**APPENDIX 10 - ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY (VALID MAY 2021 – APRIL 2026)**

Clare Hall recognises that its activities impact upon the environment both through its routine internal operations, development of its resources, and through its influence and effects on the wider community. The College acknowledges a responsibility for, and a commitment to, protection of the environment at all levels.

The main objectives of the College’s environmental policy are to promote and pursue: reductions in emissions to net-zero; reductions in waste generated through routine College life; reductions in waste generated through procurement; increased awareness and action to achieve these goals. The policy recognises that such an ambitious strategy will require long-term consideration of all emission sources (including members’ travel to College), but at this time seeks predominantly to control and improve activity within College, which accounts for the majority of environmental harm. The College will comply fully with environmental legislation and is in addition committed to continued efforts in the following areas: Management, Waste and Recycling, Utilities and Resources, Transport, and Improvements.

**MANAGEMENT**

The College will: appoint a Fellow of the College to have overall responsibility for environmental policies and issues, and to report annually to the College’s Governing Body on environmental issues; include promoting, enabling and monitoring the College environmental policies in the responsibilities of the Domestic Bursar; include promoting and monitoring of College environmental policies in the responsibilities of all staff; actively purchase routine products from environmentally sustainable and responsible sources (e.g.: FSC-approved paper, certified fabric sources), reducing supplies of hazardous chemicals to as low as absolutely necessary (e.g.: chlorine for swimming pool hygiene; bleaches for effective cleaning of certain areas); hold termly meetings of the Environment Committee.

**WASTE AND RECYCLING**

The College will: promote environmental management policies and practices at every level and in every department of the College; promote the reduction of waste produced by College offices, accommodation, kitchen, bar, gardens, and library; provide recycling facilities for glass, cans, paper, plastic bottles, and cardboard; enable access to recycling or reuse programmes for batteries, print cartridges, mobile phones, and furniture; provide or enable access to environmentally responsible facilities for handling waste, including food and electrical equipment; promote participation in recycling schemes; minimise waste and pollution, developing and operating environmentally sound economically prudent waste management procedures; purchase recycled resources where available, suitable and reasonably priced; provide sufficient, accessible and well-publicised collection points for recyclable waste, with responsibility for recycling clearly allocated; make specific arrangements for events, where significant recyclable waste is likely to be produced, in order to both minimise the waste produced and maximise what is recycled/reused; promote reuse of items and waste recycling among staff, College members and conference guests through training, posters and incentives/penalties.

**UTILITIES AND RESOURCES**

The College will: continue to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and to incorporate long term strategies for energy efficiency into planning and development; actively monitor consumption of electricity, gas, and water; consider the use of the most energy efficient and environmentally sound appliances available (e.g.: energy-saving lightbulbs); promote energy-saving amongst all College members and conference delegates (e.g.: use of “Switch it Off” signs); improve heating controls to ensure comfort while reducing consumption; ensure all computers, photocopiers and printers default to energy saving mode after a period of inactivity; actively reduce water consumption; consider planting regimes in the gardens and seasonal planters which maximise use of drought tolerant plants.

**TRANSPORT**

The College will: continue to encourage and facilitate modes of transport by all College members which minimise environmental impact (including the discouragement of air travel where possible, and use of public transport for College-funded activity such as attendance at conferences); make available information about bicycle and pedestrian routes, public transport services and car-share schemes to Fellows, staff and College members; discourage travel on College business by private transport; where possible and practical, upgrade and replace College vehicles with environmentally friendly alternatives.

**IMPROVEMENTS**

The College will: promote a purchasing policy which gives preference, as far as economically viable, to those products and services which actively benefit the environment or at least cause minimal harm; avoid, wherever practical, the use of environmentally damaging substances, materials and processes; maintain and develop the grounds and buildings of the College in an environmentally sensitive way (e.g.: adherence to a recognised “excellent” standard of housing for new builds), consider protection of local natural habitats and preservation of biological diversity; consider environmental factors in respect of any development of the College, seeking as far as is practical to reduce harmful environmental impacts and to integrate new developments into the local environment; work with other local contacts (e.g.: GSB Green Officers), national and other agencies as appropriate to promote environmental policies. This policy will be reviewed every five years. (Policy accepted May 2021, due renewal April 2026)