption by 1st September 2026 (when compared to our 2017/18 and 2018/19 average consumption);
 - d) Make year on year reductions in our paper consumption;
 - e) Make year on year increases in recycling;
 - f) Make year on year reductions in our water consumption;
 - g) Make year on year reductions in our transport environmental impact.
 - h) Make year on year improvements to the number of sustainable procurement commitments within our supply chain
 - i) Year on year reduction in carbon emissions through green transport programmes, low carbon company vehicles or reductions in staff travel.
- Financial savings from reduced consumption will also be redirected into core activities and liability across our estate and operations.

3 GENERALLY

- 3.1 Everyone has a collective responsibility to improve our environmental impact, however large or small, through behaviours, actions, or the delivery of initiatives or projects.
- 3.2 The Executive leadership team commit to support achieving these targets set out in this policy.
- 3.3 All executive and senior leaders have a collective responsibility to embed environmental sustainability in our policy frameworks, lead on specific initiatives and delivery relevant projects.
- 3.4 In order in part to self-sustain investment in projects and initiatives to meet the targets, not less than 50% of any NET annual savings realised from the previous year will be reinvested in the following year.

4 REVIEW PERIOD

- 4.1 This policy is be reviewed every 36 months on the date of its anniversary.