



ESHER COLLEGE

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY.

The Esher College Environmental Sustainability Policy

Statement of Aims

Esher College must acknowledge its share of responsibility for taking care of its local environment. The College shares the LSC vision of, and commitment to, sustainable development: defined as :

Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Bruntland Commission, 1987)

Similarly, the College is committed to a sustainable approach to a better quality of life:

- *Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone*
- *Effective protection of the environment*
- *Prudent use of natural resources*
- *Maintenance of high levels of economic growth*

The Environmental group therefore seeks ways to reduce the impact of Esher College on the local and global environment through ensuring that the principals of sustainability inform its actions.

Objectives

The group will:

1. examine ways to reduce the environmental impact of the College's use of:
 - a. Consumables (especially paper)
 - b. Energy
 - c. Water
2. seek ways to promote the positive ecological use of the College Grounds
3. enforce a sustainable environmental purchasing policy

4. seek ways of reducing the environmental impact of travel to and from the College. To help achieve this objective there is a separate Transport Policy (at the end of this document).
5. investigate and develop ways of raising the environmental consciousness of the whole College community

Composition of the Committee

The committee will comprise all sections of the College community and include representation from the local community outside the College. Members will include:

- The Staff of Esher College: importantly with representatives from both the Support and Teaching Staff. The group will be chaired by the Senior Director, Student Services. The Estates Manager will also be a permanent member. Other staff members who have a genuine commitment to improving the College environment will be encouraged to join the group
- Students: The Student Council has an elected Environmental Secretary who has been elected by the Student Council on the basis of his/her commitment to environmental issues. There will be at least one other student member, again on the basis of their environmental commitment.
- Governors: The Corporation will have a minimum of 3 representatives. At least one governor should be live in the immediate environs of the College to bring a local community perspective to the committee.
- Co-opted Members: The Committee aims to work with Surrey County Council to ensure that the environmental aims of the local Council are represented. Surrey Council will be invited to have a representative on the committee to come from the Environmental/Transport area of the Council. Other officers of Surrey County Council are welcomed to any relevant meeting.
- The Committee welcomes applications to membership to any member of the College or local community who is genuinely committed to meeting the aims and objectives of the Environmental Committee. Anyone who makes interesting and relevant representation to the College about environmental issues will be encouraged to attend the meetings.

The Chair of the Committee will produce an annual Action Plan which sums up the current detailed objectives of the Committee. The Committee will report to the Principal via discussion of the minutes, and to the Corporation on an annual basis.

The Esher College sustainable environmental purchasing policy

This aims to ensure that our commitment to the environment and to sustainability is not compromised by buying products from or dealing with companies who have no such commitments.

To meet this aim, wherever possible the College will only purchase from or deal with businesses that have their own environmental policy. To this end:

1. The College will not accept tenders* from companies that do not have a comprehensive environmental policy**. The environmental policy must be submitted before tenders will be accepted and evidence will be required that it is an established working policy of the company (and not simply written to win the tender).
2. The College will only purchase paper, wood or wood products from companies that have a Timber Buying Policy that ensures that all wood and paper products come either from proven, well-managed forests or recycled materials (e.g. the B & Q Timber Buying Policy, The Forestry Stewardship Council etc).
3. The College will only enter into contracts (cleaning, canteen, photo-copying etc) with companies that have clear and comprehensive environmental policies.
4. Wherever possible the College will use local companies for all purchases, contracts etc. to reduce the impact of transport on the environment.
5. The College will give preference to bids for the canteen contract to companies who have a clear environmental policy and a commitment to purchasing Fair Trade products for those products sourced from outside the EU (coffee, tea, chocolate, bananas etc).
6. The College will give preference to bids for the cleaning contract to companies who have a policy which commits them to using biodegradable cleaning products
7. The College will give preference to bids for the grounds contract to companies who have a policy which commits them to using environmentally friendly products.
8. In all cases where a provider of goods or services chosen by the College does not fit the above criteria the justification for the purchasing decision must be documented.

This policy is to be activated upon its approval by the full governing body. It is proposed that Point 1 above is activated immediately. Points 2 to 7 are to be activated upon the next renewal of the relevant contracts. In the meantime the College will write to all existing contract-holders informing them off these requirements at the next renewal to allow them time to introduce an environmental policy if they so choose to do.

* Tenders are as defined in the College Financial Procedures Manual

** Comprehensive environmental policies will usually include statements on re-use and recycling, transport commitments, the use of bio-degradable products where possible, the reduction of unnecessary packaging, Fair Trade where relevant, the use of local companies and sources of supply where possible, energy reduction commitments etc.

The Esher College Transport Policy: a sub-policy of the Environmental Policy

Aim of the Esher College Transport Policy

- To reduce the impact on the local environment of travel to and from Esher College by students, staff and visitors.

Meeting the Aim

There are 4 main strategies that the College will use to meet that aim:

1. Encouraging students and staff to use public transport, bicycles and walking rather than private cars
2. Encouraging those who do use private cars to share where possible
3. Providing shared transport where it is economically viable
4. Involving students and staff, governors and the local community in the development of the College Transport Policy

Putting the strategies into practice

The Senior Director, Student Services, will be the College Transport Co-ordinator, charged with

- putting the strategies into action
- co-ordinating the Environmental Committee to consist of Governors, College employees and Students which will seek new methods of implementing these strategies.

Strategy 1: Encouraging students and staff to use public transport, bicycles and walking rather than private cars.

A) Encouraging students to use:

Public transport

i) A large percentage of students travel to the College down the line from Waterloo to Thames Ditton. The College will always ensure that the start of the first lesson fits with the arrival of the Hampton Court train service at Thames Ditton, and also bear the times of return trains from Thames Ditton towards Waterloo in mind at the end of the day. This in itself is an encouragement for students to use the train service.

ii) The transport co-ordinator will keep in regular contact with South-West Trains (at least annually) regarding the train services, and research ways in which the College could work together with them to encourage greater use of the train service.

iii) The College (through the Transport Co-ordinator) will contact bus providers at least every 3 years to see if they are willing to amend routes and timings to improve connections with the College. For example buses that terminate at Hampton Court could come down from Hampton Court to Imber Court Roundabout and go back up Hampton Court Way. This would encourage students to catch these buses rather than come in private transport.

iv) At all relevant times and occasions the College will provide promotional material and opportunities to encourage students to use public transport to travel to the College. This material will be made available on Applicant's (Open) Evening, and at promotional events inside the College and at local schools. It will

also be distributed to all new students during induction. It will be available in Reception. Interviewers will be instructed to discuss travel plans with prospective students who live more than walking distance away from the College and suggest and discuss public transport and discourage (with a light touch) prospective reliance on the private car.

v) The College tutorial programme will annually include information/discussion opportunities concerning environmentally friendly transport use. Students will be asked to talk about their method of travel to College. Tutors will be encouraged through the materials and discussion to promote a positive image of those who do not use cars, and praise and encourage students who use public transport or walk or cycle to College.

vi) Students in their first year will be actively discouraged from driving to College. They will not be given parking permits. Where any students park outside the College on the public highway, the College, particularly through the Security Officer, will try to dissuade them from doing so. However, as at present there are few parking restrictions in the streets around the College, it is impossible for the College to go beyond guidance and recommendation.

vi) Students who live within walking distance of College will not be given parking permits. This will be overseen by the Security Officer.

Bicycles

The College will encourage cycling through a rolling programme of improving the provision for “parking” cycles safely and securely on the College premises. As finance allows new cycle racks will be purchased. Students who cycle to College will have priority for a locker to store helmets and cycling clothes. The Security Officer will be vigilant with regard to the safety of bicycles on the premises: keeping a watch over cycle areas and encouraging students to keep their cycles secure.

Strategy 2: Encouraging those who do use cars to share where possible.

Students

Students are usually extremely happy to share cars and do so regularly. The College Transport Committee will investigate the extent to which this occurring. Any encouragement will be for students who live a long distance from the College in areas with poor public transport connections to share cars, not attract students who would otherwise walk, cycle, bus, train.

Staff

A database will be set up to which all staff who wish to bring private cars onto the premises will be asked to submit their travel details: in particular the area (not the address) from which they drive to College. The Transport Officer will encourage staff to share private transport by using the database to match drivers.

Strategy 3: Providing shared transport where it is economically viable

The College now provides a coach service from the Richmond area through Twickenham and Hampton to College. It is run completely at cost. All access students from these areas who wish to claim money for travel have their coach fare subsidised or paid in full: this helps make the service affordable to all students regardless of their financial background. Staff are welcome to use the service if there are places and they pay the economic rate. The College is willing to subsidise a few empty places to make the coach viable which demonstrates its complete commitment to a transport policy to help the local environment. The College will continue to investigate the possibility of providing this type of service from other areas which have poor public transport connections to the College.

Strategy 4: Involving students and staff, governors and the local community in the development of the College Transport Policy

The College has set up an Esher College Environmental Committee, chaired by the Senior Director i.c. Student Services. It consists of the minimum of 2 members of the Teaching Staff, 2 members of the Support Staff, 2 Students (elected by the Student Council) and 2 Governors who will if possible be from the local community (plus any other members of the College or local community co-opted by the Committee with the agreement of the Principal). The Committee meets usually on a termly basis to seek to advance the aim and the strategies of the Transport Policy. As with other College areas an annual plan will be produced, assessed and discussed with the College Principal.

Approved by the Corporation December 2004