

# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

“United World Colleges is a global education movement that makes education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a **sustainable future.**”

CATEGORY	<b>Finance &amp; Estates</b>
POLICY OWNER	<b>Sustainability Council</b>
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APPROVED BY	<b>Director of Operations &amp; Sustainability</b>
REVIEW FREQUENCY	<b>Annual</b>

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**Note to the policy:** This policy was written by the Sustainability Council members of 2020-2021, Isabella Thulin, Jojo Ward, Alan Salazar, Lorenza Giovannetti and Isabella Bridgman. The policy is not set in stone and should evolve as UWC Atlantic evolves. Future staff and students should work together to improve and adapt the policy to the current environment of the college ensuring it remains relevant and present in student life.

## 1. Policy Purpose

This policy aims to ensure that UWC Atlantic (the College) is striving to do all within its power to ensure a sustainable future, as referenced in the mission statement, not only through its teaching but also through the way it manages itself as an institution.

- The College aims to be better informed, and to better inform others, of its own environmental impacts.
- The College will act to continually reduce its environmental impacts, in particular decreasing its carbon footprint.
- The College will establish continuous assessment systems to allow regular monitoring and reporting, both internally and externally, of the College's environmental impacts, in particular its carbon footprint.

## 2. Policy Statement

Through this policy, the Principal and the Leadership Team reaffirm that sustainability is a core principle of the College. In particular, the Principal and the Leadership Team recognise the urgency of the Climate Emergency and the need for the College, like all institutions worldwide, to take action to prevent further environmental damage, with its social implications for all the people, nations and cultures of the world. In alignment with the UWC mission statement, the Principal and the Leadership Team recognise the College's responsibility as an ambitious institution not only to meet national standards, but to be trailblazers.

## 3. Policy Implementation

### 3.1 Active Reporting

- i. The College will regularly review its progress towards greater sustainability and will make information of progress accessible to students, the College community, and the general public for transparency
- ii. Over the next two years, the College will also begin to report on its carbon footprint as well as on its other environmental impacts, in particular its food consumption, its waste generation and its water use. As other environmental impacts are identified, these will be included in the reporting programme.

### 3.2 **Accountability**

We are fully aware of the magnitude of the challenge it will be for the College to become sustainable. We recognise the need for continuing management and oversight of the College's sustainability efforts.

To this end, The College has appointed a Director of Operations & Sustainability. Their primary role will be to coordinate the design of, and drive, the actions necessary to implement the policy directives, principally by analysing the progression and application of the policy yearly. They will report on progress to the Principal and the Leadership Team, who will decide on any necessary corrective actions.

Fully recognising that the founding philosophy of the College requires that its student body be intimately associated with the College's efforts to become sustainable, the Principal welcomes the involvement of the Sustainability Council as the body representing the students on sustainability issues. The Sustainability Council will liaise with the Director of Operations & Sustainability and the Principal, acting as the bridge between the College's application of this policy and student involvement.

### 3.3 **Energy conservation and management**

As energy is the main contributor to its carbon footprint, the College will focus on improving energy efficiency, and ensuring that the energy used is sourced sustainably. To drive its efforts, the College commits to working towards the use of 100% renewable energy and the creation of a carbon neutral campus.

- a. The Estates Team, fully supported by the Leadership Team, will actively work towards improving the efficiency of existing systems.
- b. Where possible, the College will shift to the use of on-site renewable energy sources, such as solar panels.
- c. The College will actively commit financial resources to more efficient and renewable energy.
- d. The College will reduce its emissions caused by transport, particularly in terms of vehicles owned by the College.

### 3.4 **Building Development (Infrastructure)**

The College will ensure that all new developments meet high standards in terms of environmental sustainability. New developments on campus must be ‘future-proof’, meaning in particular that they will be or have the capacity to be zero-carbon.

### 3.5 **Food**

The College will strive to source all food sustainably, and will minimise food waste as far as possible.

### 3.6 **Sustainable consumption and waste**

The College will adopt the principles of sustainable consumption. To this end, it will strive to purchase the most sustainable products by applying a sustainability checklist to every [major] purchase it makes, including all purchases for capital projects.

The College will also strive to minimise the waste it generates, and to ensure that the waste which it does generate is reused or recycled to the greatest extent possible.

### 3.7 **Education**

The College will ensure that the teaching of Sustainability is fully interwoven into all its teaching and learning.

## 4. **Policy Measurement and Reporting**

The Sustainability Policy is reviewed annually by the Finance & Estates Committee of the Board and the Director of Operations & Sustainability as part of the annual review cycle and as part of the whole College development plan. Part of this review process will consider to what extent the policy is being used as an active working document.

The policy is communicated to the school community electronically on **Every** and is available on the UWCA website.