

Sustainable Development Strategy 2008-09

1. Background

The College produced a Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy and Policy in 2006 and this has resulted in some tangible benefits to the College and some measurable outcomes in terms of contributing to the wider SD agenda. As the issue of climate change and the need for SD becomes ever more pressing, the College will need to revisit its policy and strategies to ensure that its actions are promoting and embedding SD wherever we can.

The basic mechanics of climate change are well understood; the world is warming, much of this global warming is due to human emissions of greenhouse gases, and the changes are set to accelerate in the future, bringing many and varied impacts around the world. Global temperatures are rising faster than previously recorded bringing chaos to weather systems across the world. Increasingly, we see that we are living in an unsustainable way. Just 20% of the world's people consume 80% of the world's resources and the world's population will grow by half (another 3 billion people) by 2050. In the UK, road traffic has more than doubled since 1970.

Sustainable development is a response to climate change whereby governments and their agencies are developing strategies to retard global warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the Learning and Skills sector the LSC has produced its strategy for sustainable development and is requesting providers to address the issue both through education and operation. The College has a major role to play in building the capacity of its learners, staff and local communities to effectively participate in translating the rhetoric of sustainable development into reality. Of particular significance is the sector's role in facilitating social inclusion, sustainable regional development and responsible global citizenship.

This Strategy document details the commitment of Rotherham College of Arts and Technology to energy savings and a sustainable environment through the three themes of *Curriculum, Campus and Community*.

2. Scope

Statement of Intent:

It is the policy of Rotherham College of Arts and Technology to work towards a sustainable environment. This requires a commitment from staff, learners and others accessing the college. It will be achieved through raising their awareness of local, national and global environmental issues and potential risks and through implementing practices that strive to conserve, sustain and improve the environment.

Environmental issues impact on all activities of the College, and in particular on its curriculum and its property strategy.

Sustainable Curriculum Strategy

The College recognises its responsibilities to increase awareness of environmental responsibilities among staff and learners and to develop curriculum in the growth area of the sustainable energy sector, as well as in other areas where sustainable development is growing within the economy (such as tourism, transport, construction and retail). It aims to incorporate sustainable development skills and knowledge into all FT students' programmes through the enrichment entitlement and to use its influence to encourage awarding bodies to include sustainable development within the qualification content.

The strategies to pursue this are outlined below:

- Include environmental issues in curriculum delivery where appropriate.
- Undertake an audit of its curriculum to identify sustainable development that is, or could, be covered;
- Incorporate sustainable development skills and knowledge into all FT students' programmes through the enrichment entitlement;
- Include discrete sustainable development qualifications as additionality where appropriate;
- Use the College's influence and knowledge to encourage awarding bodies providers to include sustainable development within the qualification content;
- Adapt resources (such as Moodle) to include sustainable development examples where possible;

Sustainable Property Strategy

This covers 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 and transport.

This strategy shall be published in the Staff and Learner Handbooks and made known to visitors and others accessing the college. 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.

The strategies to pursue this are outlined below:

- Ensure new build maximises opportunity to create building and facilities that promote SD
- set Corporate P.I.s and targets for improvements in energy savings and classroom utilisation to minimise its use of energy and scarce resources through good practice, prudent maintenance and use of energy efficient resources.
- remove material from the waste cycle, which can viably be recycled and make use of re-cycled materials where practicable.
- use materials and equipment, which minimise harm to the environment, and avoid the use of non-renewable resources where feasible.

- continually improve and maintain the environment both within the College and, where appropriate, externally.
- minimise pollution by ensuring all College vehicles are regularly serviced and maintained and that their emissions are checked.
- reduce the use of paper by double-sided copying and use of electronic mail and the Intranet and other technology as far as practicable.
- include environmental and energy management issues in staff induction and development and ensuring that all staff are aware of the need to endeavour to apply in practice the aims of the sustainable development policy, particularly related to energy savings.
- commit funds to, and re-invest any savings back into, environmental improvements within the College, within budgetary constraints.
- ensure all contractors and suppliers to the College have similar environmental aims and commitment.
- link with other organisations in the local community in dialogue and partnership to encourage and contribute to good environmental practice.
- ensure compliance with any legal requirements concerning the environment, and work towards meeting government initiatives for a sustainable environment.
- Develop a transport plan which encourages the users of the College to seek environmentally acceptable economies in use of transport, i.e. walk, use bicycles, share of lifts, use public transport, etc. and to reduce car use.

3 Monitoring and Audit

The Director of Corporate Services will be responsible for ensuring that an environmental audit is carried out annually and that reports are presented to the College SMT and for implementing the actions from the Sustainable Property Strategy. The Assistant Principal Curriculum will be responsible for ensuring that an SD curriculum audit is carried out annually and for implementing the actions from the Sustainable Curriculum Strategy. Reports will be presented to the College Corporation at least annually to keep them informed on actions and progress.

4 Sustainable Curriculum Strategy

Issue (Taken from Key Strengths / Areas for Improvement)	Action(s) to Deliver Improvement	Progress Against Action (Only to be completed at termly review point)	Target Date	Person Responsible	Status at Termly Review Point *
1. Embed sustainable development (SD) issues into the curriculum where appropriate	Undertake an audit of its curriculum to identify sustainable development that is, or could, be covered.		31 May 2008	AP Curriculum	
	Identify one area from each Curriculum Area that would benefit from including SD issues within the curriculum and include this content within the course		30 Sept 2008	AP Curriculum HoF's CM's	
2. Develop curricula in the growth areas of sustainable energy production as well as in areas where sustainable development is increasingly important in the vocation	Electrical Engineering Curriculum Area to develop curriculum in Sustainable Energy Creation		30 June 2009	CM Electrical Engineering	
	Consider offering sustainable construction and heritage construction courses		30 June 2009	CM Construction	
	Consider offering SD content in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hair and Beauty o Travel and Tourism o Land Based o Childcare 		30 June 2009	Relevant CM's	
3. Ensure sustainability is covered as part of all FT students tutorial entitlement	14-19 team to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o develop SD session o Hold a SD day or themed week o Build on social enterprise project covering SD issues 		30 June 2008	Curriculum Manager 14-19/ SPT's	
4. Consider offering discrete SD qualifications as additionality	Investigate SD qualification and consider offering as additionality in areas where it would compliment vocational content		30 June	Curriculum Manager 14-19 CL's	
5. Influence Awarding Bodies to include SD content in existing and new qualifications	Write to / meet with Awarding Body representatives requesting consideration be given to SD content in		30 June 2008	AP Curriculum	

	their qualifications.				
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* A = Achieved, PA = Partially Achieved, NA = Not Achieved (Actions / Expected Outcomes not fully achieved should be carried forward for successive QIP)

5 **Sustainable Property Strategy**

Issue (Taken from Key Strengths / Areas for Improvement)	Action(s) to Deliver Improvement	Progress Against Action (Only to be completed at termly review point)	Target Date	Person Responsible	Status at Termly Review Point *