

Glasgow Clyde College

Climate Change Action Plan 2021/22-2024/25

Contents

	Page
Section 1 Executive Summary	3
Section 2 Introduction from the Principal	4
Section 3 Strategic Context	5
Section 4 Current Performance	6
Section 5 FE Climate Change Roadmap – College mapping	7
Section 6 Glasgow Regional Plan	8
Section 7 Progress Reporting/Governance	9
Section 8 Climate Change Action Plan by Planned Schedule of Activity	9

Section 1: Executive Summary

The College is committed to addressing climate change implications with its staff and students and other stakeholders, and to help to inform their behaviours and impacts for the future. The College previously signed up to the Universities and Colleges Climate Commitment for Scotland (UCCfS) and during the Autumn of 2021 the College signed the Colleges' Scotland Race to Net Zero Commitment.

There has been a great deal of focus on environmental sustainability and climate change globally in recent years and within the UK and Scottish College sector. The College has prepared this Climate Change Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2025 to capture completed and planned activity and provide a measure of progress for the College and for its stakeholders. The actions to achieve this planned reduction in carbon emissions and the College's climate related impacts over the coming years are detailed within this Climate Change Action plan in the Activity Plan in section 8. The plan will be updated annually showing progress against the actions in the table of activities.

This College Climate Change Action Plan summarises Glasgow Clyde College's planned actions for reducing carbon emissions through to 2025 and sets out a timetable, responsibilities and resources required to deliver the programme. This plan document is structured as below:

- **Strategic Context** – Following on from the introduction by the Principal the strategic context for carbon emissions reduction in Glasgow Clyde College is set out in section 3 of this document, including the links to the College's strategic plan;
- **Carbon Measurement – Current Performance and Targets** – This is set out in section 4 of this plan document and shows the change to date from the 2014/15 baseline of tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through to the most recently reported full year of 2020/21, and summarises the overall targets for the College through to the end of 2025;
- **FE Climate Change Roadmap – Mapping of College Position** - This is set out in section 5 and outlines the College's current and future position across the five key activity areas of the UK HE/FE Climate Commission's Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges 2021, where the five activity Roadmap areas are:
 - (i) Leadership and Governance;
 - (ii) Learning, Teaching, and Research;
 - (iii) Estates and operations;
 - (iv) Partnerships and Engagement; and
 - (v) Data Collection
- **Glasgow Regional Plan** - This is set out in section 6 and shows the strategic aims for the Glasgow Region's collaborative working in this area including the funded project officer, and the planned work of the Glasgow Regional Green Team;
- Section 7 of this document is on **Progress Reporting and Future Governance** which outlines how the climate change action plan/carbon management reduction progress will be monitored measured and communicated both internally and externally.
- The final part of this plan is section 8 which is the detailed **College Climate Change Action Plan by planned schedule of activity** which provides the completed and planned actions for the College showing proposed activity and outputs, responsibilities and timescales, and cross referencing links to the FE Climate Change Roadmap.

Section 2: Introduction from the Principal

Glasgow Clyde College acknowledges that we are experiencing a climate emergency and the likely effect it will have on Scotland's environment, its people and its economy. The College is committed to taking action in respect of climate change through the Race to Net Zero Commitment for Scotland's Further Education Colleges which it signed in October 2021, and in so doing support the Scottish Government objectives for reductions in emissions are met.

The College mission is Inspirational Learning; Changing Lives. To achieve this mission we need to ensure that the College acts responsibly in relation to its environmental impact and takes action to achieve as low a climate change effect as possible within the constraints of affordability. We are committed to playing our part in creating an environmentally sustainable Scotland through our own actions, through the influence we can have on the behaviours of our students and members of staff, and through the development and delivery of teaching and learning.

I welcome this Climate Change Action Plan for the College which has the full support of the Board of Management and the College Senior Leadership Team. The College is committed to using all of the options available to us, to take action to ensure that our targeted reductions in carbon related emissions are reached and that the Race to Net Zero Commitment is achieved.

Jon Vincent
Principal and Chief Executive
June 2022

Section 3: Strategic Context

The Climate Change Action Plan is part of delivering the College Strategic Plan and within the College overall Strategic Plan's five Strategic Themes there are three directly related objectives to this climate change action plan and associated activity as follows:

- Within the Theme of Partner of Choice - To co-create a curriculum that is aligned to economic skills gaps where the content of courses meets the needs of employers as well as regional and national economic strategies and environmental priorities;
- Within the Theme of Partner of Choice - To partner with employers and stakeholders to grow our provision of apprenticeships and create a responsive portfolio of training and upskilling services to support economic growth and just transitions into the green economy; and
- Within the Theme of Financial Resilience through Operational Excellence - To ensure that environmental sustainability is embedded in the College's estates, curriculum, and other operations, to achieve the commitments contained in the College Climate Change action plan.

The delivery of this Climate Change Action Plan is an important element of achieving the College's overall strategic plan delivery for the period through to 2025.

Glasgow Clyde College's Net Zero Commitment

The College has recently signed up to the Scottish FE sector Net Zero Commitment which is the commitment stated as below to:

Pledge: Pledge at the head-of-organization level to reach (net) zero Greenhouse gases as soon as possible, and by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5C. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects maximum effort toward or beyond a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO₂ by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C;

Plan: Within 12 months of joining, explain what actions will be taken toward achieving both interim and longer-term pledges, especially in the short- to medium-term;

Proceed: Take immediate action toward achieving (net) zero, consistent with delivering interim targets specified;

Publish: Commit to report publicly both progress against interim and long-term targets, as well as the actions being taken, at least annually.

This College Climate Change Action plan is part of the delivery against the Race to Net Zero Commitment as shown in the table below:

Race to Net Zero Commitment element	
College Pledge	The College has pledged through the signing of the Race to Net Zero Commitment by the Principal in October 2021 to aim to reach net zero greenhouse gases as soon as possible and before 2050. An interim target within the period to 2030 will be set to provide the College plan towards global reduction in CO ₂ .
College Plan	This Climate Change Action Plan identifies actions that will be taken in the short to medium term in respect of climate change activity in the College.
College Proceed	The College is proceeding with taking immediate action towards achieving net zero and the delivery of interim target reductions
College Publish	The College is committed to reporting publicly on progress against climate change targets at least annually. The College already reports as part of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reporting each November and this will continue annually.

Section 4: Carbon Measurement - Current Performance and Targets

Glasgow Clyde College has 3 campus sites, which are as follows:

- Anniesland Campus – consists of one building built in 2008/09 and is 16,579m²;
- Langside Campus – consists of 5 buildings of which there are three newer buildings i.e. the main Battlefield Building and the Theatre which were completed in 2010, plus the Horticulture Building completed in 2018. The two other buildings are the Mary Stuart building which was built in 1968 with a refurbishment in 1996, and the Litehouse building which was built in 2000. The total area of the buildings at the Langside campus is just over 17,000m²;
- Cardonald Campus – consists of three main buildings of which the main Tower building was built in the 1970's and was refurbished in 2006 – 2008, along with the two buildings of the Skills Centre and Childrens' Centre built in 2006.

Previously, Glasgow Clyde College had a Carbon Management Plan which used 2014/15 as the baseline year and the emission levels have been monitored and reported annually since that time. This plan was to achieve a reduction target of 25% from the baseline year, and this has been more than achieved. In 2014/15 the carbon footprint was calculated to be 4,553 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) being a combination of electricity, natural gas, other fuels, transport (fleet), water and waste. The College has performed well since this baseline and has reduced its carbon footprint to the most recently reported year of 2020/21 by an overall reduction of 54% since the baseline of 2014/15.

The College reports annually under the Scottish Government requirements to the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN), detailing their compliance with the climate change duties for public bodies. The College has complied with reporting requirements for 2020/21 by submitting its report by the deadline of 30 November 2021. The figure as reported at November 2021 is 2,080 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) for the year to July 2021 for which the emissions breakdown is as per the table below:

College Emissions Levels 2020/21 (tonnes Carbon Dioxide equivalent)

Emission Area	Consumption	tCO ₂ e
Electricity (generation)	3,634,500 Kwh	772
Electricity (transmission & distn. losses)	As above	68
Gas	5,897,635 Kwh	1,080
Water (Supply & treatment)	25,436 m ³	4
Homeworking	Estimate of 70% staff and students homeworking	150
Other (incl. waste, recycling & travel)		6
Total reported for 2020/21		2,080

The above annual measurement for 2020/21 has been impacted by organisational and behavioural differences due to the pandemic however the largest consumption levels consistently for the College are for utilities through the use of electricity and gas which account for over 92% of the College's total emissions. This will be the main focus for this College Climate Change Action Plan and for the achievement of the reductions targets.

For the Glasgow Clyde College Climate Change Action Plan the target is to reduce the College total annual carbon footprint by 3% to 5% annually through to the end of 2025 (based on the 2018/19 business as usual level of emission factors which are those pre pandemic). The scope and boundaries of the data recorded is as summarised above and new elements may be added e.g. more transport monitoring may be added which will require the baseline level to be recalibrated.

Section 5: FE Climate Change Roadmap – College Mapping

The College plans to achieve emissions reductions through activities across the five areas in the Climate Change Roadmap for FE Colleges as follows:

i) Leadership and Governance

This is a key element of this plan and the leadership and governance of the Climate Change Action Plan for the College will be through three groups:

- A College Sustainability Steering Group which will undertake the leadership of the delivery of the action plan including the related activities
- A Governance group including the Principal and Board representation which will provide oversight of the four-year plan and receive regular reporting on change actions
- A Regional Green Team group which will have estates, curriculum and student association representation

The College will embed its impacts on the environment in its decision-making processes. This will include SLT and board decisions and as highlighted in the Strategic Plan Objectives.

ii) Learning Teaching and Research

The College has an important role to play in providing learning and teaching to its staff and students on climate change. This is both for their period of working or learning in the College and for the future. The actions in this area are summarised below:

Staff and Student Carbon Awareness/Carbon Literacy – to engage staff and students in educating and increasing awareness in sustainability. There are a range of resources available and the College will consider what is best suited to its requirements. The College will work with GCCSA and the class representatives to pass on training to students and will look to have this as part of student induction in future years.

Curriculum Sustainability Goals - Curriculum areas should know their carbon footprint for their specialist areas and how to measure and evaluate the impact of their activities. This will include measurement of courses with sustainability content and widening that to more areas of the curriculum.

Sustainability champions - The College will create staff and student sustainability champions who work together within curriculum areas to make sustainability changes and celebrate the activities already in place and new initiatives which can be taken forward. This will include work with GCCSA and the student class reps.

Awarding Body Organisations – The Colleges will work to influence awarding body organisations to include sustainability within qualifications and assessment criteria to build sustainability into qualifications development to ensure that sustainability is built into the curriculum.

iii) Estates and Operations

It is important for the College to set and have emissions targets, communications and investment plans.

Targets - Clear targets and robust monitoring is key to focus efforts to reduce waste and carbon footprint. The College will be explicit in what the ultimate goals are which are quantified, and supported by specific activities, projects, etc.

Communications – Communications on sustainability actions will be emphasised with effective memorable messaging. More informative signage will be used across the College to clearly highlight waste reduction and recycling opportunities. Also focus on delivering digital by default and the consequential reduction in paper usage and copying.

Investment – the College will highlight through Colleges Scotland and SFC the need to secure substantial capital investment in insulation for college buildings over the coming years and transition from gas-fired central heating to a low-carbon alternative.

iv) Partnerships and Engagement

The College will work within its partnerships and engagement to ensure the most effective outcomes. Key partners for the College will be the other Glasgow Colleges and Glasgow City Council where there will be very practical benefits, including learning from each other's good practices.

The College plans to engage effectively with students, staff and local communities on partnerships and engagement and will initially consider the following areas in this plan including through close working with the sector centre of procurement expertise Advanced Procurement in Universities and Colleges (APUC) who are the College's key partner in all procurement activities and lead on the related framework agreements:

- a. Food sourcing, packaging and waste;
- b. Building works;
- c. Travel to work and study.

v) Data Collection

Data collection requires the measurement of the institution's carbon footprint which is an evolving process. The college had an initial baseline year of 2014/15. There have been significant behavioural changes as a result of the pandemic and 2018/19 will be the effective baseline year for the future of this plan given that was the last full year of activity on site for the College before the pandemic.

There will be development on the data in the College to educate and inform them of their impacts as part of this climate change action plan and there will be more frequent metering and measuring in future and in sharing of climate related data.

Section 6: Glasgow Regional Plan

Glasgow Clyde College is part of the Glasgow Colleges Region with a joint Regional Sustainability Officer and Plan. The Glasgow Colleges Regional Environmental Sustainability Plan's aims are summarised as:

1. To reduce the Glasgow College Region's environmental footprint through complementary actions that will improve its resource efficiency and reduce its carbon emissions, reduce its waste and pollution.
2. To create a college culture that motivates and enables its learners, staff and partners to change their behavior and combat climate change, over-consumption and waste.
3. To support the Glasgow Region's - and Scotland's- Green Recovery by developing a curriculum and facilities to help deliver the Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan, the Just Transition Skills Plan, and the Sustainable Glasgow agenda.
4. To contribute to the regional and national environmental discourse, research and momentum.

This will be undertaken through a three-pronged approach which considers:

- College impacts - on carbon emissions through particularly estates, and also food and other waste
- Curriculum and Skills – new green jobs, reskilling and upskilling required
- Student/Staff behaviours – influencing these for the future

Section 7: Progress Reporting/Governance

The Project Sponsor for this Climate Change Action Plan is the Vice Principal Resources and College Development, who will be assisted in its delivery by the Head of Estates, Facilities & Energy, and the College Sustainability Steering Group including key areas of the College and the GCCSA.

This College Climate Change Action Plan is a 'live' document which will be reported upon through the Sustainability Steering Group and will be updated annually.

The update process will examine a number of areas including:

- progress towards overall carbon reduction target;
- behavioural change messaging and stakeholder engagement;
- financial savings achieved as a result of carbon reduction projects;
- programme costs;
- wider benefits including procurement related areas.

Section 8: Climate Change Action Plan by Planned Schedule of Activity

This is the detailed document of all the completed and planned activity to be delivered within the Climate Change Action Plan which is shown in the action plan table with action responsibilities and timescales and with cross reference to the FE Roadmap.