City of Portsmouth College

ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY AND STRATEGY

Document Control:

Version	5.0
Document Created Date:	January 2023
Document Last Approval:	January 2023
Document Update History:	
Document Next Review:	January 2024
Document Approval Authority:	Senior Management Team (SMT) Estates & Sustainability Committee
Document Owner:	Paul Martin, Head of Procurement and Contracts Martin Whitty, Assistant Director of Estates

Contents

All details relating to this policy are available by contacting:

Assistant Director of Estates
City of Portsmouth College
Highbury Campus
Tudor Crescent
Cosham
Portsmouth
PO6 2SA
Tel: 02392 328937

1. Strategy Overview and Scope

1.1 The City of Portsmouth College (CoPC) has an obligation to achieve the carbon reduction targets as set down by the UK government under the Climate Change Act 2008. This document sets out CoPC's Sustainability Strategy which will drive the College toward its identified targets.

1.2 The strategy focuses on three core areas of impact; Environmental Impact, Social Impact and Financial Impact, and outlines how CoPC will embed changes across these areas within its campuses, within staff, learners and within the wider communities the College serves. The delivery of the Strategy ensures CoPC will achieve its legislative commitments and will continue to drive innovation, best practice and excellence.

1.3 The strategy supports and delivers CoPC's vision and values, and fully integrates with the College's plans, empowering all stakeholders to make lasting and meaningful change for the benefit of our organisation, our staff and learners and the wider communities which we serve, demonstrating our commitment to reducing our impact on our surroundings and supporting and enabling the delivery of excellent further and higher education and training opportunities across the whole of Portsmouth.

2. Our Sustainable Vision

2.1 CoPC is committed to delivering high quality education and training and to ensuring our organisation remains fit to do so both now and in the future. We understand that we need to embed a culture that enables early adoption, adaptation and innovation to be driven throughout our organisation and into the further and higher education and training services that we deliver.

2.2 Our target is to be amongst the most sustainable College's within the UK and be emission free by 2050, with an intermediate point in 2035 by which time we shall undertake to have reduced emissions by 50%, based on our 2022 baseline.

2.3 At the heart of our strategic vision is the desire to make lasting and measurable change to those who use our services and who live in our communities.

2.4   Our Sustainability Strategy supports this vision, aiming to address and improve the Environmental, Social and Financial Impact of the College and its communities. Our sustainable vision will be delivered through a structured programme of works that will be focused around the following areas:

2.5   Our Campuses - We commit to reducing our environmental impact, our reliance on natural capital and to improving the resilience of our built environments, ensuring they are fit for the future. This will be achieved through investment in infrastructure, improved biodiversity, integrated behavioural change, active travel and adaptation planning, delivered through strategic partnerships and our supply chain.

2.6   Our Stakeholders and Communities - We commit to working in partnership with all stakeholders and, where possible, the wider communities, reducing the impact of our carbon footprint, focusing on improving air quality, sustainable development and growing and reducing waste and increasing recycling. Through our partnerships we will strive to create good quality, sustainable employment, skills and training opportunities and enhance the opportunity for social volunteering. We will establish a Sustainability Group, initially comprising of staff and learners but with the intention to expand this group to include partners and the wider community, with its purpose to help the College drive forward its sustainability agenda, to oversee progress against agreed targets and to share good practice and ideas across the whole CoPC communities.

2.7   Through the introduction of an annual CoPC Sustainability Day, we will harness and enable collaboration between all College stakeholders, our partners and the wider communities. We will continue to drive the Sustainability agenda across our campuses, and we will explore the potential for financial revenue opportunities for the organisation through the creation of partnerships, the use of procurement, our supply chain and by the development of new services and products which will be mutually beneficial to both CoPC and the wider community.

3. Drivers for Change

3.1 Legislation

3.1.1 The government continues to set legislation to encourage the development of low-carbon economies. In 2009 the UK government set out the world's first carbon budget, providing certainty around its intentions to develop the use of low-carbon technologies and business practices; cutting emissions, bolstering the UK economy and creating sustainable employment opportunities. Since then, the government has set out a series of increasingly stringent legislative requirements for UK business.

3.1.2 Under the Climate Change Act (CCA) 2008, all organisations in the UK are committed to reducing their carbon emissions and to zero by 2050 (based on 1990 baseline).

3.1.3 Procurement Regulations increasingly place additional obligations on purchasers, including in the area of assessing the Social Value and benefits to the wider community of spends above £213,000. Such issues must have a minimal weighting of at least 10% in any assessment, giving these issues a significant influence on the final outcome.

3.1.4 Legislation is continuously changing and improving (evolving) to ensure UK businesses are reacting to mitigate and adapt to the increasing effects of climate.

3.2 Capacity

3.2.1 With a growing population and the widespread use of energy dependant technologies, the UK is currently facing the most significant supply/ demand gap it has ever seen. This has been exacerbated by the lack of investment in UK infrastructure and generation capacity. For example, the UK only has currently enough capacity to store up to nine days usage of gas (vs Germany's 89, France's 103 and the Netherlands' 123 on 28/10/2022), making it particularly vulnerable to supply and market variations. It is important therefore for the College to improve its resilience and reduce reliance on grid supplies when and wherever possible.

3.3   Consumer Demands

3.3.1   The expectations of stakeholders, especially amongst our staff and learners, are becoming increasingly elevated with regard to issues of sustainability. There is also evidence to suggest that a growing number of staff and learners are so concerned about these issues that they factor these into their decisions when deciding who to work for or where to undertake their studies.

3.3.2   Partners and our Supply Chain are also increasingly becoming sensitive to these issues and regularly such contracts stipulate minimum sustainability requirements or standards. Some suppliers even go as far as not bidding for opportunities which appear not to mirror or match their minimum standards.

3.3.3   The wider community is also becoming more concerned about the carbon footprint of businesses which operate within their areas, including around such issues as air pollution and traffic, waste management and recycling and matters of sustainability ethics.

3.4   Competition

3.4.1   As we move forward, following our recent merger and the creation of CoPC, it will be important for us to have a clear route map towards a sustainable future. As outlined above, public opinion is veering towards an increasing demand on businesses to be leaders in creating a healthy and sustainable future. With both staff and learners being able to exercise choice, with competition for our services being all around us, we must ensure these increasing expectations are met.

3.5   Financial

3.5.1   The need to increasingly 'do more with less' is always important but in the current financial environment it is more critical. CoPC needs in 2022/23 to achieve savings whilst not affecting the services and education and training opportunities which we provide.

3.5.2   Over the last year, energy prices have nearly doubled for commercial users and this upward trend is predicted to continue in response to global energy uncertainties. It is forecast that these could increase still further in 2023 and possibly again in 2024, putting our forecast energy bill in the region of £2.5m should we continue with our current levels of usage.

3.5.3   Water prices are also increasing, although accepting not at the same rate, but water is an important resource and vulnerable to changes to the climate as evidenced by the recent hose pipe and water usage rationing introduced in some areas during the summer of 2022.

3.5.4   Increased legislation has also brought about increased financial pressures and obligations.

3.5.5   These factors, coupled with an increase in occupancy and activity within our campuses and economic drivers increasing commodity prices, mean the cost of energy and carbon will be an ever more prevalent factor when considering how we deliver our services.

3.5.6   Clear financial gains can be made from achieving efficiency savings through environmental and socially focused projects.

4.   Overarching Objectives

4.1   The CoPC Sustainability Strategy will be supported by a comprehensive Sustainable Development Management Plan (SDMP) which will detail the delivery mechanisms for the Strategy. The objectives are also supported by the objectives as set out in the College's Estates Strategy, its Procurement & Contract Management Strategy and its Corporate Plan. The following outlines the overarching/ key objectives of the strategy:

1. Establish a Sustainability Working Group, define Terms of Reference, Membership and priorities for Year 1 by end of March 2023.

2. Undertake baseline assessments to determine current positions for Energy, Water, Waste and Carbon Footprint by end of January 2023.

3. Reduce CoPC's carbon footprint by 50% by 2035 (based on a 2022 baseline).

4. Reduce CoPC's water consumption by 30% by 2030 (based on a 2022 baseline).

5. Reduce CoPC's landfill waste by 50% by 2030 (based on 2022 baseline).

6. Reduce energy consumption by 30% by 2030 (based on 2022 baseline).

7. Fully integrate Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Practices into CoPC's Procurement Strategy, Policy and Processes for all goods and services by mid-2023.

8. Develop and deploy sustainable behaviours training embedding through active change programmes by end August 2023.

9. Remove the use of all plastics within its catering and related operations by August 2023.

10. Follow the "FE Climate Action Roadmap" becoming an Emerging College by January 2024, an established college by January 2025 and a leading college by January 2026.

11. Actively engage our communities, focusing on areas which actively promote CoPC's Sustainability Strategy and outcomes, through sustainable actions and behaviours.

12. Reduce financial risks and minimise exposure to future financial cost pressures.

13. Activity encourages a modal shift in travel and transport methods to more active, sustainable modes.

14. Deliver Net Zero by 2050.

5.   Targets

5.1   By 2035 CoPC shall reduce its carbon emissions by 50% and by 2050 this extends to 100%.

5.2   In the academic year August 2020 – July 2021, CoPC emitted 1302.1 tonnes of CO_2 (CO2e). Since then, modest investment has been made in improvements and measures to reduce carbon reductions. In the academic year August 2021 – July 2022, CoPC's emissions fell to 1199.12 CO2e tonnes.

5.3 Now that many of the 'quick win' and short payback measures have been implemented, the College needs to work hard to achieve the 2035 target and seek transformational change in order to achieve the 2050 target.

6. Reporting and Governance

6.1 CoPC is required to report their emissions annually in order to satisfy a number of legislative, organisational and funding requirements.

6.2 The College will continue to report its own emissions on an annual basis in its annual report, as required, and will report progress through the annual review. It is keen to expand the scope of its reporting to include areas such as travel, transport and supplier emissions as accurate data becomes available.

6.3 Internal reporting and governance structures will be set out in CoPC's Sustainable Development Management Plan, but the senior manager with responsibility for these activities will be its Chief Operating Officer and a nominated Governor, with the annual report presented to the Estates and Sustainability Committee.

7.   Environmental Impact

7.1   Commitment

7.1.1   CoPC is committed to reducing our environmental impact and achieving our legislative targets. In order to reduce our environmental impact and achieve our legislative targets, significant investment will need to be made in infrastructure, behaviours and low carbon technologies. We will achieve this though a detailed programme of work that will focus on:

- Reducing our building energy emissions
- Engaging our staff on sustainability
- Improving resilience to climate change
- Reducing our water consumption
- Reducing our impact from waste
- Reducing risk
- Adapting our built environment for severe weather events
- Enabling active travel
- Encouraging local procurement

7.1.2   One of the key enablers to achieving success will be the creation of strategic partnerships in order to deliver our objectives. Strategic partnerships will be formed to deliver some of the most challenging aspects of the programme in order to draw on expertise from the public, private and 3rd party sectors to deliver innovation and excellence through collaboration.

7.2   Behavioural Change

7.2.1   Changing behaviours forms a key part of our sustainability agenda moving forward. Adapting behaviours to ensure our staff effectively with their built environment ensuring both improved learner experience and efficiencies are achieved. CoPC commit to focusing on behaviours through training and support initiatives, information share, raising the profile of environmental awareness throughout our staff base and our wider communities to deliver environmental, social and financial benefits at both an individual and organisational level.

7.2.2   As part of our approach on collaborative working, we will work in partnership with external energy providers, Frameworks and Consortia to provide training on energy awareness across the organisation. Through these relationships CoPC will aim to train every member of our staff appropriate to their position.

7.3   Biodiversity and green space

7.3.1   In order to improve our sites resilience to severe weather conditions, such as for heat wave planning, plans will be introduced to ensure optimal operation of the facilities and to improve the biodiversity across our built environment we will consider the establishment of green spaces for community projects. Wherever practical we will link the spaces with curriculum delivery in order to benefit our learners.

7.4   CoPC Sustainability Day

7.4.1   The CoPC Sustainability Day will be a collaborative period of action on climate change aimed at engagement, knowledge sharing and recognition and reward across all CoPC campuses. Hosted by the Senior Management Team it shall offer a unique opportunity for Campuses to collaborate on issues surrounding climate change to take action to make lasting change across the College.

8.   Financial Impact

8.1   CoPC's current financial liability for utilities is £1.2m per annum. If we do nothing in terms of reduction, by 2024 this cost would be circa £2.5m (as outlined in section 3.5 above).

8.2   Since 2019, energy prices in the UK have doubled and the trend is set to continue over the next two years with some forecasts for 2024 predicted to double again on today's rates. This, combined with an increase in demand and no additional capacity are leading to an increasing trend in peak demand charges on utilities, applying additional financial pressures.

8.3   Water prices have over the last 10 years increased by over 25%.

8.4   Over the past five years, the government has introduced a series of additional legislation which levees taxes on high users of gas and electricity and binds them to stringent reduction targets. Schemes such as the carbon reduction commitment add further costs to energy bills.

8.5   Government are set to introduce additional legislation over the coming years placing more responsibility on organisations and extending to include other areas of activity.   Such legislation will likely place financial risks and penalties on organisations who do not comply.

8.6   In order to begin to address this risk moderate investment has been made across the legacy sites, improving efficiencies of plant and equipment and upgrading elements of lighting.

8.7   Key financial objectives:
- Reduce CoPC's exposure to future energy and utility inflation.
- Reduce CoPC's liability (risk) of penalties for achieving its Climate Change Act targets.
- Reduce CoPC's exposure to future carbon taxes and penalties.
- Improve resilience and reduce dependency on grid capacity.
- Create sustainable revenue opportunities for CoPC..

8.8   In order to reduce our financial liability in the coming years, significant investment needs to be made in implementing measures to reduce our energy usage, carbon emissions and cost within our built estate. Investment in large scale capital projects will be essential, such as investing in LED lighting, heating control and installation.

8.9   CoPC will, where appropriate, explore a number of funding options in order to deliver these projects, with CoPC applying for grant funding where available. However, it is proposed that a majority of these schemes are undertaken through the College's ongoing Capital Investment Programme, subject to available funds.

8.10   Within our communities, we will seek to capture opportunities for revenue generation, whilst having a positive impact on both the environmental and social impacts across our area. We will explore opportunities for interventions such as community solar projects and projects that are focused on promoting education and training. We will seek to create sustainable local employment, skills, knowledge and learning opportunities, building our reputation to aid staff and learners in choosing CoPC as their employer/educator of choice in the future.

8.11   We will showcase best practice across CoPC, ensuring our learnings positively benefit our stakeholders, communities and partners.

9.   **Social Impact**

9.1   Challenges

9.1.1   CoPC recognises the challenges faced in order to achieve our 2050 targets and the necessity to radically rethink the way we deliver our courses and services, focusing not simply on building efficiencies but on delivering wider social value benefits, where possible. We wish to ensure that we can deliver excellent education and training to those who need it, both now and in the future, improving the life choices of those who work or attend our courses and minimising our impact on both the environment and on our finances.

9.1.2   As well as considering CoPC's environmental and financial impacts, it is important for the College to evaluate and improve its social impact. The College operates across a diverse catchment area which sees some of the highest levels of social and health inequalities in the UK.

9.1.3   We recognise the importance of connecting with our communities in order to fully integrate our services across the whole of Portsmouth. In order to connect with our communities on sustainability we will implement a number of integrated programmes aimed at improving both education/training and sustainability, namely:
- Sharing best practice, helping reducing fuel poverty across our local communities.
- Improving knowledge around food, nutrition and sustainable growing through education.

- Encouraging sustainable, active travel.
- Creating local green jobs and improving skills/education opportunities.
- Improving local air quality.
- Establishing projects involving local communities.
- Improving carbon awareness across Portsmouth.

9.1.4 CoPC will actively engage partners for the above programmes in order to limit financial liability and maximise benefit to the organisation.

9.2   Malnutrition and Obesity

9.2.1 Malnutrition and obesity both present an increase in incidents of complex, interrelated and long-term conditions.

9.2.2 CoPC will contribute to the tackling of these issues through their sustainability programme and by ensuring that all of its catering services provide appropriate nutritional information about meals being served and that the menu always includes heathy options, including fruit and salads.

9.2.3 Education in food, nutrition and sustainable growing - CoPC will give consideration to forming strategic partnerships to deliver food and nutrition education to its staff and learners, whilst increasing access to, and education and training around, the importance of sustainable growing. It is hoped that by improving education around good food and nutrition, we will equip future generations with the tools to lead long and healthy lives.

9.2.4 Encouraging physical activity - CoPC will actively encourage our staff, visitors and communities to take regular exercise, using our sports facilities, and by taking sustainable modes of transport. In addition to improving obesity rates and its associated diseases, this will also contribute to improving local air quality and reducing carbon emissions from travel.

9.3 Sustainable, Active Travel

9.3.1 Supporting both the sustainability and Health and wellbeing agendas CoPC commits to encouraging the increased use of active travel. In order to support this the College already invests in three bus services transporting learners from across Portsmouth and to our main Campuses. We will encourage staff, learners and visitors to walk, cycle or take public transport to our sites.

9.4 Employment and Skills Opportunities

9.4.1 CoPC will focus on improving education and skill opportunities, helping upskill current workforce but also helping prepare the next generation for the world of work and study. Good quality education and training helps improve life choices and supports economic and social growth within our communities.

9.4.2 The sustainability agenda will support the education and skills of our communities by;

- Actively supporting apprentices through the sustainability elements of their courses.
- Establishing standard levels of sustainability knowledge and education for all staff, and ensuring their delivery.
- Creating opportunities for further skills and education around sustainability.
- Creating, where appropriate, green employment opportunities.

9.5 Poor Air Quality

9.5.1 Poor air quality increases and exacerbates cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and contributes to acute and chronic long term health conditions.

9.5.2 Mortality rates in cities with high levels of pollution, exceeds that observed in relatively cleaner cities by 15–20%. Even in the EU, average life expectancy is 8.6 months lower due to exposure to particulate matter produced by human activities.

9.5.3 By reducing air pollution levels across our communities, we can help reduce the burden of disease from respiratory infections, heart disease and lung cancer, improving both the short- and long-term health of our population.

9.6   Community Spaces

9.6.1   In order to improve links and support integration with the local communities, CoPC will identify and establish opportunities for delivering community spaces, offering opportunities for improved health and wellbeing, social integration, food support, and skills development. These initiatives will support our staff, learners, visitors and our communities, supporting the delivery of some of the core CoPC values.

9.7   Carbon awareness

9.7.1   As part of our efforts to change environmental behaviours we will engage with our communities in order to raise awareness on issues of carbon reduction and associated education and training benefits of reducing usage.

9.7.2   All of the above create an increase in demand for our services, increasing building and resource use, cost and carbon. We recognise it is therefore essential to tackle these 'indirect' contributors.

10.   Conclusion

10.1   It is of a social, environmental and financial imperative that CoPC acts to reduce its environmental footprint and increases its influence on the wider community.

10.2   By improving the balance between the need for the College to undertake its core activities with the need to deliver improved carbon ratings within our built estate, reduced emissions from our procurement activities and improved economic standing from driving efficiency savings and benefits from our use of resources, including energy, water, and transport, we will deliver this Sustainability Strategy.

10.3   Annex 1 details the College's Sustainability Priorities.

Annex 1 – Sustainability Priorities

Carbon Target • Identify realistic annual targets that correlate with and comply with reporting and legal requirements. • Present and review annual targets to Senior Management Team and for Governor approval in SDMP.
Compliance and Policy • Review all policies to identify where sustainability can be included, implemented, measured and reported. • Conduct assessment of all plant, machinery and equipment to ensure that CoPC remains compliant (e.g., TM44, TR19).
Climate change Adaptation and Risk Assessment • Identify risks to CoPC from climate change.
Sustainable Development Management Plan • Identify a full range of projects to be undertaken as part of the carbon reduction process. • Produce an action plan with required investment for the roll out of the SDMP 2022-2023. • Identify financial savings if projects are implemented. • Undertake benchmarking with other similar organisations. • Seek SMT/Governor approval for the SDMP annually.
Behavioral Change Programme • Establish Sustainability Working Group, terms of reference and membership. • Consider and implement social media and awareness campaigns; both internally within CoPC and externally. • Launch a Sustainability Newsletter. • Establish an Annual Sustainability Day. • Introduce Annual Awards, either free standing or as part of CoPC regular annual awards and/or green champions campaign to engage staff. • Consider external promotions/websites/activity logging for healthy living e.g., Sport England.

External Awareness Campaigns
• Raise awareness of CoPC's SDMP and the work that they are intending to do to reduce emissions.
Electricity and Gas Consumption
• Baseline Assessment to be carried out for electricity and gas use across the estate. • Implement LED replacement program at all sites. • Commence negotiations/and/or program of lighting upgrades. • Ensure, where possible, that all electricity is sourced from renewable companies to ensure only green electricity is utilized once contracts are renewed. • Conduct condition survey and assessment of all space heating assets across the estate. • Review and implement space heating and cooling operations across the estate.
Water Consumption
• Baseline assessment to be carried out for water use (supply and discharge) across the estate. • Assess water consumption to identify where there may be leaks or excessive water use. • Identify water saving devices that can be implemented across the estate.
Biodiversity
• Assess the biodiversity across the estate i.e., green spaces, trees, outside areas;
Waste
• Conduct a waste audit across the estate to ascertain all waste streams. • Create a waste minimization and reduction program incorporating staff training and an awareness campaign. • Minimize waste leaving all sites, reducing waste to landfill and increasing recycling of waste.
Paperless
• Identify internal targets. • Review printer contracts and current allocations.

Transport and Fleet Management

- Conduct assessment of current owned and lease car/minibus contracts with a view to minimize emissions and consideration of upgrade to an electrical fleet, if required.
- Conduct a Grey fleet assessment (staff's own vehicles utilized for business use).
- Evaluate introduction of electric charging points and designated parking to promote staff's own electric vehicle purchase.
- Review promotional materials relating to public transport, cycling, cycling routes to all campuses.

Travel

- Review provision of bus services.
- Assessment of train travel.
- Assessment of flight travel.
- Assessment of hire car use.
- Assessment of grey fleet.
- Identify the impact of CoPC on air pollution.
- Consider opportunity for green travel plan incorporating car parking initiatives and car parking plans as our estate expands.

Procurement

- Assess products procured by CoPC.
- Review Procurement policy and procedures to ensure that they reflect Sustainability Strategy and Social Value.
- Work with providers to reduce their carbon emissions by 30% by 2030 based on a 2022 baseline.

ICT

- Assess Data Centre and server room energy use.
- Assess number of ICT assets within CoPC.
- Identify where energy consumption of ICT assets can be reduced and improved
- Identify energy reduction through development of a Green ICT procurement process.
- Assess energy differences between data centers versus cloud services. Ensure data centers comply with EU Code of Conduct. Ensure best practice energy efficient initiatives are carried out.
- Identify elements of the Greening Government ICT strategy that can be used in CoPC.
- Conduct an assessment of storage rationalisation.
- Assess multifunctional assets.
- Print reduction strategy developed and adopted.
- Assess the implications of remote working, agile working and active working.
- Apply low power energy settings to devices.