



SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Current date: April 2024

Review date: April 2027



Introduction

Reigate College (the College), a member of the Reigate Learning Alliance, acknowledges its obligations within the education sector, as set out in the Department of Education's policy paper "Sustainability and climate change; a strategy for the education and children's services systems".¹

This policy paper details how the education sector will meet the legislative requirements, including those of the UK Climate Change Act (2008) and the UK government legislation to meet net zero by 2050.

This policy paper sets out the following visions and aims.

Vision

The United Kingdom is the world-leading education sector in sustainability and climate change by 2030.

Strategic aims (for England)

1. Excellence in education and skills for a changing world: preparing all young people for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience.
2. Net zero: reducing direct and indirect emissions from education and care buildings, driving innovation to meet legislative targets and providing opportunities for children and young people to engage practically in the transition to net zero.
3. Resilience to climate change: adapting our education and care buildings and system to prepare for the effects of climate change.
4. A better environment for future generations: enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality and increasing access to, and connection with, nature in and around education and care settings.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-systems>

Reigate College Strategic Aims

The College is using the “Climate Action for UK FE Colleges Roadmap”² produced by the Association of Colleges as a guide on its journey to net zero. The College has adapted the categories in this roadmap for its strategic aims.

1. Leadership and governance

- incorporate the College’s net zero ambition into the strategic plan

2. Teaching and learning

- audit the curriculum and encourage teaching staff to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum for all courses
- introduce carbon literacy training for staff and students

3. Estates and operations

- implement strategies to reduce energy use, reduce waste and improve recycling
- develop the estates strategy to meet the net zero target
- promote sustainable travel policies for staff and students

4. Partnerships and engagement

- work with the local council and community to improve environmental sustainability
- use local suppliers wherever possible; use overseas suppliers only in exceptional circumstances

5. Data collection

- improve the measurement of carbon emissions
- measure the College’s carbon footprint to establish a baseline, and then annually thereafter

Monitoring and review

A Sustainability committee was established in June 2022 chaired by the Director of Finance whose primary purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the Senior Leadership Team on all aspects of sustainability and the promotion of social responsibility in the College. The committee consists of a selection of staff from all levels of the College and members of the Student Union.

To fulfill its strategic aims, the College will devise an implementation plan of the necessary feasible actions required. The Director of Finance will produce an annual report to the Finance & Resources Committee of the Trust reporting on progress against this plan.

² https://www.eauc.org.uk/fe_roadmap