

**Academic Year:** 2022/23 onwards

**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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**Final Approval by:**

CMT – 9 January 2023

Governing Body – June 2016

**Policy Number:** 036-2014

**Last Reviewed:** May 2018  
December 2018  
December 2019  
December 2020  
December 2021  
December 2022

**Next Review Due:** December 2023

**Related Documents:**

Health & Safety Policy  
COSHH Policy

**Superseded Documents (if applicable):**  
24-2008

**Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations Screening Information (Section 75):**

Date Policy Screened: July 2016

## 1.0 Purpose

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.

## 2.0 Scope

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.

## 3.0 Process

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:

- 1 The practice of responsible energy management through reduced consumption, the encouragement of energy efficiency throughout each campus and the use of renewable energy sources where appropriate.
- 2 The protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of College facilities.
- 3 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.
- 4 The encouragement of the use of public transport, lift sharing and the provision of facilities for the disabled, pedestrians and cyclists.
- 5 The choice of products and suppliers which minimise negative environmental impacts, subject to necessary budget constraints.
- 6 The minimisation of waste by reduced consumption and the development of effective waste management and recycling procedures.
- 7 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.

8 Consideration of the Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland, The Path to Net Zero Energy, Action Plan 2022.

9 The continued monitoring of this policy.

#### **4.0 Communication**

This policy will be placed on the Learning Engine on the staff Intranet.

#### **5.0 Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually to reflect changes in circumstance or legislation.