

Royal Northern College of Music

Environment Policy

Policy & Procedure

Department: Executive

**Document owner: Deputy Principal
(Operations)**

Approval Committee: Executive Committee

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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 its responsibilities concerning sustainability and is fully committed to reduce the environmental impact of its activities and operations. The College will 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. Responsibilities

The College has a range of policies to encourage continual improvement in the following areas:

4.1 Legislative Compliance

The College appreciates the need to comply with legislation related to the conservation of the environment in order to establish good practice, reduce environmental risk and improve environmental performance.

The College will:

- Review relevant legislation on an annual basis to ensure policies are up to date;
- Ensure appropriate training is provided to staff around environmental compliance;
- Keep all associated legal documentation for all relevant operations and processes.

4.2 Waste Management

The College is committed to reducing the amount of waste created through its activities and operations and is committed to applying the waste hierarchy principles of reduce reuse recycle.

The College will:

- Work with suppliers to find solutions to reduce incoming packaging waste;
- Continue to sustain a high diversion rate of waste from landfill;
- Improve in-house resources to further improve segregation and other opportunities to reduce waste;

- Develop detailed site waste management plans (SWMP's) for any associated construction projects that take place on site.

4.3 Transport

The College is committed to promoting sustainable methods of transport amongst its staff and students in order to improve health and reduce pollution and localised congestion.

The College will:

- Promote sustainable travel options through the work undertaken by the Corridor Sustainable Travel Group;
- Invest in sustainable travel infrastructure as funding permits;
- Promote alternatives to national and international travel by utilising video conferencing technology where viewed as an appropriate and 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 Corridor Manchester, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to actively influence decision making around future sustainable travel infrastructure.

4.4 Water Use

The College is committed to achieving a reduction across all on-site utilities and water is no exception.

The College will:

- Work to reduce on site water use to meet agreed annual usage targets;
- Continue 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 infrastructure development.

4.5 Construction and Refurbishment

The College is committed to the sustainable development and refurbishment of its estate, using efficient techniques and products in the process.

The College will:

- Sustain a display energy certificate (DEC) rating of 'C' (or above) for the estate;
- Commit to ensure sustainability is an essential priority alongside cost and function in any new or refurbished development.

4.6 Energy Emissions and Discharges

As part of its carbon management plan (CMP), the College has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, utilise natural resources more efficiently and reduce pollution levels.

The College will:

- Adopt the Manchester Corridor-wide carbon reduction target of 13% year-on-year;
- Pursue procurement of renewable electricity energy supplies where economically viable;
- Develop, review and report on the carbon management plan on an annual basis;
- Continue to assess feasibility of efficient technologies and, where economically viable, invest in them.

4.7 Conferencing and Catering

A key ethos is to reduce wastage and stay local. A majority of the food is cooked fresh to order, with use of Fairtrade, free-range, Marine Conservation Society, Red Tractor and Rainforest Alliance products. Where possible local suppliers are used to support community businesses and reduce food miles. Along with other Greater Manchester Universities, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust and Further Education Colleges, the RNCM has made a joint pledge to cut out all avoidable single-use plastics from catering, offices and stationery by 2022. Where plastic packaging is used it is 100% recyclable and the RNCM strives to use plastic packaging made from recycled plastic. At closedown points any food not sold is donated to food banks.

4.8 Ethical Investment Policy

The College is adopting a policy to restrict and monitor the way in which its investments are invested in respect of Ethical, Environmental, Social and Governance issues. As of July 2020, the College held £21.8m of such investments through its Awards Fund and Endowment Fund.

The companies these funds are invested in can have a large environmental impact, both positive and negative. As of October 2020, the Carbon Emissions attached to these investments was at 45.4 tonnes of CO₂ per £m invested, which compares favourably with the benchmark portfolio of 129m tonnes. Despite being in a relatively strong position, the Ethical Investment Policy includes the following targets and actions in respect of the environmental impact of the College's investments:

- By July 2022 to have reduced investments in fossil fuel extracting companies by 99% compared to the July 2020 benchmark;
- Reduce the Carbon Emissions per £m invested from the 45.4 tonnes at October 2020;
- Move to a carbon neutral investment portfolio by 2038 or earlier in line with the City of Manchester target.