

Environmental Management: Statement of Intent

Scope

This statement concerns the effect of the activities of entities across the London and South East Education Group (LSEEG) and related impact these have on the macro and microenvironment.

Context

There is significant momentum behind the Green skills movement. In November 2020, the Government launched a taskforce to deliver 2 million green jobs by 2030 and in 2021 the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.

Education providers will play a pivotal role in delivering the green agenda. As stated within the FE White Paper published in January 2021, they will deliver the skills needed to build the green economy, but in addition Colleges and Multi Academy Trusts also have an opportunity to lead by example in progressing towards net-zero within their own organisation. According to YouGov, 57% of UK citizens want to work for an organisation that contributes to net-zero emissions, demonstrating a growing commitment to environmental sustainability in the prospective workforce of the future, which further emphasises the need for our Education Group to play its role in this important environmental agenda.

The Government has also recently taken steps to deliver wider social and environmental value through public procurement. The Government's December 2020 *Guide to Using Social Value Model* states that '*the huge power of public money spent through public procurement every year in the UK must support government priorities*', one of which is climate change. We must take advantage of this opportunity and drive forward the Group's own Social Enterprise strategy, which focuses on the proactive generation of social value, using the TOMs Framework to measure how we deliver upon our sustainability goals.

Statement

LSEEG and the legal entities within it acknowledge that it can make a positive contribution towards environmental sustainability through its approach, operations and behaviours. The group commits to reduce its environmental impact in all relevant activities through taking appropriate actions, change and investment opportunities.

We will comply with all statutory requirements and commit to making a positive measurable impact, year on year, beyond our statutory obligation where resources permit.

Each entity within the Group will develop its own environmental management policy that will make a positive measurable year on year impact beyond our statutory duties in respect of the following:

- Review National TOMs Framework Measures around decarbonisation and safeguarding our world to identify KPIs that will enable us to measure our social value, as well as our progress towards greater environmental sustainability
- Hold an annual sustainability conformance and reports annually on energy consumption and efficiencies.
- Promote to staff and pupils/learners awareness and understanding on their individual impact and how they can contribute through a collective responsibility
- Develop and deliver appropriate environmental learning by exposing students/learners to concepts, embracing ethical stewardship and encouraging environmental awareness and sustainable, healthy life-styles
- Work to support and collaborate with local and wider initiatives where appropriate and relevant

- To reduce the energy consumption and related carbon footprint of the estate and related operations
- Construct new buildings in our estate to have a long lasting positive environmental impact beyond our statutory minimum level
- To reduce waste and maximise recycling
- To reduce water consumption
- To reduce our impact on the environment through our activities including:
 - Local fresh healthy food
 - Minimise the use of chemicals/pesticides/insecticides and artificial fertilisers
- To reduce the impact our transport and related work travel has on the environment
- Employ sustainable criteria/requirements and other impactful approaches in our purchasing and procurement supply chain
- Embed environmental sustainability into our strategy, operating principles, procedures and operational delivery plans
- Realise appropriate opportunities to attract grant income and finance to support our environmental commitments
- Maintain, monitor and annually review performance against realistic targets set

Implementation

Each group entity will establish a governance framework to shape, define delivery and measure the impact of environmental sustainability.

We will set realistic and achievable targets and for a five year forward period at any time, based on the TOMs framework measures, within the Environment Theme which defines metrics to measure progress against the following outcomes:

- Carbon emissions are reduced
- Air Pollution is reduced
- Safeguarding the natural environment
- Resource efficiency and circular economy solutions are promoted
- Sustainable procurement is promoted
- More buildings are certified

An annual report in an agreed format will be completed by each company at financial year end which will demonstrate our progress and commitment beyond our statutory obligations.