



Robinson College

Environmental Policy

Robinson College recognises that its activities impact upon the environment both through its routine internal operations, development of its resources, and through its influence and effects on the wider community. The College acknowledges a responsibility for, and a commitment to, protection of the environment at all levels.

The College will comply fully with environmental legislation and is in addition committed to continued efforts in the following areas:

MANAGEMENT

- Appoint a Fellow of the College to have overall responsibility for environmental policies and issues, and to report annually to the College's Governing Body on environmental issues;
- Include promoting, enabling and monitoring the College environmental policies in the responsibilities of the Domestic Bursar;
- Include promoting and monitoring of College environmental policies in the responsibilities of the Deputy Housekeeper;
- Have standing a agenda item of "environmental issues" on the Joint Liaison Committee (JLC) and Staff Consultative Committee.

WASTE & RECYCLING

- Promote environmental management policies and practices at every level and in every department of the College;
- Promote the reduction of waste that it produces from the College offices, residential accommodation (student and conference), kitchen, dining outlets, bar, gardens, and library;
- Provide recycling facilities for glass, cans, paper, plastic bottles, batteries, print cartridges, mobile phones, cardboard and furniture;
- Provide environmentally responsible facilities for handling waste, including food and electrical equipment;
- Promote participation in recycling schemes available to Fellows, staff and junior members;
- Minimise waste and pollution and where economically sensible, develop and operate environmentally sound waste management procedures;
- Purchase recycled resources where these are available and are both suitable and sensibly priced;
- Provide sufficient, accessible and well-publicised collection points for recyclable waste, with responsibility for recycling clearly allocated;
- Make specific arrangements for events, such the May Ball and 'Bops', where significant recyclable waste is likely to be produced, in order to both minimize the waste produced and maximize what is recycled/reused;
- Promote reuse of items and waste recycling among staff, junior members and conference guests through training, posters and incentives/penalties.

UTILITIES - CONSUMPTION

- Continue to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and to incorporate long term strategies for energy efficiency into planning and development;
- Consider the use of the most energy efficient and environmentally sound appliances available (eg using energy-saving light bulbs);
- Promote energy saving amongst Fellows, staff, junior members and conference delegates (eg use of “Switch it Off” signs);
- Improve heating controls to ensure that whilst comfort is retained, economy of consumption is maximised;
- Ensure all computers, photocopiers and printers default to energy saving mode after a period of inactivity;
- Reduce water consumption;
- Consider planting regimes in the gardens and seasonal planters which maximise use of drought tolerant plants;
- Annual consumption figures for all utilities to be reported to the Governing Body as part of the annual report on environmental issues.

TRANSPORT

- Continue to encourage and facilitate modes of transport by Fellows, staff and junior members which minimise environmental impact;
- Make available information about bicycle and pedestrian routes, public transport services and car share schemes to Fellows, staff and junior members;
- Discourage travel on College business by private transport.

IMPROVEMENTS, PURCHASES AND DEVELOPMENTS

- Promote a purchasing policy which will give preference, as far as economically sensible, to those products and services which cause the least harm to the environment;
- Avoid, wherever practical, the use of environmentally damaging substances, materials and processes;
- Maintain the grounds and buildings of the College in an environmentally sensitive way, having regard to protection of local natural habitats and preservation of biological diversity;
- Consider environmental factors in respect of any development of the College, seeking as far as is practical to reduce harmful environmental impacts and to integrate new developments into the local environment;
- Work with other local (including the RCSA Green Officer), national and other agencies as appropriate to promote environmental policies.

This policy will be reviewed every five years.

January 2008