

Glasgow Kelvin College

Finance and Resources Committee Meeting of 4 March 2025

Environmental and Sustainability Update

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

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2. Engagement with Sustainability

Wellbeing for People & Planet Library Resource Hub

The 'Wellbeing for People and Planet' Library Resource Hubs are the result of the collaboration of the Environmental Sustainability Manager and the Library Services Team. The Hubs feature an inviting, vibrant display of literature and library resources to help the Kelvin community explore ways to improve their wellbeing (and the planet!). The themes of the Resource Hubs are:

- Theme 1: Cooking for People & Planet
- Theme 2: Mindfulness and Self-Care
- Theme 3: Wellbeing in Nature

Each themed Hub includes a display of informative resources (books, eBooks, and other media resources which can be borrowed from the library or accessed digitally), and many of the Hub launches also include 'People & Planet Starter Packs' which visitors can take home. The Starter Packs include practical items to give them a head-start in inspiring life-long habits of sustainable practices and self-care. For example, the Sustainable Food Starter Pack will include a recipe for a plant-based meal, a bag of the food ingredients to make the recipe at home, information on local food pantries, and tips to reduce food waste when cooking.

Photos of Cooking Themed Springburn Launch are attached as **Appendix 1**.

Ministerial Visit

The Scottish Government's Acting Minister for Climate Action, Dr Alasdair Allan, made a visit to Glasgow Kelvin's Springburn campus on 11 December. Dr Allan toured the Green Academy, and visited the International Green Gown Award-winning Fashion Department, praising the College for its action on sustainability. The visit was covered in the press, and an article in The Herald can be read here: [Minister hails 'world-class' action on sustainability at city college | The Herald](#)

Festive Green Markets

December provided an opportunity for members of the College's 'Holistic Group' to put on festive markets for students and staff to enjoy. These markets showcased the College's commitment to the circular economy and to environmental and social sustainability. The Festive 'Green' Markets included the Student Association's Toy and Clothing Bank, a craft corner, winter walks, and stalls selling student-made creations, such as the Fashion Department's festive decorations and the Support for Learning students' homemade wreaths.

Monthly Bike Maintenance

As part of the College's commitment to encouraging active, sustainable travel, the Campus Cycling Officer has organised monthly Bike Repair and Maintenance sessions at Springburn campus, free to all staff and students. This initiative reduces barriers to cycling to campus, by allowing the Kelvin community to keep their bikes in working order.

'Feel the Heat II' District Heat Network Workshop

On 7 February, The University of Glasgow hosted its second annual workshop, 'Feel the Heat II', to discuss the barriers and opportunities regarding district heat networks in Glasgow. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for the Environmental Sustainability Manager to hear about successful 'clean heat' projects, and to learn about plans for the City of Glasgow and the greater region. At this time, none of the Kelvin College campuses are in the primary zone of planned projects, but should those initial projects be successful, Glasgow City Council would encourage institutions in secondary zones to pursue 'clean heat' sources or to connect with (future) networks.

3. Funding

Cycling UK Funding for Bicycle Fleet and Equipment

The College was recently successful in obtaining grant funding of £23,307.29 from Cycling UK for the purchase of an expanded range of bikes and equipment, including a bike suitable for wheelchair users and additional bikes with lower frames for use by students who, for cultural observance, wear longer, loose clothing. These bicycles will become part of the College's permanent fleet of bikes available for students and staff to borrow at no cost and will be used by Support for Learning students in their coursework.

Cycling Scotland Funding for Easterhouse Bike Shelters

The College was successful in its application to Cycling Scotland to build more robust cycle shelters at the Easterhouse Campus. The planning for this capital project has concluded, and the ground works and installation of the three new shelters is scheduled to conclude by 31 March 2025. The College is pleased that one of the new shelters will be specifically

constructed to house the new fleet of adapted trikes to be used by the Support for Learning students in their coursework.

The Tree Council's Branching Out Fund

The College has received funds from The Tree Council's Branching Out Fund to purchase eight new fruit, orchard trees for the developing Easterhouse Garden. The trees will be planted and maintained by the Support for Learning students, as part of their horticulture and forestry school coursework and will improve the campus biodiversity.

Application to Better World Books' Literacy Fund

The College applied to Better World Books' Literacy Fund to help support the 'Wellbeing for People and Planet Library Hubs'. Funding for these Hubs would allow the Environmental Sustainability Manager and Library Services team to provide more resources in the Hub's 'Starter Packs' and put on more enticing events to attract students and staff to the Hubs. The purpose of the Hubs is to promote both traditional and environmental literacy. The College hopes to learn of the outcome of this application in March 2025.

Application to GCC's LEZ Community Support Fund

The College applied to Glasgow City Council's LEZ Community Support Fund to support a rainwater harvesting and storage project at Easterhouse campus. With the development of the Easterhouse Garden, the new green space is lacking a water source. The rainwater harvesting system would provide a sustainable solution to the garden's water needs, while also improving the climate adaptation capabilities of the College. The College hopes to learn of the outcome of this application in March 2025.

4. APUC Community Benefits Working Group

The Environmental Sustainability Manager has been invited to join the APUC Community Benefits Working Group, with the College's Procurement Manager. This working group will examine how best to ensure that suppliers uphold the community benefit actions promised in tender exercises. The College has benefited from the sustainability project support of Baxter Storey and Enva and look forward to sharing their experience with the working group.

5. Campus Gardens Update

College green spaces continue to be utilised and developed by staff and students. At Easterhouse, work continues in revitalising the outdoor area in the rear of the building into a green space that students and staff can enjoy. A perimeter fence has been erected around the area to decrease vandalism, and wheelchair accessible paths have been put in throughout. In the coming months, raised-bed planters will be built, orchard trees will be planted (with funds provided by The Tree Council), one corner of the green space will be rewilded to be water vole and hedgehog friendly, and a shipping container and more robust cycle shelter (with funds provided by Cycling Scotland) will be installed.

Photos of New Perimeter Fence and Wheelchair Friendly Path at Garden in Easterhouse attached as **Appendix 1**.

6. Link from the College to Springburn Rail Station

The 'A Railway for Everyone' Team at Network Rail continue to pursue funding for the creation of an accessible path from the Springburn rail station platform to the rear access of Springburn

campus. The Network Rail team are leading on this project, with the support of the College, and hope to secure funding to improve the accessibility of the Springburn rail station.

7. Easterhouse Carpark LED Lighting

Glasgow Life had previously identified funding allocated to upgrading existing lighting within the Easterhouse campus car park to LED lighting. The LED lighting has now been installed and will achieve a reduction in energy use, therefore reducing the College's carbon emissions as well as costs.

8. Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-2029

In September 2024, the Scottish Government published the 'Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-29' (SNAP24), which sets out the actions the Scottish Government and partners will undertake to build Scotland's resilience to the impacts of climate change. The Environmental Sustainability Manager, on behalf of the College, was invited to become a member of the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network (PSCAN). PSCAN is run by Adaptation Scotland and Sniffer (an environmental non-profit) and aims to provide guidance on climate adaptation as well as a platform for knowledge-exchange for public sector organisations. In response to the publication of SNAP24, Adaptation Scotland has created a benchmarking tool to assist organisations in evaluating their current climate adaptation capacity and to provide guidance in how to improve adaptation capability. The Environmental Sustainability Manager will complete this benchmarking exercise in the coming months to provide the College with an overview of our current adaptation status and capabilities.

More information can be found via the following link:

[Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-29](#)

9. Deposit Return Scheme

Parliament has approved wide-ranging legislation to establish a deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers in England and Northern Ireland.

The scheme, set to launch in October 2027, will require consumers to pay a deposit when purchasing drinks in plastic and metal containers, which can be reclaimed when the empty containers are returned through designated collection points. The new scheme, however, has stopped short of including glass bottles, jars and containers.

Scotland paused the introduction of its scheme in 2023 over disagreements about the timing of introduction of the scheme, the potential costs to businesses and the inclusion of glass. Consequently, the Scottish scheme was paused initially until the autumn of 2025, but will likely be postponed further. Wales has been pressing ahead with its own scheme which includes recycling of glass bottles and containers.

10. Race to Zero: Annual Reporting Update

As a signatory to the Race to Zero campaign for Universities and Colleges, the College submitted its annual update report by the 10 December 2024 deadline. The College continues to prioritise carbon reduction opportunities, when feasible and available, and has met all mandatory requirements to continue its participation in the Race to Zero campaign. A copy of the report can be found via the following link: [Race to Zero: Annual Reporting Update](#)

11. Public Sector Climate Change Duties Reporting 2023-24

The annual Scottish Government Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report (PSCCDR) regulatory return for the period 2023-24 was submitted by the deadline of 30 November 2024. The full submission can be reviewed on the College website via the following link: [PSCCDR 2023-24](#)

12. Period Poverty

Members will be aware of the Scottish Government initiative to provide access to free sanitary products to learners within schools, further and higher education institutions. The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 was enacted in November 2020 by the Scottish Government and received Royal assent on 12 January 2021. It is the world's first legislation to make it mandatory for all public institutions to provide sanitary products for menstruation including tampons and pads. This helps ensure all learners from low-income backgrounds can fully participate in education without being disadvantaged or prioritising over other essential household items.

The distribution of free sanitary products was implemented within Glasgow Kelvin College in August 2018. For 2025, a new range of sustainable period products has been ordered and will soon be made available to students. Additionally, new dispensers are being installed in toilets. When no stock is available in toilets, students will be able to go to campus receptions and ask for a package for 'Sandy'.

These developments in the College's period products provision will be communicated to students in a relaunch campaign sharing information through MyKelvin, Teams, posters etc.

13. 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 provide an opportunity to promote our Learning Network Sustainability module.

14. Risk and Assurance

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

15. Equality

There are no Equality implications arising as a consequence of anything within this report. To further add to the comfort of students, period products and disposal bins are being placed in the main male toilets on the ground floor of each campus.

16. Data Protection

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

17. Environmental and Sustainability Impact

The Environmental and Sustainability Manager continues to engage with students, teaching and support staff to raise awareness of various events. Active travel is being promoted with the purchasing of new bikes.

18. Resources

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

19. Recommendations

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

20. 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, Sarah Shea, Environmental and Sustainability Manager on sshea@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk or Roddy MacKenzie, Regulations and Compliance Manager on rmackenzie@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

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Appendix 1

Wellbeing for People and Planet Library Resource Hub: Cooking for People and Planet Theme



New Perimeter Fence and Wheelchair Friendly Path at Garden in Easterhouse

