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GATESHEAD COLLEGE
EDUCATION WITH EMPLOYMENT EDGE

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Monitor Changes

Version Level	Details of Change	Date
01	New document	30.11.12
02	Updated to reflect SFA/ESF requirements, updated action plan	07.01.16
03	Updated to reflect WEEE Regulations	29/05/2018
04	Document review and update to include link to the College's Corporate Social Responsibility Policy	25.01.2019
05	This is going to be looked at as part of the college sustainability green approach	12/01/2022
06	Update document to change responsibilities	01.08.2022

Key search words for this document
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It does not form part of this Policy document.

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Gateshead College recognises that in implementing its educational objectives it has a responsibility to promote and implement sound environmental practice in order to protect and nurture the environment.

By exercising proper control over its activities the College will promote the use of sustainable resources and discourage wasteful or damaging practices. At the same time, the College acknowledges it has both a legal and moral responsibility to consider its environmental impacts and its commitment to the improvement of the environment and the associated risk from its activities

The College will manage its operations in ways that are environmentally sustainable and economically feasible and promote environmental education to its staff and students as well as encourage participation of college members in environmental matters

Linked to this, the college will ensure sufficient resources are made available to achieve its environmental goals and to comply with all relevant laws and regulations.

In order to achieve these aims the college has the following key objectives:

1. Promote sound environmental management policies and practices throughout the College.
2. Raise awareness to staff and students and promote individual good practice
3. To promote environmental responsible purchasing throughout the organisation
4. Make efficient, environmental, responsible use of energy, water and other natural resources
5. Take all reasonable steps to prevent pollution of both its local and wider environments
6. Develop and maintain emergency procedures to deal effectively with any significant environmental hazards which may arise as a result of its activities
7. Minimise the impact of transport in the environment as a result of College activities and at the same time promoting alternative forms of transport in the achievement of the Colleges Travel Plan requirements
8. To communicate within the college and the wider community on the environmental performance of the College
9. To minimise waste production as far as practical to reuse and recycle waste where appropriate and regulate the treatment and disposal of residual waste
10. Dispose of waste using a registered waste collector and observe and comply with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations

This policy is also supported by our Environmental Management System which sets out specific areas of action within the fields of:

Legal Compliance
Waste Management
Pollution Prevention
Energy Management
Sustainable Procurement
Travel Planning

The main responsibility for the implementation of this policy on behalf of the College lies with the Governing Body and the College Principal, Chief Executive.

However, the policy requires the support and action of all who make use of the Colleges premises to drive continual improvement in our environmental performance and to abide by the rules and requirements made under the authority of the policy.

Linked to this the College will actively monitor its performance in the implementation of its key objectives of the policy and the activities of those within.

Action Plan

1. Make environmental sustainability a corporate priority	Lead (Exec Team)	Lead (Department)
• encourage and support staff and students to incorporate principles of conservation, biodiversity and environmental sustainability in all areas of their work; including as part of the College's Corporate Social Responsibility policy ' We Are Responsible.'	Nadine Hudspeth	Marketing & Communications
• ensure that the governing body is aware of, and committed to, the importance of the environmental sustainability agenda in formulating and leading the strategic direction of GC.	David Alexander	Principalship
2. Research, education and training		
• ensure that the principles of environmental sustainability are reflected where appropriate through delivery of the academic curriculum and in knowledge transfer and research. This will be reflected at both faculty and institutional level;	Chris Toon	All Curriculum Depts via Assistant Principals
• provide appropriate training opportunities in environmental sustainability issues to all members of GC community;	Paul Campbell	Human Resources
• take an active leadership role in relation to inspiring, educating and collaborating with local communities to achieve environmental sustainability goals.	Ivan Jepson	Business Development & External Partnerships

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• ensure that the delivery and organisation of the academic curricula (eg through efficiencies in timetabling and promotion of e-learning) are consistent with principles of environmental sustainability.	Chris Toon	All Curriculum Depts via Assistant Principals
3. Maintain and develop GC's operations in an environmentally sustainable manner		
• maximise use of ICT to create environmentally sustainable connectivity across GC community;	Chris Toon	IT Services & Development
• encourage environmentally sustainable forms of transport and logistics and implement a "green transport policy";	Jeremy Cook	Facilities
• engage in dialogue with major suppliers and contractors to optimise the impact of their operation on the environment and ensure appropriate social, ethical and environmentally sustainable standards;	Jeremy Cook	Finance, Purchasing & Procurement
• promote and manage energy and water efficiency in all operations;	Jeremy Cook	Facilities
• aspire to "excellent" or "very good" BREEAM standards in all new build projects;	Jeremy Cook	Facilities
• minimise waste generation in both service and teaching and research activities and encourage repair, re-use and re-cycling wherever possible;	Jeremy Cook / Nadine Hudspeth	Facilities / Sustainability
• be proactive in protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ecological integrity.	Jeremy Cook / Nadine Hudspeth	Facilities / Sustainability
4. Monitoring, compliance and communication		
• identify and measure the environmental impact of GC's activity using appropriate KPIs;	Jeremy Cook	Facilities
• ensure that review, monitoring and reporting on environmental sustainability issues are established within the committee structure of GC;	Jeremy Cook / Nadine Hudspeth	Principalship
• make the results of environmental and sustainability audits available to all stakeholders and ensure that the progress is monitored and visible on all campuses;	Jeremy Cook / Nadine Hudspeth	Facilities / Sustainability
• comply with relevant legislation, regulation and other requirements relating to our significant environmental impacts and the avoidance of pollution	Jeremy Cook	Facilities
5. Carbon Management Reduction Plan		
• set and monitor targets to reduce energy consumption across the College estate	Jeremy Cook	Facilities
• implement an approach to increase technologies to further reduce energy consumption	Jeremy Cook	Facilities

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• to implement a College wide approach to energy reduction, using marketing techniques to obtain buy in across College as well as challenging non-compliance.	Nadine Hudspeth / Jeremy Cook	Sustainability / Facilities
• to report on outcomes and action plans to the College Executive Team	Nadine Hudspeth	Sustainability / Facilities

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