

Plumpton College
Environmental Policy

(Approved by F&GP Committee April 2007, revised November 2008 and March 2010)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Plumpton College aims to be an example to the FE sector and the communities we serve in applying and promoting sustainable use of resources and in limiting any adverse environmental impacts of our business. In doing this the College will comply with environmental legislation and aspire to raise awareness and understanding of local, national and global environmental issues and, through its own practices, strive to conserve, sustain and improve the environment.

2. Scope & Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to set out the College's approach to mitigating the environmental impact of the College business and promoting alternative sustainable source of energy. The policy intends to be a source of reference to staff and students on the environmental aims and action areas of the College.
- 2.2 Environmental issues impact on all activities of the College, and in particular on: property strategy, space utilisation and maintenance of the site; catering; energy management; use and recycling of paper and materials; health and safety, waste management; purchasing strategies and contractual arrangements; curriculum delivery; relationships and partnerships with others in the local community and transport.
- 2.3 This policy will be made known to all staff and students. Where possible all staff should endeavour to apply its aims to all aspects of the College's operation and its delivery of the curriculum and associated services.
- 2.4 The College will strive to raise awareness of environmental issues amongst staff and students and to fully engage staff and students in reducing energy and water consumption and increasing the use of recycling facilities.

- 2.5 This policy has been impact assessed to ensure that it does not adversely affect students or staff on the grounds of sex, transgender, marital or civil partnership status, racial group, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or belief disability or age.
- 2.6 This policy should be read in conjunction with policies and procedures referred to in the staff handbook including the health and safety policy.

3. Key action areas

3.1 Carbon footprint'

We will:

- aim to reduce the college's carbon fuel usage
- minimise pollution by ensuring that all College equipment which uses fossil fuel is regularly serviced and maintained and that their emissions are checked
- investigate the use of and, where appropriate, introduce alternative forms of fuel such bio-fuels, geothermal heating and wind power
- investigate the use of and, where appropriate, introduce energy-saving devices such as energy-efficient lightbulbs, double glazing, movement- sensitive lighting and other innovative 'green' materials and techniques
- continue to make improvements in energy savings and classroom utilisation to minimise the use of energy and scarce resources through good practice, prudent maintenance and use of energy efficient resources.

3.2 Methane emissions

We will:

- seek to find a method for measuring the College's methane emissions
- keep abreast of research activity into the control and reduction, and/or productive utilisation, of land-based methane emissions, and identify possible research partnerships.

3.3 **Water**

We will:

- Repair sources of water leakage, such as dripping taps and showers as quickly as possible
- Investigate and install appliances which reduce water consumption.
- Encourage a decrease in water usage among staff, students and visitors
- Purchase the most efficient washing machines and dishwashers available which have an economy setting as default.

3.4 **Recycling**

We will:

- remove from the waste cycle material which can viably be recycled and provide suitable receptacles for various forms of recyclable waste in appropriate locations
- continue to reduce the amount of non recyclable waste produced by the College
- make use of recycled materials where practicable
- reduce the use of paper by critically appraising the need for use and by double-sided copying and use of electronic mail and the intranet and other technology as far as practicable
- continue to provide a free site for the District Council to store and recharge their 'Box It' vehicles.

3.5 **College Farm and Estate**

We will:

- conserve the natural and heritage environment of the College
- abide by the Cross Compliance standards set for Single Farm Payments, covering water quality, air quality, plastics, soil maintenance, artificial fertiliser usage in terms of nitrogen balance, organic matter, and conservation boundaries
- develop environmental features such as hedge planting, skylark nesting sites, bird boxes etc
- undertake a periodic survey of birds and wildlife
- ensure the continued viability of our woodland areas by replanting any trees felled
- develop ELS (Entry Level) and HLS (Higher Level) environmental schemes.

3.6 **Transport**

We will:

- encourage the users of the College to seek environmentally acceptable economies in use of transport, e.g. share of lifts, public transport
- keep college vehicles well maintained and energy-efficient
- develop a programme of converting college vehicles to run on cold-pressed oil once adequate oil is available.

3.7 **The Curriculum**

We will:

- include environmental and sustainability issues in curriculum delivery where appropriate
- include environmental and energy management issues in staff and student induction and development and periodically make raise staff's awareness of the need to endeavour to apply in practice the aims of the environmental policy, particularly related to energy savings
- raise the interest of students in environmental issues where appropriate
- use the college's position to generate relevant training opportunities.

3.8 **Working with others**

We will:

- link with other organisations in the local community in dialogue and partnership to encourage and contribute to good environmental practice
- endeavour to ensure that all contractors and suppliers to the College have similar environmental aims and commitment by, for example, including the college's environmental aim within tender documentation
- endeavour to take account of the concept of 'food miles' when making purchases.

3.9 **General**

We will:

- endeavour to use local produce wherever practical in the college kitchens
- endeavour to ensure a sustainable water supply to the College and encourage the efficient use of water
- respect local community expectations with regard to our local environmental impact- including water and air pollution, traffic, visual, noise and night-time illumination
- endeavour to use materials and equipment which minimise harm to the environment and avoid the use of non-renewable resources where feasible
- ensure compliance with any legal requirements concerning the environment, and working towards meeting Government initiatives for a sustainable environment.

4. Monitoring and Audit

- 4.1 The environmental sub committee will monitor progress against environmental targets within the strategic plan and will provide an annual report to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on environmental achievements and forward plans.

Approved By: Finance & General Purposes Committee

Date of Approval: 2 March 2010

Frequency of Review: Every Three Years

Date of Next Review: March 2013

(NB The environmental sub committee is delegated to review and approve minor changes to the policy on an annual basis).