

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 30 MAY 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ESTATES AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members in relation to environmental and sustainability matters.

2. Funding Activities

2.1 Application to the Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme

To enable the College to implement measures to reduce carbon emissions, a Capital Grant Funding Application to the Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme offered by Scottish Central Government has been submitted. The College has sought £2.6m for the following five capital projects to be completed over a 2-year period:

- Project 1- Springburn Campus: Air Source Heat Pump installation to take heating load.
- Project 2 - Springburn Campus: Solar PV on main building roof atriums and the roof of the technical block.
- Project 3 - Easterhouse Campus: Wind Turbine recommissioned / refurbishment.
- Project 4 - Easterhouse Campus: Solar PV on roof.
- Project 5 - Easterhouse Campus: Hallway lighting project - Installation of LED to replace existing CFL fittings.

We are absolutely delighted to advise that on 4 May 2023 we received the following email in response to our above application:

“Good Afternoon,

GPSEDS 130 – Easterhouse and Springburn Campuses: Energy Conservation Measures, Renewables and Low Carbon Heating

Thank you for your capital application to the Scottish Central Government Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme. I am pleased to confirm that your application for funding has been successful. I will send you a draft grant offer letter soon for your review. I would ask that you confirm that you are content with this or let us know if any clarifications are needed urgently to allow us time to make any revisions and issue you a signed version for you to countersign as soon as possible. Please note that you should not begin the project until you have signed the final draft of the grant offer letter. The project is still subject to final senior management approval, and we cannot provide funding for costs incurred prior to the agreed project start date as outlined in your letter.

*Best Wishes,
Nikki*

Nikki McGlynn | Delivery Officer - Public Sector Funding | Heat Investment Unit | Directorate for Energy and Climate Change | Scottish Government | 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw | Glasgow | G2 8LU

- 2.2** A second bicycle shelter has been constructed at Springburn Campus with funding from Cycling Scotland. This shelter was built in response to the high volume of staff and students cycling to campus, a positive sign of active, sustainable travel at the College.

3. Scottish Government Climate Change Policy Report

The College continues to support the Scottish Government's transition to net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045 as detailed in the Scottish Government's Climate Change Policy which can be found here: [Climate change - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/climate-change-policy/pages/introduction.aspx) and [Climate Change Plan update](https://www.gov.scot/publications/climate-change-plan/pages/introduction.aspx) published in December 2020. The Scottish Government Climate Change Policy Report includes ten climate change policy actions. While many of the policy actions are specific to the Scottish Government, some policies are relevant to the College and are included in the objectives and actions of the College's Race to Zero and Climate Change Action Plans. Some of the actions currently being taken by the College include Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Low carbon living, and Just Transition.

4. Audit Scotland Report: 'How the Scottish Government is set up to deliver climate change goals'

An April 2023 report prepared on behalf of the Auditor General of Scotland by Audit Scotland outlines and assesses the governance and risk management for net zero targets and adaptation outcomes of the Scottish Government. The findings of Audit Scotland indicate that the Scottish Government has been making some progress (in areas such as: Government climate change governance arrangements, integrating climate change into decision making, and Risk management arrangements) but significant challenges and gaps remain. Recommendations to the Scottish Government based on audit findings are included in the Report, and do not require any action by the College at this time.

5. Updates to Race to Zero

The Race to Zero plan for Glasgow Kelvin College is available via the link as follows:

[GKC – Race to Zero Action Plan](#)

Glasgow Kelvin College has been a Signatory to and a Member of the Race to Zero for Colleges and Universities campaign since May 2022. Since then, the GKC Race to Zero Action Plan has been approved by SMT and published to the College Webpage. Glasgow Kelvin College has therefore progressed from the 'Pledge' stage through 'Plan', 'Proceed', and 'Publish', as outlined in the original Race to Zero criteria.

It is important to note that through the work of the *2022 Criteria Consultation*, the Race to Zero team have updated the Signatory criteria to include the following:

- A delineation between ‘Starting line’ criteria which are minimum requirements which all members must meet should they wish to remain in the campaign, and ‘Leadership practices’ specific to leading entities within the Race to Zero campaign.
- In addition to Pledge, Plan, Proceed, and Publish, a fifth ‘P’, Persuade, has been introduced to the criteria to recognise the importance of each institution capitalising on its influencing capacities to reach net zero.

Glasgow Kelvin College has successfully met the ‘Starting line’ criteria in terms of the College’s: *Pledge* to reach net zero before 2045. It has publicly disclosed the *Plan* of how Race to Zero criteria will be met; it has *Proceeded* to act toward net zero through available pathways, and it has *Published* annual carbon emissions data through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report.

However, the addition of the *Persuade* criteria could have an impact on the College’s external engagement and membership associations. The College will need to continue to evaluate policies, such as procurement with APUC, to address this updated criterion in the future.

Further information on the updates to the Race to Zero criteria can be found here: [‘Race to Zero’ campaign updates criteria to raise the bar on net zero delivery - Climate Champions \(unfccc.int\)](https://unfccc.int/race-to-zero/campaign-updates-criteria-to-raise-the-bar-on-net-zero-delivery)

6. Glasgow Kelvin College – Activities

6.1 Planet Earth Games

Glasgow Kelvin College participated in the 2023 Planet Earth Games for Colleges, a competition across the UK where institutions create events to encourage students and staff to embrace sustainable behaviours and raise awareness of the climate crisis. Glasgow Kelvin College was thrilled to finish in the top 5 of all participating UK colleges, and was recognised in the Glasgow Times and on [Glasgow Live](#) for its commendable results. (Photographs in **Appendix 1**.)

6.2 Strengthening Connections in the Sustainability Community

- a. The Environmental Sustainability Manager has been actively engaged with EAUC and was asked to give a presentation of the sustainability projects she has helped facilitate with the Fashion department. The presentation was delivered at the 24 April ‘Education for Sustainable Development Topic Support Network’, with positive feedback from colleges and universities in attendance. Following the meeting, the College was approached about contributing to an EAUC blog on the topic of sustainable fashion projects at colleges.
- b. The Environmental Sustainability Manager also attended the *Net Zero Scotland Projects Conference*, held at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh on 29 March. The event proved a fantastic opportunity to network and learn from professionals in the field of carbon reduction in Scotland.
- c. Members of the College’s Estates, Sustainability, and Corporate Services departments spent a day visiting Dundee & Angus College. The visit was an opportunity to tour the campus to observe how sustainability is marketed and presented there, and to share knowledge and best-practices with Dundee & Angus’s estates and sustainability team.

Dundee & Angus has been highly commended for its sustainable practices and initiatives, and the visit allowed Glasgow Kelvin to strengthen its connections with peer institutions who also value sustainability as a priority.

6.3 Staff Development

- a. In partnership with the College's Organisational Development Lead, the Environmental Sustainability Manager is offering a themed staff development month in May: *Carbon, Climate, and Creating Change*. Events and trainings include a Climate Literacy course, Climate & Food sessions, outdoor exercise & cycle events, a Learning for Sustainability Discussion with SQA, a waste information session with ENVA, 'Climate Fresk' workshops with GCRB, and Sustainability Tours.
- b. A *Sustainability Town Hall Event* was offered by the Environmental Sustainability Manager at the 8 March Staff Development Day. More than forty staff attended the *Town Hall* meeting, and it proved a valuable opportunity to share the sustainability work and initiatives of the College, as well as receive feedback and answer questions of College Staff.

6.4 Student Engagement

The College was pleased to offer many opportunities for students to engage in sustainable initiatives throughout February and March via their participation in Planet Earth Games events. Events included tree planting, led cycle rides, litter picks, sustainable food stalls, a fashion swap shop, and exercise classes. Additionally, the Environmental Sustainability Manager has continued to visit classes and partner with instructors in developing sustainable projects. One such project is the *Climate Action Art Exhibition*, on display at West End Campus, and highlighting work from the HND 1 Art students, as well as the Employability students. (Photographs in **Appendix 1**)

6.5 Other

The College is currently preparing a Green Gown Award application, in the category of 'Next Generation Learning and Skills', to be submitted by 2 June to the review committee. The project being put forward for recognition is title 'Putting the Fix on Fast Fashion' and details the redesign of the Fashion department curriculum to include coursework on the negative environmental impacts of fast fashion, and the benefits of the circular economy in the industry. The Fashion curriculum now also includes multiple student-led projects and events which utilise repurposed and upcycled garments, as well as providing the College community with access to second-hand items.

7. Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020

The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020, due to come into force on 16 August 2023, will not now launch until 1 March 2024. Under the scheme, which seeks to improve the recycling of single-use drinks containers, the College will be required to ensure reverse vending is implemented in all campus buildings, while a number of organisational and operational mechanisms will require to be fully thought through. Liaison will take place with our catering contractor regarding the management of these reverse vending machines.

Details of the scheme can be found at the following link:

8. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Accord Reporting

The College submitted its 2023 annual report to SDG Accord. The report is part of the College's commitment as a signatory to the SDG Accord to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 through improved collaboration and aligning of efforts. The SDG Accord is led by the EAUC (Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges) and ACTS (Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability) a not-for-profit organisation, on behalf of a global alliance of tertiary and higher education sustainability and student networks.

As part of the reporting requirements for 2023, the College also submitted a case study detailing the Level 6 Professional Cookery course which has made strides towards incorporating the SDGs into a redesigned curriculum and series of projects on the topic of 'Sustainable Food and Cooking'.

9. Impact on Students

There are no adverse impact on students as a consequence of anything within this report. The students enjoyed planting the £2,000 worth of trees (as shown in **Appendix 1**), however, unfortunately an act of vandalism resulted in these young trees were ripped out and snapped in half one evening shortly after they were planted.

10. Risk and Assurance

There are no risk and assurance implications arising as a consequence of this report.

11. Equality

There are no equality implications arising as a consequence of this report from a Glasgow Kelvin College viewpoint.

12. Data Protection

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

13. Environmental and Sustainability Impact

The College continues to take due cognisance of reports/guidance received in relation to environmental and sustainability matters.

14. Resources

The funding as detailed in paragraph 2 of this report will enable the College to make significant progress with the Race to Zero Action Plan and Climate Change Action Plan. These capital projects are expected to significantly contribute to carbon reduction and associated energy savings.

15. Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

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

16. Further Information

Further information can be obtained from Lisa Clark, Director of Estates and Corporate Services - lisaclark@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk or Sarah Shea, Environmental and Sustainability Manager on sshea@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

Lisa Clark
Director of Estates and Corporate Services
Glasgow Kelvin College
May 2023

Planet Earth Games & Student and Staff Engagement



Outdoor Sports students leading staff on a cycle ride along the canal



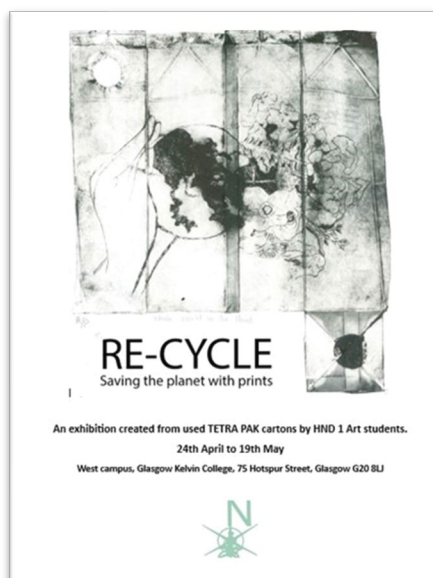
Staff outdoor exercise session



Sustainable food stall at Easterhouse Campus



Fashion students – Swap Shop



Exhibition Poster



Supported Learning Students participating in tree planting event at Easterhouse