



## **MORLEY COLLEGE LONDON**

### **Environmental Sustainability Policy**

POLICY OWNER:	Chief Finance Officer
FINAL APPROVAL BY:	Governing Body
Policy Category:	Corporate
Approved by Policy Committee:	January 2023
Approved by Governing Body:	27 March 2023
Review Date:	31 March 2027

## **1. Introduction, Purpose and Scope of Policy**

Morley College London is committed to providing a range of high-quality courses serving the needs both of its local communities and of a wide range of communities of practice. The College fully recognises the potential impact of college operations on the environment, sustainability, and the ongoing climate emergency.

The College has adopted and fully complies with the Code of Good Governance for English Colleges, which commits governors to:

**“Oversee the design of a robust environmental sustainability strategy and adopt standards and frameworks which enable effective implementation.”**

The purpose of this policy is to set out the College’s commitment to reducing any potential harmful effects on the environment resulting from college activities and operations, and to promote understanding amongst students and staff of the actions the College will take towards environmental sustainability, and the part that they can play in the delivery of this objective.

The College has further evidenced the commitment to environmental sustainability through a public commitment to the ‘Race to Zero’, joining with many other institutions within the sector, and is implementing actions to progress through the stages of the FE Climate Action Roadmap, attached for information at Annex A.

This document concerns the effect that College activities have on the environment and will include the activities of all students, staff, and stakeholders.

The College has further committed to support members of its community to develop healthier lifestyles, and to protect and improve the physical and social environment in which it is situated.

## **2. Equality and Diversity Analysis Screening**

In accordance with the College’s Equality and Diversity Policy, the development of this policy complies with the Equality Act 2010 in ensuring due regard to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations. An equality analysis will be completed if it is considered that there is a risk the policy may affect different groups protected from discrimination. Consultation will be carried out with staff. If an equality analysis is required, People Operations will advise on completion and the analysis is to be included as an appendix to the policy.

## **3. Policy Statement and Implementation**

As an educational institution, rooted in its local community, the College recognises its responsibility as a socially and ethically responsible organisation to adopt and follow good practice in matters concerning environmental sustainability.

It is the College’s policy to promote a sound awareness and understanding of local, national, and global environmental issues.

The College’s Strategic Plan 2021-2025 established cross cutting themes – including Environmental Sustainability, with detailed planning and implementation of actions overseen by the Sustainability Working Group.

The College will ensure that significant environmental impacts are identified and will take action to manage them and will actively promote the implementation of environmentally friendly policies and practices in all areas of activity. We aim to introduce a corporate culture whereby environmental issues are considered equally with all other aspects of College

business.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure a pro-active and co-ordinated approach to the management, maintenance, and review of environmental standards. To fulfil this commitment environment and sustainability matters are considered corporately by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and at Centre level through the establishment of committees with an environment and sustainability remit. Governing Body scrutiny of plans and outcomes is maintained by the Finance, Resources Sustainability Committee which provides oversight and assurance and advice to the Board.

The College will pursue the following objectives:

- Creating an environmental ethos among staff and students across all centre/sites.
- Integrating environmental sustainability into the existing curriculum and exploring new opportunities for delivery of provision in support of sustainable outcomes.
- Establishing awareness among the College community of the benefits of adopting an environmental approach to their activities, and proactively reporting on performance.
- Examining the environmental effects, impacts and consequences arising from the activities, products, and services of the organisation.
- Reducing both usage and waste of all forms of energy within the College.
- Investigating environmentally sound alternatives to College resources to reduce, or where possible, to eliminate use of the specific resource altogether.
- Evaluating compliance with regulatory requirements, college policies and accepted good practices.
- Identifying areas where environmental performance can be improved and proposing targets for improvement.
- Examining proposed new developments and new purchases and assessing them against sound environmental criteria.
- Monitoring progress and producing reports including an annual report to the Governing Body on how environmental objectives and targets are being met.
- Liaison and, where relevant, collaboration with external environmental groups and departments.

Corporate environmental responsibility lies with the Governing Body and the SLT and sustainability strategies will be adopted at the highest levels of the organisation.

The sustainability impact of day-to-day operations will be actively considered including:

**Energy:** carrying out meaningful energy saving measures.

**Waste:** reducing waste throughout the College.

**Recycling:** the establishment of a recycling plan.

**Paper:** a reduction of wastage and general use of paper across all centres.

**Estates Development and Maintenance:** enhancing the quality of the environment and reducing impacts.

**Purchasing:** including environmental and sustainability as factors in procurement.

**Catering:** supporting the provision of organically and locally produced food, sustainable farming, and packaging.

**Travel and Transport:** considering the environmental impact of travel to College, between Centres and by the College fleet.

The College has developed a sustainability action plan. The implementation of this plan is monitored by the Sustainability Steering Group and reported to the Governing Body.

The College has committed to develop and implement a Net Zero Plan, and to fully engage with partners its delivery. The College will identify and commit to appropriate sectoral sustainability standards in support of the journey to net zero, and seek funding and resources to support this change at the earliest opportunity.

#### **4. Scope of Policy**

This policy will apply to all governors, staff, students, contractors and visitors and covers all activities across all College premises.

#### **5. Responsibility**

All governors, staff, students and stakeholders have a responsibility to ensure that they minimise personal impact on the environment through the choices they make. The Chief Finance Officer has responsibility for the implementation of the Policy in consultation with the SLT.

#### **6. Communication and training**

The policy will be published on the College intranet and website. All staff and students should be made aware of the policy on induction. The College will actively communicate with staff and students regarding sustainability issues through various channels as may be appropriate, including e-mails, newsletters, posters and other print media, website announcements and videos.

Where actions arising from sustainability issues suggest training is required this will be integrated into the College's staff development programme.

#### **7. Monitoring and Reporting**

This policy will be reviewed every four years. An annual report of progress will be presented to the Governing Body through the Finance, Resource and Sustainability Committee.

# Annex A: Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education Climate Action Roadmap for UK FE Colleges (Nous Group, 2020, pages 7-8 and 10-14)

