



ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Author: Deputy Principal

Approved: 6 December 2024 – Resources Committee

Review date: December 2026

1 **Introduction**

This policy document details the commitment of Harlow College to achieve carbon net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest, with interim targets set for 2030 and 2040.

2 **Purpose**

This policy sets out Harlow College's approach to achieving its carbon reduction targets.

The College seeks to embed sustainability and good environmental practice in to everything it does, whilst ensuring value for money via sustainable procurement.

The College considers its leaders, staff and students are all potential future ambassadors, leaders and advocates of sustainability and as one of the largest employers in Harlow, the College recognises it has a significant contributory impact on the environment and economy.

3 **Scope**

It is the intention that this Policy should be published on the Qube and made known to all staff. 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. Environmental issues impact on all activities of the College and is contained in further policies concerning: accommodation strategy (including new build specifications), space utilisation and maintenance of the site; catering; energy management; use and recycling of paper and materials; health & safety and waste management; purchasing strategies and contractual arrangements; curriculum delivery; relationships and partnerships with others in the local community; transport, green travel arrangements.

The scope of the Policy encompasses everyone in the College community – students, staff and Governors, and covers the College's involvement with local, regional and national partners and suppliers of goods and services.

4 **Definition**

- Security of the environment, economy and society for present and future generations
- Awareness of human actions that threaten the natural environment
- Enabling people wherever they are to live satisfying lives without harming the planet
- Living and earning with the understanding that all aspects of life are connected
- Understanding that social and environmental well-being are both essential if we are to lead healthy and peaceful lives

5 **Policy Statement**

It is the policy of Harlow College to work towards net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest, with achievable interim targets for emissions reduction in 2030 and 2040. In doing this, the College will aspire to model awareness and understanding of local, national and global environmental issues and, through its own practices, strive to conserve, sustain and improve the environment.

The College will achieve this by:

- 5.1 Devising and implementing a climate action road map aligned to The Climate Commission for UK High and Further Education and targeted at achieving 'Leading College' status (a college that is a model to others on sustainability) by 2025.
- 5.2 Embarking on series of College-wide, ongoing carbon reduction initiatives to reach net zero emissions and improve the College's environmental impact. Initiatives will be focused under the following categories:
 - 5.2.1 **Leadership and Governance** – Setting and communicating annual emissions targets, establishing reporting procedures to Governors and publicly defining leaders' accountability for delivering on the sustainability agenda and incorporating climate change risks into the College's risk management plan.
 - 5.2.2 **Learning, Teaching and Research** – Developing carbon literacy across the College community, auditing the College-wide curriculum, setting and monitoring sustainable development goals to incorporate sustainability into all areas of the College's curriculum.
 - 5.2.3 **Data Collection** – Developing a methodology to accurately measure and communicate emissions across:
 - 5.2.3.1 Scope 1 – emissions directly under the College's control e.g. from vehicles owned by the College.
 - 5.2.3.2 Scope 2 – Indirect emissions from electricity purchased by the College.
 - 5.2.3.3 Scope 3 – All other indirect emissions from activities of the College, including travel to and from College, emissions from waste and water and other procurement activities.
 - 5.2.4 **Estates and Operations** – Modifying the College's estates strategy in-line with net zero targets, developing strategies to reduce waste, seeking funding opportunities for estate improvements to energy efficiency and reduced carbon emissions, implementing low carbon travel initiatives, exploring renewable energy tariff/on-site renewable energy generation.

5.2.5 **Partnerships and Engagements** – Signing up to carbon reduction initiatives such as the race to net-zero for universities and colleges, AoC Green Commitment and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Accord. Partnering with local organisations to form a local climate action network to implement a local biodiversity strategy (e.g. bee highways, re-wilding areas around campus/grazing land). Involving students to implement biodiversity initiatives as learning activities.

6 **Monitoring of Policy**

The Deputy Principal will be responsible for ensuring that reports are presented to the College Executive and Governors as part of the review of College performance.

TRACKING and REFERENCE INFORMATION
Date Approved: 29 August 2019, Reviewed December 2021, Reviewed 6 December 2022, 6 Dec 2024 (Resources)
Review Date: December 2026
Author/Responsibility: Deputy Principal
Equality Impact Assessment: TBA
<p>List of related policies, procedures and other documents:</p> <p>Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Policy Complaints Policy</p>
Complaints: If you wish to submit a complaint about the application of this policy or the procedure of it, please send your request in accordance with the provisions of the Grievance Procedure.
Monitoring: The application of this policy and associated procedure will be monitored by the Deputy Principal.
Easy reading: To receive this policy/procedure in a different format, please contact HR Services