

**Glasgow Kelvin College**

**Finance and Resources Committee Meeting - 04 June 2024**

**Environmental and Sustainability Update**

**Report by Director of Estates and Corporate Services 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:

- 2 Funding Opportunities
- 3 Deposit Return Scheme
- 4 Student and Staff Engagement
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**2. Funding Opportunities**

The College has recently applied for a £25k 'Climate Engagement' fund from the Scottish Government. The fund is intended to provide support for projects which engage a diverse audience in discussions of climate change and sustainable behaviours. The College's Environmental Sustainability Manager has worked with the Active Campus Coordinator, and proposed a project which engages College students, staff, and community partners in learning more about sustainability through a series of sports events. The College should learn whether the application was successful by June 2024.

Finance and Resource Committee members will be kept apprised accordingly.

**3. Deposit Return Scheme**

The governments of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and England have recently set out an updated timetable for introducing a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers. Separate but interoperable schemes are now set to run from October 2027. More information can be found in the following link:

[Governments confirm postponement of DRS until 2027 | Resource.co](#)

Key staff members from the College will keep a watch on this matter as appropriate.

#### **4. Student and Staff Engagement**

##### **a. Earth Day**

The theme of Earth Day 2024 was Planet vs. Plastic. To celebrate the day, the College collaborated with multiple community partners to organise a communitywide Easterhouse Litter Pick on 22 April 2024. The event was well-attended, with local organisations joining the College in helping to make the area cleaner and greener, doing our part to help reduce the plastic pollution in our community. The College was represented by numerous staff across multiple departments, including Vice Principal Jeanette Evans, and Student Association President, Sonique Noreiga. (Photos in **Appendix 1.**)

##### **b. Planet Earth Games**

As part of the College's participation in the Planet Earth Games, the Adventure Sports students planned and executed various student and staff outdoor events to engage with the environment and sustainability. Two of these events, the Glasgow Canals Canoeing Litter Pick, and the Glasgow Cultural Landmarks Led Bike Ride, were supported by our catering contractor, Baxter Storey. Healthy lunches and snacks were provided to all participants of both events, and the students were thrilled to have the support of Baxter Storey for their events. (Photos in **Appendix 1.**)

##### **c. Swap Shop Event**

Following other successful events, and in-line with the concepts covered in the Green Gown award-winning Fashion Department curriculum, the College hosted a Swap Shop event on 24 April 2024. There were over 250 items of clothing donated to the Fashion Department, and the majority of those items were taken by students and staff at the Swap Shop. This event showcases the importance of, and the College's commitment to, the circular economy. (Photo in **Appendix 1.**)

#### **5. Events and Networking**

The Environmental Sustainability Manager was pleased to present a case study at the EAUC Scotland Spring Forum and AGM on the 'Fighting Fast Fashion' project which was a winner in the Next Generation Learning and Skills category at the Green Gown Awards 2023.

The Environmental Sustainability Manager has been attending various other conferences and events around Scotland to stay abreast of local, regional, and national initiatives and opportunities in the environmental sustainability sector. Events attended include Clean Heat 24, where experts and local authorities provided an overview of their Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies; Net Zero Scotland Conference, where local companies highlighted the innovations they can bring to Scotland's decarbonisation journey; and the EAUC Glasgow Regional Meet-up, an opportunity to hear about upcoming EAUC events and resources and to network with sustainability professionals at other Glasgow Colleges and Universities.

#### **6. Vape Disposal Bins & Awareness**

The College has purchased designated disposable e-cigarette (vape) bins for each campus, which have been placed near reception. Although a UK-wide ban on disposable vapes has been approved, it will most likely not be implemented for another year.

As the disposable vapes pose such a fire risk<sup>1</sup> and are frequently found littering our campus, the College decided to purchase the vape-bins, where the empty vape cartridges can be safely collected and disposed of. The placement of the vape-bins coincided with a series of announcements on College marketing channels notifying students and staff of their location and encouraging them to dispose of the vapes safely. (Photo in **Appendix 1.**)

Furthermore, we note the high likelihood of disposable vape cartridges puncturing car tyres if a vehicle drives over these discarded items. It is hoped that by providing a receptacle for disposal of these cartridges that this situation can be avoided thus avoiding unnecessary tyre repair and/or wasteful replacement.

## **7. Biodiversity Duty Report**

Unlike public body climate duty legislation, the biodiversity duty legislation, dating back to The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 does not include Further and Higher Education institutions in the list of those required to produce a Biodiversity Duty Report. However, the EAUC will be producing best practice guidance on biodiversity strategies later in the year. The Environmental Sustainability Manager plans to use that guide, along with guidance provided by NatureScot to produce a biodiversity report for the College in the coming year.

Finance and Resources Committee members will be kept apprised accordingly.

## **8. Scottish Government will not meet 2030 Deadline of Targets**

Following a report by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) stating that Scotland is well behind schedule in meeting its 2030 deadline for emission reductions, the Scottish Government conceded the point and has stated that it will not meet the interim 2030 targets set forth. In a statement to Scottish Parliament, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy, Mairi McAllan, confirmed the CCC assessment of Scotland's slow progress in reducing emissions, but pledged to still meet the target of Net Zero emissions by 2045, highlighting multiple strategic priorities and the next steps for meeting the 2045 target.

## **9. Learning Network Sustainability Course**

Partnering with the College's Learning Development Technologist, the Environmental Sustainability Manager has created a new Sustainability course for the Kelvin Learning Network, which all students can join. Upon completion of the module, students will receive a digital certificate, which they can include as part of their CV to indicate one of their 'green qualifications'.

## **10. Climate Risk Register**

Using guidance from EAUC and Adaptation Scotland, and in response to requests for climate adaptation plans in the PBCCDR (Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report), the Environmental Sustainability Manager has created a Glasgow Kelvin College Climate Risk Register, with plans to incorporate findings into a College Climate Adaptation Plan.

The GKC Climate Risk Register considers projected climate changes for Glasgow, examining them against the vulnerability of the College estate, ICT, operations, teaching, and surrounding infrastructure. The Risk Register also accounts for existing mitigants and controls at the College and provides an action plan for adapting to the risks and impacts of a changing climate.

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<sup>1</sup> If a lit cigarette is placed in a receptacle alongside empty vape cartridges the batteries within the vape cartridges can ignite and cause an intense fire.

This new Climate Risk Register was considered by the College's Risk Management Committee and has been added to the suite of Team risk registers in order that it can be monitored accordingly.

Finance and Resources Committee members can review the Climate Risk Register by clicking on the link below:

[Climate Change Risk Register 2024](#)

## **11. Cycle Update**

The East End Cycle Signage Project, funded by Cycling Scotland, has been completed. However, there was an underspend on the project, and the Environmental Sustainability Manager is working with the Estates team and Cycling Scotland to identify further cycling-related capital projects where the remaining funds could be spent.

Additionally, Springburn Campus has earned a re-accreditation as a Cycling Friendly Campus, also awarded by Cycling Scotland. The Campus Cycling Officer (CCO) concluded his contract with the College on 3 May 2024. The CCO position was funded by Cycling Scotland and Bright Green Business, and we were pleased to have a member of the College for the prior eight months to take forward cycling initiatives.

## **12. Green Timeline Wall**

The Green Timeline Wall has now been installed at Springburn and Easterhouse campuses, highlighting the College's 'green journey' and sustainability accomplishments over the last 10 years. (Photo in **Appendix 1.**)

The East End Green Wall will be installed before the end of the Academic Year.

## **13. National Hedgehog Awareness Week**

As part of the College's accreditation as a 'Hedgehog Friendly Campus', students and staff worked together to celebrate Hedgehog Awareness Week, 6-10 May 2024. The awareness week featured stalls at each campus with information of how to protect hedgehogs, as well as donated crafts and baked goods which helped raise funds for the Hedgehog Preservation Society. This was also an opportunity to celebrate the impressive participation of the Support for Learning classes with the hedgehog protection efforts. The highlight of the events, however, was a visit from a hedgehog and two tenrecs<sup>2</sup> to Springburn Campus, which was enjoyed by students and staff alike. (Photos in **Appendix 1.**)

## **14. 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.

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<sup>2</sup> a small insectivorous mammal native to Madagascar, different kinds of which resemble hedgehogs, shrews, or small otters.

## **15. Risk and Assurance**

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

## **16. Equality**

There are no equality implications arising as a consequence of this report.

## **17. Data Protection**

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

## **18. Environmental and Sustainability Impact**

There is an overall risk to the environment due to the negative arena being experienced at present, i.e. extremely tight financial arena.

The College's position as a community college remains vital as a positive destination for the communities served during these times of ongoing hardship, however, the funding reduction may reduce this community asset.

The College wishes to thank our catering provider, Baxter Storey, for providing some free lunch items to students participating in environmental and sustainability events.

## **19. Resources**

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

## **20. Recommendations**

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

## **21. Further Information**

Further information can be obtained from Lisa Clark, Director of Estates and Corporate Services - [lisaclark@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk](mailto:lisaclark@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk), Sarah Shea, Environmental and Sustainability Manager on [sshea@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk](mailto:sshea@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk) or Roddy MacKenzie, Regulations and Compliance Manager on [rmackenzie@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk](mailto:rmackenzie@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk)

**Lisa Clark**  
**Director of Estates and Corporate Services,**  
**Glasgow Kelvin College**  
**May 2024**

**Earth Day Easterhouse Litter Pick**



**Planet Earth Games Adventure Sport Projects**



## Swap Shop Event



## Green Timeline Wall



## Vape Disposal Bins



Bin in Situ at Springburn Campus

## Hedgehog Awareness Week



Bake sale benefiting the British Hedgehog Preservation Society



Students and staff with the hedgehogs and tenrecs



East End campus celebration with 'Team Hedgehog' Supported Learning class