

## Sustainability and Environment Policy

### Review

|                             |                                                              |                               |           |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Formal Review Cycle         | Biennially                                                   |                               |           |
| Latest Formal Review (date) | July 2024                                                    | Next Formal Review Due (date) | July 2026 |
| Policy Owner                | Vice Principal Resources                                     |                               |           |
| Policy Author               | Christine Stretesky, Head of Corporate Governance and Policy |                               |           |

### Approvals

|                   |   |                   |           |                      |  |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|--|
| Board of Corp Y/N | N | Committee         |           | Date Board approved  |  |
| SLT Y/N           | Y | SLT date approved | July 2024 | Additional committee |  |

### Publication

|             |   |              |   |                 |   |       |  |
|-------------|---|--------------|---|-----------------|---|-------|--|
| Website Y/N | Y | Intranet Y/N | Y | Student VLE Y/N | Y | Other |  |
|-------------|---|--------------|---|-----------------|---|-------|--|

### Change History

| Version | Date Reviewed/<br>Revised | Description of Change | Reviewed by | Approved by |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|         |                           |                       |             |             |
|         |                           |                       |             |             |

# Sustainability and Environment Policy

## 1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. This policy is a policy of the City of Sunderland College, trading as Education Partnership North East (which includes Sunderland College, Hartlepool Sixth Form College and Northumberland College). These colleges will be referred to as “the College” throughout this document.
- 1.2. The College seeks to promote principles of sustainability and social responsibility in their broadest sense. Through teaching and workplace best practices we will promote sustainable communities, services and use of physical resources.
- 1.3. In providing excellent educational and workplace facilities we recognise that many of our activities have environmental impacts which are, or have the potential to be, significant. We therefore recognise the importance of protecting the environment and embedding sustainability in all we do as reflected in our current Strategic Plan which states we aim to “minimise our environmental footprint and promote sustainable working practices.” Accordingly, we are committed to implementing environmentally responsible standards and practices as part of a plan to mitigate and manage our impacts in a programme of continual environmental improvement.

## 2. Scope

This Policy applies to all College owned and used facilities and work practices. All College employees, students, apprentices, suppliers, tenants, and subcontractors are expected to adhere to the principles found within this Policy.

## 3. Aims of the Policy/Underpinning Principles

- 3.1. The Policy communicates the following aims to College employees, students, apprentices, suppliers, partners, and other stakeholders providing assurance of the commitment to implement responsible environmental management in an economical and efficient manner.
- 3.2. The College aims to:
  - 3.2.1. Integrate social responsibility and sustainability principles into our day-to-day operations to ensure issues are addressed, whilst providing a quality service to all stakeholders
  - 3.2.2. Recognise the potential impact of climate change and the strategic and operational need to control, manage and reduce the College’s carbon footprint
  - 3.2.3. Understand our carbon footprint through gathering necessary data
  - 3.2.4. Reduce our use of natural resources such as fossil fuels and water
  - 3.2.5. Reuse resources whenever possible rather than dispose of them
  - 3.2.6. Encourage the use of recycled materials and promote recycling initiatives
  - 3.2.7. Enhance biodiversity and incorporate biodiversity in environmental management, creating new opportunities for wildlife and greenspace on each campus wherever possible
  - 3.2.8. Ensure sustainable approaches in all construction and refurbishment and incorporate energy-efficient approaches in all work
  - 3.2.9. Fulfil all the institutions legal and other compliance obligations

- 3.2.10. Consider environmental risks and opportunities when making all strategic decisions
- 3.2.11. Encourage sustainable procurement and employ whole-life costing and environmental performance criteria for selection
- 3.2.12. Negotiate with our food and other goods suppliers regarding sustainable products and practices
- 3.2.13. Encourage sustainable transport and implement a sustainable travel plan
- 3.2.14. Work with the Students' Union and other partners to enhance the sustainability of the College
- 3.2.15. Embed inclusion of sustainability principles into the curriculum and seek opportunities to develop environmental awareness in students through live projects, community/CST projects and volunteering
- 3.2.16. Provide healthy and sustainable food to our staff, students and visitors
- 3.2.17. Provide appropriate sustainability and environmental training for all our staff and students, including training on carbon literacy, and encourage them to support this programme
- 3.2.18. Work with our local communities on shared approaches to sustainability
- 3.2.19. Ensure that this Sustainability and Environment Policy is readily available to the general public and all our stakeholders
- 3.2.20. Promote communication and information with internal and external interested parties and respond appropriately to reasonable requests for information about our sustainability programme and performance

3.3. The College values diversity and inclusion and is committed to promoting equal opportunities and eliminating discrimination. Therefore, everyone will apply and administer this policy fairly and consistently to ensure that there is no discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

#### **4. Responsibilities**

##### **4.1. Board of the Corporation**

- 4.1.1. Monitoring that the College's strategic aims around sustainability and the environment are being achieved

##### **4.2. Senior Leaders**

- 4.2.1. Promoting the principles of the Policy
- 4.2.2. Ensuring projects presented for approval meet the aims of the Policy

##### **4.3. Health, Safety and Environment Committee**

- 4.3.1. Ensuring the principles of this Policy are being complied with and worked on
- 4.3.2. Promoting the message of sustainable work practices

##### **4.4. Green Group**

- 4.4.1. Developing and communicating narratives across our colleges about the risk of climate change and the benefits of carbon positive practice
- 4.4.2. Scoping, creating and implementing solutions that move our college towards its policy aims
- 4.4.3. Driving forward the sustainability agenda of the College
- 4.4.4. Providing support to departments and students undertaking sustainability initiatives

##### **4.5. Staff**

- 4.5.1. Championing and complying with the principles of the Policy

#### 4.6. Students and Apprentices

##### 4.6.1. Engaging and supporting the initiatives undertaken in furtherance of this Policy

### 5. Implementation

- 5.1. This Policy is implemented through the various plans, policies and procedures promoting sustainability and environmentalism as listed in section 6 below.

### 6. Associated Documents

The following documents assist in the implementation of this Policy:

- Energy and water
- Resource efficiency and waste
- Travel and Transport
- Sustainable ITC
- Biodiversity
- External stakeholder engagement and interface
- Food Safety Policy and Procedures
- Carbon Reduction Plan
- Procurement Policy

### 7. Policy Monitoring and Review

- 7.1. The College will seek to continually review, improve and develop this Sustainability and Environment Policy and will commit to its implementation.
- 7.2. The Health, Safety and Environment Committee will formally monitor the work done regarding sustainability initiatives, track their progress and report achievements. This will form an important audit function and allow relevant information to be reported upwards to the Finance, Resources and Projects Committee.
- 7.3. The College will seek external validation that this Policy and the College's work toward sustainability and energy efficiency is working through applying, when appropriate, for charter marks and awards.

## 8. Equality Impact Assessment

|                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                              |                 |                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Have you sought consultation on this policy?</b><br><br><b>Details:</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Green Group members          |                 |                                  |
| <b>Could a particular group be affected (negatively or positively)?</b>    | <b>Impact Y/N</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Description of Impact</b> | <b>Evidence</b> | <b>Mitigation/ Justification</b> |
| Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                              |                 |                                  |
| Age                                                                        | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Disability                                                                 | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Gender Reassignment                                                        | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership                                             | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Pregnancy and maternity                                                    | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Race                                                                       | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Religion or belief                                                         | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Sex                                                                        | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Sexual Orientation                                                         | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Additional characteristics to consider                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                              |                 |                                  |
| Young Persons in Care & Care Leavers                                       | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Young Carers & Care Givers                                                 | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Young Parents                                                              | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Youth Offenders                                                            | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| Those Receiving Free School Meals                                          | N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                 |                                  |
| <b>If there is no impact, please explain:</b>                              | This Policy is an expression of the College's commitment to estates and workplace practices that promote sustainability and environmentalism. Any project supporting this Policy will undergo its own equality impact assessment to ensure impacts are considered. |                              |                 |                                  |