SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

1. **DEFINITION**

    - Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
    - In 'Towards Sustainability' a guide for colleges produced by the Association of Colleges, Shirley Ali Khan describes sustainable development as:

      'a process that enables all people to realise their potential and improve their quality of life in ways that protect and enhance the earth's life support systems.

2. **COMMITMENT**

    Nescot recognises that it has responsibilities in relation to sustainable development and to this has developed a Sustainable Development Policy. It is understood that the policy must be considered in the context of best value for money, equal opportunities and health and safety.

    In order to meet these responsibilities Nescot is committed to

    1. Integrating sustainable management principles into its housekeeping practices.

    2. Encouraging students to recognise the environmental impacts of their chosen study/occupational area and lifestyle decisions.

    3. Encouraging collaborative interdisciplinary research on sustainable development themes.

    4. Promoting staff development programmes to enable staff to meet the College's sustainable development policy commitments.

    5. Promoting best practice in relation to sustainable development within the College, the local community and, if appropriate, more widely.

    6. Building partnerships with the local community to progress sustainable development.

7. Compliance with relevant sustainability related legislation, regulations and institutional policies/codes of practice.

3. **POLICY CRITERIA**

In order to meet its commitments under this policy the College has set the following criteria

3.1 Sustainable Management Principles

3.1.1. Energy Management

- Development and use of the energy management system
- Regular energy audits and reports
- Implementation of insulation measures
- Use of efficient heating and cooling controls
- Use of new energy technologies where feasible and affordable
- Use of mains power instead of battery power wherever possible
- Strategic position of vending machines, photocopiers, etc for maximum use.

3.1.2 New Buildings and Renovation

Design specifications should include

- Optimum energy efficiency relating to heating cooling and lighting systems
- Use of new energy technologies
- Use of natural light and ventilation where possible
- Optimum water conservation
- Provision of adequate recycling on waste disposal facilities
- Optimum visual amenity
- Encouraging the use of energy efficient transport by provision of suitable facilities
- Minimum dependence on non-renewable resources
- Minimum dependence on ozone depleting and other potentially polluting building materials
- Use of building materials from local or regional sources where possible

3.1.3 Purchasing

Purchases should be

- Minimally dependent on non-renewable resources or polluting substances in their production and use.

- Based on recycled or re-used materials where possible
- Minimally packaged
- Durable and repairable
- From local or regional sources where possible

3.1.4   Site Maintenance

Maintenance of the site and buildings should involve

- Minimum use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers
- User of greener products such as biodegradable cleaning materials, organic based paints.
- Application of organic methods of horticultural management where possible
- Positive management of woodlands, wildlife and natural habitats.
- Minimum use of peat for horticultural applications where there is no practical alternative

3.1.5   Transport

- Promotion of the use of alternative means of transport – car share, buses, trains, cycling, on foot.

3.1.6   Waste Management

- Minimisation of waste where possible
- Re-use or repair, where feasible, of waste produced
- Recycle where possible waste which cannot be re-used or repaired
- Composting of organic waste
- Safe disposal of harzardous waste

3.1.7   Water Management

- Monitoring of water quality
- Monitoring of water consumption
- Investigation into existing and new technologies to maximise efficiency and improve water discharge
- promotion of water efficiency with the College and the local community

3.2.   Encouraging Students to Recognise the Environmental Impacts of their chosen study/occupational area and lifestyle decisions

As part of their studies students should be able

3.2.1   Understand the principles of sustainability related to

- people as part of nature
- environmental values and ethics
- quality of human life
- biodiversity
- natural cycles
- the depletion of finite resources
- the earth's carry capacity

3.2.2 Appreciate the relationships between local, national and global factors which shape environmental change which should include

- western lifestyles and environmental concerns
- poverty, population and environmental degradation

3.2.3 Appreciate the role of legal, economic, scientific, technical and managerial approaches to financial management.

3.3. Encouraging Collaborative Interdisciplinary research on sustainable development themes

- Provision of environmental information which is relevant to each discipline.
- provision of staff development programmes about the environment
- Assistance with funding for collaborative research
- Wide dissemination of results of research

3.4 Promotion of Staff Development Programmes

To promote staff development programmes which

- Raise awareness of all staff of the need to promote sustainability
- Cater for both general and specific needs of staff.

3.5 Best Practice

The College will promote

- Recycling schemes which are easily accessible to staff and students.
- Publicity for alternative means of transport to and from college. Work with transport providers to improve provision of alternative means of transport.
- Wide dissemination of environmental information relevant to the College.
- Involvement in community wide projects which have a positive effect on sustainability
- Exchange of ideas with other institutions and organizations

3.6   Building Partnerships with the Local Community

- Promotion of the College's environmental interests and expertise
- Involvement with local authorities, business and community groups on issues such as transport, waste, building and site maintenance.
- Communication with local business for mutual benefit
- Involvement in local conservation work through voluntary and financial assistance

3.7   Legislative Compliance

Assess the College's position in relation to

- National and international regulatory requirements
- Relevant Codes of Practice
- Relevant consents, permits and authorisations from regulators and local authorities

4.   **RESPONSIBILITY**

A member of the Senior Management Team has been designated to assume overall responsibility for the achievement of its environmental aims.

Responsibility is shared by the entire College population, at every level and across it Departments

All staff and students will be encouraged to recognise their potential contribution to the achievement of the College's environmental aims.