SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

TAFE Western’s Vision is to provide education and training that changes lives. The Institute’s 24 colleges occupy a catchment covering more than half of the state of NSW – this provides TAFE Western with an opportunity given to few others in remote and regional Australia to make a significant difference.

In realising its Vision, TAFE Western has prioritised the need to embrace a philosophy of change in its business, capability in its people, and responsible citizenship in the communities it serves, in order to ensure the Institute is embedded as a vital part of Western NSW.

This philosophy also defines TAFE Western’s approach to sustainability. While acknowledging that sustainable practice has diverse meanings for its different stakeholders, TAFE Western recognises that sustainability is primarily about change – what is done, how it is done, influencing behaviour, and ultimately, changing lives.

TAFE Western’s sustainability priority is to demonstrate leadership in ecological sustainability.

TAFE Western adopts the definition of sustainability as:

‘Achieving futures in which humans live within their ecological and social means, without exploiting those of other parties.’

Avery and Bergsteiner 2010

1. Sustainability is part of Core Business

For an organisation to be sustainable, sustainable practice must be embedded in its core business strategies. TAFE Western’s sustainability framework incorporates four strategy areas – Leadership and Governance, Education for Sustainability, Engagement, and Operations.

2. Partnerships based on Participation and Shared Responsibility

TAFE Western’s approach to sustainability is based on collaborative learning partnerships with its staff and students. TAFE Western encourages its staff and students to become actively involved in sustainability initiatives and development opportunities. Everyone at TAFE Western is responsible for contributing toward sustainable practice through the organisation’s core business of learning and teaching, and through its operations.

Mechanisms for recognition and promotion of the achievements of TAFE Western’s staff and students in the sustainability space support the partnership concept.

3. Responsiveness

As part of its strategy to remain the preferred provider of education and training services in remote and regional NSW, TAFE Western works to ensure early adoption of industry, government and education sector sustainability trends in its curriculum development and course delivery.

4. Openness, Transparency and Accountability

As an education institution committed to sustainable practice, TAFE Western is responsible for the learning outcomes of its students, as well as the development of a sustainability-oriented work environment. Within this context, TAFE Western also understands that being a role model in the sustainability space is as much a moral obligation as it is a sound approach to business practice.

TAFE Western therefore regards communication, monitoring and reporting as key to ensuring its staff, students and stakeholders are informed about what TAFE Western is doing in relation to sustainability.
5 Caring for Country
TAFE Western’s catchment includes country traditionally owned by Aboriginal nations including the Wiradjuri, Ngemba, Muruwari, Barkindji, Wailwan, Wongaibon, Gamilaroi and other peoples; and TAFE Western recognises that Indigenous concepts of sustainable practice are an important component of its Sustainability Framework. TAFE Western’s approach is to work with its Aboriginal communities, including staff and students, to build these concepts into its sustainability initiatives.

6 Practicality
TAFE Western’s approach to sustainability is solutions-oriented and practice-based. TAFE Western supports experimentation, action learning, and lessons learned as a result of ongoing evaluation, as part of its Sustainability Framework.

7 Integration
TAFE Western understands sustainability as a systems-based concept, and works to ensure its environmental management practices and sustainable practice initiatives are integrated appropriately with its risk management, continuous improvement, compliance, quality management, and work health and safety systems.

8 Resource Stewardship
TAFE Western is a geographically dispersed organisation, covering an extensive catchment comprised of communities facing widely-differing local environmental challenges. Within this context, TAFE Western’s approach to environmental management is one of minimal impact, responsible use of resources, and working to embed sustainable practice into organisational behaviour in order to stimulate change.

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TAFE WESTERN STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2018
SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

GUIDANCE AND COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORKS
- International Standards
- National and State Policies, Plans and Targets
- Australian Skills Quality Authority
- National Training Packages

BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORKS
- AccountAbility
- Global Reporting Initiative
- Learning in Future Environments (LiFE) Index

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

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Recognition – NSW Government Sustainability Advantage Program