

Glasgow Kelvin College

Board of Management Meeting of 11 December 2024

Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report – 2023/24

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

1. Introduction and Purpose

This report is to update members on the recently submitted Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report for Academic Year 2023/24.

2. Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report – 2023/24

The Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report for Academic Year 2023/24 was submitted by the deadline of 30 November 2024. The full submission can be reviewed in [Appendix 1](#).

3. Outcome

Glasgow Kelvin College is committed to minimising the negative impact its activities have on the environment. In Academic Year 2015/16 the College prepared its first Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and reported on its environmental performance from Academic Year 2014/15 onwards as part of the Scottish Government Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting. The College is fully compliant with the reporting requirements specified in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. It now has several years of carbon emissions data.

The Scottish Government announced in April 2024 that it would be scrapping its 2030 target to reduce carbon emissions by 75%. This followed a critical report from the Climate Change Committee (CCC) which said that reaching the milestone was no longer achievable. A fresh bill will be brought forward to Holyrood to adjust the legally binding targets, removing the 2030 interim target but keeping the ultimate ambition to hit net zero by 2045. It is in this context that the College will likewise follow the Scottish Government restated target and aim to achieve Net Zero by 2045.

The College can report that annual carbon emissions (measured in tCO₂e or tonnes of carbon emissions) for Academic Year 2023/24 have fallen by 57% since the baseline year of 2014/15, i.e. from 3,257 tCO₂e to a current level of 1,385 tCo₂e.

Further analysis of the data in the 2023/24 Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report shows that:

- Grid electricity usage increased during 2023/24 by 3.72%, while, over the same period, gas usage increased by 4.08%. Increases here were undoubtedly due in part to staff, students and facilities relocating from our West End Campus to one of the other three remaining campuses and also due to staff and students being on campus as they have been years prior to Covid-19.
- Water usage over 2023/24 decreased a further 2.62% (3.8 tCO₂e) following the 6% drop in 2022/23.
- Staff travel by private car has continued to increase since 2020/21. Consequently, emissions here have increased from the 4.8 tCO₂e recorded in 2022/23 to 6.9 tCO₂e recorded in 2023/24. However, this figure is still well below the 12.8 tCO₂e recorded in 2019/20.
- Staff travel by train to events across the UK fell from a total of 5,517 kms in 2022-23 to 3,147 kms in 2023/24. Travel by domestic flights increased a little from 9,002 kms to 9,684 kms. Changes in carbon emissions here is marginal.
- Emissions associated with waste showed an increase of 7.8% on 2022/23. Again, a significant proportion of this increase will be due to the adjustments and adaptations made to the three campuses to accommodate the moves from our West End Campus.
- It is anticipated that returns in most categories will fall substantially in the 2024/25 submission when the impact of the disposal of our West End Campus will be recorded.

The financial situation facing the public sector and the College must be considered. This limits the likely availability of capital funding for more environmentally friendly solutions, but also increases the need to make savings and improve efficiency which in turn is a key driver of reduced carbon emissions.

At the time of writing this report we are in the process of identifying a consultancy firm who specialises in sustainability/carbon reduction and efficiencies to assist us in progressing our environmental plans. A consultant's report from an expert will allow further funding opportunities to be actively pursued and will be critical in achieving many of the priorities set out in the College Climate Change Action Plan. In this context, the scrapping by the Scottish Government of the interim target of Net Zero by 2030 sets a more realistic timescale.

As reported within the Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report, the five main targets for Glasgow Kelvin College for the year ahead are:

1. To continue to maintain the College estate.
2. To continue to identify funding opportunities for projects and measures to reduce the College's carbon emissions.
3. To fully realise and utilise the potential of the College Building Energy Management System (BEMS).
4. Complete the implementation of the Green Academy at the College.
5. Continue to inspire and encourage staff and students to continue to adopt environmentally sustainable ways of learning, teaching, working and living.

The College will publish its Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report 2023/24 on its website as per previous years. It will also ensure that the College complies in full with the requirements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 including reporting requirements; this is expected to be uploaded around February 2025 once the EAUC assessment is complete.

4. Resource Implications

There are substantial resource/time implications involved in terms of gathering, analysing and implementing data to make this regulatory return; these reporting requirements are ever-increasing.

Without significant financial investment the College is limited in the progress it can make.

5. Impact on Students

There are no direct impacts on students arising from the College's submission of an annual Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report.

6. Equalities

No adverse impacts on individuals with protected characteristics have been identified as a consequence of this report.

7. Risk and Assurance

Risk to the College is mitigated by ensuring that the Board receive assurance that the College is complying with environmental regulations.

8. Data Protection

No data protection issues are identified arising from this report.

9. Environmental and Sustainability

As previously stated, the U.K. produces under 1% of the world's carbon. The efforts expended to reduce this to zero are significant and can be resource intensive; the finances involved to achieve this U.K. wide are also substantial.

Nevertheless, the College will continue with its efforts to reduce its environmental impact as far as it can, as outlined in this paper and the appendix attached. However, the reality is that the whole world would need to do likewise for any difference to be made to the planet as a whole.

10. Recommendation

Members of the Committee are asked to:

- i) note the content of this report and its appendix.

11. Further Information

Members can obtain further information on the contents of this report 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 Sustainability Manager – sshea@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk or Roddy MacKenzie, Regulations and Compliance Manager - rmackenzie@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

Lisa Clark/Claire Reid
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