

exeter college



Sustainability Policy

Written by: SHE Manager

SLT Sponsor: Exec. Director of Estates & Sustainability

Consulted with: Sustainability & Net Zero Group

Next Review Date: November 2024

Version: November 2023

1 Purpose

Exeter College is committed to embedding the principles of sustainable living and development across the whole scope of its activities and acknowledges that:

- 1.1 Human activities put a strain on the environment with potentially devastating effects worldwide on economies, societies and the environment
- 1.2 Economic growth and development of our communities is a necessity for survival, but we have to reconcile our needs with those of the environment to make this happen
- 1.3 Sustainable development can have a positive impact on local economies, communities and the environment
- 1.4 As a provider of post-16 education, Exeter College has a significant role to play in incorporating sustainable development into our operations and the lives of the students, individuals, communities and business that we serve

2 Definitions

- 2.1 **Sustainability** - meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs
- 2.2 **WEEE** - Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- 2.3 **BREEAM** - Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method
- 2.4 **EAUC** - Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

3 Policy

Exeter College is committed to Exeter City Council's plans to make Exeter carbon neutral by 2030, adopting a coordinated approach and action at local, regional and national levels to address the challenge of carbon emissions and energy use in cities. To this aim, Exeter College will:

- 3.1.1 Achieve measurable reductions to its carbon footprint
- 3.1.2 Adopt, as far as possible, recognised good practice across all its operations
- 3.1.3 Comply with all applicable legal requirements
- 3.1.4 Identify and set Sustainability targets measured against appropriate benchmarks, documented in a Sustainable Development Action Plan
- 3.1.5 Encourage sustainable travel by staff, students and partners
- 3.1.6 Promote the conservation of material resources to reduce environmental impact

- 3.1.7 Include sustainability and environmental impact as criteria when assessing potential external contractors
- 3.1.8 Implement an effective waste management procedure that will eliminate the amount of waste sent to landfill, reduce waste used as refuse derived fuel (RDF) and encourage reusing and recycling
- 3.1.9 Improve energy efficiency where possible and reduce the energy consumption of College equipment
- 3.1.10 Endeavour to use renewable energy supplies
- 3.1.11 Ensure the removal of redundant electrical equipment known as WEEE in line with the regulation
- 3.2 Follow sustainable construction principles in all new building developments and refurbishments of existing buildings
- 3.2.1 Obtain BREEAM certification following the assessment of new build or refurbished College buildings falling within scope, focused on the categories:
- Energy
 - Land use and ecology
 - Water
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Pollution
 - Transport
 - Materials
 - Waste
 - Management
- 3.2.2 Communicate the Sustainability Policy to all students and staff
- 3.2.3 Raise awareness about Sustainability with students, staff, visitors and other stakeholders
- 3.2.4 Ensure that information on the College's progress in Sustainability is made available to learners, staff and other stakeholders
- 3.2.5 Enable the College's Sustainability Group meet termly and actively promote, monitor and implement the Policy

4 Implementation

Exeter College aims to be regarded as a leader of the sustainability agenda in Further Education across Devon and the South West.

Through its focus on sustainability, Exeter College will:

- 4.1 Arrange for the reuse or recycling of College waste, including paper, computer supplies and redundant equipment

- 4.2 Purchase electricity from a supplier committed to renewable energy and aim, so far as is reasonably practicable, to maximise the proportion of renewable energy sources utilised by the College
- 4.3 Provide all students with opportunities to develop their awareness of sustainability issues through sustainability related curriculum, tutoring and enrichment activities
- 4.4 Minimise the use of paper and other College office consumables, for example by printing double-sided where necessary and/or working from electronic versions
- 4.5 Purchase from local, or near local, suppliers wherever possible
- 4.6 Purchase energy efficient equipment
- 4.7 Use only an approved contractor for the removal of redundant electrical equipment known as WEEE and ensuring no redundant electrical equipment, including mobile phones, is disposed of in general waste
- 4.8 Follow sustainable construction principles in all new building developments and refurbishments of existing buildings, for example including waste travel reduction measures into contracts, reducing delivery mileage
- 4.9 Raise awareness about Sustainability with students, staff, visitors and others through the Sustainability pages on the Staff/Student Hubs and noticeboards
- 4.10 Make information on the College's progress in Sustainability available to learners and staff by providing access to relevant updates and the Sustainability Policy via the Staff/Student Hubs and the College website
- 4.11 Work with external partners and the community, for example undertake voluntary work with the local community and/or environmental organisations and make positive efforts to seek to offset carbon emissions from the College's activities
- 4.12 Include the full costs of more sustainable forms of transport in financial proposals, rather than the cheapest initial cost option when replacing College vehicles, for example consider electric/Hybrid vehicles and continued/increased contract with Co Cars
- 4.13 Continuation of involvement with the EAUC after the College signed the Environmental Association for Universities and College (EAUC) Further Education Colleges Sustainable Development Declaration in Nov 2010
- 4.14 Promote the use of reusable or recyclable products throughout College

5 Associated Documentation

5.1 Health and Safety Policy

<https://exe-coll.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Health-and-Safety-Policy.pdf>

5.2 Exeter City Futures

<https://www.exetercityfutures.com/>

5.3 Exeter City Council Carbon Neutral Plan

<https://news.exeter.gov.uk/plans-to-make-exeter-carbon-neutral-by-2030/>

5.4 The Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2013

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/waste-electrical.htm>

6 Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

6.1 The Sustainability Policy will be reviewed and evaluated annually by consultation with the Sustainability Group and where appropriate the Senior Leadership Team and updated in line with changes in current best practice or emerging legislation.

6.2 The person responsible for the monitoring of this policy is the Director of Estates and IT.

6.3 This policy has been approved by the Senior Leadership Team and has been adopted by the Board.