

Royal Northern College of Music

Environment Policy

Policy & Procedure

Department: Executive

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(Operations)

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RNCRM
ROYAL NORTHERN
COLLEGE of MUSIC

1. Purpose

The RNCM is a leading international conservatoire, training students to world-class levels in music through a specialised learning programme of the highest quality, delivered by internationally renowned teachers and underpinned by a unique artistic programme of performances.

2. Scope

This policy has been established to ensure that the College meets its obligations under all relevant UK Environmental Legislation and considers where possible environmental best practice. The policy applies to activities of the College. It excludes activities under the control of a third party, contractors or agents.

3. Policy Statement

The College recognises the need to ensure its operations and activities are delivered in the most sustainable way possible. This policy outlines the environmental framework that will be followed to achieve this. By using a clearly defined framework, the College can place the climate and environmental impact at the heart of decision-making; actively seeking ways in which the carbon footprint can be reduced through online working, adopting environmentally friendly practices within the College community, and aligning with larger-scale interventions in Manchester and the City Region, using music as a catalyst to raise awareness.

4. Performance indicators

The RNCM's environmental framework focusses on the following areas. The College commits to the following targets which are reported annually to the Executive Committee and Board of Governors via a dashboard annual report:

- ✓ An annual reduction in carbon emissions of 13% pa.
- ✓ An annual reduction of 10% per annum in electricity use.
- ✓ An annual reduction of 3% per annum in gas use.
- ✓ 100% of all waste is diverted from landfill.
- ✓ 100% of significant facilities management/infrastructure contracts will have sustainability performance criteria included at tender stage.
- ✓ 80% of any construction waste is recycled.
- ✓ 99% of plastics-use in catering is recycled and/or made from 100% recycled materials.

4.1 Compliance Obligations and Management Requirements

- Review relevant legislation on an annual basis (and as legislation changes) to ensure policies are up to date.
- Ensure appropriate environmental compliance training is provided to staff.
- Keep associated legal documentation for all relevant operations and processes.
- Adopts an Ethical, Environmental, Social and Governance approach to investment by having no investment in fossil fuels and moving to a carbon neutral investment portfolio by 2038 or earlier in line with the City of Manchester target.

4.2 Environmental Literacy

- Deliver carbon literacy training to relevant staff.

- Utilise the RNCM's external website and staff intranet as a hub of information of environmental action taking place at the College.
- Provide monthly communication with staff and students regarding relevant initiatives such as Bike To Work Week, Stop Food Waste Day, Earth Day, etc.
- Promote sustainable travel options through the work undertaken by the Corridor Sustainable Travel Group including a preference for public transport for business travel where feasible.

4.3 Carbon Management

- Maintain the Manchester Corridor-wide carbon reduction target of 13% year-on-year.
- Develop, review and report on carbon management activities on an annual basis. Continue to assess feasibility of efficient technologies and, where economically viable, invest in them.
- Ensure sustainability is an essential priority alongside cost and function in any new or refurbishment development.
- Pursue procurement of renewable electricity energy supplies where economically viable.
- Sustain a display energy certificate (DEC) rating of 'C' (or above) for the estate.
- Complete the Library Building Decarbonisation Project.

4.4 Waste Management

- Work with suppliers to find solutions to reduce incoming packaging waste.
- Sustain a high diversion rate of waste from landfill including in-house waste segregation used by staff, students, and the public.
- Maintain sustainability strategy for Opera productions.
- Develop detailed site waste management plans (SWMP's) for any associated construction projects that take place on site.
- Work to reduce on site water use to meet agreed annual usage targets including continuing to invest in water efficient technologies in washrooms.
- Explore the possibility of introducing both rain and grey water recycling to the RNCM in any future major infrastructure development.

4.5 Conference and Catering

- Continue to operate a SMART menu where we use the same ingredients across numerous dishes, where the majority of our dishes are cooked to order, where we periodically review the menu to remove less popular items, and where we buy non-perishable items in bulk. Purchase produce from ethical sources including Fairtrade, free-range, Marine Conservation Society, Red Tractor and Rainforest Alliance.
- Prioritise local suppliers where possible to support community businesses and reduce food miles.
- Continue to commit to cutting out all single-use plastics as part of the joint pledge with other Greater Manchester Universities, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust and Further Education Colleges, and if using plastic ensure it is 100% recyclable and where possible made from recycled plastic.
- Continue to recycle food waste into green energy, whilst seeking to reduce food waste generated within the Department through careful monitoring and menu planning.
- Continue to recycle our waste oil into biofuel.

4.6 Curriculum (including Performance)

- Collaborate with the Student Representative for Community and Environment and the Student Union's Climate Action Group on student-led initiatives such as Green Week.
- Build on the legacy of the Future Is Green programme.
- Embed relevant initiatives such as Earth Day into the performance programme.
- Consider where themes around climate change and the natural world may be included in degree programme modules, and / or where students may choose to engage with such topics in performance / creative projects, modules, and coursework.

4.7 Travel

- Promote sustainable travel options for students, staff, and visitors such as walking, cycling, travelling by public transport and car sharing.
- Invest in sustainable travel infrastructure as funding permits.
- Promote alternatives to national and international travel by utilising video conferencing technology where viewed as a suitable means of communication.
- Promote remote or blended working arrangements where appropriate to reduce carbon footprint resulting from commuting.
- Work with local institutions and partners such as Oxford Road Corridor Sustainable Travel Group, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the Bee Network to actively influence decision making around future sustainable travel infrastructure.