

## **ST HUGH'S COLLEGE**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY 2009**

#### **Introduction**

We recognise that our operations have an effect on the local, regional and global environment. As a consequence of this, the College is committed to continuous improvements in environmental performance and the prevention of pollution.

Environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice will be regarded as setting the minimum standards of environmental performance.

#### **Transport**

The College is committed to the development of a 'green' transport strategy to encourage the use of energy-efficient public and communal transport, bicycles and walking, and to discourage unnecessary use of private motor transport both for travel to the College and travel for other work purposes during the day, with the aim of reducing traffic, carbon dioxide emissions and parking in the city centre.

Detailed Targets:

- Progressively to increase the proportion of staff travelling to work by foot, bicycle or public transport (including the Park and Ride).
- Progressively to increase the proportion of travel on College business carried out by public transport.

#### **Energy Consumption**

The College accepts a share of the UK's commitment to a reduction in building related carbon dioxide emissions both by attaining greater efficiency in total energy consumption and by continuing to acquire electricity from 'green' sources, through the purchase of 'green' electricity, or through an increased use of solar water heating, combined heat and power plants (CHP), or photovoltaic panels.

Detailed Targets:

- By 2050 to reduce total carbon emissions by 80% from 1990 levels<sup>i</sup> with an interim target of 34% reduction by 2020. This is in line with government targets.  
The College will benchmark energy use against 2005/06 figures as no 1990 information is unavailable. A conversion factor will be used realign figures to 1990.

- To meet any increase in the College's electricity requirements by purchasing from green sources and more importantly by generating electricity from renewable sources on site<sup>ii</sup>.

### **Building and Development**

The College will ensure that any new building or refurbishment takes the widest possible consideration of environmental impacts and, in particular, is planned and carried out to ensure the greatest energy efficiency which is reasonable in the circumstances.

The College is committed to making full use of its existing buildings and, wherever possible when expansion is necessary, to the development of sites within walking or cycling distance of the remainder of the College.

Detailed Targets:

- To achieve a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) score of at least 'Very Good' for every new building.
- To ensure that as far as practicable the energy requirements of new buildings are supplied on site.

### **Water Usage**

The College will review opportunities and implement measures for reducing the use of water.

Detailed Target:

- Progressively to reduce total water usage per capita (staff and students).

### **Waste Generation and Management**

The College will review opportunities and implement measures to reduce the volume of waste generated and to increase the proportion of that waste which is recycled.

Detailed Targets:

- To establish current trends of waste generation and disposal.
- To hold the volume/weight of non-hazardous waste constant per capita (staff and students).
- Progressively to increase the proportion of waste sent for recycling.

## **Purchasing**

The College will work to ensure that its Environmental Purchasing Policy is applied on a College-wide basis to increase the use of sustainable products.

It will work with its suppliers and will encourage all Line Managers to consider future purchasing of technology with reduced environmental impacts, in order to encourage such products onto the market.

Detailed Targets:

- Progressively to increase the number of suppliers with good environmental/ sustainability credentials.
- Progressively to increase the proportion of purchases taking environmental issues into account.

## **Implementation**

This policy applies to all bodies under the control of the College. In addition, the College will take steps to ensure that its corporate members implement it, where it is relevant and practicable for them to do so. It will also encourage its individual members to take action which is consistent with the policy, by informing them of the policy and targets and providing appropriate advice to them.

The College is committed to the monitoring of its progress with regard to its environmental targets, the overall responsibility for which has been given to the Bursar.

Detailed Targets:

- To ensure that all student welcome packs include an environmental guidance note and information on the College's environmental policy and targets.
- To ensure that all new staff are aware of the College's environmental policy and targets.

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<sup>i</sup> Substantial increases in floor space, as well as installation of modern electrical equipment, which is more energy demanding are to be expected over the period. The target, which follows from national policy, is therefore very demanding and will require the College itself to generate renewable energy where it can and to purchase a substantial proportion of its remaining energy requirements from non-fossil sources. There will continue to be additional guidance/ legislation on this issue

<sup>ii</sup> This would apply to the expansions of the estate and major refurbishments. Self-generation of green energy is likely to be most feasible and economic in the case of new development or major refurbishment. These opportunities will need to be taken wherever possible if the energy consumption target above mentioned is to be met.