

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Role responsible:	Chief Operating Officer
Author:	Chief Operating Officer
Approved by:	Corporation
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<i>This policy reflects legislation at the time it was last reviewed. If there is a conflict between legislation and the policy, legislation will take precedence over anything printed in the policy</i>	
Changes made since the last review:	• College current position and next steps updated • Appendix 1 data updated
Version	1.4

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The College recognises that its activities impact upon the environment at local, regional and global levels and acknowledges a responsibility for the protection of the environment and of the health of its staff, students, and the wider community.
- 1.2 This policy aims to provide an overview of the College commitments, reporting requirements and environmental progress and future developments.

2. Vision

In line with the UK Governments policy Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener, the College is aligned with this commitment, subject to funding availability, and will aim to achieve the following:

- To achieve net zero by 2050
- To set realistic short, medium and long-term targets that are designed to achieve the College Net Zero commitments
- Report on the total Greenhouse Gas emissions of the College Regularly
- To set a positive example for our students and staff, through effective and regular communications, college training and the development of appropriate college initiatives.

3. The College's Current Position

- 3.1 The college sustainability committee was first established in 2021, providing a dedicated space and platform for positive communication to take place to support the developmental work required to meet the vision for the College's environmental targets. The committee membership includes college staff and students along with representatives from the students ECO group.
- 3.2 The Corporation and Senior Leadership commitment is shown through the formation of the sustainability committee and terms of reference, along with the embedded sustainability agenda item covered at both Management and Corporation meetings. The College has also included the Sustainability priorities and developments within the College Estates Strategy.
- 3.3 In 2025, the College introduced a Sustainability lead, appointed through the honorarium programme. The current lead is a member of the teaching staff and part of the Sustainability strategy group which includes the Chief Operating Officer, Head of Estates and Head of Finance. The remit of this group is to develop effective environmental college initiatives and policies; including the development of the College Carbon Action Plan, which will include key priorities and environmental targets for the College to monitor performance
- 3.4 Two Key developments this year were the launch of the 'College ECO week' to all staff and students (which will be part of the College Calendar on a yearly basis) and the adoption of the

climate action roadmap for colleges [EAUC : The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges](#) along with support of the Lets Go Zero [UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero](#) to develop and implement the Carbon Action Plan.

- 3.5 The College continues to undertake a Carbon reduction plan review by an external company on a yearly basis, which includes the reporting of carbon emissions in line with the PPN 06/21 and SECR regulations, this is disclosed within the annual financial statements and attached under appendix 1 for information.
- 3.6 Carbon Literacy qualification through Manchester Metropolitan University, is available to all students as part of the enrichment program and is currently investigating future sustainability qualifications for the College, with a view that this may become part of the curriculum offer.
- 3.7 Continues to provide safe, healthy working conditions for staff and students and continues to reduce the consumption of primary raw materials (including fossil fuels, water, and energy). Where possible, avoid the unnecessary use of hazardous materials and processes and take all reasonable steps to prevent damage to either public or ecological health where such materials are in essential use.
- 3.8 The college has implemented effective waste management and recycling procedures and continues to identify and use recycled and recyclable materials wherever possible. All external contractors who work at the College have sustainability policies, and all tenders for services and products include sustainability-related scoring. Along with increasing awareness of environmental responsibilities both amongst staff and students, through events and visual displays.
- 3.9 Contributes to a sustainable and healthy future through the work of the ECO club and Wyke Action group, who also work with the Bricknell Community Group to support community projects. Achievements this year include obtaining the Green Flag Award for a second year. In addition, these teams are moving forward with the biodiversity vision for the College.
- 3.10 A commitment to research funding to undertake sustainability projects identified through the Heat Decarbonisation Plan. This was shown in 2023, with the installation of 538 solar panels fitted and funding towards the completion of LED lights across the College, resulting in 99.5% of the lights are now LED with the remaining included in programmed timings measures to ensure efficiencies.

4. What's next for the College

- 4.1 To continue to develop the Sustainability culture across the college, led by the Sustainability strategy group and Committee, through development of effective environmental college initiatives and policies; including the development of the College Carbon Action Plan, which will include key priorities and environmental targets for the College to monitor performance, covering areas in relation to energy, transport and procurement.

- 4.2 Continue to develop transport plans, encouraging the use of public/College transport facilities, cycling and car sharing schemes.
- 4.3 To implement the biodiversity ambitions for the college both for students and staff in line with the agreed timelines produced to develop areas within the College site to protect natural habitats and local wildlife and preserve biological diversity.
- 4.4 To develop a dedicated sustainability environmental page on the College website to show the current and future developments of the College for all stakeholders.
- 4.5 To complete the sustainability bid for submission to the Local Mayoral Renewals Fund, covering additional solar panels, on-site battery systems and electric car charging facilities.

5. Monitoring and Review

- 5.1 This policy will be monitored by the Corporation.
- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed annually.

6. Related College Documents

- 6.1 Documents related to this policy are:
 - Health and Safety Policy
 - Estates Strategy
 - Behaviour Management Policy
 - Risk Management Policy

7. General Data Protection Regulations

This policy has been reviewed and is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations and the College's Data Protection Policy.

Appendix 1

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	2024/25	2023/24
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	1,851,423	1,691,098
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Gas consumption	110.57	105.29
Owned transport	71.46	68.76
Refrigerant	0	0
Total	182.03	174.05
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Purchased electricity	188.83	230.97
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>		
Business travel	54.54	54.74
Electricity T&D	17.83	20.21
Water	1.85	1.91
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	440.08	481.88
Intensity ratio		
Metric tonnes CO2e per student	0.1798	0.1976

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Policy, procedure, practice, or strategy:	Environmental Policy		
Role responsible:	Chief Operating Officer	Date:	June 2026
Briefly describe the aims, objectives & purpose of this policy, procedure, practice, or strategy.	To reduce the impact of the College's activities upon the environment at local, regional, and global levels and acknowledge its responsibility for the protection of the environment and of the health of its staff, students, and the wider community.		
	Please ensure the following characteristics are considered when assessing the questions below along with any others you feel to be relevant: Gender, Sexuality, Transgenderism, Age, Race, Religion/belief, Disability, Marital/Civil partnership status, Pregnancy, or maternity. Responses may be based on learner and staff data, complaints, feedback, research, student/staff surveys and/or professional judgement.		
Is there potential, or opportunity that the proposed policy, procedure of practice or strategy will affect any groups adversely (including possible discrimination)? Please include any equality concerns expressed during consultation.	None		
Is there potential for, or evidence that the proposed policy, procedure, or practice either promotes or fails to promote equality of opportunity for all and good relations between different groups?	None		
If any action is required as a result of this screening exercise, please note them, along with any mechanisms for reviewing the impact of the policy, procedure, or practice.	None		