

1.6.2 Sustainability in Wiltshire College

As heralded by Di Dale, we are linking together the numerous activities and projects that are being implemented to improve our environmental sustainability as a College in an 'Environmental Management System'. The goal is to reduce the negative impact that our work has on the environment, and indeed to maximise the benefits. As a bi-product we expect significant cost savings.

Examples of areas where we have environmental impacts include:

- Energy use, contributing to climate change
- Hazardous waste disposal, with potential for pollution
- Purchase and disposal of electrical equipment that could be recycled
- Wasting water; water treatment and delivery consume large amounts of energy
- Potential to pollute water from spills and leaks
- Car use, travelling between sites and commuting
- Paper use, and disposal to landfill sites
- Providing habitats for wildlife – Lackham is obvious, but around the green areas of other campuses, too
- Student awareness: When your students leave you do they take good habits to their employer? Are they energy-aware? Do they recognise the cost of wasteful practices?

The management system that we will use will follow a British Standard process known as BS 8555. We will be audited as we implement the five phases of the system – audit of phase 1 is due at the end of July.

Why are we spending money on auditing?

To maximise the long term benefits and minimise the costs of implementation. Plenty of other organisations have undertaken similar projects, and the auditor will steer us towards best practice, away from common pitfalls. The audit report will also enable stakeholders, whether staff, employers or Government, to have confidence that our systems work.

Can you help?

The more involvement we have in the project the better it will be for the environment, and for the College. And there are specific tasks that need doing - writing contributions to newsletters and similar material is one!

If you would like to become actively involved, please try and attend a staff development session on this subject: they are being held at each of the four main campuses during the week beginning 13th July. These sessions will give you an understanding of the key environmental threats (whether global warming, pollution, biodiversity or waste), followed by a workshop on the College's response in which you can have your say.

If you are interested but not able to get to one of the SD sessions, please email Guy Beards.

Guy Beards

Environmental Coordinator.

PS As most of you don't know me, I am in the ERT, lecturing in health and safety at Salisbury, and I also run a four day course in Environmental Management there. I have been allocated one day a week to develop the environmental management system.

