Environmental and Sustainability Policy

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Person Responsible	Executive Director of Facilities and Resources
Approval/review body	SLT
Frequency of Review*	36 months

* Policies will be reviewed more frequently if legal changes or good practice require

Review History:		
Date of review	**Reviewed by**	**Reason for review**
July 2010	Vice Principal	General review
January 2011	Compliance and Policy Manager	Title change of Person Responsible, Committee reference
July 2013	Executive Director of Estates	Updates required
October 2015	Executive Director of Facilities and Resources	Re-write

Contents

Related policies/documents:

Sustainability, Energy and Water Policy - Procedures

1. Statement

North Kent College ("the College") is committed to protect the environment through sustainable practices. We are fully committed to improving environmental performance across all of our business activities and we encourage our business partners and community to join in the effort.

We will:

1.1 provide an appropriate management framework for the continual improvement and adaption to new technologies and ideas;

1.2 set and work towards operational targets and key performance indicators that will monitor our improvement;

1.3 annually report and communicate our environmental performance;

1.4 establish and monitor programs to improve and meet the operational targets set; and

1.5 set responsibilities and accountability for environmental issues.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, students and wider community at North Kent College.

3. Operational Targets

The College will set reasonable targets for improvement in the following areas:

3.1 reduction of carbon dioxide (and other greenhouse gas emissions);

3.2 reduction in the quantity of waste produced and effective recycling of appropriate materials;

3.3 reduction of electricity use through staff student initiatives and College projects;

3.4 reduction in gas use through staff student initiatives and College projects;

3.5 reduction in water use through staff student initiatives and College projects; and

3.6 manage estate wildlife habitats through non-destructive practices.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Leadership and Management

4.1.1 Promote and support sustainable development principles across the organisation

4.1.1.1 strategic planning;

4.1.1.2   estates and resources;

4.1.1.3   curriculum; and

4.1.1.4   targeted staff CPD.

4.1.2   Encourage sustainable procurement to reduce the environmental impact of any procurement and maximise the use of existing College resources.

4.1.3   Embed sustainability into the strategic planning processes and monitor progress.

4.1.4   Improve awareness and understanding of environmental issues and sustainable development in the College and encourage students to be active participants in environmental initiatives.

4.1.5   Work with the local community, public and private sector organisations to improve the local environment and promote sustainable development.

4.2   Estates and Facilities

4.2.1   Monitor and reduce energy, water and waste. This is done using existing College monitoring tools and procedures to effectively manage and improve.

4.2.2   Work towards operational targets set for the reduction of energy and water consumption.

4.2.3   Embed the principles of sustainability in the design of new building and upgrade building projects.

4.3   Curriculum

4.3.1   Discourage energy and water waste and encourage effective recycling.

4.3.2   Encourage the Student Union to run initiatives that will promote sustainability.

4.3.3   Actively encourage a culture where students and staff respect their College environment and actively assist in meeting its environmental responsibilities.

5.   Monitoring and accountability

5.1   Environment and Sustainability Monitoring

Monitoring is done by the IT and Estates and Facilities group who comment on and will monitor progress, making recommendations for changes. The group is comprised of staff and students who meet on a biannual basis.

5.2   Accountability

Reporting on progress:

5.2.1   annual reports on environmental and sustainability matters will be presented to Senior Leadership Team; and

5.2.2   progress will be compared against other Kent FE colleges and will be reported to the SFA annually via eMandate.

6.   Impacts

The impact of recycling and reducing waste together with reduction of energy and water use will have cost implications that can be both positive and negative.

The initial cost of energy efficient initiatives can be higher, but will often be offset by the reduction in utility costs and improved environmental impact.