

EDA COLLEGE



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Environmental and Sustainability Policy¹

Version Control/History

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¹ Aligned with the Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended), the Environment Act 2021, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the OfS Regulatory Framework

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1. Policy Statement

EDA College (“the College”) recognises that the climate and ecological emergency present significant challenges for current and future generations and that, as a higher education provider, the College has a responsibility to act. The College is committed to operating in a way that minimises adverse impacts on the environment, contributes to the UK’s legally binding net-zero target by 2050, and supports the development of environmentally responsible graduates.

This policy sets out the College’s overarching commitments and the framework through which environmental and sustainability performance will be planned, delivered, monitored and improved. It supports the College’s wider responsibilities under the OfS conditions of registration, particularly the management and governance condition (E2) and the public interest governance principles (E1).

2. Vision and Commitments

EDA College is committed to embedding sustainability across its educational, operational and governance activities. The College’s key commitments are to:

- Comply with all applicable environmental legislation and other requirements as a minimum standard.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with national net-zero targets and pursue a clear pathway towards carbon neutrality across Scope 1 and 2 emissions and progressively address Scope 3 emissions.
- Embed sustainability and climate literacy within the curriculum, learning experience and graduate outcomes.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle waste, and apply the waste hierarchy in all operational decisions.
- Use resources efficiently, including energy, water, paper, IT equipment and consumables.
- Adopt sustainable procurement principles and engage suppliers and partners on environmental performance.
- Promote sustainable travel and reduce the impact of business and student travel.
- Engage staff, students and the wider community in sustainability action and decision-making.
- Continuously improve environmental performance through a robust management system aligned with ISO 14001 principles.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all activities, premises and operations of EDA College, including academic delivery, student services, business and estates operations, partnerships, events, and the College’s use of digital infrastructure. It applies to all staff (including agency, casual and temporary workers), students, governors, contractors, suppliers, visitors and volunteers.

4. Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy has been developed in accordance with the following legislation, regulations and frameworks:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990

- Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended by the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019)
- Environment Act 2021
- Energy Act 2011 and subsequent amendments
- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended)
- Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2013
- Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007
- Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012
- Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) requirements (where applicable)
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH)
- ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems (as a guiding framework)
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- OfS Regulatory Framework (in particular conditions E1 and E2)

5. Definitions

5.1 Sustainability

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Commission, 1987).

5.2 Net Zero

Achieving a balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions removed from the atmosphere, in line with the UK's legally binding 2050 target.

5.3 Scope 1, 2 and 3 Emissions

Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources (e.g. gas heating, College vehicles). Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling. Scope 3 emissions are all other indirect emissions in the value chain (e.g. supply chain, business travel, commuting, waste).

5.4 Waste Hierarchy

The order of priority for managing waste set out in the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011: prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, and disposal.

5.5 Sustainable Procurement

A procurement process that takes into account economic, environmental and social impacts across the lifecycle of goods, services and works.

6. Strategic Pillars

The College’s approach to sustainability is structured around five strategic pillars:

Pillar	Focus
1. Climate and Carbon	Measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Scopes 1, 2 and (where reasonably measurable) 3, with a credible pathway to net zero.
2. Estates and Operations	Improve energy and water efficiency, reduce waste, manage resources responsibly and ensure compliance with environmental legislation across all premises.
3. Curriculum and Research	Embed sustainability and climate literacy within programmes, learning resources and student outcomes.
4. People and Culture	Engage staff, students, governors, suppliers and the wider community in sustainability action.
5. Partnerships and Procurement	Work with suppliers, partners and stakeholders to extend the College’s positive influence beyond its own boundary.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Key Responsibilities
Academic Board	Approve this policy and the College’s sustainability strategy and targets; provide strategic oversight and adequate resources; review performance at least annually.
Audit & Risk Committee	Provide independent oversight of compliance with environmental legislation and the management of climate-related risks.
Principal	Hold overall executive accountability for sustainability performance and the implementation of this policy.
Designated Director for Estates and Sustainability	Own this policy; lead on the development and delivery of the sustainability strategy and action plan; coordinate carbon, waste, energy and water reporting.
Director for Academic Affairs	Lead on the integration of sustainability and climate literacy within the curriculum and student outcomes.
Procurement Lead	Implement sustainable procurement principles, including environmental considerations in supplier selection and contract management.
Heads of Department / Line Managers	Embed sustainability within their area; lead on local action plans; engage staff and students; report progress and concerns.
All Staff	Comply with this policy; reduce energy, water, paper and waste in their daily activities; report environmental concerns and contribute to local sustainability initiatives.
Students	Engage with sustainability initiatives; observe waste, recycling and energy guidance; participate in consultation and decision-making where appropriate.
Contractors and Suppliers	Comply with applicable environmental legislation and with the College’s policies while delivering services on its behalf.

8. Energy and Carbon Management

The College will:

- Maintain a baseline inventory of greenhouse gas emissions across Scope 1 and 2, and progressively extend to material Scope 3 categories.
- Set science-based, time-bound emissions reduction targets aligned with the UK's 2050 net-zero pathway.
- Improve the energy efficiency of buildings and equipment through upgrades, controls and behaviour change.
- Procure renewable electricity where reasonably practicable.
- Apply low-carbon and energy-efficiency principles to refurbishments, new fit-outs and IT estate decisions.
- Disclose emissions data through the College's annual reporting and, where applicable, in line with Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) requirements.

9. Waste, Resources and Circular Economy

The College will apply the waste hierarchy in all operational decisions and will:

- Prevent waste at source through better purchasing, design and behaviour.
- Maximise reuse and repair of furniture, IT equipment and consumables.
- Provide accessible recycling facilities for paper, card, plastic, glass, metal and food waste across all sites.
- Manage hazardous waste, electrical waste (WEEE) and clinical or chemical waste in compliance with applicable regulations.
- Apply duty-of-care obligations under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, including the use of authorised waste contractors and retention of waste transfer notes.

10. Water Stewardship

The College will:

- Monitor water consumption across all premises and identify opportunities for reduction.
- Install water-efficient fittings and equipment as standard during refurbishment and new fit-outs.
- Educate staff and students on water-efficient behaviours.
- Manage trade and surface water discharges in compliance with environmental permits and consents.

11. Sustainable Procurement and Supply Chain

Sustainability will be considered at all relevant stages of the procurement lifecycle, including specification, tender evaluation, contract management and supplier performance review. The College will:

- Apply whole-life costing where appropriate, taking environmental and social impacts into account.
- Include environmental and social value criteria in tender evaluation, proportionate to the scale and risk of the contract.
- Engage with suppliers on their own carbon and sustainability performance.

- Work with suppliers to reduce packaging, single-use plastics and unnecessary deliveries.
- Align with the principles of the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement and the Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy when assessing supplier conduct.

12. Travel and Transport

The College recognises that travel is a significant source of emissions and will:

- Promote sustainable travel options for staff and students, including walking, cycling and public transport.
- Encourage the use of digital meetings and learning where they are an effective alternative to travel.
- Apply a hierarchy to business travel: avoid travel where possible; choose lower-carbon modes; offset residual emissions only where reduction is not feasible.
- Provide secure cycle parking and changing facilities at College premises where reasonably practicable.
- Consider the environmental impact of large events, including international student welcome and graduation activities.

13. Curriculum, Research and Student Experience

The College will:

- Integrate sustainability and climate literacy into programme design, learning outcomes and graduate attributes, where relevant to the discipline.
- Provide opportunities for students to engage with the UN Sustainable Development Goals through their studies.
- Support student-led sustainability initiatives and engagement with decision-making.
- Reflect environmental responsibility in research, scholarship and consultancy where applicable.

14. Engagement, Communication and Culture

The College will:

- Communicate this policy and supporting sustainability information through induction, intranet, signage and regular communications.
- Provide training and awareness opportunities for staff and students appropriate to their roles.
- Recognise and celebrate sustainability achievements within the College community.
- Engage with the local community, sector bodies and external stakeholders to share good practice.

15. Targets and Key Performance Indicators

Specific targets and indicators are maintained in the College’s Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan and reviewed annually. Indicative areas of measurement include:

Pillar	Indicative KPI	Reporting Frequency
Climate and Carbon	Scope 1 and 2 emissions (tCO ₂ e); progress against net-zero pathway.	Annual
Estates and Operations	Energy and water consumption per m ² and per FTE; recycling rate; waste to landfill.	Quarterly / Annual
Procurement	Percentage of contracts above threshold incorporating sustainability criteria.	Annual
Curriculum and Engagement	Percentage of programmes incorporating sustainability outcomes; staff and student engagement levels.	Annual
Travel	Business travel emissions (tCO ₂ e); modal share of staff and student commuting.	Annual

16. Risk Management and Legal Compliance

Environmental and climate-related risks are recorded and managed through the College’s wider risk management framework, in accordance with the Risk Assessment Policy. Compliance with applicable environmental legislation is a minimum requirement, and any breach or near-breach must be reported to the Designated Director for Estates and Sustainability without delay.

The College will maintain an environmental legal register listing applicable legislation, permits and consents, and will review compliance against this register at least annually.

17. Monitoring, Review and Continuous Improvement

The College will:

- Operate an environmental management system based on ISO 14001:2015 principles (Plan-Do-Check-Act).
- Monitor performance against agreed targets and KPIs.
- Carry out internal audits of environmental compliance and management arrangements.
- Review the policy and strategy at least every two years, or sooner where legislation, sector guidance or strategic priorities change.
- Report performance annually to the Senior Leadership Team and the Academic Board and, where relevant, in the College’s annual report.

18. Related Policies and Documents

- Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

- Procurement and Supplier Management Policy
- Travel and Expenses Policy
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- IT and Digital Sustainability Guidance
- Estates and Facilities Management Procedures

19. Policy Approval

This policy has been approved by the Academic Board of EDA College and forms part of the College's suite of governance and compliance documents. It will be communicated to all staff via induction, internal communications and the staff intranet, and made available to students, partners and the wider community.

End of Policy