

Environmental & Sustainability Policy

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Authority: | Operations Director, Senior Management Team

Applicability | Covering UK BTEC Centre.

Introduction

It is essential that sustainable development and environmental management are at the core of all activities in the Higher Education sector and at this National BTEC Centre. Safety Net Associates is a major contributor to society's efforts to achieve sustainability through:

- the environment in which its students learn
- the skills and knowledge that they acquire and put in to practice; and
- its own strategies and operations.

Definitions

Sustainability:

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development must address environmental, economic, and social factors and the interrelationships between them.

Environment:

Surrounding conditions, influences, or forces, by which living forms are influenced and modified in their growth and development.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To ensure that all environmental risks are assessed, managed and controlled.
- To promote and adopt best practice within the Higher Education sector.
- To maintain and develop the Centre in a sustainable manner.
- To keep the Centre community informed on matters of the environment.
- To develop good working relationships with relevant external authorities and bodies.
- To develop managers, staff and students by providing training and information on environmental management and sustainability.

Application

This policy applies to all activities undertaken by (or on behalf of) the National BTEC Centre including those of its students and contractors.

Policy Statement

The Centre recognises the importance of the role it has to play in the environmental stewardship of the centre and in promoting principles of sustainability in teaching and research activities.

The Centre will manage and control its environmental risks in a sustainable manner by complying with relevant legislation and adopting where appropriate best practice.

The Centre will also endeavour to integrate the principles of sustainability into its strategies, policies and procedures.

In accordance with the policy statement the Centre will:

Control its Environmental Risks

Meet the requirements of environmental legislation and commit to a process of continual environmental improvement.

Promote and Adopt Best Practice

- Establish an Environmental Management Plan; to set targets and indicators, measure environmental performance and report progress.
- Establish an Environmental Management System;
- Promote and adopt sector initiatives;

Maintain and Develop the Centre in a Sustainable Manner

- Develop a sustainable procurement policy to ensure social, ethical and environmental scrutiny of products and services whilst achieving best value;
- Maximise energy efficiency, use of renewable resources and use of low carbon technology;
- Minimise waste generation and facilitate repair, reuse and recycling over disposal of wastes;
- Promote sustainable travel to and from the centres;
- Promote continual improvement in maintenance practices and establish sustainability guidelines for internal and external design teams and contractors working on new build and refurbishment projects.
- Develop curricula and extra-curricula activities to enable students to develop the values, skills and knowledge to contribute to sustainable development.

Communicate and Inform the Centre Community

- Produce an Annual Report;
- Produce reports to the Health, Safety & Environment Committee;
- Communicate with the Environmental Forum;

Working with External Authorities and Bodies

- Develop good working relationships with all relevant external authorities
- Develop links with appropriate environmental bodies and associations
- Report any incidents as required

Development of Managers, Staff and Students

Provide appropriate training and information to the Centre Community.