



**BRIDGWATER
& TAUNTON
COLLEGE**

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Bridgwater and Taunton College seeks to gain a reputation for a sustainable approach to its activities, and to promote environmental awareness and responsibility as part of the education of its students.

2 Policy Statement

- 2.1 The College recognises the scientific consensus on the effect of human activity on the warming of the planet and degradation of natural resources. A new approach to sustainability follows the publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [report](#) in October 2018 which urged governments and organisations to seek to limit warming to 1.5°C by 2030.
- 2.2 As a large organisation with a significant ‘footprint’ of locations, campuses and activities, the College will seek to reduce its own impact on the natural world.
- 2.3 As an educational provider, the College will seek to educate its learners and staff about positive changes they can make towards sustainability, and influence suppliers and partners in the same way.

3 Scope

- 3.1 The policy applies to all staff, students and visitors to the College, and the College will also seek to encourage a sustainable approach among its suppliers and partners.

4 Responsibilities and reporting

- 4.1 The Director of Student Services is responsible for development and updating of the Sustainability Policy, chairing the Sustainability Committee of the College, ensuring an annual Action Plan is developed and its targets met, and reporting to SMT and Governors on progress.
- 4.2 The Head of Estates will ensure that new and existing buildings are heated efficiently and economically and that energy consumption is reduced wherever possible; and that the highest proportion of College-generated waste possible is recycled or composted.
- 4.3 Student Engagement Managers and the Student Union will seek to generate student involvement in approaches to sustainability.
- 4.4 The Head of Quality and Teaching Development will encourage the use of technology in the classroom to reduce dependence on printed handouts.
- 4.4 The Sustainability Committee is made up of staff from a range of roles across College that can influence progress towards sustainability, students, and a governor with local and regional influence. The Committee will meet at least 3 times a year and its Terms of Reference seek:
- To identify ways in which the College can move towards its activities being sustainable at current or projected levels of activity.
 - To encourage and extend awareness of sustainable activity, in College and beyond, among students and staff
 - To identify partner organisations and grants that can support the College’s progress towards sustainability.

- To devise and implement an annual Sustainability Action Plan and report progress against this to SMT and Governors
- To enable the College to gain a reputation for sustainable practice.

5 Activities

The Sustainability Committee has identified six areas of activity upon which to base the College's approach to sustainability. These are: education and awareness; energy management; transport; waste and recycling; protection of natural habitats; and accreditation.

5.1 Education and awareness

- The College will offer courses that promote sustainable approaches to (for example) land management, low carbon technologies and energy conservation
- The tutorial programme will encourage discussion and innovation among students about approaches to sustainability
- Regular staff newsletters will offer opportunities for staff to become involved and make sustainable choices in their personal and work practices
- Training opportunities will be sought to promote paperless practices among business support and teaching staff
- Where practical, the College will seek to encourage visitors, suppliers and partners to adopt sustainable approaches.

5.2 Energy management

- The College will seek to ensure new buildings achieve a BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) 'excellent' rating, and that older buildings are brought up to modern standards of energy efficiency
- Energy management and monitoring systems will improve the ability to measure and reduce energy consumption on different sites and individual buildings
- Staff and students will be given opportunities to contribute to reduced energy consumption
- The College will review energy suppliers on a regular basis and consider low-carbon energy suppliers where costs allow.

5.3 Transport

- The College will identify the most efficient routes for College vehicles to reduce the need for multiple trips and vehicles, and offer alternatives to travel such as video conferencing and telephone meetings
- Lift share schemes for staff, and if practicable for students, will be explored to reduce both carbon emissions and travel costs
- The expectation will be that the College fleet of vehicles will be converted to battery electric as costs come down
- The College will assess the carbon emissions of vehicles in procurement exercises, and review approaches to sustainability of transport providers.

5.4 Waste and recycling

- The College will seek to reduce its dependency on non-biodegradable resources such as single-use plastics
- Students, staff and visitors will be encouraged to recycle waste and it will be made as easy as possible to recycle different materials

- Waste management suppliers and potential suppliers will be judged partly on their success at increasing the proportion of College waste that is recycled or composted.

5.5 Protection of natural habitats

- The College will take a responsible approach to the habitats that form parts of its estate
- The farm will comply with the Common Agricultural Policy, including having ecological focus areas and following crop diversification rules. The farm will also follow good practice in protecting soil structure and improving water retention capacity. The farm actively engages in hedge laying and woodland creation activities every year.
- Staff and students will be encouraged to protect the natural habitats on site and enjoy these
- Students will be encouraged to take part in activities that promote the maintenance of natural habitats, such as Duke of Edinburgh Awards and litter-picking or beach-cleaning activities

5.6 Accreditation

- The College will seek accreditation for its approaches to sustainability, both to enhance the College's reputation and to accelerate the rate of progress the College is able to make in this area
- The College will consider the Carbon Trust's [Carbon Standard](#) and other schemes, and will consider becoming a signatory to the [Sustainable Development Goals Accord](#) for the University and College sectors.

6 Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- [The Procurement Strategy](#)
- [The Driving Policy \(College Vehicles\)](#)
- [Staff Development and CPD Policy and Procedure](#)
- [The Tutorial Policy](#)

7 Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner where legislation, practice or scientific consensus changes significantly.