ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: POLICY

Process Area	Estates
Reference Number	EST/008
Directorate:	Client Services

Issue No	Date	Details	Author	Approved	Next Review
001	Mar 2011	First Issue	JO'H	BD	2013-14
002	Jan 2014	Review and update to Sections 1 & 4	JO'H	BD	2016-17
003	Jan 2017	Review and update to Section 1	JO'H	Governing Body	2019-20
004	Jan 2020	Following review at F&GP Committee in March. A recommendation to change policy title to 'Environmental Sustainability.' change of policy title to 'environmental sustainability'	KF, RS	Finance Committee	2022-23
005	Jan 2023	Minor amendments to incorporate UN SDG's and Sustainability Framework	JO'H	BD	2025-26
006	Nov 2025	Minor amendments to include Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) NI Regulations 2024	RS	Governing Body	2028-29

If requested, the College will make the policy available in alternative formats to accommodate visual impairments. The policy can also be downloaded from the College website and made available in alternative languages upon request.

1.   POLICY STATEMENT

Southern Regional College is committed to working in a way which minimises adverse effects on the environment and which promotes with learners, staff, stakeholders, partners and suppliers an awareness of sustainability.

SRC is intent on embedding sustainability into the curriculum and to creating an ethos of environmental responsibility within the entire College Community.

Southern Regional College operates within a College Sustainability Framework which guides how we engage with and advance our sustainability practices.

Southern Regional College is a signatory of the SDG Accord and reports annually on progress in contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

Principles

The Southern Regional College will:

- Encourage staff and students to engage in issues of practical sustainability and improve awareness and understanding of environmental issues and sustainable development within the College through engagement with the Students Union;

- Explore opportunities for integration of sustainable development education in programme areas and develop the curriculum in Environmental Technologies supported by appropriate staff development;

- Comply with relevant UK environmental legislation and Climate Change (Reporting Bodies)Northern Ireland Regulations 2024.

- Minimise waste and pollution through the reduction of waste, reuse of resources, and effective recycling procedures throughout operational areas and contracts as far as practicable;

- Work with partners, such as cleaning and catering contractors to ensure their service is as sustainable as reasonably practicable;

- Promote a positive attitude and ethos towards sustainability across all campuses and college activities;

- Ensure that sustainability is a priority within College procurement procedures;

- Engage with other Universities and Colleges via the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC), Professional Bodies, NUS and USI, with a view to learning from best practice;

- Develop and implement a "Green IT" approach, addressing energy consumption, sourcing and disposal of IT equipment, reducing printing and photocopying demands and ensuring that equipment is sourced and managed with energy efficiency as a priority;

- Undertake improvements to the energy efficiency and environmental performance of existing estate by fitting LED lighting, PIRs (where practical), soft touch taps and energy efficient equipment as standard practice when carrying out a refurbishment of any area.;

- Ensure that the development of future estate has sustainability as a central issue within the design brief and use of an environmental assessment method such as BREEAM;

- Maintain campus grounds and buildings in an environmentally sensitive manner having due regard to local ecology and the enhancement of biodiversity. Implement water saving measures and explore the use of rainwater harvesting to reduce demand on mains water consumption; and

- Develop transport policies to promote environmentally sound approaches to staff and student transport within the context of a multi-campus College with initiatives such as the replacement of college vehicles, use of college hybrid vehicles, promotion of cycling, car sharing and use of technology such as video linking between campuses.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all students, staff, contractors, and visitors.

3. DEFINITIONS

UN Sustainability Development Goals	The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.
Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) Accord	The Accord is a commitment learning institutions are making to one another to do more to deliver the goals, to annually report on each signatory's progress, and to do so in ways which share the learning with each other both nationally and internationally.
Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Northern Ireland Regulations 2024	These regulations came into effect on May 3, 2024, as a legislative requirement under the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. It mandates two types of reports: one on climate change mitigation and another on climate change adaptation. The regulations specify 40 public bodies, which include organizations such as education authorities, further education institutions, and health and social care trusts. Public bodies must prepare two reports: - Climate Change Mitigation Report: Outlines how the body has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions. The first report is due by 31st October 2025 and three-year cycle beyond

	• Climate Change Adaptation Report: Explains how the body is adapting to climate change in carrying out its duties. The first report is due by 31st March 2026 and five-year cycle beyond.

4. PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing sustainability is not a standalone activity and the approach that will be taken will entail integrating the principles set out in this document into a wide range of college life, including students, staff, communities, stakeholders, partners, suppliers, curriculum and support functions. To this end sustainability will be incorporated into other policies, procedures, strategic and operational plans as these are developed, or updated, with resources and training being identified as appropriate.

The College will encourage the proactive promotion of sustainability through a Sustainability Working Group. Our Sustainability Working Group plans, supports and monitors the College's sustainability activity and how it adheres to the College's Sustainability Framework. The Working Group is chaired by Director for Client Services.

5.   DISTRIBUTION

SharePoint
College Website
All Clients

6.   RELATED DOCUMENTS

 College Sustainability Framework

7.   FLOWCHART

N/A