

Annual Sustainability Report 2024

Introduction

EAUC is the leading body for sustainability in the post-16 education sector in the UK and Republic of Ireland. In 2020 HCA adopted the Climate Commission roadmap developed by the EAUC for FE colleges www.eauc.org.uk/fe_roadmap.

This classifies progress at three levels, emerging, established and leading, in five areas: Leadership and Governance, Learning and Teaching and Research; Estates and Operations, Partnership and Engagement, and Data.

The EAUC recognises the roadmap is not the only route to net zero and the college objectives are not confined to roadmap milestones.

HCA's sustainability objectives go beyond net zero aims. The FE roadmap includes promotion of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the UN in 2015 for the achievement of sustainable development across the world.

As part of its sustainability agenda the college has also committed to promoting a nature rich world.

Our major challenge remains the age and condition of the college estate and ensuring we deliver environment sustainability in a financially sustainable way.

We are still in the process of embedding data collection/reporting and this is a key target this year.

Our sustainability co-ordinator has around 2-3 paid hours a week in term time to help promote sustainability, but delivery of our strategy relies on all staff taking responsibility as relevant in their role.

Key areas of progress over 2023/24:

- We will have completed all the Emerging College Goals on the Association of College's Climate Action Roadmap by the end of 2024 (to be confirmed at the December Board), meaning HCA is now at Established College Status
- Sustainability is one of the five major themes of HCA's new strategy which runs from 2025
- Successful refurbishment of the Digital Skills Centre achieving a net zero carbon emissions in Studio A with the solar panels fitted as part of the refurbishment now covering some additional electricity use over the weekends
- Started a "No Mow May" across both campuses, as repeatedly requested by students, and agreed with our landlords to leave Queen's Lawn on the College Road Campus to grow with mown areas and paths across the summer, encouraging biodiversity, native plant-life and helping pollinators
- Embedded sustainability in our curriculum self-assessment process
- Conducted a travel survey of staff which highlighted some opportunities to improve communication around the cycle to work scheme in which the college participates
- Applied for a grant from Herefordshire City Council for two new bike sheds
- Set up a Scrap Store at the Folly Lane Campus and began a partnership with Let's go Zero on FE Climate Action Goals
- Launched Sustainability Action Plan posters – so each department can identify their own goals for 2024/5.

Key areas for development:

- Ensure we maintain good practice, for example around reusable cups in college and Student

Carbon Literacy training, which needs refreshing and embedding into the HCA Empower framework for personal and professional development

- We have established our baseline carbon usage and now need to create an incremental set of targets for moving to net zero
- Continue to improve data capture and review, e.g. we need to implement a system for recording college vehicle emissions and data on rubbish and recycling
- Reflect on key obstacles to progress including a need for more systemization of scope 3 data collection
- Develop and implement a communication strategy around sustainability achievements, actions and measures (internal and external)
- Explore more substantial estates initiatives and potential funding (such as Salix)
- Recognise and work with the challenge of embedding sustainability against colleagues' workload concerns and more immediate priorities.

We have completed the actions identified for colleges in the 'emerging' area of the roadmap and are now setting targets in the 'established' area for 2024/5.

The following sections of this report align with the roadmap targets and demonstrate progress to date:

Governance and Leadership

We have successfully completed all the Emerging College Goals for Governance and Leadership.

- New strategy includes sustainability as key theme
- Annual report and action plan on our website with targets approved by the board of Governors
- Continued with our Sustainability Grant Fund and made £1,000 in grants available to staff and students
- Carried out a staff travel survey and sent links for lift sharing and bike buying schemes
- Presented our achievements in Sustainability at annual Staff Festival and rolled out new Action Plan posters for each department

Next Steps

- Review and update college Sustainability Statement
- Improve monitoring and evaluation of sustainability goals
- Incorporate environmental ambitions into strategic operational planning and address in budget planning e.g. investigating 100% renewable energy tariff
 - *Relates to FE Roadmap: •Based on the college's net-zero target, establish a ring-fenced budget to implement strategies to reduce the college's carbon footprint and improve its environmental impact.*
- Develop and implement a communication strategy including public reporting schedule against net zero targets
 - *Relates to FE Roadmap Establish a schedule (likely annual, but possibly more frequently) to report publicly on the college's progress in reducing its carbon footprint/progress to net zero*
•Reporting does not have to be complex –a simple, up-to-date page on the college's website is enough to have an impact.
- Sign the UN's Sustainable Development Goals Accord
- Take steps towards application for a Salix grant (or other support).

Finance / Data Collection

We have successfully completed all the Emerging College Goals for Data Collection. See *Appendix 1* for Carbon Emissions Calculation.

Next steps 2024/5

- To investigate the viability of a meter to measure Folly Lane consumption of electricity and gas which is not independently measured
- Start gathering data on rubbish and recycling and improve feedback to staff and students as part of communications strategy
- Start to calculate the impact of actions which reduce our scope 3 carbon emissions
- Investigate moving to 100% renewable energy tariff ahead of next contract
- Progress roadmap recommendation to develop fossil fuels divestment plan (Review the college's investment portfolio to check whether it has any direct investments in fossil fuels
 - Contact the college's pension fund for advice on whether pensions are invested in fossil fuels
 - Develop plan to divest from fossil fuels over 3-5 year period/or update responsible investment policy (The college's investments form part of its Scope 3 emissions).

Teaching, Learning and Research

We have successfully completed all the Emerging College Goals for Teaching, Learning and Research.

- Continued to deliver carbon literacy training for students and staff, with more professional services teams taking part alongside academic
- Participated in the Global Goals Teach-in.
- Ensured sustainability reports are included in FE and HE curriculum quality self-assessments reports
- Continued to support the development of Fashion Revolution Week as a tent-pole moment and launch a new autumn sustainability fortnight focus to coincide with national tree week and COP 28

Next steps

- Ensure all course areas use and display the new Sustainability Achievements and Objectives template and include case-studies in website news and other reports
- Increase number of courses promoting the UN's SDGs and participating in the SDG Global Teach-In
- Continue to support the development of Autumn Sustainability fortnight and Fashion Revolution Week as a tent-pole moments and embed sustainability in all event planning
- Sustainability is a key theme in our new cross course personal and professional development strategy HCA Empower and we will ensure this is effectively communicated and evaluated.

Estates and Operations

- We completed the refurbishment of a digital studio that meets net zero targets, with grant funding from the Stronger Towns fund
- We started food waste recycling and are extending to our second campus this year
- We carried out some Folly Lane improvements to improve energy efficiency and future proof the estate (e.g. new windows in some areas)
- Applied for grants for new Cycle Sheds to promote active travel
- Established a 'Scrap Store' in Folly Lane to promote recycling
- Distributed new stickers to encourage switching lights off across campus and added sustainability message to staff log-on screens.

Next steps

- We need to record the main energy reduction actions we have taken in the last year more fully and improve ongoing reporting
- To become an Established College, the next goal will be to set and implement a target to reduce waste in the college by 50-75%. (Start recording skip, landfill and recycling waste, include in SLT Estates reports to SLT, consider changing our waste contractor this November).
- Extend Ecosia to college staff computers
- Implement the no-cost and low-cost measures from the recent energy survey of our estates
- Publish the details of the renewable element of our current contract with West Mercia
- Investigate switching to 100% renewable electricity supplier at the point of next contracting.
- Produce Sustainable Practice Guides for students in the Workshops (building on work has been done already)
- Develop a procurement policy that embeds environmental sustainability goals.

Partnership and Engagement

We have successfully completed all the Emerging College Goals for Partnership and Engagement.

- We have established Sustainability Fortnight and Fashion Revolution as key “tent-pole” events in the HCA calendar across both campuses
- We have continued to have close links with Greener Footprints, Herefordshire Council and Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. We have established new connections with Let’s Go Zero, and Herefordshire Reuse and Recycling Organisation, and Arts and Heritage who have a project on the nearby Bartonsham Floodplain Meadows and with Rural Media with whom we are working on a Youth Climate Conference this year
- We have provided advice and support for a student led campaign for a Plant-Based University.

Next steps

- Make more use of EAUC membership and share information and cases-studies as relevant with wider staff body (including in new comms strategy)
- Ensure sustainability is a key theme in strategic development of new partnerships with schools and colleges.

The college’s wider objective to promote a nature rich world is addressed through teaching and learning and estates management.

Nature Rich Campus (this is a college category additional to those from the FE Roadmap above)

- No Mow May for first year both Campuses
- Queen’s Lawn – Managed for Wildlife until mid-September
- Student Vegetable Garden continuing
- New Wildlife reserve in Bartonsham – working with photography and fine art students on new art projects.

Next steps

- Explore funding for a new wildflower bed for Folly Lane Campus
- Include in promotion of a nature rich world in sustainability communications strategy with, for example, posters to educate about wild birds and listed trees on campus.
- Photography and Textile departments to start projects growing plants on campus.

Monitoring

College progress on sustainability is reported to the Board through several reports including The Principal's Report throughout the year and in an annual report. The Senior Leadership Team currently monitors progress against the action plan.

This Annual report was presented to the Board of Governors on the 14th October 2024

Appendix 1

Hereford College of Arts – Carbon Emissions Calculation for 2022/2023

Using <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/college-corporation-financial-management-good-practice-guides/streamlined-energy-and-carbon-reporting-for-college-corporations>

We have utilised the conversion factor for kgCO₂e (kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent) as the most comprehensive and reliable measure for this sector, as it provides a more accurate reflection of the overall environmental impact of greenhouse gases compared to CO₂ per unit alone.

Energy source	Consumption	Scope	Emissions calculation
Gas – total kWh (kilowatt-hours) used for the year, taken from gas bills for each site	1,246,976 kWh (gross CV (calorific value))	Scope 1	1,246,976 kWh x 0.18290 (2024 fuels, natural gas conversion factor, gross CV to kg CO ₂ e) = 228,072 kgCO ₂ e = 228.07 t CO₂e
Electricity – total kWh used for the year, taken from the electricity bills for each site	524, 067 kWh	Scope 2	524067 kWh x 0.20705 (2024 UK electricity conversion factor to kgCO ₂ e) = 108508 kgCO ₂ e = 108.5 tCO₂e
Transport – Maintenance Van x miles in the year;	2647 x 1.19832 (2024 SECR kWh passenger and delivery vehicles, vans class 2, diesel – used in lieu of passenger vehicles conversion) = 3172 kWh	Scope 1	2647 miles = 4260 km. 4260 km x 0.18832 (2024 managed assets vehicles, vans class 2, – used in lieu of passenger vehicles conversion) = 802 kgCO ₂ e = 0.8 tCO₂e
Transport – total mileage for petrol reimbursed from staff claims = 928 miles	3476.2 miles x 1.14204 (2024 SECR kWh passenger and delivery vehicles, average car conversion factor to kWh, petrol) = 3970 kWh	Scope 3	3476.2 miles = 5594.4 km 5594.4 km x 0.16450 (2024 managed assets vehicles, average car conversion factor to kgCO ₂ e, petrol))

Energy source	Consumption	Scope	Emissions calculation
			= 920 kgCO ₂ e
			= 0.92 tCO₂e
Total	1,778,185 kWh		338.29 tCO₂e
Intensity ratio - Emissions data (tCO ₂ e) compared with an appropriate business activity (staff numbers)			338.29 tCO ₂ e ÷ 114 members of staff
			= 2.97 tCO₂e per staff member

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We have utilised the conversion factor for kgCO₂e (kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent) as the most comprehensive and reliable measure for this sector, as it provides a more accurate reflection of the overall environmental impact of greenhouse gases compared to CO₂ per unit alone.

Energy source	Consumption	Scope	Emissions calculation
Gas – total kWh (kilowatt-hours) used for the year, taken from gas bills for each site	962075 kWh (gross CV (calorific value))	Scope 1	962075 kWh x 0.18290 (2024 fuels, natural gas conversion factor, gross CV to kg CO ₂ e)
			= 175,964 kgCO ₂ e
			= 175.96 t CO₂e
Electricity – total kWh used for the year, taken from the electricity bills for each site	514012 kWh	Scope 2	514012 kWh x 0.20705 (2024 UK electricity conversion factor to kgCO ₂ e)
			= 106,426 kgCO ₂ e
			= 106.4 tCO₂e

Energy source	Consumption	Scope	Emissions calculation
Transport – College Vehicles: X miles in the year;	2275 x 1.19832 (2024 SECR kWh passenger and delivery vehicles, vans class 2, diesel – used in lieu of passenger vehicles conversion) = 2726 kWh	Scope 1	2275 miles = 3661km. 3661km x 0.18832 (2024 managed assets vehicles, vans class 2, – used in lieu of passenger vehicles conversion) = 689 kgCO ₂ e = 0.69 tCO₂e
Transport – total mileage for petrol reimbursed from staff claims = 928 miles	2412 miles x 1.14204 (2024 SECR kWh passenger and delivery vehicles, average car conversion factor to kWh, petrol) = 2754 kWh	Scope 3	2412 miles = 3881.7 km 3881.7 km x 0.16450 (2024 managed assets vehicles, average car conversion factor to kgCO ₂ e, petrol)) = 639 kgCO ₂ e = 0.64 tCO₂e
Total	1,481,567 kWh		283.69 tCO₂e
Intensity ratio - Emissions data (tCO ₂ e) compared with an appropriate business activity (staff numbers)			283.68 tCO ₂ e ÷ 112 members of staff = 2.53 tCO₂e per staff member

