Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026

1. Introduction

New College Durham is a highly ambitious institution that delivers high quality education, training, and skills. Our aim is to provide key stakeholders with access to exceptional learning and development that will support their individual progress and improve their economic prosperity therefore contributing to economic growth and inward investment. With such focussed efforts the College will address the needs of employers and the region by developing the knowledge, skills, and behaviours that all students need to prepare them for their next stage in education, training and/or employment, and to provide students with qualification outcomes and the work and life skills to enable them to sustain positive destinations and become a well-rounded individual.

2. Vision

We acknowledge a responsibility for, and a commitment to, the protection of environmental sustainability. We recognise our activities have an impact upon the environment through our routine operations, infrastructural development, and its influence on the wider community. As an education provider, we have a major role to play in enabling students and staff to develop the skills and knowledge to respond to climate challenges.

To show our commitment to climate change, we have for the 12th consecutive year received the ISO 14001:2015 accreditation, which continues to be a recognised global achievement and we are one of the few colleges in the North East to obtain accreditation. To take this a step further, we have also signed up to Climate County Durham, which is a group of institutions across County Durham, creating a partnership to work together to make environmental progress and aspire to making the County Net Zero.

The environmental sustainability commitments set out within this strategy will be embedded throughout all activities within the College, but moreover we will be a champion of sustainability and encourage other employers to draw on our knowledge and expertise to develop their own ambitious sustainability goals and the expertise of their staff. Likewise, we will seek to meet the clear expectations of our funding bodies, e.g. Department for Education, NHS, European Social Fund, to support their equally ambitious sustainability goal.

The college will:-

- Seek to integrate a consideration of environmental issues into all relevant aspects of the College's teaching and business activities, to develop vision, values, awareness and an understanding of sustainability and its core drivers
- Continue to reduce the consumption of primary raw materials (including fossil fuels, water, and energy).
- Promote and raise awareness of environmental practices across staff/students/visitors of the college.
- Implement waste management strategies to reduce overall waste production and increase recycling.
- Promote a sustainable procurement policy which will promote and encourage sustainable procurement.
- Adopt a travel plan encouraging and facilitating modes of transport by staff and students which minimises environmental impact.

3. Aim/ Measures of Success

Continue to reduce the consumption of primary raw materials (including fossil fuels, water, and energy).

- Have a robust Energy Management System (EMS) to actively measure and monitor our gas, electricity and water usage.
- Work towards a commitment of reducing our utility consumption by 5%.
- Continue to introduce energy saving measures in all of the Estate, including the improvement of heating, cooling and lighting systems.
- Systems, occupancy and comfort levels to be consistently monitored to dynamically manage use of energy.

Promote and raise awareness of environmental practices across staff/students/visitors of the college

- Create the Environmental Sustainability Steering Group which will implement, develop and monitor sustainability within NCD.
- Embed sustainability into the daily activities of staff/students/visitors within the College by raising awareness of environmental principles.
- Educate and develop the knowledge and tools to support sustainable decision making across the College.
- Identify opportunities to work in partnership and/or engage in the wider community promoting the importance of conserving and enhancing sustainability.
- Ensure synergy between curriculum and corporate services to ensure optimisation of sustainability activities
- Recognise the sustainability initiatives on the College facilities and estates provide practical learning opportunities for our students

Implement waste management strategies to reduce overall waste production and increase recycling.

- Implement waste strategies to reduce overall waste production by 5% and continue to increase the amount of recycling by 10%.
- Implement the Waste Hierarchy – Reduce – Re-use, Recycle throughout all College activities.
- Introduce food waste recycling throughout the College within catering outlets.
- Encourage suppliers/contractors in the reduction of packaging and maximise the efficiency of incoming materials.

Promote a sustainable procurement policy which will promote and encourage sustainable procurement.

- Develop policies and procedures which promote sustainable procurement activity.
- Include sustainable requirements within new contracts.
- Increase the number of suppliers/sub-contractors who have environmentally policies and procedures in place.
- Support business within the North East to reach ambitious sustainability goals

***Adopt a travel plan encouraging and facilitating modes of transport by staff and students which minimises environmental impact*.**

- Develop the College Travel Plan to actively promote greener modes of transport by both staff and students.
- Provide secure and covered cycle storage facilities for all staff and students and visitors to utilise.
- Implement and promote green travel incentive schemes for staff/students, such as cycle to work, car share scheme and an electric/hybrid salary sacrifice scheme for all staff to participate.
- Actively promote the use of public transport for all staff/students/visitors to the college.

5.0 Monitoring

This strategy and associated action plan will be annually reported to SLT/Corporation The effectiveness of this document will be monitored annually in light of experience and best practice.

Implementation Date April 2022