

Glasgow Kelvin College

Finance and Resources Committee Meeting of 26 November 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:

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2. Engagement with Sustainability

Green Week 2024

Green Week 2024 took place the week of 1-4 October across all Glasgow Kelvin campuses. The events were highly successful and included partnerships with external organisations as well as students and staff. Highlights of the week included: (Photos of Green Week, **Appendix 1**)

- a. Professional Cookery Students offering 'Sustainabili-TEA' event at Easterhouse.
- b. Launch of GKC Student Association 'Clothes Bank'.
- c. Over a dozen staff and student bikes serviced by Dr. Bike.
- d. 30 staff and students participated in an East End Garden 'Green and Clean' event.
- e. Refreshments and a sustainable food pop-up from Baxter Storey.
- f. Over 30 staff and students participated in a Springburn litter pick.
- g. Resources & information provided from Enva, First Bus, Home Energy Scotland, Bike for Good, GKC Student Association, and Kelvin Active Campus.

Holistic Development Initiatives

This academic year, members of staff have created an informal 'Holistic Development Group'. Consisting of the Environmental Sustainability Manager, Active Campus Coordinator, Equality

and Inclusion Lead, and Student Association President, this Holistic Development Group aims to collaborate to put on events and programmes that encourage wellbeing (for people and planet), community-building, and personal development. Thus far, the Holistic Development Group has collaborated to put on a series of mental health pop-up stalls, organised a College-wide Step Count Challenge to promote sustainable travel and healthy lifestyle, and have conducted a survey to gauge student interest in on-campus events.

EAUC Scotland Annual Conference

The EAUC (Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges) held its annual Conference, 'Step Change for Sustainability', on 13 November at University of Edinburgh. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for the Environmental Sustainability to learn from and network with professionals from peer institutions, as well as members of EAUC, the Scottish Funding Council, and experts in the field.

3. Funding and Awards

International Green Gown Award

The College was honoured to be awarded the International Green Gown Award for the 'Fighting Fast Fashion' project, in the Next Generation Learning and Skills category. This prestigious award recognises the effort of the College's Fashion Department to ensure that learners have the skills and knowledge to embrace sustainability practices such as up-cycling and zero waste in the fashion industry.

In winning this award, the College has received well-earned publicity for its sustainability initiatives. The achievement has been featured on: ten electronic billboards across Glasgow; all of our Kelvin social media channels (Instagram, Facebook, X and Tik Tok); on staff news; nineteen of our campus screens across all three campuses; an all-staff email from the Principal; while EAUC Scotland also featured our win in their monthly email newsletter which goes out to all member colleges and universities in Scotland. Numerous external stakeholders have publicly congratulated the College, including two motions raised in the Scottish Parliament. Lastly, BBC Radio Scotland recently interviewed Sandra Thomson regarding the winning project which will soon be broadcast over the BBC network.

Cycling Scotland Funds

The College was successful in its application to fund a Campus Cycling Officer (CCO) post for academic year 2024/25, as well as capital funds to build more robust cycle shelters at the Easterhouse Campus. In total, the College received £47,512 of funding from Cycling Scotland. The CCO began his post at the College 7 October 2024 and has already been busy planning monthly cycle repair stalls, arranging cycle events for staff and students, and working to inventory and organise existing cycle resources.

4. Active Travel Consults

TravelKnowHow Scotland

In the academic year 2023/24, the College applied for and received free sustainable travel consultation from TravelKnowHow Scotland. This consultation included a travel survey, data analysis, commuter carbon emission calculations, and bespoke sustainable travel advice for the College. Because this partnership went so well, TravelKnowHow Scotland has featured the College in its video case study. Please find a link to the video below which the College can feature on its Estates and Sustainability webpage.

Glasgow City Council Active Travel Consult

In September, Glasgow City Council's Active Travel Strategy Team came to Springburn campus to engage with College students, staff, and the Springburn community regarding upcoming cycle infrastructure in the area and throughout Glasgow. The team was able to engage and consult with over 80 members of the Kelvin community and shared plans of cycling networks that will connect existing transport systems and offer sustainable travel options in the future.

5. Sustainability in the Curriculum

The Environmental Sustainability Manager has been visiting a variety of classes throughout the academic year, delivering lessons on the UN Sustainable development goals, recycling at Kelvin College, and adopting more sustainable behaviours. A series of pilot lesson plans have been created and delivered to both the Performing Arts and Childcare courses. These lessons aim to provide an introduction and a foundation for the Learning for Sustainability (LfS) component of the NextGen: HN Qualifications. The expectation of SQA is that all NextGen learners will exit their studies with:

- A. a general understanding of social, economic, and environmental sustainability
- B. a general understanding of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)
- C. a deeper understanding of subject-specific sustainability
- D. the confidence to apply the skills, knowledge, understanding and values they develop in the next stage of their life.

As the College adopts the NextGen: HN Qualifications, these LfS standards will be a requirement of all coursework. The Environmental Sustainability manager has piloted these lessons with some lecturers in preparation for a college-wide implementation of NextGen standards in the future.

6. Campus Gardens

College green spaces continue to be utilised and developed by staff and students. At the East End Community Garden, the Environmental Sustainability Manager has worked with Support for Learning (SfL) classes to put on planting events, establish hedgehog houses, and has recently established a composting system.

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. The next steps will be to build raised-bed planters that SfL students can tend to, rewild one corner of the green space to be water vole and hedgehog friendly, and to install a shipping container for SfL forestry school and horticulture tools, as well as robust cycle shelter for adapted bicycles and trikes (with funds provided by Cycling Scotland).

7. Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network Membership

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. The College has recently created a Climate Adaptation Risk Register and looks forward to learning from other public sector bodies about their approach to climate adaptation.

8. Sustainable Procurement Initiatives

The College has been engaged with APUC in considering sustainability in tenders, its supply chain, and in scoring its suppliers for sustainability practices. The College's Procurement Manager and Environmental Sustainability Manager attended an Electronics Watch webinar related to the College's ICT supply chain and completed a training session with APUC's Sustainability Director on how to use EcoVadis sustainability scorecard system to evaluate potential suppliers.

9. Easterhouse Carpark LED Lighting

Glasgow Life have recently identified funding which will be allocated to upgrading existing lighting within the Easterhouse campus car park to LED lighting. The LED lighting will achieve a reduction in energy use, therefore reducing the College's carbon emissions as well as costs. The College will collaborate with Glasgow Life to plan for these works to go forward.

10. BEMS System update

The Estates team have met with representatives from Craigalan who are a company that specialise in managing building management systems, which lead to output reports from our BEMS system. The Estates team have agreed to a 5-day review by one of the Craigalan engineers, who will interrogate every aspect of our utility usage. The review will take place before the end of 2024. They will provide a report for our consideration. The report will explain what measures we could employ in the short and medium term that will provide meaningful reductions in our utility usage. We want our campuses to be more efficient to reduce costs but just as importantly, to move closer to our shared goal of net zero for carbon. Craigalan will also be able to improve the software available, following installation of meters and sensors in key areas around the building. From these meters, we will be able to generate reports, to provide to our Board, so that our efforts in improving building efficiency can be tracked going forward.

The Estates team will be provided with specific training to access and generate any number of available reports, to highlight areas for discussion or to show trends that need further thought.

The works that are expected to follow the report will be carried out in phases, likely across the next two to three years. Each year, the ability to increase control and reduce consumption, will improve.

11. Race to Zero: Annual Reporting Update

As a signatory to the Race to Zero campaign for Universities and Colleges, the College is due to submit its annual update report by 10 December 2024. A copy of the report will be made available to members at the next meeting of the Committee.

12. Biodiversity Reporting

Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, public bodies in Scotland have a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities. Every public body in Scotland is also required to produce a publicly available report, on compliance with the Biodiversity Duty.

Notwithstanding, NatureScot – Scotland's Nature Agency has confirmed that colleges are not required to submit reports. While this remains the case, EAUC is developing examples of best practice biodiversity actions and strategies for those colleges who may wish to submit a publicly available report at some point. Should the College proceed with completion of a report, members should note that there is no deadline for submission.

13. Public Sector Climate Change Duties Reporting

The annual Scottish Government Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report (PSCCDR) regulatory return for the period 2023-24 is due for submission by the deadline of 30 November 2024. The College is on schedule to meet this deadline.

Finance and Resource Committee members will receive sight of the full Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report for 2023-24 at the meeting scheduled for 4 March 2025.

14. Update on Scottish Government Net Zero Targets

The Scottish Government has confirmed it will scrap its annual and interim targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. They will be replaced with a system measuring emissions every five years. Ministers have announced a raft of measures to cut planet-warming gases including a national integrated ticketing system for public transport.

New legislation will be introduced similar to the carbon budgets used by the UK and Welsh governments.

The Scottish Government insists that, while it is scrapping the 2023 goal of reducing emissions by 75 per cent against 1990s levels, the long-term target to reach net zero by 2045 "steadfastly" remains.

More information can be found via the following link:

[MSPs set to vote on scrapping key climate change targets](#)

15. Estates and Sustainability Strategy 2022-2027 – Review

Members will be aware that the College Estates and Sustainability Strategy 2022-27 is due for review in November 2024. The Scottish Funding Council advised that, as part of their work on the College Infrastructure Strategy, all colleges would be given an Estates Strategy template to complete in order that all college estates strategies would be done in a uniform manner.

The College still awaits issue of the new template and will, therefore, not update its current Estates and Sustainability Strategy, but will undertake this work when provided by a template for this from SFC. This template is expected imminently and has been requested by the Vice Principal Operations.

16. 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.

17. Risk and Assurance

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

18. Equality

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

19. Data Protection

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

20. Environmental and Sustainability Impact

The College's position as a community college remains vital as a positive destination for the communities served during these times of ongoing hardship.

The work of the College means that many items are being re-used, i.e. furniture to community groups and clothing to students; these items would ordinarily have gone to landfill.

As part of the sale of our West End Campus, the College managed to distribute over 85% of unwanted furniture items to community partners/organisations which both prevented these items from going to landfill and saved the College the associated disposal costs.

21. Resources

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

22. Recommendations

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

23. Further Information

Further information can be obtained from Lisa Clark, Director of Estates and Corporate Services - lisaclark@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

Photos: Green Week 2024: Garden 'Green & Clean', Sustainabili-TEA, Stalls, Bike Maintenance, and Litter Pick



