



**Dumfries and
Galloway College**

One step ahead

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Responsibility: Director of Estates and Sustainability

Issue Date: 21st February 2024

Equality Impact Assessment: 23rd January 2024

Version: 1



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Sustainability Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out the College commitment to organisational sustainability and environmental management as it works towards becoming a Net Zero organization.

2. Scope

This policy is to implemented at all College sites and applies to all staff and students.

3. *References*

- 👉 Ambition 2030
- 👉 Climate Change Action Plan
- 👉 Estates Plan

4. *Definitions*

The concept of sustainability is built on the notion that natural resources on Earth are finite, so supporting sustainable practices helps maintain a balance between environment, economy, and equity.

5. *Responsibility*

It is the responsibility of the College as a whole to embrace and embed sustainability in all aspects of college life, from learning and teaching to business functions and wider campus life.

It is the responsibility of all college staff, students, visitors, contractors and suppliers to make full effort to comply with the colleges sustainability policy.

6. Policy

6.1 Policy Statement

Dumfries and Galloway College, through its strategic plan Ambition 2030, is committed to incorporating sustainability into its actions and practices to ensure it has a positive impact on the community and the environment. It will do this by promoting healthy workplaces and campuses for staff and students, and by supporting the social and economic development of the people, communities and businesses of Dumfries and Galloway. This means promoting connections to the global community and environment by providing inclusive, accessible and relevant vocational and other learning opportunities in a positive and supportive manner, whilst minimising the environmental impact of its activities. The College takes the approach that sustainable

development is an ongoing effort to improve the quality of people's lives and surroundings and aims to achieve this through promoting greater environmental understanding through its operations and curriculum delivery.

Anthropogenic climate change will affect us all, therefore the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 created the statutory framework for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The Act sets an interim reduction target of 42% by 2020 and an 80% reduction target for 2050. Section 44 of the Act places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies, including colleges. To meet these targets the College will act in a manner that contributes to the delivery of the Act's emission reduction targets, in a way that if considers is most sustainable and is best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme.

6.2 Principles

The policy applies to the activities of the College and people associated with it such as the staff, students, visitors and contractors. The College recognises its responsibility to embedding environmentally and socially responsible operational practice into all its activities and is committed to promoting sustainability through the following principles:

6.2.1 Education

The College will commit to developing and expanding education for sustainability with all curriculum areas, ensuring our students are equipped with the education for a sustainable future.

6.2.2 Campus

The College will, through appropriate Estates planning, ensure its campuses operate in the most sustainable and efficient manner. Particular focus is placed on Energy, Waste, Water management to reduce our carbon emissions from our reliance on mass generated or grid systems. Biodiversity will play an important part given the Colleges rural locations. Suitable targets, such as Net Zero 2030, will be utilised to set the direction for the Estates planning.

6.2.3 Transport

The College will commit to providing sustainable transport opportunities for all staff and students.

For students, the College will commit to working with local transport providers to ensure the public transport network is effective and efficient to meet the students needs.

For staff, the College will utilise a fully electric fleet of vehicles to meet business travel needs. Partnerships with rail providers is also to be utilised to meet long distance needs, removing the requirement for air travel where possible.

6.2.4 Procurement

The College will, through a suitable procurement policy, commit to promoting a circular economy and consider all aspect of supply chain and goods/services life cycle. This will be carried out in conjunction with local and national policies and guidance ensuring the College complies with all legal requirements placed upon it.

6.2.5 Net Zero

The College has targeted to become a Net Zero organisation by 2030. The College commits to this target and will monitor through internal governance as well as reporting via the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties report. The College has introduced a Climate Action Working Group who will help shape the work towards becoming Net Zero

6.2.6 Climate Risk Management

The College will monitor climate risks and assess those it feels most likely to affect its operations. Area such as flooding, storms and increased temperatures will be assessed on a regular basis along with any emerging threats.

7. *Distribution*

All Staff
Repository

8. Revision Log

Revision Log		
Date	Section	Description
31.03.22	Distribution	Quality Manual changed to Repository
31.03.22	Responsibility	Changed from Director of Organisational Development and Facilities to Director of Estates and Sustainability
20.09.2023	Principles	Full rewrite of this area to set out clear points of focus for the organisation
03.10.23	Format	Updated to reflect current Document Control Template, inclusion of Responsibility section and EIA
20.02.24	References	Ambition 2025 updated to Ambition 2030

THIS FORM TO BE UPDATED WHENEVER THERE IS A CHANGE IN ANY SYSTEM DOCUMENT				
Document Name	Document Owner	Revision Number	Date of Issue	Date of Withdraw
Sustainability Policy	Director of Estates and Sustainability	1	21.02.24	

Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment

Document:	Sustainability Policy
Executive Summary:	This policy is expected to have a positive effect on all college staff, students and visitors as it strives to make the College more sustainable and aligned with UN Sustainable Development goals. The object of sustainability is to promote fairness, inclusivity and positive lives for all.

Duties:

1: Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation

2: Promote equality of opportunity

3: Promote good relations

* Human Rights to privacy and family life, freedom of thought and conscience, education, employment

PSED Impacts

	Commentary
Age	All considerations will be generally positive, with all characteristics fully including in sustainability planning. Users should see an open and inclusive approaches to activities linked to the policy
Disability	
Gender	
Gender Based Violence	
Gender identity/ reassignment	
Marriage/civil partnership	
Pregnancy/maternity	
Religion or Belief	
Race	
Sexual Orientation	

Additional Considerations

Care experienced	
Carers	
Mental Health	
Socio-economic status	
Veterans	
Human Rights*	

Lead Officer:	Director of Estates and Sustainability		
Facilitator:			
Date initiated:	23/01/2024		
Consultation:			
Research:			
Signature	B. Currie	Date	23/01/2024