

Glasgow Kelvin College

Finance and Resources Committee Meeting of 25 November 2025

Environmental and Sustainability Update

Report by Director of Estates and Corporate Services, Head of Facilities and Environmental Sustainability and Environmental Sustainability Manager

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members in relation to environmental and sustainability matters, and it covers the following areas:

2. Engagement with Sustainability
3. Visit from Matt Woodthorpe – EAUC Scotland Director
4. Scotland's Heat Network Fund Announcement
5. EAUC State of the Sector Research
6. 2025 Green Gown Awards & Sector Recognition
7. Campus Cycling Officer Appointed
8. EAUC Learning for Sustainability Pilot Programme - Update
9. Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report
10. Cycling Friendly Award with Distinction

2. Engagement with Sustainability

The Director of Estates and Corporate Services attended a reception hosted by **First Bus** to learn more about their sustainability initiatives and available resources. Following this, the Environmental Sustainability Manager and Marketing Team promoted the benefits and travel discounts accessible to staff through the College's membership in the First Bus Commuter Travel Club.

As part of the **Nature Friendly Grounds Pilot Programme**, the College has established a *Nature Friendly Working Group* comprising support and teaching staff from a range of departments, alongside student representatives. This group will lead on actions to enhance biodiversity and green spaces across all three campuses over the next two years.

During the **November Staff Development Week**, the Environmental Sustainability Manager, in collaboration with the Active Campus Coordinator, will deliver interactive sustainability workshops to Fashion students participating in the *Project Runway* event and to staff attending the development sessions. A full-day *Cycle Ride Leader Training* course has also been scheduled to build cycling leadership capacity within the College.

In addition, the Environmental Sustainability Manager has begun engaging with students at the Springburn and Easterhouse campuses through the ***Students for People & Planet initiative***. These sessions have provided valuable insight into student perspectives on sustainability and will inform the development of student-led projects planned for 2026.

3. Visit from Matt Woodthorpe – EAUC Scotland Director

The College's Senior Leadership Team hosted EAUC Scotland Director, Matt Woodthorpe, who ran a workshop focused on strengthening Glasgow Kelvin College's approach to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and associated Public Bodies Climate Change Duties. The session explored the three key statutory pillars of action: reducing emissions, assessing and adapting to climate risk, and embedding sustainability across core college functions such as learning, procurement, governance, and operations. Emphasis was placed on the importance of moving beyond minimum compliance towards sectoral leadership through strong governance, integration of climate considerations in financial and strategic planning, and transparent reporting. The workshop also reviewed forthcoming statutory guidance, national targets towards net zero by 2045, and practical tools to support implementation and monitoring. A preliminary gap analysis was undertaken to identify current strengths and opportunities for improvement across the college's curriculum, campus, community, and culture.

Slides from the EAUC Workshop are available for reference via the Link as listed in the portal.

4. Scotland's Heat Network Fund Announcement

The Scottish Government has announced an extension of the **Scotland's Heat Network Fund (SHNF)**, which provides capital grants to support the development of zero-emission heat networks across the public and private sectors. Initially scheduled to close in March 2026, the fund will now remain open to new applications until March 2030. This extension aims to maintain momentum in the rollout of low-carbon heating infrastructure, give confidence to private investors, and sustain growth in Scotland's heat network skills and supply chains, contributing to the national target of ending the use of polluting heating systems by 2045.

5. EAUC State of the Sector Research

The College has submitted its return for the EAUC State of the Sector Research 2025 ahead of the deadline. This UK-wide study, led by EAUC in partnership with key sector bodies, aims to provide an updated overview of sustainability progress, challenges, and resourcing across post-16 education. The College's submission outlines current sustainability governance, staffing and funding arrangements, alignment with the *Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009* and *Race to Zero* commitments, and identifies barriers and opportunities for further development. The return contributes to national benchmarking and will inform future strategic support for sustainability across the sector.

A copy of the submission is attached for reference via the Link as listed in the portal.

6. 2025 Green Gown Awards & Sector Recognition

Glasgow Kelvin College has achieved national recognition at the **UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards 2025**, being named a finalist in two categories: *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Sustainability* for the 'Cycling for All: Breaking Barriers' initiative and *Creating Impact* for the 'Holistic Approach to Whole-Student Engagement' project. The College was announced as the **winner of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Sustainability Award** at the ceremony held in Birmingham on 6 November 2025, a significant achievement reflecting the College's leadership in embedding inclusive, community-focused sustainability practice. We were only one of two colleges in Scotland to be awarded a Green Gown; this is our second Green Gown award.

Photos of the event and award are attached to this report in [Annex 1](#).

As a winner, the Cycling for All project will automatically go through as a Finalist to the International Green Gown Awards which take place next year; the date for this will be confirmed in due course.

In addition, both projects have been shortlisted for the **College Development Network (CDN) Awards 2025**, in the *Sustainability Action* and *Health and Wellbeing* categories respectively, with results to be announced on 4 December 2025. These recognitions highlight the College's continued progress in integrating sustainability, wellbeing, and inclusion across all aspects of its operations and engagement.

7. Campus Cycling Officer Appointed

Through funding from Cycling Scotland, the College has been able to employ a new Campus Cycling Officer through the calendar year. She has been busy drafting funding applications, managing student and staff bike loans, and working to improve the cycling infrastructure, resources, and engagement at the College.

8. EAUC Learning for Sustainability Pilot Programme - Update

Glasgow Kelvin College is one of four Scottish institutions selected to participate in the **EAUC pilot programme - Key Enablers for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Learning for Sustainability (LfS)**. The initiative supports colleges and universities to embed sustainability within learning and teaching by identifying and addressing key barriers to implementation.

A core group of curriculum leaders, working alongside EAUC and the College's Environmental Sustainability Manager, has been established to lead this work and has already held two planning sessions. Three projects have now been identified as part of the programme: (1) the establishment of a *Students for People & Planet* group to provide student insight and involvement; (2) the introduction of *Positive Teaching Practice* discussions within curriculum team meetings to record and share good LfS practice; and (3) the embedding of LfS principles into the new *Teaching Development Programme*. These projects are being developed collaboratively with College staff and will be shared with peer institutions for feedback as the programme progresses, ahead of sector-wide outcomes being published in May 2026.

9. Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report

The annual Scottish Government Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report (PBCCDR) regulatory return for the period 2024-25 is due for submission by the deadline of 30 November 2025. The College is on schedule to meet this deadline.

Finance and Resource Committee members will receive sight of the full Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report for 2024-25 at the meeting scheduled for March 2026.

10. Cycling Friendly Award with Distinction

We are thrilled to share that our Easterhouse Campus has once again achieved Cycling Friendly Award with Distinction.

We first earned this award back in December 2022, we have now been reassessed and reissued for another three years.

A photo of the award is in [Annex 1](#).

11. Impact on Students

There are no negative impacts as a consequence of anything within this report. The Environmental and Sustainability Manager has participated in many events with College students to raise awareness of environmental and sustainability matters. These events assist with learning/development and citizenship skills and continue to provide an opportunity to promote our Learning Network Sustainability module.

12. Risk and Assurance

There are no additional risk and assurance implications that are not covered within this report.

13. Equality

There are no Equality implications arising as a consequence of anything within this report.

14. Data Protection

There are no direct data protection implications arising as a consequence of anything within this report.

15. Environmental and Sustainability Impact

The Environmental Sustainability Manager continues to engage with students, teaching and support staff to raise awareness of various events.

16. Resources

There are no direct resources implications arising as a consequence of anything within this report. The College continues to apply for grant funding and significantly benefits from funding awards received.

17. Recommendations

- i) It is recommended that members note the content of this report, links and annex.

18. Further Information

Further information can be obtained from Lisa Clark, Director of Estates and Corporate Services - lisaclark@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk, Claire Reid, Head of Facilities and Environmental Sustainability – creid@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk or Sarah Shea, Environmental Sustainability Manager on sshea@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

Lisa Clark
Director of Estates and Corporate Services
November 2025

UK & Ireland Green Gown Awards Ceremony



**Cycling
Friendly**TM

Campus



This is to certify that

Glasgow Kelvin College - Easterhouse Campus

Has achieved

Cycling Friendly with Distinction Status

Awarded

11/25

Valid until

11/28

**Cycling Friendly,
a Cycling Scotland programme**

cycling.scot

Scottish charity SC029760