



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

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The Royal Agricultural College recognises the importance of sustainability, having due regard to the environmental, economic and social impacts of its roles as both an operational institution and as a provider of education and knowledge. It regards environmental sustainability as a key element underpinning the delivery of social and economic sustainability and, as such, is committed, as an integral part of good institutional practice, to conducting its operations and activities with due consideration for the environment. It aims, through the adoption of sound principles of sustainable practice, to maintain, and, where practicable, improve the environment for both those directly affected by its activities and the wider community. In addition, the Policy must be financially sustainable, always aiming to be cost neutral or reducing costs for the College.

OBJECTIVES

The College's objectives are to:

- 1) Minimise the environmental impact of its activities through the most effective use of resources, balancing the imperatives of cost efficiency with sustainability and environmental best practice;
- 2) Comply with and, wherever practical, over-achieve the requirements of all relevant legislation;
- 3) Set environmental targets and regularly monitor and review performance in the meeting and, wherever practicable, exceeding of these targets
- 4) Work towards recognised environmental management standards/ quality marks and other voluntary principles;
- 5) Integrate sound principles of sustainability into the planning and delivery of the College's operational, teaching and research activities;
- 6) Encourage, through internal and external communication, all members of the College community to adopt environmental values and a sustainably-sound approach to their work and disseminate College policy to sub-contractors, customers/ clients and the local community.

DELIVERY

In working to deliver these objectives, the College will:

- 1) Develop an environmental management system to systematically monitor and review the delivery of the College's overarching sustainability and environmental policies.
- 2) Develop strategies and action plans for:
 - Energy & Carbon Management
 - Water Management
 - Waste Management
 - Purchasing & Procurement
 - Built Environment
 - Biodiversity
 - Academic Curriculum
 - Knowledge Exchange, Consultancy and Research
 - Awareness & Communication

OWNERSHIP

The Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Environmental and Sustainability Policy. This is in turn delegated to the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Group (ESSG). All staff have a responsibility for the implementation of the Policy and students are made aware of it and are expected and encouraged to act within the spirit of the Policy as members of the College Community.

Signature of the Principal: 

Date: 