



Environmental Policy

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1. Purpose

The Environmental Policy statement is issued as an ethical responsibility and commitment to comply with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Environmental Act 1995 and all other subsequent relevant legislation and regulations in relation to the provision of further and higher education.

2. Scope

The policy and its requirements are to be brought to the attention of all personnel working in and visiting Trafford & Stockport College Group (the Group).

3. Policy Statement

In realising the aims of the Group, the Corporation attaches the utmost importance to and will comply with its legal responsibilities and recognises that it has an ethical responsibility to protect and enhance the environment and work towards sustainable practices in the use and disposal of materials and energy.

Through efficient premises management and the implementation of the Group's Green Travel Plan, the Group will contribute to sustainable development both locally and regionally.

The Corporation regards environmental actions as ranking equally with its other business objectives. In view of this, the Board of Corporation requires that this Policy be supported by the prioritisation of physical and financial resources.

Objectives

The Corporation requires the following objectives to be achieved:

- The requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Environmental Act 2021 and all other subsequent relevant legislation and regulations are to be observed.
- Compliance with the statutory obligations of the Group is to be regarded as a minimum standard and the Group is committed to maintaining a continuous improvement in overall environmental performance.
- There is to be consultations with representatives on matters relating to the environment.
- An environmental ethos is to be created within the Group so that employees and students consider the environmental consequences of all work/study/project activities.
- Documented environmental objectives and targets are to be established and maintained.
- All resources used by the Group are to be examined and their environmental impact identified. Environmentally sound alternatives and their possible use are to

- be investigated, or the resource is to be eliminated altogether.
- Proposed new developments and new purchases are to be examined and assessed using sound environmental criteria.
- An annual report is to be produced in order to monitor progress in meeting environmental objectives.
- There are to be mechanisms to audit and monitor the implementation of the Corporation Policy and, through feedback, ensure that changes are made as necessary to guarantee its effectiveness.
- There is to be adequate and appropriate selection and training of personnel in order to ensure their competence.
- The control of environmental hazards throughout the Group is to be achieved by means of risk assessments, which should be properly conducted by competent, trained persons, and the establishment of control measures which are suitable and sufficient to reduce the level of risk identified in those assessments.

4. Responsibility

The Corporation delegates the responsibility for the achievement of these environmental objectives through the line management chain. The Group's Sustainability Committee will oversee the implementation of this Policy.

The Director of Premises and the Head of Health, Safety & Sustainability are responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this Policy and for associated guidance and approved standards.

The Corporation has nominated the Head of Health, Safety & Sustainability (HOS) as the principal focus point for environmental protection and strategy. The HOS has overall responsibility for advising on the formulation, planning, implementation and development of this Policy.

Responsibility for Implementation

The Board of the Corporation and Senior Management Team shall:

- Ensure that there is an effective Environmental Policy
- Support the Policy and any person with responsibility for its implementation
- Ensure that the necessary resources are made available for the implementation of the Policy
- Receive an annual report on environmental performance.

Departmental Managers shall:

- Be responsible for managing the implementation of this Policy within their sections
- Assist with the auditing of their sections at least once a year.

5. Policy Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the Policy will be monitored by audits and inspections, the collection of current and historical data and the setting of targets and timescales for achievements. The Group has achieved ISO14001 and will be audited externally to ensure compliance. Departments are expected to cooperate fully and to assist in the performance of the audit.

6. Purchasing

The Group will pursue the maximum use of products which are based on recyclable materials, are energy efficient in their production and use, are minimally packaged and are durable and repairable.

The Group will also encourage the maintenance of low stock levels and will ensure that they are alert to new developments in the green product market.

The Group will ensure compliance with the requirements of the COSHH regulations, which require all articles and substances supplied for use at work to be safe and without risk to health.

A long-term objective will be to compile a database of environmentally friendly Group suppliers.

7. Built Environment

The built environment is an aspect of the Group estates which has an impact both externally (visual impact) and internally (thermal comfort, indoor air quality and overall amenity).

The Group will ensure that any new development or refurbishment is in keeping with the local surroundings and is a benefit to the Group community. It will also ensure that within its premises, the environment is comfortable and healthy.

When considering new builds, the Group will endeavour to use innovative techniques such as:

- Solar power
- Wind turbines
- Water recycling
- PIR and building management systems.

8. Site Maintenance

There is scope not only to reduce an unnecessary impact on but also to enhance the quality of the environment and to help create a positive college ethos and image.

The Group will:

- Maintain its programme of facilities works to ensure that the interior of the College sites remains a clean, tidy and safe environment for all
- Continue to encourage employees and students to use notice boards in classrooms and corridors and will maintain a programme for works of art to be installed throughout the Group
- Introduce and maintain a programme of planned redecoration/cleansing for all communal areas and employee workrooms
- Create and operate preventative maintenance programmes to reduce 'down time' on repairs and to avoid high cost emergency call out charges
- Pursue the use of greener products, e.g. cleaning materials, paints etc., and ensure that contractors are made aware of, and comply with, the Group's environmental approach to site maintenance.

9. Curriculum

The greatest contribution that the Group can make to a sustainable future is to enable employees and students to become environmentally responsible citizens. The Group will pursue ways of meeting this challenge.

10. Transport

The Group is continuing to expand with further major development proposals. To demonstrate that the environmental impact of these developments is minimised, the Group has prepared a Green Travel Plan which promotes sustainable travel and minimises reliance on private cars.

The main aims of the Green Travel Plan are to:

- Reduce the environmental footprint of the Group by improving the proportion of trips made by sustainable transport modes
- Encourage walking, cycling, car sharing and the use of public transport
- Make the College sites less congested and more accessible
- Improve the health of employees and students through increased cycling and walking
- Offer increased choice in ways of getting to and from sites
- Produce a 10 per cent reduction in the proportion of trips to college campuses made by single-occupancy cars.

Travel Plan Coordinator

The HOS has been appointed as Travel Plan Coordinator to manage the Green Travel Plan.

The Plan will be implemented, reviewed and adapted year-on-year to meet the needs of TSCG. The Travel Plan Coordinator will undertake annual monitoring to determine the success of the plan and, through an analysis of the results, to establish what measures

need to be taken.

11. Catering

The Group will support the provision of organically produced food and vegetarian alternatives, within budgetary constraints, in all college campus refectories. The Group will require suppliers to provide details of the environmental qualities of their products, packaging and procedures.

It is the Group's policy that food and beverages must not be consumed in, or taken into, classrooms or other teaching areas. As the Group provides refectories for student use, this policy will be vigorously pursued to lessen the impact on janitorial works and materials.

12. Energy

The Board of the Corporation is committed to:

- Reducing energy costs
- Increasing energy efficiency
- Reducing CO2 emissions
- Investing in clean, energy-efficient technologies.

To achieve these targets the Group will undertake energy audits and will introduce energy conservation measures.

These measures may include:

- Structural repairs e.g. wall cracks, ill-fitting windows, etc
- The application of heat-saving window film
- Roof insulation, where applicable
- Suspended ceilings, where applicable
- Tightening up on heating controls to cut wastages
- Reducing cooling where appropriate
- Educating/ training estates staff to monitor and reduce waste in water, electricity and gas where possible.

The Group will implement lighting-efficiency measures such as:

- Timed switches
- The replacement of gang switches with individual switches
- Key switches
- Low-energy lighting in corridors
- Switching off lights and closing windows when vacating a classroom or staff workroom.

Windows should not be opened to lower the temperature if the radiators have not already been turned off.

Water efficiency measures, such as movement sensors for urinals, may also be implemented.

The Group employees and students will be educated regarding the Group position regarding energy efficiency and savings.

Opportunities will be explored with providers of photovoltaic installations to harness solar energy to supplement the various college campuses electricity supply needs and water heating at appropriate locations.

Water charges will be monitored to determine the contribution being made by the rainwater harvesting plant which stores and recycles grey water for flushing toilets.

Portable heating appliances will be held in stock and issued by the Premises Team. Such appliances will only be issued if there is a confirmed failure of the heating system. Employees and students must not bring personal heating appliances into any of the College campuses.

The Group will review practices and endeavour to improve its energy conservation and to reduce energy per capita use and water usage and wastage.

13. Liquid and Gaseous Emissions

The Group will:

- Monitor and audit liquid discharges
- Monitor gaseous emissions
- Comply with air pollution controls in relation to the boiler house.

14. Waste Management

Trafford & Stockport College Group will pursue a policy of waste minimisation, recycling and the safe disposal of any residues by applying the best environmental option for the treatment and disposal of waste.

TSCG will ensure the provision of a means of disposing of litter and other non-recyclable waste and will maintain regularly scheduled collections of all waste materials and residues.

15. Summary and Conclusion

This Policy document is not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive. It is intended to

be illustrative and thought-provoking and may be useful in the identification of priorities and other initiatives.

It is intended that this Policy, and any subsequent additions or amendments, will be relevant to academic and institutional practice and its environmental effects. It is intended that the Policy be understood, implemented and maintained at all levels of the organisation and it will be freely available for inspection and/or reference.