

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Introduction:

The College's Vision: *To be a successful vibrant learning community* is supported by a number of strategic priorities, one of which is Sustainability. This Sustainability Strategy will enable the College to work towards this strategic priority and will be underpinned by an Implementation Plan.

The concept of sustainability is composed of three pillars: economic, environmental and social. This strategy relates to environmental sustainability but in such a way that is cognisant of economic and social sustainability.

The College adopts the following definition of environmental sustainability: *Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.*

Godalming College recognises that nations, institutions and individuals across the world face a serious challenge of how to deal with the dangers of climate change and ecological destruction. The College understands that it has a responsibility to address this challenge and to meet the UK government's target to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Strategic Aims:

Godalming College aims to follow the Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges produced by the Association of Colleges and work its way from being categorised as Emerging, to Established and eventually Leading.

The College's strategic aims underpinning this strategy therefore mirror the categories in this roadmap and the EAUC's (The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education) Sustainability Leadership Scorecard:

1. Leadership and governance
 - a. Incorporate net zero ambitions in the College strategic plan and ring fence budget
 - b. Achieve enthusiasm and commitment from staff, students and partners, while embedding climate responsibility into the College culture
2. Learning, teaching and research
 - a. Deliver carbon literacy training to staff and students
 - b. Audit our curriculum and train teaching staff to incorporate environmental sustainability into curriculum for all courses
3. Estates and operations
 - a. Implement strategies to reduce consumption of resources, waste, energy use and encourage recycling
 - b. Modify estates strategy in line with net-zero target, including implementing renewable energy where possible
 - c. Implement travel policy that encourages sustainable means of transport for staff, students and visitors
4. Partnerships and engagement
 - a. Consider sustainability credentials of potential suppliers and contractors and embed this into our Procurement Policy

- b. Demonstrate our commitment to climate action by signing up to relevant campaigns such as the Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges
 - c. Work with the local area to improve environmental sustainability locally
- 5. Data collection
 - a. Learn to measure and monitor the College's carbon footprint

Responsibilities, Monitoring & Review:

To fulfil the College's commitment to these strategic aims we will build an Implementation Plan that underpins the aims and details the steps we will take. We will establish a Sustainability Committee who will be responsible for driving the Implementation Plan forwards by ensuring a pro-active and co-ordinated approach, and for monitoring and reporting on progress. The Sustainability Committee will consist of a selection of College staff from all levels of the organisation, along with the Student Union Environment & Facilities Officer, and other student representatives.

The Assistant Principal of Finance & Resources will Chair the Sustainability Committee and report to the Senior Leadership Team as required, who ultimately as a collective have overall responsibility for the environmental sustainability of the College.

Environmental Sustainability will be a standing agenda item at each Finance & Estates Committee meeting. The Assistant Principal of Finance & Resources will produce an annual report to this Committee reporting on progress against the Implementation Plan.

Summary:

This strategy is not proposed to be exhaustive or prescriptive, but instead illustrative and thought provoking as the issue of environmental sustainability continues to evolve. The strategy will be freely available on the Godalming College website and will be reviewed every two years, or more frequently if necessary.