



Environmental Policy

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CONTENT	PAGE
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY	
Introduction	3
Energy Consumption	4
Water Consumption	4
Use of manufactured materials	4
Waste Disposal	5
Pollution	5
Opens spaces and the natural environment	5
The built environment	6
Reducing risks	6
Our staff	6
Contractors and suppliers	6
Working together	6

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. Introduction

Uppingham Community College is committed to environmental sustainability as a fundamental principle to guide the design, construction and operation of its facilities. The college seeks to ensure that its site developments protect our environment; respect occupants' health, safety and comfort and, reduce operating costs.

In addition, whenever possible and financially feasible, Uppingham Community College will purchase local and regional goods and services in the design, construction and renovation of its buildings.

Fostering in our students an understanding of principles of environmental sustainability and the habits of sustainable practices by modelling them on our campus, is a powerful message and one that will bode well for their future health and that of our planet.

- **Improving our environment**
Wherever possible, we will make continuous, measurable progress in our environmental performance and reduce our own environmental impact
- **Environmental Legislation**
We will fulfil our statutory environmental responsibilities and wherever possible bring about improved environmental performance. We will also ensure that all operations and activities carried out comply with, or exceed all statutory environmental requirements.
- **Protecting our Environment**
We will aim to improve our own environmental performance by adopting the principles of best practice and best technology wherever possible. We shall do this through the wise and conservative use of energy, water and other natural resources by adopting water and energy-saving measures

2. Energy Consumption

The College will aim to:

- Give preference to the most energy efficient and environmentally sound appliances available, this includes moving towards using energy-saving light bulbs across the site.
- Provide energy efficient heating systems, with suitable controls for individual heating appliances wherever possible.
- Encourage staff and students to save energy through visible reminders and information to increase awareness. This particularly concerns turning off electrical appliances when not in use in both communal and class rooms.
- Monitor and understand the importance of different sources of college energy consumption, and set appropriate and measurable targets for a reduction in certain areas of consumption and/or in the overall consumption of energy.
- Reduce heat loss through college buildings by investing in window and roof systems that incorporate the latest insulation technology in line with current building regulations.

3. Reducing Water Consumption

The College will aim to:

- Repair sources of water leakage, such as dripping taps and showers as quickly as possible
- Install appliances which reduce water consumption.
- Encourage a decrease in water usage among staff and students
- Purchase the most efficient washing machines and dishwashers available which have an economy setting as default.

4. Use of manufactured materials

The College will aim to:

- Purchase goods and materials that can be manufactured and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way.
- Reduce the volume of paper used in the college and ensure that we buy paper that maximises recycling and minimises environmental damage throughout its whole life cycle.
- Encourage the use of electronic storage and minimise the use of paper copies.

5. Waste disposal

We will aim to reduce the amount of waste produced by the college and provide opportunities and facilities to maximise the opportunities for recycling material by:

- Make full use of all recycling facilities provided on site in partnership with Rutland County Council
- Recycle or safely dispose of white goods, computers and electrical appliances in line with WEEE Regulations 2006
- Use reusable resources and containers and avoid unnecessary packaging where possible.
- Always purchase recycled resources where these are both suitable and available.
- Provide sufficient, accessible and well-publicised collection points for recyclable waste across the site.
- Promote reuse of items and waste recycling among staff and students.

6. Pollution

We will minimise the release of any pollutant that may cause environmental damage to air, water or land including noise pollution and damage to local environment. We will do this by controlling our own activities and by using our influence with out of hour's activities in the college.

Minimising the use of Chemical Pollutants

- Ensure that all cleaning products used by college staff have a minimal detrimental impact on the environment, i.e. are biodegradable and non-toxic.
- Minimise the use of fertilisers and pesticides in college grounds, opting for the use of compost produced on site wherever possible.

7. Open spaces and the natural environment

We will protect and, where possible, enhance the quality of the college's natural environment and quantity of open space. We will ensure that any wildlife areas are retained and that open space is retained and easily accessible by all.

8. The built environment

We will use our statutory powers to seek to create a sustainable built environment for any new projects and ensure that our buildings and grounds are litter free.

Improvements, Purchases and Developments

- Seek and act upon professional advice in order to minimize the adverse environmental impact of any new developments and exceed government regulatory requirements. This includes efficient heating and water systems, appropriate space for recycling, and the use of recycled and/or sustainable building materials where possible.
- Purchase efficient and environmentally sound appliances in order to fulfil the commitments to energy use and reduction, and consider replacing old stock with 'greener', more efficient alternatives.

8. Reducing Risks

We will minimise the risk of causing environmental damage by employing safe technologies and operating procedures.

9. Our Staff

We will aim to provide environmental training for staff and students. We will also consult our staff as widely as possible on new environmental activities and encourage their active involvement wherever we can. We will encourage the development of a student eco-group.

10. Contractors and Suppliers

We will work with our contractors and suppliers to help them improve their environmental performance and ensure that, when working for the college, they adopt equivalent environmental standards.

11. Working Together

We will work with schools and other partners across Rutland, raising environmental awareness and encouraging action aimed at improving the quality of our local environment.

We will implement this policy by assessing, in advance, the environmental impact of changes to our activities and the products we buy, reviewing our environmental impact as an organisation and setting up systems to monitor this impact regularly.

