



CREATING A SPACE FOR REFLECTION, LEARNING AND ACTION

This forward-thinking college is putting environmental sustainability at the centre of its curriculum, campus and community.

Introduction

Established in Waterloo in 1889, Morley College is one of the UK's oldest and largest specialist providers of adult education. It offers a wide range of courses and workshops in various subjects, with a focus on providing accessible and inclusive learning opportunities for diverse communities across the capital.



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The challenge

With a long history in the area, the college wants to ensure it helps South Bank and Waterloo become a fairer and greener neighbourhood by 2030. This means making its own buildings as energy efficient and sustainable as possible.

But it doesn't stop there. As a learning provider, the college also wants to ensure it leads the way in teaching students about the importance of sustainability and the challenges of the climate crisis, so that people can build their knowledge, share what they know, and come together to make a difference in their own communities.



The approach

Creating a better understanding of what climate action means is at the heart of the college's approach to sustainability.

It's all about giving people the best learning opportunities and information to empower them to make a change. This is backed up by the steps the college is taking to improve its own sustainability policies. Already, they have:

Sustainability as a core principle at every management level

The Lead Governor and Chief Financial Officer are pivotal in the Sustainable Development Steering Group, guiding the strategic incorporation of sustainability. This commitment is further supported by Program Area Managers and tutors, who act as Sustainability Champions and educators, equipped with Carbon Literacy training to further disseminate knowledge across the college.

'Education for Sustainable Development' toolkit

This toolkit gives educators resources to empower students to actively contribute to sustainability. The college has also upgraded its building management systems to enhance energy efficiency, promoted extensive recycling, and increased cycle parking facilities to support sustainable commuting options.

The approach (cont.)

Annual ‘Sustainability Week’ and a ‘Green Hub’

Here, students and local residents can learn more about being environmentally friendly through various workshops and activities. This helps everyone understand how to make a positive impact on the environment.

“In recognition of the global climate emergency and inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals, governors are placing sustainability at the core of the College’s strategic development. Our task now, as a college community, is to turn our pledges into action and we are determined to make progress.”

Dr Andrew Gower, Principal and CEO

Key learnings

When it comes to teaching sustainability, it is crucial to involve everyone within an educational institution. The toolkit recommends a holistic approach that considers the campus, the curriculum, the culture, and the community. It is possible to spot opportunities to communicate the value and importance of sustainable practice across all these areas, from staff meetings to after-school clubs.

Making time to discuss these issues is essential. Similarly, teaching the value of transferable skills such as problem-solving and collaboration are equally important, as students and teachers look to work together to tackle the issues climate change presents.

Morley College's dedication to sustainability has been recognised more widely. The college was chosen as a finalist in the 2024 Green Gown Awards for its Green Hub and the Carbon Literacy project initiatives.

Find out more

Visit the college website to [discover more about their Sustainability Action Plan](#) and listen to their climate-focused podcast series, [Conservation Heroes](#). You can also download the 'Education for Sustainable Development Toolkit' which provides practical guidance on how to embed sustainable principles in teaching and educational settings.

Read more [here](#) about South Bank and Waterloo's action plan for a fairer, greener neighbourhood.

