



Environmental Policy 2023-24

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<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Policy No</th><th>Policy Title</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></tbody></table>				Policy No	Policy Title								
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1. Introduction

ForMission College is committed to improving its environmental performance and to the ethical stewardship of the planet and our natural resources. As a college, we recognise that we have a responsibility to make a meaningful contribution to reducing our impact on our environment. We acknowledge that activities at ForMission impact on the environment and we are committed to minimising such impacts and to developing more sustainable policies and procedures to reduce any negative effects of our operations on the environment.

This commitment is based on the theological imperative of creation care which is acknowledged as the fifth mark of the five marks of mission; 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth'

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/five%20marks%20of%20mission%20FINAL%20oct%202019.pdf>).

A commitment to improving environmental performance may be introduced through a Carbon Management Plan (CMP). The college will seek to provide the resources required to implement strategic goals in reducing our environmental impact.

As we seek to implement a CMP we will set out environmental key performance indicators to assist in monitoring our current and future environmental performance.

The College will seek to gain accreditation and awards, such as the Eco Campus Gold accreditation award, ISO 14001 Environmental award and ISO 50001 energy award, or similar, to the extent possible and appropriate to the College's resources and staffing.

A commitment to environmental performance will continue through monitoring the objectives to ensure continual and measurable outcomes.

2. The Policy

It is our policy to:

- Integrate our CMP into day-to-day operations wherever possible, to ensure environmental issues are addressed and negative impacts minimised, whilst providing a high quality of education
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and requirements
- Reduce our use of natural resources such as energy and water
- Encourage the use of recycled materials and implement recycling systems across the College wherever possible
- Prevent and minimise pollution by reducing emissions and discharges and setting targets for year-on-year improvement

- Increase awareness of environmental issues amongst employees, students and contractors, including the implementing of appropriate teaching content into our academic curriculum
- Give due consideration to environmental issues and energy performance in the acquisition, design, refurbishment, location and use of buildings, wherever practical and appropriate
- Encourage all staff, students and visitors onto sustainable forms of transport, and evaluate travel alternatives across all activities, including reduction and off-setting practices and measuring/calculating the same through climate stewards (<https://www.climatestewards.org/>)
- Continuously improve our environmental performance and integrate recognised environmental management best practice into our operations where practical
- Encourage staff and students to extend this lifestyle outside of the College environment
- Measure, to the extent it is practical, and take action to reduce the carbon footprint of the College
- Manage waste generated from the College's operations according to the principles of the waste management hierarchy where practical (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69403/pb13530-waste-hierarchy-guidance.pdf)
- Ensure environmental, including climate change, criteria are taken into account in the procurement of goods and services
- Maintain any, and all, environmental awards achieved
- Promote communication with internal and external interested parties
- Ensure that all our employees, students and general public can access and understand the measures being encouraged in this Policy where practical
- Support and promote the Fairtrade Policy where practical
- Promote, support and encourage a Green Week, or similar project, at the College which should take place once in each academic year

3. Academic Considerations

In order to implement the policy a baseline review will be undertaken focusing upon Education and Research for sustainability development, which will assist in actively encouraging and supporting the teaching and research of environmental sustainability within the College.

4. Implementation

In implementing this policy, the College will:

- Identify and ring fence appropriate resources for both short- and long-term change, as identified within the annual budget cycle

- Communicate policy objectives to all members of staff and students where appropriate
- Develop a clear action plan with associated targets and monitoring criteria
- Review the policy and action plan on a regular basis and report to the College's SMT when appropriate
- Identify alternative funding routes for environmental improvements

5. Targets

The following targets are our desired commitment to energy and environmental impact reduction:

Carbon Emissions

- ForMission College will become a carbon negative College by the year 2035 (neutrality to be achieved by 2030). The CMP will outline the College's roadmap to becoming carbon neutral/negative by those dates

Waste Management

- To reduce the total waste being disposed of by 50% by 2025 (75% by 2030) against the performance of 2021-22. To minimise construction waste and reuse wherever possible

Water

- By 2025 we will reduce our water usage at head office by 20% based on the usage of 2021-22

Electric

- By 2025 we will reduce our electricity consumption by 20% based on 2021-22 usage

Gas

- By 2025 we will reduce our natural gas consumption by 20% based on 2021-22 usage

Green travel

- We are committed to and support green travel and practical guidelines may be issued to staff and students as appropriate

Academic

- We will include a requirement to discuss and address Education for Sustainable Development (<https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development>) in all programme validations and re-validations
- We will consciously seek to include creation care and green/environmental perspectives into the College's curriculum at all levels, wherever appropriate, as a recognised and important biblical, theological and missiological concept and practice and this will be actively considered in all programme validations and re-validations.