

**Title:** **Sustainability and Environmental Development Policy**

**Type:** Policy

**Purpose:** To inform staff, students, contractors project partners (e.g. ESF funded projects) and visitors of the Sustainability and Environmental Development Policy

**Scope:** This policy applies to staff, students, contractors and visitors

**Responsibility:** The Vice Principal Finance is responsible for this policy

**Legal Context:** Environmental Protection Act 1990, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (WEEE), Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010, Waste Framework Directive, Climate Change Act 2008.

**Defining Sustainability:**

Solihull College and University Centre identifies sustainable development as development “meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

The College’s Overall Mission:

This policy sets out the College’s commitment to promote responsibility for the environment within the organisation, and to communicate and implement this policy at all levels within the College. To develop a College which is sustainably procured, operated and managed, is resource efficient and integrates the principles of sustainability into working practices which improve the environment for its users.

The College’s Overall Goals:

- To reduce the use of energy, water and other resources.
- Making sustainability integral to the delivery of teaching and operational objectives by taking positive actions to continually promote environmental improvement; and setting and achieving clearly defined sustainable development objectives and targets.

The College’s Vision:

We will seek to continuously improve through a programme of activities that will promote sustainable development and minimise the harmful effects of our operations. We will strive to embed sustainability into the culture of our college through providing opportunities for both staff and students to integrate sustainable values into their daily activities. We will work with others to progress environmental initiatives and share best practice.

Sustainability Roadmap:

Please refer to the Sustainability Roadmap found on the website.

The College's objectives:

1. Reduce our impact on the wider environment and reduce our demand for resources
2. Increase engagement and collaboration with external groups and partners
3. Embed sustainable values into the culture of the college both formally through the curriculum and informally through extra-curricular activities

### **In-depth: Sustainability at Solihull College and University Centre**

Although this strategy is focused on environmental sustainability, we are aware that in improving our sustainability, we must also be concerned about the wider social and economic impacts that our college has on the wider world. As an institution we are therefore analysing our impact on the [United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). Outlined below:

#### **Objective 1: Reduce our impact on the wider environment and reduce our demand for resources**

Strategy:

- Reduce our carbon emissions and energy consumption through development of carbon management plan
- Reduce our water use cross-campus
- Enhance biodiversity across campuses
- Reuse and recycle equipment and materials where possible and dispose of waste in an environmentally sensitive manner
- Promote sustainable procurement methods
- Promote and manage efficiency in our current operations and in capital projects.
- Promote sustainable forms of transport
- Set objectives and targets and enable us to measure our performance
- Maximise the efficient use of energy and materials, continually improve pollution prevention measures and increase use of renewable resources
- Develop Environmental Management System
- Commitment to be net zero by 2040

Currently Supported by:

- Green Travel Plan
- Business Elevator Project Sustainability Policy

#### **Objective 2: Increase engagement and collaboration with external groups and partners**

Strategy:

- Engage with local community in sustainability practices
- Work with partners and externally funded projects to address sustainability challenges
- Work in collaboration with Solihull Council and Sustainability West Midlands to support a collective region strategy for sustainability initiatives
- Work with partner colleges under European Social Fund project in order to provide a streamlined and proactive strategy for sustainability
- Work with regional and national groups to be an active part in efforts
- Embed sustainability into our procurement and financial practices, enhancing our supplier engagement
- Work with Small/Medium Enterprises under European Social Fund project and engage them in sustainability targets

Currently Supported by:

- ESF Sustainability implementation plan
- Business Elevator Project Sustainability Policy
- Solihull Council
- EAUC (Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education)
- SOS (Students Organising for Sustainability)
- Sustainability West Midlands
- Solihull Interclimate Committee

**Objective 3: Embed sustainable values into the culture of the college both formally through the curriculum and informally through extra-curricular activities**

Strategy:

- Develop and deliver appropriate teaching and learning in order to encourage all students to be aware of the concepts of social, ecological and ethical responsibilities
- Integrate education for sustainable development
- Train departmental staff about the relevance of sustainability to their course
- Engage management at all levels in the practice of sustainability
- Support the College's wider employability objectives and create opportunities for students to engage in sustainability activities
- Actively promote good practices through various forms of communication to both staff and students

**Management Sustainability Group**

The aim of the group is to support and contribute to the sustainability agenda of Solihull College and University Centre. This will be achieved by sharing best practice, developing sustainable principles and embedding them into all aspects of College values, working together to enhance the environmental sustainability of the department and its community of staff, students and partners.

Group membership:

Director of Risk Control and Compliance/ ESF Project Manager (Chair)  
Sustainability Officer  
Facilities Coordinator  
Woodlands Campus Manager/  
Director of Operations Stratford  
Director of IT  
Student Services Representative  
Head of School / Assistant Principal  
Staff Representation Student Representation

Meetings:

The Group shall normally meet termly  
Report to SLT

Monitoring of this Policy:

The Sustainability Officer reports to ESF project manager weekly with updates. All

projects/initiatives are live on the College's Sustainability Action Plan, which is continually updated and available to all managers and governors.

The Policy is approved by Corporation and reviewed every 2 years.

The Green Champions meet bi-monthly to discuss strategy and move projects forwards.

Any member wishing to be part of the sustainability group should contact the Sustainability Officer [Maddie.booth@solihull.ac.uk](mailto:Maddie.booth@solihull.ac.uk)

### **References / Legal Context**

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes provision for the improved control of pollution to the air, water and land by regulating the management of waste and the control of emissions.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 to reduce the amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) incinerated or sent to landfill sites.

The Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010 require regulators to control certain activities which could harm the environment or human health.

The Waste Framework Directive is intended to prevent or reduce the adverse effects of the landfill of waste on the environment.

The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced and that climate change risks are prepared for.

<b>Author</b>	<b>Date Created</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Last Reviewed</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>
Sam Bromwich / Maddie Booth	May 2019	Corporation	February 2021	February 2023

**Publication:**

**Staff Hub/Intranet:** Y  
**Website:** Y  
**Student Hub:** Y