

# Sustainability Statement

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## 1. PRINCIPLES

- Hereford College of Arts recognises the climate emergency is one of the most urgent problems facing human society and life on our planet.
- We recognise the interconnection of environmental and financial sustainability as embodied in the UN sustainable development agenda which says that ‘For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected, and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies’ [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/)
- We are optimistic for the future as we know that human knowledge and changes in human behaviour can make a difference and address the crisis
- As an educational institution with a mission to empower creativity to enrich our world we embrace the responsibility to take action to reduce our carbon footprint and support an environmentally sustainable future
- We recognise action is essential and that this involves both institutional and personal choices; we will work with students and staff to change institutional practices and facilitate individuals to make personal decisions that support a healthy environment
- We believe sustainable development requires a whole college approach and should be addressed within the curriculum and culture as well within the college estate and operations
- We are committed to collaborating with partners to learn from best practice and raise awareness and will, for example, draw on expertise and ideas from

the NUS through SOS (Students Organising for Sustainability) and the new Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education Leaders (launched November 2019) as well as our validating university UWTSD

## **2. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The Board has overall responsibility for the college sustainability strategy.
- The Principal with support of the Senior Leadership Team is designated with responsibility for delivering the strategy, aims and objectives
- Professional service and curriculum managers are responsible for supporting our objectives across their areas of responsibility
- All staff and students are encouraged to recognise their potential contribution to the achievement of a sustainable college.

## **3 MONITORING**

We will identify a set of performance indicators that are easily measurable with time limits set for achieving targets. We will establish baselines for these indicators first of all. Targets and progress will be monitored internally by the Wider Leadership Group, Senior Leadership Team and Student Council and will be reported to relevant Board Committees and to the Board.

## **4 ACTIONS**

The college is committed to the following practices:

Concerning Estates and Operations

- Meet, and wherever possible exceed environmental legislative and other requirements
- Prevent pollution by managing and reducing emissions and discharges and using resources responsibly and efficiently
- Work with waste management companies that recycle the maximum amount of waste possible and send the minimum to landfill
- Segregate waste so that it can be recycled
- Ensure sustainability criteria are included in the College's purchasing processes.
- Ensure that new buildings and refurbishments take into account sustainability principles
- Ensure energy efficiency is considered when selecting products to purchase.
- Ensure sustainability is a criterion in selecting contractors
- Require improvements in sustainable practice in our catering

Our Curriculum

- Incorporate sustainability and promoting good environmental practice as part of learning and teaching activities
- Include sustainability as a part of curriculum development and continuous improvement plans

#### Our People

- Improve sustainability awareness amongst staff and students
- Advise staff and students on how to minimize the production of waste
- Work with staff and students to develop actions plans with objectives and targets

#### Our Stories

- Celebrate and share sustainable creative practice from the college and beyond
- Promote events to support our sustainable goals