



RCPsych

**Environment and Sustainability
Policy**



Document Information

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Organisational Context

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is a professional medical body responsible for supporting the careers of psychiatrists, from providing necessary training all the way through to retirement. The College is also responsible for establishing and promoting the continued standards of psychiatry throughout the United Kingdom.

The College's missions are to secure the best outcomes for people with mental illness, learning difficulties and developmental disorders. This is achieved by promoting excellent mental health services, training outstanding psychiatrists, promoting quality and research, setting standards and being the voice of psychiatry.

The College is a values-based organisation which forms the core of how we function as a professional entity. The values are:

- Courage
- Innovation
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Learning
- Excellence

Principles

Commitment to Sustainability

We are dedicated to integrating environmental sustainability into all aspects of our operational activities, including energy, waste, education, and events.

Resource Conservation

We strive to reduce the impact our operations have on natural resources, by minimising waste generation and opting for green energy where possible. We aim to promote the responsible consumption of resources such as energy, water, and materials.

Climate Action

We recognise the urgency surrounding the climate crisis and will implement initiatives to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, reviewing our approach to align with climate impacts and latest guidance.

Education and Engagement

We are committed to providing the appropriate resources with regards to environmental concerns for both our internal and external stakeholders. We will raise awareness about environmental issues among our members, staff, and stakeholders, fostering a culture of sustainability throughout our operational outputs.

Policy Statement

The RCPsych recognises the importance of understanding, measuring, and monitoring the impact our operations and activities have on the environment. We understand the correlations between climate and mental health and how this impacts the most vulnerable in society.

As a result, we are committed to ensure we continue to identify and implement ways in which we can reduce the operational impacts we have on the environment and will continue to promote sustainable practices throughout our operational portfolio.

Goals and Objectives

Reduce Carbon Footprint

Implement energy-efficient practices, promote renewable energy sources, and reduce carbon emissions associated with College operations.

Waste Reduction

Where possible, minimise overall waste generation, increase recycling and focus on improving ability to implement zero waste to landfill. Continue to promote the restriction of single use plastic sold on College sites.

Sustainable Procurement

Source environmentally friendly products and services, prioritise suppliers with sustainable practices, and support fair trade and ethical sourcing initiatives.

Pollution Prevention

We will implement measures to prevent pollution, reduce emissions, and minimize the release of harmful substances into the environment.

Transportation

Encourage sustainable transportation options for staff and visitors, such as cycling, walking, and public transportation.

Championing Biodiversity and Green Spaces

Where possible and appropriate, enhance green spaces on our premises and promote biodiversity through landscaping and habitat restoration. If not possible on site, provide opportunities to support local communities and biodiversity to create healthier and more sustainable urban environments.

Net Zero Commitment

2021 saw the College publicly commit to achieving Net Zero by 2040 in the release of their position statement titled 'Our planet's climate and ecological emergency'. The statement outlined the effects of climate change on mental health care and its services. As part of this statement, the College committed to the following:

'Commit the College to an ambitious plan for sustainability, including a pledge that by 2040, we will achieve Carbon Net Zero for those emissions it directly controls.'

The full position statement can be located on the public facing website. The College remains committed to ensure reductions in all 3 carbon scopes.

Roles and Responsibilities

Net Zero and Sustainability Programme Manager

The Net Zero and Sustainability Programme Manager is responsible for leading the College's sustainability/environmental programme. They provide expertise in policy, project management and net zero. They lead the implementation of the net zero strategy and lead groups such as the net zero action group and sustainability champions. They are also responsible for both internal and external stakeholder management and reporting. They provide the staff team with educational resources to better support the College's sustainability initiatives. They provide support to other departments when required and provide operational support in terms of travel management and waste management.

Head of Facilities

The Head of Facilities oversees budgetary requirements to support the College's sustainability initiatives. They will provide guidance and input to the College's sustainability programme, supporting the Sustainability Officer where required.

Director of Finance and Operations

The Director of Finance and Operations will support and advocate the work required to complete to College's sustainability objectives. They will review and approve the appropriate documentation, reporting to internal and external stakeholders when the Net Zero and Sustainability Programme Manager is not available/required.

Chief Executive

The CEO has overall responsibility for ensuring that the College remains committed to achieving its environmental objectives, specifically with regards to its commitment to net zero by 2040.

There are instances where internal groups are responsible for completing and/or managing actions relating to the College's sustainability programme. These include:

Net Zero Action Group

The Net Zero Action Group is responsible for ensuring that reduction targets and actions remain on track to reach the College's net zero target. The progress of the Net Zero Action Group is reported directly to the Senior Management Team, Financial Management Committee and when required, College Council and Board of Trustees.

Sustainability Champions

The Sustainability Champions are responsible for championing the College's sustainability programme, supporting and providing ideas to embed sustainability within day to day working. They also act as departmental representatives, answering and or/raising queries with regards to sustainability. The Senior Management Team are responsible for approving group initiatives.

Monitoring and Reporting

We will establish appropriate methods to monitor our environmental performance, set targets for continual improvement and report transparently to appropriate parties on our progress towards achieving our sustainability goals.

Compliance

We will comply with the appropriate environmental laws, regulations, and industry standards. We will also seek opportunities for collaboration and

partnership with other organizations to advance environmental sustainability within the sector.

Review and Continuous Improvement

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure all appropriate updates are captured and to review its effectiveness and relevance to our organisation's goals and objectives. We aim to incorporate appropriate discoveries and lessons learned, adapting our approach to follow the latest scientific guidance to address the everchanging landscape of sustainability.

Sonia Walter – Chief Executive

13th August 2024