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| **Committee:** | **Governing Body** |
| **Date:** | **18th July 2022** |
| **Title of Paper:** | **Environment Policy and Carbon Management Plan** |
| **Prepared/presented by :** | Director of Operations |
| **Agenda item:** | **XX** |
| **Paper reference:** | **XX** |
| **Circulation:** | LIMITED as DRAFT |

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| **Purpose of paper** |
| To set out the policy outlining Central’s commitment to environmental sustainability. The Environment Policy will be supported by key progress targets and an action plan which will be developed in light of the broader aims and objectives of the policy as outlined here. The School’s Carbon Management Plan has also been appended for approval and a detailed action plan and process for monitoring and reporting KPI performance is being developed. |
| **Context and Summary** |
| The CUC HE Code of Governance outlines the requirement for Governing Bodies to give due regard to arrangements in place to ensure that all forms of resources are used in a sustainable (financial, social and environmental), secure and effective manner which supports institutional success and on behalf of its students, staff and wider community. Central recognises the impact its buildings and operations have on the environment in keeping with our vision to lead an innovative theatre and performing arts culture that enriches and changes our world.  It is likely that all organisations will soon be required to report on their environmental impact, including carbon management, within their annual financial statement disclosure. Central is currently exempt from this reporting.  Central have set an intermediate milestone to reduce emissions by 54% by 2025 from the 2018/19 baseline for scope 1 and 2 emissions. Scope 1 and scope 2 emissions will be net zero operational carbon by 2030 from the 2018/19 baseline. The net zero carbon by 2050 target includes scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.  The 54% reduction target in carbon emissions refers to Scope 1 and 2 within the boundary of the baseline 2018/19 only. This means a reduction from 464.48tCO2e to 213.6608tCO2e.  The purchase of renewable electricity alone will reduce carbon from the baseline of  239.62tCO2e, thereby almost reaching the target.  The switch to air source heat pumps instead of gas will also see emissions from this vastly reduced, the electricity used instead to operate the pumps being sourced as renewable means this will be net zero for heating.  Net zero by 2030 for operational carbon emissions for scope 1 and 2 will be achievable due to energy consumption reduction, the change to air source heat pumps and purchase of renewable electricity.  Any remaining consumption which may come about due to fuels can also be offset. |

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| The UKGBC provides the definition as:  *“When the amount of carbon dioxide emissions associated with a building’s operational energy on an annual basis is zero or negative. Using the World Green Building Council’s definition, a net zero operational carbon building is highly energy efficient and fully powered from on-site and/or off-site renewable energy sources and offsets.”*  UKGBC also include a hierarchy of how net zero operational target should be achieved which is the approach Central is taking:   1. Fabric efficiency 2. Energy efficiency 3. Onsite renewables 4. Offsite renewables 5. Offsets   As a comparison, the University of London has the target to achieve net zero operational carbon across its London estate by 2036.  Commuting forms part of Scope 3 emissions under the GHG protocol and is therefore best practice. HESA also refers to commuting in reporting. Whilst not all universities report on this at the moment, it is likely to become more important in future therefore it is recommended to include this and undertake annual monitoring through surveys to ensure a good data set.  Following on from this plan, a ‘task and finish’ working group will work together to manage and review the Action Plan which will include setting up project costs based on funding and budget, liaising with external suppliers and monitoring/reporting status. The Head of Estates will chair this Working Group and the Director of Operations will be present in a supervisory and advisory capacity. |
| **Prior consultation** |
| Executive Management Group and Finance and Estates Committee. At their meeting held on 4 July 2022, the Finance and Estates Committee reviewed the Environment Policy and the detail of the Carbon Management Plan. The Committee recommended a number of revisions which have been incorporated into the version now presented for Board approval. The key change has resulted in a revision to the achievement of net zero for Scope 3 emissions. |
| **Recommendations** |
| On the recommendation of the Finance and Estates Committee, the Governing Body is invited to:   * Approve the Environment Policy * Approve the contents of the Carbon Management Plan; and * Note the actions being taken to implement the Carbon Management Plan which supports the aims of the Environment Policy |
| **Risks** |
| Environmental harm Reputational harm  Compliance with legislation and policy  **Attachments**   1. – Environment Policy 2. – Carbon Management Plan |



ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Owner: Director of Operations Review schedule: Triannual Date of last review: Spring 2022

Finance and Estates Committee > Governing Body

The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama is a specialist college for the performing arts. Innovating for over 100 years, it is a federal member of the University of London and is a leading conservatoire for the 21st century performing arts industry with an international community of over 1000 students.

Central, an Exempt Charity, offers a broad range of training including acting for stage and screen, applied theatre, theatre crafts, design, drama therapy, performance, producing, voice and writing, and has been awarded Gold Status in the Teaching Excellence Framework, receiving the highest level in recognition of its teaching excellence in higher education. Central is celebrated for its global partnerships and collaborations in the performing arts industries, working with a faculty of subject specialists and visiting professionals within state-of-the-art facilities.

Central recognises the impact its buildings and operations have on the environment in keeping with our vision to lead an innovative theatre and performing arts culture that enriches and changes our world. Building an inspirational environment and efficient and effective infrastructure to support our student and staff community is one of our main strategic aims. Central also recognises its responsibility as a leading conservatoire to train students to instil environmental practices into their future careers. And through managing our environmental impact we aim to inspire our students and other organisations to reduce their own. Accordingly, in line with our values of respecting and being socially responsible through ethical and fair practices, we are committed to implementing environmentally responsible standards and practices to mitigate and manage our impacts in a program of continual environmental improvement.

This Environmental Policy sets out the Principles by which we will embed Sustainability across our campus.

Our most significant adverse environmental impacts are:

* Emissions from commuting and business travel
* Emissions to atmosphere from the use of carbon based energy in our offices, studios, theatres, workshop spaces and rehearsal and performance spaces
* Consumption of resources by our use of energy, raw materials, office supplies and furniture
* Production of waste materials
* The environmental performance of our suppliers Central commit to reducing our environmental impacts by:
* Encouraging modes of transport by staff and students which minimise the environmental impact
* Striving to achieve carbon neutral building and operations
* Reducing waste at source wherever practicable, re-using and recycling the remaining waste
* Minimising water consumption
* Work with our catering contractor to do all we can to source seasonal, local, or sustainable food whenever possible
* Promoting and making purchasing decisions on the basis of, the product and supplier environmental performance, where practicable
* Creating more biodiverse greenspace on campus
* Continuing and further developing our commitment to best practice
* Increasing awareness of environmental responsibilities amongst staff and students on campus and at home
* Involving employees in our environmental programme and provide necessary training to enable them to discharge their responsibilities

OUR COMMITMENT

To deliver this Policy, The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama makes the following commitments for all organisation sites:

* Create awareness through training throughout our resources, including research, development and capital to meet this commitment in a positive manner that leads the way in our industry
* Minimise the adverse environmental impact of the delivery of its services and better manage its resources taking into account environmental impact.
* Comply with all relevant legislation and regulations
* Implement environmental best practice procedures throughout the Institution and seek ways of continuous improvement
* Measure our progress in pursuing this Policy and report annually internally and externally
* Contribute generally to the improvement of the local and national global environment

Continuation of the policy

The School will seek to continually review, improve and develop this Environmental Policy and will commit to its implementation. This includes full compliance with local and national legislation and guidance and achieving integration of the Policy into decision making at all levels and in all departments.

The basis of the content of the Policy will be compliance with relevant environmental legislation as a minimum level of performance. The School will seek to improve on this minimum wherever it can.