

Glasgow Kelvin College

Finance and Resources Committee Meeting of 1 October 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. Funding and Awards

The College was pleased to officially be accredited as a 'Hedgehog Friendly Campus', achieving the Bronze Award status from The British Hedgehog Preservation Society and Students Organising for Sustainability. This award is in recognition of the various events, awareness campaigns, fundraising, and actions that the College has taken in the last academic year to make our campuses more 'hedgehog friendly'. This award will be highlighted in the 2024 Biodiversity Report. (Award image shown in **Appendix 1**.)

The Environmental Sustainability Manager submitted a Sustainability Action Award application to the College Development Network (CDN) for student leadership in sustainability events over the last academic year. We hope to learn the results of that application this autumn.

The College is pleased to be a finalist in the International Green Gown Awards. The 'Fighting Fast Fashion' project, which won the UK and Ireland Green Gown Award in the Next Generation Learning and Skills category, was progressed to the International Awards, and we look forward to learning those results.

The College has applied to Business Stream's Water Efficiency Fund for a rainwater harvesting system. This rainwater harvesting system would provide a sustainable external water source to the new Easterhouse Garden, which is being further developed this autumn.

The College has also applied to fund an Active Travel Officer for the 2024/25 academic year through a grant provided by Cycling Scotland and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT). Their People and Places Programme provides funding to increase access to bikes and encourage active travel for students and staff at colleges and universities. The College hopes to be successful in one or both applications.

Unfortunately, the College was not successful in our application to the Green Libraries Scotland Grant Fund nor the Climate Engagement Fund. Both funds were intended for projects that build understanding of the climate emergency across communities in Scotland. Despite not receiving funding, the Environmental Sustainability Manager is working with the College's Student Association, Library Services team, and Active Campus Officer to progress many of the project ideas included in the applications.

The East End Cycle Signage Project, funded by Cycling Scotland, has been completed. Remaining funds, because of project underspend, were approved for further cycling-related capital projects such as repairing cycle shelters, dropping the kerb at East End, and purchasing more bike locks to provide to students.

3. Network Rail Path

Glasgow Kelvin College continues to support Network Rail in its ambitions to make the Springburn Railway station more accessible to those wheeling and cycling. Network Rail is interested in building a path from the station platform directly to the College, which would greatly improve access to our campus and the surrounding Springburn area. While Network Rail was unsuccessful in its bid for the 'Places for Everyone' fund from Sustrans, they are continuing to pursue alternative funding streams for this project. Lisa Clark, Director of Estates and Corporate Services and Sarah Shea, Environmental and Sustainability Manager continue to attend meetings in relation to this initiative and provide any non-financial support requested.

4. SSN Analysis of PBCCDR

Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) published their Analysis Report of all Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (PBCCDR) 2022/23 annual compliance reports. While Scope 1 and 2 emissions fell by 2% and 10% respectively, Scope 3 emissions increased by 21% across the sector compared to 2021/22. The increase in Scope 3 emissions was primarily due to increased reporting of student travel and commuting emissions by the education sector, though it was noted that commuting emissions are still significantly under-reported across all public bodies. Additionally, the Analysis Report stated that there is an under-reporting and misreporting of adaptation response and climate risk assessment. 20% of institutions responded with mitigation measures when asked of their adaptation plan, and many institutions had little to no climate change risk assessment.

Glasgow Kelvin College is in a good position to respond to both the commuting emissions and climate adaptation concerns highlighted by SSN in their Analysis Report. In 2023/24 the College conducted a travel survey with TravelKnowHow Scotland which allowed us to calculate commuter emissions, and the College has completed a Climate Change Risk Assessment which is incorporated into the College's larger Risk Register.

5. Events and Networking

EAUC Climate Adaptation Workshop

The Environmental Sustainability Manager attended the EAUC Scotland Meeting of Small Institutes on 30 May 2024, hosted at Forth Valley College. The focus of this meeting was to discuss college's role in climate adaptation and to workshop best practice for integrating climate adaptation into college strategy. It was noted by EAUC that adaptation reporting in this year's PBCCDR will 'not be optional', but something all colleges should include. Glasgow Kelvin College shared its progress in creating its Climate Risk Register and our incorporation of the register into the larger College Risk Register which is reviewed every three months by the Risk Management Committee. This progress was applauded by EAUC and deemed sufficient for PBCCDR reporting. The Environmental Sustainability Manager will continue to keep track of climate adaptation requirements and plans to attend an 'Adaptation Scotland' workshop event for Public Sector institutions in September.

Networking

Throughout the summer, the Environmental Sustainability Manager has taken the opportunity to network with other sustainability professionals at peer institutions. She has met with sustainability managers from Clyde College, City College, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and the APUC to share ideas, best practice, and brainstorm potential solutions to common concerns.

Welcome Back Events

August provided multiple opportunities to engage with both students and staff at welcome back events. The Environmental Sustainability Manager had the opportunity to speak to staff about sustainability initiatives and upcoming events at the Staff Welcome Back Day on 8 August 2024, and she met the incoming students at the Sustainability Stall during the very lively Freshers Week events on all three campuses.

6. Updated Estates and Sustainability Webpage

Throughout the summer, the Environmental Sustainability Manager has worked with the Marketing Department to update the 'Estates and Sustainability' webpage; ensuring the information is up-to-date and easy for students and staff to use.

Link to webpage here: [Estates and Sustainability - Glasgow Kelvin College](#)

7. New EAUC Strategy

The Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC) has launched its new strategy, 'Accelerating Ambition and Impact', setting the focus of its work through 2030. The strategy calls for a 'transformation of sustainability action in the post-16 education sector', and vows to continue to support member institutions towards their sustainability goals through programmes, resources, and events.

More information on the strategy can be found by clicking on the link below:

[EAUC 2024-2030 strategy: Accelerating Ambition and Impact](#)

8. Public Sector Decarbonisation Guidance

This guide has been prepared by Energy Systems Catapult, on behalf of UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to help schools who are beginning their climate action plan journey. The Public Sector Decarbonisation Guidance document is designed primarily for UK institutions outside Scotland who are just now taking the first steps towards decarbonisation. Because Glasgow Kelvin College, along with other public bodies in Scotland, has been submitting its annual PBCCDR, much of what is suggested in this guide (assembling a sustainability team, conducting a building audit, etc) have already been achieved by the College.

9. Cycle Update

The College received some good news on one of our funding applications. Cycling Scotland had offered a funded staff position (similar to the Campus Cycling Officer programme, but under a different funding stream). Glasgow Kelvin College is one of only three Colleges or Universities to be awarded a Cycling Intern this year. Meetings with Bright Green Business and Cycling Scotland will progress advertising the position and collecting applications. Bright Green Business will again handle all the HR logistics of the position.

An update will be reported to the Committee in due course.

10. Great British Energy Scheme

Great British Energy has been announced as part of the UK Government's plans for energy policy. It will be a publicly owned, clean-energy company that aims to cut energy bills, boost security, and create jobs. The company will be headquartered in Scotland and will invest £8.3bn in clean power projects across the United Kingdom, such as wind farms. It is designed to drive clean energy deployment, enhance energy independence, and ensure that UK taxpayers, billpayers, and communities benefit from clean, secure, home-grown energy.

The establishment of Great British Energy is part of the UK Government's mission to make the UK a "clean-energy superpower", with investments in industries of the future and the creation of an estimated 650,000 jobs across the country by 2030. It will be funded by a windfall tax on oil and gas companies and aims to make the country energy independent, reducing reliance on foreign energy sources.

[Great British Energy \(great-british-energy.org.uk\)](https://great-british-energy.org.uk)

11. SFC Net Zero Annual Report

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has published its Net Zero Annual Report for the Financial Year (FY) 2022-23. The report outlines the net zero related actions delivered by SFC and is part of their commitment to achieving net zero by 2045, aligning with Scotland's overall target date. The report includes details on the Net Zero Framework for Action, which was published in 2022, and the corresponding Net Zero Delivery Plan finalized in December 2023.

The Framework outlines 15 actions under five themes to guide SFC's response to the climate emergency across its operations. These themes include:

- Driving corporate accountability
- Innovation, education, research, and entrepreneurship

- Finance and funding
- Green estates
- SFC carbon reduction

The report also highlights SFC's increased visibility on net zero issues on the internet, intranet, and social media, and its active contribution as panellists or speakers at key national policy and sector events. Furthermore, and in relation to the SFC Infrastructure Delivery Group (IDG), the college sector have been asked to input data into the IDG Baseline Data Collection navigator system in relation to our journey towards net zero and carbon reduction.

For more detailed information, the full reports can be viewed via the link below:

[SFC Net Zero Annual Report - Scottish Funding Council](#)

12. Green Week 2024

Green Week 2024 has been approved to take place the week of 1-3 October 2024 across all Glasgow Kelvin Campuses. This Green Week aims to expand upon the successes of previous Green Week celebrations to include more cross-College collaboration and student engagement sustainability events.

13. Estates and Sustainability Strategy 2022-2027 – Review

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

The College 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.

It is the intention of the College to undertake an overall sustainability/carbon reduction audit on the College campuses to assist with the progression of sustainability and net zero goals.

14. Recycling Furniture from West Campus

One of the key themes of the College's 'Climate Change Action Plan' is the circular economy. With the closure and sale of our West End Campus, the College was striving to find new homes for the gently used office and classroom furniture that had to be cleared from the West End Campus buildings. Of the initial 550 furniture items leftover at our West End Campus, over 70% have already found new homes and avoided landfill. This has been achieved via auctions, sales and donations. At the time of writing this report, there are a few items of furniture remaining and the College will continue to pursue sustainable solutions for the remaining items.

Members will be pleased to note that furniture donations were made to the following charities and community partners:

- ACT
- Agile City

- Amma Birth Companions
- Barmulloch Community Development Centre
- Barrowfield Community Centre
- Bethany Christian Trust
- Calvay Centre
- Community Energy Scotland
- Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living
- Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector
- Glasgow Life
- Glasgow School of Art
- Loco Home Retrofit
- Mother Earth Hindu Temple
- North Lanarkshire Education Project
- Reeltime Music
- SIMY Community Development
- Springburn Unity Network
- The Connie
- West of Scotland Housing Association

In relation to Glasgow School of Art, a large and extremely impressive, printing press was uplifted by them and installed within their main building. Glasgow School of Art advised the College that this had originally belonged to them many, many years ago (not within the memory or records of current staff) and they were pleased to have this item returned. Photo contained within **Appendix 1**.

15. Recycling Clothing

In partnership with the Environmental Sustainability Manager and the Fashion Department, the Student Association has worked to provide a permanent 'Clothes Bank' for students at the College. Using donated clothing items, the Student Association will now feature a rack of gently used clothes from which students can take items which they need. The 'Clothes Bank' will rotate the types of items available: from professional wear to winter coats, to clothing for men, and so on. The Student Association hopes to launch this new service at stalls during the College's Green Week, October 1-3 2024, highlighting the importance of the circular economy to sustainability.

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

As members are aware, the College is keen to assist in the development of an accessible path directly from the Springburn railway platform onto College land as, at present, wheelchair users using the railway require to disembark/embark at the station before Springburn and make their way to/from the College by another mode of transport.

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.

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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September 2024



'Hedgehog Friendly Campus', - Glasgow Kelvin College achieved the Bronze Award status from The British Hedgehog Preservation Society



Print Press – now returned to Glasgow School of Art