

Environmental Sustainability Policy

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This policy is developed in response to global environmental issues and the need for urgent action to tackle climate change and improve our role as a sustainable College. It aims to set out how the College will put environmental issues at the forefront of our teaching, learning and operations.

It is written in conjunction with the Association of Colleges (AoC) Green College Commitment and shares our ambition of embedding environmental sustainability across the curriculum in line with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals. It states our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint in response to the Cornwall Council Climate Change Risk Assessment by utilising the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC) Framework.

This Policy underpins the Truro and Penwith College strategic ambition to work towards

1. Empowering learners to be climate change agents, and local green leadership
2. Preparing learners for green careers and an environmentally sustainable future.
3. Become a net-zero, low waste, and biodiverse campus

It demonstrates our commitment to using our position to promote and support social responsibility and environmental sustainability to staff, students, and to our wider community and partners. It sets out how we will embed sustainability into the heart of College culture, curriculum and the student experience.

The College is also committed to building resilience against climate change impacts in line with Department for Education guidance. Measures include contingency planning to minimise disruption to learning during extreme weather events, strengthening infrastructure, and expanding digital learning options. These steps ensure continuity of education and safeguard the wellbeing of our community while meeting national expectations for climate adaptation.

This policy is an overarching document setting out our vision commitment key themes for monitoring and reporting progress. Utilising the Climate Action Roadmap for Further Education Colleges we will work through the three levels of approach to being a sustainable, carbon neutral organisation by 2050 under the following workstreams.

Ultimately, the purpose of this Policy is to commit Truro and Penwith College to operating as a more responsible Further Education institution that seeks to create a culture that supports and encourages staff and students to recognise that we all have an element of personal responsibility for the environment and to act on that.

More specifically, Truro and Penwith College seeks to:

- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- Set, communicate and implement clear objectives and targets to ensure continued improvement in environmental performance
- Partner, where possible, with others in order to develop, utilise and share best practice in terms of environmental performance at a local, regional and sectoral level

Green leadership and empowering learners: Leadership, Governance and Stakeholder Engagement are critical, alongside encouragement and support for staff and students at all levels, for the successful implementation of a culture of sustainable living and development.

- Through our Board of Governors, we will ensure that an appropriate structure of responsibility and reporting of performance against plans and targets is established

and maintained. This will be reflected in our organisational, management and committee structures as well as in plans, policies and procedures as appropriate.

- Gather and listen to staff, student and stakeholder views on climate change and sustainability.
- Continue active participation in meetings and workshops between Sustainability Committee, Senior Management Teams and Governors to maintain ambition and review targets as outlined in the Strategic Plan.
- Ensure that staff and students are well informed regarding best practice, by proactively communicating our obligations and responsibilities for a shared vision of high-quality environmental management across all of our activities.
- Publish and share strategic targets and progress internally and the wider community.
- Embed consideration of environmental sustainability in all reporting to Corporation.
- Commit to the protection of the environment, and the prevention of pollution to air, water and land through all of our stakeholder engagement.
- Understand ethical investment opportunities and plan to divest from any aspect of fossil fuel investment.
- Initiate and implement actions to create more resilient and sustainable communities through stakeholder engagement.

Preparing learners for green careers and sustainable futures: Teaching, Learning and Research for a sustainable existence have vital roles in helping people understand and accept the need for significant change in the way we live and operate socially and economically to ensure a sustainable future for everyone.

- Deliver environmental and carbon awareness training to all staff and students.
- Embed sustainability strands in all teaching and learning schemes, through tutorial programmes and careers events.
- Identify and develop specific green careers events / guidance
- Identify ways to inspire teaching, to embed and enact into teaching, and to encourage learners to engage with these topics in a meaningful way
- Use the campus as a resource for high quality teaching and learning and as a facility for developing capacities for green careers and future skills.
- Ensure that policies, educational activities and initiatives related to environment and sustainability are displayed and celebrated.
- Identify opportunities to support technical teachers to develop and learn new green technologies
- Identify and harness opportunities of government skills policies.

Green Campus: Management of Estates and Operations will contribute positively towards sustainable development by reducing environmental impact through better management of waste, more efficient usage of energy and raising environmental awareness and personal responsibility of all staff and students.

- Promote resource efficiency and reduce utilities usage, by reducing demand through improved plant and equipment efficiency and more effective and efficient use of facilities.
- Improve waste and recycling by reducing waste generation, promoting reuse and recovery, using recycling and energy recovery when waste generation is unavoidable.

- Maximise biodiversity on campus through diverse planting and appropriate grounds maintenance procedures and the creation of green environments. Avoid the use of pesticides, insecticides and chemical pollutants.
- Report on energy savings and the impact on the carbon footprint.
- Develop a sustainable food culture, providing Fairtrade and local products where possible by working with our partners to increase the demand and supply of seasonal, local and organic food.
- Embed sustainable procurement by ensuring that suppliers operate in a socially, ethically and environmentally responsible manner.

We aim to achieve a 50% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2035, 75% by 2040 and net zero by 2045. For Scope 3 we aim to achieve a 50% reduction in scope 3 emissions by 2040 and net zero by 2050.

Progress will be communicated internally through the Sustainability Committee, Student Council, Management, Operational and Senior Management Meetings and Governance Committees.