



Wadham College

Sustainability Policy

Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Policy Objectives	1
3. Relevance	2
4. Responsibility for Sustainability	2
5. Legislation.....	2
6. Objectives and Targets.....	2
7. Review and Development	4
8. Further information.....	4

1. Introduction

Wadham feels a responsibility to carry out its activities and actions in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, and wishes to encourage our suppliers and contractors to minimise negative environmental, ethical and social effects associated with the products and services they provide as far as practicable.

The College as an educational charity has a primary obligation to carry out its charitable purpose, and while doing so also aspires to continually improve its sustainability performance through short and long-term plans for the benefit of College members and the local, national and global community.

2. Policy Objectives

There are six main objectives of the policy:

- To comply with UK legislation on sustainability and waste management.

- To foster a culture where all students, staff and Fellows consider sustainability as they carry out their activities and actions.
- To monitor and minimise the College's energy usage consistent with acceptable levels of heating and other needs, and seek to use cleaner sources wherever possible.
- To minimise the consumption of resources consistent with the maintenance of proper levels of business, and use recycled products wherever appropriate.
- To ensure the maximum possible amount of waste is recycled.
- To consider the long term cost, including the cost to the environment, when purchasing goods or services.

3. Relevance

This policy is relevant to all College members and visitors.

4. Responsibility for Sustainability

- Sustainability is the responsibility of the College as a whole.
- The Sustainability Working Group, reporting to Finance Committee, is responsible for overseeing this policy.
- The Domestic Bursar is responsible for chairing the Sustainability Working Group.
- Heads of Department are responsible for ensuring sustainability is embedded into their department's operations and decision-making.

5. Legislation

The College will comply with all UK legislation and other requirement affecting sustainability, and where practicable strive for best practice. Legislation includes the following areas:

- Environmental, including pollution, waste management and emissions
- Water
- Contaminated land
- Conservation of nature, wildlife and habitats
- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Health and Safety

6. Objectives and Targets

The College has identified the following key areas through which sustainability may be approached.

General Sustainability

- Publicising recycling, energy efficiency and resource management initiatives to students, staff and Fellows.
- Working with the University, other Colleges, the City Council and other organisations to identify best practice.

Waste Management

- Identifying the types and quantities of waste produced within the College.
- Monitoring the quantities of recyclable and non-recyclable waste leaving the College.
- Setting targets for recyclable waste.
- Advising College members on how to prevent and reduce waste.

Energy and Carbon Management

- Monitoring energy usage.
- Reviewing energy efficiency of the College's buildings and make recommendations.
- Setting targets for improvements in energy usage.
- Considering energy efficiency when selecting products and services to purchase.
- Taking advantage of modern energy efficient technologies, including renewable sources, when designing and refurbishing buildings.

Water Management

- Monitoring water usage.
- Setting targets for improvements in water usage.
- Taking advantage of water efficient practices and technologies to reduce water consumption.
- Promoting water saving techniques.
- Minimising the use of toxic materials.

Food

- Providing and continue to increase sustainable and nutritional food offerings in the College.
- Engaging with students, staff and visitors, as well as suppliers, on the College's commitment to serving sustainable food.
- Ensuring that the College's menus reflect the seasons where possible and monitor the use of non-seasonal produce.
- Supporting environmentally friendly farming, food/drink production and transportation in the selection of products.
- Ensuring that meat and dairy is produced according to appropriate standards for animal welfare.
- Using demonstrably sustainable fish wherever possible.
- Ensuring sustainability is considered in the awarding of contracts to food suppliers.
- Maintaining Fairtrade Status and support local sustainable food projects.
- Donating leftover food to a local charity wherever possible.

Purchasing

- Increasing awareness of relevant sustainable and life-cycle considerations into purchasing goods through training.
- Carefully considering the use of chemical products and synthetic materials taking account of their environmental impact and biodegradability.

- Encouraging suppliers and contractors to minimise negative environmental, ethical and social effects associated with the products and services they provide.
- Ensuring that local and smaller suppliers are not discriminated against in the procurement process and in the College's specifications, where relevant.

Travel

- Encouraging College members to use alternatives to the car for work-related travel where possible.
- Promoting cycling through provision of on-site cycle storage.
- Providing information on public transport, walking and cycling routes and journey times.
- Providing staff with interest-free loans for bus and rail season tickets and bicycle purchases.

The College will set clear sustainability targets in those areas where it has identified realisable improvements, to be reviewed annually.

7. Review and Development

This policy is available to all College members and to the general public. The policy will be reviewed annually by the Sustainability Working Group which shall report to the Finance Committee, making such recommendations as it considers appropriate.

This policy has been endorsed by the SU and MCR.

8. Further information

This policy should be read in conjunction with related policies and regulations, including the College's Fairtrade Policy.

November 2018