

Environmental Policy for St Edwards's School, Oxford

St Edward's School believes that protection of the environment lies at the heart of good institutional and educational practice. We are committed to minimizing our impact on the environment, and improving the quality of the environment both for the people who live and work in the School, and the wider community, both locally and globally. We seek to involve all members of the school community in developing environmentally sound approaches to their life in the school.

Overall Objectives

Create and maintain an environmental management structure within the School.

Adopt The Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme, involving the proactive management to the risks and opportunities relating to climate change mitigation

Reduce the environmental impact of the School by maximising the management of its material resources and environmental performance by aiming to reduce energy/water usage, waste to landfill sites and carbon dioxide emissions by specific percentages over a given period in line with government targets (reduce CO₂ emissions by 12.5% by 2010-11 relative to 1999/2000 levels; reduce by 30% by 2020), always aiming to over-achieve these targets.

Assess environmental targets and review environmental management procedures and school policy on a yearly basis.

To include environmental and ethical considerations in capital investment decisions, where appropriate.

Maintain and develop energy & environmental monitoring & targeting systems (e.g. carbon credits).

Curriculum

Identify and promote initiatives for inclusion of sustainability principles within the curriculum.

Transport

All school trips should in general meet targets as identified (government targets: reduce carbon emissions from road vehicles by 15% by 2010-11 relative to 2005-2006 levels).

Working with third parties

The School will work to ensure that its contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers also work towards the highest standards of environmental performance, within the targets set by the Environmental Policy

Waste/Recycling

Reduce the amount of waste generated & disposed of by implementing a waste minimisation/recycling programme.

Purchasing

Purchase sustainable products for use in the School's operations, i.e. recycled, FSC or low environmental impact products, and energy from renewable sources. Avoid the unnecessary use of environmentally damaging substances and processes. Food will, preferably, be organic and locally produced, minimizing environmental transport costs.

Noise/Light emission

Actively seek to maintain all noise and light emission within national guidelines & to reduce levels to a minimum.

Buildings/Grounds

Appraise the life-time energy costs and savings of all new-buildings and refurbishments. Maintain an environmentally sound garden and grounds management policy. Employ BRE's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) to assess the environmental performance of new and existing buildings.

Water/Energy Consumption

Ensure that the water/energy efficiency of its buildings and equipment is maximised;
Endeavour to procure energy from green, clean or renewable sources;
Strive to allocate additional investment in energy efficient measures wherever there is a medium term payback (3- 7 years), as identified by the Carbon Trust;
Ensure insulation and double glazing minimizes energy loss on all school buildings, when allowed by planning regulations.

Communication /Training

Publish details of environmental targets/benchmarks, policy, activities and performance in a yearly report that will be published on its web-pages and made available to staff, students and the public. Maintain a programme of environmental awareness and regular publicity campaigns targeting improvements in good energy housekeeping for pupils and staff, particularly those who are critical in the process of managing energy consumption.

Public Policy

The School will seek to use its resources to shape public policy on environmental issues through liaison with local and national institutions. SES aims to be a beacon school in the development and implementation of a progressive environmental policy.

Responsibilities

Fund the environmental management of the school, including an Environment Manager, either full time or part-time, to oversee the school's Environmental Policy and see that it meets its targets. This person would be responsible for monitoring and targeting energy/water savings and recycling, raising awareness and reporting. Environmental Management Systems (EMS) will be employed in supporting the delivery of improvements in performance.