Environmental Policy

Policy Number:
036-2014

Academic Year:
2025/2026

Target Audience:
All Staff

Summary of Contents
SERC's commitment to instilling environmental and social responsibility as an intrinsic feature of all its practices and procedures

Enquiries: Any enquiries about the contents of this document should be addressed to:

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Review Information (Responsible Owner):

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Last Reviewed: December 2025

Next Review: December 2026

Change Type at last Review:

~~No~~/Minor/~~Significant~~ (delete as appropriate)

Approval/Noting By:

CMT: 15 January 2026

Lead GB Committee: F&GP Committee

Governing Body Approval:

Related Documents:
Health & Safety Policy
COSHH Policy

Superseded Documents (if applicable):
24-2008

Date of Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations Screening (Section 75):
July 2016

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January 2024

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1.0 Change History

Changes to this SOP are documented in Appendix 1 of this document. When reading electronic copies of this document, you can click here to view the change history.

2.0 Purpose

2.1 SERC recognises that its activities have an effect on the environment and seeks to understand the impacts of these at a local, national and global level. The College seeks solutions to environmental problems by adopting sound principles and best practice, both within its immediate environment and in the wider community. The College's overarching aim in this respect is to ensure the protection of the environment through the prevention of pollution.

3.0 Scope

3.1 SERC is committed to the principles and practices of environmental responsibility through ensuring stakeholder awareness of environmental issues. Hence SERC intends not only to be a leader in environmental education but also to lead in addressing environmental issues, in ensuring staff and students are fully aware of these issues and contribute to their resolution. It is committed to instilling environmental and social responsibility as an intrinsic feature of all its practices and procedures.

4.0 Process

4.1 SERC will endeavour to provide best value for money benefits and also help meet environmental objectives whilst ensuring the ongoing delivery of a quality service in class-leading facilities.

The College is committed to being guided by the following principles:

- The practice of responsible energy management through reduced consumption, the encouragement of energy efficiency throughout each campus and the use of renewable energy sources were appropriate.
- The protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of college facilities.
- The creation of a high-quality working environment through the discouragement of litter, graffiti and noise pollution: this will be achieved through the acceptance by students, staff and visitors of a Code of Conduct whilst on site.
- The encouragement of the use of public transport, lift sharing and the provision of facilities for the disabled, pedestrians and cyclists.
- The choice of products and suppliers which minimise negative environmental impacts, subject to necessary budget constraints.
- The minimisation of waste by reduced consumption and the development of effective waste management and recycling procedures.
- The avoidance of unnecessary use of hazardous materials and processes and the taking of all reasonable steps to prevent damage to either public or ecological health where such materials are in essential use. This will be achieved by the assessment of hazardous substances and the requirements for disposal.
- Compliance with Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.
- Estates Unit continued certification to ISO 14001 – Environmental Management System.
- The continued monitoring of this policy.

5.0 Responsible Owner

5.1 It is the responsibility of the Head of Estates, Facilities and Health & Safety to ensure that this policy is implemented, adhered to and reviewed.

6.0 Communication Plan

6.1 This Policy will be uploaded to the College intranet and referred to in staff induction and training.

7.0 Review

7.1 This Policy will be reviewed annually to reflect changes in circumstances or legislation, or when the need for change has been identified.

Appendix 1: Document Change History

Version	Date	Change Detail
1.0	December 2023	Reviewed - Climate Change Act reference added (section 4.0) Review date amended.
1.1	January 2024	Transferred to new Accessibility Template
1.2	December 2024	Job titles amended in line with new organisational structure. Review date amended.
1.3	December 2025	Clarification that only Estates Unit is certified to ISO 14001.