

Glasgow Kelvin College and the Climate Change Duties: Leadership, Governance and Action

October 2025

Overview

Over the next 2 hours we will:

- 1) Get to know each other
- 2) Understand why we are here
- 3) Summarise the Climate Change Duties and main statutory requirements placed on Glasgow Kelvin College
- 4) Start a gap-analysis of sustainability at the college
- 5) Start identifying opportunities for advancement

Who's in the room?

What's your name?

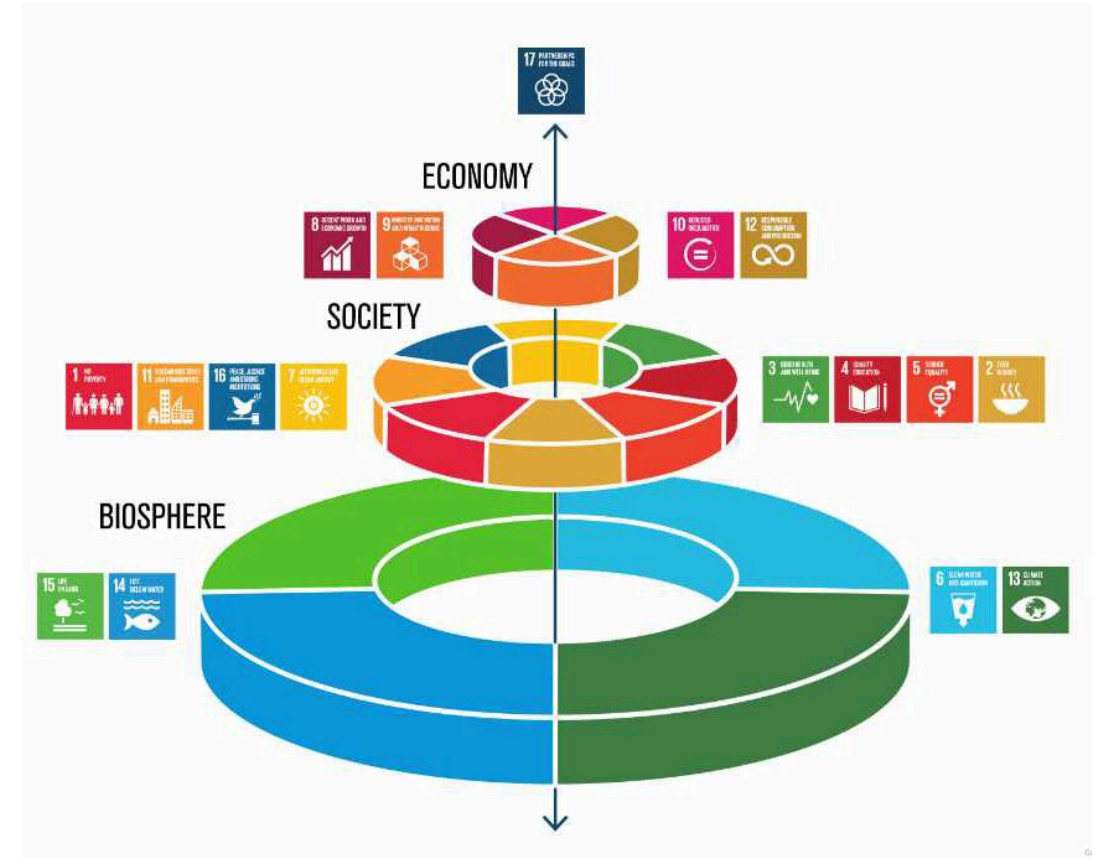
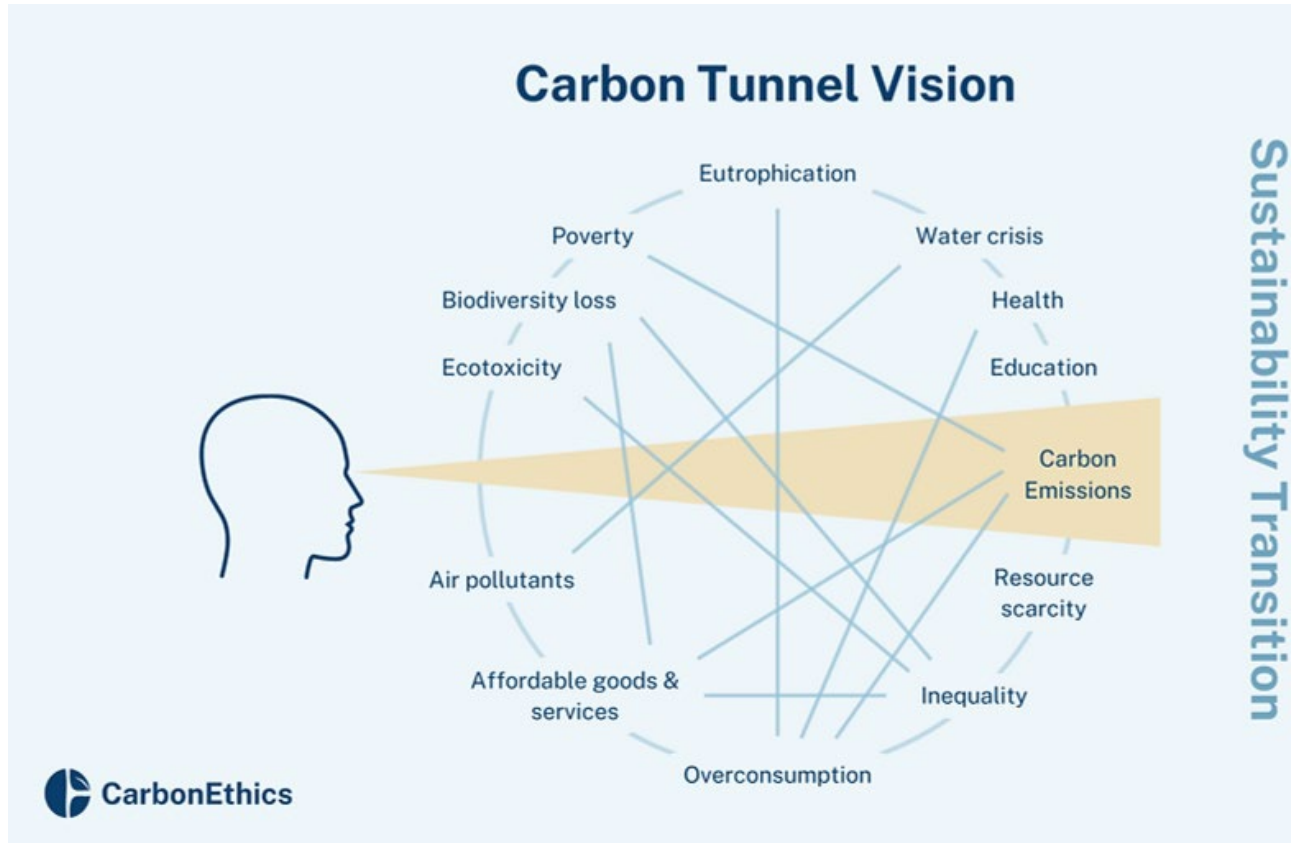
What's your role?

How has your role linked to sustainability to date?

What's a hidden talent of yours?

Why are we here?

Think holistic sustainability



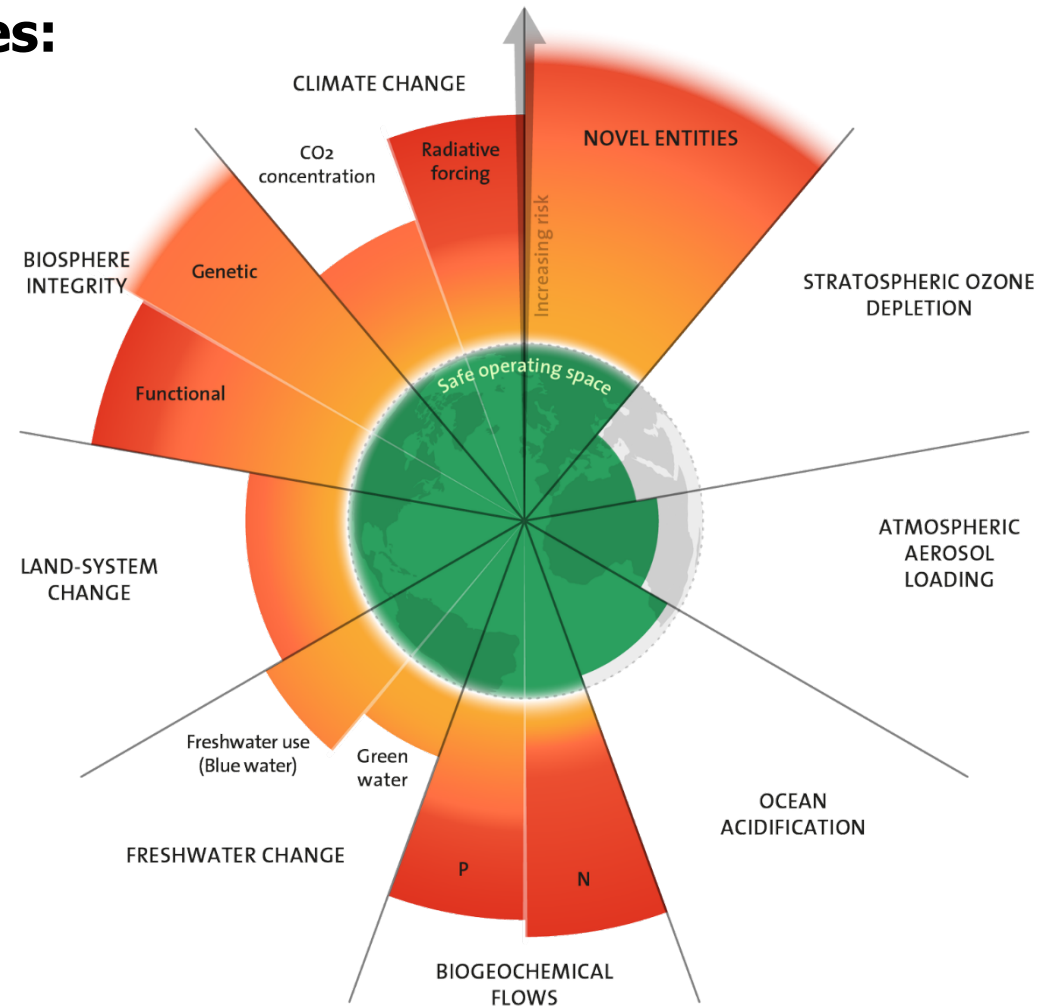
I SEEC Sustainability

Interconnected Social Environmental Economic Cultural

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Think holistic sustainability

Planetary boundaries: 2023 assessment



Think holistic sustainability

The 4 C's of sustainability:



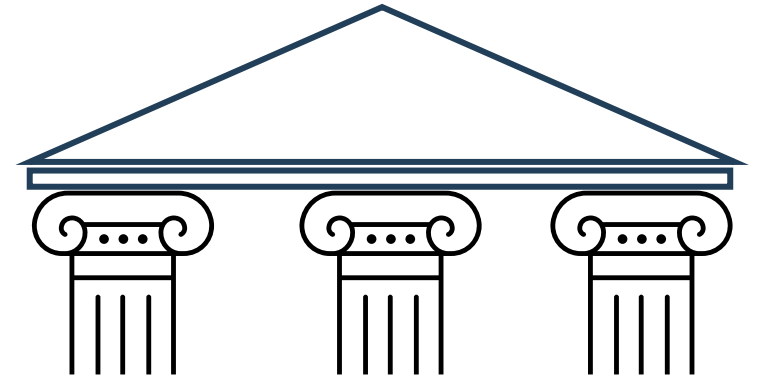
Key reflective questions

- 1) Does our response meet statutory expectations?**
- 2) Does our response meet our moral/values expectations?**

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act') places duties on relevant public bodies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to delivery of the Scottish National Adaptation Plan, and to act in the most sustainable way. These duties are known as the climate change duties, or the public bodies climate change duties (PBCCD).

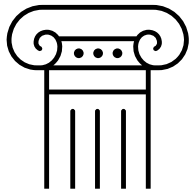
The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009



The 3 pillars of the Duties:

1. Emissions reduction:

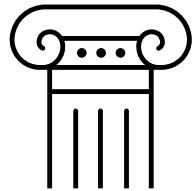
- Target setting
- Emissions reporting
- Alignment of spending plans
- Delivery of emission reduction activities



2. Climate risk and adaptation*:

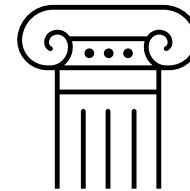
- Climate risk reporting
- Adaptation action plan
- Alignment of spending plans
- Delivery of adaptation action plan

* Aligned to the current Scottish National Adaptation Plan



3. Sustainability in core functions:

- Embedding learning for sustainability in all courses
- Sustainable procurement
- Biodiversity



Key reflective questions - context

Today

Meeting statutory expectations =
the absolute minimum response
Glasgow Kelvin College should be
(working towards-) delivering

Minimum floor

Emissions
reduction

Climate risk
and
adaptation

Sustainability
in core
functions and
processes

Key reflective questions - context

Today

Meeting moral/values expectations =
going where we need to be; choice

Meeting statutory expectations =
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(working towards-) delivering



Leadership space

Minimum floor

Emissions
reduction

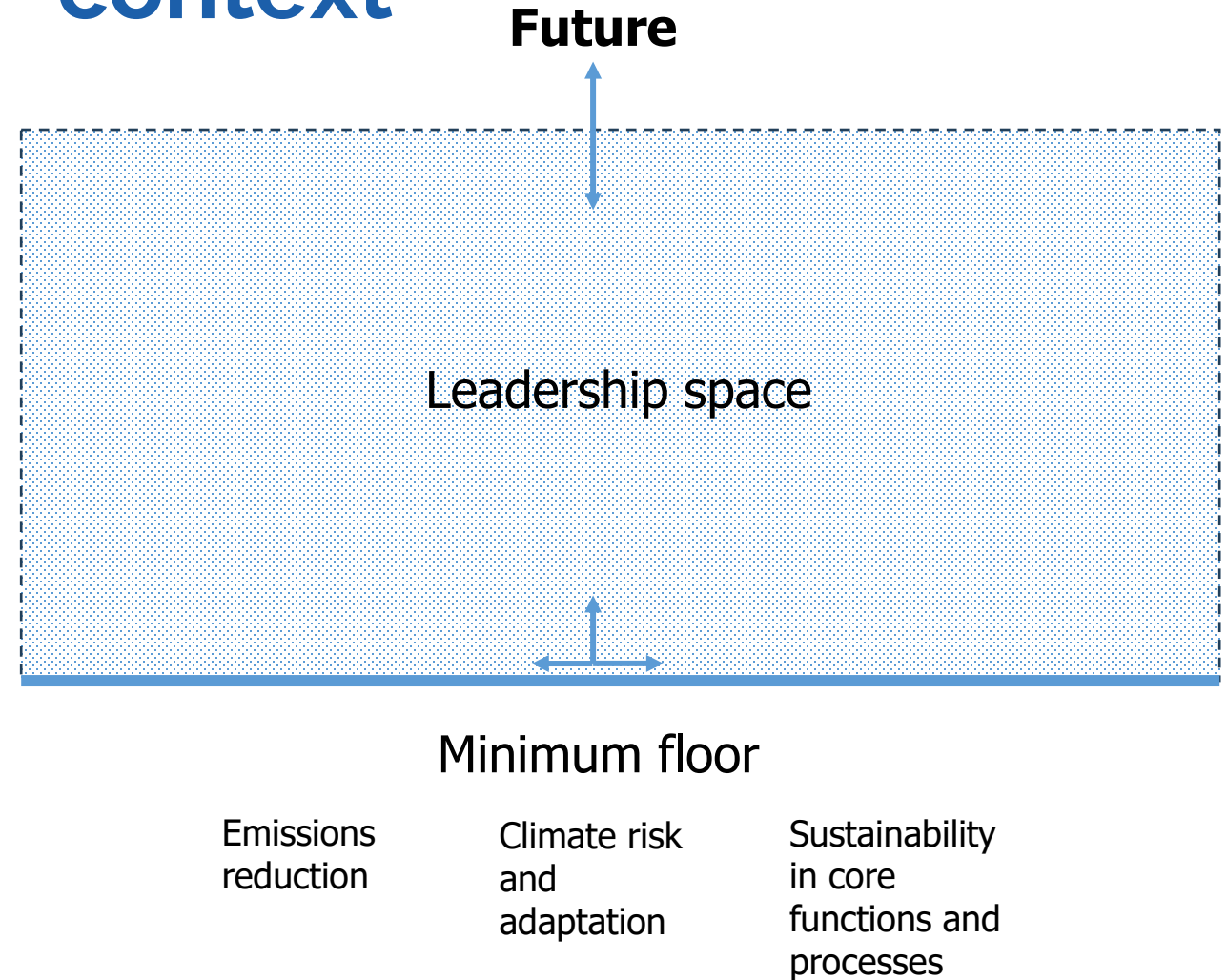
Climate risk
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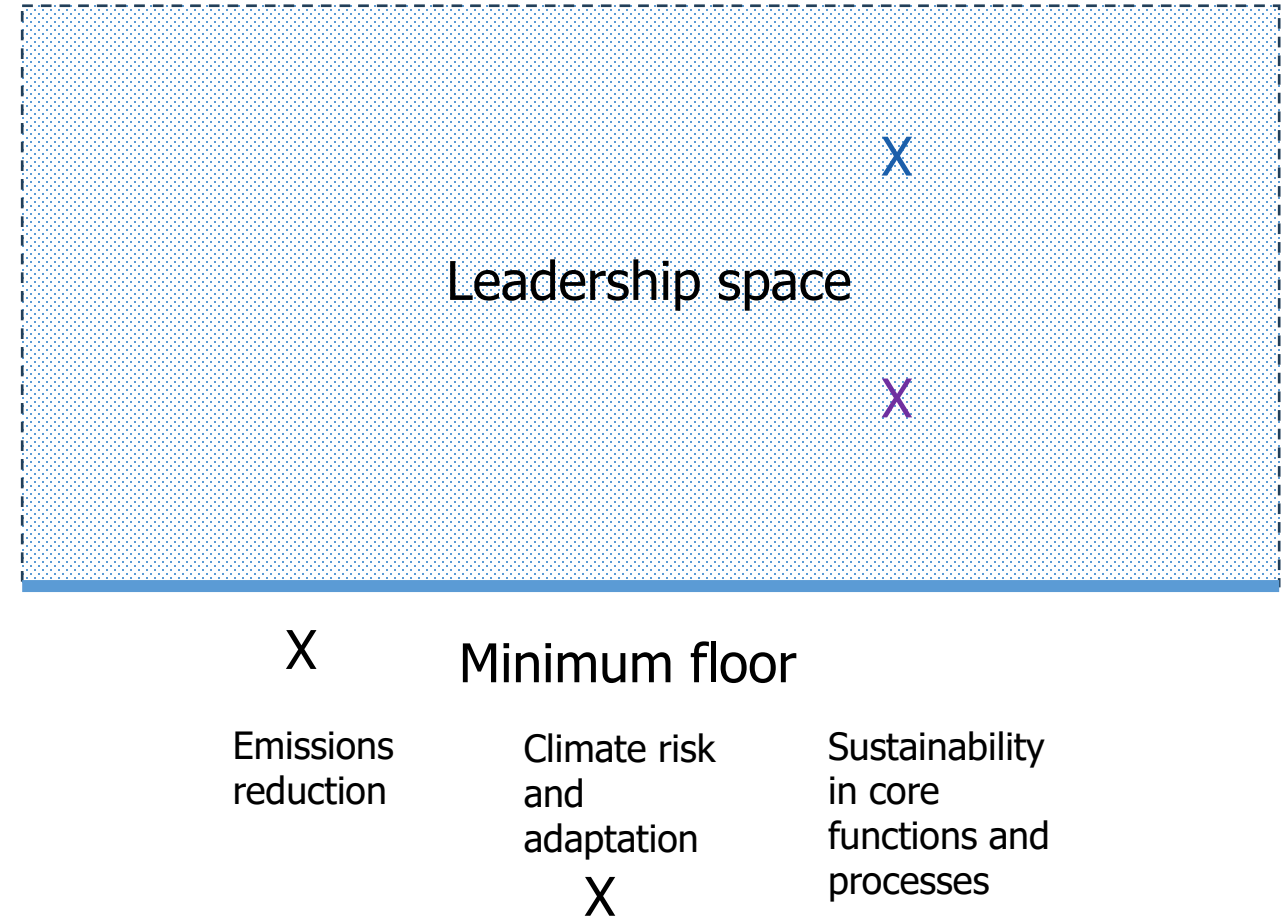


Key reflective questions - context

EXAMPLE GKC today

Meeting moral/values expectations =
going where we need to be; choice

Meeting statutory expectations =
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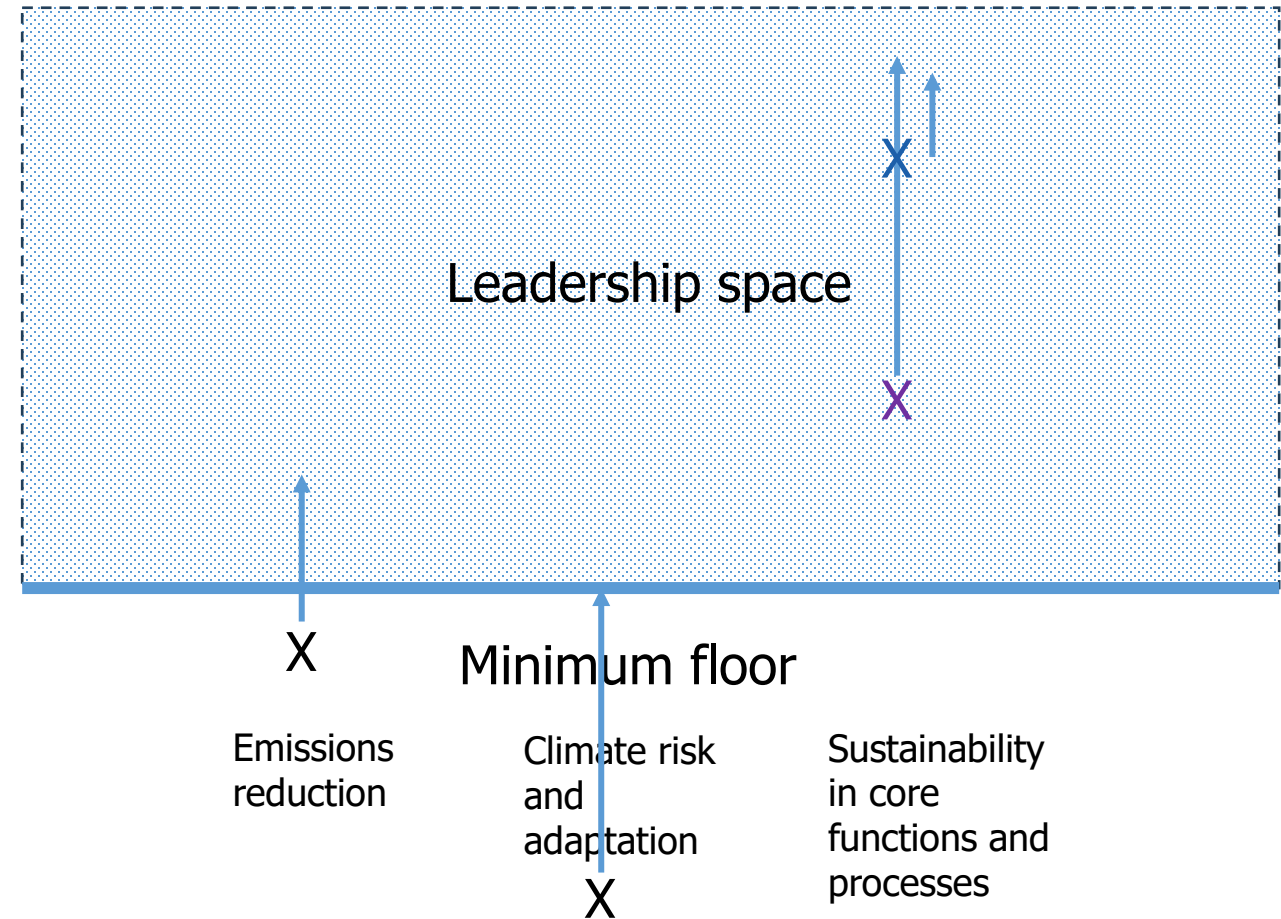


Key reflective questions - context

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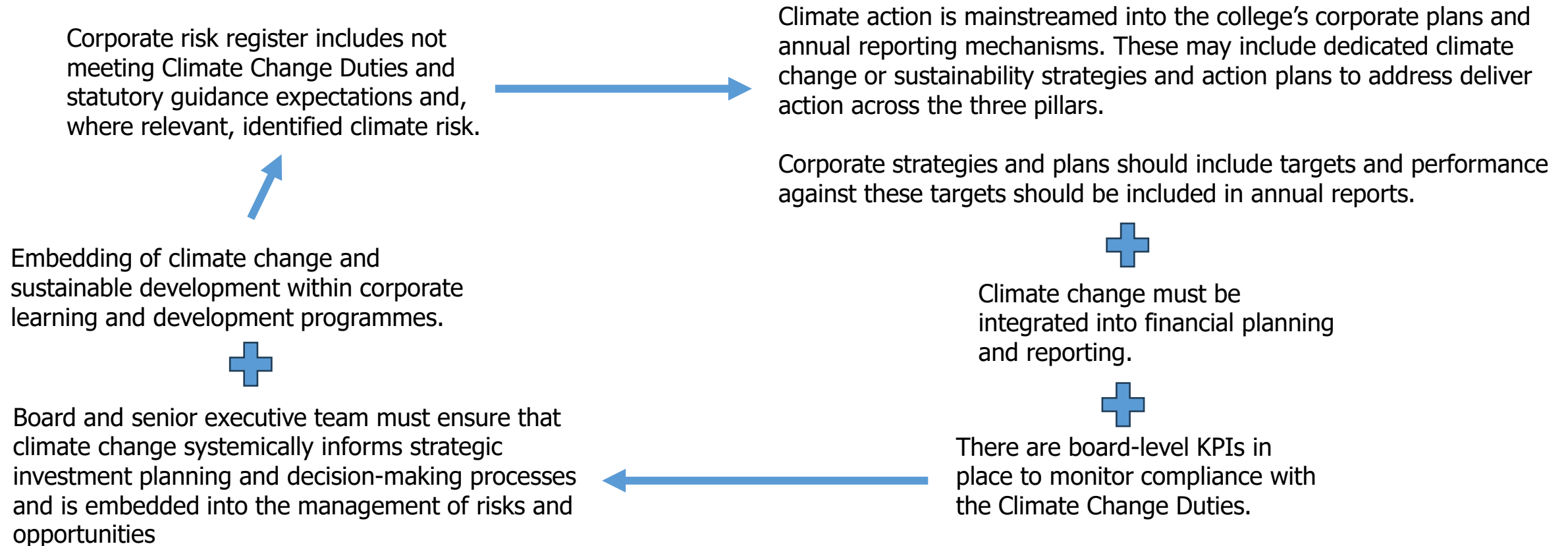
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EXAMPLE GKC today



So, what is the minimum floor for Glasgow Kelvin College?

Enabling foundation: Leadership, governance and a whole-institution approach



So, what is the minimum floor for Glasgow Kelvin College?

Pillar 1: Emissions reductions

1. Target setting

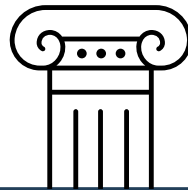
- Publication of a corporate sustainability strategy which includes corporate emission targets, including a minimum of zero direct emissions by 2045 and zero direct emissions from all estate buildings by 2038

2. Delivering reductions

- Publication and implementation of a sustainability action plan, detailing interim steps, costs, timescales and dependencies
- Mitigation actions maximise co-benefits, such as improved public health, reduced inequalities and enhanced biodiversity, and minimise unintended consequences such as maladaptation and negative environmental impacts
- Report progress against its targets annually

3. Reporting

- Consistent, accurate and transparent reporting of all Scope 1 & 2 emissions and all significant Scope 3 emissions
- Reporting evidence corporate spending plans align to delivering of the emission targets



So, what is the minimum floor for Glasgow Kelvin College?

Pillar 2: Climate risk and adaptation

1. Understanding of climate risk

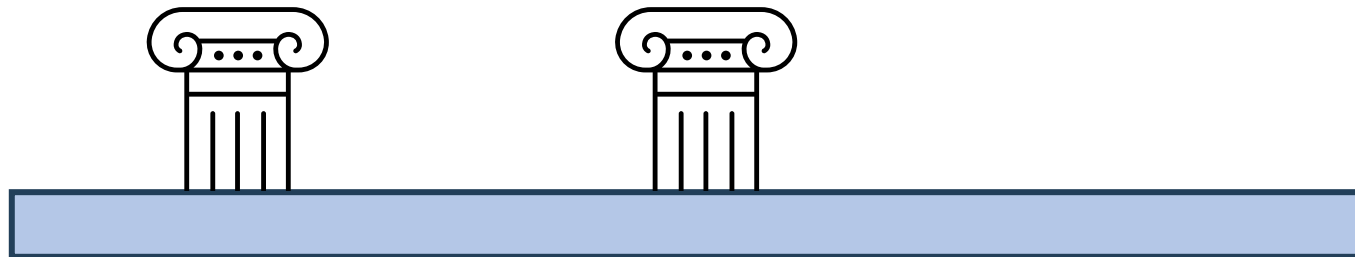
- Completion of a comprehensive climate risk assessment of current and future climate risks within the context of your functions and operations
- Ensure that appropriate climate risks are included on corporate risk registers

2. Increasing resilience to climate change

- Undertaken review of the objectives of the Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024 – 2029 and identified relevant actions to support objective delivery
- Development and implementation of an adaptation plan

3. Monitoring and reporting

- Monitoring and evaluation of implemented adaptation measures to ensure that efforts remain sufficient and responsive to changing conditions



So, what is the minimum floor for Glasgow Kelvin College?

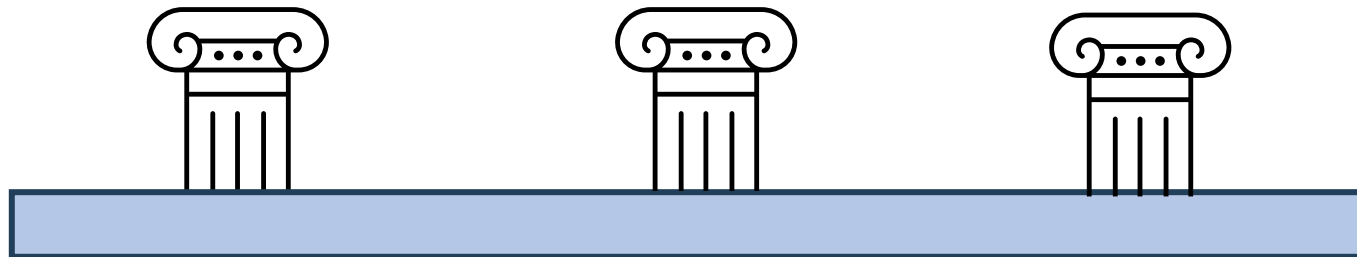
Pillar 3: Sustainability in core functions

1. Policies and processes

- Alignment of sustainability work to the National Performance Framework and delivery of the National Outcomes
- Integration of a sustainable development impact assessment, or equivalent, process into decision-making processes, including financial decisions
- Procurement activities are undertaken in line with relevant legislation and the Sustainable Procurement Duty

2. Sustainability in learning, teaching and research

- Proactive consideration of how sustainability can be embedded in the delivery of learning, teaching and research and can support sustainable development outcomes
- Actions identified to be included in corporate strategies, policies and action plans and progress reported on annually



Context: Social justice

Policy structures embedded within the context of social justice, e.g.:

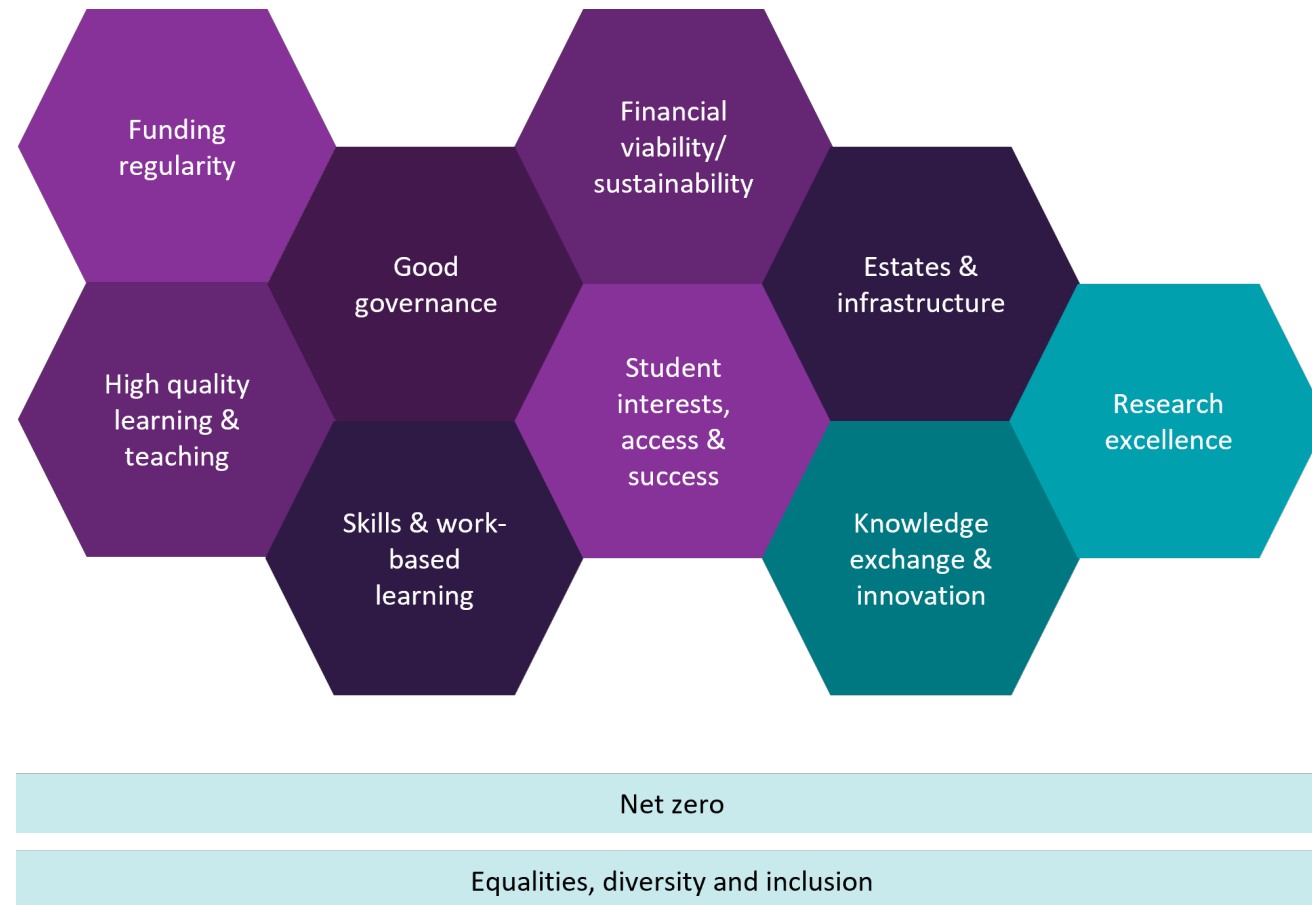
- National Performance Framework
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Just Transition Plans
- Fair Work

New public sector statutory guidance

Consultation: February – May 2025

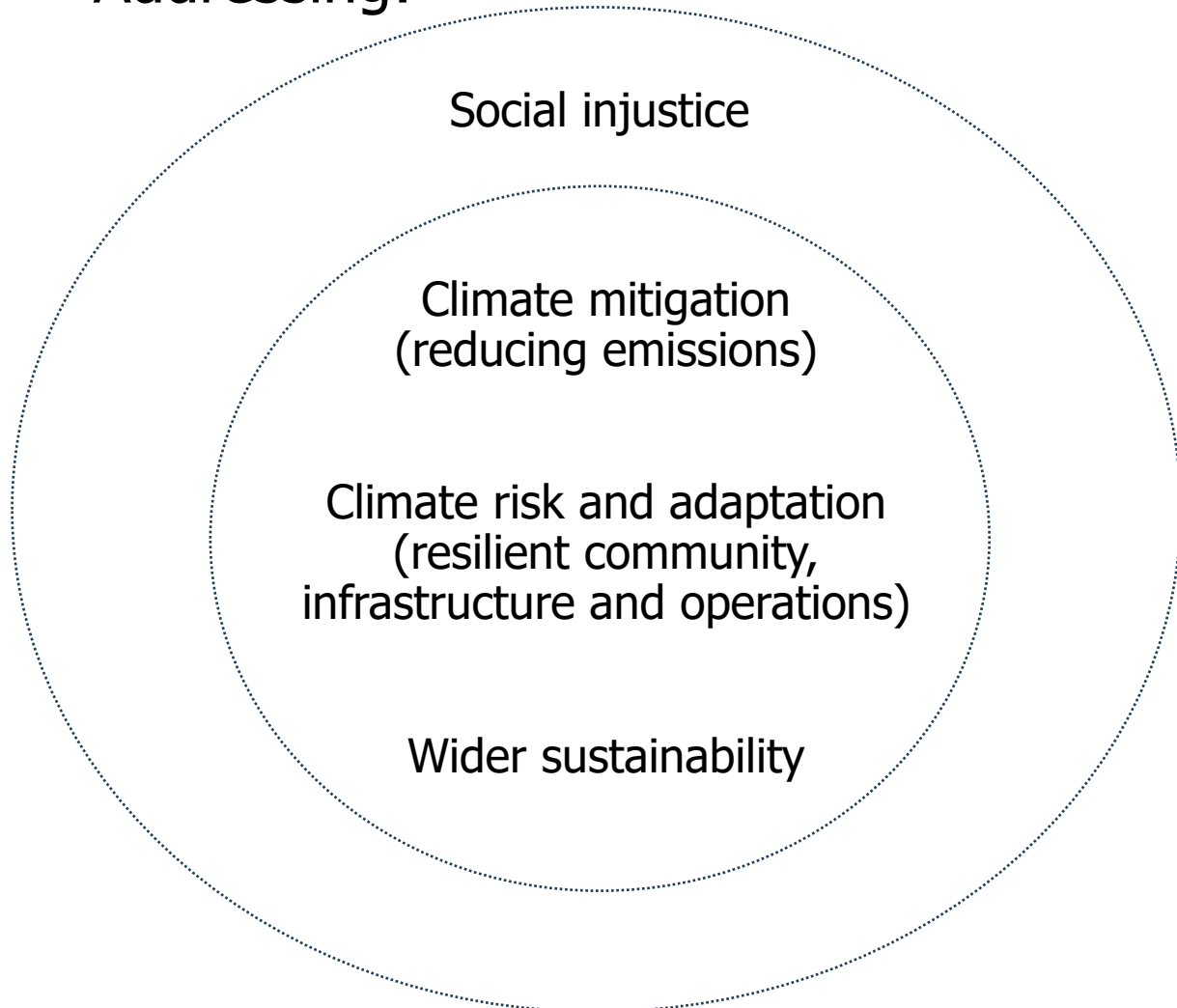
Publication end of 2025

SFC Outcomes Framework and Assurance Model

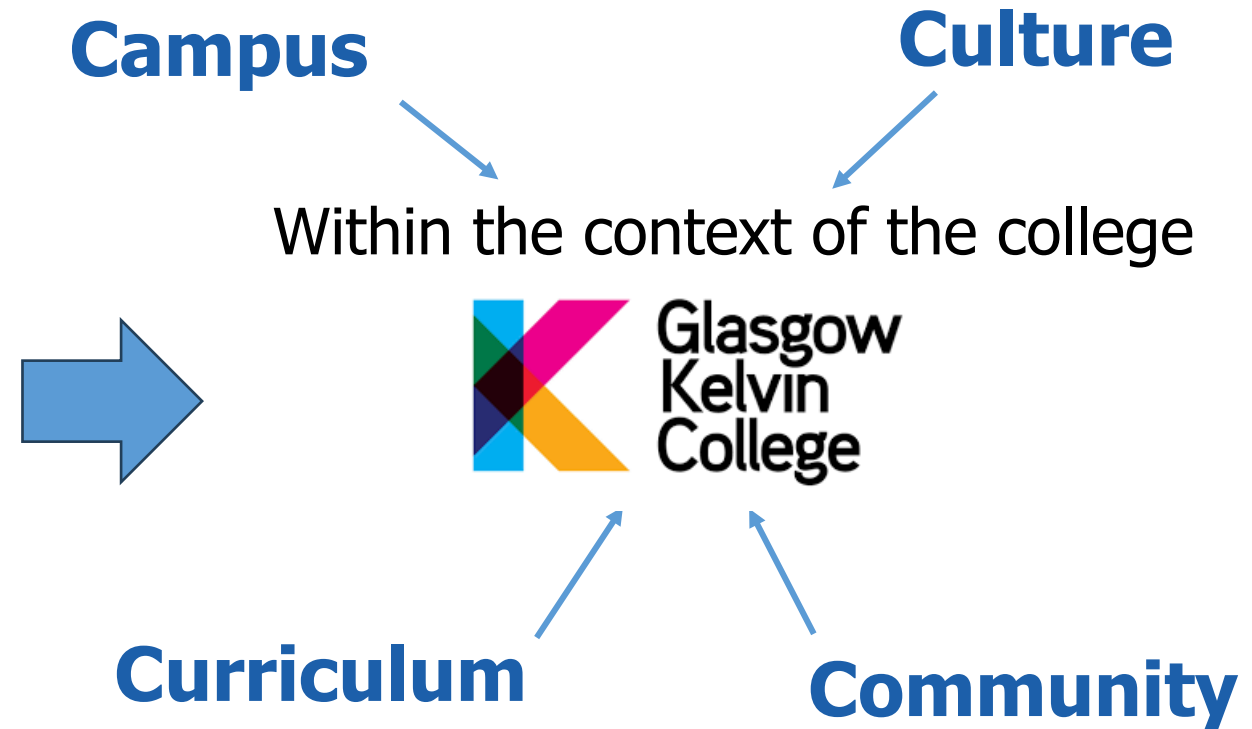


Sustainable development at Glasgow Kelvin College

Addressing:



[recognising each of these are interlinked]



Questions and reflections

Climate Change Duties at Glasgow Kelvin College

Addressing:

Climate mitigation
(reducing emissions)

Climate risk and adaptation
(resilient community,
infrastructure and operations)

Learning, teaching
and research

Procurement

Gap analysis:

Target setting
Full emissions
reporting
Operationalising
Approach to
offsetting

Gap analysis:

Climate risk
assessment for
current and future
climate
Climate risk action
plan
Operationalising

Gap analysis:

How is sustainability
embedded in content
and delivery of
education and
research?

Gap analysis:

How do procurement
policies and activity
support the delivery
of the Climate
Change Duties?

And led and supported by good governance

4 C's:

- Campus
- Culture
- Curriculum
- Community

Thank you

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