

Bedford College Sustainability Policy

This policy statement sets out Bedford College's aims for aiding sustainable development. The College is committed to implementing actions to deliver the aims set out below. These actions will promote and embed sustainable development in all aspects of the College's activities.

Bedford College has a reputation as a national leader in Sustainability training. The College was awarded the only Skills for Energy CoVE in the UK, and was the first FE institution to have won the Green Gown Award in recognition of its contribution to sustainability training. Bedford College intends to lead the Further Education sector in sustainable development in both its operations and curriculum.

Bedford College is committed to the principles of sustainability and minimising the adverse impact of its activities on the environment. This sustainability policy has been produced to endorse this commitment, guide College staff and students of required environmental practice and promote this commitment to sustainability to all stakeholders.

The policy encompasses the guidance from the Learning and Skills Council document 'From Here to Sustainability'. Bedford College recognises that its operations have an effect on the local, regional and global environment and that it can contribute towards the conservation and protection of the environment. As a consequence, the College is committed to continuous improvements in environmental performance and the minimisation of waste and pollution. Environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice will be regarded as setting the minimum standards of environmental performance.

Key Aims

Leadership

- Promote and support sustainable development principles in all aspects of the individual leaders' roles and across the organisation
 - Estates and resources
 - Curriculum
 - Learning delivery
 - Continuing professional development (CPD)
 - Strategic planning
- Incorporate sustainable development as a key theme of CPD for all staff
- Establish a procurement policy to minimise the social, economic and environmental impact of our procurement choices and maximise the use of college's resources.
- Embed sustainability into the strategic planning process and closely monitor progress
- Maintain Bedford College's position as a sector leader in sustainability and continue to support sector-wide developments

Buildings and Estate

- Ensure that College business is conducted in a manner that improves energy efficiency and seeks to eliminate waste
- Embed the principles of sustainability in the design of new buildings and building systems.
- Ensure completed developments achieve Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) Excellent
- Ensure that the management of existing buildings minimizes the environmental impact of the energy consumed
- Promote the use of more sustainable modes of transport by encouraging staff and students to use public transport, car share and cycle to get to College

Curriculum

- Promote sustainable citizenship and ecological awareness through sustainable development education within the College curriculum
- Develop workforce skills to help create a low carbon economy

Community

- Maintain and develop appropriate local and regional partnerships to maximise benefits to the community
- Support local markets, ethical and fair trade, and socially responsible initiatives within the community
- Consider sharing facilities with local community agencies and groups to make the best use of resources
- Be aware of, support and connect to, the economic strategies drawn up and developed by the local authorities and RDAs
- Encourage learners and providers to undertake volunteering activity as part of a community commitment to sustainable development.