

# Environmental Policy

*Excellence • Sustainability • Innovation • Passion*

### **Our Mission**

Raising Aspirations, Unlocking Potential, Advancing Futures

### **Our Values**

Excellence, Passion, Teamwork, Integrity, Innovation,  
Sustainability, Valuing Others and Supportiveness

### **Sparsholt College Group**

The Sparsholt College Group (the College Group) includes Sparsholt College, Andover College, University Centre Sparsholt, Sparsholt College Services, Westley Enterprises and Andover Town Football Club. College Group policies apply to each part of the group unless specified otherwise.

The *Environmental Policy* was approved by the Board of Governors in October 2024 and supersedes the previous version.

Originator:	Principal
Located:	College Group Intranet College Group Website
Due for review:	June for October 2027

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

## 1. Policy Statement

Sparsholt College Group, which includes Sparsholt College, Andover College and University Centre Sparsholt, is committed to operating all its activities in a sustainable manner through minimising the adverse impact of its activities on the environment and promoting sound environmentally sustainable principles and practice through the delivery of its curriculum offer.

Our Environmental Policy sets out the basis of our goals and approach to environmental stewardship, responsibly managing environmental risks and complying with relevant environmental legislation and other sustainability requirements to which Sparsholt College Group subscribes.

We are dedicated to continuous improvement and will regularly monitor, evaluate, and report on our environmental performance, ensuring transparency and accountability in our sustainability efforts.

## 2. Sustainability Goals

The Department for Education's (DfE) 'Sustainability and Climate Change' strategy for the education and children's services systems provides a framework of initiatives for achieving the following sustainability pledges and commitments which we have made:

- Reach net zero carbon emissions for scope 1 and 2 by 2030.
- Undertake significant work to understand and reduce scope 3 emissions by 2030, and develop an action plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.
- Integrate sustainability considerations into all organisational decisions.
- Ensure that our staff and students have the opportunity to undertake education for sustainable development.

In order to progress toward and meet the criteria of a Leading College on the Climate Action Roadmap, Sparsholt College Group will deliver initiatives aligned to the five action areas as identified in the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy:

- **Climate Education:** We will empower all young people to be global citizens through a better understanding of climate change and a greater connection to nature. We will incorporate the principles of sustainability into our curriculum to increase awareness and understanding of environmental issues and subsequent solutions.
- **Green Skills and Careers:** We will ensure both young people and adults have the green skills that will enable them to build careers and participate as Britain leads the world into the Green Industrial Revolution and strives for nature's recovery. This will include support for adults already in work to retrain and reskill in line with the needs of the green economy.

- **Education Estate and Digital Infrastructure:** We will improve the physical environment of our campuses, building a greener, more sustainable education estate that is resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- **Operations and Supply Chains:** We will drive change by engaging in more sustainable practices such as the circular economy, waste prevention and resource efficiency.
- **International:** We will champion education and learning on the global stage by promoting education as a key tool for tackling climate change through international dialogue and collaboration.

### 3. Policy Implementation

Sparsholt College Group is committed to developing and maintaining strategies and processes, and providing appropriate resources, to delivery this environmental policy and enable our sustainability goals to be met. These include:

- **Sustainability Strategy:** We will publish and review annually a sustainability strategy which sets out actions to meet our sustainability goals and includes environmental management actions. Progress with delivering the strategy action plan will be reviewed by the Resources Committee termly and reported to the Board of Governors annually. An annual sustainability report will be published on our website.
- **Property Strategy:** Sustainability will be embedded in our Property Strategy to ensure that investment in the estate and capital project management decisions support the achievement of our sustainability and environmental objectives. This includes constructing new buildings to BREEAM standards.
- **Resource Management:** We will set environmental management objectives and manage systems and processes, including a carbon reduction plan to deliver these, in relation to:
  - **Energy:** Reducing overall energy consumption and maximising the utilisation of renewable sources, including through the selection of energy suppliers and implementing energy efficiency measures
  - **Water:** Reducing the use of mains fed water through actions including water saving, increased leak detection and water harvesting
  - **Waste:** Decreasing the impacts of waste through waste reduction, reuse and recycling systems across the College Group's activities, including using a zero-to-landfill waste contractor
  - **Transport:** Minimising the environmental impact of travel through transition to a 'green fleet' of vehicles, provision of EV charging points on campus, a car sharing policy for staff, and seeking to promote and continually improving sustainable transport options for students
  - **Procurement:** Integrating sustainable procurement and sourcing practices.
  - **Resources:** Decreasing resource use throughout the College Group, including the farm, learning spaces and during the construction or renovation of buildings

- **Biodiversity:** Protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of the College Group estate through the responsible management of our grounds, farm and natural habitats.
- **Reporting:** Utilities, water usage and waste management data will be reported annually to the Resources Committee for review. An annual Streamlined Energy & Carbon Report (SECR) which sets out our progress on reducing energy and carbon emissions will be published on our website.
- **College Green Group:** The College Green Group, consisting of staff and student members, and a supplier representative, will inform and monitor actions to deliver and promote environmental and sustainability improvements. Through the College Green Group, all members of the College Group community will be encouraged to engage with and support the aim and objectives of the DfE's Sustainability and Climate Change strategy.
- **Communication:** our Environmental Policy will be disseminated to the Sparsholt College Group community, our contractors, visitors and other stakeholders through a range of communication channels, including our Sustainability website pages, Sustainability Hub intranet site, onboarding and procurement information, teaching and learning, and wider stakeholder engagement.