

Sustainability Policy

Policy Statement

This Policy Statement sets out Somax's aims and objectives for safeguarding the environment through sustainable objectives. It comprises a Policy Statement and details the organisation and arrangements for implementing and monitoring the Policy.

The Policy of Somax is to control consumption and waste in order to:

- Comply with relevant legislation.
- Avoid unnecessary expenditure.
- Protect the environment.
- Minimise consumption of resources.
- Use materials and equipment and develop practices and procedures which do not cause harm to the environment.
- Promote awareness and a balanced understanding of environmental issues on taught courses throughout the curriculum to address environmental issues and promote sustainable practice.
- Seek to persuade agencies and suppliers through its contracting policies to adopt an environmentally responsible approach themselves.
- Continually improve the internal and external environment of Somax.
- Progress towards recycling and develop embedded procedures for recycling all waste.
- Initiate a constructive and continuing monitoring role with local and national environmental agencies and groups.
- Actively promote 'Healthy Living Standards' - these objectives are:
 - To promote a Somax ethos and environment which encourages a healthy lifestyle.
 - To use the full capacity and flexibility of the Curriculum to achieve a healthy lifestyle.
 - To promote an understanding of the full range of issues and behaviours which impact upon lifelong health.

The Somax, Staff and Student Responsibilities

The Somax environment is the responsibility of everyone who either works for Somax or attends as a member of the public/student/contractor. As part of this Somax will encourage staff and students to:

- Suggest ideas to continually improve the environment by reductions in energy use and minimising waste.
- Promote the greening of the curriculum and associated activities.
- Encourage management, staff and students to support new initiatives identified.
- Contribute to the overall objectives set out below.

The list above can be promoted through effective use of Somax communications systems - Extranet, New Agenda publication, Faculty and Team Meetings and the use of item related publicity.

Objectives

Purchasing

- To develop Somax Purchasing Policy and, where possible, identify improvements or efficiency gains.
- To research and introduce environmental criteria to guide the procurement of all goods and equipment, and ensure that these requirements are reflected in all standard contracts' conditions.
- To switch to biodegradable materials where possible, eg cleaning materials.
- To encourage the purchase and consumption of sustainable catering supplies.
- To encourage minimising the amount of paper usage by encouraging alternative methods of disseminating information, eg use of disc, downloading Somax Extranet, E-mail information, etc.

Recycling

- To encourage recycling by providing a means of collecting waste products which can be recycled, eg aluminium cans, paper, and glass.
- Look to re-use any disposable items and consider the implications before disposal.

Energy and Consumables

- To conserve energy in Somax using the Building Management Systems (BMS).
- To periodically monitor consumption in key areas, including use of electricity, heating fuel, gas, water, paper, and other consumables.
- To improve the appearance of the Somax and provide improved means of litter and other non-recyclable waste disposal.
- To monitor, consider and evaluate new initiatives.
- To identify efficiencies and incorporate into energy management systems.