



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Last Updated:
Finance & General Purposes Committee:
Corporation Approval:
Review Date:

November 2009
November 2009
December 2009
December 2012



ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Policy statement

BHASVIC recognises that it can contribute towards the conservation and protection of the environment. It has resolved to improve its own environmental practices and to promote awareness of environmental responsibilities among all staff and students. This is to be achieved through the following policy aims and objectives.

Policy scope

All staff and students at the College have responsibility for the environment in which they work.

Policy aims

1. To improve awareness and understanding of environmental issues and sustainable development in the College.
2. To encourage all staff and students to be active participants in environmental initiatives.
3. To improve the way the College community¹ manages its own environment
4. To work with the local community, public and private sector organisations to improve the local environment and promote sustainable development.
5. To incorporate Environmental action points (including promotion of sustainable procurement) within each departmental SARAP
6. To provide a basis for work of the College's environmental group.

Objectives

1. Environmental awareness

- a. To promote the concept of sustainable development and individual accountability amongst staff and students.
- b. To improve the environmental awareness of the College community.
- c. To provide opportunities for staff training in environmental matters both in-house or through attendance at seminars, courses and working parties.
- d. To organise and/or support environmental awareness-raising events.
- e. To provide an environmental and ecological resources collection (e.g. reading material and testing equipment), which is to be centrally catalogued in the Open Learning Centre.
- f. To include environmental awareness training regarding power saving at staff induction and inset.

¹ Whole college

2. Environmental initiatives

- a. To establish environmental management procedures among staff with managerial or operational responsibilities for activities that affect the College's impact on the environment.
- b. To develop good practice, including a 5 year action plan based on an internal annual environmental audit.
- c. To encourage staff suggestions on ways to improve practices which impact on the environment.
- d. To identify specific responsibilities with job descriptions and contracts, which will support the College's Environmental Policy.
- e. To invest in new technology to help encourage the efficient use of power.

3. Implementation

a. Energy and Water

To conserve energy by progressively improving heating and lighting systems (e.g. energy saving bulbs), and investing in energy efficient copiers, IT and electrical equipment.

Utilisation of effective cooling and heating controls

Implementation of effective insulation measures.

Monitoring of water usage

Monitoring of water temperature

To conserve water by gradually installing water saving devices as and where appropriate.

To encourage, where possible, the use of alternative energy and water resources.

b. Buildings and Grounds

To ensure that all building work undertaken has the concept of environmental responsibility as a central issue within the working brief and uses BREEAM² assessment for major new builds and refurbishments also including accessibility issues as expressed in Equality legislation.

Design to utilise the maximum usage of natural light and ventilation, avoiding where possible air conditioning systems.

Utilise newer energy sources such as CHP³ and waste heat recovery where possible.

² Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method

³ Combined Heat & Power

Sustainable management of green spaces, wildlife and natural habitats.

Minimal usage of chemical pesticides, insecticides and artificial fertilisers

c. Waste Management

To develop and implement a comprehensive waste management policy.

To put into practice 'A Practical Guide to Waste Management for Universities and Colleges' by the Educational Association of Universities and Colleges.

To use best current practice for handling hazardous waste.

To encourage a change in the perception of waste within the College community.

d. Recycling

To promote the benefits of recycling to the College community.

To provide means of collecting waste products which can be recycled – batteries, books, cans, furniture, garden waste, laser/copier paper, some types of plastic.

e. Purchasing and Contracts

To encourage:

- purchasing from environmentally friendly suppliers, preferably from local or near local suppliers wherever possible
- the inclusion of sustainable requirements in new contracts
- the avoidance of products that require non-renewable resources or polluting substances in their manufacture
- the purchasing of cleaning materials that are harmless to the environment and biodegradable
- the procurement of products that are minimally packaged

f. Transport

To encourage car sharing

To provide secure bike lock-ups and encourage cycling and walking.

To continue promoting the use of public transport.

To reduce the number of staff and students driving to the College.

To produce a long-term Green Travel Plan for the College.

4. Implementation

The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Estates Manager together with the Environment Group. This group has the following membership:

Estates Manager
Assistant Principal (Director of Finance and Estates)
Two members of Teaching Staff
Three members of Support Staff
Student Union representative

An annual report on progress will be taken to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

5. Related Documents

- College Charter
- Quality Assurance & Improvement Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy