

Environmental Sustainability Policy

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Policy owner	Andrew Crowter
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1. INTRODUCTION

Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMet) is committed to environmental sustainability as a central pillar of our strategic vision. We recognise the urgent challenge of climate change and the critical role that education providers must play in leading the transition to a net zero economy.

This policy sets out our aims, commitments, and areas of focus to reduce the College's environmental impact, strengthen our resilience, and promote sustainable practices across all areas of college life. It applies to all BMet campuses, staff, students, and contracted services.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

BMet will work to continuously reduce its environmental impact and promote climate responsibility by:

- Delivering on our **Net Zero commitment** by 2035, supported by a published feasibility plan and decarbonisation roadmap
- Aligning our activity with the **FE Climate Action Roadmap**, the **WMCA Green Skills Framework**, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Embedding sustainability across our curriculum, estate, operations, partnerships, and procurement decisions
- Monitoring our performance through frameworks such as **SECR, AoC/EAUC Roadmap self-assessment**, and internal review
- Engaging staff, students, and stakeholders in meaningful action to reduce emissions, conserve resources, and promote wellbeing

We will ensure that sustainability is owned at every level of the organisation and is a visible, measurable part of how we work, teach, learn, and lead.

3. TARGETS AND OBJECTIVES

BMet will set and review SMART targets for the following environmental priorities:

- **Carbon Reduction:** Achieve Net Zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2035, with a 60% reduction by 2030 compared to 2018/19 baseline
- **Energy Efficiency:** Reduce energy use (electricity and gas) by 35% from 2018/19 baseline through efficiency and building upgrades
- **Water Usage:** Reduce water consumption by 25% by 2030 through fixture upgrades, leak prevention, and behaviour change
- **Waste Management:** Halve total waste generated by 2030
- **Travel and Transport:** Increase uptake of sustainable travel options and reduce staff car usage, with measurable Scope 3 reporting
- **Sustainable Procurement:** Embed environmental criteria in procurement, increase sourcing from ethical and low-impact suppliers, and support local economies
- **Biodiversity and Land Use:** Improve campus biodiversity through planting, habitat creation, and green space management

- **Food and Catering:** Promote low-carbon, sustainable food options, reduce food waste, and support carbon-labelling initiatives

Progress will be tracked annually through our SECR report, internal dashboard reviews, and through alignment with the AoC/EAUC Roadmap.

4. ACTION PLAN

To deliver these objectives, BMet will:

- Implement recommendations from the Net Zero Feasibility Study across priority estates areas on a phased and, as affordable, basis, including self-generation of electricity etc.
- Expand the use of LED lighting, BMS upgrades, smart metering, and insulation works to improve building energy efficiency
- Roll out improved heating controls and move towards low-carbon heat sources, including heat pumps and district heat connections
- Support the installation and use of electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Promote cycling, walking, car sharing, and public transport options for staff and students
- Partner with our catering contractor to reduce food waste, use carbon labelling, and increase uptake of plant-based menus
- Ensure all departments include sustainability in their annual business plans and curriculum planning
- Use sustainable procurement practices in tenders and contract renewals, prioritising circular economy principles and ethical supply chains
- Incorporate biodiversity considerations into future capital planning and site improvement works

Delivery of this plan will be overseen by the Sustainability Committee and reviewed annually to assess progress and re-align priorities as required.

5. MONITORING AND REVIEW

BMet is committed to regularly monitoring, reviewing, and reporting on its environmental performance. This will include:

- Annual publication of our Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) data
- Ongoing self-assessment through the AoC/EAUC Climate Action Roadmap dashboard
- Regular review of delivery progress by the Sustainability Committee
- Inclusion of sustainability updates in reports to the Senior Leadership Team and Corporation Audit Committee

The Environmental Sustainability Policy will be reviewed annually each summer, to ensure it reflects current practice, legal obligations, sector benchmarks, and the College's progress against its Net Zero commitment.

6. ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

We will promote a culture of sustainability through clear communication, active participation, and inclusive dialogue. We will:

- Engage staff and students in sustainability initiatives through workshops, campaigns, and feedback opportunities
- Communicate regularly on progress via SharePoint, sustainability reports, and committee updates
- Provide training and professional development to support staff in embedding sustainability into their roles and responsibilities
- Encourage student-led initiatives and involvement in campus sustainability through curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities
- Work collaboratively with suppliers, partners, and local networks to drive sustainability beyond the College gates

7. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

We will ensure that this policy remains dynamic and relevant by:

- Reviewing targets and action plans annually in light of performance, feedback, and external developments
- Incorporating lessons learned from internal audits, sector benchmarking, and new technologies
- Embedding sustainability into strategic planning cycles and institutional risk management
- Seeking opportunities to innovate and lead within the further education sector in sustainability practice